

The parish newsletter for
Flitton, Greenfield
and Wardhedges

Flit 'n' More

Christmas 2013

Welcome to the latest Christmas edition of your local parish newsletter, with lots of information about all the things going on in our villages.

It's great to notice at this time of year that contributors are not only looking forward to the up-coming festive season, but also planning well ahead for events in 2014. We are a very active village (quite literally if you include the Potato Race and the Flitton Flits!) and there's always something to join in or support.

For this edition I was sent the great photos on page 8 of the Bishop of Bedford and the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire unveiling a plaque in the new Greenfield school buildings. A lovely occasion, I'm sure we all agree, but for a moment there I really thought the photo looked as if they were holding up a pair

of boxer shorts between them... See what I mean?? (Email me your captions for the pic - clean ones only please!)

Cryptic Quiz

Don't forget your Christmas reading. Anyone looking for an indoor challenge as the evenings draw in should contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or familysadler@talktalk.net

A donation of at least £2 is requested with all proceeds going towards the up-keep of the church; results and answers in January. This year's theme is places in the UK and Ireland.

This will give you all the exercise you need on Boxing Day!



Village website? It's at; <http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

Church website; www.3churches.co.uk Contact Clare at clare.butlerellis@googlemail.com

From Your Parish Council ...

**Keep up to date with what's going on in
Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges**

The Parish Council has had a busy couple of months, work on the cycle track between Woodlands and the Playing Fields is progressing well and new barriers are being erected. There will also be a new post to prevent any unauthorised access along the track next to Fitzroy Cottages. The Remembrance Garden in the Cemetery is being tidied and improved and the results of the traffic consultation have been collated so that work can commence as soon as possible.

In October I was invited to the opening of the new school hall and it really is an impressive building and will be a wonderful asset for the school for many years to come. It was opened by Helen Nellis the Lord Lieutenant of Beds and Richard Atkinson the Bishop of Bedford. My congratulations to the Academy for this great achievement.

We have also recently taken on a 25 year lease for the amenity land in front of the bungalows at Wardhedges Road. This should ensure that the area remains as public open space for the foreseeable future and will be the responsibility of the Parish Council for grass cutting and maintenance. This has been the first year that the Council has had direct responsibility for arranging the grass cutting in the Parish which includes all the verges and areas around the village gates and signs. All areas outside the 30mph signs remain the Highways authority responsibility. Any comments about how you think our first year has gone can be sent to clerk@flittongreenfield.com as we plan for next year's schedule.

We have almost completed phase 1 of the redevelopment of Flitton Hill allotments with water being laid on in the next few months. These plots are now all taken but we are looking to develop phase 2 so if you are interested please contact Gareth Ellis on 07809873124 or gareth.ellis@flittongreenfield.org.uk

There have been two vacancies on the Council and this has led to extra work for all of the Councillors, however it is hoped that this situation will be resolved in November as 2 Greenfield volunteers have offered to fill the vacancies.

Finally the Council meeting takes place on Nov 18th and if anyone is interested the agenda and minutes will be posted on the web-site <http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk/> where you can also now see items for sale and wanted and many other pieces of information about the parish.

Nick Thompson
(Chair)

'Flit 'n' More' is published and distributed by the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Flitton. The Editor is Angela Ayres, Sunnyside Cottage, Cobbett Lane, Flitton MK45 5DX, 01525 860723, martandang@btinternet.com. Please note that views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or Parochial Church Council.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT/ORGANISATION IN FLIT'N'MORE... THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR!

The next issue will be out in April 2014 for events up until June. Please contact Angela if you have something to publicise or Simon on 861727 if you would like to advertise. Free for voluntary groups, very good rates for businesses.



Services for Christmas and beyond at St John the Baptist, Flitton

Sunday 1st December	11 a.m.	Advent Sunday - a Three Churches Service at Silsoe. No service at Flitton
Sunday 8th December	4.30 p.m.	Christingle - a magical children's service; each child receives an orange with a lighted candle, sweets and dried fruit to symbolise Christ in the world.
Sunday 15th December	6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight - a service of Carols and Christmas readings and poems. Come to the church Hall at 6pm for mulled wine and mince pies!
Thursday 19th December	7 p.m.	Carols Round the Christmas Tree Outside the White Hart. Come and join the choir to sing your favourite carols - wrap up warm! Mince pies and mulled wine courtesy of the White Hart.
Sunday 22nd December	10.30 a.m.	Blessing of the Crib - for the very young and all the family. Come and marvel at our unusual woolly crib figures - a short informal service with a chocolate tree decoration for little ones!
Tuesday 24th December	9.30 p.m.	First Communion of Christmas - The choir will lead us in this most special of services - please come early as the church is always full.
Wed 25th December	9 a.m.	Christmas Day Service at Pulloxhill (No service in Flitton)
Sunday 29th December		No services in the Benefice - the church will be open for private prayer and reflection
Sunday 5th January	11 a.m.	Family Service for Epiphany Sunday
Sunday 12th January	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion with the Choir
Sunday 19th January	11 a.m.	Matins
Sunday 26th January	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. A shorter service with no choir or hymns
Sunday 2nd February	4.30 pm	Pet Service All transportable pets and well-behaved owners welcome!
Sunday 9th February	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion with the choir
Sunday 16th February	11 a.m.	Healing Service followed by a short Holy Communion for those who wish to stay.
Sunday 23rd February	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. Followed by Parish Breakfast at 9.15 in the Church Hall - see Page 5

NB Mothering Sunday in 2014 is on Sunday 30 March

Tottings from St John's - Flitton Church News

CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHT

This year we have a different theme to our church Christmas Tree. Next to the tree you will find some blank labels on which you can write a wish or a prayer for Christmas. You can remember a loved one who is no longer with us or lives far away, or perhaps a special wish for others less fortunate than us in different parts of the world - or much nearer home.

Just fill in your message and tie it on to the tree!

JANUARY FOOD BANK APPEAL

A big thank you to everyone who has supported this worthwhile charity in the past. Your donations of tins, packets, jars etc has greatly helped local people who cannot manage to feed themselves or their families.

St John the Baptist Church will be a collection centre in January from 1st - 19th. The church porch is always open so please leave your contributions there at any time in the New Year or bring them our January services on 5th, 12th and 19th.

Let us help to make 2014 a happier time for anyone struggling to cope.

For information, please contact Margaret Butt 01525 862170
mkatebutt@yahoo.co.uk



HARVEST FESTIVAL REPORT

A big thank you for all those who contribute to our annual Harvest Supper in so many ways; to the team at the White Hart for the wonderful hot dinner, to all those who bake pies, to B&T Brewery for the usual cask of beer, and to all those who donated auction lots, large and small. It all added up to a great evening out as usual, with entertainment from our auctioneer David Stoppard, and John Smith, the Harvest Elf. Not only that but it raised a record-breaking £2,149.47, in addition to the generous contribution to Bedfordshire Food Bank. We thank you all for this amazing effort.

AND FINALLY...

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to you all from Stephen (the Vicar) Angela and Clare (the Churchwardens) and all at St John the Baptist Church. We look forward to seeing you all at one of our Christmas Services. **EVERYONE** is welcome!



Friends of Flitton & Greenfield Church

Christmas Card 2013

This year the Friends' Christmas card again features an artwork by a local artist, this time Lynden Thompson, and is a view of Flitton Church across the fields from the river.

They are in packs of 10, with envelopes, and are priced at £5 per pack.

Call Michael Brown on 01525716230 or email mgbrown137@btinternet.com

(This year the card is 150 x 200 mm, side fold, all the previous Friends' cards have been top-fold).



Season's Greetings



LET'S DO BREAKFAST!

Sunday 23rd February 2014

PARISH BREAKFAST

In the Church Hall from 9.15 - 10 am

Full English Breakfast/Cereals/Pastries/Toast/Juice/Coffee/Tea

All for £5 per head! (Children £3)

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL 01525 860723 TO BOOK
AS WE NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS**

Following the successful launch in the autumn, we hope to continue this venture 4th Sundays of the month. It will follow the 8.30 Communion but ALL are welcome, you don't have to go to church! It's not designed to make money, just to cover costs, but any profits will go to Flitton Church.

► Don't mess up your own kitchen, bring the family and forget the washing up!

► Late night out on Saturday? Just what you need to blow away the cobwebs!

► Live alone and can't be bothered with a fry-up? Let us do it for you!

► Read the Sunday papers, relax with a coffee.. It's like Flitton's own pavement cafe.. But indoors!

► Know someone who might be glad of the company? Bring them along!

► If you need a lift, just call Angela on 860723 and we will arrange it!

Gala- 14th September 2013

A big thank you to everyone who contributed or came along to what is the village's largest annual event; the unsettled weather may have deterred some people and although we missed the lovely weather of last year, nevertheless the rain held off and we were able to hold all the arena events outside as planned. Whilst we continue some traditional sessions such as the Amptill Town Band and our local Jazzercise and Zumba groups, all of which remain very popular, we do try and introduce a new "act" and this year we welcomed American Style Tribal Bellydance which certainly attracted a lot of attention.

Our guest celebrity this year was Freena Savage, the president of the Flitton & Greenfield Women's Institute who are regular users of the village hall; apart from the traditional duties of crowning Harrison Wade and Grace Gillard as the gala king and queen and then officially opening the gala, Freena also judged the Bedfordshire Clanger competition. Prior to gala day, there had been much debate about the "true" way to make a clanger and its ingredients and we had tried to make it easier for everyone by publishing a recipe in previous editions of Flit 'n' More; on the day, we had some very impressive and varied entries but in the end the honours went to Clare Hale from The White Hart – it may well appear on the menu.

We also had a record number of "boys and girls" for the traditional end of gala tug of war; when I say boys and girls, some of them looked distinctly adult, especially in the later rounds. This year the girls trounced the boys in revenge for last year, but this may have had something to do the fact that there was no football competition.

Apart from the individual groups who raised money from their own stalls and activities, the gala committee raised over £4,500 which will be used for the ongoing refurbishment of the village hall; particular thanks must go to Barclays Bank who donated £989 in matched funding in recognition of Barclays staff helping on the day. Everyone who helped or participated in any way is to be congratulated for all their efforts, as it is a team effort and the gala is a classic example of the more, the merrier.

Talking of teams though, special thanks must go to Margaret Lowe and the gala committee for all their hard work before, during and after the gala – there is always something to do. However, on a less positive note, no date has been identified for next year as the committee are not sure if they can continue with the same amount of effort as has been required in the last few years. Yes, you have heard this before but we really need some fresh blood and energy to keep the gala going, as none of us are getting any younger! Anyone interested should contact Margaret on 861111.

THE WHITE HART FLITTON



Starting December with a cold and the miserable weather doesn't help - as you can tell, I'm entering into the run up to Christmas with my usual charm and bonhomie, but I'm sure you have come to expect nothing less of me.

Anyway, at least the food's great, the beer & wine are not at all bad and if you can put up with the landlord, the rest of the staff are just peachy.

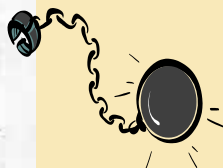
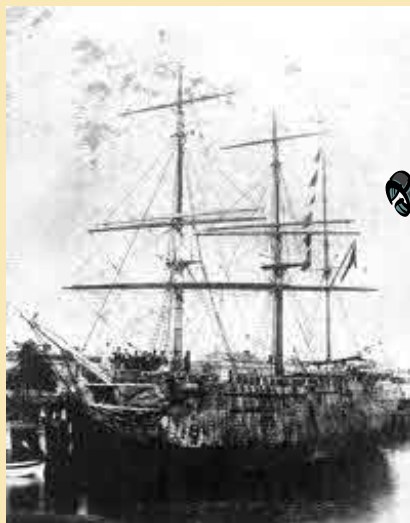
So join us in the Festive Season for the usual array of delights, and don't forget our now traditional Carols Around the Christmas Tree on Thursday 19th December around 7pm, with Mulled Wine and Mary's Mince Pies! (That's our Mary, not the one from Bethlehem, that would be just silly.)

Have a Great Christmas - Love from all of us here!

www.whitehartflitton.co.uk

01525 862022

A Convict in the Family: Hanging or Transportation



An illustrated talk by Margaret Butt
about her ancestor
RICHARD DILLINGHAM,
a local criminal in the early 19th century.

Friday 28th February 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Flitton Church Hall

Tickets £5 in aid of St John the Baptist Church, Flitton
Bar and raffle.

01525-862170 for tickets and information.



News from Greenfield Lower School

What an exciting start to the new school year we have had! The term started at Greenfield with our oldest children being taught in a marquee following our extensive building project. This was swiftly followed with an Ofsted inspection for Pulloxhill School.

The children moved into the new buildings on the 24 September. The new hall and three classrooms are light, airy and really spacious. The remodelled main building now offers significantly larger classrooms and an improved Learning Resource Centre, which houses our library and ICT suite.

We invited friends of the schools, who have helped us to develop the academy to our opening ceremony which took place on the 24 October. We were pleased to welcome the Lord Lieutenant and the Bishop of Bedford. They unveiled a plaque commemorating the event and then had a tour of our new facilities. Both have since written to say how much they enjoyed their visits.



Staff have worked tremendously hard this year to achieve both the wonderful outcome of Pulloxhill's outstanding inspection and the new and improved facilities at Greenfield.

A big thank you goes out to them all!

Annette McCullion
Headteacher
Greenfield & Pulloxhill Academy





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Throughout December we feature our Christmas Menu.

Enjoy a festive celebration without any of the work, 2nd to 24th December.

Christmas Eve: Champagne breakfast 9.30-11 am. There's nothing like a glass of fizz to start Christmas, come along & enjoy a leisurely breakfast & ease yourselves into the festive spirit.

Disco 8.30-pm to midnight; time to get the celebrations into full swing!

Roy will roll out all the golden tunes so you can sing & dance the night into Christmas Day.

Christmas Day: the dinner is cooking so come along and join us for a drink & wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Boxing Day: Lunch 12-4. Meet friends and family and have a leisurely lunch, let us do all the work - sit back and celebrate Boxing Day.

Boxing Night - Quiz time! Enough of the physical exercise, time to exercise the brain.

Join our Christmas-themed Quiz for teams of up to 6. Prizes for the winners!

You have had a week to recover so lets head to New Year's Eve!

In the restaurant a gastronomic delight for those that would like to join us for our 7 course dinner. In the bar a celtic delight of folk and fiddles as 'Celtic Crystal' energetically entertain us through midnight

New Year's Day; take a walk and blow away the cobwebs, then enjoy a 'liver' or a spot of lunch with us, and ease yourselves in to 2104!

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www.greenfieldpreschool.org.uk

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BRED TO BE WILD



If you are a mum, dad, grandparent or childminder, you look after a child of pre school age and are free on a Monday morning then why not come along to the village toddler group - Sticky Fingers from 9.30 to 11.30 at Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall.

We cater for babies up to four years old with toys and games, craft every week and story time too. And during the summer holidays, we arrange weekly get togethers. The cost is only £2.50 per family including a hot drink for you and squash and biscuits for the children.

We are a friendly bunch and we try to meet socially one evening a month in the pub or a local restaurant. It's pay as you go so you don't have to come every week and the first session is free! Either drop in or call Kelly Bosworth on 07828 292019 for more information.

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-  Award Winning weekly classes for babies and under fives on Friday mornings at Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall (for other local classes please see our website)
-  Holiday workshops, Fun and Unique Arty Birthday Parties
-  All the materials, tools and equipment are provided along with the ideas, the inspiration and the clearing up...
-  Call Louise on 0844 8549178 or email louiseplatt@thecreationstation.co.uk for booking and further details

www.thecreationstation.co.uk



2014 Potato Race - help needed!



This is an early call for sponsors and volunteers for the organising committee; although the race is provisionally scheduled for Sunday 22nd June, the planning and organising will start early in the New Year. If this extremely popular and entertaining event is to continue and even grow, the current committee needs more people to come forward before the day and help in the planning, marketing, publicity, fundraising etc. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or familysadler@talktalk.net



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Next summer, Silsoe Dram Club is
delighted to be performing again
in Wrest Park!

Fri 20/Sat 21 June 2014

The Winter's Tale

by William Shakespeare

OPEN AUDITIONS

Sunday 12 Jan '14 at 3pm, Silsoe Village Hall.

Lots of parts for men and women of any age! It
will be great fun, so don't miss it!

Call Angela on 01525 860723 or just turn up!

Monday 5th May 2014

A diary note for the 10th Flitton Flits which
should have a celebratory theme in 2014 for
achieving a decade's worth of running in the
village.

Youngsters who started in the Toddlers race
back in 2004, could now compete in the 5km race,
which is a great way to develop a local interest
in running and long may it continue.

Watch the next edition of FM for more details!



**Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire**

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Winter Programme

Wednesday 11th December 7.15pm at Maulden Church Hall.

AGM - and (at 7.45pm) talk on Bumblebees

by Colin Carpenter - BNHS bee recorder

Monday 20th January 7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.

Talk on Banded Snails by Peter Skelton

Wednesday 26th February 7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.

Talk on 'Otters in Bedfordshire' by Richard Laurence, BNHS mammal recorder

Monday 24th March 7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.

Talk on 'Reptiles' by Helen Muir-Howie,
BNHS recorder for Reptiles & Amphibians

£2 per adult requested for talks.

Contact Kathy on 07890 347327

or flitvale.info@gmail.com

Protecting wildlife close to home



AMPTHILL & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

THE MOOMRAKER CHALLENGE 2013

Thank you to all who took part in this year's Moonraker Challenge. It is called the Moonraker Challenge because it's a sponsored night walk and therefore more of a challenge. The weather this year was overcast and showery but all those who had booked in turned up with over one hundred walkers of all ages taking part. As well as some regular teams we were very pleased to welcome teams entering for the first time this year. We were delighted that over £3,000 was pledged on the night and this exceeded our expectations. Our thanks to Flitwick and Ampthill Sea Cadets for allowing us the use of their Headquarters and our very grateful thanks to Flitwick Co-op for their sponsorship. We would also like to thank Midshires Search and Rescue for all their help on the night and St John Ambulance for being in attendance. The walk proceeds this year will go to East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Don't forget **Ampthill Lights Switch On** Sunday 17 November 2013 when Father Christmas will be there with his Christmas Sleigh and Lions helpers.

Our Christmas Santa Sleigh will be visiting the following locations:

Harlington	1 December,	Maulden	2 December
Cranfield	3 & 4 December	Lidlington	5 December
Marston Moretaine	7, 8, 9 December	Ampthill	10-16 December
Shefford	17, 18 December	H'ton Conquest	19 December
Westoning	21 December		

Lions work within the community, would you like to get involved? Call 0845 8332 883 or visit our website www.ampthilllions.btck.com for more information.



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NEWS FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Broadband boost on the cards for thousands of local residents

In a project to improve broadband speeds around Central Bedfordshire the Council has signed a new contract with BT Openreach, which is already upgrading its network across Central Beds to deliver 'superfast' broadband. The council's goal is for 90 per cent of homes and businesses to have access to superfast broadband (24Mbps or above) and 100 per cent to access a speed of at least 2Mbps and it is investing an additional £1.2 million to make this happen. In 2011, the Council, Bedford Borough Council and Milton Keynes Council successfully bid for a share of the government fund to support 'non commercial' broadband improvement. The three councils have chosen BT Openreach to work on the next phase of the programme. BT Openreach will invest £2.6m in addition to the government and council funding. BT Openreach engineers will now begin to assess the areas which will receive improved broadband from 2014.

**Central
Bedfordshire**

New Leisure Centre recommended for Flitwick

Residents of Flitwick and the surrounding area could be benefiting from a new leisure centre. Proposals to redevelop the centre on land adjacent to the current site are part of the council's Leisure Facilities Strategy, which was agreed in January. Councillors heard that the existing centre in Flitwick is inefficient and can't be expanded to meet the needs of future generations. A feasibility study has been carried out to explore how a new facility can be developed, on an affordable basis. The proposal would see the football pitches relocated to Ampthill Road, freeing up the site on which the new leisure centre could be built. Only when the new centre is up and running would the present site be sold on to help finance the costs, which are estimated to be £12m. Options for the centre include: an eight lane, 25m swimming pool with separate learner pool, sports hall, health and fitness station, three workout studios, changing facilities, 2 squash courts, a crèche, café, soft play area, climbing wall and two outdoor 5-a-side pitches.

Local Christmas Customs

Distribution of gifts in money or food to the poor was traditional at Christmas. As Flitton and Greenfield were villages attached to Wrest Park, it was the duty of the De Grey family to make sure that each family in need was given something to help them at Christmas time. It was also the custom of the Duke of Kent to provide the poor of Flitton and Silsoe with two bulls. What happened to them I don't know - killed for food or used for livestock purposes maybe. Later the De Grey family would provide gifts to the Sunday School and Greenfield School Christmas parties, prizes for village events and open Christmas bazaars. They provided Christmas trees which became popular in Victorian times. In the early 20th century, when the family rented out Wrest Park to the American ambassador to Britain, Mr Whitelaw Reid (and more usually his wife) carried on with this. It was very exciting as they had one of the first cars in the area.

Local farmers were expected to provide their labourers with a good Christmas dinner of beef. Gifts to the servants or Christmas boxes of all the well-to-do such as the Vicar were given out on 26th December and are often mentioned in household accounts. Servants in the bigger farms and houses in the village received these Christmas boxes too. Carol singers did the rounds - the church choir or groups of villagers, often boys. The church bells would have been rung several times on Christmas Day.

Among the Wrest Park papers is a copy of the Twelve Days of Christmas - possibly a Bedfordshire version. The date is not known although the handwriting appears to be 18th century. Probably there are many local variations in other parts of Britain.

'The Twelfth Day of Christmas my True Love sent to me

Twelve Bulls Roaring, Eleven Cows Calving,

Ten Fiddlers Fiddling, Nine Lords Tripping,

Eight Ladies Skipping, Seven Geese Laying,

Six Swans Swimming, Five Gold Rings,

Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens,

Two Turtle Doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.

The song originated from the 16th century when it was a crime to be Roman Catholic. It helped the secret young Catholics to remember the teachings of their faith. The true love is God, the partridge is Jesus and the two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. The French Hens are faith, hope and charity, the Calling Birds are the 4 Gospels and the Golden Rings are the first 5 books of the Old Testament. In this version, the 6 swans are the 6 days of creation, the 7 geese are the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, the 8 ladies skipping are the 8 Beatitudes and the 9 lords are the 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 10 fiddlers are the 10 commandments, the 11 cows are the 11 faithful apostles and the 12 bulls are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. Today it seems a nonsense song but it had a great deal of meaning for many.

This recipe appears in a booklet on Christmas in Bedfordshire. The recipe dates from the early 18th century and is for plum porridge. The spellings are the original ones.

Take a legg of beef and break it well, and two marrow bones and put 8 or 10 qts. water to it, or more as you see fit, and when it boyles up scum it clean. Then crumble in a 2 penny stale white manchet and put into it 1 and 1/2 lb pruens and 3/4 lb reasons of the sun, as much curance, 3 or 4 oz. powder sugar, 2 nutmegs sliced, 2 or 3 blades of mace. Put all these things into your broth and stiuie it very close, hang it up that it may boyle softly 3 or 4 hours, and when you dish it put a good glass or two of sack into the broth, and more sugar if it not sweet enough. You must put in a little clarett just to culer it.

I wonder what it tastes like. Maybe we should have it as the next cookery competition at the Village Gala!



Handy Phone Numbers

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Jazzercise	Nicky Thacker	405178
Women's Institute	Meriel Davies	633421
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Flitwick & District Heritage Group	Dave Sedgley	714961
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Amphill and District Lions	Bob Pledger	860962
Square Dancing	Betty Brown	404564

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ADDED TO OR
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