

# WELCOME to FLAMSTEAD 2001

*An introduction to the village and a  
directory of its facilities*

*This is the result of co operation between Flamstead Parish Council  
and St. Leonard's Parochial Church Council, both of which are  
grateful to Eric Edwards for his historical and descriptive work  
and for setting out the detail*

*Flamstead Parish Council, St. Leonard's Parochial Church Council and  
Eric Edwards disclaim responsibility for any claims arising from the use of any services listed in this  
booklet*

Flamstead is a small village tucked away just off the A5 Trunk road, so that much of the bustle of the modern world passes it by, but that is not to say that it is a sleepy place, far from it, as the list of clubs and societies, institutions and services that follows will show.

It is the sort of place where everybody used to know everybody. It is not quite like that today because of the pace at which people now move house, but this pamphlet is intended to enable those new residents who desire to feel part of the community quickly, to achieve that aim. Belonging is a two – way process. Flamstead would like you to feel that you belong by providing the information that will enable you to take part in all that is going on.

Ours is a very small community, only 1399 of us at the 1991 Census. Of that number there are about 1,100 adults and 299 children so that educational facilities are of vital concern and receive due prominence here. Communications are excellent, with the A5, M1, M25 and London Luton Airport close by. Public Transport is not quite so good but there is a reasonable bus service to adjacent towns and easy access to excellent train services at Harpenden, Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans and Watford.

The centre of the village is 480 feet above sea level. It is a particularly dry place as evidenced by the usually empty ditch that follows the Watling Street in the valley bottom at Friars Wash. This is the river Ver, sometime victim of over-extraction of water at Friars Wash pumping station and a succession of drought years. Thirty years ago this was a particularly attractive part of the parish with a pond and watercress beds behind the old Chequers Public House. The Parish council, as part of its millennium project, arranged for this area to be returned to something approaching its former condition.

The only industry in the village is to be seen grouped around the Chequers Hill/A5/Old Watling Street road junction.

We have two shops, Flamstead Farm Meats, which sells fruit, vegetables and bread in addition to the usual butchers products, and the Village Store and Post Office. There are four pubs, the Rose & Crown, the Spotted Dog, the Three Blackbirds and the Waggon & Horses. There are two hotels, the Hertfordshire Moat House (which has a health & fitness club) and the Holiday Inn with its adjacent “Harvester” at Friars Wash - Junction 9 of the M1 motorway, as well as a “Little Chef” restaurant between the two. The nearby Shell filling station has a shop for ‘out of hours’ purchases up to 10pm.

Flamstead is a very ancient community with a documented history going back nearly a thousand years. There was no doubt a settlement here in Roman times and before, but the first record of the village does not appear until the year 1006 when it is mentioned in a Charter granted by King Ethelred to the Abbot of St Albans. The Domesday Book record appearing eighty years later shows it as being held by Ralph de Todenii having been granted to his father, Roger, for services rendered to William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. The de Todenii family were Lords of the Manor for a total of 244 years. In 1298, the last of the line, Robert, was granted permission to hold a market in Flamstead every Thursday and a fair for five days annually at the Feast of St Leonard which shows that at that time it was considered to be a place of some importance. The Church of St Leonard is the focal point of the village and a beautiful old building it is. Precise dating is impossible because it developed in stages, but in general terms it can be said that there was a place of worship on the site in Saxon times, that the earliest part of the present structure, the tower, dates from 1140 and that there can be found in the Church a list of parish priests dating back to 1223. There is a lot to see and admire both inside and outside St Leonard’s and visitors are particularly recommended to note the Medieval wall paintings and the Saunders Memorial of 1670.

There are many other buildings of importance within the parish, chief of which must be the mansion at Beechwood. Today it is a preparatory school, but the first recorded building on the site was the little nunnery of St Giles-in-the-Wood, founded about 1120 and dissolved by Henry VIII in 1537. Also of considerable interest are the Almshouses opposite the Three Blackbirds, which are dated 1669 and the Three Blackbirds pub itself, the western wing of which is sixteenth century. And so to the directory of who to contact about the things that interest you:

## **AEROBICS**

Classes in the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings from 8.15pm to 9.15pm

Contact : Karon 840831

## **BEAVERS**

Contact : Carolyn Reynolds 793371

## **BOWLS**

The Over Fifties Recreation Club at the Village Hall every Monday 2pm to 4pm. Short mat.

Contact: Joan & Ted Alford 841379

## **BROWNIES**

Contact : Helen Bell 840865

## **CHEMISTS**

There are excellent chemists in Markyate and Redbourn and for those without transport Flamstead Farm Meats will accept doctor's prescriptions after Tuesday surgery, have them made up, and hold the goods for collection.

## **CARE GROUP**

Markyate and Flamstead care Group runs a service for the two villages designed to help those who are in need of transport for visits to doctors, hospitals and clinics. They mostly use private cars for this, but have a minibus, which is also available for hire for recreational purposes. They are always in need of volunteers as drivers and organisers.

Contact: Penny Copleston 841242

## **CRICKET CLUB**

Contact: Kevin Moore 592974

## **CUBS**

Contact: Mrs J.Baldry 841950

## **EDUCATION Pre School Play Group**

Meets at the Village Hall 9am to 11.55am on weekdays during term time. Its aim is to enable children from 2 ½ years to have fun, make friends, develop and learn through play.

Contact : Mrs C.Gibson 840922

## **Flamstead JMI School**

Caters for girls and boys 'rising four' to eleven. It has four full-time classes and one part-time class (for the nursery). It is proud to proclaim its excellent facilities; five classrooms, library, playing field, hard play area, swimming pool (every child learns to swim), environmental area and of course the provision of School Meals. The latest report of HM Inspectors received wide publicity because of the high standards achieved by the children, their excellent behaviour and the good teaching. The school day is from 8.50am to 3.15pm and great emphasis is placed upon punctuality.

Headmistress: Mrs Heather Thornton 840385

Address: Trowley Hill Road, Flamstead

### **Parent Teachers Association**

Contact: Mrs K.Shipton 840831

Seniors, that is children over eleven years of age, are taken in a fleet of buses each day to schools in adjacent towns, mostly St Albans and Harpenden these days.

### **Beechwood Park School,**

Situated in beautiful surroundings near the western boundary of the Parish, is a thriving co-educational private preparatory school catering for children between the ages of five and thirteen years, with around 320 day and boarding pupils.

Headmaster Mr McPherson 840333

### **FLAMSTEAD SOCIETY**

Formed in 1965 to foster all aspects on village life, wildlife, footpaths, history and Town & Country Planning. There are only three or four meetings a year and the subscription is £1 per family per annum. Occasionally an exhibition is held in the Village Hall and visits are arranged to places of interest. The society is a founder member of Dacorum Heritage Trust and has a number of local artefacts and records held at the Berkhamsted Store. Publications to date are:

Flamstead Footpaths 1992:

Friars Wash Point-to-Point Races 1996

A New History of Flamstead 1999

**Contact :** Andrew Harris (Secretary) 840598

### **FOOTBALL**

Junior Football

Contact : Mrs F.Woulds 840760

Soccer Club

Contact : Mr C.Hayward 841213

### **FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S**

The fabric of the Church is constantly in need of extensive and costly attention at a time when congregations are small and declining and the Diocese has low reserves. On the other hand the Church and its Churchyard are assets admired and used by us all, not just by those who worship regularly there. The 'Friends' is a charity set up to raise funds for restoration from the entire community. It organises a series of highly successful events throughout the year, including the annual Fete. A high proportion of the people of Flamstead support it by annual subscription and by attending the events.

Contact : Julian Taunton 841338

### **GARDENING**

Flamstead Gardens Association has the great and commendable aim of encouraging everybody in Flamstead to grow their own flowers, fruit and vegetables. To this end they run the plot of allotments in Singlets Lane, sell garden supplies at very reasonable prices from their hut in River Hill, run an annual show each September and a 'Front of House Competition' each summer. Annual subscription £1.

Contact : Peter Lutman 840691

### **GIRL GUIDES**

Contact: Jeni Bowman 840339

## **GOVERNMENT - National & Local**

Member of Parliament for the Hemel Hempstead constituency

Contact : Tony Mc Walter 01442 251251

Representative for the Bridgewater Division of Hertfordshire County Council:

Julian Taunton 841338

Education, Social Services, Highways, Fire & Rescue, Strategic Planning, Transport Strategy, Environmental Management, Libraries, Arts & Museums and Trading Standards  
Representatives for the Watling Ward of Dacorum Borough Council:

Bert Chapman 841873

Markyate specialist

Julian Taunton 841338

Flamstead specialist

Council Housing, Leisure facilities, Environmental Health, Refuse Collection, Planning Applications, Markets and Meals-on-Wheels.

Flamstead Parish Council:

Chairman : Malcolm Wright 842778

Clerk : Sue Draper 840481

Street Lighting, Recreation Ground, Bus Shelters and Footpaths (not pavements). Shares the Village Warden with Markyate and acts as a sounding board for village opinion.

## **HEALTH**

Dentists to be found in Markyate and Redbourn (see yellow pages).

### **Doctor's surgeries:**

Markyate 840288

Redbourn 792356

There is a surgery (from the Redbourn practice) in Flamstead Village Hall every Tuesday from 2pm to 3pm. No appointments necessary.

### **Hospitals:**

Harpenden Memorial Hospital

Harpenden BUPA Hospital.

Luton & Dunstable (adjacent to J11 of M1) has accident & emergency

St Albans City Hospital (Normandy Road) minor injuries only

West Herts Hospital (Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead) has accident and emergency

## **LIBRARY**

The Harpenden Mobile Library visits Flamstead every Tuesday, parking in Priory Orchard from 10.20am to 11.15am and outside Flamstead School from from 11.20am to 12.30pm. In addition, on alternate Tuesdays, it visits Old Watling Street from 9.45am to 10.10am and the Rose & Crown car park at Trowley Bottom from 12.35pm to 12.45pm

### **MAGAZINE - "CHURCH & VILLAGE NEWS"**

Published at the beginning of each month by St Leonard's Church. Price 30p. or if delivered to your door on annual subscription includes a free copy of "Hertfordshire Countryside".

Editor: Jean King 841648  
Orders & Distribution: Chris Cadman 840175

### **METHODIST CHURCH**

Trowley Hill Methodist Church has Sunday Worship and Sunday School at 10.30 each week. Other meetings include coffee mornings 10.30 to 12 noon on Tuesdays and Ladies' Meetings on alternate Wednesdays from 2.30 to 3.30pm.

Contact : Hilda Flitton 841798

### **PENSIONERS LUNCHESES**

The Flamstead Lunch Club meets every Wednesday at the Village Hall from 12.30 to 1.30pm. It is just as much a social occasion as a chance to have a good meal at a very reasonable price. The charge is £1.25 for the food and 10p for the drink. There are currently 27 members.

Contact: Dorothy Strachan 840708

### **POLICE**

We have a Community Police Officer, Chris Owen, but we no longer have a resident policeman and in an emergency the 999 call should be used.

### **RAINBOWS**

A pre-Guides and Brownies group, meets at 5.30 pm on Thursdays at Flamstead Methodist Church, catering for girls between 5 and 7 years old.

Contact : Diane Stebbings 840129

### **RIDING**

Flamstead & District Pony Club is a thriving club open to girls and boys aged 5 to 20, living in the Flamstead area. It aims to promote the enjoyment of riding and looking after horses. It holds rallies and a summer camp, when members are instructed in riding and stable management. The philosophy of the Pony Club is to concentrate effort on taking part and not only on winning! All members are encouraged to participate.

Contact: Margaret Marshall 01442 864303

### **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The nearest church is St John Fisher at Redbourn where there is a Vigil Mass at 6.30pm each Saturday and a mass each Sunday between 10.15am and 6.30pm.

Contact :  
Fr Thomas Stanley 792270

## **RUBBISH**

Black sacks are provided by Dacorum Borough Council to contain household waste. They are collected early each Monday morning from your dustbin and should be 'knotted' at the top beforehand. In addition, and separately, DBC provides plastic bins for the collection of paper, tins and plastics. These are collected on alternate Mondays and must be left at the front gate. There are bottle and can banks in the corner of the Recreation Ground Car Park, but please do not leave waste of any sort outside the bins. Two or three times a year, when there is a demand for it, DBC park a rubbish lorry in the Village on a Saturday morning, for those larger and heavier items that are not suitable for the dustbin. They are often prepared to collect such items from your house, if you ring 01442 228666.

## **ST LEONARD'S CHURCH**

On Sundays a Low Mass is held at 8.00am and a Sung Mass at 9.30am. There is a "Family Worship" service at 11am on the first Sunday of each month. On Friday a Low Mass (Rite 'A') is celebrated at 10am. Home Communion is available on request.

Contact: Priest-in-Charge - Vacant  
Assistant Priest – The Revd. George King 841648  
Churchwardens, Jean King 841648  
Julian Taunton 841338

## **SAVE THE CHILDREN**

Markyate & District Branch of the Save the Children Fund run fund raising events in both villages and have a proud record of achievement.

Contact: Mrs D.Bouscarle 840322

## **SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

Flamstead Sports Association caters for all the sporting activities of the village, which include basketball, cricket, football, netball, pool and tennis. There is also a children's play area. The Parish Council has entrusted them with the day to day maintenance of the Recreation Ground for this purpose and granted them a lease of the Pavilion (which the Sports Association built in any case) from which they run a club with licensed bar.

Contact : Mr P.Baldry 841950

## **TABLE TENNIS**

Flamstead Table Tennis & Social Club invite members from 18 to 80 to relax, meet friends and enjoy a social evening each Tuesday at 8.15pm from September to June. Their other activities have included quiz nights, car rally, dinner dance, ten pin bowling, theatre trips and greyhound racing. There is also a junior section.

Contact: Jack 840121  
Lorraine 840101

## **VILLAGE HALL**

This is maintained as an independent charity for the benefit of the village and run by a management committee. It is available for hire on a casual or regular basis at reasonable fees.

Bookings : Mrs S. Thompson 841767

## **WALKING**

Within the parish there are fifty-five public footpaths and bridleways varying in length from a hundred feet, to over a mile. **The Parish Council** is keen to encourage residents and visitors to use them. **The Flamstead Society** walks booklet is now out of print, but they have produced a file describing four of the best, which is available for £1.

### **WOMENS INSTITUTE**

Flamstead and Trowley Womens Institute is an educational charity for ladies of all ages. Regular meetings are at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of each month, but there are many extra activities of all sorts and the opportunity to enjoy the excellent facilities of Denman College in Oxfordshire. New members will receive a warm welcome.

Contact: Delia Ramage 417317

### **YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL**

Is made up of young people aged from 11 to 18. It meets monthly, liaises with Flamstead Parish Council through Malcolm Wright and with other Y.P.Cs to promote youth perspectives and needs.

Contact: Eleanor Reyland 840121

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