

Community

VILLAGES

► BALSHAM

Church fete: This is taking place on Saturday (July 22), from 2pm until 5pm, in the churchyard in aid of the Church Community Project. The event will feature stalls selling cakes and produce, bric-a-brac and books, among others, and a raffle. Adventurous teddies can join in the fun by taking part in a parachute jump from the church tower, for a small charge, testing out home-made parachutes designed and created by their owners. Parachutes will be available for hire for those teddies without.

Big sale: Thanks to everyone who made this year's Big Balsham Sale a success. There were 46 stalls scattered around the village, with some raising money for charity. The event raised around £300, which has been split between Buttercups Pre-school and Caitlin's Guiding trip. *Margaret Johnson*

► CHESTERTON

Community fund: Mick George Ltd has made six donations to good causes in Cambridgeshire, including money for the Cambridgeshire Educational Trust to replace the swimming pool lining. Jim Warwick, vice chair of governors at Chesterton Community College, said: "We're extremely grateful to the Mick George Community Fund for the grant to replace Chesterton sports centre's pool lining. The swimming pool is an essential part of our offering to the community, providing both adult and junior swimming lessons as well as being a great leisure facility. "Many thanks for supporting us in our endeavours."

► EVERS DEN

Pub appeal: The Hare and Hounds could be owned by villagers by the end of the summer. A fundraising appeal has generated enough money to buy the pub and the legal process is taking place – exchange of contracts is expected this month or August and completion of the purchase could be in August or September. The aim would be to open the pub in September or October. A steering group behind the appeal has been interviewing potential tenants and has identified preferred candidates.

Friends get to the door as redundant church is set for new lease of community life

► EAST HATLEY

A disused church is getting back its floor and windows – even though a bat colony and host of spiders have made the building their home.

In a ceremony last week, Roger Evans, chairman of the Friends of Friendless Churches (FOFC), received the keys of the grade II* listed church of St Denis from Cllr Nick Wright, South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) deputy leader. The church has been owned by the council since 1985, after it was declared redundant by the Church of England. It was taken on as a nature reserve and is home to cave spiders and at least five species of bats, which will not be disturbed by the restoration work.

A £130,000 project funded by SCDC, English Heritage and Hatley Parish Council has seen the walls and roof repaired, leaving the church wind and watertight.

The transfer to FOFC includes a further £60,000 grant to fund work needed to bring the church back into useable condition, including replacing the floor and glazing.

Cllr Wright said: "I'm proud of the part we've played in



Cllr Nick Wright presents the key to Roger Evans of the Friends of Friendless Churches

helping to preserve the church for future generations and am grateful to the Friends of Friendless Churches for taking the building into their expert care to bring it back into community use."

Mr Evans said: "The council deserves praise for its initiative

in saving this historic church and the Friends are most grateful for the endowment grant, without which we couldn't take the church into our care. Much still needs to be done after the present phase of work, but we look forward to working with the local

community to bring St Denis back into good order for occasional use."

The church dates back to at least 1217 and was restored in the 19th century by Victorian architect William Butterfield, who was known for his Gothic Revival style.

► HARSTON

Event: The youth club bus will be visiting most Wednesdays in August, offering sport, craft, music, computer games, a tuck shop, information and advice. It will be at Harston rec from 4pm until 6pm, starting on August 9, and it's free.

► HISTON

Event: The artisan market returns on Saturday, August 5. The market, which is having a year's trial in the village, features a range of stalls run by artisans and small businesses selling goods such as hand-sewn bags to vintage photography. The markets are held on the Green, from 10am until 1pm

► LINTON

Development: An application to build up to 95 new homes in Back Road was refused by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The planning committee said the proposals would cause the loss of high-quality agricultural land. The developer could still appeal.

► LONGSTANTON

Recreation ground: The parish council is urging people using the rec to be more considerate. There have been incidents of anti-social behaviour, including large amounts of litter being left on the rec and in the playground. Neighbours have also reported foul language and garden fences being used as goalposts.

History: The Cambridge Archaeological Unit is looking for villagers who would like to dig their own test pits. Excavations have been taking place across the nearby Northstowe site, which is rapidly becoming a new town as homes, schools and facilities are built. Archaeologists are looking for people to excavate around the village to see how

Longstanton developed. The project will run on September 9-10. To find out more, contact Rodney Scarle on 01954 780998 or email rdscarle@hotmail.co.uk.

► RAMPTON

Vacancy: A new parish clerk is needed. The part-time role is about 32 hours a month and includes bookkeeping. For further information and a job description, contact: Rampton Parish Council on 07773 521275 or email RPCCawley@gmail.com. Closing date is July 31.

► SAWSTON

Cinema: *Angels in America Part 1, Millennium Approaches* (a NT Live event) will be showing at Sawston Cinema, Marven Centre tomorrow (Thursday) from 7pm. Cert 15. £15, concessions £13, under-18s £10.

Beer festival: From Friday (July 21)

until Sunday (July 23), the Black Bull pub in the High Street will have a wide selection of real ales, ciders and lagers on offer. There will also be soft drinks for children, three live bands and a barbecue on the Saturday. Find out more by emailing k_izard@hotmail.com.

► SWAVESEY

Road safety: The parish council has secured funding from the county council to introduce a 40mph 'buffer zone' speed limit on Ramper Road, between the residential area and double bends, to help slow motorists as they approach the village so that they enter the residential area within the 30mph limit. The work will include installing rumble strips, 40mph signs and 'SLOW' markings on the road along with new white lines. Road repairs on the double bends will also be carried out. No dates have yet been set for the work.