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TEMPSFORD TIMES

Issue 103
Feb/March 2024

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

**Articles for the April-May 2024 edition should be sent by
March 20th**

**to the Editor, Adrian Besant,
92 Station Road, Tempsford. 01767 640873**

**Advertising enquiries to Tina Goddard
42 Station Road, Tempsford. 01767 641053**

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



Carols in the Millennium Garden

Photo by Gary Winfield

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Carols in the Millennium Garden

After a three-year break due to the Covid Pandemic, we were very happy to re-launch the Annual Millennium Garden Candlelight and Carols evening. The weather was perfect for the evening, with very little wind and fairly warm.

On Friday 15th December 2023, we welcomed approximately 80 people to this popular Christmas event. For a change we tried using 500 metres of Christmas Lights instead of candles along the pathways. This seemed to suit most people more, so perhaps we need to re-name the event the Christmas Lights and Carols evening in future.

Approximately, 3 gallons of mulled wine were consumed, along with 100 jacket potatoes and 80 mince and apple pies. All this whilst we enjoyed some festive music by The Nexus Big Band from Sandy; and a nice warm fire was provided to keep everyone warm.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the evening a great success viz.— Tina and Dave Goddard, Linda Collins, Maureen Goddard (who also made and donated some lovely home made coleslaw), Shirley Sharman for running the raffle and donating many of the prizes, David Sutton for his help and also providing the audio system and Andy and Sue Wines. Many thanks to Chris and Elaine Bettles for the use of their electricity and special thanks also to Sam Knott for sponsoring the cost of the band for the evening.

A nice profit was made, which will go into the Tempsford 2000 account. This is held by the Parish Council for future maintenance of the Millennium Garden.

Special thanks to everyone who came along and supported the event, which we hope put you all in the mood for the festive season.

Steve Cooney.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The delightful Carols and Candlelight evening at the Millennium Garden after a hiatus of a few years gave us a good seasonal start but Christmas and New Year brought us another repetition of flooding in and around the village. Unfortunately a number of Station Road residents again ended up with sewage in their gardens, in the houses or with showers and toilets backing up. After many years of continual issues, the Parish Council arranged an emergency public meeting which many attended. It is very important to note that whilst we have seen tankers pumping from the Anglian Water's Station Road pumping station, this time, unlike on other occasions, this was not linked to any failure of the pumping equipment, but to a huge amount of infiltration into the network from the flooded areas.



ACTION To you and I, it doesn't really matter the detail, we need to see action taken to ensure that our residents houses and gardens are not flooded again. Anglian Water has promised to fully survey the sewers within our area and try to identify the issue. Tempsford Parish Council, along with Tracey Wye and Adam Zerny our CBC Wards Councillors and our MP Richard Fuller will all be individually continuing to hold Anglian Water to

14. Crime Stats – It was agreed to record in the Minutes that in December there were 4 recorded incidents in the Parish.

15. EWR – There is no further update.

16. Community Responder – forwarded to next meeting.

17. Finances – Invoices for payment were approved. The Clerk explained the cash flow and bank reconciliation.

Grass Cutting tender – the Clerk had sent out 3 tender applications and was awaiting replies.

Could we find out whether the grass near College Farm is the responsibility of CBC to cut?

Budget – The Chairman presented the new Budget. We need to keep one-year operating costs in reserve.

Precept – Unanimous decision to increase to £17,500.

18. Date of next meeting. March 12th and Annual Parish Meeting April 16th.

Cllr. Cooney asked that the Parish Council minute the fact that Betty Mardlin being a former Parish Councillor has passed away and the Parish Council convey their sincere condolences to the family. Betty was a stalwart for the village and will be sadly missed.

*Linda Collins
Parish Clerk*

THE BIG BLUNHAM BOOK SALE 2024



THE BIG BLUNHAM BOOK SALE
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Saturday 17th February 2024

10.00am to 3.00 pm

in Blunham Parish Church. MK44 3NQ

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For further details contact Sue and Peter Holden 01767 640572

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES: -

The following is a **summary** of the main points of discussion at the Parish Council meeting held on the 9th January 2024. This is just a summary as minutes have yet to be approved. Full copies of the Minutes once approved will be available on www.tempsford.org or from the Clerk.

Present 6 Parish Councillors, plus Clerk. No members of the public

1. Apologies were received from CBC Councillors, Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye.

2. No Declarations of interest were received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th November 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Parish Councillor Vacancy – Two candidates have applied. A date for interviews was decided on and applicants will be informed.

5. Public Session – no public present.

6. Central Beds Council – No CBC Councillors present.

7. S106 – Some funds had been received for items purchased, now just awaiting for play equipment to be installed; this was still ongoing.

8. Speed indicator – To be organised by Cllr. Knott. New battery needed for one of them.

9. Events – Millennium Garden Carols – overall a profit had been made which would go into the upkeep of the garden. Thanks to Cllr. Knott for sponsoring the band, to Cllr. Bettles for the use of his electricity, to Mrs. Sharman and others for donating raffle prizes. Other events were discussed to take place in the village to be discussed at the next meeting.

10. Neighbourhood Plan – This needs to be presented to CBC. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss the final stages.

11. Highways – Cllr. Besant reported that no work had actually been done since reporting at last meeting. CBC had been asked for an update on progress.

12. Planning – no applications were received before this meeting.

13. Anglian Water – The Chairman walked the village with Adam Zerny and Cllr. Besant. He also had a long conversation with MP Richard Fuller, who will be writing to DEFRA, also others including Michael Gove about the problems of building more houses in this area. A public meeting was held before this Council meeting, where Anglian Water was invited to explain to the village what was going on with the overflow of sewers etc.

account and to explain what will be done in the short term to minimise the risks of flooding and in the long term to protect their network from it being able to happen. Please do not think we will just let this winter's problems keep returning.

OPEN AREAS Looking forward to the spring and summer, the Parish Council was able to purchase some new benches and fixed BBQ's which we will shortly be installing in the Church Street Playing Area for anyone to use. The BBQ's will be fixed into the ground and have a raised BBQ deck to help minimise any fire risk. In addition, we have contracted Wicksteed to build an additional piece of equipment on the Station Road Playing Area.

COSTS Whilst mentioning the playing areas, it is important for residents to note that grass cutting is by far the biggest expenditure that we have as a Parish Council. These costs have been rising steadily and unfortunately our only real source of income is from the Council Tax Precept. This means that unfortunately we have had no choice but to increase the charges that are levied this year. However, this is still a very small proportion of your overall Council Tax bill. In 2024/5 the proportion for Tempsford Parish Council for a Band D property is £69.44 per annum. Remember, all of your Parish Councillors give their time voluntarily to the village to attend regular meetings and events, manage issues such as with the recent Anglian Water Flooding and Public Meeting and put on or support other events and community groups, so it really is value for money.

David Sutton, Parish Council Chairman
david@gannockhouse.com

m: +44 (0) 7889 787069

t: +44 (0) 1234 587007

BETTY MARDLIN

A lovely Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Betty Mardlin took place at the Stuart Memorial Hall on Friday 19th January at 12 noon, conducted by the Methodist Minister , Rev James Bamber.

Betty Mardlin passed away peacefully at her home in Station Road on 3rd January 2024, aged 91 years. Betty was born at Tempsford on the 21st June 1932 and was from a large family of six brothers and two sisters. Her maiden name was Fuller. The Fuller family are an old Tempsford family, going back at least 400 years. Betty married Leonard Mardlin in 1953 and lived happily together in Station Road till Len's death in 1999. They had two daughters Elizabeth and Roselyn.

Betty was a staunch supporter of the Tempsford Methodist chapel all her life, but sadly as the Chapel closed in June last year, it was decided to hold Betty's funeral at the Stuart Memorial Hall. We believe this was the first time a funeral has been held in the hall and every



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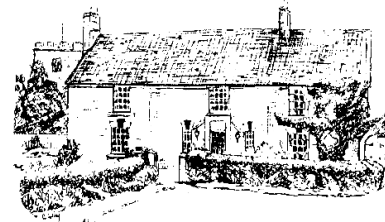
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T M U Gs

Tempsford Meet-Up Groups

In December, the BOOK GROUP decided to have a social evening discussing their favourite books and recommending them to others. So along with nibbles and festive drinks to celebrate the season some arrived with an armful of books. I think all enjoyed the evening and getting to know other members better.

At January's meeting we discussed "The Daughter of Time" by Josephine Tey. A detective novel with a twist where the guilt or innocence of Richard III over the murder of the princes in the tower was explored in a fictional story. The novel written in the '50's was of its time but the ideas about the princes in the tower were certainly novel then and has had recent interest with the discovery of Richard III's body in a Leicester car park. Mostly, the group thought it wasn't a great book but still worthy of a read. It did cause quite a discussion on King Richard though.

The books and dates for the next few months are as follows:

14th Feb. "Longitude" by Dava Sobel

13th Mar. "A Kestrel for a Knave" by Barry Hines

17th Apr Book to be arranged

If you would like further information on the group please contact Doreen Harrison on d.harrison48@btinternet.co.uk

WALKING GROUP:

Regular Wednesday morning walks contact Kay Partridge 07368 687589

Weds May 8th: Paxton Pits walk with the chance to see migrant birds guided by Brian Harrison

If you would like to organise walks on another day please contact either Kay Partridge or email Kay Quinn on kay@rushind.com

NEW GARDENING CLUB:

If anyone is interested in joining a Tempsford Gardening Club please contact Kay Quinn with your ideas. (07970 385354 or kay@rushind.com)

effort was made to make the ceremony as fitting as possible. The former Chapel Lectern, Cross and Altar Apparel which are now housed in the village museum were used and set out as would have been in the chapel.

Following the service, Betty was laid to rest in Tempsford Cemetery next to her beloved husband Len. Donations were given in memory of Betty for the Burma Star Memorial Fund, which was very close to her heart.

The family would like to convey their sincere thanks to everyone who joined them at the service and to everyone who sent cards, sympathy and condolences at this sad time.



Betty is in the centre of this photograph taken at the chapel in 2010 at the opening of the newly refurbished kitchen. L to r: Stephen Gosling, Carole Gosling, Betty Mardlin, Jen Infield, Peggy Eaton

TEMPSFORD FLOODING – ANGLIAN WATER RESPONSE, JANUARY 2024

It's been an incredibly busy few months for Anglian Water - recent storms have caused extremely heavy rainfall across our region, resulting in flooding affecting many communities, including Tempsford.

Our sewers are designed to take wastewater away from homes and businesses, but if they fill up with ground water caused by heavy rainfall or flooding rivers, the waste from homes has nowhere to go. In incidents like this, customers may find they can't flush their loos, use showers, dishwashers and washing machines – something that no one wants to experience.

Our teams have been working hard to keep our sewers flowing as usual, but on some occasions our pumps, pipes and sewerage network can get completely overwhelmed, particularly near major rivers, such as the Great Ouse, which you will have seen flood in recent weeks throughout Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. There's been an exceptional need for tankers across our region to protect the environment, and although it's not our responsibility to take groundwater away, it is our responsibility to protect the environment by reducing the risk of flooding from our sewers and manholes. In some circumstances where there is an environmental pollution risk, we deploy tankers to areas that will also benefit customers, making it easier to flush their loos and use showers. This has been the case in Tempsford, albeit initially on a lower scale due to some significant priorities elsewhere in our region which required urgent tanker support to protect the environment. However, we remain committed to providing tanker support to the village until groundwater and flood levels drop sufficiently.

We were pleased to come along to the Parish meeting on 9th January to listen to the concerns from residents and take questions. We know how hard it has been for many residents and sympathise with the awful consequences of flooding and loss of the use of toilets and washing facilities. We took away several actions and will continue to keep in touch with the Parish Council as we work through those.

They included:

- Sharing maps of our drainage network of the catchment that serves Tempsford.
- Providing a summary of the works we have undertaken in recent years across the catchment and in Tempsford.
- Ensuring our tanker drivers are considerate to the community when working in the village, and pledging to provide a tanker, when needed, only between the hours of 8am and 8pm unless we have an emergency or critical need.
- Sharing the findings of the survey work we will be carrying out in the village when water levels drop to allow us access to the network.
- Updates on the £350,000 surface water removal project upstream in Blunham in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Updates on the £100,000 CCTV survey of 12km of sewers in the area which will help identify infiltration and ingress points where river/groundwater may be getting



The scheme would like to thank you all for your feedback since the switch of layout on the **Black Cat roundabout**, and the **A421 Westbound (Towards Bedford/MK)**. These changes are essential to facilitate the construction of the scheme without closing any part of the road permanently, therefore trying to reduce ongoing disruption. We appreciate the time you have taken to share your feedback, please be assured that we take this extremely seriously and have been monitoring the area constantly since implementation. We monitor via live CCTV, as well as multiple daily visits to site at various times of the day, in daylight as well as in the dark.

The junction is extremely complex to manage due to the many points of entry and exit and the multiple lanes available, We have since added lane lines for traffic to follow. The inside lane for All Routes, predominately for A421 West and Roxton. The outside lane for A1N Only, continues around the roundabout. If you find yourself in the wrong lane, please continue around the roundabout, rather than move in front of vehicles heading toward the A421 West (Bedford/MK).

We invite you to visit our [website](#) to keep up to date with **upcoming and future road closures** or sign up to regular project updates [here](#).

If you'd like more information about this work, then please feel free to contact us by calling the 24/7 National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000,

email info@a428.co.uk

The Community Engagement Team



Tempsford Museum
looks forward to
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Sunday 4th February

Photographs in and around Tempsford by Village Photographer GARY WINFIELD.

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Sunday 3rd March and Sunday 7th April

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into our network. This will give us a greater understanding of what the condition of the network is in and help us decipher what next steps are required and by whom it find resolution to the issues.

- Access for the CCTV surveys is restricted by conditions. We will plan to start this work as soon as reasonably practicable but may take time for ground water levels to drop after rainfall has perceived to have stopped.
- Committing to keeping in touch with the council and returning to another meeting in three months' time.

As we said at the meeting, flood prevention and emergency response is complex, with responsibility sitting with many different agencies, including Central Bedfordshire Council as the lead local flood authority, other local councils, the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards and others – including property owners and landowners under riparian responsibility. We are therefore pleased that Central Bedfordshire Council are proposing a multi-agency review of recent flooding with representatives from those organisations coming together to assess impacts and agree some joined up action to help reduce the likelihood and impact of further flooding events. Anglian Water are always willing to participate and contribute our skills and knowledge in these multi-agency endeavours. We step in where responsibilities lie with us and work with others to find tangible and cost-effective solutions.

WHERE TO GET HELP AND ADVICE

If you're affected by flooding, we want to make sure you're contacting the right people for the right thing as it's not always us you need to speak to.

For high or overflowing rivers: call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 for help and advice.

Flood water from highways, run off from fields or issues with land drainage: Contact Central Bedfordshire Council. You can find their contact details here https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/44/planning/444/flooding_and_flood_risk_management/2 . Most flooding caused by rain-water will subside once the rain stops. If it's causing a danger to life call 101 or 999.

Clearing up debris left over from flooding: Speak to your local council to get help to clean up silt and mud left behind by receding rain or flood water. If there's been any flooding from our sewers, we'll be out as soon as we can to clear up but only once, we've helped customers who have flooding inside their homes or problems with their water supply.

A new water or sewerage issue: The quickest way to tell us about a problem is to do it online at www.anglianwater.co.uk/tell-us or by calling 03457 145 145. If you have an **existing water or sewerage issue** use the link we sent you when you raised your issue to tell us more about it or tell us you no longer need us to visit.

FLOOD DAMAGE ACROSS CENTRAL BEDS - WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

Over the first weekend in January, we spent every daylight hour (and a few after) travelling around Bedfordshire, taking in the flooding, and in many cases the aftermath of it. What struck us was the natural beauty of our county, but also the huge impact on people's lives these floods had caused.

Tempsford was our first stop. We were joined by Parish Councillors and local residents to see how the Ivel now covered a whole swathe of fields. Raw sewage was spread across gardens, ditches adjacent to the road were full of water, drains bubbled out close to people's front doors, the pumping station was severely overloaded, and access to properties was limited due to flood waters. We also visited a number of other locations, amongst them Arlesey, Caddington, Maulden and saw similar sights.

Such damage not only affects people's homes, it also puts at risk the great efforts and expense incurred by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Highways in this last year, to improve the roads, as it is clear that flood waters can and do cause severe damage to our roads. Events like this used to be referred to as 'once in 100 years'. Across the area, they happened last in 2020, and in some cases even more recently. Climate Change would suggest we need to prepare for them to continue to take place on a frequent basis.

Wherever we went, residents showed us the damage caused. People were already preparing for months if not years of attempts to make good the damage. In many cases there was praise for the emergency services, for the Fire Service, Police, and for CBC's emergency response services. But there was anger with the water utilities, Anglian and Affinity which cover Central Bedfordshire. And there was dismay over years of national underinvestment and Westminster politicians who hadn't put sufficient pressure on the water utilities to create the required infrastructure. Anglian Water declared profits of £169million last year while Affinity had an operating profit of £41million. More money could and should have been set aside to solve these problems.

Benefice Lent Course

This year's Lent Course is based on the film Mary Poppins Returns, and is entitled "Where the Lost things Go". It will take place on five consecutive Friday evenings beginning on Friday 23rd February, starting at 7.30pm. If you wish to attend, please sign up on the sheet at the back of your church. There will be an alternative on a Wednesday afternoon, if enough people wish for that to happen – please indicate on the sign-up sheet.

Easter Day at St Peter's.

Please come and join us for our Easter Day Service at 9.30am as we celebrate the Risen Lord Jesus.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you to everyone who very kindly supported St Peters **"12 days of Christmas"**. We are very pleased to announce we made £340 this amazing result could not be made without your support.
Gloria

Thanks also to all who contributed special Christmas items to fill the **Church Christmas Hamper** and to those who bought tickets for its raffle, all of which raised £450 to support the church. The winning ticket was drawn at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, and was Trish Sheath *Maureen Goddard and Maureen Gore*

St Peter's Floodlights

If you would like the floodlights put on for any occasion, the cost will be £10 per night.

Please contact :- Gloria 01767 640050



ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,
Church Street, Tempsford
Rector: Rev Graham Buckle
The Rectory, Park Lane, Blunham
01767 640412

***March and April Benefice Services including those for
St Peter's are to be found in the Riversmeet Recorder.***

'Love makes the world go round'

When we get to the middle of February, we will be remembering Saint Valentine; there will be lots of cards, chocolates and red roses exchanged. This year it also happens to coincide with Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the season when we reflect upon our relationship with God. Some people give up various things for Lent such as chocolate or wine, in order to deprive their bodies of some of life's luxuries – a sort of punishment.

Lent takes us through to the season of Easter when we see the ultimate sacrifice and demonstration of love, when Jesus sacrifices himself for the whole world. Jesus himself said that, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Others have quoted that love is what makes the world go round. There are areas in the world where love seems to be in short supply at the moment. We are seeing the results of greed and hatred, where lives are lost and homes destroyed. I hope that like me, you continue to pray for peace in the world, and that people can learn to live alongside one another in harmony, respecting each other's traditions and beliefs.

Sometimes it is difficult to understand what is going on in order that these things are happening, but we hope that problems may be resolved for the good of all, and that peace will return. I pray that as we move through this season of Lent, we will see wisdom and knowledge replacing the death and destruction we now see. We pray that love will prevail.

With God's Blessing for the season of Lent and Easter

Rev Graham.

So what can we do?

We have written to every town and parish council in Central Bedfordshire asking them to provide a list of where the worst flood damage was, where and when the same scenes had taken place in recent years, what complaints had since been raised and with whom, and what had actually happened.

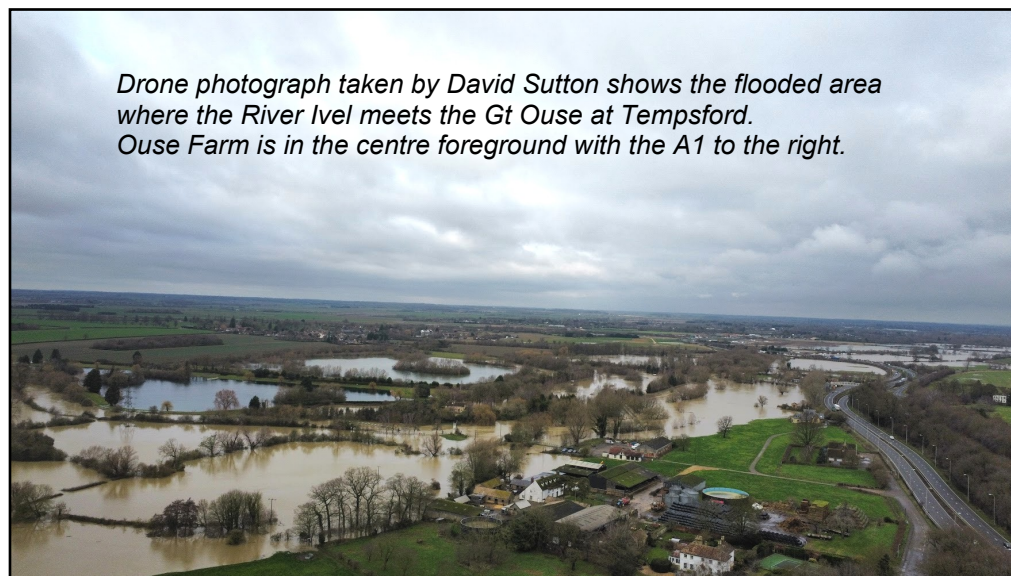
We have also written to the Chief Executives of Affinity, Anglian and the Bedfordshire Internal Drainage Board, to Beds Fire Service and Beds Police, and to the Chief Executive of CBC. Once we have the full picture on what has happened, Adam will arrange a summit of all relevant bodies, and alongside other Independent councillors we will make it clear that our residents deserve better.

We have also arranged an emergency debate of all councillors at CBC to get a more detailed picture of events and to understand more about the solutions residents believe should be in place.

We will do everything within my power to bring about change.

*Adam Zerny and Tracey Wye
Independent Central Bedfordshire councillors
for Tempsford and Potton*

*Drone photograph taken by David Sutton shows the flooded area
where the River Ivel meets the Gt Ouse at Tempsford.
Ouse Farm is in the centre foreground with the A1 to the right.*



FROM AROUND THE VILLAGES



Blunham Community Cinema, Village Hall, MK44 3NN

Friday 23rd February Pizza Night to celebrate our 8th anniversary. Followed by the film **'Hobson's Choice' (Cert U)** starring Starring Charles Laughton, Brenda De Banzie and John Mills. A 1954 classic black and white comedy in which a widower, Henry Hobson refuses to let his three daughters marry because he doesn't want to pay settlements, so they will just have to outsmart him.

Price £15.00 (cinema, Pizza plus a glass of bubbly) Cinema only £5.00. Doors open 6.00 pm supper served 6.30 pm. Raffle.

Reservations must be made by Monday 19th February. Contact Margot 01767 640938 or Stella 01767 640515.

Friday 29th March, 'A Man called Otto' (Cert 15) starring Tom Hanks and Mariana Trevino. Otto is a comedy about a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all. When a young family moves nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around. Both films start promptly 7.30 pm . Adults £5.00. Sweets, Drinks, Ice cream and Pop-corn are available. For reservations or any further information contact Stella 01767 640515 or Pauline 01767640503 .

Blunham and District Gardening Club. Village Hall MK44 3NN

Tuesday 6th February at 7.30 pm. We welcome Kerrie Lloyd-Dawson back this time talking about "A Garden Less Ordinary". Annual subscriptions are due.

Tuesday 5th March at 7.30 pm. The speaker will be Chris Day talking about "The Year-Round Container Garden". Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcome. For further information contact Brenda Leaf 01767 640624.

STUART MEMORIAL HALL

I am pleased to report that our village hall is playing a more and more active role in the village, with events, classes and private bookings running at a very positive level.

Following the successful, fully booked Murder Mystery evening in November, the hall committee is busy planning the adult pantomime DICK! which performs on January 27th, just before this Tempsford Times is circulated. As we go to print, well over 100 tickets have been sold, so we will have a packed hall and no doubt a lot of laughs for all!!

As well as these events, there is a very active schedule of activities and classes running at the hall, including Yoga & Pilates, Dog training, Cardio, Table tennis, Fitness boot camp, plus the various TMUG's groups for villagers including the Crafters group, Book club, and Beer club. Also not forgetting the Tempsford Museum and Archive opening every month.

Our thoughts will quickly turn to the next event, our inaugural Comedy Night at the Stuart Memorial Hall, for Saturday 8th June 2024. Tickets are already available on ticketsource – just type ticketsource in to Google and Tempsford in the search bar, and the event comes up! It's as easy to book as that!!

We will be operating a cash & credit card bar on the evening, serving beer, wine, Prosecco and soft drinks.

We can also confirm that the Tempsford Show will run again in 2024 after last year's very enjoyable Show. The date is not yet set, though will be at the end of the summer as usual – more details on this to follow very soon.

With so much going on at the hall, we hope that our village hall is playing a good role in fostering community spirit in Tempsford, and hope that as many villagers as possible join in the fun!

Andy Wines,

Chairman, Hall Committee

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