

# Impington Council - Spring 2006



## Pat Jennings to open new facilities on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Northern Ireland, Spurs and Arsenal goalkeeping legend Pat Jennings will be coming to the Recreation Ground to open the new facilities on May 1<sup>st</sup> - Bank Holiday Monday.

Entry to the official opening and village fun day is **FREE** - so bring all the family. From magic and escapology to sporting demonstrations and taster sessions, the events and activities planned will ensure there is something for everyone during the day. Refreshments, BBQ's, a hog roast and a licensed bar will be available, see [www.friendsoftherec.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftherec.co.uk)

for full May weekend details, information regarding Recreation Ground sports clubs and community fundraising.

Further details on the Rec, Pat Jennings, Rec history, the sports clubs, the development, it's funding and lots, lots more, are in the full colour Celebration Souvenir Programme, on sale now.

The Pavilion includes four changing rooms with showers and a community room for group and private hire. Other benefits include a new Parish office (see page 3) to serve the community, new public toilets, additional car parking (including dedicated disabled parking) and an up-graded groundsman's compound.



Tennis on the MUGA

February saw the completion of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) with an all weather, artificial grass surface and Hard Tennis court. Both these facilities are now operational; they are both floodlit and are available for public hire.

Funding has also been obtained for a new sports coordinator to work with the sports clubs, schools and village residents to develop and promote sport and physical exercise on the Rec. We hope to see sports clubs and activity groups forming, making the Rec a community facility for all Histon & Impington residents.

The new Pavilion is almost ready for hire and will be available in May. All Recreation ground facilities can be hired by contacting the Rec Clerk on 235906.

## Street lights - *not* going out

Impington Council has decided to pay for the power and routine maintenance of the street and footpath lights previously funded by South Cambridgeshire. As with the District Council, it's not a statutory obligation for the Parish to do this. However, since neither District nor County (who look after most of the lights in the village) were prepared to do so, the Parish has decided to undertake this for our residents.

The County Council is currently asking for Government funding to upgrade and modernise its lights - but has not included the District ones in that bid. The Parish Council has therefore asked the District Council to look at bringing all of the lights under one management. The District Council has also promised to replace lights that get damaged, or fail because they are too old.

If **any** street lights are not working, please report them to Cambridgeshire Direct, on 0800 25 35 29.



Sign on SCDC lights



The front of the new Pavilion

April 6, 2006

### Contacts

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### Contributors

Thanks to contributors to this issue including: Vernon Dudley, Phil Gooden, Pene Nudds, Denis Payne, Hilary Silk, Steve Unwin, Angela Young

## Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Council meets at 7:30pm in the Church Hall, St Andrew's (Impington). Our next meetings will be on: April 24<sup>th</sup> (because of a clash with Easter Monday), May 15<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>.

The May meeting is our Annual Parish Meeting (APM), and Annual General Meeting (AGM). The APM (7.00pm start) is a meeting for the parish, an opportunity for questions on any topic to be raised with the Council by residents. At the AGM, Councillors will elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year, and its committees.

Every Parish Council meeting is open to all. The agenda has a specific time for questions from residents.

Committees meet as required. If a particular topic is of interest, please contact the Clerk to get it heard.

## The Civil Cemetery

Did you know Impington Parish Council runs and maintains the Cemetery in Mill Lane? Use as a burial ground dates from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when the land was a field belonging to Chivers. When two of Stephen Chivers' children died before they had been Christened they were buried in the corner of the field as they could not be buried in the churchyard at that time. Later the field became a non-conformist cemetery administered by the family and eventually handed over to the (then) Chesterton Rural District Council in 1928. The District Council in turn handed it over to the Parish Councils.

The Council employs a part time groundsman, Terry Farr, who keeps the ground in excellent condition all year round. Terry is a local man who took his apprenticeship with Unwins Seeds from the age of 15 and has worked at many Colleges as a gardener and for 8 years at Newmarket Road Cemetery. He has been the groundsman at our Cemetery for the last 12 years and is well known to many people who visit the site to attend to family graves.

Terry works very hard cutting and strimming the considerable areas of grass within the site, as well as pruning trees and hedges, looking after the footpaths, maintaining the seats and gates, planting bulbs and tidying landscaped areas. He attends all funerals on behalf of the Council and liaises closely with the gravedigger. He remembers well how he had to dig the graves himself in the 80s at Newmarket Road but now, of course, special machines are used to carry out this task.

A walk round the Cemetery can be very rewarding, especially in the Spring and Summer months when the beautiful cherry trees and the wonderful twisted willow at the entrance are at their best. New this year, Terry has planted some daffodils and some snowdrops in the older part really brighten it up. Despite the traffic passing by on the B1049 it is a remarkably peaceful spot.

Several War Graves can be seen in the site, with a new one expected very soon, and many interesting historical names picked out. The Chivers family of course feature quite a lot, as do surnames such as Unwin, Baccus, Christmas, Love, Muncey and Winders, all names of special note. A feature worth mentioning is



The grave of a Belgian soldier from the 1914-1918 War

the "Blacksmith's Grave" with its wrought iron surround fashioned by Alfred Carter's workmates. The memorial reads "In memoriam of Alfred Carter died Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924 aged 63 A workman that needeth not be ashamed. 2 Tim. 2.15 This surround was made and erected by his fellow workers"



Detail from the surround to Alfred Carter's grave

There is now a separate area for interment of ashes and just last year the Council took in a new piece of land from the allotment end which it is hoped will mean at least another 40 years of interments can take place before a further area is required.

Plots can be reserved and indeed many people do so. If you would like to discuss this or would like further details, do ring the Clerk on 235906 or call in at the Parish Office.

## Environment Action Group

We are a small group, keen to help maintain and improve some of our lovely public open spaces. Generally we spend a couple of hours working, followed with a coffee and a chat before clearing up. It's all very casual and people spend as much or as little time as they can manage. We would love to expand our group, so if this sounds of interest to you and you've got some enthusiasm, tools or ideas, or you just want to lend moral support, then please join us. All help will be greatly appreciated!

### Activities

Over the last few months you may have noticed us out and about at various parts of the village. So far this year we have concentrated our efforts on preparing for the start of the grass cutting season. We have made a substantial start by initially working on two sites, Clay Close Lane amenity area and The Coppice. We have cleared suckers and ivy from the bases of several large trees and pruned the smaller ones, including the apple trees. To accommodate the height of the grass contractors mowers and to avoid damage to the trees we have also lifted any lower branches from all the trees.



Clearing suckers at Clay Close Lane

### General Pruning & Maintenance

Saturday 29th April, 9.30am at Doctors Close. Morning only - Ivy clearance & Branch lifting.

Saturday 20th/29th May, 9.30am at The Copse, New Road. Morning only - Hedge trimming. (TBC)

### Woodland Management Days

Saturday 3rd June, 9.30am in The Copse. All Day - Selective tree clearance, coppicing, shredding, planting (TBC)

## Arbury Camps Roadworks

An update from Graham Furie, of Galliford Try, who is managing the work:

Works, currently planned to finish in July, are running to programme. The current traffic management phase on

Cambridge Road will be in position until the second/third week of May. Following this there will be a two week period of work on the footpaths at either end of Cambridge Road (widening the approach to Histon to 3.5m wide) and upgrading the drainage going towards Cambridge.

The next major phase on Cambridge Road is still to be agreed. There are two possible options; a weekend partial closure of the Cambridge Road/Kings Hedges Road junction, or a reduction in the construction depths to allow normal off-peak working.

A key date for the diary is Friday 28th April, the westbound off slip-road will be closed overnight to re-surface. Also in early May there will be off-peak lane closures on the Histon Interchange Roundabout.

The works on the eastern end of Kings Hedges Road will be surfaced by the end of April, and the new traffic lights installed (and maybe operating) by mid-May.

Also planned for May is the erection of the barrier alongside the A14 intended to reduce traffic noise for residents.

## The New Parish Office

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March the Parish Council finally moved into super permanent premises in the new building on the Recreation Ground at New Road. The entrance is at the rear, facing the BUPA Lea site boundary, accessible only on foot via the footpath beside the tennis courts until the whole development is completed at the end of April.

This followed some 4 years in a portable and always temporary office in the car park. Before that, all Parish Council administration activities were based in the homes of staff and Councillors. When the plans for the exciting new development at the Recreation Ground were first drawn up, the Parish Council, jointly with Histon Parish Council, started to consider siting the parish office there permanently. It soon became clear it would be a very sensible and most cost-effective option and only 22 months later the office is up and running, with a key feature the now much improved provision of storage space.

All Committee meetings and informal meetings will take place in the new separate meeting room, although full Parish Council meetings will continue to be held at St Andrews Church Hall, Impington, normally on the third Monday monthly. The office has been designed to give plenty of room and light for residents to inspect planning applications or other consultation documents or discuss parish matters with staff or Councillors. All agendas are displayed in the office and information on Parish, District and County Council schemes provided. We even hold copies of the Histon and Impington Crier for those residents who do not have it delivered! Plans are also in place to provide pigeon holes for local Councillors, to streamline information channels between the Council and residents.

Initially the office will open to the public **Tuesdays 12.00 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.** The office will normally be manned all week, however, with other appointments available by arrangement. The post box for the office is to remain at the front of the site, on



*The new meeting room in use*

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New Road itself, until the site is fully operational in May

Joining the Parish Clerk Angela Young in the office is Assistant Clerk Lynda Marsh, also Clerk to the Recreation Ground. Bookings can be taken during office hours on week days with Mrs Marsh for the new MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and hard court, as well as information and bookings for other sporting facilities at the recreation ground, and for hire of the new building once up and running in May.

Staff will be pleased to welcome residents to the new office and offer advice and assistance where possible. Impington Parish Council is applying for Quality Council status this Spring and very much wishes to provide the village with a quality facility of which we can all be proud. Do let us have any feedback or ideas for future improvements of our service. Your views are important to us.



*Office viewed from reception*

## Histon Tennis Club A Village Community Club

The tennis club has played on the grass courts at the Recreation Ground for many years. The members are proud of the grass courts which are superbly maintained by Steve Campin, and which provide a really good game of tennis. Compliments are often given by visiting teams who sometimes arrive unsure about playing on grass and who usually leave full of praise for the quality of the surface.

In recent years the club has tried very hard to make sure that anyone interested in joining the club is made as welcome as possible. Old ideas like proving your ability by 'hitting' with the Chairman or wearing all white clothing have long since been consigned to the past. The club sees itself as run for the benefit of all villagers who would like to play tennis. So if you've ever thought - I'd like to play but I'm not sure I'd be welcome / good enough - then hesitate no longer. Give the club a try in 2006!!

The club offers two club sessions a week where any member who turns up can mix in and play with others. There are also about twelve friendly tournaments a year, which are primarily to provide a fun competition for all club members. As an example 2005 saw the first playing of the Anne Brown Trophy named after Anne who has been a long-term member of the club and one time long serving Treasurer. There are also a total of twelve teams entered in local leagues so if you fancy competitive tennis the team captains are always looking for new talent.



*Players for The Anne Brown Trophy*

The club's junior section is thriving thanks to the tremendous efforts of Jane Rush & Sheila Strachan. Anyone

around on a Thursday afternoon last year will have seen the large numbers attending the coaching sessions. In 2006 there will be club tennis, league tennis and professional coaching sessions for the under 18's.

The club has enthusiastically supported the Parish Council in their Recreation Ground improvements, and is delighted to be already using the new hard courts. Taster sessions are being held on 1<sup>st</sup> May – come along and have a go – you're assured of a warm welcome.

Anyone who would like further details should ring Vernon Dudley on 515867 or Steve Hopkins on 237244

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## The Day Centre

By June this year, we will have been open to the pensioners of the village for 25 years.

Over all these years, many people have enjoyed Tuesdays and Fridays, seeing old friends and making new ones. They have played cards, dominoes, bingo, been on numerous coach outings and enjoyed entertainment from many groups, a great boost for many who are alone for much of their time. Members have also had excellent home cooked lunches, coffees and teas, all provided for the cost of £3 per day.

Unfortunately, age catches up with us all and our numbers are dwindling. Please, if you know of anyone who could benefit from the change of having one or two days out a week, would you pass the word on. We do need new members to keep viable. We have a very friendly group of volunteer helpers who do their best to make everyone feel welcome. Transport can be provided if needed.

We meet in the Baptist Schoolroom, come along and give it a try. For further information please telephone Hilary Silk 560633 or Jean Cox 234174 or Sheila Harrison 233436

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## X Marks the spot Or does it?

*A personal view by Phil Gooden:*

Yes folks in a little over a month's time we have the opportunity to vote for one of the three seats at South Cambridgeshire District Council to charge someone with representing Impington, and our colleagues across the border in Histon.

Rather unusually, the last 12 months has seen SCDC subject to a great deal of scrutiny, especially in the pages of the Cambridge Evening News. Some of it may have been avoidable, and possibly self-inflicted.

Issues such as travellers, Council tax and an internal review with three of the top four management posts going on severance packages, which many could liken to a major win on the lottery, are head-line grabbing stuff, but do not represent by any means all that SCDC aspires to do on our behalf.

Refuse collection is the most visible, and affects most of us at least once a week, less obvious, but perhaps with potentially the biggest impact, is planning. This is hugely diverse covering the smallest extension or garage to large-scale developments, such as the one going on just over A14 with around 900 houses, a school, business units and maybe an ice rink.

I have been fortunate and privileged to serve you at South Cambs (96 –2000) and County from 2001-2005, I strongly urge you to read the leaflets put through your door, chal-

lenge the candidates at your doorstep, and make the effort to vote, as traditionally close to 70% of you will not do so.

Whether or not you agreed with the Station Road experiment, apathy was an issue for the Parish Council, our District representatives and County, as some people it appeared only became fired up when the resulting outcome impacted on them as individuals. What is an elected member supposed to do? When after the event, lobbying from both sides starts, and you are required to represent apparently opposing sets of views.

In some cases it can very tempting to vote for the status quo for all the wrong reasons, I did not enter politics to maintain things as they are, I hope to improve them, but the trouble is, what I may see as positive, others will view differently.

We have witnessed at the Rec, what happens when people aspire to change, but what about those who don't use it?

Surely you have a view about Council Tax, was South Cambs too prudent during the years it did not charge us for its services? Was it blatant electioneering when at the all out Election in 2004 when all seats were up for election on a once only event as a result of boundary changes we had a zero increase, with a year later a proposal for an increase of over 60%. Or is it logical to boast about one of the lowest Council tax levels in the Country, whilst living in supposedly one of the most economically vibrant parts of England, and then make regular representations to government about our apparent low level of grant, especially when with a limited cake, others may have a more deserving call on the resources than us.

I hope if nothing else my article, written in a personal capacity, and not as a member of the Parish Council, will I trust encourage you to value that vote, we should not take for granted that duty which has been placed upon us, especially if it might lead to us not being able to call people to account for their actions, as we do at present.

If you do nothing else when you see a candidate, ask them what their position is on the possible changes to the election cycle at SCDC.

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## District Council Elections - Candidates

The SCDC web site reports the following four candidates for the election, to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>:

Mark Johan Alexander Claessen	Green Party	62 Cambridge Road
Neil Sinnett Davies	Independent	8 Dwyer Joyce Close
Tomas Frederick Ralph Lynn	Liberal Democrats	16 Melvin Way
Jean Anne Muncey (commonly known as Anne)	The Conservative Party Candidate	2 Bell Hill

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## What do you think?

**Many** thanks to everyone who passed comments back to the Council after the Winter issue. We have been able to take comments to the right place - and get action.

We'd again welcome your feedback on this issue - either via the insert or via the website at [www.hisimp.net/imprespond.htm](http://www.hisimp.net/imprespond.htm)