

# Coddington Community News

## Winter 1997



Greetings! Welcome to the Winter edition of the Coddington Community Newsletter. This issue has been increased to twenty pages - full of interesting facts and reports from various village groups. Many thanks to them for their contributions.

With christmas a little over three weeks away, may I take this opportunity of wishing all the parishioners of Coddington a merry christmas.

Please note the deadline for the next issue is 15 April 1998.

## **CODDINGTON PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL**

**NOVEMBER 1997**

### **SOUTHWELL BRAMLEY APPLE COMPETITION:**

Many of the children took part in the Southwell Bramley Apple competition and did extremely well.

The school was placed first overall in the poetry competition, with Kayleigh Pollard winning first prize. She was presented with books by the organisers of the competition. Alex Douglas came first in the painting competition and won a box of chocolates. We also came second with our shortbread entry and third with our apple pie.

Class 6 entered an anagram apple pie competition run by the Newark Advertiser, came first and won book tokens for school.

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL:**

The harvest festival service was held in school this year. Instead of asking the children to donate produce, we asked them to bring in pens, pencils, crayons or pencil sharpeners. These were then sent, with a cash donation to support children in Albanian schools.

## **DARE:**

PC Charlie Borrington is in school every Thursday running the 17 week Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) course with Year 6 pupils. We hope this course will give our pupils the ability to say 'No', not only to taking drugs but also to taking part in other forms of unacceptable behaviour. We also hope that this course will raise their self esteem and give them the confidence to resist pressure from negative influences.

## **PARENT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT:**

We are now part of the Parent Partnership project which offers courses to parents in school time. This term we have been running an 'Introduction to Computers' course and a 'First Aid for Parents' course. The parents attending these courses are enjoying what they are doing and are finding what they are learning very useful. Next term we are planning to run a second computer course and also a beauty course. We are open to suggestions from parents so please contact Linda Ferrier at school if you have any ideas or want any further information.

## **KATIE'S GARDEN:**

The children have raised money and a garden has been planted in memory of Katie Gibson. Mr and Mrs Gibson attended the planting ceremony, during which a Weeping Cherry tree, various shrubs and bulbs were planted in one corner of the school field. Mr and Mrs Gibson have also given the school a cup which will be presented annually to the most helpful Year 5 pupil.

**Linda Ferrier - Headteacher**



## 1ST CODDINGTON BROWNIES

### **Brownies at the Seaside.**

Our Pack holiday this year was five days at Trusthorpe, near Sutton on Sea. Everyone was excited about going away. We went as soon as the schools broke up for the Summer holidays. Our holiday home was 'Home from Home' with everything we could possibly need. We all had a great time, and many activities were undertaken. There were crafts, games, cooking and all the usual things, plus a visit to the Life Boat Station at Mablethorpe, where we had a talk, film and guided tour. Needless to say at the end of the holiday, to cries of 'Do we have to go home?' and 'Can we come again?', my reply of 'Yes' was greeted with cheers of delight. Trusthorpe watch out - we will return.

Each year we present a Shield to the 1st Coddington Brownie of the Year. To win this award the Brownie has to prove she had 'Done her Best' in her book work; in gaining Interest Badges; helping at home and at Brownie meetings; and attending all activities including Church services and parades. This yearly Carly Knott was awarded the shield, with her sister Leanne coming a very close second.

We are now on the run up to Christmas, with many more activities planned. The girls entered a competition to design a Christmas card. The winner was announced at a coffee morning on the 15 November at the Methodist Church on Barnbygate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the, sadly all too few, parents who always support our Brownie pack in whatever we do. I would like to mention especially the Guiders, Mrs Grace Ferguson and Miss Dawn Bache, who voluntarily each week give their time and effort to help us. Without them there would be no Brownies.



If anyone would be interested in helping, or would like their daughter's name to be added to the waiting list, please contact Brown Owl - on 01636 74741

Sheila Bache (Brown Owl)



## CODDINGTON F.C.

The current football club was reformed in 1970, and is one of the oldest clubs playing in the Newark Alliance Sunday League.

We are currently running two sides in the Alliance. The first team plays in the Premier Division and the reserves in the Second Division. The club is constantly on the look-out for new players. If you are interested then come along to the Stapleford Lane ground on a Sunday morning and make yourself known. Just look in the Newark Advertiser on the preceding Friday to see which team is playing at home. Ask for Bob Booth (1st team) or Mick Smithers (reserves)

The club's facilities are available for use by other organisations in the Village if required, provided there isn't a clash with football fixtures. The local Scout Group have used the ground for rounders matches in the past. We do not normally charge for use of the facilities but all donations are gratefully accepted. These are used to cover expenses such as grass cutting and maintenance of the building.

If anyone would like any further information about the Football Club then feel free to contact Philip Bryan at 17 Old Hall Gardens, Coddington.

## A VICAR RETIRES - OR - "A BIT OF A DO"

Our Vicar retired yesterday. Nothing unusual in that you may think - Vicars retire all the time. The fact is that he was 'Our Vicar' and he's been 'Our Vicar' for the past 36 years. The Reverend Peter G Wright was installed as Vicar of Coddington with Barnby in the Willows ever since it was created a Benefice in 1961 - and that's a long time in anybody's book. All he ever wanted to be was a village Vicar, and that he has been, and a very good one too.

How, could we let the man who has led us spiritually for so long, and has been a friend to so many, go without some sort of celebration.

He wanted to go without any fuss. Like a Nomad in the desert, he just wanted to pack up his tent and disappear into the night. The villagers, though, had different plans.

Under the subterfuge of 'But Vicar, the children want to hold a farewell service for you' we arranged 'a bit of a do'

Firstly a Quarter Peal was rung prior to the service - the very least we could do under the circumstances. While this was proceeding, other people were busy at work. A cake was placed on a table in front of the screen; the wine and the cake carefully placed to one side of the church, and his gifts and thank you's covered discreetly next to the lectern.

I didn't actually see the Vicar enter the church - but I can imagine his surprise, and I can imagine his humility, and I could envisage the moisture misting over his eyes; and I understood why he made his apologies and left for the sanctuary of the vestry.

By now our little country church was bulging at the seams. The service began and was rousing and full of joy, because this was our way of saying thank you.

It was filled with his favourite hymns, and we recited the poem 'Blame the Vicar' by John Betjeman.

'Our Vicar' being 'Our Vicar' would not let things rest so easily though, and with a glint in one eye asked if we could deviate from the normal procedure of things. If ever he had wanted a second profession I'm sure he would have been a Conductor. This was something he enjoyed doing, and he did it with gusto. He asked if we would sing, along with the children, in that famous three part harmony - London's Burning. It took some time before we were able to calm him down and continue with the service.

The speeches were made, prayers were taken, and the gifts were given. The wine was cooled to perfection and my compliments to the ladies for those delicious cakes.

In the end, everything was 'done and dusted'.

When the crowds had gone home, and the church tidied, there was no trace of 'a bit of a do'. I wonder what the person who turned out the lights and locked the door had running through their mind? - a quiet empty church now, except for the echoes of 'Our Vicar'.

He hasn't gone far, and we will all see him again, but things won't be the same, it was his style and his way of doing things, and we loved him for it. For our part, we were grateful for the chance to give him 'a bit of a do'

**Mike Bache**



**28 September 1997**  
**1260 Grandsire Doubles**

1	Mr H Geoff Wells	2	Mr Derick Kirton
3	Mr Neil Kirton	4	Mr Mike Bache
5	Mr John Draycott (C)	6	Mr Fred Tomlinson

Rung to mark the Retirement of the Reverend Peter G Wright -  
Vicar of Coddington with Barnby in the Willows for the past 36  
years.

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WORRIED ABOUT... rent arrears, housing benefit,  
income support homelessness, council tax and  
more...

FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, INDEPENDENT ADVICE AVAILABLE  
Every Thursday 10-11.30 am at  
BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE, CODDINGTON

Welfare Benefits advice provided by:  
Collingham Rural Advice and Resource Centre Tel:  
893241  
Home visits for appointment contact  
Mrs J Hammond Tel: 893241  
Housing/homelessness provided by Newark &  
Sherwood Homelessness Forum Housing Advice  
Service Tel: 611114

RECEPTIONIST VOLUNTEER REQUIRED 1½ HOURS PER WEEK  
TEL: 893241 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

## CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At present there are two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming more involved with matters concerning the village by serving on the Parish Council you are invited to apply in writing to

Clerk, Mrs P Hemphill, 2 Randall Close, Newark, NG24 2LF.

**Applications must be received by 31 December 1997.**

## WELLGREEN CRAFT CLASS

Congratulations go to the members of the Wellgreen Craft Group, who once again achieved a high standard in the Age Concern Exhibition, this year held locally in Kelham Hall.

Our crafty members gained 3 firsts, 5 thirds and a highly commended. These were gained, not just in handi crafts but also in the Domestic Section and hand writing. We also had a volunteer in the Entertainment Section during the afternoon.

Our community entry gained third place, this entry originated from a special request received from Newark and District Hospice Aid to make them a new table cover for their fundraising events, a request that we were proud to make and thought it an ideal project for our entry for the Age Concern Exhibition.

The group was originally funded by Newark and Sherwood College, but since their withdrawal of funding for these groups we have been able to continue. A special thank you to Brenda Riley (Warden Wellgreen) who has kindly let us still meet in the Community Room, each Thursday 2.00-4.00 pm

## **CODDINGTON SCHOOL ( the original one)**

For those of you who enjoy finding out a little bit more about where we live we have decided to include a feature about the history of the village in each edition of the newsletter. This time we are focusing on the history of the first school in Coddington. Our sincere thanks to Mrs Vernon for giving us the information from her late husband's research about the school.

The first school appears to have been established around the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In charge was a schoolmistress who taught reading and sewing to the twelve boys and girls in the Parish. In 1827 a schoolmaster was appointed in her place. He could teach writing as well as reading although it's not clear what happened to the sewing.

In 1846 the first purpose built school was erected - we know this building as the Scout hall but it was then known as the National School. School life was very different then to what we know today - imagine going to school to study only reading, writing and sewing!

The 1870 Education Act changed many aspects of education including expansion of the curriculum and the introduction of the system of 'Payment by Results'. The introduction of this Act meant that children were given the opportunity of going to school but attendance at school was not, as it became later, compulsory. 'Payment by Results' meant that the school received extra money for children who achieved a certain standard in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Attendance was often a major problem because boys, in particular, were often needed to help on the farms. The log-book for 1873 noted that an extra week's holiday would be taken 'because of the wet harvest'.



The long closure of the school during August and September was known as the 'Harvest Holiday' until in 1925 a new headmaster abandoned it for the 'Summer holidays'.

Attendance again became a problem in early November when most of the older children abandoned their studies to pick potatoes. As attendance was not compulsory until 1880 if there was a fair, feast or show of some kind in Coddington, or even in Newark, parents would let their children go to it. Attendance was also a problem because of illness. Tuberculosis, diphtheria, measles, scarlet fever and influenza were life threatening before the availability of antibiotics.

Schools could be very cold places and the only way of heating buildings was by coal fires. In the log book 1881 it said there was a very cold spring and the school had 'only just finished with fires'. Other differences included children learning to write on slates and arithmetic being taught with the use of an abacus. a far cry from the computers and calculators that are available to children today.

I have chosen just a few examples from Mr Vernon's book to give an indication of what life was like at Coddington in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I have concentrated mainly on life at the school until the mid 1870's and this articles is in no way meant to be a detailed account of the history of the school. Indeed, there are many aspects of its history which I have not even mentioned. There will, however, be other articles in future editions on the history of the school and also other aspects of the history of the village. If you would like to contribute to future articles or have any further information or old photographs on the history of the village please contact Pam Hemphill (Clerk to the Parish Council) on 72173

**Yvonne Jackson**

## **CODDINGTON VILLAGE APPRAISAL**

The questionnaire distributed during the Spring of 1997 was part of a Nottinghamshire wide survey to obtain villagers suggestions, comments and criticisms that concern them, and are relative to environmental and social issues.

In Coddington the questionnaire was delivered to 500 households - 188 were completed and returned ie 38%.

The Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council are in the process of analysing all questionnaires returned, county wide, and it is expected that they will produce an action plan in due course.

The majority of questions dealt with matters not within the direct responsibility of your Parish Council, eg Education, Health and Social Services, Transport and Highways etc, etc.

However, Section 6 was, and concerned the role of the Parish Council and how it performed and communicated:

In answer to 'satisfied with the way Council Tax is spent:-

5 expressed totally satisfied  
21 expressed quite satisfied  
16 were dissatisfied, and  
73 didn't know how it was spent.

120 of you would welcome an informal question and answer session at the start of each Parish Council meeting, this does now take place and is a permanent agenda item.

In answer to the question 'The Parish Council publicises decisions and activities'

20 responses said 'well'

60 responses said 'reasonably'

61 responses said 'poorly'

Your Parish Council is addressing these responses. It must be said, however, that public attendance at Parish Council meetings is virtually non-existent - only 26 replies admitted to attending a Council meeting in the past 3 years.

Your attendance at Parish Council Meetings (dates given on page 15) would be most welcome, your comments and suggestions are needed, in return you would become better informed of the activities and responsibilities of your Parish Council.

## **CODDINGTON WI**

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Recently we have had an Origami demonstration and the talks have covered a variety of subjects including the origin of place names, superstitions and gardening tips. An evening outing to Mr Straw's house and the N.T property at Retford proved very popular. A recent walk took members along the river bank from Beckingham to Barnby. No prizes for guessing the name of the watering hole. Another walk is planned soon!

The Farndon Farandaine Players will be providing the entertainment at the Christmas party. There will be a facial make-over demonstration at the January meeting and the Annual Meeting will be held in February.



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH - CODDINGTON

We appeal to everyone in the village to support us at this difficult time, after Mr Wright's retirement and before the appointment of a new Vicar.

We really are doing our best to keep things going but if we are to maintain our church in Coddington into the future - (and just think the unthinkable; we could lose out place for worship, for weddings, baptisms and funerals, this building which is the reminder that there has been a centre for worship in the Village for many centuries) - we have to raise **£20,000 NOW**.

£20,000 is needed because we shall be refused insurance unless we spend £9,500 immediately on re-wiring. (We are already on borrowed time over this!)

The roof must be repaired to prevent rainwater ruining the inside fabric. (You may have seen our buckets!) That will cost a further £10,500. Total £20,000.

We are starting a SUBSCRIPTION LIST. If you would like to donate please send your contribution to the Treasurer, Mr D Dunmore, 48 Bullpit Lane, Balderton or contact:

The Secretary Mrs P Kirk - Newark 705824

The Church Wardens:-	Mr J Draycott	Newark 707874
	Mrs J Allen	Newark 703360
	Miss G Burgess	Newark 706461
	Mrs B Horton	Newark 78788

or any member of the Parochial Church Council.

Please support our Fund Raising Activities and Events. See Church notice board for details.

Come and join in our special services for the Christmas season.

**Sunday 14 December**                      **6.00 pm Children's Christmas Service**

**Sunday 21 December**                      **6.00 pm Traditional Service of lessons and Carols**

**Sunday 11 January 1998**                      **6.00 pm Christingle Service**

**This will be led by Brian Geogham of the Children's Society (All proceeds to Children's Society)**

This is a lovely and moving occasion with children singing by the light of Christingles.

We look forward to seeing you.

<b>CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL</b>
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**DATES OF MEETINGS**

**DATE:**

**VENUE:**

**THURSDAY, 8 JANUARY 1998**

**CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 1998**

**BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 1998**

**CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 1998**

**BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Please note all meetings to commence at 7.30 pm.

All members of public welcome.

**Coddington School  
Christmas Fair  
Friday 5 December 1997  
6pm - 8 pm**



**Come and  
support your local  
school.**





Jim and Irene Bell celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this summer and would like to thank all their friends in the Village for their good wishes.

### **AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB CODDINGTON SCHOOL**

As a direct result of the village appraisal we are hoping to set up an after-school club for working parents. It is intended that the club will take place at the school and will operate from 3.15 pm until 5.30 pm. If you would like to be involved in the setting up of the club or would be interested in using this facility please contact Linda Ferrier (Headteacher) on Newark 702974.

### **CODDINGTON VILLAGE MILLENNIUM FUND COMMITTEE**

Well folks, ever wondered what happened to those questionnaires about ideas for the Millennium Memorial that some (unfortunately not all) of you completed? They didn't just disappear into the ether and were then forgotten, no indeed. Coddington Village Millennium Fund Committee has had several meetings regarding your ideas. The ideas ranged from stocks to a bob sleigh run (just joking). Seriously though, all the ideas were excellent. The reason that obviously not all of them could be considered wasn't because they weren't good, they just weren't viable. However, be assured, we are working on your behalf (even those of you who didn't complete the form}. Just watch this space for further news. We will keep you informed, even those of you who didn't complete... or have I already said that!!!!?

**June Hornby - Secretary**

## **CODDINGTON PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP**

The Parent and Toddler Group meets each Monday morning during term time at Coddington Village Hall at 9.30 am until 11.00 a.m. The charge is £1.00 and tea or coffee is served with orange squash and a biscuit for the children. We are now quite a large and very friendly group, so why not come and join us?

## **BEACONSFIELD PLAYGROUP**

### **NEWSLETTER**

Beaconsfield Playgroup has recently recruited new Co-Leaders in Elaine Joynes and Linda Needham and also a new Committee as follows:

Chairperson	Elizabeth Evans
Secretary	Jane Dixon
Treasurer	Kate Marshall
Fund Raising	Margot Radcliffe
Committee Member	Gillian King
Committee Member	Heather Dunn

Playgroup meets in the Beaconsfield Community Centre, Valiant Road every Wednesday and Friday during school term time, and opening times are 9.30 am to 11.45 am. The fee is £2.00 per session and there are currently places available for two and a half years olds to five year olds. Anyone wishing to enrol their child should either call in at the Community Centre or contact Elaine on Newark 605171. Call in anytime to see the facilities and standards of care.

## OVER 55'S LEISURE GROUP

The Over 55's Leisure Group is still very successful and has recently increased its membership.

Half of our members went on a mystery coach tour on a lovely sunny day in October and had lunch at an Inn.

We are now looking forward to all going on our annual Christmas dinner at the Rose and Crown in Farndon.

New members are always welcome on Friday afternoons at the Coronation Hall from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Come along, have a chat, play Short Mat bowls, Trionimos, Table Skittles, Cards and Darts - have a cup of tea and a biscuit.

**J R Bell - Secretary**

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Amount raised for 1997 through All Saints' Church, Coddington for Church of England Children's Society has reached £1050.00.

Local Representative - Mrs Peggy Harwood, Newark 707213

## VILLAGE HANDYPERSON

There is **still** a vacancy for a village handyman. If you feel you have a few hours to spare each week and would like to earn a little extra money please apply in writing to: Pam Hemphil, Clerk to the Parish Council, 2, Randall Close, Newark NG24 2LF.

**NB. ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE.**



## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS IN CODDINGTON

Mr J Draycott (Church Warden)	707874	All Saints' Church, Coddington
Mrs E Joynes	605171	Beaconsfield Play Group
Mr M Bache (Secretary)	74741	Coddington Bellringers
Mrs S Bache (Brown Owl)	74741	1st Coddington Brownies
Mr P Bryan	17 Old Hall Gardens	Coddington FC
Mr J Bell (Secretary)	74574	Coddington Over 55's
Mrs J Dixon (Secretary)	708025	Coddington Parent and Toddler Group
Mrs P Hemphill (Clerk)	72173	Coddington Parish Council
Mrs B Laffey	707055	1st Coddington Rainbows
Mr D Hedge (Group Leader)	73663	1st Coddington Scout Group
Mrs D Gray (Bookings)	705379	Coddington Village Hall
Mrs E Thompson (Secretary)	76915	Coddington WI
Mr VH Dobson	892267	County Councillor
Mr D Green	682849	District Councillor
	611114	Housing/Homelessness advice provided by Newark & Sherwood H. Forum Housing
Mrs J Hammond (24 hr answerphone)	893241	Welfare Benefits Advice provided by Collingham Rural Advice and Resource Centre

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**CODDINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS IS SPONSORED BY CODDINGTON  
PARISH COUNCIL**

CODDINGTON VILLAGE MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE

The above committee has been formed. However this Committee has been formed not for the minority, but for the majority. We want YOU the people of Coddington to tell us what YOU want as a permanent memorial of the Millennium. Please place a tick or cross next to one of the following. Your input is very, very important.

1. BOWLING GREEN
2. TENNIS COURT
3. NATURE CONSERVATION AREA
4. O T H E R (Please write on reverse)

INPUT IS NEEDED FROM PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

When completed will you please place your replies in a box which will be provided either in the SHOP, THE INN ON THE GREEN or through the letter box of 21 Morgans Close.

Please let us have your ideas. (CLOSING DATE JUNE 29TH 1997).

THERE IS TO BE A GIANT CAR BOOT SALE AS A FUND RAISER ON SEPTEMBER THE 7TH. VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED.