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ST. LEGER SAYS: RE-WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS

A member of the St. Leger family has spoken out strongly in support of Firbeck's claim as the original home of the world famous classic horse race.

In a long, detailed letter setting out the background of the race and its origins, Moya St. Leger says that the history books should be revised to make clear once and for all that the first St. Leger was NOT run at Cantley Common in Doncaster in 1776.

Moya goes further and insists that Major General Anthony St Leger, who lived at Park Hill House, staged the original race a year earlier at a venue known as The Oval Field - a huge circular grass field lying midway between Firbeck and Letwell which her predecessor treated as his own private racecourse.

In the letter, published last week in the Rotherham Advertiser, Moya says she had carefully researched the origins of the race while writing her book *St. Leger, the Family and the Race*. Focusing on the race itself she writes: "I was intrigued by its curious length, 3,212 yards, 308 yards short of two miles. I managed to get a copy of the ordnance survey map of the area dated 1812.

"I took a piece of cotton and measured around the perimeter of the Oval Field very carefully, and lo and behold the length was roughly 300 yards short of two miles.

"This is, of course, only circumstantial evidence, but it is my contention that the exact length of the Oval Field was transferred to Cantley Common, which popular history would have us believe was the first venue of the St Leger Stakes. I believe that the first race later known as the St Leger was run over the Oval Field in 1775 - a year before the recorded historical date."

Writing from the London borough of Richmond, Moya says Firbeck's case was very sound - "so sound, in fact, that I believe history books should be revised."



Winter Scene at Firbeck Hall

KIKI HEADS FOR LETWELL

Kiki Dee, remembered far and wide for her hit duet with Elton John *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, is heading to Letwell for a show at the village hall. Kiki, by far the biggest name to appear at the hall so far, heads to the village with guitarist Carmelo Luggeri on Friday April 22nd. Tickets go on sale on February 1st. More details inside.

NEWS FROM FIRBECK PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting was held on the 25th November 2015.

Members considered the budget for 2016-17 and agreed a precept of £7.850.00. This maintains the revenue raised, via the council tax, at the same level as last year.

It was reported that a draft grant application had now been prepared on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee to seek funding for some children's play equipment. If successful this would enable a small play facility to be installed in the village hall grounds.

The Parish Council is currently looking to review the Parish Plan and hopes to distribute a questionnaire to all residents in the immediate future. You may have received yours already! Please take the opportunity to complete a questionnaire and let the parish council know what you want to see for the village in the future. If you also want to be part of the parish plan steering group, please see details on Firbeck Online or contact the Clerk to the Council on 01909 239911.

Members have agreed to work with RMBC through the Winter Partnership Scheme. This will provide some free salt and snow clearing equipment for the village (if and when the mild weather ceases!) The Parish Council has also agreed to continue to press the Borough Council for significant highway repairs to New Road which sadly deteriorates year on year. Some limited works have now been agreed but much more needs to be done to bring the road up to an acceptable standard.

On a final note the Christmas tree was again successfully installed in the village together with new lights. Thanks is given to all those who helped with the installation and to those who turned out on the 29th November.

The next meetings of the Council are provisionally booked for the 27th January and 23rd March 2016 at the Village Hall.

FROM THE POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER

The 2015 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal ended on November 11th and in Woodsetts District, which also includes Firbeck, Gildingwells and Letwell, we collected £2534, another all-time record in the district, compared with £2472 that we collected in 2014, which was the centenary of the start of World War 1. Thank you to individuals who gave so generously via collecting boxes and also to organisations including Parish and Parochial Church Councils, Scouts, Brownies and the Lindrick Golf Club, which made donations.

Many thanks to our 14 volunteer door to door collectors and to our local school, Churches, pubs, clubs, shops and other organisations for providing 11 static collection locations. Over the past two or three years many of our very long serving collectors have retired and it is very satisfying that new collectors have come forward to fill the breach and have been very active this year. Nevertheless, I would be pleased to hear from others who would be prepared to help next year.

Chris Stanton

RETURN OF THE HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs have mostly disappeared from our fields and gardens in recent years - but Alex Milnes has been doing her bit to help the poor creatures survive and even thrive at Letwell.

Discovering that a pair of hedgehogs were visiting her back garden on Ramper Road in the summer, Alex started putting out food each day and dug a little tunnel under her gate so they could slip in and out of the adjoining field without squashing their prickles in the process.

Alex told FLAG: "The hedgehogs were there regular as clockwork, and they'd made a little path through the field. If you listened carefully you could actually hear the sound of them coming through the wheat - it was a like gentle chu-chu, and they'd be feeding in the garden every afternoon."

Round about November Alex came upon another pair of hedgehogs scoffing the daily dose of mealworms, honey and Alpro yoghurt left out in the garden. Realising they looked a lot younger Alex decided to contact the British Hedgehog Society for advice. A volunteer living at Thorpe Hesley in Rotherham agreed to foster the new arrivals - in spite of having 42 other hedgehogs in residence for the winter.

Alex added: "There were hedgehogs hibernating all over her house - some were even living in boxes under the stairs." The volunteer is hoping to re-home some of her guests at Letwell once spring arrives. "She wants somewhere well away from busy roads where they'll be safe, and she thought Letwell would be really good place for them to live."

*Naturalists blame the decline in the hedgehog population on pesticides, rising traffic numbers, the paving of gardens and the continuing loss of hedgerows in the countryside.

SEARCH FOR KILLER DOG

Police were alerted after a young cross-bred Labrador - believed to be from Langold - pounced on seven pet chickens feeding in a garden at Letwell's Gally Knight estate and killed them all.

The black stray jumped a 4 ft high fence to reach the poultry just as a neighbour walked past the property with his own dog on a lead.

Sizing up the danger the man dashed back home a short distance away and raised the alarm. But the dog had caused mayhem by the time help arrived. The couple living at the house had only recently bought the chickens as pets for their two young boys. The family were away at the panto when the attack happened.

The householder told FLAG: "It was truly horrible thing to happen. The cockerel tried to defend the chickens, but was badly injured, and had to be put down. "Nobody knows exactly where the dog came from. It ran away from the house, then turned right towards and headed across the fields towards Langold. The police community support officer has been out to try and help track down the animal. If it can do that once, then it can do it again - that's the real worry.

"Four chickens managed to hide and they did survive. But they're all traumatised, and they won't come out of the hutch anymore."

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FIRBECK-CUM-LETWELL WI

Our Christmas Party was held in Letwell Village Hall in December and we had a very Winter-y theme – with woolly hats, snow poems, hot food and a talk on Lapland!

We kick off the New Year with an open meeting (everyone welcome) with Val Oxley and Julia Colver telling us about the Journals of Amelia Staniforth of Firbeck Hall. So if you are interested in learning more about the inhabitants of Firbeck Hall, please come along to our meeting on 21st January at Firbeck Village Hall at 7.30pm.

We are holding a Textile/Fabric Workshop making seascape pictures on 6th February at Letwell Village Hall from 10.00am to 4.00pm – cost £10, bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided. Once again if you are interested, please contact the Secretary for more information.

Our AGM is in February and only members are allowed.

In March there is a talk on Clarice Cliff and in April, Penelope Scott-Rowley will be giving a talk on gardens - getting us ready for spring and summer.

Our May meeting is when we have a debate on the Resolutions to be voted on at the AGM in June in Brighton. Also Rosemary Pike will be with us showing how stained glass is made.

Our Institute will have been in the villages for 70 years this year and in that time we have contributed, supported and helped out at various events throughout the years in both villages, as we will again this year. And of course, we will, most probably be having a party in July....any excuse!

A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR THEO - AND BECKY

Letwell equestrian Becky Gribben had a day to remember at the Horse of the Year show - as did her promising young Welsh pony Theo.

The little 13.2 chestnut qualified for the highly prestigious event competing on home turf at a show in Flintshire.

Appearing in front of a crowd of thousands at the indoor arena at NEC in Birmingham proved to be an unforgettable experience.

Becky told FLAG: "You're competing against some of the best ponies in the world - some of them are worth £40,000 alone - so it's a massive achievement just to get to the NEC in the first place.

"Theo's only young, he's very much a novice, so it was important to learn from the experience. The atmosphere was electric, and the whole place was buzzing when we went on. I had a glass of champagne beforehand - I needed it just to settle my nerves!"

Theo didn't win a prize - but Becky was more than happy.

"He'll get better as time goes on...we're looking forward to going again next time round."



Becky with Theo

NATIVITY AT ST MARTIN'S...

...with the ukeleles, Morecambe and Wise and all

Thank you to all those who were involved in our 'What if ... Nativity' on Christmas Eve in St. Martin's, Firbeck.

Our all-age cast of around 40 people gave their best dramatic efforts to a full house, which responded enthusiastically.

This year's story was told partly in song and Abbie Barker, as Mary, sang "This Quiet Place," with expression. Keith and Christine Martin introduced some of our young people to ukuleles, adding to the party spirit of our imagined betrothal party of Mary and Joseph. The ukuleles, together with harmonica, tenor recorder and Robert on the autoharp, made it a true musical ensemble. The ukuleles proved popular with the group members and there are plans to continue learning these instruments as part of their church-linked activities.

The 'Children of Bethlehem and Nazareth' - Florence, Joe, Thomas Bundy, Matthew and Thomas and James Ellis - were particularly keen to take part and attended rehearsals regularly. They are really developing their dramatic skills and showing talent.

Some parts of the play were created and rehearsed by small groups. This gave the play its usual surprises and spontaneity.

The little ones were delightful, as always. Luke's solo, "I am just a tired little donkey," was very appealing. We are fortunate indeed that so many people are happy to take part and are beginning to contribute to the creation of our plays. The two shepherds created their own characters in the style of Morecambe and Wise, but while they gave their scene a light-hearted quality, they were also sincere. Their final message was "A great honour has been bestowed upon us."

A special word of thanks must go to Anthea France who played for us at rehearsals and on Christmas Eve.

To include everyone in our thank you list would be too lengthy. It was truly a community effort. Our grateful appreciation goes to everyone who helped in any way.

We hope everyone found something of the real meaning of Christmas in our play.

Enid and Derek Bailey

VALENTINE'S NIGHT

Valentine's Day will be celebrated prematurely - on the night of Saturday February 13th - with a fund-raising supper and dance at Firbeck Village Hall.

Letwell's Roger Brooks and his band - who kept revellers rocking at Letwell Village Hall till 1.30 in the morning on New Year's Eve - will provide the music. Members of the Roche Valley branch of the Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association will be serving a Valentine's supper.

Proceeds from the event will go to Rotherham Cancer Care and the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Tickets, priced £15, are available from Helen Taylor on 01709 816358.

RARE HEN HARRIER COMES TO VISIT

The local Mallard population is seriously under threat....but there's good news about other rare species as David Wright explains in the latest edition of his popular Nature Report.

Continuing with the theme of the disappearing Mallard population in Firbeck, we still have a handful of drakes, but possibly only one female. This is a real shame. If she manages to breed, she'll probably be unsuccessful because of harassment by the drakes. Let's hope the situation improves.

The Moorhen situation has improved. On New Year's Day we had a pair in our Firbeck garden. Unlike the previous Moorhen population, these birds are very, very shy. I've no idea why.

A great sighting by a local gamekeeper in early November was a female Hen Harrier in Firbeck and later on several occasions in the local area. This bird of prey is on the edge of extinction in the UK, so we're lucky to get them in our area. They're intensively and illegally persecuted because of grouse predation.

Males are pale grey; females are brown with a white rump and a long, barred tail which give them the nickname 'ringtail'. They fly with wings held in a shallow 'V', gliding low in search of food – mainly small birds and voles. In summer they breed on upland heather moors, but in winter they move to coastal and farmland areas.

Another bird of prey sighted – by me and at least one other local person – was a Rough Legged Buzzard – a scarce winter visitor from Europe. This species is best separated from the Common Buzzard by its habit of hanging in the air while searching for prey. It resembles the Harrier family in that respect. It is much paler than most Common Buzzards and has a black-tipped white tail.

Marsh Tits continue to visit feeders in at least one Firbeck garden, and a Barn Owl is often heard calling in Firbeck. We've the usual wintering population of Grey Lag Geese at Lingodell with one or two Cormorants regular visitors there. We've plenty of wintering Fieldfares, together with a smaller number of Redwings. A few Meadow Pipits can be found in the fields.

Rooks continue to do well, and I recently saw a flock of several thousand in a Firbeck field. Thousands of Wood Pigeons (many of them winter visitors from Europe) are feeding on the oil seed rape which is going to encircle Firbeck in a sea of yellow come Spring.

David Wright 01709 813360 davidandgwenneth@gmail.com



UNDER STARTERS ORDERS

Letwell Village Hall committee are organising a race night - where you can have a flutter and raise funds for the village hall in the process.

Details are still to be finalised, but a specialist has been recruited to help the event run smoothly on Saturday February 20th.

FRIENDS OF FIRBECK HALL

This is the time of year when our concern for Firbeck Hall is at its highest. Friends of Firbeck Hall came about when a group of us became very concerned about the severe damage to the interior of the Hall following the theft of virtually all the roof lead. Temporary roof repairs were carried out; - although the whole situation was further exacerbated by a fire in the roof-space caused by the workers who were repairing the roof!

Needless to say some 6 years (and 3 owners) later, with no further significant repairs, Firbeck Hall continues to deteriorate. Inevitably, it is now in a poorer condition than ever before - and with the worst of winter yet to come.

Rotherham Council (via their Planning Department and Conservation Officer) are responsible for ensuring that the owner maintains both the Hall and the stable-block to an appropriate standard in accordance with the requirements stipulated for Grade2 listed structures. In this respect we have always maintained regular contact with RMBC.

Our latest communication from last November was encouraging. It confirmed a fruitful meeting with the new owner Ashley Wildsmith at which the condition of the Hall and the proposed restoration and redevelopment of the site were discussed. They acknowledge extensive dilapidation inside the building and it has been apparent for some time that little is worth retaining. They consider that most of the interior will have to be gutted.

However, the main structure of both Hall and stable-block are considered to be perfectly sound and they are hopeful of an early start to the redevelopment.

RMBC carry out regular inspections of the site. We were informed that the next is due 'early in the New Year'.

*If you are interested in Firbeck Hall and wish to receive our regular Newsletter please join us. Subscription fee is only £1.00. Contact our Membership Secretary, telephone **01909 732191** or email [**friends@firbeckhall.net**](mailto:friends@firbeckhall.net). For more information visit our website at [**www.firbeckhall.net**](http://www.firbeckhall.net)*

CHRISTMAS ART

Letwell's bus shelter was decked out specially for Christmas - with a series of colourful festive paintings beautifully framed on the back wall.

The Art Group - which meets at the village hall each week - had worked tirelessly to produce a host of original Yule-tide images. Children playing in the snow and a snowman boasting a huge carrot for a nose featured prominently in the scene.

If you've passed by the bus shelter and not noticed the display then pop in and have a look.



The Art in the Bus Shelter

HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to all the children and parents who attended the Firbeck children's Halloween and Christmas parties. Both the children and parents had a wonderful time.

The Halloween party included lots of fun crafts and party games. A special thank you to Thomas Ellis for helping run the games and award the certificates, as well as Enid and Derek for judging the carved pumpkins.



The children were all very pleased and excited to see Santa at the Christmas party. The children must have been good this year as they all received a personal gift from Santa! Special mentions to Tia Parkes and Thomas Ellis for organising and setting up the games.

HERE'S THE BAD NEWS...

FLAG hates to be the bearer of bad news, but....the box containing charity donations from the sale of books in the phone box at Letwell was stolen just after New Year. Some numpty has also been deliberately removing music posters from the notice board at both Letwell and Firbeck in recent weeks. Why?

Meanwhile, Darren Straw and his partner Grace Marsh are absolutely fed up of irresponsible dog owners, who seem to think they don't have to clear up after their pets. The couple say the footpath and verges near their home on New Road are such a disgrace they're thinking of leafleting the whole village at their own expense!

What a shame that it should come to this....

TWO HOUSES INTO ONE

Paul Smith has turned two old Airey houses into one new detached house in Letwell. Here Paul continues with his story - and tells how DIY drove the project on.

I found it a little difficult to give the demolition company the go ahead, it was like this was getting real! But I did it, and after about a week there were two houses less in Letwell. The next two weeks were spent digging big holes and pouring money into them, but again it needed to be done as the timber frame was due.

The timber frame was delivered on time, and fully erected within two weeks. This is fantastic for many reasons, but there is one problem, it lulls you into a false sense of timing. Yes I knew the rest of the house would take longer, but I couldn't quite understand why it was taking me the same amount of time to fit the rigid floor insulation and membrane as it did the pro's to build our frame! Little did I know that jobs that took me only two weeks were going to be a nice change.

As soon as the frame was complete, the brickies moved in to do their thing, which I am pleased to say they did very well with the beautiful limestone we had bought. The roof went on as soon as it could, and we were pleased with the overall look of the house.

As of writing I have just about finished plaster boarding, it seems to have taken me months of work, but this was broken up by other jobs, most of them boring and very time consuming. But as I didn't want to, or have the funds to pay others, I had to do it myself.

So to briefly conclude, the time spent between these two little notes, has been spent grafting pretty much non stop at the house, doing lots of jobs you don't really think of when you embark on the project. I have today been painting a few of the rooms that have been skimmed so it finally feels like we are approaching the end. However, I have been lulled into this before!

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Carol singing was a lot of fun as usual - and the weather was unusually mild as the teams toured from door to door in Letwell on December 21st and Firbeck on Christmas Eve.

Keith Martin and his long-time friend Glyn Swanson serenaded both villages on melodeon and guitar. The Letwell choir earned £108 with the proceeds going to St. Peter's Church and the Salvation Army.

The Firbeck choir - with children from the village adding to the numbers along with two very young babies - raised a very creditable £210, which included donations which came in after the event. The cash went to the Shiloh drop-in centre for the homeless in Rotherham.

21ST CENTURY ARRIVES IN LETWELL

Letwell has moved into the 21st Century - eventually - with a village website now available if you pop letwellvillage.org into your laptop/Ipad or computer.

The site carries parish council minutes, dates of forthcoming events and music as well as information about the village fayre. Anyone wanting to post details can do so via the techno-wizz (hee! hee!) parish clerk.

ENTERTAINMENT IN FIRBECK - TAKEN TO EXTREMES!



The Buss Pass Buskers

invite the band to play for us again.

Now for the other extreme - In December we enjoyed a Christmas 'Bring and Share' supper and were entertained by 'The Buss Pass Buskers'. The clue to their stage in life is in the name! Between songs the group kept up an amusing banter about living in a fictional retirement home, 'Aspirin Hall'.

Unfortunately two of the band were suffering with seasonal colds but, despite needing to dose themselves with Beecham's Powders during the evening, still managed to keep smiling. Their repertoire was made up of old favourites, which we oldies could all sing along to.

There was a delicious selection of food to choose from and the standard was outstanding as usual. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



WATCH OUT FOR THE RED MONDEO

Night-time thieves have been busy at Letwell - breaking into the newly-constructed detached house on Gildingwells Road, and casing properties at the rear of North Farm.

A red X reg Ford Mondeo was spotted parked up near the scene of the crime, but the milkman, who was delivering in the early hours, didn't manage to get the reg number. A collection of tools was stolen from the unoccupied house.

One householder told FLAG: "I heard a noise at the back of the house and switched on the security lights at around 12.40 am, and I noticed the red car parked on Ramper Road.

"The car set off soon afterwards, and the milkman then saw the same vehicle outside the new house."

STARS HEAD FOR LETWELL

Audiences have been blessed with a fantastic array of musical talent at Letwell in recent years - but there's better things to come in the next few months.

The spring programme begins on Wednesday March 9th with the visit of Britain's No 1 folk-rock



Kiki and Carmello

partnership Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman - winners of the Best Duo award at the highly-prized BBC Radio Two Folk awards. Their live performances are the stuff of legend - mixing rocky-tinged original music with great classic numbers.

Their recent album *Tomorrow Will Follow* was acclaimed as one of the most outstanding releases of 2015 winning rave reviews from media outlets as far ranging as the Daily Telegraph and The Mirror. The music critic at The Sun summed up the album in a few short words: "This is pure very English folk at its very best...." Acoustic Magazine said: "These guys are something very special..."

Barnsley lass Kathryn started her career forging a partnership with the pit town's most famous songbird Kate Rusby. Sean, the brother of chart topping performer Seth, was raised on Dartmoor, and has played the guitar since the age of six.

A major figure in the recording studio and on stage, Sean has produced albums for some of the biggest names in British folk rock, including Billy Bragg, Imelda May, Bellowhead and Frank Turner.

Tickets, priced £12, are available from Martyn and Andy on 01909 731626 or 540694 - but don't wait too long!

Undoubtedly Letwell's biggest star guest visits the village on Friday night April 22nd.

Kiki Dee, remembered by just about everyone for her world-wide No 1 with Elton John *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*, and her follow up hits *I Got the Music in Me* and later *Amoureuse*, appears alongside her long-time musical partner - guitarist Carmelo Luggeri.

Kiki - the first British girl to sign with the Tamla label in the US - started touring with Carmelo 20 years ago, and the pair have wowed audiences with their spellbinding acoustic live show across the UK and Europe ever since. Performing in this stripped back fashion allows each of their exceptional talents to shine through and create a wonderful and warm sense of intimacy for the audience.

2013 marked Kiki's 50th year in the music industry and has cemented her status as one of the UK's finest and most revered vocalists. To celebrate, the duo released their critically acclaimed album *"A Place Where I Can Go"* which features 11 new tracks including the haunting duet *"Horses"* with Scottish singer Eddi Reader.

Join Kiki and Carmelo for an acoustic journey of stories and song which include unique covers of songs by artists such as Kate Bush and Frank Sinatra and of course Kiki's own hits *"Don't Go Breaking My Heart"*, *"I Got The Music In Me"* and the stunning *"Amoureuse"*.

Limited tickets for this exceptional show are priced £24, and will go on sale on February 1st from the usual numbers listed above.

FIRBECK VILLAGE HALL 2016 PROGRAMME STARTS HERE

After a very enjoyable programme in 2015 plans are afoot to start the New Year with some great events open to all friends and family of the FLAG readership.

February 20th sees the return of the popular Winterfest with The Hallam Sinfonia returning for a third year. Firbeck is very lucky to have Hallam Sinfonia who normally appear as a full orchestra but seem to have a fondness for our little village and return year on year with a small chamber orchestra. The event will again be set within the ambiance of St Martin's Church with a donation from the ticket sales going to the upkeep of the Church.

Although the programme for the 45 minute concert is not yet finalised we have been told that the Sinfonia are planning to play Vivaldi's concerto for 2 trumpets. Joy Paul (Hon. Secretary of the Hallam Sinfonia) says "Our trumpeters are very excited about this and looking forward to filling your lovely church with sound!" There will be a supper with dessert to follow in the Black Lion all included in the ticket price of £10. Concert only tickets are also available for £5.

February will also bring another night in front of the big screen on Saturday 27th at 7pm with "Cinema Paradiso" our bi-monthly film night. In order to celebrate the release of a new Dad's Army film we will be showing three of our favourite episodes from the original series. As ever this event will be totally free and a children's film will be shown in the afternoon.

On Friday 18th March Miranda Sykes & Rex Preston will stop off at Firbeck Village Hall as part of their "The Watchmaker's Wife Tour". This follows on the back of the great success of a fabulous folk gig put on last year by Nick Wilson in which we saw Steve Knightley perform a very heartfelt show to a full crowd.

Details for all can be found on firbeckonline.co.uk or from Jody 0782 558 7323.

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

As we walked to church for the Nativity play at St Martin's Church we were welcomed by a sound that had not been heard in the village in a long time. For the first time in many years the church's tubular bells were being rung to the tunes of well-loved carols. This was all thanks to Christine Martin, Keith Martin and Alan Simpson, who had spent many hours over some months bringing the bells back into use.

Commissioning the bells was no mean feat and involved many trips up and down the vertical ladders to the church tower to remove copious amounts of debris from the bell-tower floor before work could begin in earnest on releasing the bells which had ceased to function through lack of use. By painstaking efforts and not a little ingenuity in restoring the mechanisms, the bells are now fully functional and will be heard at church service in future.

The sound of the restored bells acted as a perfect introduction to Christmastide and a cheerful backdrop to the well-attended services. The candle-lit midnight service attracted a good congregation of nearly 50 and was officiated by Canon David Equeall, from Dinnington, to whom sincere and grateful thanks are extended.

Alan Tolhurst