

Bletsoe

Gazette

2007

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Parish Council

The election that didn't happen.

This was an election year for our local councillors, both borough and parish. Bletsoe Parish Council saw the retirement of several long standing and well-known individuals, namely Richard Day, Peter Hetherington, David Martin, and Jo Wallis, who between them had probably served nearly fifty years, and whose experience will be sorely missed. An election, had it taken place, could have cost the rate payers of Bletsoe in excess of £800 due to the charges levied, but in the event there were insufficient nominations to require an election. Nonetheless, several new and enthusiastic people have stepped forward for co-option and will, no doubt, be able to give us the benefit of their skill and experience.

The new Council is made up of the following: Edward Bean, Ann Binder, Paul Caves, Matthew Cox, Ann Gibbons, Mike Grimes, and Debbie Hall, with Bill Rowland remaining as our efficient and long-suffering Parish Clerk.

With no single individual willing to take on the onerous and sometimes time-consuming task of Chairman, the members presently take turns in holding the office, and this seems to be working well under Bill's expert guidance. Hopefully, one of the newer members may eventually feel confident enough to take on the role and put him/herself forward at the Annual General Meeting.

Meeting four times each year

The Parish Council was in the custom of meeting on the first Monday of every month with the exception of August, but recent changes in guidance on remuneration of Parish Clerks and other costs have forced us, along with many other parish councils, to reconsider the frequency of our meetings, and we now meet regularly only four times per year. While this has the potential of creating problems with planning issues, which generally require a response within 28 days, the difficulty has been overcome by the formation of a Planning Advisory Group to handle any urgent planning issues which arise between meetings. Notice of the quarterly Parish Council Meetings is posted on the village notice boards at least seven days in advance and parish residents are always welcome.

Hard surface play area

After much discussion and hard work by Peter Hetherington (who has now retired from the Parish Council) in obtaining partial funding, it was decided to go ahead with this small scale scheme for a hard surface play area for football,

netball and basketball, on the proviso that it would be entirely funded by other grant-making bodies.

Initially, a site in the Parish Field adjacent to the spinney behind Old Way was chosen on the basis that this met the safety requirements, was readily accessible from any part of the village but was not directly adjacent to any dwelling.

However, after consultation with occupiers of nearby properties, it was decided to relocate the site further to the east, near to the northernmost goalpost. We are currently in the process of seeking matching funding from the County Council in order to commence construction.

Highway Works

After repeated requests from the Parish Council, the long-awaited repair to the water seepage problem at the junction of The Avenue and the A6 has been completed. This seepage created a severe hazard in frosty weather by forming a layer of ice on the road surface. Several villagers had the unpleasant experience of their vehicles sliding uncontrollably onto the A6, luckily without serious incident. Hopefully, this problem is now rectified but, as The Avenue is not a 'Salted Route', the approach to the A6 in icy weather should always be made with great caution. In addition to the resurfacing of Memorial Lane and Coplowe Lane, repairs to foot ways have also been carried out funded by the annual Highways Partnership budget.

Edward Bean

Tree Warden's Column

The time is fast arriving when one needs to think about planting trees and hedges.

The County Council runs a first class scheme, which allows people to order plants free of charge provided they are used to benefit public amenity and can be seen from roads or footpaths. The more the scheme is used, the greater the chance it has of surviving financial cuts. The scheme also has a high educational value for the young people. Parishioners wanting plants should contact me at North End 01234 781320.

The project this year will be to try and remove all dangerous and overhanging trees and branches in the parish.

Paul Forster - Bletsoe Tree Warden

Village Hall

Maintenance and Fund Raising

So far this year we have replaced one of the sheds, which had to have a new concrete base, and we have also done lots of small repairs and replacements. We are hoping later this year to replace the main hall floor as the boards have been sanded so many times that they are now too thin to do again. Also we would like to change the curtains as they are starting to show their age.

Thank-you to the Fete Committee for all the hard work they put in to make the Country Fayre such a successful day. The £2350 given to the village hall is greatly appreciated and will go towards expenses in the forthcoming year.

Social Events

Apart from bingo, family social nights and dinner dances, which have continued to be successful, we have had a fashion show, that was great fun and more than fifty people attended. We have booked this again for 11th October. Other dates booked include a supper and dance with James Lebec on 8th September, and in November we are planning a cabaret night (so if you have any talent please let Mike Gibbons or another member of the committee know). Our Christmas dance is on December 8th with Dave Stott and the family social (with a visit from Father Christmas) is on December 23rd. Tim and Sheila Coppins will entertain us on New Year's Eve. On February 23rd 2008 we have "Time of Our Lives". They were so entertaining this year that we have decided to book them again.

Bookings

So, if you have space in your calendar for any of these events, please phone Barbara 781813 or Maria 781812 to book your tickets. If you are planning a private party or other event and would like to use the hall please get in touch with Edna 781646 for bookings.

Maria Caves 15.08.07

Regular Events in the Village Hall

Bingo 7.30 pm 2nd Friday each month

As advertised in the quarterly flier. Why not come along and try your luck? We look forward to seeing you.

Coffee Mornings 10.30 am 2nd Thursday each month

Everyone is welcome from babies to a hundred years. Come and have a coffee and a chat and we also have a raffle. Just pop in anytime.

Whist Drive 7.30 pm prompt 2nd Monday each month

Anyone interested in playing, just come along.

Barbara Button 781813

Bletsoe Women's Institute 7.30 pm 2nd Tuesday each month

I would like to thank all those who supported our annual barbecue in July and trust that you had an enjoyable evening. Why not come to one of our monthly meetings? What better way to meet other people in the village?

We have a speaker each month on various activities and hobbies. In

October the subject is "Switzerland from the Train"

You will be very welcome to join us on any of our evenings.

Barbara Button President 781813

Village of the Year

On Wednesday 12 September a small group of us went to Henlow to the Annual General Meeting of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Council at the end of which the presentations for Village of the Year were made. Barbara Button, President of WI, Mike Grimes representing the Parish Council, Sophie Ferriman representing the young people and Ann Gibbons representing the Fete Committee sat through some interesting and some not so interesting agenda items! As the end of the meeting approached we became quite excited, but after listening to the previous year's winners recount how difficult it had been since they won, we were not quite sure that we wanted to win and so, when it was

announced we were runners up we were delighted!!!! We came second to Clapham who had entered the competition several times before. This was Bletsoe's first attempt at the new format of Village of the Year. As runners up we received a cheque for £200. We were also awarded £150 for being a village of people who 'do' and where there is a lot of laughter!

Thanks to the efforts of all the village organizations and villagers, Bletsoe has been recognized for all it does!

Ann Gibbons

Friends of St Mary's

The Friends of St Mary's support our village church specifically by raising money and helping to manage the maintenance of the building. The Parochial Church Council has the final say in deciding what work is undertaken but usually let The Friends deal with the structure whilst the PCC looks after the activities of the church and its congregation.

In particular, The Friends focus on the issues raised by the five-yearly survey of the church which has to be carried out to a regular timetable – in our case, we are working through the issues raised in the last survey in 2005. The village has supported the planned maintenance well over the years so, although we still have a few tasks to complete, much of the regular work is underway or done.

However, as you'll read elsewhere, a major crack in the West End has disrupted the peaceful progress in recent months so The Friends have deliberately held back from anything other than urgent expenditure until there is a clear idea of what should be done to the stonework in that area. However, assuming current relatively small plans are what is needed, then we hope to spend some of our savings in dealing with both the West End crack plus other cracks inside the nave, the vestry and the porch at the same time.

Other issues on our list include the various trees in the churchyard – some of these are due some surgery now or in the near future. We also want to complete the external graveyard wall repointing up Coplowe Lane at some time in the relatively near future if we can afford it.

The Friends are very grateful to all who support the fundraising events over the year – we tend to specialise in music and food which go together well! And a very special thank you to everyone concerned with the Fete which is such a help to our finances. Many thanks everyone from all the Patrons, Trustees and Committee

Mike Gibbons Chairman

Sophie Ferriman with the award

Cracks in the Church Walls

Those who care about our fine medieval church will have been alarmed to see the crack in the west gable wall which is evident from both inside and out. There are also less obvious defects in the masonry above the south entrance door and between the porch wall and the nave.

Professional advice has been sought from our regular architect assisted by structural engineers and, following a period of monitoring and soil testing, a report has been received from Ralph L Mills Associates, structural engineers of Watford, dated 22nd August 2007.

The advice for each of the three problems is similar, i.e. to strip away internal plaster for 200mm each side of the crack, remove all loose mortar from the joints inside and out and deeply repack the joints with 1:3 hydraulic lime mortar and sharp sand. The cracks should then be covered with "Telling Brick Mesh" or similar and the plaster reinstated.

In the case of the crack between the porch wall and the nave further strengthening is recommended by means of 8mm diameter stainless steel tie rods set horizontally through the walls in polyester resin.

It may be noted, with some relief, that this latest report does not recommend underpinning part of the church walls which would no doubt be a good deal more expensive than what is now being suggested. It is intended, therefore, that the various cracks will be filled in during the coming months and we will then wait to see if that cures the problem

19.9.07

Proposed Bletsoe Conservation Area

In the early part of 2007, preliminary work began on the designation of a Conservation Area in Bletsoe by Bedford Borough Council as local planning authority. This involved preparing a draft appraisal of the village's special architectural and historic interest, in the form of a map suggesting boundaries and important features within them, and a written description also including

suggested policies for management. The appraisal has been undertaken by David Baker, using his knowledge of village history and professional skills. The area is centred on the elongated triangle of the historic 'Great Green' of Bletsoe, which later became allotments and is now mostly open spaces; the St John Estate terraced cottages and other historic buildings define its edges on three sides, with the castle, church and barns to the north.

An informal consultation took place within the village in May on a document which can be seen on the village web-site. The reasons for choosing particular boundaries were explained and some possible variants outlined. About a dozen villagers responded to the consultation; their views have been conveyed to the Borough Planning Department and copied to the Parish Council. Most were favourable: some wanted expanded boundaries, mostly to include the Parish Field; others wanted reduced boundaries, especially in the north of the village.

Several comments showed confusion between the modern planning-based Settlement Policy Area of Bletsoe as set out in the Borough Council's Local Plan of 2002 and the proposed Conservation Area. The two designations work quite differently: there is a general presumption against development outside the Settlement Policy Area whereas proposals within a Conservation Area are required to either preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The presumption against development on land outside the Settlement Policy Area holds even if historical, architectural, archaeological or natural history features include it within the Conservation Area. Extending the Conservation Area outside the Settlement Policy Area, to land without such special features, just to 'stop development', will not strengthen the planning constraints already in force.

It is expected that the Borough Council will begin the process of formal consultation, drawing upon results of the informal consultation, before the end of the year. Villagers will have the opportunity to comment, for the first time, or to repeat or amend any comments made previously. Designation may be achieved by March 2008.

David Baker 05-09-07

Parish Notices

Future Meetings of the Parish Council

All to be held in Bletsoe Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Mondays
2008 7th January, 7th July and 6th October

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 7th April at 7.30 pm and will be followed by a short Parish Council meeting

Public Transport to and from Bletsoe

County Council Free Taxi Service to and from Bedford and Sharnbrook

Bookable through A1 taxis telephone 364444 by giving at least 30 minutes notice

Available daily Monday to Saturday(excluding bank holidays) as follows:-

Sharnbrook		0855	1055	1355
Bletsoe	0750	0900	1100	1400
Pavenham	0800			
Bedford	0820	0915	1115	

Bedford			1330	1740
Bletsoe	0845	1045	1345	1755
Sharnbrook	0852	1052	1352	

RiseleyWRVS volunteer taxi service

Designed to help residents without their own transport who need to attend for hospital appointments and the like. .

Return journeys bookable through Mrs. Gill Davies on 708550.

Please try to give two or three days notice

A nominal charge to cover drivers' motoring costs is made, currently 15p per mile

Monthly Services by mini bus to shopping centres

Bookable through BCC bus line 228337

Free to holders of bus passes, nominal charge to others

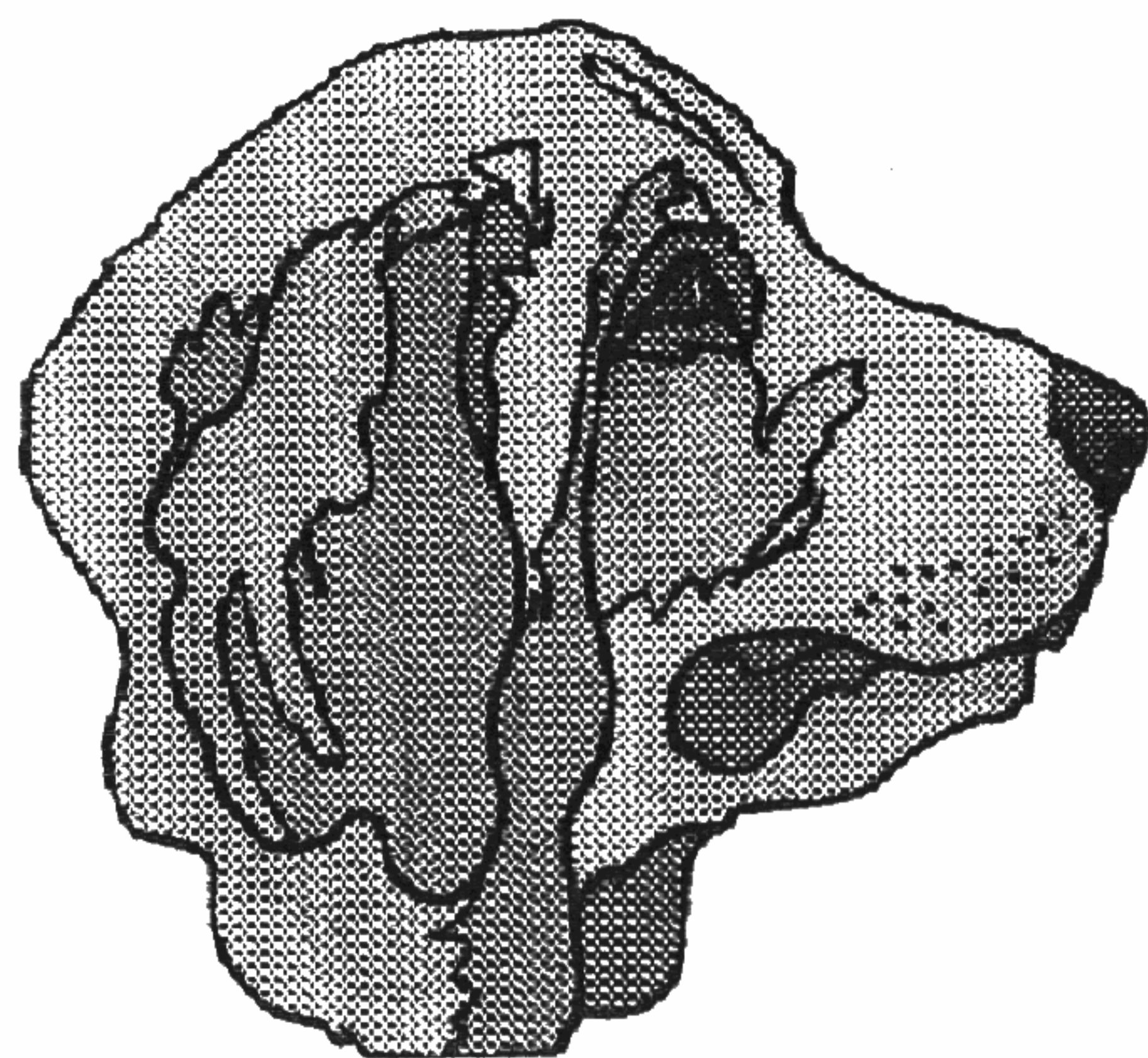
Destination	Dates	Pick up point	Times out-ward	Times return
St. Ives	3 rd Monday of each month	A6 Falcon bus stop	Dep. 0905 Arr. 1025	Dep.1415 Arr. 1535
Milton Keynes	3 rd Tuesday	St Mary's Church, Bletsoe	Dep. 0909 Arr. 0956	Dep 1230 Arr. 1317
Northampton	2 nd Wednesday	ditto	Dep 0909 Arr. 0956	Dep.1230 Arr. 1317
Booking not required				
Sainsbury Clapham	1 st Wednesday & 3 rd Wednesday	ditto	Dep. 1420 Arr. 1435	Dep.1600 Arr. 1615

Sharnbrook "Villager" mini bus hire

Available for hire for parties of up to twelve from Sharnbrook Upper School telephone 782211

Malcolm Rowland FMAAT

Clerk to Bletsoe Parish Council tel. 781646



A DOG CALLED BLETSOE

By-passed nowadays even by Stagecoach, Bletsoe has only modest claims to national fame. Pre-eminently in English history, Bletsoe Castle was reputedly the birthplace of Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, the first of the Tudor kings, and subsequently received visits from James I, founder of the Stuart dynasty. More recently, in the 1940s,

Bletsoe shared with Thurleigh the heroic but tragic honour of affording hospitality to the 306th Bomber Group of the US Eighth Air Force which, in the course of three years, suffered the loss of 171 Flying Fortresses and more than 730 lives.

But far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, our village has a small but indelible place in the literary history of the 19th Century: Edward FitzGerald, a close friend of Thackeray, Carlyle and Tennyson, and one of the most fascinating figures of the Victorian Age, frequently stayed at the Falcon Inn to fish the waters of the Ouse with his dearest friend William Kenworthy Browne, with whom he regularly spent the summer months at Cauldwell House in Bedford – and subsequently, after Browne's marriage, at Goldington Hall and Goldington Bury. His affection for the Ouse valley he records in more than one of his delightful letters, and for the Falcon Inn he reserves particular praise:

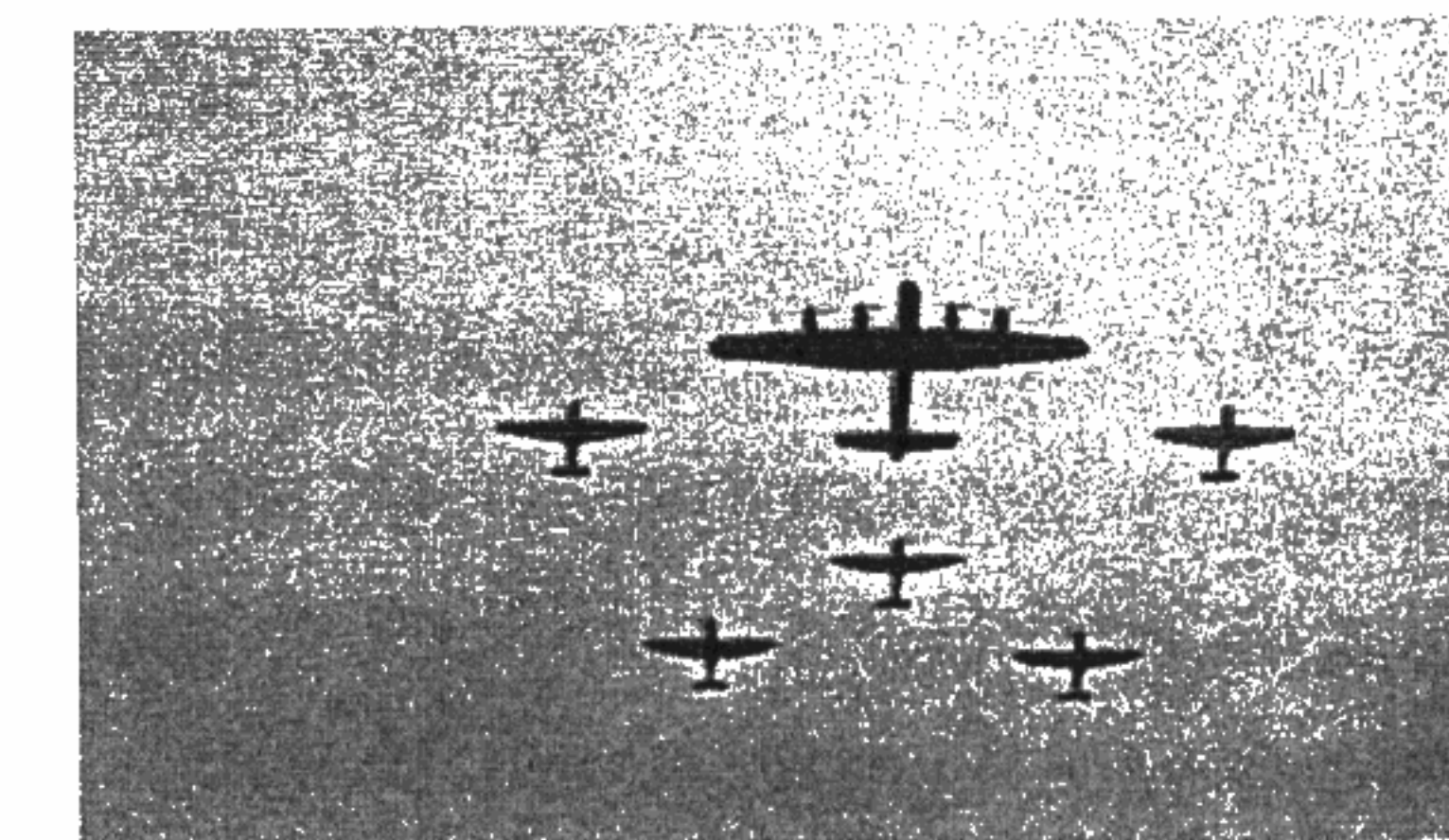
I am just returned from staying three days at a delightful Inn by the river Ouse, where we always go to fish. The Inn is the cleanest, the sweetest, the civillest, the quietest, the liveliest, and the cheapest that ever was built or conducted. Its name the Falcon of Bletsoe. On one side it has a garden, then the meadows through which winds the Ouse: on the other, the public road, with its coaches hurrying on to London, its market people halting to drink, its farmers, horsemen and foot travellers. So, as one's humour is, one can have whichever phase of life one pleases: quietude or bustle; solitude or the busy hum of men: one can sit in the principal room with a tankard and a pipe and see both these phases at once through the windows that open upon either. But through all these delightful places they talk of leading railroads: a sad thing, I am sure: quite impolitic. But Mammon is blind.

In the course of these visits with Browne, local tradition has it that FitzGerald may have composed at the Falcon some of his celebrated translation of *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. It was certainly during this period that Browne gave to 'Fitz' (as he was affectionately known) a black labrador dog, called Bletsoe after the happy days they had spent together at the inn. Yet ironically, in the very month of *The Rubaiyat's* publication, William Browne was tragically crushed to death in a hunting accident. In the years that immediately followed, stricken with grief at the loss of his friend, FitzGerald was often to be seen in Woodbridge, where he spent most of the rest of his life, walking about the town lost in thought, wearing his Inverness cape, with only slippers on his feet, and Bletsoe following behind

Peter Hetherington

Bletsoe Country Fayre 2007

Wow! What a great event it was and what a splendid community day for the villagers of Bletsoe! The weather wasn't as good as we had hoped but it did not deter our best attendance to date and they stayed despite the odd squally shower.



We were really lucky this year to have the Battle of Britain Flypast fly overhead. We had hoped that this would happen during the afternoon but they were on their way to Buckingham Palace and had a schedule to keep - you can't argue with the Queen! Fortunately, we got the word round the village and a number of us were on the field when they flew over just after midday and what a wonderful sight it was. We were told that we were the only village event in the country to have had the full flypast this year. We were pleased to see the return of BBC Radio 2's Alan Dedicoat to open the Fayre. He should have been joined by Sarah Kennedy, also of Radio 2, but sadly she was not well enough to be with us but has promised that she will be next year!!

We have tried over the past couple of years to get an inter-village games competition off the ground but have not quite managed to get the commitment from other villages, so this year we put on sports for the children and this was enjoyed by both participants and onlookers as was the dog show which had an amazing number of dogs and owners taking part. The sunflower competition was a big success and we had several entries – some of which we think were humorous ones! This was judged by a member of the Milton Ernest Garden Centre staff who awarded the first prize to the grandson of a villager!

A new addition this year was the chocolate fountain which did not stop all afternoon and did tremendous trade particularly when everyone crowded into the hall during showers. We had lots of vintage cars and bikes which are always a great attraction at the Fayre and it is always good to welcome their owners back. PalmerSport provided us with a racing car with the added appeal of The Stig in attendance!

The Ouse Valley Swing Band gave a musical background to the event and also entertained the hundreds of people who had cups of tea and bacon butties. The kitchen has never seen so much business and the wonderful ladies who were serving, making tea and washing up did a remarkable job keeping everyone well watered and fed. A very special thank you goes to them as they did experience some really difficult moments but still ended the day smiling!

Thanks to the hard work of the committee we had a plethora of prizes this year. At every meeting during the run up to the fayre the prizes just kept on coming in. We had body flights, race track at Palmersport, Milton Ernest Garden Centre vouchers, cash prizes and lots more. Our sincere thanks to all those organizations and people who donated, as this undoubtedly helped us to achieve such a large income. The draw this year virtually sold all the tickets we had, which hasn't happened for some years.

The afternoon was a great success and led us into the evening for fish and chips and yet another first. We have never seen the village hall so full on fete night with 100 fish and chip orders being made!!! It was a tremendous atmosphere after everyone had worked so hard to achieve the success of the day. The evening was enhanced by the contribution of the young people of the village who had taken time to write, rehearse and then act out their 'Little Bletsoe' skit – well done and thanks to them for that and for their contribution to the whole day!

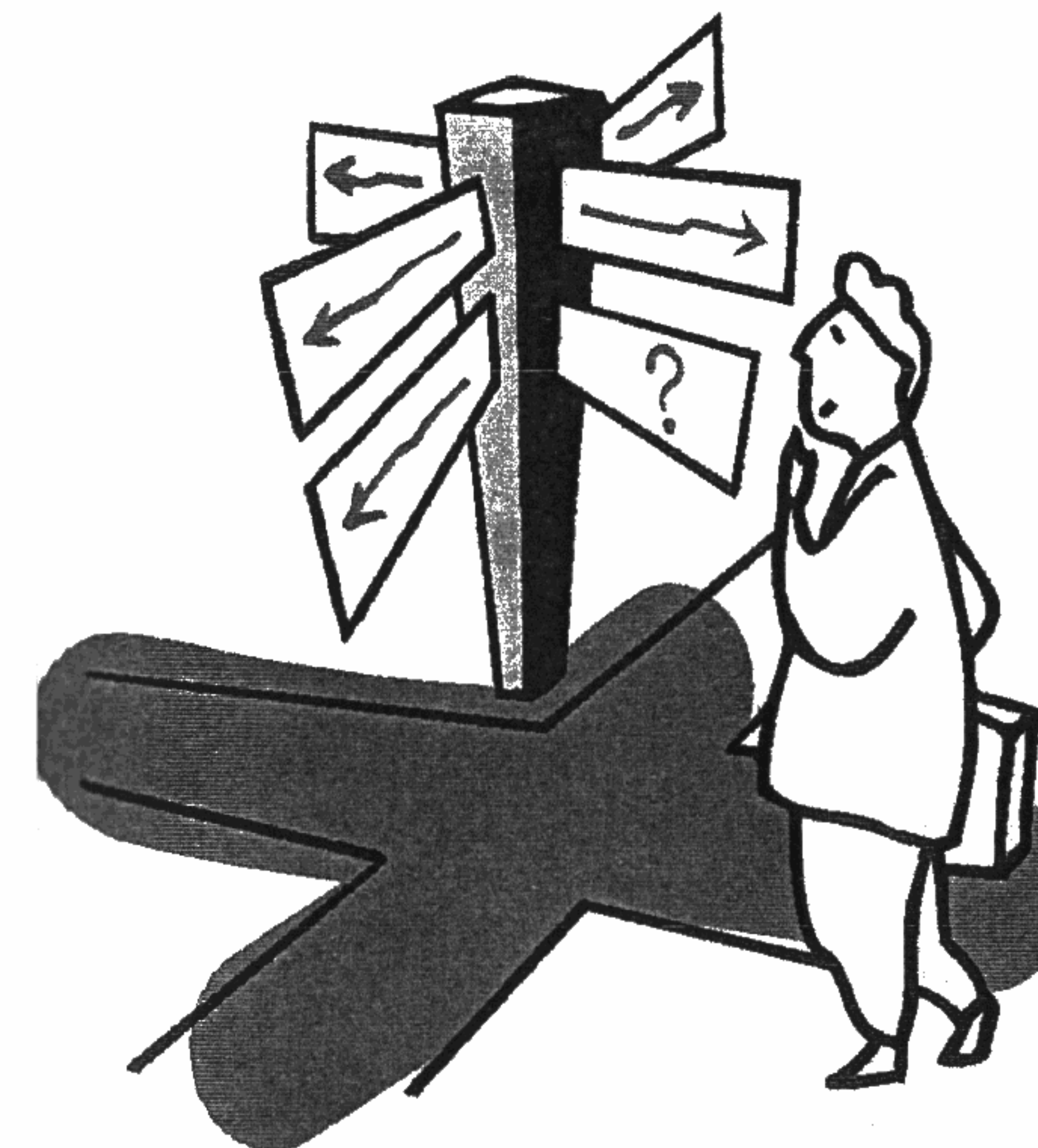
For a small village we should all be very proud to have had such a great community day and in the process to have raised just over £5000! After bills were paid we were able to give £2350 each to the Friends of St Mary and the Village Hall. Thanks to all those villagers who helped in any way to the success and huge thanks must go to an outstanding committee who worked so hard but gosh – did we have fun!!!!

The date for your calendar next year will be

Saturday 21st June

and look out for more details dropping through your door!

Ann Gibbons



Signage Galore

Students of unnecessary and misleading signage will already have observed with glee the new notice at the bottom of Coplowe Lane, which depicts a bicycle and proclaims the distances to Thurleigh and Milton Ernest to be, in each case, one mile. (The actual distances, church to church are in fact 2.0 miles and 2.2 miles respectively). Two additional signs herald ones approach to this important junction, perhaps for the purpose of preventing any particularly speedy cyclists from missing the turn and going straight on.

It is not entirely clear to the uninitiated whether these signs are permissive (cyclists may use this route), advisory (cyclists are advised to use this route), or mandatory (cyclists must use this route). In any event it should be pointed out that Coplowe Lane is a particularly dangerous way for unwary riders on account of the high hedges and narrow bends where it is impossible for oncoming vehicles to pass each other without using the grass verges. Here a cyclist may need to throw himself into the brambles to avoid serious injury or even death. The danger is accentuated by carefree young drivers of white, and occasional red, vans with targets to meet who take advantage of the lack of any speed restriction on this apparently innocuous country lane. On clear mornings drivers proceeding eastwards up the hill can be completely blinded by the rising sun and are a particular hazard to anyone travelling in the opposite direction.

Perhaps there are more fruitful opportunities for the sign makers in our village. The cottage at number 29 The Avenue already bears the name "The Old Post Office". Would it not be useful to have another sign below this indicating with an arrow "new post office 213 yards?" Then there would be a need for another sign outside Malna House, "New Post Office now closed, try Milton Ernest or Sharnbrook"

County Council News

Quarrying in North Bedfordshire

There has been a lot of concern in the North Beds villages at the proposals from land owners that land close to our villages should be made available for sand and aggregate quarrying. The County Council was required to consider all applications and recommend an up-date to its existing sand and gravel extraction policy. Change in this policy, which currently recommends against any such extraction in the Upper Ouse Valley, would mean that the landowners would be able to seek planning permission to quarry for minerals on their land. Local councillors and residents have worked hard to ensure that the recommendation going forward to the Council Executive is that the existing policy should stand. We will know in September whether we have been successful in this. Everyone who submitted a written or e-mail comment to the County Council during the consultation period will be individually advised of the decision.

Funding for Village Groups

In order for councillors to help small local projects, the County Council has budgeted for each County Councillor to have an amount of money, which they are able to spend in their areas. I have £2500 to spend on local charities and village groups. If you have a project that would benefit from this money please contact me on 825531 or e-mail jane.walker@bedscc.gov.uk and I will send you a simple form to fill in so that you can give me details of your request.

Unitary Council News

The last six months of council work has been dominated by the impending decision on which council, borough or county, would be asked to form a unitary council. As far as our everyday lives are concerned this should not make a great deal of difference as long as the council in charge is able to run the local services effectively and efficiently and the cost of our council tax is kept at a reasonable level. It does mean however, that there will no longer be any confusion over which council does what and the unitary council will be completely accountable to its residents. Currently the Borough Council is responsible for planning, housing, leisure amenities and parks, licensing and waste collection. The County Council is responsible for highways and transport, social services, education, libraries, trading standards and waste disposal. We have now been told that from May 2009, the County Council will be abolished in this part of Bedfordshire and the Borough will control all services. There will be elections to the new council before May 2009, but up to that time I will remain your councillor so please contact me on 01234 825531 or e-mail jane.walker@bedscc.gov.uk if you need help or advice on any council matter.

Thank-you to all Bletsoe residents for your continuing support and friendship,

Jane Walker County Councillor for Bletsoe 10. 08. 2007

So far no one has thought of having a sign outside number 24, "Buttercup Cottage" indicating with an arrow to the right, "church 100 yards". This might encourage traffic coming down Old Way on a Sunday morning to turn right for the 9.30 service instead of sneaking off left to Sainsbury's.

And spare a thought for those newcomers to the village who have been seen waiting patiently in the schoolhouse bus shelter for a bus into Bedford. Surely there is a case for a prominent notice to advise, "Buses no longer stop at this point".

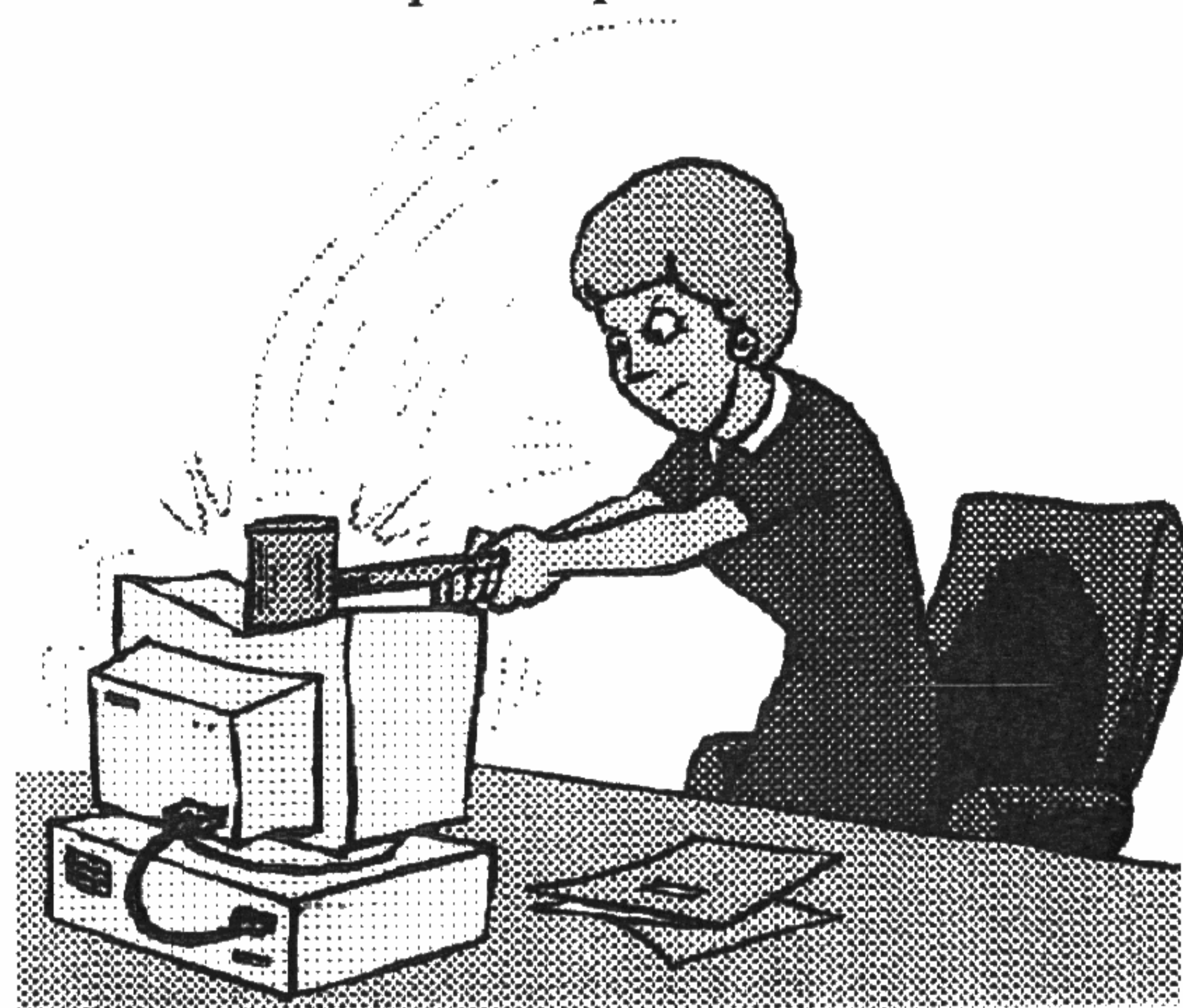
Jonathan Knights

Thank-you

I have in my possession copies of the Bletsoe Gazette going back to 1996 and I have had much enjoyment skimming through them recently to work how long Jo Wallis has been the editor. Her term of office certainly goes back through all those eleven years and I have been loathe to embarrass her by asking how much longer than that. During this time Alison Bean has also had an important role in setting up the pages ready for printing.

I am beginning to realise some of the difficulties involved in getting this magazine out and, on behalf of all readers, I would like to thank Jo for her long and successful stint as editor and for the tact, patience and skill which she has brought to this onerous task. Alison equally deserves our thanks but in her case I am hoping that she will continue to help out with the technical bits that are too difficult for a rookie computer operator.

Jonathan Knights



Bedford Borough News.

Ward Improvement Fund.

Borough councillors each have £2000 to spend on improvements within their local areas, as long as certain criteria are met. After consultation with the Parish Council, I have requested that £750 of my budget be allocated towards the Multi-Sports Play System to be sited within the existing playing field.

Unitary Update.

Since the Government took its decision to award Bedford Borough Council unitary status on 25th July 2007, there have been several key developments on this matter.

While discussions are ongoing, the government did issue a 'liaison paper', in which it set out its preferred proposals for implementation, to all local Councils with proposals for Unitary Local Government.

In this paper, the Government sets out its preferred categorisation for Bedford Borough Council as a "transitional authority". This will become the new unitary authority on 1st April 2009 following local elections in 2009. We believe that this authority will consist of 37 Councillors, a reduction of 16. However, whether the timetable for implementing the new Bedford Unitary is realistic or not is another matter, as the County Council has already announced a Judicial Review against the decision not to proceed with its bid. This may take anywhere up to 9 months.

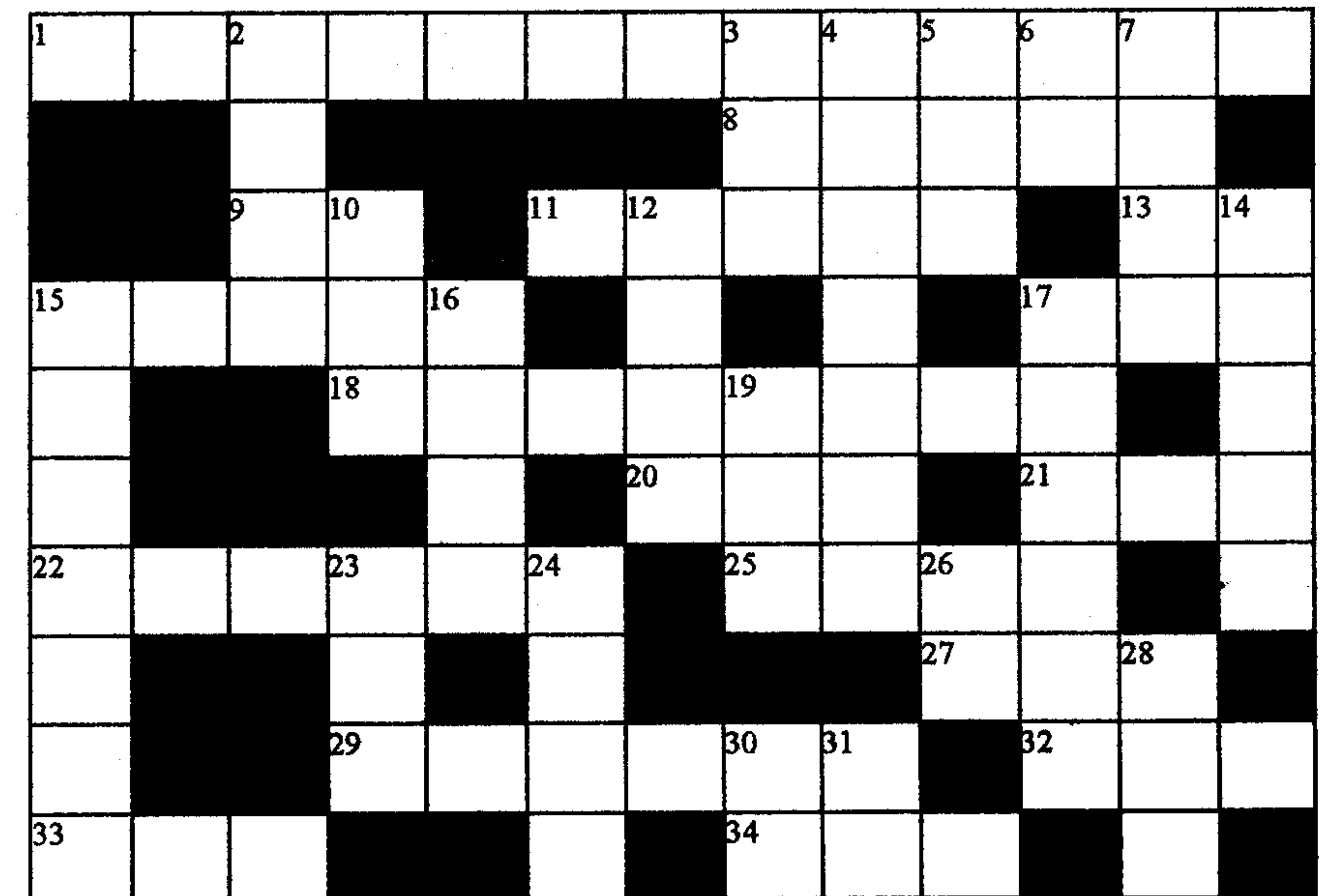
In the meantime you can be assured that the services offered to you by both the Borough and County will not be affected as Councillors are committed to seeing that these services maintain a high standard. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

fnsparrow@hotmail.com

Nigel Sparrow. Borough Councillor Clapham Ward.

6th September 07

Bletsoe Crossword



Clues across 1. ship master's shut for seven dwellings (8,5) 8 indicate(5) 9 no reversed (2) 11 open-mouthed primate after part of cooker (5) 13 above and adjacent (2) 15 fast flow of water (5) 17 observe Deceitfully (3) 18 Henry's mum in beautiful citadel (8) 20 pull off from end of town (3) 21 naughty little creature (3) 22 live in archaic form(6) 25 broad rather than runner and definitely not French (4) 27 a long time (3) 29 refreshment from this bird (6) 32 what is left when I leaves strange creature of the mountains (3) 33 secret hideout (3) 34. take the second letter from amphibian to cloud the issue (3)

Clues down 2 holds up the line (4) 3 span with no end for resort (3) 4 PC squat heads east for lane (7) 5 sounds false and restful (3) 6 prison inmate beheaded (2) 7 do this at red light (4) 10 point of old pen (3) 12 excess (4) 14 mythical maiden (5) 15 clerk in argumentative country (7) 16 mayor in wide aspect (4) 17 add penultimate letter to sting would be mean (6) 19 nurse's timepiece (3) 23 little fairy from a sort of ledge (3) 24 remove two from end of candle wax for height (4) 26 double first for breakdowns (2) 28 slippery aquatic creature (3) 30 The Grand Old Duke ----- York (2) 31 six negatively reversed (2)