



One season ends ... now enter the playing staff!

The months of indoor entertaining and fund raising now give way to the season of outdoor entertaining and run raising following the Vice Presidents' Lunch at Pavenham Village Hall on Sunday 18th April.

It's been a superb winter of well attended events that included Halloween Night, Race Night, Valentine's Brunch and VP Lunch.

We thank you all for your company and contributions to some marvellous occasions.

Our guest speaker at The Lunch, Alistair Burt MP (a politician not allowed to talk politics because of The Election – what joy!) gave us a wonderfully entertaining speech about his own sporting life, sprinkled with some very entertaining reminiscences about his occasional encounters with Mrs Thatcher.

Now that we all know of his hidden life as a London Marathon Pink Elephant, we are in total awe of Eve Burt and the terrible strain of having to live with such a secret.

There were two wonderful little nuggets in Alistair's homily which I'd particularly like to share with you.

The first was that he never seems to spend longer than a couple of minutes at the crease when gets a chance to play cricket. We understand that level of skill at Pavenham & Felmersham Cricket Club and it may not be long before we grant him an Honorary Membership. He's clearly One Of Us!

The second was his observation that this Lunch showed just how much drive there still is for communities to run and grow themselves successfully – and he was spot on. I pinch myself to be so privileged as to belong to this one.

Thank you, Mr and Mrs Burt for your involvement and your comments.

Of course, it's impossible to run so many events without the odd blip so I list some (completely unattributed) issues with a weak attempt at explanation and a massive blanket apology to any and all if we fell short in any way.

- The VP Lunch experiment at "al dente" carrots pleased many but not all
 - We'll do some "al denture" next year
- A few would have preferred the beef to be well done
 - We'll make sure there's some of that available in 2011
- "Gosh, there's too much meat on my plate – I'll never eat all of it"
 - We'll certainly provide doggie bags next year – shame to waste anything!

- Halloween was a bit too frightening
 - Sorry. Some people left their masks off – it won't happen again.
- I'm not sure gambling should be allowed at The Race Night in a village hall.
 - I can assure you that was NOT gambling. Gambling means you have some chance of winning!
- I thought you said you were providing "Fine Wines"?
 - Depends on your viewpoint. We also provide "Quality Cricket"!
- We had to wait a bit long between courses.
 - Not problems with the chefs but our waiting staff are getting on a bit.
- "What a top quality and excellent value lunch – you'll never better that, will you?"
 - Tickets for next year will be on sale at the turn of the year!!

So, onwards and upwards into the rarefied atmosphere of village summer cricket but not without one big, big named Thank You.

Little or none of this year's social successes (or of many other years, come to that) could possibly have been achieved without the time, dedication, effort and cajoling of Mike Wagstaff.

This is a fellow who gives his all and gets many others to do likewise.

We might not show it very often but we are immensely grateful for everything he does. Thank you Michael.

Don't forget our first home match of the season, especially if you've booked an exotic holiday that gets blown out by The Volcano. We can provide a great alternative here at Pavenham & Felmersham against Luton Caribbeans.

It'll be almost like being there (Luton that is!).

May you all have a great Spring and Summer and please do visit us on match days to share the company (which is more than just convivial), the refreshments (as good as any in Bedfordshire) and, of course, the cricket (which is ... an education!).

Tony Lockwood.