



# newsletter



The scene at lunch on Saturday April 13, the first gathering at the new site.

## Taking our leave

Well, we made it, only a few days after the official deadline and after the coldest March for many years. It took three skips, various tractors, trailers and other machinery and the invaluable help of Ben and the contractors. To summarise the final stages:

**Wednesday 20 March:** Three men and a dog, with JCB and trailer, came to dismantle and take away the pavilion. The solid construction soon became apparent (remember that the A in NIAE stood for Agricultural).



Raising the roof.

They managed it with some assistance (and without breaking any of the windows), but there was plenty of rubbish left, not to mention the seven concrete beams that were revealed once the floor was taken up. More bits and pieces were taken to the new site.



The pavilion as a flat-pack.

**Thursday 21 March:** All the rubbish was arranged into tidy piles and the area was taped off, as it wasn't going to be possible to clear the site before the weekend. One of the beams was dug out to establish what we might be up against.



The supporting beams, seeing the light of day after forty years or so.

**Monday 25 March:** Two 4yd skips arrived and were filled with the remains of the roof and other rubbish, including the cupboard units.



**Wednesday 27 March:** Ben and one of the other contractors came and broke up the beams and added them to the skips. They also demolished the groundsman's hut and took it away to the dumping ground beyond the new lawns intending to burn it, and arranged to borrow the farmer's vehicle to move the changing room later that afternoon. Final transfer of items to the new site.

EH then vetoed the plan for burning the shed (creosote fumes), and the farmer pointed out that the forks on his vehicle weren't long enough. Oh dear.

**Thursday 28 March:** The two full skips were removed and a third delivered to the new site for the remains of the groundsman's hut. Plans were put in place to order straps to lift the changing room, either with the farmer's vehicle or with the JCB used to take away the pavilion.

**Tuesday 2 April:** Ben returned with the farmer and managed to shift the changing room without the need for extra straps. All the remaining paving slabs were loaded onto pallets and moved to the new site. The old site was later rotavated and seeded (see next page).

## Dates for 2013

### April

20-21 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

### May

26-27 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

### June

15 Silsoe Lower School event\*

16 Club GC singles tournament

22 CA GC B level tournament

26 Kempston Rotary (eve) – John Martin

### July

5-7 CA AC Advanced tournament

21 Club GC doubles tournament

### August

3-4 CA AC Advanced tournament

25-26 Lawns closed for play (EH event access)

### September

13-15 CA AC Handicap tournament

\*All I know about this is that there will be loads of children and adults present. They will not be using the lawns but they will be using the pavilion.

- Anyone organising home matches, group visits or any other events must let me know the proposed dates as soon as possible so they can be included in the calendar in the pavilion and on the website. Please provide approximate start/finish times and the number of lawns required. The fact that there will be fewer lawns available means there may be occasions when they are fully booked. Although we will always try and keep a lawn free for casual play this cannot be guaranteed, particularly when a CA tournament is scheduled.

## Social on 13 April

This could be said to have been the official opening of the new site and the baptism of the new lawns. Lawns slightly smaller than full-size (using a six rather than a seven yard grid) were marked out and hoops and pegs inserted. At least a dozen members turned up and braved the chill wind to play GC and AC before retiring

to the pavilion for lunch. Several returned to the lawns for more play, but not long afterwards the rain arrived.



*David Woolley and David Marsh in play on the new lawns.*

Later on representatives from the cricket club and the various football clubs arrived to pack up and store goalposts and nets, and take away various items of redundant furniture. More was removed the following day, including two vintage folding stretchers. Jon Horsler, chairman of Silsoe Park Rangers FC, commented that it was something like 27 years since the pavilion had had such a clearout.

## Strait is the gate



*A reminder of times gone by – the gate leading out of the Clock Tower Yard.*



*"At the termination of this Licence (however brought about) to leave the Premises clean and tidy and remove all property."*



*The view from the roof of the container looking out across the new site. Note the transplanted changing room next to the pavilion.*

**John Bevington**

**15 April 2013**