

## Rural post offices to go

BRITAIN'S 11,000 rural post offices are under threat. Many of them could be forced to go part-time when a new Post Office scheme takes full effect, warns the new charity, ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

The Post Office decided in July to reclassify the majority of its rural sub-post

offices as "community offices".

Each time a postmaster in a community office retires, resigns or is replaced, the new contract will be for a part-time office, open only for a few hours each week. The wage will be reduced pro rata.

Under the new scheme, most villages could lose their sub-post office within five years says ACRE.

### NEW CHAIRMAN

Since our last edition Mr Bernard Allen has taken over the Chairmanship of the Parish Council.

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It was with deep regret that we heard of the death of Mr. Frank Daybell, who was our President and a great friend to all since we started playing football in the village again, way back in 1970. He will be sadly missed. We offer our condolences to his family.



We are again at the beginning of a new season and hope that we can continue to give value and entertainment to our supporters who follow us in all weathers. Thanks to the generosity of one of our vice presidents, who donated towards the cost of new kits, the first team are now playing in sky blue kit of Coventry City and the second team in the darker blue of Everton.

Owing to byes in the County Cups, only a few league games have been played, and so far the first team commences the season with a 4.1 win at home, and the second team had a 2,2, draw away from home and on their first home match lost to Flintham 2.1.

Mr M. Britton has given up his position as secretary of the Association but is remaining a Trustee. The Chairman, Committee, and players wish to thank Mr Britton for the tremendous amount of invaluable work that he has put in over the years that has enabled the club to be the success that it is.

# Almost forgotten world of the parish councils

Ken  
Webster looks at the  
old style parishes

There is a green hill far away outside the city walls where local government continues to flourish.

The village of Muckspread seems a million miles away — actually it is just 17 — from the inner city problems of its large county town.

Muckspread has a history going back way beyond the Romans but they put it on the map by building a road through it. It became a staging post on that road — 17 miles being a reasonable journey before resting — and remains from that time are still being discovered.

During the civil war Muckspread was very much by the sword divided before declaring itself for parliament. This act of allegiance did not prevent it from being ransacked by Roundhead soldiers.

Later came the railways and the village found itself at the hub of a local network. Today the area is crisscrossed by the tracks of disused lines and ancient monuments in the shape of former railway bridges abound. This has given the Parish Council some recent concern and a little amusement. One of the bridges carrying the road over a former track is crumbling to a point where it could be dangerous. Representations to the highway authority have produced the view that the bridge is probably still owned by British Railways. The last train is reputed to have passed that way in 1916 (yes, 1916; long before Beeching!). Time enough, it may be thought, to have sorted out such matters as future responsibility.

The Parish Council consists of five good men and true. Female councillors have been elected in the past but there are none at the moment. Of the present five, two are Muckspread born and bred while the others are "foreigners" who have come to the village at different times over the past 20 years.

Believe it or not, here is a local authority with no apparent political groups, where no meetings take place behind closed doors and where each council member appears to act independently in pursuing the best interests of the area.

In spite of their independence, individual councillors seem to agree with each other far more often than they disagree. What is more, when there is disagreement the debate is conducted in a polite and reasonable manner.

To an old local government hand, it brings back memories of an almost forgotten world.

Not that Muckspread has had no upheavals. Some years ago, the clerk was dismissed on the spot in open meeting — they worried about contracts of service later. The chairman resigned in protest at this action by the majority. Questions were asked of the district auditor after allegations of financial irregularities within the council's accounts but none was discovered. Today, a private firm of accountants has the responsibility for auditing the council's accounts and all is straightforward.

The existing clerk of the council receives a salary, calculated on a national scale, of 53.5% of the penny rate product. Many chief officers would be happy to be paid on that basis but as a penny rate amounts in this instance to about £360 it will be seen that fortunes are not made from this source.

The council's total annual expenditure is about £1,600 or

nearly a 4.5p rate. The major item by far is the cost of parish lighting which accounts for half the total. There is no government grant to calculate and, even better, there can be no losses of government grant to worry about. The rating system seems to be well accepted by parishioners as a reasonably fair method of raising the money required for parish purposes. Mrs Thatcher, please note.

Wider aspects of local government finance are brought to the attention of parish councillors by the district council which considers that it has been one of the worst hit by the latest rate support grant settlement. It has been sending out the district councillors as missionaries, spreading the message that a substantial rate increase is in the offing.

Apart from crumbling disused railway bridges, what other issues are taking up the time of parish councillors?

All applications for planning permission are considered in detail by each councillor. Not many have been received recently which is not altogether surprising given that much of the village is in a conservation area. Villagers are very keen to preserve the nature and appearance of the village and major new developments would be looked upon with some suspicion.

The village school was closed a few years ago and villagers, reluctantly accepting the closure, have been anxious to see the building become a new village community centre. In the meantime, repairs and maintenance of the existing village hall have been kept to the minimum. Time has passed and nothing seems to have happened. Both buildings are falling into disrepair and some of the enthusiasm has waned. How to maintain interest and pressure is a question of considerable local importance.

In recent years, through the opening of a major country park some miles up the road, there has been a marked increase in through traffic at weekends. Additionally, heavy lorries come through the village, sometimes at speed. One of the less obvious results of that increased traffic has been a fear that the village war memorial may be damaged. Is the structure adequately insured and what is the value of the memorial on a cost of reinstatement basis? Who is competent to make such valuations?

The answer is a stonemason but they appear to be (forgive me) a dying race.

It is difficult to comprehend in 1986 but some houses in the village still rely on spring water. The spring has recently become polluted for unknown reasons and the clerk to the council hurried to his reference books to determine the powers of a parish council in such circumstances. Fortunately for all concerned, the householder worst hit has requested the water authority to provide a piped supply.

## REVIEW

The Local Government Boundary Commission has just announced that it is to conduct a detailed review of local authority areas in Muckspreadshire and neighbouring counties. In the coming months, no doubt, time will be spent

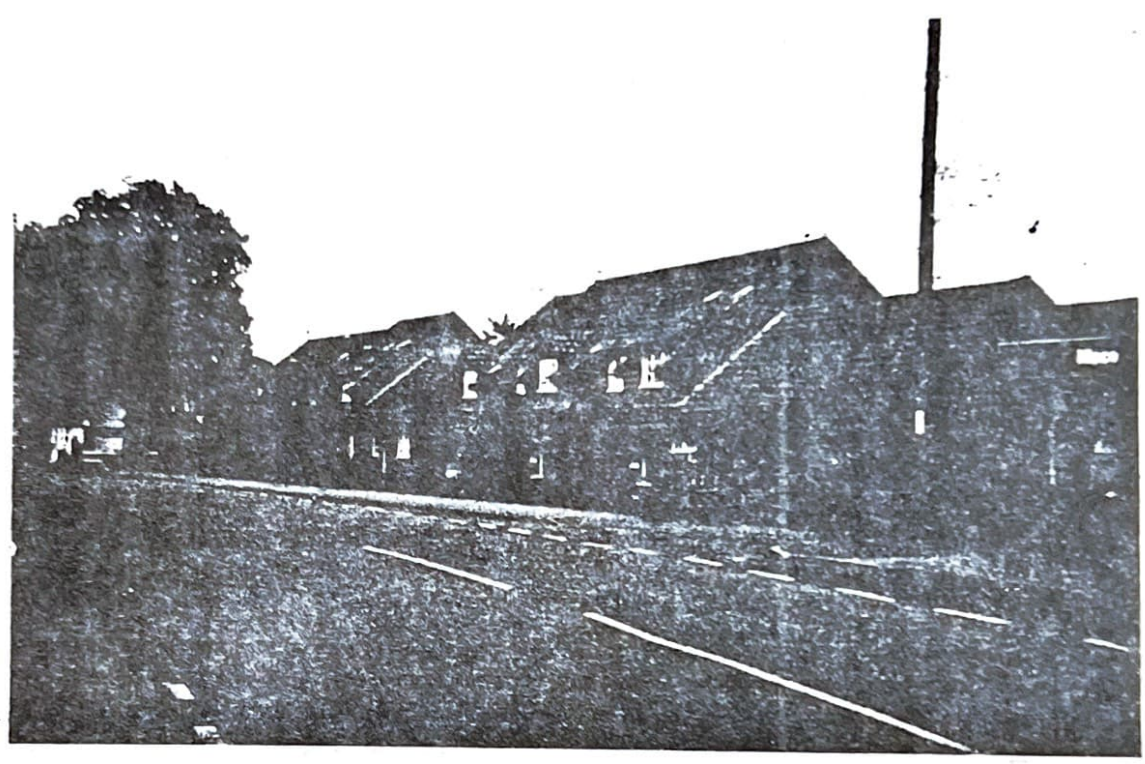
poring over maps and considering possibilities for revision. At first glance, the existing boundaries of Muckspread seem sensible and could stand but others may have different ideas.

Finally, two tales concerned with the Muckspread sports ground, which is a thriving and well used amenity.

The hedge bordering the ground is in two ownerships. One owner decided that his part of the hedge needed cutting and trimming and engaged a contractor for the work. The workman was escorted to the site and the point from which he should start was indicated. Unfortunately, nobody told him in which direction to proceed and the owner of the other part of the hedge was most surprised to find it cut and trimmed.

Who pays for the unauthorised work is a matter of debate. Then there are the public footpaths near the football pitch. Dog owners, understandably, like to exercise their dogs on this pleasant open space. Unfortunately, dogs insist on doing what dogs insist on doing.

The footballers do not like it. It quite spoils a good slide tackle to find oneself covered all over from head to foot. Can they please have notices, presumably written in doggy language, forbidding the practice. The district council has been asked to deal with the matter at its convenience. Not for nothing do they call the place Muckspread.



## Editorial

Having recently come back from holidaying in Norfolk I was struck by three things I noticed in the villages I passed through or visited.

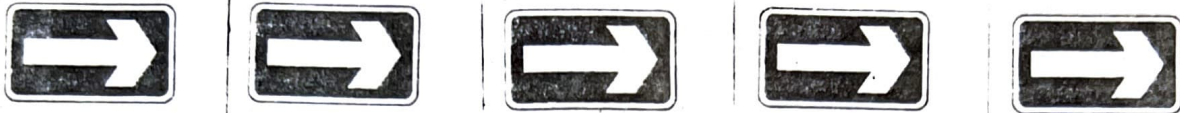
The first (above) was how well modern housing fitted in with the older buildings of the village and led to a feeling of community.

Many, myself included criticized the Standen Bungalow Development in Coddington and whilst it has more than improved a derelict corner perhaps because some of the existing trees were retained, I am sorry still that it was not in the style of the photograph above - a mix of homes, suitable for all age groups. The bungalows although of a warm brick, still detract from the cottages around that area.

Secondly was the general absence of litter and the third point was, noticeably, that most villages had their own sign in a prominent corner of the village.

Although most travellers on the A17 would scarcely notice that they had gone through a village I believe that a village sign (perhaps the primary school could design one) should be set up on the corner of the A17 and Old Newark Road.

Additionally, and since the Parish Council are looking at places in the village where trees could be planted, wouldn't it be nice to see a well attended flower border on that corner instead of a mound of grass?



#### On Traffic

There also seem to be problems with Heavy Traffic on Main Street-Brownlows Hill occasionally going over the verges near Red Roofs. Perhaps this section of the road, between the A17 and Balderton Lane should have a weight restriction placed on it thereby banning all heavy lorries from this area of the village.

Work is progressing well on the widening of Valley View, which will be a relief to the many residents there.

In addition the County Council will be improving and repairing the footpath/pavement in Old Newark Road, and it is hoped that additional street lighting will be erected in some of the darker spots of the village.



Another item of interest I noticed recently whilst away in Weston-Super-Mare and Norfolk was the use of small 16-20 seater buses used to "shuttle" passengers on a fairly frequent service into and around town centres.

I think that many of the coach companies round about missed out on a trick here when they invested in 40 seater coaches rather than mini buses which inevitably seem to carry only a handful of passengers. These smaller capacity coaches could easily run around the Wellgreen Morgans Close area of the village - and even the Beaconfields Estate which is something the larger buses would find difficult - if not impossible.



### The Mechanics of Evolution

Car drivers are a race of people which have evolved over the past 100 years or so and are part of evolution not covered by Darwin.



We all think we are good drivers although I must comment that all improve when being followed by a Police car. Why should this be? Don't we profess to drive in that manner at all times concentrating on safety. I wonder if we are conditioned by life's experiences, parents and school teachers stopping us being naughty. I sometimes wonder if it would not be better to give guilty motorists 100 lines, 'I must not be an amber gambler' or be made to stand on the traffic Island with a dunce cap on.

Reasonable rational human beings put behind the wheel of a car can become aggressive and uncompromising, a danger to society. They often take on the mental image of the car they are driving and the more letters, numbers, GT's and GIA's, they have on display along with 'Go Faster' stripes, the more they think they have to live up to it.

Another one for the Macho-Egotist is the musical horn, childish, illegal and undesirable.

I do have one or two pet hates, the first concerning obligatory lights what most people call side lights which I refer to as parking lights, because that is their only value. As soon as visibility becomes reduced either by rain, fog or even the early evening gloom, the majority of drivers switch them on, an immediate admission of guilt. The law states that in cases of reduced visibility dipped headlights shall be displayed on all moving vehicles. Surely you have experienced the occasion when you have pulled out to overtake a lorry when one of these appears suitably camouflaged in the gloom.

Another pet hate of mine is the non-use or mis-use of indicators. They have been fitted to avoid the necessity to wind down the window and get your hand cold or wet in order to tell the vehicle following your intentions not what you are in the process of doing or what you have just done.

At the moment I am in the process of teaching my daughter to drive and noticed that 'L' plates are to most motorists, what a red rag is to a bull. As soon as they see an 'L' plate, they think they have to overtake it, little realising that, that person may be about to take their driving test and are far more competent than those of us who have forgotten most of the good driving techniques that they are showing us.

# Memories



## Coddington's Old School

Compared with its magnificent replacement Coddington's old school seems a drab affair, yet at one time it was bursting with young life. None of the hundreds of children who attended it in Victorian days are likely to be still alive. As they themselves became parents and grandparents, they must have told many a tale about what happened in that old building in the 'good old days' or perhaps, the 'bad old days'.

Perhaps their children or grandchildren will experience a slight thrill to see a well-loved family name in a list of small children who were awarded prizes for regular attendance or for excellent school work.

The book ( whose cover is reproduced facing this page) will try to bring back to life the two head-teachers who, between them, shared responsibility for the school's management throughout the Victorian era. It will show their never-ending anxiety to keep attendances up and to see that every subject in the curriculum was adequately covered - for such things affected the size of the Government grant.

To put the old school back into its 19th Century context, the opportunity has been taken to indicate some of the main changes that have taken place since that time. The Hall has disappeared and with it the Thorpe family; the church-yard has been extended to the south; the Methodist Chapel is now a house; a busy main road cuts its way through the village; and the wind-mill, though sail-less, has been ingeniously incorporated in a house.

Copies of the book (Price £2.65) can be bought at Newark and Balderton libraries and from the mobile library. Mrs Ruth Tysoe of Main Street Coddington has kindly offered to sell books from her home address. Orders by post (£2.90) can be obtained from the author.

All the proceeds will go to Coddington Parish Church.

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Published by the author: Rolf Vernon, Moat Edge, Coddington, Newark, Notts.

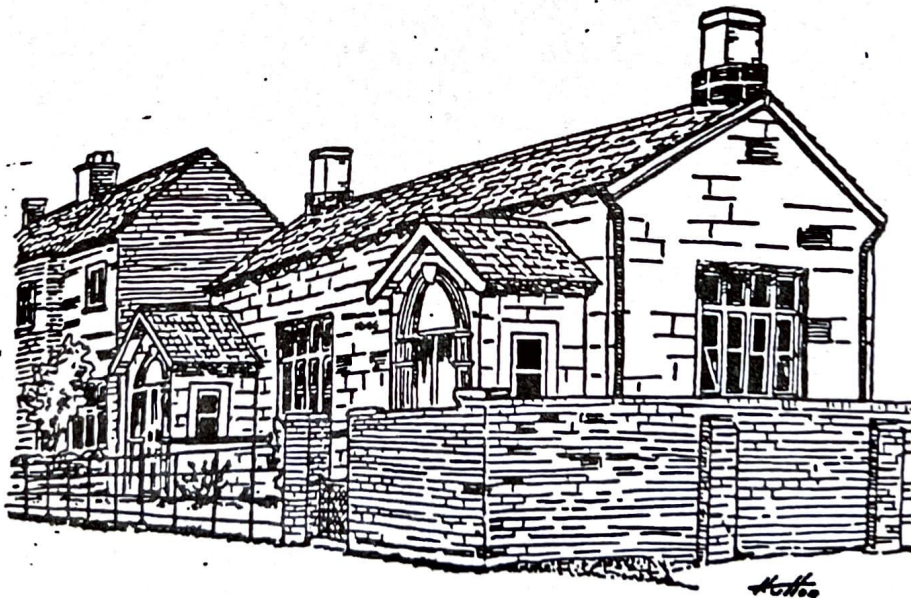
# CODDINGTON SCHOOL

In The

## VICTORIAN AGE

By

### ROLF VERNON



By the same author:  
Newark Before Victoria (published by Newark District Council 1984)

There is a wide range of motor cars available to suit everyone's needs and I am sure you are all able to find one to suit your requirements. Incidentally what did people do on Sunday morning before the car was invented, wash the horse.

To be your pride and joy, your car does not have to be a Rolls Royce and when you are polishing it with loving care, just remember that owners of these always (almost) have someone to do it for them.

Happy motoring and may your no claims bonus last forever.

J.B. Quibell



## WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY PRESS REPORT

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On July 14th Mrs Joan Bell gave an illustrated talk 'Denman College has a lot to offer'. The college and gardens are beautiful and it was interesting to see a selection from the extensive courses available. £25 raised by members was presented to the speaker towards the Denman College Appeal by Mrs Karen Marsh.

Mrs Margaret Smith attended a Chinese Cookery course at Denman College in September.

Visitors and friends were welcomed to the August meeting by Mrs Joan Phillips. Mrs Rosemary Brown of 'Brown's Cake Artistry' gave a fondant icing demonstration, decorating a cake and making roses and carnations. It was both instructive and enjoyable.

For the September meeting Mrs Jill Bourne of Brough, chose 'Keeping a Racehorse' as her topic. 'Parisian Lark' (Katy to the family) is now a lively seven year old, and we followed her progress from early days through training and racing. It was most interesting and enjoyable to all.

### Future Events

- October 13th      A talk entitled 'Dr Barnardo's Homes'
- October 22nd      Bingo To raise funds for the W.I and Nottingham Kidney Unit.
- November 10th    A return visit of the Venerable Brian Woodhams.
- December 6th     Will be an open meeting. The Newark Operatic Society Concert Party will entertain us, and coffee and mince pies will be served.

Everyone will be welcome. So do come along and enjoy the fun.

The W.I. are looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact Mrs J. Philips Tel 72900 or come to any of our meetings.

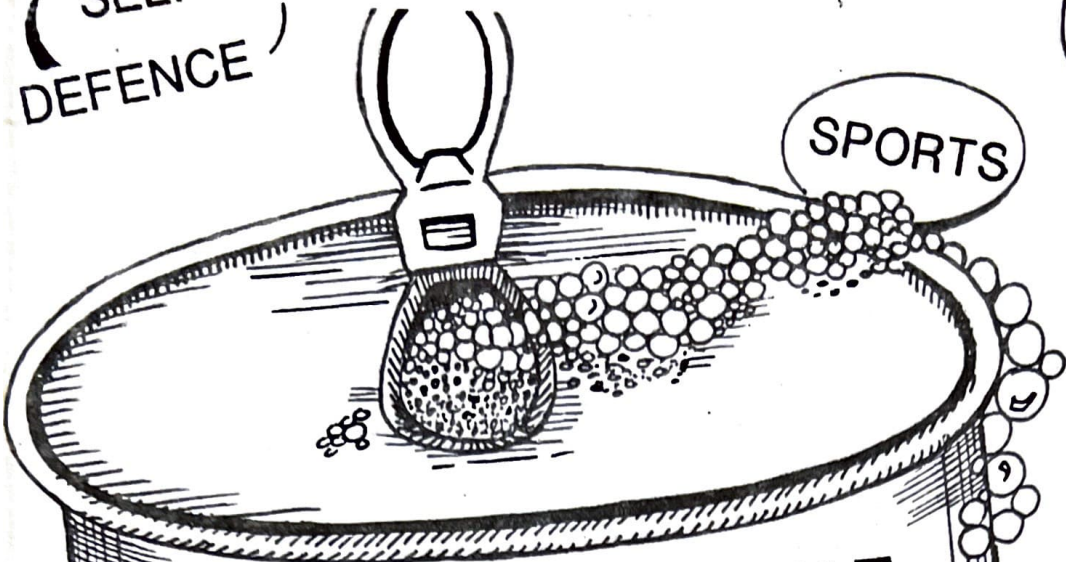


(SEL. DEFENCE)



SPORTS

GIRLS DAYS



HAVE YOU GOT THAT CANNED UP FEELING?

# WOMEN

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLANNING NEXT YEARS WOMEN,S FESTIVAL?

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS AND HELP IN:-

- LETTING WOMEN KNOW ABOUT THE FESTIVAL.
- PUTTING UP POSTERS.
- TYPING/BOOK - KEEPING.
- APPLYING FOR FUNDING.
- ORGANISING EVENTS.
- IDEAS.

EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR A FEW HOURS. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IT AND DATES OF MEETINGS, RING:-

VAL : 413279 (DAY)

OR DI : 706181 (EVENING).

CALL IN OR WRITE TO VAL, CVS 33 MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM.

HEALTH

MUSIC

WEST INDIAN COOKERY

D.I.Y.

# Dates for your DIARY



BINGO Dates for the Village Hall Bingo's:-

Thursday October 29th

Thursday November 19th

Thursday December 10th



## Coddington Village Hall

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, would like to thank everyone for their support at the Old Time Music Hall entertainment on 18th September. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

A profit of £195 .25 was made for the Village Hall Fund.

Raffle prizes were won by:-

Childs Rocking Chair	-	Jim Daybell, Coddington
Bottle Whisky	-	J. Lambert, Loveden Close, Balderton
Box of Chocs	-	P. Guthrie
Watch	-	G. Potts, Coddington
Bottle of Apricot Wine	-	D. Beck, Old Hall Gardens, Coddington
Doll	-	Coral Butler, Coddington
Bottle Harvey Bristol Cream	-	B. Bakin, Valley View, Coddington
Box of Chocs	-	Val. Coddington
Bottle of Port	-	Hollings, Coddington
Box of Groceries	-	I. M. Arkwell, Old Hall Gardens,
Bottle of Martini	-	D.Wing, Windsor Close, Collingham.
Box of Chocs	-	A. Nicholson, Old Hall Gardens

TIME	Activity	Location
pm	Swing into Shape	C of E Primary School
am	9.15 - 11.45 Playgroup (3-5) see notes 1.00 - 3.00 Mother & Toddler Group 2.00 - 3.30 Mother & Toddler Group (Term time only) 7.00 - 8.30 Keep fit	Village Hall Beaconfield C. Centre Village Hall Beaconfield C. Centre Village Hall
pm	6.00 - 8.00 Beavers (6 - 8) 6.30 - 7.30 Brownies 1st Coddington (7-10) 7.15 - 9.00 Scouts 1st Coddington (11+)	Scouts Hq. Village Hall Scouts Hq.
am	9.15 - 11.45 Playgroup 2.00 - 4.00 Mixed Crafts for the Retired 6.30 - 9.00 Youth Club (8 - 16)	Village Hall Wellgreen Beaconfield C. Centre
am	9.30 - 11.30 Rising 5 Group 6.30 - 8.00 Cubs 1st Coddington 7.30 Bellringers Practise	Village Hall Scouts Hq. All Saints Church
pm	2.00 - 5.00 Assorted Sports for children	Beaconfield Recreation Ground, Harvey Avenue
am	9.00 Holy Communion	All Saints Church
pm	10.30 - 11.30 Sunday School 10.30 Coddington Sports Ass. Football (Home Matches) 6.00 Evansong 7.00 Prize Bingo	All Saints/Village Hall Stapleford Lane All Saints Church Beaconfield C. Centre

For further details and contacts see inside

Rising 5's Group

There are still a few vacancies at the Rising 5's Group. If you would like your child to make new friends and mix with children of his/her own age, please call and see us on Friday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 at the Village Hall or phone Mrs Pat Ward on Newark 702420.

The staff would like to take this opportunity of thanking parents and friends for the support given at our Open Morning on 24th July. The sum of £23.72 was raised and this enabled us to purchase a tape recorder for the children.

We would like to ask you to support us further by coming to our Bingo Evening on the 24th November at the Village Hall. The money raised will be used to give the children an Xmas party. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Pat Ward  
Supervisor



CHILD MINDER

Mrs Tysoe has a vacancy for one child, under 5 years, during the daytime.

For further information, please contact her at Little Surprise, Main Street, Coddington. Tel 79665

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CCN is sponsored by Coddington Parish Council  
Editor; A.M. Waddington, 5 Parklands Close, (Off Newark Old Road)  
Coddington (Tel 0949 20771 ex 441)

Typing: Elisabeth Creed.

Printing; Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council Printshop,  
Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell.

The opinions expressed in CCN are not necessarily those of Coddington Parish Council.