

Part 2

Kettle & Fish



Kettle & Fish continues to attract a large number of visitors to St Peter's week by week. Many of them are regulars, who are often teasingly indignant when we are unable to open but who are always a pleasure to entertain! It is also a delight to welcome visitors, local and from abroad, and to have the opportunity to explain the significance of the two parts of our name – often a good entry into a conversation about church and Christian things.

The number of young mums, and a few dads, coming with their children has increased during the year, fulfilling a great desire that we have cherished of discovering ways of reaching that generation with a Christian message. During the year a number of other organisations asked if they could join us for a particular Thursday – we rather smugly feel that this is because they realise our popularity with so many people. We were also asked to provide refreshments for other events, which we were happy to do – but we are not to become simply a catering outfit.

The '*fish*' aspect of our ministry has been revamped, making it more prominent and hopefully more user-friendly (prayer-friendly). A special thanks to Eleanor who keeps that area fresh and relevant. And another special thanks to Judith for the immense amount of work she does week by week organising supplies by shopping, ordering rolls, etc and preparing fillings before we even get to Thursday morning. The benefits of actually helping at *Kettle & Fish* may be appreciated in at least two ways – firstly its very existence allows a large number of folk to engage in Christian ministry who might find it difficult to do so otherwise, and secondly, 'little things' that are done or said during the sessions may have a much greater impact in Christian terms than we realise at the time.

And finally a big thanks to all the helpers, whether engaged in setting up or putting away, serving food or listening – you're great!

Malcolm Offord

Sudbury WATCH!

(Working and Acting Together for a Community Hospital!)

As most people already know, Sudbury WATCH! (SW) has championed the Church Field Road (CFR) site all along, so SW was rather disappointed when three years ago the Primary Care Trust (PCT) plumped for Walnuttree as the "most suitable" site for the new health facility. This seemed a particularly odd decision as the previous PCT had proposed building a new hospital at CFR in 2005.

Given that at Walnuttree

- a) the access road is narrow and cannot be altered,
- b) they would have had to keep Walnuttree open to out-patients while building a new facility on site, remove asbestos from the old building and partially demolish it,
- c) planning consent would require extensive archaeological investigations and lastly
- d) all the above would be taking place while moving heavy plant on and off site,

this never seemed a viable proposition at all.

The turning point was that the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) insisted that the PCT must get a statement from Babergh District Council (BDC) Planning on both proposals as the Walnuttree site only beat CFR by a very small margin in criteria assessment, before they would sign off the Outline Business Case (OBC)

This the PCT did and the letter from BDC's senior planning officer was very interesting. Whilst only an opinion, it did indicate that access to Walnuttree might well be a problem and that there would probably be a major

archaeological dig requested by SCC given the site's long history. Crucially, the officer said that if anything was discovered from Simon of Sudbury's College from around 1647 it would have to stay in situ and not be removed.

This undoubtedly would cause major hold ups and possibly even a re-design of the site – potentially yet more delay for improving our local health facility!

The letter seemed to imply, without being definitive, that from a planning point of view the CFR site (especially as it has had outline planning permission for health use in the past) was a better bet. The CFR site would also need archaeological investigation (there are the remains of an Iron Age settlement lower down in the field), but it was more likely that anything found would be taken away to Ipswich museum.

All of this then concentrated the PCT's collective mind and a couple of months ago they suddenly proposed that they would reconvene the original committee to take another look at the sites. SW was invited to represent the local community. It was clear the tide had turned in favour of CFR, in fact so much so that some of those who had voted for Walnuttree previously could not understand why they had done so!

As to the amount of time this whole process has taken, both to clarify the site issues and to get the OBC approved, SW has made its views on that known to the PCT's Chief Executive.

With regards to the eight residential beds proposed at Hazel Court and the four nursing home beds at Risby, perhaps SW can clarify the situation there also as PCT publicity does not seem to have got the relevant points across.

To the PCT's credit they invited SW as a community representative to be part of the committee viewing potential homes for these beds and involved it fully in the contract negotiations. The committee were unanimous in selecting Hazel Court as the preferred facility, for all the best reasons, and a contract was successfully negotiated with The Partnership in Care (TPIC) operating company.

An agreement is in place for the 8 residential beds in Hazel Court as they become available (two are already occupied at present) and for the 4 nursing home beds to be in Sudbury as soon as possible (6 months to a year).

Temporarily the nursing home beds remain at Risby Hall (also owned by TPIC, and three beds already occupied at present) while a) Hazel Court obtains a nursing home licence (separately required from a residential home one) and b) gets planning permission for and builds a new extension to accommodate nursing home beds separately from the rest of the building. Plans of this extension (which SW thinks contain 12 individual bedrooms) are already in existence and will go for planning approval shortly.

SW felt the delay in getting the nursing home beds in Sudbury was worth it considering the likely quality of the end result and SW will do its best to monitor the situation to make sure that it all comes to completion.

The beds at Walnuttree are now being phased out as they become free and will not be re-occupied. While there will undoubtedly be many who will regret the passing of the Walnuttree beds, it does free up the nurses now to take part fully in the community teams that are going out to look after people in their own homes, as part of the Intermediate Care service (the Independent Review Panel (IRP) unfortunately supported this). Out-patients facilities (and X-Ray at St. Leonards) will remain in place at Walnuttree however until the new health facility at CFR is operational.

Additionally the basement at Hazel Court has been altered, re-decorated and given over to treatment rooms so that specialist NHS community nurses and physiotherapist can provide on going rehabilitation to NHS patients just as they did at Walnuttree.

I hope that all this information is useful for the members of Churches Together in Sudbury & District and brings everyone right up to date. I thank my colleagues on SW for their past efforts and I can assure you that SW will continue to work assiduously to get the best health facilities possible for all people in the whole of the Sudbury area.

Richard Titford, September 2010