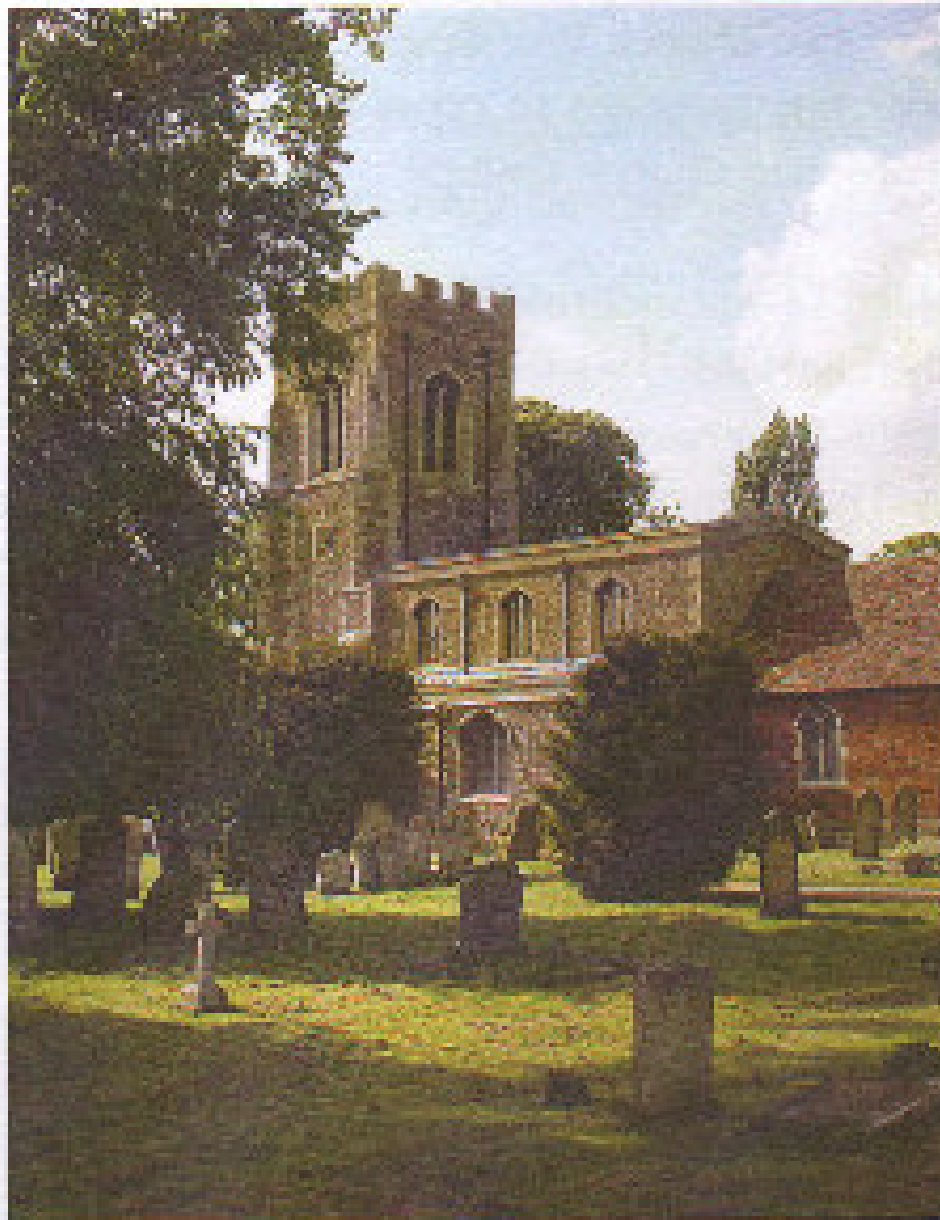


Out & About

THE OFFORDS GAZETTE



Church & Village News April-May 2007

April 2007

Dear Friends

This month of April we celebrate the most important festival of the Churches calendar, so I look forward to welcoming you to all our Easter Services at All Saints.

Also this month we are preparing for the Annual General Meeting, in which we have two elections.

1. For two Church Wardens
2. For ten members to serve on the Parochial Church Council

Do come along to the meeting to take part and to hear how the Church functions.

And in May The Bishop of Huntingdon will institute, and the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech will induct, the Rev'd Ally Barrett as vicar of the Benefice of Buckden with the Offords, at a service in St Mary's Church Buckden.

In all a very busy time.

Gladys Brown
Churchwarden

May 2007

Sunday 6th	10 am Family Service (Offord) 10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden) 6 pm BCP Holy Communion (Buckden)
Sunday 13th	8 am BCP Holy Communion (Buckden) 9.30 am Holy Communion (Offord) 10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)
Sunday 20th	9.30 am Matins (Offord) 10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden) 6 pm Evensong (Buckden)
Sunday 27th	<u>Pentecost</u> 8 am BCP Holy Communion (Buckden) 9.30 am Holy Communion (Offord) 10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)

If you are unable to attend church here in Offord, you will be made very welcome at St Mary's Buckden.

9.30 am Midweek Services of Holy Communion
for Offord & Buckden at St Mary's
Wednesday 4th and 18th April
Wednesday 2nd and 16th May

**Sunday Services in the Benefice of Buckden
with the Offords**

April 2007

Sunday 1st

Palm Sunday

10 am Family Service (Offord)

10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)

6 pm BCP Holy Communion (Buckden)

Sunday 8th

Easter Day

8 am BCP Holy Communion (Buckden)

9.30 am Holy Communion (Offord)

10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)

Sunday 15th

9.30 am Matins (Offord)

10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)

6 pm Evensong (Buckden)

Sunday 22nd

8 am BCP Holy Communion (Buckden)

9.30 am Holy Communion (Offord)

10.30 am Family Eucharist (Buckden)

Sunday 29th

8 am Holy Communion (Buckden)

10.30 am Benefice Service (Buckden)

6 pm Evensong (Buckden)

Additional Services for Holy Week and Ascension Day

Maundy Thursday 5th April

7 pm Holy Communion (Offord)

8 pm Holy Communion (Buckden)

Good Friday 6th April

10 am Morning Prayers (Offord)

2 pm Service (Buckden)

Ascension Day Thursday 17th May

7.30 pm Joint Service of
Holy Communion at All Saints, Offord

For Baptisms and Funerals please ring 811294

The Benefice of Buckden with Offords

Dates for your diary

Monday 9th April

Coffee morning 10-12 noon in the Village Hall

Tuesday 17th April

All Saints Annual General Meeting 7.30 pm in Church

Monday 14th May

The Institution and Induction of
The Rev'd Ally Barrett at St Mary's Church,
Buckden at 7.30 pm

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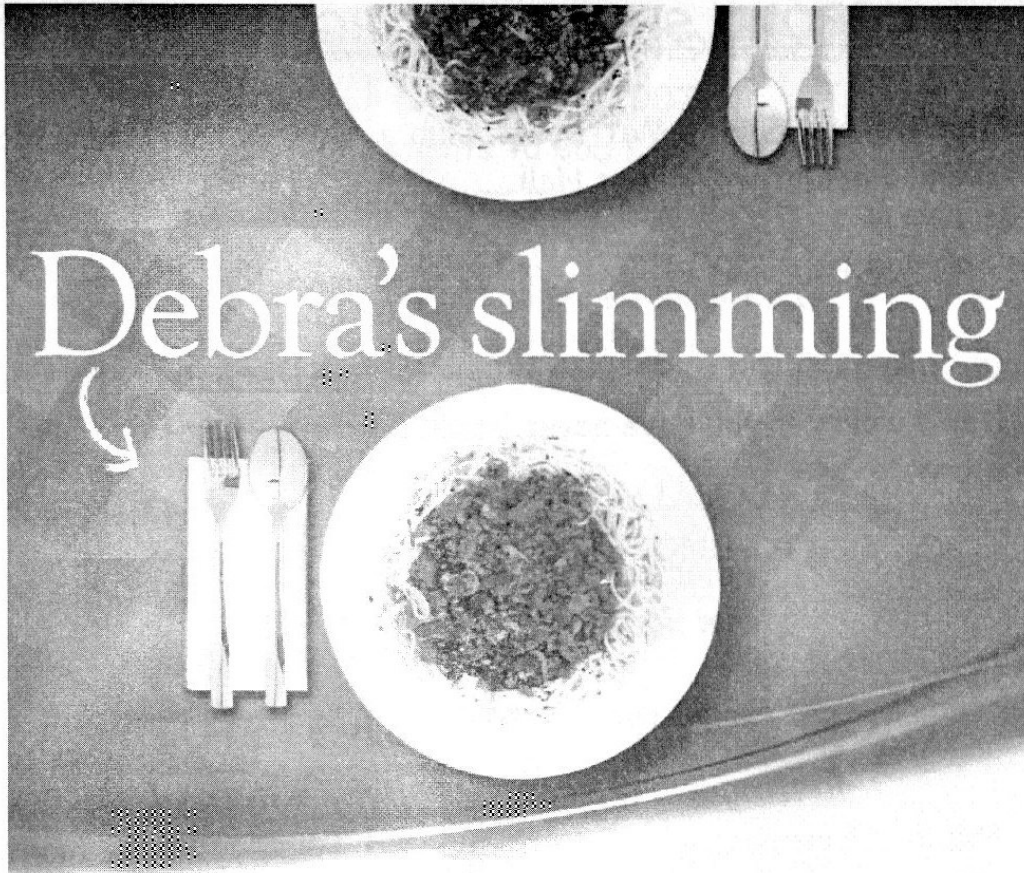


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OFFORD SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Offord Short Mat Bowls Club meets every Wednesday evening in Offord Village Hall.

We have two sessions, 7 - 8.30 pm and 8.30 - 10 pm.

Visitors and New Members are very welcome at a cost of £1.50. Don't worry if you have never bowled before - come and give it a try!

For further information call
Sue Barimore on 01480 812299

OFFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

(Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation)

The WI is currently held on the **second Tuesday** of the month in the Village Hall, Offord Cluny. The meeting begins at 7.30 pm with official business and then the speaker or demonstration starts at approximately 8 pm.

Tues 10th April

What Not To Wear

Speaker - Mrs Morrell

Tues 8th May

Resolutions followed by

Auction

Visitors are very welcome to any meeting at a cost of £3.00, including refreshments.

For further information call
Joyce Geeves on 01480 213546

ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

(June & July 2007)

advertisements to Bob Bargh 810237

email: robert.bargh@virgin.net

articles to Carol Temple 812879

email: carol.temple@tiscali.co.uk

by the end of April

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FEBRUARY

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£ 10 046 Gwen Turner

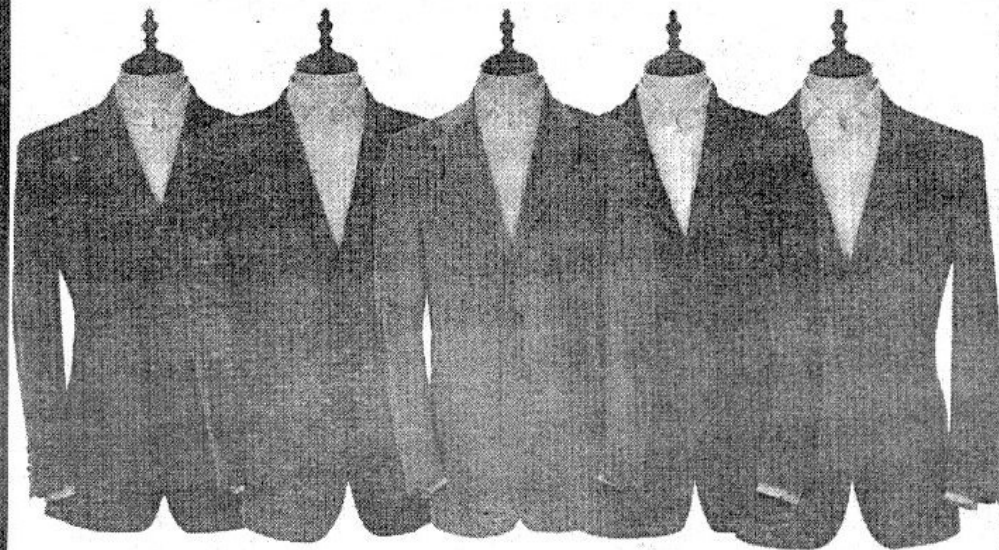
£ 5 157 Alan Ives

Subscriptions for the New Year should have been paid. Please can you assist the collection by seeing your representative with either six month's (£3) or a year's (£6) payment.

The **GRAND DRAWS** will take place in **July** and **December** and the monthly draws will be taking place at Village clubs and events. There are still a few shares available if you would like to join.

Contact Helen Bosworth on **811892** for further details.

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REGISTERED MEMBER



Offord Cluny Parish Council

As you may probably be aware, Tracie Cole recently resigned having given sterling work as our Parish Clerk. We are sad that she is leaving us and thank her for her valuable work and the changes she helped bring about. We are now pleased to advise that we have been very fortunate in finding and appointing Julie Woodward to be our new Parish Clerk and we welcome her to the council.

This all comes at a time when we have the A14 issue on our hands, as well as the continuing saga of the recreation field, and the joining of Offord Cluny and Offord Darcy Parish Councils under the current Boundary Commission Review.

The joining of the two Parish Councils has to have public support as a preliminary arrangement, before the eventual creation of one Parish Council under the Boundary Commission Review. It is likely therefore that this will be brought up at The Annual Village Meeting which now has to be held each year by the Parish Councils. This is not to be confused with the Parish Council AGM. Please watch out for notices of this meeting in due course.

All letters should have been sent about the A14 by the time you read this, and we await the next stage of the process. Parish Councils have sent their submission to The Highways Agency and to our MP Jonathan Djonogly on behalf of the village, any letters you have sent will add to the pressure to listen to Offord.

Liam Small
Chairman Offord Cluny Parish Council.

OFFORD WOMEN'S GUILD

The Offord Women's Guild meets **every Tuesday at 2.30 pm** in the Church Rooms, Offord D'arcy. Members of all denominations are always welcome. A variety of activities are held throughout the year. Come and join us and make new friends.

If you require any further information please ring:
Gladys Brown on 811294

Offords Senior Citizens Club

Our January Meeting was very much enjoyed with our friends Ann and Bob Scott. They gave us a wonderful talk, illustrated by pictures of the wild life of Tobago and they have promised to come again to do the same with Trinidad. We shall look forward to that.

We are very pleased to tell you that our Coffee Morning held in February was very well attended - it was good to see so many enjoying a chat over their coffee and biscuits, or cake from the cake stall which did a brisk trade, as did the Bring and Buy and Books Stalls.

It was great to have Gus with us playing the piano at the Coffee morning. Well done Gus. Our thanks go to all our members and friends who gave items and their time for the stalls and raffle and those who supported us at this fund raising event.

Betty Norris
810030.

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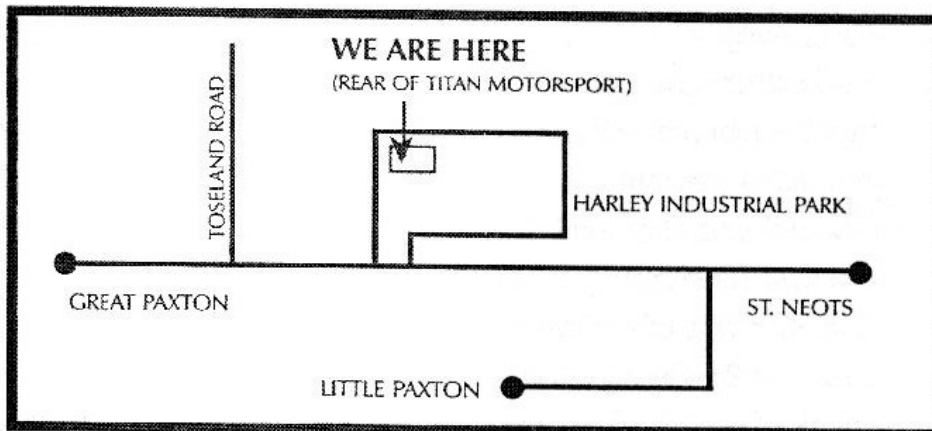
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RECIPE

Gingerbread

4oz	plain flour	$\frac{1}{2}$ flat tsp mixed spice
2oz	margarine	$\frac{1}{2}$ flat tsp bicarbonate of soda
1oz	brown sugar	1 flat tsp ground ginger
2 tbs	black treacle	$2\frac{1}{2}$ fl oz milk
2 tbs	golden syrup	1 egg

1. Prepare oven 160-180C, 325-350F. gas 3-4.
2. Grease and line two 7" sandwich tins with greaseproof paper.
3. Mix flour, mixed spice and ground ginger in a bowl.
4. Melt margarine, sugar, black treacle and golden syrup over low heat in a saucepan.
5. Mix bicarbonate of soda and milk in a basin and tip into the melted ingredients.
6. Mix well and then pour into the dry ingredients. (Mix well to a brown consistency like 'soft cream')
7. Pour into tins after dividing mixture into equal portions.
8. Bake for 20-30 minutes.
Check after 10-15 minutes.

If you have a good recipe you'd like to share with others, and it's not subject to copyright, please let Carol Temple know on 812879 or e-mail carol.temple@tiscali.co.uk.

Offord Gardeners Association

The months seem to fly by and, thanks to our members' excellent response to our request to renew their membership for the coming year, and with the added bonus of several new members, we will have achieved a good start to our new year of gardening.

Forthcoming events:

The main event in April is the village Spring show which we hope all of the village will take part in. It's on the 7th April in the Village Hall and schedules will have gone to all members. They will also be available from Selections and we hope for lots of entries.

Our regular monthly meeting in April is on the 19th and is on the subject of Edible Landscaping - unusual garden fruits with Clive Simms, and members competition is Spring blossom.

As we recover from the stresses of organising our Spring show we would like to invite all of you to join us on a coach trip to Harrogate Spring Show. The date is the 28th April and we leave at 8 am. We look forward to an enjoyable day out.

At our May meeting, we have the return of a well known speaker, Geoff Stebbings, and the subject is The Sense and Nonsense of Gardening. Members competition is Two Contrasting Colours.

And finally, an advance notice of a coach trip all of you will want to come on is a visit to Little Bentley Hall waterways and garden show. This is on the 2nd June and is open as a one-off event and is not normally open to the public, so we hope all of you can join us.

For further details on any of the events, please contact:

John Gatward
811148



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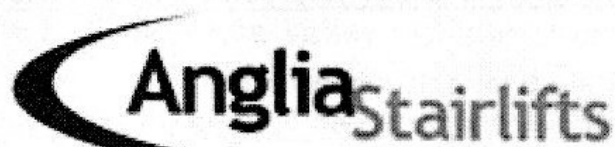
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NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A14 AMENDMENT proposed at Full District Council Meeting on 21st February 2007

I welcome the opportunity to propose the Amendment for the BROWN route, and trust you have been able to read the document produced by the A14 Action Group.

Briefly The Offords opposed the proposal submitted by the Highways Agency in 2003 due to lack of consultation, they were not even on the submitted map. A decision was made to take legal action and as a result a new consultation now giving various routes.

That is the past, but it shows a David and Goliath situation can be overcome.

Let me give you an overall picture - the Boundaries of the Offords have been in place for many many years - two rural villages who work together; their residents choosing to live Not near Super markets, Bus stations and Train stations etc. This rural area of England would have remained in place for many years. Godmanchester has grown and now the By- Pass is no more - development has encased it and Godmanchester will no doubt in the future creep slowly towards the Offords.

I WILL EMPHASISE THE FOLLOWING POINTS

- NOISE - The brown route offers the best balance

- LANDSCAPE - All routes have a largely detrimental effect on the Ouse Valley but the Orange route is the worst option. The Brown route giving a shorter river and rail crossing.
- WATER ENVIRONMENT - No evidence to support claims of increased risk or delays caused by building over the northern landfill.
- ECONOMY - differences of costs crossing the landfill site are subject to challenge. Further clarification from the Highways Agency is needed.
- LAND USE - my comment here is loss of LANDFILL - surely the government's policy is to reduce landfill.

Make no mistake WE ALL wish the A14 to be upgraded, the loss of life and injuries to many are appalling. It seems a minor thing to talk about the loss to industry but we must; and the frustrations caused by long delays on this road and vehicles meandering through the countryside to find an alternative route, even to the A428, is becoming more and more prevalent.

However the decision, when made, other than the Brown route, will result in land torn apart/concrete laid, an un-repairable destruction of this Area of Best Landscape, and it will be LOST for ever.

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Mrs M Alderman on 01480 810609

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NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I received a copy of the TRADE newsletter of Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Service. Inside the newsletter gives details of food dates, what do they mean?

USE BY: you will see 'use by ' dates on food that goes off quickly such as smoked fish, meat products and ready prepared salads .Be advised not to use any food or drink after the end of the 'use by' date on the label, even if it looks and smells fine This is because using it after this date could put your health at risk.

BEST BEFORE: Best before dates appear on a wide range of frozen, dried, tinned and other foods. The best before dates are more about quality than safety, so when the date runs out it doesn't mean that the food will be harmful but it might begin to lose its flavour and texture.

DISPLAY until Date marks such as 'display until or' sell by' often appear near or next to the 'best before' or 'use by' date. They are used by some shops to help with stock control and are instructions for shop staff, not shoppers.

No food lasts forever, be sure and follow instructions on the pack .The important dates for you to look for are the 'use by' and 'best before' dates.

If in doubt don't eat it if it looks or smells off, even if a food is within the dates specified.

We are here to help all the electorate

RICHARD WEST CLLR

Email richardwest@huntsdc.gov.uk

Tel 01480 812297 mobile 0784 1866630

OFFORD SCHOOL

As always, life is busy in School. There are constant changes and plans to keep everyone on their toes! We welcomed Miss Gray to Offord Primary School in January as our new Deputy Head and to teach Kingfishers Class. Miss Gray comes with a wealth of experience and has fitted in well to our team.

Just before our OfSTED Inspection last term, we had an assessment on our English and Maths teaching, learning and management. We have been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Award for the second time. The Award is given to schools who are successful in their standards and constantly look at ways to improve. The assessment looks at the quality of teaching and learning, the school environment, the curriculum, the professional development of staff, the plans for the future...- We are planning a celebration afternoon in March and there are badges and bookmarks for the children as well as a plaque for our wall.

Towards the end of March, we host the Small Schools Football Tournament. In previous years we have won the tournament and this has often been to do with the excellent support we have had from parents in coaching our team. This year we have a young, keen, enthusiastic team but no coach! If there is anyone in the community who could help us out, it would be very much appreciated. (Safety checks would need to be carried out) Please phone the school (01480 810308) if you can help.

We have a Quiz Night planned, here at our School on Saturday 12th May. It would be great to see people from the community coming along. Please phone the School for details.

Linda Corral
Head teacher

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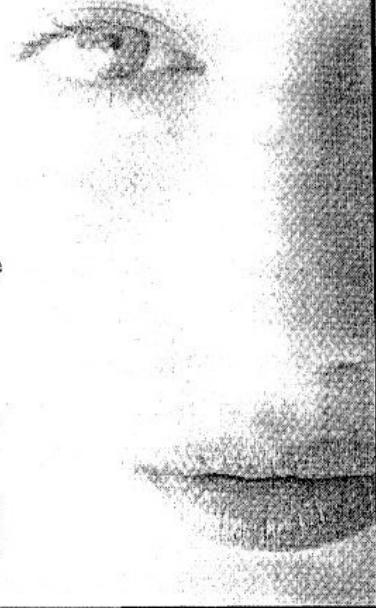
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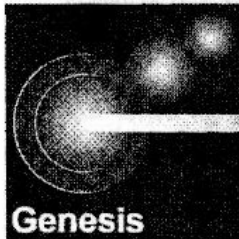
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THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH OFFORD DARCY

FEBRUARY 2007

We were hoping to hold an Open Evening in the Church in early February, however, at the last minute we had to cancel this event as it coincided with the internal repairs and redecoration of the building. We apologise to all those who would have liked to visit the Church on that day but for health and safety reasons we could not allow the event to take place. At the moment there are no plans to fix another date but the Art and Music Festival Weekend will soon be upon us and we should like to encourage everyone to support this event. Details of this can be found elsewhere in this edition of Out and About.

The good news is that now the damp has been treated, the falling lime plaster has been repaired and the whole of the interior has been totally redecorated, we are very pleased to report that the building looks stunning. It has been repainted in a slightly warmer colour that enhances the appearance of the walls and highlights the stonework and arches. The whole appearance is of a beautifully light and pristine Church.

The committee has organised a Working Party at the beginning of March to clear some of the overgrown foliage in the churchyard and to carry out cleaning and polishing inside the building. For the visitors who come to the Art and Musical Festival at the end of April we are sure you will notice the improvements to both the churchyard and the building itself.

A professional restorer has given us a very detailed report on the condition of the framed Roll of Honour manuscript that hangs just inside the Church door. She is confident that the document can be fully restored to its original condition. In conjunction with the Churches Conservation Trust we will support the restoration work to be carried out to the Roll of Honour.

A previously unheard of framed document belonging to St Peter's Church has recently come to light in an architect's office. This commemorates the list of incumbents and patrons of St Peter's Church since the 13th century. Fortunately this object is in a much better condition than the Roll of Honour and after being cleaned and tidied up it looks quite impressive. We hope to get this hung on the wall soon in a suitable position.

Make a note in your diaries for a forthcoming summer event to be held on **Saturday 14th July**. This will take the format of a musical evening in the Church preceded by a picnic on the lawn of the Manor House in Offord Darcy.

The committee would like to thank the members of our Friends Group who give us so much support but we could always do with more members. If you would like more information on how you can join the Friends Group, please contact Bernie Howes on 01480 812899.

Jenny Griffiths
Secretary, Friends Group of St Peter's

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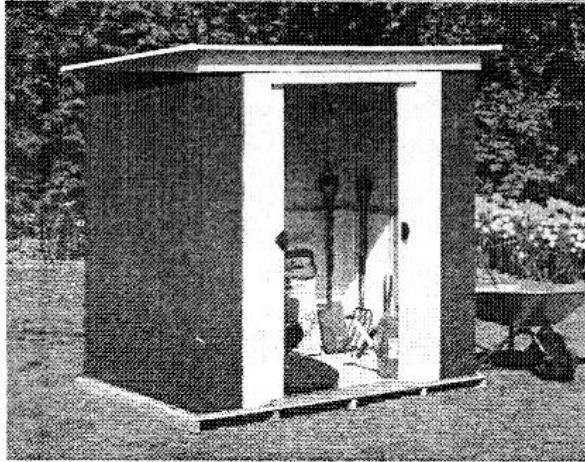
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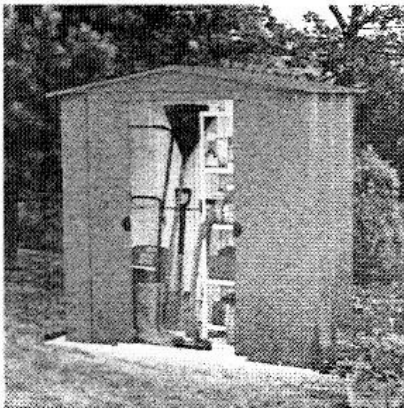


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 either brown or olive walls

6' x 4'

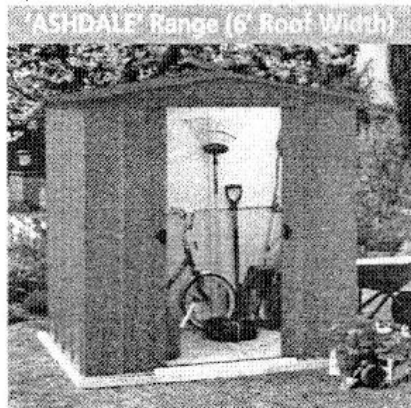


'FERNDALE' Range



6' x 3' Shed - 65" walls
 71 1/4" ridge

6' x 3'



6' x 5' Shed
 All 'ASHDALE' have 65"
 olive walls - 71 1/4"
 ridge height

6' x 5'

6' x 6'

6' x 7'

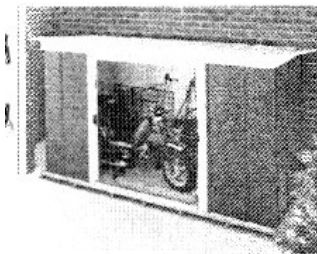
ttS

*We've got
the lot*



(8' x 4')
Front Height: 67 1/2"
Wall Height: 62"

8' x 4'
Front Height: 67 1/2"
Wall Height: 62"



LOW 8' x 4' Shed -
Front Height: 54"
Wall Height: 48"

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on 01480 810237



Boys of The Offords

Are you aged between 6 and 8
Do you want to make new friends
Take part in fun activities, learn about
the outdoors and be a member of a team?

Then why not join us at BEAVERS!

1st Great Paxton & the Offords Beaver Scout Colony is looking for boys to join the Colony. We meet every Tuesday at Offord School, between 6.00 pm and 7.15 pm We offer a range of activities for children aged 6 to 8 years.

If you would like further information about joining our Pack, please contact Amanda Pates on 01480 394443

1st Gt Paxton & Offords Cub Scout Pack

As you may already be aware Scouting is 100 years old this year, so April and May will be a very busy time for us as we begin our Centenary Celebrations.

100 years ago on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset, Baden Powell held the first ever Scout camp and how far we have come since those days!! Back then just 20 boys were invited to attend the experimental camp and this July and August will see 400,000 people from 200 different countries camping out at the 21st World Jamboree in Chelmsford, Essex. This exciting event is open to the general public for day visits.

For more information go online at <http://eng.thejamboree.org/> or www.scouts.org.uk

Unfortunately our Cubs are too young to camp at this amazing (and enormous) event but as our Cubs never want to miss a thing we will be attending a locally run camp. In May Huntingdon Racecourse will host our centenary camp where we will be able to enjoy many adventurous activities such as canoeing, raft building & archery (to name but a few) - and lets not forget the traditional camp fires, knot tying, woggle making, map reading and all those other scouting skills we learned as children.

We are currently undertaking the task of updating our catering facilities for camp and would gratefully receive any donations to aid us with this project.

During the warmer and lighter months expect to see 1st Great Paxton and the Offords Cub Scouts 'out and about' hiking, cycling and playing games as we take advantage of our beautiful surroundings. We also plan to visit Paxton Pits & Hinchingbrooke Park to learn about wildlife and conservation, and to practise shelter building.

Cubs is for **BOYS** and **GIRLS** aged 8 - 10½ years and meets at Great Paxton School.

If you would like more information about Cubs in Great Paxton and the Offords please contact Sarah on 07747 771088, or email sarah@brand-web.co.uk. **BE PREPARED!**



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OFFORD VILLAGE HALL

A very successful Quiz night was held on Saturday 24th February which produced over £660 for Village Hall funds. Many thanks go to question master Simon Young for keeping order and also producing questions on a really good range of subjects. Thanks to all who cooked food and especially everybody who came along to participate.

There was a fair amount of rubbish left over from the evening but with a sterling effort made to sort through it all, the bottles, cans and paper were recycled and only one small bag of non-recyclables remained. Perhaps this raises the question of how the Management Committee can in the long term, organise the management of waste generated by the various functions that take place in the Hall. Currently there is no space to accommodate a range of bins.

As mentioned in the previous edition, the Village Hall Management Committee decided at the AGM in November there would be no Offord Festival or Gala Day organised by the Village Hall Committee this year. This means events such as the quiz night play an important part in building a satisfactory level of funds to continue improving facilities.

Another fund raising event will be held later in the year and we all hope it will be as successful as the quiz night.

There is still a good range of activities in the Hall and a quick glance at the Year Planner shows how busy it is. In case you didn't know, there is a fitness class, Pilates, upholstery classes, Brownies, Offord Players, Indoor Bowls, Mums and Tots, Youth Club, Offord Gardening Association, Senior Citizens Club,

Women's Institute, The Western Front Society, Martial Arts, Offord Cluny Parish Council, plus various meetings in the Committee Room, all taking place at regular intervals during the month and annual events such as the Church Christmas Bazaar and coupled with all that there are the bookings for private hire such as children's parties, wedding receptions and funerals.

So a community building with so much demand needs to be in good condition and adapted to future requirements, and it is with this in mind the hire charge increases from 1st March 2007 to both cover what will not be raised from the Festival day and to build funds in the long term to meet the financial challenges of tomorrow.

Alan Griffiths, Chair Management Committee

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Regular Activities:

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Wednesday Fellowship: first & third Wednesdays at
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Tony Whitlock Tel 810906

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Friends of St Peter's Church, Offord Darcy



FESTIVAL of ART & MUSIC

Friday 27th April - Sunday 29th April 2007

Fri 27th April

7.30 pm

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Concert of Voices

by the

Huntingdon Music School

Donations will be gratefully received

Sat 28th April

10 am Onwards

Refreshments Available

Exhibition of your Art, Photography
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Competition for Young & Old
Theme "Village Buildings"

Sat 28th April

2 pm

Informal Community Concert

All Welcome

Sat 28th April 7.30

pm

Refreshments Available

"JAZZ IN THE AISLE"

Blues and Jazz with

Steve Lockwood

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Tickets £5 suggested donation

Sun 29th April

Church open 9.30 am

Donations to Support the whole event will be Welcome

~~~~~

You are cordially invited to exhibit, to play or just enjoy.

For more information/tickets please contact

Bernie Howes 01480 812899 or [StPetersFestival@blmh.co.uk](mailto:StPetersFestival@blmh.co.uk)

Jenny Griffiths 01480 811126

Paul Reader 01480 819570

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Churches Conservation Trust



## Offord Youth Club

Congratulations. Many parents contacted us after the last issue of Out & About mostly to say how shocked they were that the junior club session would be closing, some to say that they didn't know one existed and more to offer their help in keeping it open. So, well done. The Offord Junior Youth club is alive and well. Thanks to you and of course Trish, who along with her mother have volunteered to be the regular workers with the junior section. Trish wants to drop the members' age so that year 2 children can attend. We shall alter the insurance from 1<sup>st</sup> April to accommodate this age group.

The senior group session is healthy and very vibrant, mostly boys who are looking forward to the lighter evenings so the ball doesn't get lost so often. A short break is still being discussed and plans are afoot to raise money for Red Nose Day. I continue to be proud of our village youth and hope that you are too.

If you would like to join us or to assist in any way, please either contact us or pop in on a Friday evening to see us. We are there from 5 pm until 9 pm.

All of our regular helpers will need to be CRB checked.  
Trish Hellewell 812566 (Junior)  
or Lynne Harris 812114 (Senior)



## **FURNITURE**

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# Applepips



## Applepips - Pre School

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YOUR PLACE FOR A SEPTEMBER 2007 START!**

Sessions run as follows for children aged 2 years 6 months to 5 years (term time only):-

8.55 am - 11.30 am General session (Monday Rising 5's only)

11.30 am - 12.30 pm Lunch club.

12.30 pm - 3 pm Seedlings session (Tuesday and Thursdays only - at present)

We would be happy to welcome any new children for a free trial session. To arrange this or to get a copy of our prospectus please call 01480 810488.

## Applepips - Out of School Club

Monday to Friday 8 - 8.50 am and 3.10 - 6 pm (term time only)

We offer a range of activities for children aged 4 - 12 years, from creative play to outdoor sports.

We are also holding some specialised activity nights including:-

Dance, short bowls, mini rugby, sand art, clay modelling, t-shirt decorating, art lesson, bingo, etc

We have highly competitive fees and are Ofsted inspected.

We would be happy to welcome any new children for a free trial session. To arrange this or to get a copy of our prospectus and details of our activities nights please call 01480 810488.

### Future Fundraising Events to Look out for

#### Fashion Show (18th May)

We are holding a children's fashion show in conjunction with 'Pumpkins Patch' (a well known high street retailer). Watch out for posters as tickets will be on sale shortly.

#### Bags 2 School (12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> May)

Following the success of previous years we are again running Bags2school. Look out for a bag to be posted through your doors prior to our collection run on the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> May. All soft furnishings accepted - curtains, towels, cuddly toys, old clothes, fabric bags etc. Accepting things now, please call 01480 810488 to arrange drop off.

## 1st Offord Guides

Hi from 1st Offord Guides, again we have been busy working towards our five senses, go for it and performing arts badge. We will be working on the county challenge in conjunction with Wood Green Animal Shelter and we will be sponsoring a chosen animal.

A big welcome goes to our new members, who I am sure will have fun and face some interesting challenges, such as outdoor camping, cooking on fires and singing around camp fires.

Note for your diary: 21st April Offord Guides will be holding a race evening at the village hall to raise funds to enable us to go to Disney Land Paris next year.

If you have a interesting skill or hobby you would like to share with 1st Offord Guides please contact Joanne/Jenny

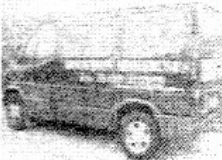
We meet Monday evenings at 7.15 - 8.45 please drop in to see what we are all about.

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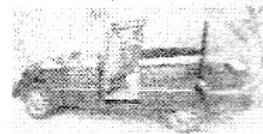
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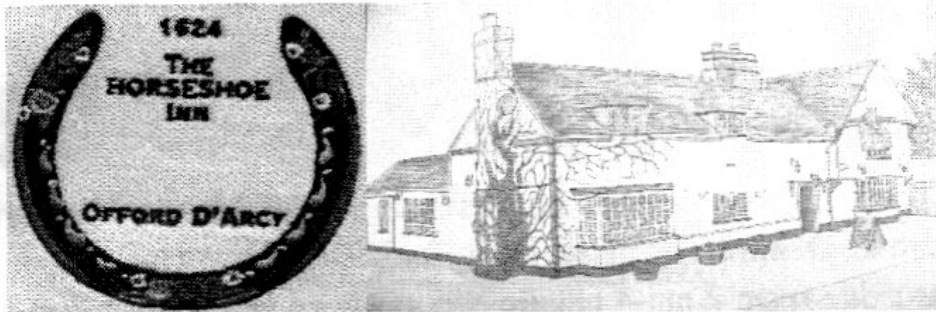


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The a la carte offers a range of dishes to interest any palate, Fish, steaks, vegetarian, all prepared with real passion. The tradition of a Sunday Carvery continues with a focus on quality which is our trademark.

The Horseshoe Inn offers two bars with a range of real ales, lagers, wines, and spirits. Visit us for dinner or lunch with a choice of a la carte or bar meal. Richard and his team will cater for your every need and events such as anniversaries, parties, groups and family gatherings are welcome.

See the menus at our website.

Richard Kennedy Chef-Proprietor

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## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - THE OFFORDS



### Neighbourhood Watch Policing.

A point of presence has been set up in the Buckden Millennium Centre. It will be manned each Tuesday from 10 am-12 pm and Saturday from 2 pm-4 pm. Go and speak to your local police, find out how they can help you or how you can help them. Please use the service or it may be lost.

### Hints on securing your vehicle.

Lock the doors and close all windows of vehicle.

Don't leave anything on display, even a jacket can seem like an appealing target for a thief.

Remove your stereo if you can.

Tuck in wing mirrors and put aerial down to discourage vandals.

Never store your car's documents in the car.

An approved immobiliser or steering lock can help secure older vehicles.

Keep your car keys in a safe place, even in your house, so that if someone breaks in they cannot steal your car too.

Try to park your vehicle in a well lit area if you are not able to store it in a garage.

If you have any information on any crimes please call the Police on 0845 456 4564 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

1<sup>st</sup> Offord

 Rainbows



Calling all 5-7 year old girls.

We currently have spaces for new Rainbow recruits. Why not come along and join us for lots of fun filled games and activities.

We meet up term times on **Fridays, 6 pm - 7 pm** at **Applepips mobile, Offord Primary School.**

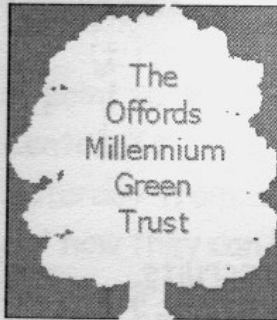
If you would like further information about joining Rainbows or would like to help out or become a volunteer,

please contact: Alison Glass-Parker on  
01480 811850

On behalf of all the Rainbows past and present, we would like to give a big thank you to "Daisy" Katrina Gardiner for her enthusiastic leadership of 1<sup>st</sup> Offord Rainbows, Daisy has now stepped down as leader and Helen Northrop has taken over.

Best wishes to Katrina  
From all the Rainbows

## Millennium Green



"The Trustees would like to thank Fiona Fitzhugh who is resigning as Trustee due to other commitments. Fiona has made a major contribution to the Millennium Green Trust since becoming a Trustee in 2004 and has been instrumental in getting the play area sorted, including laying our rabbit proof matting and fence, as well as ordering the new play equipment. She was also responsible for organising and laying much of the new hedging at the back of the Horseshoe and was always willing to get stuck into any task. We also thank Ian and Jessica Reader who have kindly agreed to continue their dog bin duties for the time being. We are on the look out for new Trustees and would particularly like to hear from some of you out there with young children who might be willing to undertake inspection of the play equipment to comply with health and safety requirements. The job is not arduous but needs to be done regularly. If you are already down there pushing a swing then please think about offering to undertake this for us, even if you do not wish to become a Trustee.

We are not holding a Village Festival on the Green this summer, but hope to hold a number of other events both to help raise funds for ongoing maintenance and to ensure people have some fun. Watch out for more news on what is coming up.

There has been an incident of a dog off its lead, attacking another dog on the Green and we would like to ask all dog owners to endeavour to keep their dogs under control at all times.

The issue has been raised by some villagers about the paths on the green becoming very muddy at times. We are aware this can be a problem and are looking into ways of alleviating the problem.

The Millennium Green AGM will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June in the Church Rooms at 7.30 pm. This meeting is open to all villagers and we welcome your comments, views and suggestions.

Nita Tinn, Chairperson 811808

Karen Sherwood, Secretary 811218



**For further details please contact:**

Kirsty Beatt: 810779

By the time you read this, the Mums and Tots grown-ups will have gone out for their meal together....without the toddlers. I, for one, am looking forward to talking to real proper adults without the constant interruptions that beset most of the conversations I try to have these days!

We've got a lovely friendly group coming along each week and are always very happy to meet new parents or carers and their little ones. We meet on Friday mornings in the Village Hall. We've got loads of toys and play equipment as well as some lovely new craft stuff.

Please feel free to give Kirsty a call on 810779 for more information.

## Offord Parent Teacher Association

Hooray, we are now into spring and hopefully into some brighter weather. This means that we can now do a lot more things for the children at Offord primary. We, as the PTA, always have our thinking caps on trying to find new and imaginative ways of fund raising and other events to benefit the children. In May we are planning a much overdue quiz night, which is open to everyone in the Offords, so keep Saturday the 11th May free and come along for a fun and enjoyable evening. Keep an eye out for further information on the village notice boards. Unfortunately our annual Valentine's disco had to be cancelled in February due to the snowy weather conditions. So as to not let the children down, we decided to rebook it and instead make it a red nose disco. All profits will then be sent off to the Comic Relief Charity. As I am writing this before the event I will let you all know how much we raise at a later date. Wishing you all a very happy spring and summer.

Linda Hill. Offord PTA Chair.

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• LARGE WORKSHOP DISPLAY •

## 1st Offord Brownies

We went to Brampton Church at the end of February to join in with "Thinking Day" along with Buckden & Brampton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. The American Girl Guides also joined us from Brampton and at the end of the service both countries sang their national anthem as well as exchanging small gifts.

We have a fun packed next few weeks - from a visit from Wood Green Animal Shelter to a trip to Eat N' Bowl. Also in May we are arranging to have a bingo night during one of our sessions and in June/July hopefully be going to Cadburys World with the guides.

We meet in Offord Village Hall from 5.30 pm until 7 pm every Tuesday, for girls aged 7 - 10. We currently have 24 Brownies within our unit which is our maximum. So if you would like your child to become a Brownie and wish to be added to the waiting list, please ring me or just come along to one of our meetings.

Debbie Bleasdale (Brown Owl) Tel: 811514

*From all the Owls - Brown, Barney & Tawny -- We have a Hoot of a time!!*

### **WI BINGO NIGHT**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm

Offord Village Hall

Everyone welcome

# Directions Plus

## Can we help you or anyone you know?

Directions Plus is a registered charity working for disabled/older people and carers living in Cambridgeshire. We provide **free, confidential and impartial information and advice** on all disability and access issues including:-

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Contact us at:-

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Telephone advice line: 01223 569 600

E-mail: [info@directions-plus.org.uk](mailto:info@directions-plus.org.uk)

[www.directions-plus.org.uk](http://www.directions-plus.org.uk)

[www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk](http://www.disabilitycambridgeshire.org.uk)

## Loans for businesses that fit outside the box

Foundation East is a not for profit organisation which lends money to new and existing small businesses based in Cambridgeshire, that have viable business plans but can't get a bank loan or need additional funds to match bank lending.

You may be trying to get a new business off the ground, or need a loan to buy equipment to complete an extra big order. Perhaps you are wondering if your hobby or skill could make you money or you have been considering being self employed.

Even if you lack business experience, savings to put into the business, assets to secure a loan or you've had credit problems in the past, our team will be pleased to consider your needs.

Enterprise loans from Foundation East range from £1,000 to £50,000 and can be used to cover start up costs, purchase equipment, cash flow and other business purposes.

If you would like further information please ring  
Foundation East on 01284 757777  
or visit [www.foundationeast.org](http://www.foundationeast.org)



## WHEN TO RESTRAIN A CHILD

My father was an electrical service technician. One of the perks of his job was to be able to use the works van to take us on holiday which made the whole escapade much more exciting as we didn't have a car.

Those of you old enough to live the late 60's may remember the Ford Transit van with the sliding passenger and driver doors. This was our luxury mode of transport and once empty of tools and fittings it was very spacious if a little hard and cold.

Now, a family of 5 will not fit into two seats so, my dad strapped 3 wooden dining chairs to the inside of the van and chucked in a mattress for us to play on! At the time it was an adventure and with in car safety systems, including seatbelts, in the early stages of development it wasn't frowned upon.

These days cars are fitted with all manner of safety gadgets: seatbelts; airbags; anti roll bars; reversing sensors and crumple zones, etc, all designed to reduce fatalities on the roads.

In September 2006, new legislation was introduced making it compulsory to fit child restraints to cars carrying children, in a bid to further reduce deaths and injuries on the roads.

| Front seat                                                                         | Rear seat                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Who is responsible |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Driver                                                                             | Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Driver             |
| Child up to 3 years                                                                | Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used. | Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used<br>If one is not available in a taxi, then the child may travel unrestrained                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Driver             |
| Child from 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday, up to either 135cms in height or 12 years old | Correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> be used  | Where seat belts fitted, correct child restraint <b>MUST</b> use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available in three scenarios:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in a licensed taxi/PHV;</li> <li>- over a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity;</li> <li>- two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third.</li> </ul> In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available | Driver             |
| Child over 1.35 metres, or 12 to 13 years                                          | Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available   | Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Driver             |
| Adult passengers (i.e. 14 years and over)                                          | Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available   | Seat belt <b>MUST</b> be worn if available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Passenger          |

If you would like further information on the above issue, fire safety in the home or would like a Fire Service vehicle to attend a community event or group, please contact Huntingdon District office on 01480 52567 or visit [www.cambsfire.gov.uk](http://www.cambsfire.gov.uk).

## VILLAGE GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

|                          |                      |               |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Applepips                | Jenny Bell           | 811860        |
| Archery                  | Ray Curtin           | 384468        |
| Beavers                  | Helen Newman         | 812548        |
| Bowls Club               | Sue Barimore         | 812299        |
| Brownies                 | Debbie Bleasdale     | 811514        |
| Church Events            | Gladys Brown         | 811294        |
| Church Rooms hire        | Ann Knowles          | 811803        |
| Community Computer       | Malcolm Reece        | 812238        |
|                          | Elaine Rice          | 07980 344 236 |
| Community Police         | c/o St Neots         | 456111        |
|                          | Police Stn           | 0845 456 4564 |
| Cubs                     | Sarah Brand          | 07747 771088  |
| District Councillors     | Barbara Boddington   | 01767 677455  |
|                          | Richard West         | 812297        |
| Guides                   | Joanne Cowell        | 812268        |
| Millennium Green Trust   | Nita Tinn            | 811808        |
| Mums & Tots              | Kirsty Beatt         | 810779        |
| Neighbourhood Watch      | Graham Mewett        | 812317        |
| Offord Cluny Parish      |                      |               |
| Council                  | Liam Small           | 811286        |
| Offord Darcy Parish      |                      |               |
| Council                  | Keith Ridley (Chair) | 810848        |
| Offord Gardeners'        |                      |               |
| Association              | Janet Bedingfield    | 810091        |
| Offord School Head       | Linda Corral         | 810308        |
| Offord PTA               | Linda Hill           | 811257        |
| Parochial Church Council | Kath Gill            | 810238        |
| Rainbows                 | Alison Glass-Parker  | 811850        |
| Senior Citizens          | Cathie Conway        | 810726        |
| The Offord Players       | John Kirby           | 810049        |
| Village Hall hire        | Marlene Alderman     | 810609        |
| Village Hall 300+ Club   | Helen Bosworth       | 811892        |
| Women's Guild            | Talvia Gatward       | 811148        |
| Women's Institute        | Joyce Geeves         | 213546        |
| Youth Club               | Lynne Harris         | 812114        |

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| UTOPIA                                  | 01480 812539   |

## Diary Dates

|            |                 |                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mondays    | 7.15-8.45 pm    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Offord Guides (Baptist Church)                                    |
| Tuesdays   | 10 am - 12 noon | Neighbourhood Policing Centre                                                     |
|            | 2.30 pm         | Women's Guild (Church Rooms)                                                      |
|            | 5.30-7.00 pm    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Offord Brownies (Village Hall)                                    |
|            | 6.00-7.15 pm    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Great Paxton & the Offords<br>Beaver Scout Colony (Offord School) |
|            | 6.15-7.45 pm    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Great Paxton & the Offords<br>Cub Scout Pack (Gt Paxton School)   |
| Wednesdays | 7.00-8.30 pm    | Bowls Club - first session                                                        |
|            | 8.30-10.00 pm   | Bowls Club - second session                                                       |
| Fridays    | 9.15-11.30 am   | Mums & Tots - during term time<br>(Village Hall )                                 |
|            | 6.00-7.00 pm    | Rainbows (Offord School)                                                          |
|            | 7.00-9.00 pm    | Youth Club - Senior section                                                       |
| Saturdays  | 2 pm - 4 pm     | Neighbourhood Policing Centre                                                     |

|         |       |       |                                                                                    |
|---------|-------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat     | 7     | April | Village Spring Show (Village Hal)                                                  |
| Mon     | 9     | April | Coffee morning (10-12 noon Village Hall)                                           |
| Tue     | 10    | April | WI - What Not To Wear                                                              |
| Fri     | 13    | April | WI Bingo Night (7.30 pm Village Hall)                                              |
| Tue     | 17    | April | All Saints AGM (7.30 pm Church)                                                    |
| Thur    | 19    | April | Gardeners' Association (8 pm - Village Hall)                                       |
| Sat     | 21    | April | Guides Race Evening (Village Hall)                                                 |
| Sat     | 28    | April | Gardeners' trip to Harrogate Spring Show(8 am)                                     |
| Fri     | 27    | April | St Peters Art & Music Festival (7.30 pm)                                           |
| Sat     | 28    | April | St Peters Art & Music Festival (10 am onwards)                                     |
| Sun     | 29    | April | St Peters Art & Music Festival (9.30 am)                                           |
| Mon     | 30    | April | Deadline for Out & About                                                           |
| Tue     | 8     | May   | WI - Resolutions & Auction                                                         |
| Sat     | 12    | May   | School Quiz Night                                                                  |
| Sat/Sun | 12/13 | May   | Applepips Bags2School collection                                                   |
| Mon     | 14    | May   | Institution & Induction of Rev Ally Barrett<br>(7.30 pm St Mary's Church, Buckden) |
| Thur    | 17    | May   | Gardeners' Association (8 pm - Village Hall)                                       |
| Fri     | 18    | May   | Applepips Fashion Show                                                             |
| Sat     | 2     | June  | Gardeners' trip to Little Bentley Hall                                             |
| Wed     | 6     | June  | Millennium Green AGM (7.30 pm Church Rooms)                                        |
| Sat     | 14    | July  | St Peters picnic & musical evening                                                 |

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