

3 Jan 14

Coffee Morning: The next St John's Church coffee morning will be held on Tuesday, January 7, at 10am in the Church. A reminder there will be no 100 club draw on this date. January and February will both be drawn in February.

Coffee Break: Don't forget this weekly event, for Mums and Dads, every Wednesday during term-time (excluding half-term week), 9am – 10am and longer if wanted (the shop is open until 12 noon). Tea or coffee and biscuits cost just fifty pence.

100+ Club: With every New Year, annual subscriptions for the 100+ club fall due. We will be holding a social evening for our existing members and any new members, on Saturday evening, January 11, 2014, so get this date in your diary. This will include a free buffet and give us a chance to update everyone on current plans. You should have already received your invitation.

As last year I would be grateful if members were to send their 2014 membership subs to me (Carolyn Lister, 7 Blunham Road), which we are keeping at £12. If paying by cheque please make payable to 'Moggerhanger Village Hall'

Anyone wishing to join this private lottery please contact me (01767 640727) for an application form, also let me know if you wish to attend the social evening on January 11.

Village Farm: Miss Matthews sends her thanks to everyone for their help and support at the Christmas Grotto and throughout 2013, and wishes everyone a happy and peaceful New Year.

Whist: Held last Friday, December 27. Our winners were Mrs K Burns-Kidd, Mrs M Urtone, Mrs J Marshall, Mrs R Burns, Mr T Lister, Mr B Urtone, Mr C Livings, Mr C Strange. Our raffle winners were Mr R Snell, Mrs J Marshall, Mr C Strange, Mr D Lamey, Mrs E Harrold. The next whist drive will be held on Friday, January 10, in the village hall at 7.30pm.

Village Hall: You may know that for some time the Village Hall Trustees have been in discussion with Central Beds Council (CBC) regarding the small piece of land alongside the hall.

At last we have been given the opportunity to purchase this enabling the Village to benefit from a number of improvements.

Our first project will be to improve parking, the main parking area will be to the left of the hall, with dedicated disabled parking to the front. We also hope to extend the hall in some way (longer term planning) and fence off a family/children safe area. But first we have to purchase the land. Sadly it's the one thing that we cannot get a grant for, so Moggerhanger Village Hall Needs Your Help!!

After some haggling we have agreed a price of £6600. We already have a promise of £1000 from the Parish Council, and we can manage £2600 from Hall Funds. Whilst we have had a good year we are unable to commit more as we will need money to undertake the work needed, and whilst we should be able to get some help with grants there is always an expectation that some of the work should be self-funded. Additionally we will have legal costs to pay and of course we will have to apply for a change of use of the land. That leaves £3000 to find. If you are able to help with a donation we would be most grateful and ask you to contact our Treasurer, Carolyn Lister on 01767 640727 who will be pleased to provide you with a donation form.

We aim to construct a plan of the field marked off in 10 square meter plots. A donation of £10 would allow us to purchase one 10 square meter plot. We will write your name on the plot(s) you have helped to purchase.

We will be forced to take a loan for any shortfall and would wish to keep this to a minimum. This is our once in a lifetime opportunity which we must seize to enable any further improvements. Not only will this enable us to provide improved facilities at the hall but will

also solve our current drastic and frankly dangerous parking situation. At large events cars are seen parked along Blunham Road causing a hazard to motorists and pedestrians alike. This communication has already been published in the Village Magazine and we're pleased to say has resulted in a very significant response. A really big thank-you to everyone who has responded, a list of donors will be published very shortly and thank-you communications will be forthcoming.

End of year update from the trustees. Well what a year it has been. The same opening words as last year, because it has been another amazing year of challenges, changes and achievements at the hall. Once again I must stress none of this could have been done without the tremendous help and support from yourselves. So a really big thank you to you all for your help both in helping to setup and run events as well as attending and supporting these events. Also to everyone who hires and uses the hall; to coin a phrase 'every little helps'. We are described by Central Beds Council as a small village but that is certainly not how we behave. Many people I speak to are astounded at our active and supportive community.

In 2012 we were able to undertake our '2012 Improvement Project' most of which was completed during that year, leaving minor decorating work to do in 2013 which was done in time for our 'Open Day' and AGM in April. You will remember we had a panic over our collapsed drains and other plumbing problems, but managed to fund their repair with a short term £4000 loan which we paid back by year end. So coming into 2013 we were debt free but with very little money in the bank, a deficit on last year. That said we did have increased assets in terms of kitchen equipment and improved facilities.

We had a great uptake for our private members lottery (100 Club) with 177 members. This enabled us to address an issue that has caused problems for some time; trying to run the bar from the kitchen, clashing with those trying to provide food, also the unpacking and repacking of the cupboard meant bar 'staff' did not get to leave the premises until well into the next day. So we undertook our first major project for 2013 and built a bar in the right hand main hall storage cupboard giving everyone more freedom when running events. We built a small cupboard in the lobby to store the equipment that came from the main hall cupboard. One concern was that the bar would take up hall space reducing the number of tables but this was solved by building a cover in the lobby to take all the spare chairs so that none were left stacked at the back of the hall during events. Not only did this give us more room but we no longer had the unsightly stacks of chairs.

We repeated our successful casino night and live music with blues band Split Whiskers. We tried some new activities this year, a cabaret evening in April and October, a cocktail evening in June, a barn dance in July, a treasure hunt in September and a folk concert in October. We also started a monthly social evening which quickly developed into a successful folk evening which we will certainly continue in 2014. We did try an additional social evening for those not keen on folk but this is not very well attended so will not continue in 2014. We will continue with our other firm favourites of Bingo, Whist and I believe the odd pancake toss. A list of planned activities is available on our website

www.moggerhangervillagehall.co.uk.

Our first event for 2014 will be a social evening, on January 11, for all our 100 Club members with free buffet and obviously the hope that you will wish to continue your membership.

Once again our plans for a film club did not materialise so we'll put it on our New Year to do list. Improvements to the car park also did not happen but you'll see from the above that we have other plans.

So on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees may I wish you a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

St John's Church: Mr Tony Elcombe, Diocesan Reader, led the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and welcomed a large congregation of children, parents and friends.

Adults and children performed a play entitled "Sam the Stable Mouse", which brought in the Nativity.

Prayers were led by Mr Elcombe and sidespersons were Mr Will Jackson and Mr Alan George.

After the service refreshments were served by Sue, Jo, Georgie and Pat.

On Sunday last members from the Benefice Churches joined the congregation for the morning service, which was led by Mr Mike Vacher, Churchwarden from Cople. A talk and meditation was led by Dr Gwen Brown, Churchwarden Willington, with Mrs Shirley Jones, Mrs Alison Cross, and Mrs June Shanahan.

Prayers were led by Mr Graeme Acott, and readers were Mrs Mell Ebbage, Mrs Pat Vacher, and Dr Gwen Brown. Sidespersons were Mrs Jo Hollington, who was joined by Mrs Sue Jackson to serve refreshments after the service.

Church Services: St John the Evangelist, Sung Communion, 9am.