
The Tuddenham Tattler.com

Issue No 119

Jan 2005

Performance Times.....

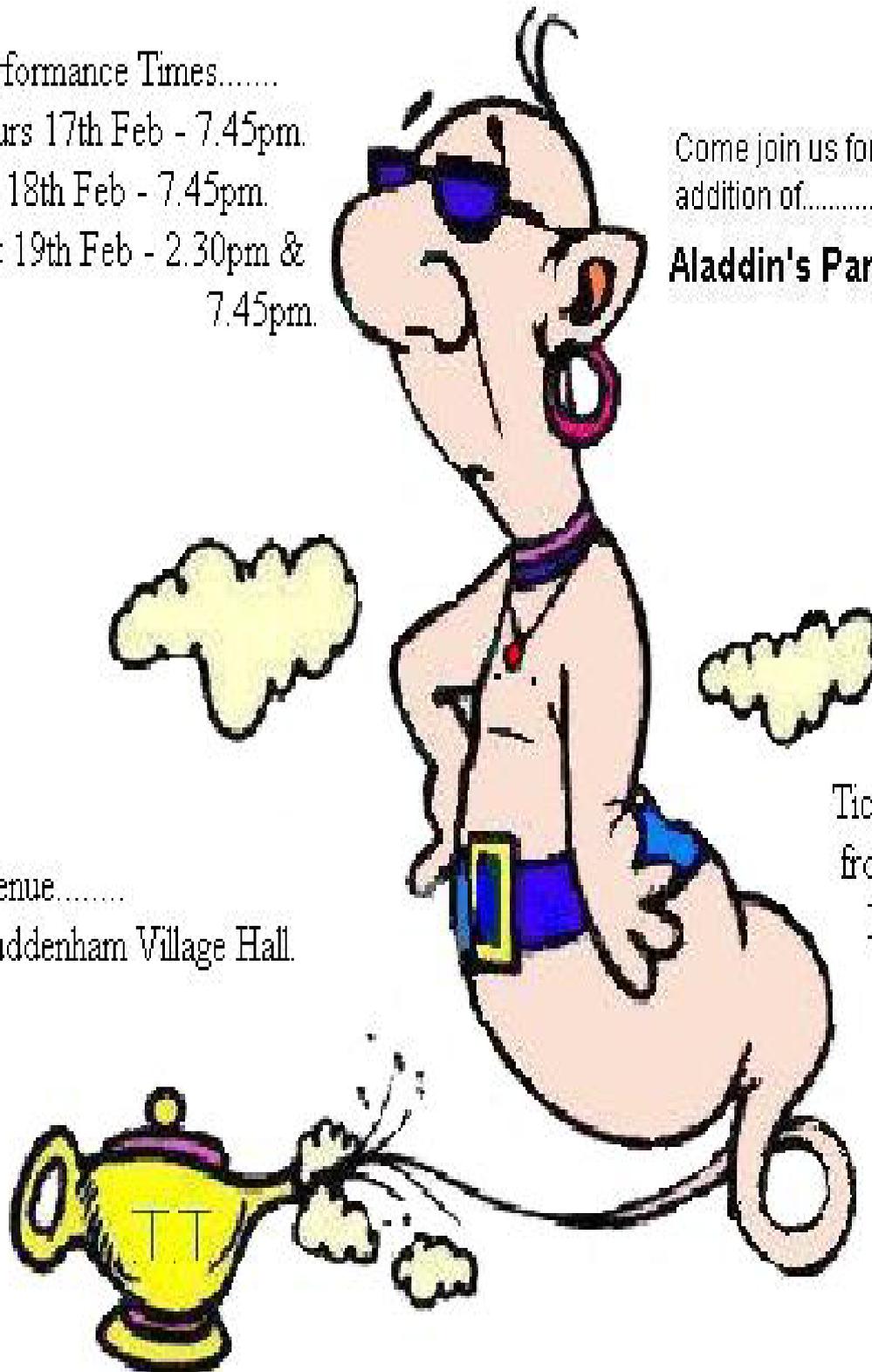
Thurs 17th Feb - 7.45pm.

Fri 18th Feb - 7.45pm.

Sat 19th Feb - 2.30pm &
7.45pm.

Come join us for our own
addition of.....

Aladdin's Pantomine!!



Venue.....

Tuddenham Village Hall.

Tickets NOW on sale
from Pat Tanner on
Ips 785003.



A frosty walk through the village on Boxing Day, blessed with the peace of no traffic passing, got people out of their front doors to chat across The Street. Mike actually came out to challenge that strange woman near his car but, honest, I was just taking potential calendar photos. And David is acting a "New Man."



Recycling Dates in Tuddenham

The next few "recycling days" are **26th January, 9th and 23rd February.**



Paper and glass at Fountain any day!
Did you know that plastic bottles can be recycled at Hadleigh Road Sainsburys store?

T.A.D.P.O.L.E.s' Tickets

Have you seen Aladdin? Well Sergeant Lo and Constable Hi of the Peking Police Force are looking for him everywhere, although where the Force gets its recruits from, I do not know. Lotus Blossom is cooking up a treat in her takeaway for various members of the company who are not altogether appreciative, which is a shame as she means really well and is full of helpfulness. And if you want your washing done, then Widow Twankey's laundry is

the place to go. There are a variety of machines in use, from the modern to the good old-fashioned mangle, and they are currently trying out different washing powders. Aladdin manages to avoid work whenever possible, but unfortunately gets volunteered to help his long lost uncle, Abanazar, (who no one knew existed) with a dubious expedition. After an uncharacteristic bit of cleaning, he releases the Genie - or is it the Jolly Green Giant ? - from the lamp, and life starts to improve. However, Abanazar is not so easily thwarted and has a cunning plan.....

If you want to find out what he has in mind, come along to the Tadpoles production of Aladdin in the Village Hall in February. There are nightly performances on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th at 7.45 p.m. and a matinee on Saturday at 2.30 p.m.

Tickets are available from February 1st from Bob & Pat Tanner at Rivendell, Westerfield Lane, 785003.

Monica—T.A.D.P.O.L.E.s Director

Exercise Class

I have just got back the list of (over 20!) interested people for this class and the most popular time seems to be Wednesday afternoon. I will contact some instructors and see what we can set up. This will be a class for the over 50s and will attempt to address all levels of fitness and agility.

If anyone would like to join in but is not on the list please contact the editor on 785588 for details, fun and frolics!



BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Look forward to seeing you at the Burns Night Supper. Raffle prizes would be most welcome if you want to bring one with. Native dress may win you a prize so have a tot and don your togs!

The Tuddenham Tattler Quiz

**TUDDENHAM TATTLER QUIZ
SATURDAY
19th MARCH
VILLAGE HALL**

All welcome so please contact Editor on 785588 to get your table of six at £5 a ticket. Refreshments included, bring a glass and drink.

Welcome Welcome

Welcome to Robert and Jane Lavell from Shropshire who are to move into The Granaries and farewell to Denny and Ian Thick along with Alistair and Dominic who are moving to The Willows, Rushall Rd, Starston, Nr Harleston, Norfolk. Denny is planning a summer B-B-Q for Tuddenham friends and neighbours. Denny and Ian have been wonderful friends to Tuddenham and we wish them well.

IT Girl's Utterances...

itgirl@tuddenhamtattler.com or kttsm2@hotmail.com

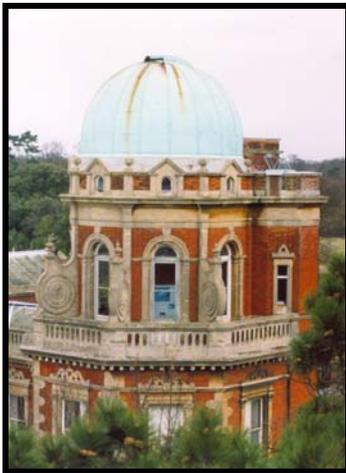


1. <http://dmarie.com/timecap/>
make your own virtual time capsule
2. <http://www.jigsawland.com/>
make your own virtual jigsaw puzzles
3. <http://www.ngceurope.com/predator/base.htm>
you have to try to navigate your way through 6 different levels, keeping both yourself going by successfully creeping up on prey

itgirl

Tuddenham Chapel Folk see Heavenly Bodies

This was an evening to remember. Around twenty of us arrived at Orwell Moat School on a windy, rain swept evening to look at the stars. As I stood in the rain, waiting for our host I thought wistfully of my warm house. However Ken Goward (famed author of Biddell Airy articles in Tattler) soon arrived and we walked towards the entrance to the observatory. The school looked lovely, lit up in the night, with the tower of the



observatory and its 103 steps looming up in front of us. Secret entry codes admitted us to the warmth of the tower and we started to climb. A rest, halfway up, was in the "belvedere" or viewing platform.

Here we met

Paul Whiting who waltzed us through the history of the place as well as telling us about telescopes and why we should want to join in the fun. His energy was catching and the banter between Paul and Ken added to the buzz. We heard of Admiral Vernon (original owner of the Manor House, famous British Mariner and the man behind the naming of the Admiral's Head in Bealings) and Col. Tomline (under whose ownership the Manor House gained its observatory and 10" telescope, third richest man in England and originator of the Felixstowe docks as well as builder of railway line to Felixstowe.) We were dazzled with

mirrors and lenses, curved bricks and glass, vaulted and mahogany ceilings, rotating and copper roofs, and climbed to the top of the tower. The top room is an incredible piece of architecture, Victorian detail and beauty everywhere, and pulling the eye to the skies. As Paul told us the history, the workings of the scope and what we were to see, we were surrounded by the sound of wind and rain. My half of the group then climbed into the transit room to see the 7.5 cm transit telescope which allowed plotting of the sky across the Meridian Line to get an accurate time. As Ken opened the door back into the main chamber we were excited to hear the rain had



stopped and the wind abated. Ken climbed up to the roof and cautiously the two of them opened the roof slit to reveal the sky.

How could I forget the fun of staring up and having Saturn pointed out, the first time I have knowingly seen a planet? Just below "Gemini" a pair of distant stars, Saturn was bright. Everyone stared upwards and started shouting out as the cloud breaks allowed



The observatory dome, showing the 10" refractor inside. This photo was obtained by taking a time-lapse exposure from outside the observatory while rotating the dome with its shutter open. (Makes my calendar photos seem so amateur!)

viewing. Paul set up the telescope and people bent to look through the eye piece managing to see the planet with its rings. I have seen it so many times in a book but the real thing was just incredible. The stop and start of viewing as the clouds came and went added to the fun but I know some of our group did not see the planet. Maybe a reason to visit again?

10.30 came all too soon and we started on the climb down. The weather had been our friend and Paul and Ken had given us a quite unique evening. I have been telling everyone I meet about it all since Thursday. Only last night I was looking into the sky with a waiter from "The Passage to India" restaurant, pointing to Saturn.

My thanks to Ken Goward and Paul Whiting for their time and energy. I look forward to Ken's article in our next issue.

Editor

PUBLIC OPEN WEEKEND

ORWELL PARK OBSERVATORY

19/20 March,
7-10 pm

Opportunity to observe Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and the Night Sky.

Please bring a torch and binoculars if you can and come in warm clothing.

Contact Ken Goward, Keighthley Way on kandlgoward@btinternet.com for details.

Visit the web site to see photos and get details of the observatory on www.oasi.org.uk



Sophie and Bill out enjoying the Christmas frost - great headgear, eh?

Next Parish Council meeting early March. Your precept rose slightly last meeting to cover a donation for Village Hall and other raised costs.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORWELL PARK OBSERVATORY

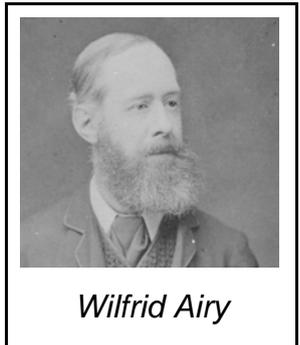
By *Kenneth J. Goward FRAS*

Chairman, Orwell Astronomical Society (Ipswich)

The Orwell Park Astronomical Observatory at Nacton is a rare and fine example of a Victorian Scientific establishment, a true treasure of Suffolk – albeit one that few have heard of.

The Observatory was established in 1874 at Orwell Park Mansion (now Orwell Park School), then the country home of Colonel George Tomline (1812 – 1889). Col Tomline was immensely wealthy and by any standard, a somewhat eccentric character of whom more later. A principled man, too, who although not an astronomer himself, thought it his duty to use some of his wealth for the advancement of science and for other laudable aims of which more will be discussed in a further biographical article in next month's Tattler.

Tomline could afford the best and engaged one of the country's leading Architects, John MacVicar Anderson (1835 – 1915) to build the Observatory. MacVicar Anderson was the Architect behind many fine Banks and Hospitals of the period, a number of which survive today around the City of London. To equip and commission the Observatory he engaged Wilfrid Airy (1836 – 1925). Wilfrid, a leading Mechanical Engineer, was the son of the Astronomer Royal, Playford man Sir George Biddell Airy of whom I wrote an article for this journal (*An Adopted Son of Suffolk*) a couple of years back. After his father's death in 1891 Wilfrid lived in Playford Village until his passing in 1925.



Wilfrid Airy

The building project, as with most things Col Tomline undertook, was on a grand scale. Not only did Tomline want an Observatory, he also specified a new wing of State Apartments between the existing Mansion and the Observatory, a Turkish bath, Muniment room (secure storage area for valuables) and a Belvedere (a Summer House set high up to enable the landed to see over their extensive property). Tomline specified state apartments in the hope of attracting royalty to stay, although none came until just into the 20th century. MacVicar Anderson came up with a neat solution for the Turkish bath, Muniment, Belvedere and Observatory by placing them in a 77 feet high circular tower at the extreme end of the new wing. The Turkish bath occupied the basement (heating room) and first floor (steam room). The muniment room was on the second and the Belvedere on the third floor with the Observatory at the top, which afforded a 360 degree unobstructed view of the sky. All of these rooms survive today, the steam room is occupied by the School's Business Manager (Bursar) and his staff, the Muniment room makes a superb store for school equipment and the Belvedere has become the clubroom for the Orwell Astronomical Society, from which Tomline's former balconies overlooking the estate provide observing platforms for various telescopes and within which the society has recently built its own library. It is quite surrealistic to venture into the business manager's area and see his files neatly arranged upon the marble benches where Tomline and his guests sweated away!



*The main telescope at Orwell Park, recently dedicated and named The Tomline Refractor
In honour of Colonel Tomline*

The Observatory was equipped with a Transit Telescope (a telescope aligned on a north/south axis used for the determination of time via the stars) and a powerful Refracting Telescope of 10" aperture (a telescope with a lens at one end and one looks through an eyepiece at the other along the telescope tube in similar fashion to that – *not* – used by Nelson at the battle of Copenhagen when he 'saw no ships!'), both instruments were made by the leading optics company of the day, Troughton & Sims of London. The tube of the main telescope is 16 feet long and sits on a cast iron mounting weighing in at three tons. The mounting was cast just along the river Orwell at the foundry of Ransomes of Ipswich. The main telescope tube alone cost £1,600 which in the third quarter of the 19th century would have bought one a couple of rows of houses in Ipswich.

The main telescope is housed in an 18-foot diameter dome lined with mahogany planking, installed by boat builders from just across the Orwell at Pin Mill. The dome is reinforced with a cast iron framework and clad on the outside in copper sheet. Over the years the copper has turned a lovely green and the Observatory dome is a landmark from both sides of the river. The dome is entirely independent of the building and rotates around 360 degrees via a toothed track, again cast by Ransomes at their Orwell foundry. At three tons the dome is surprisingly easy to manoeuvre by one person and even in the great storm of 1887 it remained in position. Victorian engineering at its finest!



The Transit Telescope at Orwell Park. This instrument was used to accurately determine local stars by their timed transit over the north/south meridian



*John Isaac Plummer,
Colonel Tomline's
Astronomer*

Colonel Tomline engaged a professional Astronomer (John Isaac Plummer FRAS 1845 - 1925) to operate the Observatory and even built a house close to the mansion for Plummer and his family. The house survives and, although known as the Astronomer's House until well into the 20th century, it is now known as Orwell Dene. Plummer was to remain at Orwell Park until a few months after Tomline's death in 1889. Plummer used the telescope to observe Comets – a major line of research in the late 19th century, and to make comparisons of what astronomers call the Albedo of Venus. Essentially, its reflectivity – which may not seem very interesting but for the fact that Venus could be described as an extreme example of global warming - its dense Carbon Dioxide and Sulphuric Acid Atmosphere serving as a nightmarish example of what 'we' could do to our own world one day. Plummer would also be on hand to entertain Tomline's guests with stunning views of Saturn or Jupiter – in much the same manner that members of the astronomical society were able to entertain a number of Tuddenham guests recently!

After Tomline's death and with no immediate heirs, Orwell Park was inherited by his nearest relatives, the Pretymans family. They had no interest in the Observatory and it fell into disuse for the best part of 70 years. At one time the telescopes were offered gratis to Eton College if they could arrange to move them. The estimated cost of this was prohibitive – luckily for us... The only time we are aware of that the Observatory was used was in the early 1930s when local Solicitor and well-known amateur astronomer, Edward Collinson, used the instrument to make observations of the planet Mars. Collinson was local to us here in Tuddenham – he had over the years houses at Westerfield, Culpho End and Playford.

The Pretymans sold the estate to the Orwell Park School trust in 1937 and the mansion became a residential school, which it remains to this day. During WWII the school was commandeered by the War Office and was occupied by the Army. In that period much damage was done to the fabric of the buildings and the contents of the Observatory. Sadly, none of this damage was by enemy action.

Since 1967 the Observatory has been extensively restored, operated and maintained by the Orwell Astronomical Society, which is a registered charity having a core aim to run the establishment and bring the science of astronomy to the wider public.

To find out more about the society, the Observatory and so forth, check out our web site www.oasi.org.uk or come to our Public Open Weekend on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March – 7pm to 10pm.

Editor: Again thank you to Ken for his work in producing this article. I do recommend a trip to the observatory.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PART OF THE STREET AND TUDDENHAM ROAD.

Suffolk County Council intends to close Tuddenham Road between Church Lane and Clopton Road to enable the Council to carry out resurfacing works. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to pass at all times but vehicles will be routed via Grundisburgh, Culpho Hall Road, Butts Road, Playford Road and Rushmere Road. This may happen between 7th February and 4th March.

NETWORK RAIL EMBANKMENT WORKS

Starting early February, May Gurney contractors will be carrying out work on the railway embankment near 'Echo bridge'. Over the years the embankment has been slowly subsiding on the Tuddenham side necessitating regular work on the track to keep it level. Network Rail are concerned at the continuing deterioration of the embankment and the work now proposed will involve cutting away part of the existing embankment in steps, putting in a drain at the foot of the embankment, and rebuilding the embankment with new, more stable, material.

Unfortunately the work will involve a considerable amount of material being moved on and off site along Fynn Lane. May Gurney will be contacting the residents in Fynn Lane before work starts. They are fully aware of the public footpath status of the track but do not feel there is any need to have the footpath temporarily closed while work is in progress. Hopefully the weather will treat us kindly!

Bill Pipe

Neighbourhood Watch have asked The Tattler to try and identify this burglar, seen fleeing a crime scene with a stolen scooter. He is in "Heap Big Trouble!"

Our sources tell us he can be found, making a fool of himself as ever, on stage in Aladdin.



'Wildlife and Landscapes of Suffolk'

Taster courses for adults Friday mornings, 10am - 12.30pm.

28th. January..... **Woodlands**

4th. February..... **Digging up Suffolk's Past** : SCC Archaeological Service

11th. February.....**Hedgehogs - Everything you need to know** : Diss Hedgehog Advisory Service



Service

£5 per. session (Concessions £4)

Please book on 01394 380113

These courses are run by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and are thoroughly endorsed by Susan Stacey, The Willows, Tuddenham, member of the association.

ROMANIAN CHILD ACTION

High View, Tuddenham Lane, Witnesham, Ipswich, IP6 9HL. Reg. Charity 1017881.

Tel.01473 785206 E-mail barbara@romanianchildaction.freereserve.co.uk.

<http://romanianchildaction.mysite.freereserve.com>

JANUARY 2005

HAVE YOU THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO HELP THE CHILDREN IN ROMANIA? COULD THIS BE YOUR YEAR?

Some Questions and Answers.

Where: Pascani and Iasi, North East Romania.

When: April 2005.

How long must I stay? 2 weeks is suggested minimum, 4 weeks max.

What for? a) Setting up house and apartment involves cleaning, putting up curtain rails and curtains, electrical, tiles, plumbing, painting, moving furniture into place, make up beds, laying lino and rugs, fitting kitchen and any other jobs to commission the homes.

b) Helping the children choose their clothes from our aid deliveries.

c) Giving out gifts at orphanage in Pascani and Gulliver House HIV home in Iasi.

d) Activities for the children including educational outings and shopping.

e) Commission computers in both homes.

f) Computer lessons for children and Romanian NGO personnel.

g) Help the children write letters to their sponsors in England.

How will I communicate? The team of translators and assistants we have come to know well in Romania are very helpful, and used to what we do. The orphanage director, Mr. Pintilie often tells us how appreciative he is of our involvement. All work is with the approval of the Department of Social Assistance in Iasi.

How will I get there? We fly from UK to Bucharest, complete the journey by train or car.

Someone to drive the minibus from UK would be welcome – about 4 days journey.

What will it cost? Volunteers contribute £300 towards their travel, insurance, food and accommodation. All you need while there is pocket money for shopping or meals and drinks in restaurants. People often fund their costs through fund-raising activity.

Would I be any use? Can you do any of the above? If you are willing and able, then yes.

Contact us on 01473 785206 for more information

VILLAGE HALL

Village Hall bookings are through Arthur Jackson at Ivy House, Tuddenham or on 785984.

There are still some vacancies at the Village Hall for car parking.

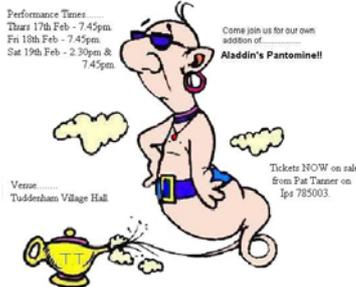


Best Wishes

Our best wishes to Linda Trotman who is hopefully recovering after a session on the receiving end at Heath Road. Thinking of Bella Green as well, having to stay indoors on these short, winter days. And Peggy Moore who is below par.



My thanks to Sarah Osborne who *VOLUNTEERED* to design our front cover this issue. If you would like a go please ring me on 785588 and I will pass on a theme for the next edition...



I have scattered several photos taken over the Christmas period in the issue. I like this one for the reminder of the varied roof lines the hill gives us in the village. Also to prove I was taking a photo outside Mike Vonk's place and not stealing his car.

If you have any Tuddenham photos, of people or places, that you would like included in future issues please email me a copy or ring on 785588.

Remember

**Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the
hand,**

**Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you
plann'd:**

**Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not
grieve:**

**For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and
smile
Than that you should remember and be
sad.**

Christina Rossetti

Christmas is a hard time to lose a loved one or to be alone for any reason. We should have included some obituaries in this issue but have not had the opportunity to compile them as yet. Our sincere condolences go to all who have been bereaved recently.

I was at a funeral on Thursday and the vicar invited us all to remember those whom we know who have passed on or who are ill, whatever their religion or nationality. To remember why we love them, to remember the times we have shared and to treasure those thoughts for ever. After his tribute a friend read this poem. Who could fail to remember?

St. Martin's News



A Happy New Year to you all ! When one sees what other people are having to put up with around the country and in parts of the world aren't we a lucky lot ! Plenty of sunshine and smiling faces, warm, dry homes and loved ones around us - we have much to be grateful for, albeit so easy to forget how fortunate we are. Becky Laughlin and Maddie Hindle are holding a Charity Concert in aid of Tsunami Relief in Winesham Church at 1900 hours on Sunday 23rd January - tickets £2.00 for adults and £1.00 for children - contact Jim (785296) for tickets. Retiring collections from Church Services has already raised £ 350 for this cause.



This is a busy time of the year for lots of us - Church Reports, Panto rehearsals, memorial Supper for The Bard, swotting up for the Tattler Quiz and being pressed by the Editor for T'news! We are still without heating in eight pews on the South side (where yours truly sits), although there have not been many complaints, due largely to the fact that we have not had a really cold spell (yet!). We are awaiting quotes to replace the system, so by spring (or summer) all should be well - it does help to keep the heating costs down! We are also currently awaiting a Diocesan Faculty to progress a full overhaul to the organ - it's all happening!

Services are at 0930 hours as usual, with a Holy Communion at 0800 on the fourth Sunday of each month. There will be a Benefice Service at Winesham Baptist Church at 1100 hours on 30th January. There will also be a service of Holy Communion at 1900 hours on Ash Wednesday - 9th February. All are most welcome at any, or all, of our services - even with the current (electric??) problems we can still provide you with a heated seat!! It would also be appreciated for more Reading and/or Intercession Volunteers to come forward - the more we have decreases the number of appearances needed by each.

Floodlight Sponsorship continues at £5.00 per weekend - contact Jim or Monica with your requirements (785296 or 785272). Sam still "Village visits" on the Thursday after the fourth Sunday of each month - if you wish him to call, for whatever reason, contact Sam direct or ask Jim or Monica to arrange.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY		<p><i>Best Birthday wishes to Brittany Cross, Giulia Giaffreda, Hannah Whiting, George Jennings, Jack Woods Young Nathan and "Old Linda", both Chapel goers!</i></p>
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Thank you all for your continued support, and keep praying for those in need in the Indian Ocean countries where the sea exacted a terrible toll.



*God Bless you and yours.
Aye, JimP 15.01.2005.*

DIRECT PAYMENTS

Did you know that anyone who has been assessed by Social Care Services in Suffolk as requiring any support, care or assistance can now choose, instead of receiving care services, to get money to employ their own personal assistants to meet that assessed need? Ring Suffolk PASS on 01473 620200 for more information.

Next week is National Leprosy Week and, as in previous years, they are running "Cookie Parties" to raise money. The Tsunami Appeal has raised record donations throughout the world but we must try not to forget other needs, huh?

Inside this issue....

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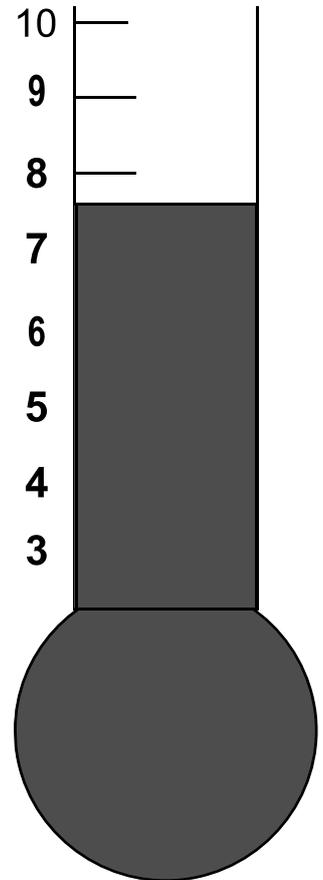
A bunch of keys have been found hanging on the Village Sign. Did you drop them? If so please contact editor on 785588 to collect...



If anyone knows who these "three amigos" are then they should keep it quiet! Stuart, Peter and Scott look a motley crew to me, but The Fountain looks good.

Thanks to all who donated towards the £400 raised at Tuddenham Chapel for the Tsunami Appeal.

Ring editor on 785588 if you want to join in with the exercise class!



Thermometer above shows progress towards full funding for Village Hall Extension.

The next Tattler is out in Feb/March
Please email me on editor@tuddenhamtattler.com
Or ring 785588
Or call at 5, The Granaries to get in print.