The Villager - May 2025





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Welcome to the May edition

Many thanks go to the volunteers who deliver this magazine to Caddington, Aley Green and Caddington Woods

It has been a busy few weeks in Caddington



VE80 Celebrations at The Heathfield Centre

The Heathfield Centre was packed on the morning of Monday, 5 May when CaddingtonCare hosted a VE80 'street party'. Over 80 villagers got together for coffee and chat, tea, cakes, some impressive hat decorating and a bit of a sing-along. Many thanks to Fred Thomas for the patriotic music. The two minute silence at 11 a.m. was observed, the national anthem sung, then it was back to the celebrations and some "We'll Meet Again" union jack flag waving .

Perhaps you would like to advertise your business?

The magazine reaches nearly 2000 houses and is also shared on social media

Content deadline for the June edition is Wednesday 28th May

Contact John at caddvillmag@gmail.com

Caddington PARISH COUNCIL

Caddington PARISH COUNCIL

All Saints Church
Caddington



Vicar: Reverend Rob O'Neil
The Vicarage, off Chaul End Road, Caddington, LU1 4BG
Telephone: (01582) 731692
email: rob@vicar.org.uk

Rob is available for counselling or advice. It is wise to telephone beforehand, an answering machine will take your message if necessary. Please note Rob's day off is Friday.

Sunday Services

9.30 a.m. **Informal Service** (1st & 3rd Sunday of month)
Communion service with choir (All other Sundays)

Thursday

10.00 a.m. **Caddington Bears.** A group for pre-schoolers and carers

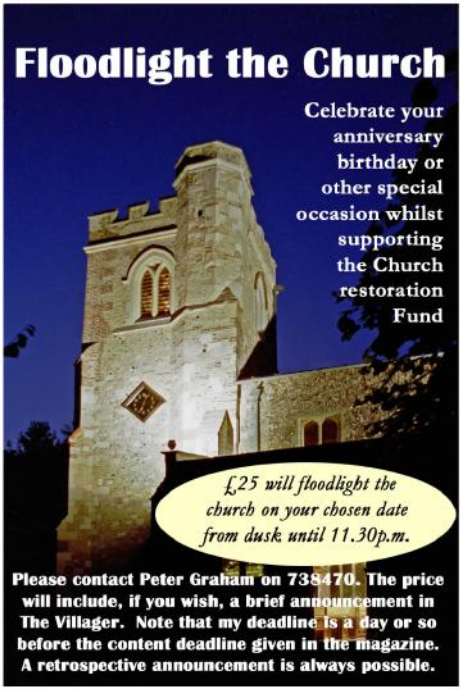
All Saints Church

The Church will be floodlit on
Monday 5th May

Mo

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Love from
Carole, Craig, Stuart, Nicola
& Grandchildren
XX





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Caddhist- your local History Group

We are a friendly group meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month 7:30 at the **Heathfield Centre** to listen to a variety of engaging speakers followed by lively discussion and questions. Coffee and refreshments too.

Thursday 22nd May

David Keen will talk about the making of Harpenden Museum

Thursday 26th June

Konni Deppe will give her talk on Luton Orchards

Our summer trip on 2nd July wil be to the 'Black Country Museum'

New members and guests always welcome Give us a try

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CaddingtonCare

Good Neighbour Scheme

07548 264672

CHAT AND COFFEE

We are open every Monday from 10am till 12 at the Heathfield Centre.
If you haven't been before do drop in. Good coffee and plenty of chat!

MEN'S CLUB

We meet every Thursday 10 till 12 at the Heathfield Centre. Drop in and see us- you will be sure of a warm welcome.

SEATED EXERCISES

Come along to the Heathfield Centre on Tuesday at 11.am. Good fun, good exercise and stimulating.

BINGO

First Mondays of the month - 2pm at the Heathfield Centre.
£5 for 6 games. Flyer and raffle. Everyone welcome

Walk - Friday 13th June

This is a 2-mile walk, skirting South Beds Golf Course. It is a mixture of long slow inclines and short downward stretches, walking through Warden Hill and Galley Hill SSSI, with magnificent views all around. We will meet at 10.30am at the small Nature Reserve parking area at Links Way LU2 7AE.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Careline is on every weekday from 9.00am till 4.30pm.
If you need help with shopping, a lift to a medical appointment, help with a small household task, help with a computer or paperwork or someone just to call round, please call the above number

WHEELCHAIRS

We have wheelchairs available for short term loan

www.caddingtoncare.com email: caddingtoncare@gmail.com

Caddington Local History Group

Queen Eleanor and her crosses – Kay Kempster – Dunstable Town Guide

The first point to establish, Kay told us, is which of several Eleanors in history was responsible for the crosses.

It was not Eleanor of Aquitaine, nor was it Eleanor of Provence. The Eleanor we were hearing about in fact came from Castile, daughter of Ferdinand. The marriage was part of a deal enabling Henry III to keep Gascony. At the time she married Edward 'Longshanks' Henry's son, she was only 13 but had her first child – stillborn – soon after.

Henry's reign was rather turbulent. He was a good man but not a strong king. He gave away a lot of lands. During the Second Baron's war Eleanor was imprisoned in Westminster Palace by Simon de Montfort. Edward and Eleanor decided to leave England and went on the Fourth Crusade to the Holy Land. Edward was stabbed with a poisoned dagger and became quite ill. They returned to England once Henry III had died to find the coffers empty. Edward imposed taxes and Eleanor acquired lands – largely from Jewish people who were forced to leave. She charged rents and had a reputation for being hard.

However, theirs was a love match. They always travelled together and he was never unfaithful. Eleanor loved books and built up a collection. She was a keen chess player, loved gardens and introduced hollyhocks to England. She enjoyed hunting with dogs and also introduced running water and tiled bathrooms.

She and Edward had many children, probably 16 or 17, however many of them died young or were stillborn.

Eleanor was pregnant when Edward asked her to join him on his travels in the north. She was clearly unwell – with TB, or malaria or heart disease. They were travelling 20 miles a day. Eleanor developed a fever and died in Harby, near Lincoln. Edward was devastated. He ordered three coffins, one for her body, one for her heart and one for her viscera. The latter are in Lincoln Cathedral. Edward wanted Eleanor to be buried in the family tomb in Westminster Abbey so she was borne in great state from Lincoln. The idea that crosses be placed wherever she rested for the night probably came from France. Altogether 12 crosses were built, all similar with steps and a column. Of these only three remain: at Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham Cross.

The cross in Dunstable has long gone, but it was thought to have been somewhere on the crossroads. It was on the night of December 11th 1290 that Eleanor's procession stopped in Dunstable. She spent the night in the Priory. At Charing Cross her heart was buried as well as that of her son Alphonso. Finally, on December 17th her body was buried in Westminster Abbey.

She is remembered in Dunstable in the name of a shopping precinct and in the former name of Queensbury School.

Jane Payton

The Heathfield Centre



For over 17 years, the volunteer-run Heathfield Centre has been the vibrant core of our village. This self-sufficient hub, costing Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) next to nothing, pulsates with life, hosting over 20 diverse community groups spanning ages 1 to 100.

Why is Heathfield so vital? It's the ONLY space large enough in the centre of the village for our major events: the joyous St. George's Day celebration (200+ attendees), captivating CADS productions (1000+ cast and audience over 3 shows), bustling weekly coffee mornings (70+), insightful CaddHist talks (60+), lively Baby and Toddler groups (30+), supportive Men's Club gatherings (40+), popular Slimming World sessions (40+), gentle Seated Exercises (30+), creative Caddington Crafters (20+), and packed Short Mat Bowls, Community Sheds, and Badminton sessions. Add to this countless quizzes, elections, and social events throughout the year – Heathfield is where Caddington connects.

Losing Heathfield for an extended period would be devastating. Many of these vital groups would face extinction. Smaller village venues simply can't cope with the numbers or lack parking. The impact on the mental health and the well-being of countless residents is a serious concern, potentially increasing the burden on our NHS and local doctors.

There are a number of possible outcomes for Heathfield and the Heathfield Trustees, Parish Council and CBC are working tirelessly for a solution that secures the future of our village hub. CBC is fully aware of the strength of feeling in Caddington and we are all striving to achieve an outcome that is best for our community.

As the saying goes, "You don't know what you've got 'till it's gone" – and we can't afford to lose Heathfield.

Friends of Heathfield

The ladies of Caddington Community Shed showing just some of the things that they have made at St George's Fun Day - The Heathfield Centre
Not sure where all the gentlemen are hiding - Guess they are just shy.
See page 17 for how to join them



Caddington Village Open Gardens, 2025

I hope you have been enjoying your gardens during the recent spell of lovely weather. We are still looking for more gardens for the village open garden day on Saturday, 12 th July .

Now Spring has sprung and your garden is bursting into life, would you consider opening your garden to visitors for just one day? People love looking at gardens whether big or small, modern or cottage, and It's a great opportunity for picking up ideas and tips and to chat and make friends with other people from the village.

Money raised from selling programmes will be split between All Saints Church and the Garden Club, and you could use the event to organise a fund raising activity in your garden for your favourite charity.

If you live in Caddington and would like to register an interest in opening your garden, please drop me an email.

Nicky Moore nickyj.moore@outlook.com

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Caddington
VILLAGE SCHOOL
A school at the heart of the community

May 2025

As we write this it is the last day of term and the sun is shining and really starting to feel like Spring. The children have been thinking about what Spring means to them and have put it into poem form for you.

SPRING POEMS

So many flowers around the town
Poppies, Daisies, Roses and more
Revived flowers after rain showers
I love flowers that smell so nice
Nature is coming back to life
Great time of year for all-SPRING

By Daisy

Spring is coming,
Spring is near,
Rushing water, flowers appear
The laughter of children big and small
Splishes and splashes in the pool
Folks dancing with glee
This is the best time of year for me.

By: Nancy

Spring has finally come,
Bunnies hopping all around, birds flying from tree to tree,
It fills my heart with glee.
The fields are green, and the leaves are growing
Rainbows are rising, while the sun is shining,
Bears come out of hiding
The bells are ringing, and the choir is singing
Spring is swinging!

Chloe and Isaac

Continued on page 14 →

Continued from page 13



Would you like to be more involved in our schools?

We are looking for committed people to join our Governing Body to help shape the strategic direction of Caddington and Slip End Village Schools. If you feel you may have the skills to join this supportive team, we ask you to get in touch by emailing office@caddingtonschool.net to express interest.

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St George's Fun Day at The Heathfield Centre













Caddington Men's Club Quiz

Caddington Men's Club meets every Thursday from 10 until 12-o-clock at the Heathfield Centre.

Pool, table-tennis, darts, anecdotes and a quiz. A friendly bunch and you'll fit in nicely.

Here are some of our quiz questions for you to try – answers on page 23

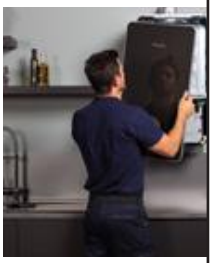
1. In which English city is Strangeways prison?
2. What is the highest rank in the British army?
3. Who was the last emperor of India?
4. In which sport did Briton Jonah Barrington compete in the 60s and 70s?
5. Which Italian pudding translates to English as "pick me up"?
6. What is the only city in the county of Cornwall?
7. On which Portuguese island was footballer Cristiano Ronaldo born?
8. How many gallons make up a Firkin of beer?
9. In computing what does the acronym GUI stand for?
10. What is the name of the rubber disc used in Ice Hockey?

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BOSCH

Caddington WI

By the time you receive this Magazine we will have celebrated St.Georges Day in the Village. there will be lots of fun and events for the family. Our ladies are helping at the event particularly the kitchen where Chris will be making her famous Bacon Rolls. Carol Hardy is helping her and they will go very quickly. I hope you enjoyed the day. A big thank you to Carol Jones and Kay Palfrey for organising this event.

The litter pick went well although rather wet!

There are National Raffle Tickets for sale with some very good prizes.

Dunstable Group have a meeting with Neil Gurney appearing as Miss Dorothy for an evening of floral fun.

Carol Jones has made a beautiful Scrapbook ready for the Scrapbook Challenge and this has now been sent off for judging. Good luck Carol.

Bob Fitzsimmons was aided by Sarah as his 'patient' with a talk on First Aid. He took us through CPR , defibrillators, choking and stroke awareness. There are now 8 defibrillators in Caddington that Bob cares for. We have a lot of information which I am sure you would like to know about. I'll try and get this in next month's Magazine.

We have a full programme for this summer. If you would like to join us please do so. We meet on the First day of each month on a Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Caddington Sports and Social Club. Meet new friends and enjoy a cup of tea/ coffee and cakes too.

Linda Edwards — 07761 340 108

Carol Jones — 07899 794 422

Caddington Community Shed

A place where people come together to make things.

You get to learn/teach new skills as well as socialise in a really friendly and welcoming environment.

Come along to the Heathfield Centre on Wednesday afternoons – 2 pm until 4.30 pm

Just £3 per week, with tea, coffee and biscuits all included.

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Keith Lewis

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CaddHist - your local History Group

We are a friendly group, meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month 7:30 at

The Heathfield Centre - Coffee and refreshments too

26th June: Konni Deppe will give her talk on Luton Orchards.

July 24th: Roger Wash will give a talk on the history of Luton town football club, ably assisted by Graham Winterbone.

Our summer trip this July 2nd will be to the 'Black Country Museum'.

New members and guests always welcome Give us a try

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At the recent Annual Parish Meeting, Vice Chairman Cllr Matthew Tomlin congratulated Cllr Mark Russell and said a few words on behalf of the Parish Council to mark the special occasion of his 10th anniversary as Chairman

Matthew commented that it was a fantastic milestone and that over the past decade, Mark had led with commitment, patience, and a great sense of humour. Saying that when Mark took on the role, public attendance at the meetings was, let's say, modest — three people (including Cllr Tomlin) and a dog! Now Parish Council meetings are regularly attended by over 30 members of the public. Cllr Tomlin said that this was due to the atmosphere Mark had helped to helped create: one where people feel welcome, involved, and heard. He said that Cllr Russell's relaxed, approachable style has encouraged genuine participation while keeping meetings productive and focused. No easy feat.

The Parish Council is looking forward to many more years of leadership!

Caddington Parish Council

Website: www.caddingtonparish.gov.uk

Contact: email clerk@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Telephone : 07912 298 141

Residents are welcome to attend Caddington Parish Council Meetings held at the Heathfield Centre.

Next Meeting Monday 9th June at 7.30pm

Please visit our website or take a look at the notice board on Manor Road between Cutting Crew and Nice Baps approximately a week before each meeting to view the agenda.

Parish Councillors

Chairman	Mark Russell	mark.russell@ caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Vice Chair	Matthew Tomlin	matthew.tomlin@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Planning Chair	Andy Palmer	andy.palmer@ caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Heather Palmer		heather.palmer@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Bob Fitzsimmons		bob.fitzsimmons@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Roy Catford		roy.catford@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Vicky Malone		vicky.malone@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Jeff Lovell		jeff.lovell@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Philip Skelton		philip.skelton@caddingtonparish.gov.uk
Jeanette Loughran		jeanette.loughran@caddingtonparish.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council - Ward Councillors

Cllr Vicky Malone – **0300 300 8559**
vicky.malone@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Cllr Kevin Collins – **0300 300 8523**
kevin.collins@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

St George's Fun Day at The Heathfield Centre

Well we've never had such a beautifully warm, calm day for our event. We didn't need to put most of the sides up on the marquee (as the stallholders would've roasted inside). The marquee was a lovely place for local people to sell their home made and locally produced gifts – of which there were plenty. Some of the stalls were raising money for their own charity.

Raymond Gill, villager of the year, opened the Event

The kitchen was very busy with hot and cold, food and drinks, and people purchasing their food and sitting in the hall were enjoying the 4 entertainment acts that were there to entertain us, i.e. David James, Tiff and her young Dancers, Rock Chorus and Turf Tappers.

In the foyer there were information tables of local groups and societies, and as usual, a Grand Tombola – which by the end of the day left us with just six prizes out of a possible 200 that we started with.

Outside there was an Animal Encounter area with snakes, tarantulas, bunny rabbits, chickens, et cetera, and I have to say that the guy running it didn't have a moments peace because it was so popular.

We had the usual traditional bouncy castle and carousel, large garden games, and Splat the Rat. The Owl Sanctuary turned up again and people enjoyed getting up close to stroke them. In the afternoon there was the dog show for the second year running, which is always popular. The police car turned up for a while for children to investigate. We also had a display of vintage and classic cars and bikes.

We were raising money for the Luton and Dunstable charity trust and we were able to give them, out of the profits, £700.00

The Committee would like to thank all the villagers who helped us on the day. Also to all the local businesses for donating prizes to the Grand Tombola.

Caddington Gardening Club

Caddington Gardening Club is a friendly group, meeting monthly to enjoy a shared interest in gardening , swap ideas, discuss gardening successes, the odd failure and pass on advice.

We have monthly speakers, some social events and summer trips to fascinating gardens
Meeting at the Baptist Hall on Luton Road 7:30 pm.

Contact Sarah on 01582 419 793

Saturday 31st May - Plant Sale on The Village Green - From 09:30

Tuesday 10th June – A talk by John Tyler
'The Changing Wildlife of The Chilterns'



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The Heathfield Centre

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Caddington Men's Club Quiz - Answers

1. Manchester
2. Field Marshall
3. King George VI
4. Squash
5. Tiramisu
6. Truro
7. Madeira
8. Nine
9. Graphical User interface
10. A Puck



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Carol's Cookery Corner

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Prep time 10 Mins Cook time 50 mins Serves 4

Ingredients



150g gluten-free plain flour

3 large eggs

150 whole milk

3 tbsp vegetable oil

1 tbsp unsalted butter

8 gluten-free sausages

1 red onion, thinly sliced in half moons

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

4 sprigs rosemary

350g gluten-free gravy, for serving

Method

Step 1

In a mixing bowl, add the flour, 1 tsp salt, · tsp coarse pepper, eggs and milk and whisk together well, ensuring no lumps remain. Cover and, if you have time, place in the fridge overnight as this will create a crispier and more flavourful final result. You can use the batter right away if you don't have time.

Step 2

Preheat the oven to 230°C/210°C fan/gas mark 8. In a large casserole, add the vegetable oil and butter and place in the oven for 10 mins until the oil and butter are smoking hot. This helps the batter to immediately rise and crisp when poured into the dish. Remove from the oven and pour the batter into the hot oil right away. Carefully push the sausages and onion slices into the batter and sprinkle with the garlic and rosemary,then place back into the oven for 40 mins or until the batter has risen and is golden brown.

Step 3

Serve with green vegetables such as broccoli, spring greens or fine beans and a gluten-free gravy.

You know how they they throw the ball into the crowd after they win a game? That's not allowed in Crown Green Bowls. I know that now.

She said that she missed me. Normally, that would be a good thing - but she's reloading

A truck loaded with Vick's Vapour Rub overturned on the motorway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for eight hours.

I told my wife that she should embrace her mistakes. She hugged me.

Anyone for Tennis???

Slip End Tennis Club was formed in 1987 and is affiliated to the Beds Lawn Tennis Association. The Club has two hard courts, with floodlights at Slip End Playing Fields, Church Road, Slip End.

It is a small friendly club with approx. 80 members. Current annual costs for new members are:- Adult £35 Family £60. Junior £15 (Up to age 16)

Club members have priority in the use of courts, except when either matches are to be played or coaching taking place.



Club night is on Monday evenings from 7pm and Sunday mornings from 10.0am, to which all members are welcome.



Coaching is provided by our LTA coach, Sally Parry.

Members £6 and Non-Members £7 per session.

Adults. Tuesdays 12.0-1.0pm & 6.30-7.30pm and Fridays 12.0-1.0pm.

Juniors 6-8 years 4.30-5.15pm. on Mondays and other Juniors 4.45-5.45pm on Fridays. Ladies and private coaching is also available.

Give Sally a call (07979 433688)

Enquiries about the club can be made by telephone or e-mail to:

Chris Kelly Secretary 07828 174 122 stevesuelyons@aol.com

Peter Smith Chairman 01582 733 253 peter.smith813g@gmail.com

Aley Green Methodist Church

May

Sun 25th	10:30am Morning Service Local Arrangement (Alison Wilson)
Wed 28th	7:30pm Coffee Evening in aid of Christian Aid

June

Sun 1st	10:30am Morning Service (Michael Adams) and Sunday School
Tues 3rd	10-12 Cakes and Company
Sat 7th	10am Prayer Breakfast
Sun 8th	10:30am Morning Service (Rev Nigel Bibbings) Pentecost
Sun 15th	10:30am Morning Service (Local Arrangement—Liz Higgens) and Sunday School
Mon 16th	2pm Ecumenical Fellowship led by Jo Prowse
Sun 22nd	10:30am Morning Service (Catherine Roots)
Wed 25th	7:30pm Coffee Evening in aid of Methodist Homes for the Aged
Fri 27th	2:30 pm “Take Time” — Music and Verse followed by refreshments with a collection in aid of Action for Children. This is a special event as part of the South Beds Methodist Circuit Mission Month. We hope to welcome friends from the local community and from around the Circuit.
Sun 29th	10:30am Morning Service (Rev Claudia Lupi) Holy Communion

Future Dates

Sun 13th July	Circuit Celebration Service on Dunstable Downs (hoping for good weather!)

Our Sunday School has been growing and we have been welcoming a good number of children on those Sunday mornings. They usually meet on the first and third Sundays during the service, unless that week clashes with other activities.

Sadly, the Little Lambs Club has ceased, at the moment, as there is currently nobody available to run it each month. Should anyone be interested in helping out with running this (stories and crafts for little ones and their Mums / carers) please get in touch.

Our Choir currently meets to practise and sing on Thursday afternoons (second and fourth of the month) at 3:30pm.

The preserves team has been busy stocking up the jam, chutney and marmalade for sale. Donations of sugar are always welcome to help us with this task.

Remember that we have moved a few of the regular evening activities to afternoons which appear to be welcomed, especially during the darker evenings.

God Bless, From all at Aley Green

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