

## December 10 for December 14

**Whist:** Tonight, Friday December 14, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, our usual fortnightly whist drive. Refreshments included. This is the second of our two Christmas whist drives with extra prizes, raffle and mince pies.

**Christmas Grotto:** Tomorrow, December 15, experience the Christmas Grotto at Village Farm, 4 St John's Road. This is the second event this month, the previous being held last Saturday, December 8. Last week's event was well attended and a raffle drawn during the afternoon. The winners were Mrs C Ford, Mrs P Marson, Revd. A Hollins, Mrs Franklin, D Lawrence, Mrs Y Gleeson, Mrs Gibbs, P McGrady, Mr M Jacobs, Mr B Sheath, Mrs M Wilson, R King, Alec, Mrs J Nicholson.

Tomorrow the event will be open from 2.30pm. There will be Children's bran tub, large raffle, gift stalls and entertainment from the Sandye Singers. Entrance is £2.50 for adults, children free. Tea and a mince pie included. All proceeds will go to Guide Dogs for the Blind, MacMillan Cancer Support, East Anglian Air Ambulance, and The Donkey Sanctuary.

**Tree Festival:** Tomorrow Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 December, in St Johns Church. On Saturday from 10am until noon, as well as the trees there will be a Christmas Bazaar with plants for sale, cake stall, pickles and preserves, raffle and a treasure hunt. There will be mulled wine and mince pies. On Sunday there will be the Village Christmas Carol Songs of Praise, at 6pm in St Johns Church. After the service there will be mulled wine and mince pies.

**New Year's Party:** Get this event in your diary. We thought we would try something different this year and have a party to see in the New Year. This is being planned as a family event so bring the kids along. To encourage a community spirit we will have a, bring and share buffet. There will be party games for the children with prizes, a raffle, licensed bar and music into the small hours. Music and entertainment is being organised by Stephen Wheatley so look forward to a good evening. Tickets are £4 for adults, children under 16 are free. Call Carolyn, 01767 640727, to arrange tickets and also to give an idea of what food you will be bringing.

**Bingo:** Held Friday last. This was the Christmas event and what an amazing turnout. There were over 50 people taking part so the hall was pretty well packed out. Mince pies and sausage rolls were served during the half time break so a big thank-you to the ladies who made these for us. A great night enjoyed by all. Do please come along and support this activity. This provides the hall with a regular income which helps towards our high costs of insurance and the licence for the bar.

A raffle was held and our winners were Mr D Smith, Mrs C Lister, Mrs Burrows, Mr C Strange,

Mrs I Lamey, Mr M Lee, Mr D Martin, Mrs P Green, Ms J Warren, Mrs B Joyner, Ms G Bird, M Portaus. Our next event will be held early next year Friday, January 4, in the Village Hall. For further information, contact Carolyn on 01767 640727.

**100+ Club Draw:** The last draw for 2012, took place at the St John's Church coffee morning, Tuesday December 4. Our winners this month were Mr S Attridge, Mrs D Hall, Mr T Lister, Mr M Wyatt, Mr C Rawlins. There are 5 monthly prizes for £20, £15, £10, £10, £5. Our first draw for 2013 will be held on Tuesday, February 5, at the Church coffee morning. At this event we will draw for both January and February.

This has proved to be a popular private lottery and we are now open for membership for 2013. If you would like to join our lottery please complete the form enclosed in your Village Magazine. If you live outside the village or do not take the Village Magazine, then contact Carolyn, on 01767 640727, for an application form and more information.

For people renewing for 2013 we will be collecting in January, although we would appreciate you sending your donations to the village hall treasurer, Carolyn Lister, 7 Blunham Road, Moggerhanger. This saves us roaming the streets in the bitter cold in the New Year.

**Mothers Union:** Members joined with Cople members and visitors from Wilstead branch at Glebe House by kind invitation of Mrs Judith Howard. Various members gave appropriate readings and Carols were sung.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs Howard for her kind hospitality and providing tea and mince pies which were much enjoyed. There will be no meeting in January.

**Village Hall:** At the end of last year we published a report on our financial state and plans we had for 2012. As you know we had a substantial loan outstanding at the beginning of 2011 (£6680) but were able to clear this early by year end 2011. This could not have been done without the tremendous help and support from yourselves. So a really big thank-you to everyone who attends and supports our events. We have received feedback from people who are amazed at how active and supportive a community we are in Moggerhanger. In April 2011 we asked you, our supporters and other users of the hall, what changes or improvements you wanted to see. The majority of your suggestions formed the 'Moggerhanger Village Hall Improvement Project', and applications for grants to support this project were duly applied for.

In March 2012 we heard we had been successful with our application to Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) and acknowledge funding of £19,800 from them. WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) to the Landfill Communities Fund. We also acknowledge assistance from, and thank, Moggerhanger Parish Council for acting as our third party funders, enabling this project to go forwards. A successful start to the New Year, with new members signing up to the 100+ club meant the trustees had sufficient funds to provide approx. 20% of the funding required to complete the project. So our project commenced.

We're pleased to announce that the major project work is now complete although we have some minor decorating to do prior to an 'Open Day' early in 2013. We now have improved safe access to the building with new block paving, improved outside lighting and hand rails, improved lighting, heating and acoustics to the main hall, instant hot water in the toilets, new fire doors, new ceiling to the main hall, greatly improved kitchen facilities and new eaves and soffits. The new paved area extends behind the kitchen giving us a patio area for use during the summer.

At one point we did have a panic as during the re paving exercise and a few heavy downpours it became apparent that we had some collapsed drains, also being low compared to the main sewer heavy rains led to our drains 'backing up'. This clearly had to be sorted prior to repaving. Relaying of existing drain runs, and installation of new ones cost us over £4000. Sadly we did not have funds for this work, having cleared our loan last year, so we were forced to take out another loan. We had planned to clear this within twelve months but with your continued support at our events we're happy to say we should be able to clear this by the end of this year. It does mean we will have very little in the bank but we will be debt free.

We tried some new activities this year, a casino night in April, and live music with Split Whiskers in October. Both were very successful and will be repeated in 2013. We are also planning some new events like our monthly social evening but there will be the firm favourites of Bingo, Whist and I believe the odd pancake toss.

**St Johns Church:** The Revd. L Klimas led the Christingle and Family Service held Sunday last.

There was a pass the parcel for the children, containing a sweet and words from a Carol, which the congregation had to guess the title of. Help was available if necessary by a sung

clue by Mrs Alison Cross. The winner received a chocolate orange and the children then held up words from the Carols with explanations given by the Vicar.

The Premier of Alison's Christingle Lyrics, to Oranges and Lemons was sung by the choir.

The Gospel reading was read by the Revd. G Orpin and the Vicar led the prayers with emphasis on children and the Children's Society.

During the singing of Shine Jesus Shine, the candle collection took place, Christingles given out, candles lit, and with lights off, the singing of Away in a Manger.

The congregation collection was made during the singing of I Cannot Tell to the tune of Londonderry Air.

The lower school held a Christingle Service on Thursday in the Church last week and candles brought by the children at this service were added to those taken at the Sunday Christingle Service. This realised a total sum of £142.05 for the Children's Society.

Sincere thanks to the lower school for their help.

Music was provided by Mrs H Brun.

Among the notices it was announced that the new heating will be installed during January and the Bishop of Bedford has kindly consented to attend the Service of Blessing on Monday March 11.

Refreshments were served after the service.

**Church Services:** St John the Evangelist, Songs of Praise Carol Service, 6pm.