



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 5

May 1998



## Editorial

The Festival edition of the *Crier*! The programme circulated with last month's edition listed and described all the events but, as a reminder, these include: the Village Feast; art exhibitions in St Cyriac's; concerts; flower festivals in the Church and Chapel; volleyball; our own Any Questions; a Karaoke night in the Pub; line dancing; lectures, talks and films; and open gardens and cream teas. Few towns, let alone villages, could offer such an impressive and wide-ranging list of events and, as the organisers hope, there should be "at least one event in this programme which will appeal to, and be enjoyed by, every resident in Swaffham Prior". It's there for all of us to enjoy!

As well as this, there are currently a number of issues of concern to the village which are represented in the pages of this month's *Crier*. The problem of speeding cars in the Village is high on the agenda again this month, and the point is rightly made in a letter that this problem is not restricted to the High Street and Lower End but is at least as serious in the 40mph limit on Mill Hill. The Parish Council have now set up a committee (see page 2) to gather opinion and investigate possible remedies.

Dencora's plans for the development of Lower End field are again a live issue and have been discussed by the Parish Council. This discussion is covered in a special article by Alastair Everitt on page 23. There is sufficient concern in the Village about the proposed development that it now seems likely that there will be an opportunity for open discussion at the Annual Village Assembly on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

We are in danger of losing two village institutions: the Post Office and the Beaver Scout colony. Temporary arrangements have been made for the Post Office to be housed first in the Chapel and then in the Village Hall but these will end in mid July. If no permanent solution has been found by then we will have no Post Office. The Beaver colony needs two new leaders or it will not be able to reopen after the summer holidays. They badly need volunteers. Details of both on pages 6 and 7.

Lastly, on a much happier note, this month sees the reopening of the Village Hall. It's going to have a busy time in its first few weeks!

*James Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** by Barbara Ives

## Speeding

The village should be aware that the Parish Council are considering road safety and ways and means of traffic calming in Swaffham Prior. A Committee has been set up, viz:-

Peter Mengham - Chairman

James Chesterman - Secretary

Andrew Camps

Peter Whitfield

Our purpose is to link traffic calming with-

- (a) improved safety for the school and its occupants (children and parents)
- (b) include some control of heavy lorry movements
- (c) include study of the whole village and its roads, not just the High Street.

We welcome (through the *Crier*) letters for and against traffic calming. We have had constructive letters from Mike Phillips, the Noyes family, Peter Whitely, and David Carrington and we welcome more letters. If you prefer to telephone your views rather than writing, you can call on the telephone numbers at the foot of this page. Keep the dialogue going! We are open to all suggestions at this stage and are well aware of the contrary side of the argument - not to disfigure our beautiful village with urban gimmicks and eyesores.

We are fortunate in having the help and advice of the new Area Traffic Engineer for Cambridgeshire County Council, Brian Stinton, with whom the Committee walked the village on April 2nd. He is trying to persuade the Police to install a mini-cable across one or more roads to tell us (a) the number of vehicles that pass in 24 hours (b) their weight (c) their speed. Until this fundamental research is provided, we cannot start planning. We need statistics first. Hand-held radar guns are envisaged as a backup. During the last two weeks or so, the Police carried out an exercise on Mill Hill bypass and it is believed their guns caught some 15 speeding motorists! We shall try to persuade them to continue that good work.

It will be our intention eventually to prepare a Feasibility Study, with plans and costs based on statistics obtained, plus views expressed through letters. A meeting will be held for the whole village to discuss and express their views on the proposals.

Meanwhile it is hoped to have an interim discussion which will form part of the Annual Village Assembly meeting to take place on May 28th.

*Peter Mengham* : Chairman

Tel No: 743008

*James Chesterman*: Secretary

Tel No: 743238



***Congratulations*** to Andy and Jo Pumfrey of Granta House on the birth of Helena on 17 February - a sister for Thomas.

## In Praise of Honorable Men

In the January edition of the *Crier*, I banded on a bit about the new Park-and-Ride system on the Newmarket Road. This led to a misquoted 'Piece' in the Cambridge Evening News, and several subsequent letters from the Brutii, the most notable of which, insisted that:

a) I was misinformed because there were two regular buses which passed the car park after the park-and-ride system had closed for the night (Big deal!)

b) My suggestions were a 'Bit extreme!'.

"What", I would ask, "Is wrong with 'Extreme'?"

Forget the 'nuclear age', it is dead and almost buried. It is now in the 'Transport Age', in which we *all* have to exist. Nowhere is this more marked than in the villages which are no longer served with work opportunities, shops, post offices, recreational facilities, schools, adequate housing for the young or the old, police stations and doctors surgeries. Families can no longer support each other in traditional ways because they don't live within a few doors, but are more likely to be spread to the ends of the earth.

Until adequate public services are provided, it is unrealistic to expect us to use anything but our cars for our transport requirements, although we *all* recognise the need to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads in and around Cambridge. Most of us recognise the environmental pollution that the internal combustion engine produces, but the steady raising of the cost of fossil fuels penalises the country dweller even more than our urban cousins. In the main, he/she has no alternative, and it is unrealistic to expect the young, the old, the infirm and the frightened to 'Get on their bikes' for most day-to-day travelling.

Cosmetic changes to the transport infrastructure, as practised by our particular set of transport Brutii, are just that! And like most cosmetics, their effects are quickly lost. We need radical solutions, and we need them now! Not when we are all locked up in a giant snarling, polluting, rage ridden, life shortening traffic jam



Advertising in the *Crier* is **very** cost effective  
Ring Mike Phillips for details: ☎ **01638 741495**

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It had to happen! You can't have a new Clerk circulating every member before each meeting with masses of background documents, copy letters and financial statements without there being some knock-on effect. "Do we approve the minutes of the last meeting" is usually the easy part of any meeting. But this time, of the seven members attending, two started to read the minutes, three searched through their sheaves of papers and couldn't find them, one went wandering around the room, and Henry sat very patiently - waiting. Eventually, and I mean eventually, the minutes were approved. This search for the right document happened several times throughout the meeting when there was a terrific noise of shuffled, rustling paper, anguished cries "I can't find it", triumphant shouts "I've found it".



The speeding problem now has an official sub-committee under the chairmanship of Peter Mengham. Its concern is no longer just speeding but every aspect of traffic in the village. An interim brief report had been submitted following the first tour of the village by the sub-committee. You may have seen them - Peter, James Chesterman and Andrew Camps, sometimes accompanied by a man in a raincoat. In due course a full report will be presented with recommendations and costings for the PC and the village to consider.

But it will take a lot of hard work and time. After the first broadbrush findings no doubt the sub-committee will follow up with more detailed studies. This will involve Peter and Co. observing and making notes at all the 'problem points' from 7.30am to about 7.00pm. Most probably they will need to make two studies at each point - once on a fine day and once in the pouring rain. At the end of the day the village will have a comprehensive professional document.

As soon as Andrew began his Neighbourhood Watch report Henry jumped up and began wandering around the room - "Am I boring you?" called out Andrew, "Please come back". The Sports and Recreation Club (SRC) will be left until the next meeting - a letter from the District Solicitor is expected at any moment. The PC will yet again ask the SRC to submit a report for the Annual Village Assembly but they doubted whether Malcolm Hall would bother.

Green Head Road Planning Application. The PC and many local residents object to this strongly but Charlotte Cane, while agreeing with the PC's views, said that any favourable decision may not be the fault of ECDC but simply a compliance with the law. The PC felt it was adding insult to injury by calling the proposed new houses "bungalows". The Clerk pointed out a

“gross error in the plan” which was “misleading to the extent that they are lying”. He is writing to ECDC. The PC was also very surprised that the roads officer had raised no objection because of the potentially dangerous bend. Martin said they ought to ask the Vicar to drive up and down when ECDC makes its site visit on 6 May. This greatly amused Martin who, chortling away to himself, made the suggestion several times. What does he know that we don't?

Dencora took up little time and it was agreed the Company should make a presentation (maximum 20 minutes, with no questions or discussion) at the PC meeting on 11 June. The Clerk was a trifle surprised and miffed that the PC had not been told about the Dencora/SRC meeting at The Red Lion (see p 22).

Cemetery light/churchyard lighting. I suspect there has been a masterpiece of disinformation here. At the end of the February meeting Peter Mengham said he had heard from one Church Council member that the idea of churchyard lighting had been completely abandoned. When quizzed on the truth of this he said it had been confirmed by another equally responsible Church Council member. The PC agreed to look at the cost of a cemetery light. Then Bingo!, the Church wrote last month to the PC saying it has planning permission and asked if it could tack its Churchyard string of lights on to the end of the cemetery one. It is all very mysterious - it could be a series of misunderstandings or it could be something of which Peter Mandelson would have been proud.

So how do we find out what the Church thinks of what is essentially a village matter. Has it got a Faculty? How did it report the 'Open Forum' on 11 March 1996? This was the time when the Vicar used Les Cooper's bad accident after the Harvest Supper as a very good reason for the lighting. Anyone visiting Les after the accident would have known that Les had fallen down outside The Red Lion. At this forum the Vicar also said he had never consulted the residents of Green Head and Tothill Roads. The Vicar went on to ask for a vote of those against Churchyard Lighting. There were quite a number. He refused to ask for a vote of how many were in favour - in spite of being challenged three times by Peter Mengham that it was “undemocratic”. As far as I can see, the only reason for not having such a vote was to say that all those who did not vote “against”, were “for” the lighting. It is to be hoped that this was not reported thus to any outside body. Eric advised the PC meeting that the Church was determined to have the lighting, no matter what, and that it will never let the matter rest.

Even to this day those attending the so-called 'Open Forum' have no idea what the Church did with all the opinions expressed or with the fact that the PC opposed the lights. It all becomes a dark, dark secret into the catacombs

## **Post Office Counter Service**

With the closure of the Village Store/Post Office, Zion Chapel and the Village Hall Committee were approached to house a temporary Post Office service for 3 months. This was agreed and finalised at short notice over the Easter holiday weekend.

As you will have seen, a service will be provided on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1.30 to 4.30 pm in the Village Hall Meeting Room from 7th May to 17th July.

Post Office Counters stress that this is only a **temporary** 3 month arrangement. If a suitable applicant with suitable premises is not found by 17th July, the service will have to cease. Let's hope this does not happen.

## **Annual Village Assembly**

**Thursday 28th May**

**in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last meeting held
3. Matters arising
4. Planning Department presentation
5. Accounts and report of the Parish Council to 31 March 1998
6. Accounts and report of the Parochial Charities to 31 March 1998.
7. Accounts and report of the Village Hall Committee to 31 March 1998.
8. Accounts and report of the Sports and Social Club to 31 March 1998.
9. Speeding
10. Report on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
11. Open question time

The public are invited to put forward suggested items for discussion during the Open question time - in writing please by Friday 22nd May to:

***Peter Cunningham***

Clerk of the Parish Council

### **\* Welcome \***

To **Richard West** and **Lisa Ashby** who moved into No. 49 High Street at the end of March.

We hope they will be very happy living in Swaffham

# **1st Swaffham Prior Scout Group**

The 1st Swaffham Prior Scout Group needs two new Beaver Leaders.

Our current leader, who has run the colony for the past five years, has moved and is no longer able to travel to and from the meetings. Due to growing numbers we now need two leaders instead of one.

Beavers are aged between 6 and 8 years old and the Beaver Motto is **Fun and Friends**.

Weekly programmes are prepared covering subjects such as:

**Road Safety**  
**Home Safety**  
**Our Body**  
**Ourselves**  
**Art and Craft**

The colony meets between 6.00 and 7.00pm on Thursday evenings at Swaffham Prior Primary School.

**If we cannot find two new leaders by the end of July the colony will have to fold.**

If you would be interested in helping and would like to find out more, including any necessary training, please contact Kandi Lawrence on 01223 571 458 as soon as possible.

# Swaffham Prior “Any Questions” ?

Sunday 17th May 1998

Under the Chairmanship of Lord Soulsby, a lively discussion on a wide range of topics is in prospect.

## THE TOPIC:

*“Ethics: do we need them? Can we live without them?”*

## Chairman:

**Lord Soulsby:** Has lived in Swaffham Prior for 20 years. A Veterinary Surgeon, previously Head of the Cambridge Veterinary School. Lived in the U.S.A. for 15 years. Made a Life Peer in 1990. Interests: Animal Welfare, Overseas Development.

## The Panelists:

### Lord Winston: Robert Winston

Created Life Peer in 1995. Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Hammersmith Hospital. T.V. Programme presenter “Making Babies”, “The Human Body” etc.

### Michael J Reiss:

Biologist and a priest in the Church of England. Research on evolutionary biology and population genetics. Senior lecturer in biology at Homerton College, Cambridge. Author of the book “Improving Nature? The science and ethics of genetic engineering”.

### Colin Greenhalgh: O.B.E., M.A.

Principal - Cambridge 6th Form College, Fellow St. John’s College, Cambridge.

### Dr. Philip Lewis C.B.E.

First degree in economics, psychology and law. Doctorate in Criminal Psychology. Interests: Walking, music (early opera) tennis.

### The Baroness Trumpington

Landgirl to Lloyd George 1939-41. Naval Intelligence 1941-45. Mayor of Cambridge 1971-72. Life Peer 1980. Minister of State Agriculture 1987-92. Various Government offices. Vice President International League for the Protection of Horses. Honorary Associate Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Interests: Bridge, racing, golf, etc.

If you have a question, please submit it **in writing** to the Chairman at 25 High Street, Swaffham Prior **by Friday May 15th.**

We look forward to seeing you in the audience on Sunday May 17th at 7.30pm in St. Mary’s Church.



# **Guided Walk: Reach and Devil's Dike**

## **Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate**

As part of this year's series of 'awareness' walks Countryside Ranger Roland Fletcher will lead a walk, starting at 2.00 p.m. on May 3rd at Fair Green in Reach.

The circular walk, on the eve of Reach Fayre, will look at historical and environmental aspects of the village, Devil's Dyke, and the surrounding countryside.

There are no charges and no need to book ahead.

For further information contact Roland Fletcher on (01480) 451568.

## **Village Feast 1998**

**Saturday 16 May**

**at**

**2.00 pm**

**You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of  
fun and games**

**\*\*Guest Appearance of \*\***

**James Hickish**

**\*Maypole Dancing\* \*Country Games\***

**Bouncy Castle Can Shy Childrens Play Area Bottle  
Stall**

**Tombola Bowls Face Painting Egg Throwing**

**\*Teas & Home-made cakes\* \*Bar-B-Q\* \*Beer Tent\***

**\*\*Stalls Galore\*\***

**Cakes & Preserves, Ice Creams, Books, Plant Stall. Green  
Stall, Gifts & Collectibles and more.....**

**Admission: 30p. Children Free**

1998

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE  
PRESENTS

**THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD**  
**OR THE MERRY MAN AND HIS MAID**  
by W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan

**at Mitchell Hall Barn,  
Swaffham Bulbeck**

Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup> June	8pm
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup> June	8pm
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm & 8pm

Tickets:	Thurs	£4.00
	Fri & Sat evening	£5.50
	Sat matinee	£2.50

Available from:

Rosemary Upton (01638) 742933  
Swaffham Bulbeck Village Stores  
Any member of the cast

**Directed by Bridget Hickish**

## Queens Court Day Centre

A few words to let you know what we get up to in the Queens Court Day Centre in Bottisham. Most days we have bingo, quizzes or we just chat about life as it was or is now. We have coffee in the mornings and tea in the afternoons. Why not drop in for tea or coffee one day, all are welcome. We are open Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm. Sometimes during the month we have new clothing or new shoes for sale.

Once a month we have a Tea Dance, the residents (those who want to) come down and join us. We have lots of fun and laughs, again all are welcome to join in. Our next Tea Dance is at 2:30pm on June 11.

Hoping to see you soon,

*Hilary, Linda, Sheila, Brian and Derick, and All at the Day Centre*

### Market Stall

We had another very successful morning on 21st March with our “market stall” offering a host of varied goodies from home-made cakes through “Mothering Sunday” flower arrangements. **Many** thanks to those who so kindly provided the items for sale. The net proceeds, in aid of the Village Hall, were just in excess of £155. A big “thank you” also to those who helped man the stall throughout the morning.

*Pat Cunningham*

## Bottisham Burwell Linton Village Colleges

### Lifelong Learning

#### Day and Weekend Courses

**Sat 9th May:** Alexander Technique; Arabic Dance; Creativity for Carers; French Polishing; Homeopathy; Introduction to Sailing; Japanese Folded Paperwork; PCs and the Internet; Photography for the Slower Learner; Shiatsu Workshop; Speaking with Confidence; Upholstery and Chair Caning.

**Sat/Sun 7th/8th March:** Introduction to Computing

**Sat 16th May:** French Polishing; Introduction to Databases using Access; Orienteering.

**Sat/Sun 14th/15th March:** Word for Windows - an Introduction

**Further information** from the Community Office at



## Millennium

To commemorate the Millennium, an embroidered map of Swaffham Prior is being made and will be displayed in the Village Hall.

As this is quite a large undertaking, we would appreciate any help with the embroidery (cross-stitch). The materials to do this have to be bought, so any donations (large or small) would also be appreciated. If you can help, please contact me on 742214.

*June Wolfenden*



*Want a little extra cash?  
Clear out the attic and shed  
and we will sell your unwanted  
household goods, furniture etc  
(no mattresses, please)*

## **BULBECK AUCTION**

***Saturday 9th MAY 1998***

***at***

***DOWNING FARM, SWAFFHAM BULBECK***

*(by kind permission of Carol and David Turner)*

***Viewing from 9am to 11am***

***Auction starts at 11am***

***Refreshments available***

***Items for sale may be brought to Downing Farm between 5pm  
and 9pm on Friday 8th May***

***You get 3/4 of the sale price/our commission is 1/4  
(or you can donate items for sale for funds)***

Further information from Margaret Roberts (811772) or John Roebuck (811722)

***IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWAFFHAM BULBECK***

## Meeting of East Cambs District CPRE Group

The East Cambs Group of the Council for the Protection of Rural England met in Swaffham Bulbeck on the evening of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March with Christopher Bird, Secretary of the CPRE's Cambridge Branch Committee, in attendance. The meeting of this newly formed group focused on plans for the coming year, and was able to appoint officers to carry out specific tasks. Two of the key concerns for members were planning and transport, and the group also recognised the importance of monitoring issues such as water abstraction and waste disposal. It was noted that as the district comes under increasing pressure to expand its communities, active involvement in countryside issues is needed from as many residents as possible. Christopher Bird explained that the CPRE's role was to try to ensure that all new developments are in harmony with the rural environment - a particular challenge in a district of diverse landscapes, stretching from the peat fens to the chalk uplands.

The group would welcome new members to help with its expanding work. Anyone interested should contact Margaret Cook, 68 Commercial

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### Burwell Toy Library



Have you children under 5 years old? Well, the Burwell Toy Library is open to you, to interest and amuse your children with a vast range of toys. Annual membership is just £2 and you can enrol at one of our sessions, with proof of ID please. Toy hire ranges from just 40p up to £2 for a large outdoor toy, for two weeks hire.

**Open on the second and fourth Thursday of the month**

2.00pm to 3.30pm

at the Phoenix Room, Burwell Village College.

In the summer months you can reserve one toy and hire this, and any left-over after reservations for the duration of the summer holidays, almost two months. Refreshments are available at sessions so you can sit and chat while your children explore the range of toys.

The Toy Library is run by volunteers and we are always keen to welcome new faces onto the Committee. Not too much work is involved (on a rota basis), usually just one session every 6 weeks.

**Hope to see you there!**

For more information, call Doreen Robinson on 742178.



## Jubilee 2000

### - a vision for a new millennium

Jubilee 2000 is a coalition of organisations, including Christian Aid, the Mothers Union and the WI, which aims to celebrate the millennium by obtaining the cancellation of the unpayable debt owed by the world's poorest countries. This would be a historic one-off gesture based on the Old Testament idea of Jubilee.

In order to achieve its aim Jubilee 2000 has to show the world's most powerful governments that this is what the public want. In order to do this they have launched the Jubilee 2000 petition, which aims to be the biggest petition in the history of the world: the petition is a place where people can put their names to their belief that cancelling debt is the way forward for the world as it enters the new millennium.

While Comic Relief earns £26 million for Africa every 2 years, after massive television coverage and involvement of a welter of stars and lots of events around the country, Africa pays back £22 million to the north in debt repayments *every day*. The governments of developing countries have to cut their education and health budgets in order to make these debt repayments. A colleague of mine recently returned from Nicaragua where he met some boys scavenging on a rubbish tip. They told him that more and more children are on the rubbish dump every week. It is estimated that 21 million children will die from debt related causes between 1997 and the millennium if action is not taken.

**There will be a petition available for signing in Church.** Please also take copies out to work, anywhere you can get people to sign. It will not be enough for just those who come to church to sign - we need people to reach out to the wider public on this issue.

On May 16th the G8, the leaders of the world's most powerful nations are meeting in Birmingham. Many people are going to Birmingham to surround the summit building with a human chain until the leaders accept the first instalment of the Jubilee 2000 petition. Gordon Brown has already specifically thanked the church groups for raising their voices on this issue. If you are interested in joining the many others who will be there, please contact me on 743131 or Mark Howarth on 741409. And thank you for all you do.

Please note that the address and telephone number shown in **Kim Sheldrick's** advertisement are no longer correct. These should be: **Spring Hall, Bottisham, Cambridge CB5 9BD. Phone/Fax: 01223 811438; Mobile: 0589 043838.** The advertisement will be updated next



## Recipe of the Month

I thought it was time we had a dessert recipe! I have never been very good at producing easy, delicious puddings but I have found two which fit the bill. The problem was which to choose for this month - in the end I gave up and have included both! If you have a favourite 'pudding' recipe please let me know.

### Baked Bananas

If you are a banana freak like me, you will love this one!

**Ingredients** - serves 4 (serving: 283 Calories/5.2g Fat)

50g(2oz) Low fat spread	60ml(4tbsp) Clear honey
60ml(4tbsp) Brandy	5ml(1tsp) Ground cinnamon
60ml(4tbsp) Unsweetened orange juice	Zest of 1 orange cut in thin strips
4 medium bananas	

#### Method:

1. Place all the ingredients except the bananas in a pan, heat gently whisking continuously until they melt and combine. Bring to the boil, whisking then remove the pan from the heat.
2. Peel the bananas and slice diagonally in generous chunks and place in a shallow, ovenproof dish.
3. Pour the melted mixture over the bananas. Cover and bake in a preheated oven at 180°C/350°F for about 20 minutes until the fruit starts to soften. Serve immediately with low-fat ice cream or reduced-fat cream.

### Monkey Hill

For those who don't have to worry about their waist line and love ice-cream this is a really yummy sweet.

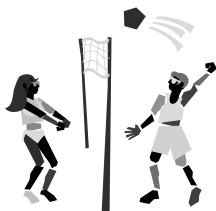
**Ingredients** - serves 4-6

2 Mars bars - roughly chopped	Tub of vanilla ice-cream
100g (4oz) peanut brittle (or roasted flaked almonds if preferred)	

#### Method:

1. Melt the chopped Mars bars in a pan over a low heat, stirring to form a smooth creamy sauce.
2. Pile the ice-cream into cold dishes to resemble a hill!
3. Pour over the warm sauce and top with crushed peanut brittle or flaked almonds.

*Hilary Mengham*



## Festival Volleyball

**Sunday 17th May**

If you want to show off your skills on the field don't forget to phone the captain of your village area - *see the Festival Programme for the details.*

Area A is captained by Greg Cotner (743891); Area B by Tim Doe (743656); Area C at present has no captain and unless there is a sudden rush of enthusiasm may not enter; and Area D is captained by James Willmott (743472).

This is a mixed match and it is hoped there will be a fair spread of the lasses.

## *Swaffham Prior Festival 1998*

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During this month you can again enjoy all the many and varied activities of the biennial *Swaffham Prior Village Festival*. It starts on Saturday 16th May and continues until Monday May 25th.

With so many events going on, where do you start? The choice is yours!

**Art and Music ?**

**Dance and Films ?**

**Flowers and Gardens ?**

**History ?**

**Village Feast ?**

**Quiz or Questions ?**

**Karaoke ! Cream Teas !**

For full details of these and all the other events, consult your Programme delivered with last month's *Crier*.....

**Do not be disappointed - Book Early**

**\*\* COME AND ENJOY YOURSELF \*\***

Tickets are available from Elisabeth Everitt, Anglesey House, High Street (Tel 742974) and Francis Reeks, The Barn, 44 High Street (Tel 743693).

## **Village Hall Management Committee**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday 5th May in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

*Pat Cunningham, Secretary*





## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

### Village Feast

Here we are once again, the Village Feast almost upon us. Saturday 16th May is the day and won't it be super this year in our refurbished Village Hall. I am appealing as usual to all you very generous people for donations of cakes, sausage rolls, scones, flapjacks, jams, pickles etc - anything in the food line for the Cake Stall will be very acceptable.

All produce to the address above or to the stall on the 'Big Day'. Please put your name on tins etc. then I can get them back to you.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

**Jean Moore**  
39 Cage Hill

Dear Editors,

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### Traffic Calming

We have been following with interest recent correspondence and articles on traffic calming the centre of the village. Speeding cars are always a menace, but we feel that the emphasis on the High Street and Lower End is mis-directed. Of greater concern must be the large number of vehicles that disregard the 40mph speed limit on Mill Hill. Cars, lorries and motorbikes regularly tear along this road at well over 50mph and, increasingly, we have noticed faster moving cars overtaking vehicles obeying the speed limit. The problem is especially severe during the morning and evening rush hours.

Steps must be taken to enforce the restriction; children live on either side of this road and it is only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs. Those on the far side from the village have no option but to cross this busy road on the way to school in the morning and there is no safe place to cross. We should like to suggest that village efforts should be directed towards persuading the authorities to:

- 1) reduce the speed limit to 30mph, as it is in Burwell.
- 2) erect larger speed limit signs, such as those on the entry to Stowe-cum-Quy, at the start of the speed restricted area and at regular intervals along its length. The present 40mph signs are almost unnoticeable.
- 3) paint double white lines throughout the speed restricted area to prevent over-taking. As there are turnings off the main road in either direction, this seems essential.
- 4) paint SLOW at regular intervals on the road.

- 5) construct a conveniently located pedestrian island. This would serve to slow the traffic and seems a minimum requirement for the safe passage of children to the village school.
- 6) maintain frequent and regular police presence to enforce the speed limit.

Of course, these are just the cheap alternatives - traffic calming, chicanes, rumble strips and numerous other possibilities could be considered if the village was really to push for this matter. The wide, open nature of the road invites people to travel along it in many cases much more quickly than they intend; the measures listed above are the bare minimum that should be introduced to ensure the speed limit is obeyed. We maintain that this must be the village's traffic priority.

*Andrew, Dee and Ryan Noyes*  
Sunnyside, 1 Mill Hill

Dear Editors,

### **Speeding**

Reach village has ~~no problem with speeding~~ through-traffic due to the natural bends in the roads. The same is true for Bulbeck. The nearest Prior can get is, I suggest, to put a NO ENTRY sign near the school in the High St. facing towards Bulbeck and one facing towards Reach a few yards nearer Reach along the High St. Buses would be allowed through.

Traffic to Upware would not be affected. Children going to and from the school would be much safer, particularly if they were to cross the road near the proposed NO ENTRY signs.

Also a mini round-about at the top of Cage Hill would have the effect of slowing down traffic along the top road.

May I suggest that these ideas are less cumbersome than speed bumps and less dangerous than road constrictions.

*Mike Phillips*

**\*\* WANTED \*\***

**Garden Shed**

Can dismantle and collect

**Ring - Lisa or Ian on 743621**



## Woodpeckers

Confusion reigns over the lesser and Greater Spotted varieties of the woodpecker, inasmuch as the smaller (lesser) is also known as the Barred and the larger (greater) is also known as the Pied Woodpecker. Twitchers really do get these two in a twist. The Common or Green woodpecker is readily known to most of us although even this is known by the country folk as a yaffle. With their Ha! Ha! call and swooping flight they are quickly recognised, not to mention their green, yellow and red markings which make them one of our more exotic birds. There are two greens living down the fen (I know their dead tree) and they often come up to our gardens behind the churches emitting their panic cries.

We have been lucky this year and had the Lesser Spotted at our bird table; this little bird, no bigger than a Great Tit with his bright red cap, pushes away the starlings with a grim ruthlessness. The starlings hog the food we put out and swagger about like Parisian waiters.

All woodpeckers “drum” on old dead trees - not so much for insects as is commonly believed but more a territorial warning for others to keep off. The boring of a hole is also to procure a secure, deep nest.

### Twiglets

1. We have a tame blackbird in the garden (a hen). This is now her fourth year when she comes to the back door for raisins - these are thrown to her and she scoops them up. Why don't you try this? She also likes the worms we dig up when weeding and shoos the robins off if they get too near.

2. There has been a mistlethrush at the very top of the fir tree in the Village Hall garden, singing his unearthly lament but he has been scared off by movement and noise. The jackdaws pester him and he doesn't like the noise of the builders so he has departed but is still in the village. He can be identified by his thrushlike speckled chest and somewhat lighter plumage than his namesake, the garden thrush. He likes to sing at the very top of trees and doesn't skulk about near the ground as does the common thrush.

3. The skylark is up down the fen “...bird thou never wert...” but alas they get fewer every year with the lethal sprays used by the agri-farmers of today.

4. What colour are ashbuds in March? The answer is on p. 65 of *Cranford* by Mrs Gaskell (published 1851). They are black.



## Neighbourhood Watch

Eight co-ordinators met in the Red Lion (by kind permission of John Berry) on Monday 23rd March. Andrew Badcock chaired the meeting and reported to the group details of the Cluster Meeting held in Swaffham Bulbeck earlier in the month where Sgt. Corcoran explained the new Southern Resource Centre based at Parkside.

Co-ordinators' packs and details regarding property marking will soon be available. We are still short of a number of co-ordinators for part of the village as reported in the last issue. Anyone interested please contact Andrew. The co-ordinators meeting which was on Monday 27th April will be reported on in the next issue of the *Crier*.

A display about Neighbourhood Watch will feature at the Village Feast on **Saturday 16th May** so please come along and ask for information.

There will be an Open Meeting in the Village Hall on **Monday 1st June** where everyone from the village is welcome to hear a visiting speaker on Crime Prevention. Do keep that evening free and come along as it is a subject which involves us all. Look out for the posters nearer the time.

*Peter Mengham*



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## Ladies Circle

'Ello, 'ello 'ello - what's going on 'ere'? - this was our topic for our Ladies Circle meeting on Wednesday 25th March at Zion Baptist Chapel when John Howe, a retired Police Officer from Newmarket, spoke to us. He gave us a very enlightened talk on his days in the police force, telling us about the many 'funny incidents' he encountered in his younger days as a Police Constable and also just a few of the very sad incidents that happened. John has been retired now for 9 years and spends his spare time helping Victim Support and also sings with the Newmarket Circuit Choir.

Forthcoming events are:

**Wednesday 27th May** - Outing to Fenland Museum at Waterbeach

**Monday 29th June** 'It's a Secret' Ros Wright

If you would like more information on these, please call me on 742585.

We look forward to seeing any new ladies at our meetings, so please come along and join us.

*Sandra Butcher*



## *Village Gardeners*

'My Gardening Year' was the subject of Mr. Rodney Tibbs' talk to the Village Gardeners on Tuesday 21st April. His year began in the autumn, sitting in front of a log fire looking at catalogues. He then took us right through the year from setting seeds to sweeping up leaves, with lots of useful tips on the way.

There will be no meeting in May but the Village Gardeners will be selling plants at the Swaffham Prior Feast Day on 16th May and stewarding at the Open Gardens on 24th May.

**Coach Trip to Beth Chatto's famous Garden  
on Saturday 13th June  
Details from Betty Prime on 01638 741221  
or Tricia Franklin on 01223 812360**



## **W.I. Notes**

On Monday 20th April, the W.I. were taken on a fascinating journey to Sri Lanka with our member Pat Airey. There were complications - problems with the flight so that Pat and her husband had to travel four days apart. There was a fourteen hour delay on Pat's flight and she arrived in Colombo only to find that it was election time and the whole of the city was shut down with a 6 o'clock curfew imposed.

However, after a few days things settled down and Pat and Keith were able to enjoy a wonderful holiday. We were transported through towns and villages, to tea plantations, a wildlife park, a gem mine producing pink and blue sapphires. We saw pictures of Buddhist temples, stone Buddhas and enormous statues that had lain under the earth for thousands of years. We heard of exciting parades with elephants and torches of fire. Pat found the people very gentle, but there were too many inhabitants and not enough tourists so how about it for next year's holiday? Thank you Pat for a delightful evening.

At our next meeting on 18th May, we will learn the various ways of tying scarves.

## Carpet Bowls

We have just finished the season for 1997-1998, and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> division. We played the Swaffham Shield, which was won by Swaffham Bulbeck.

We have had our AGM, and we hope to have enough interest to keep the club going for another season. Reg Webb is still going to be Chairman; Martin Mead, Treasurer; Anita Folkes, Secretary; and Colin Dalton, Captain.

The new season will start in September, and we hope to meet in the school hall on Tuesdays and Fridays again.

*C. J. Dalton*

The St. Mary's flower arranging ladies are helping Milton Hospice fund raising event on 16th May by filling flower baskets to sell.

If you have any pre-used baskets you don't want, **please** give me a ring (Tel: no: 01638 741197) or leave at Sheldricks Cottage, Lower End. Many thanks.

*Barbara Jones*



## Village Hall Update

By the time most of you read this, the official re-opening Ceremony will be over and we shall be open for business again. At the time of writing, it is difficult to believe that all the last minute details will be finished in time - our Architect keeps re-assuring us that "it's always the very last finishing touches that seem to take the longest" and we believe him! The inclement weather (rain, more rain and snow!) held up some of the outside work at the beginning of April but the heating was operational by then and yes, it really does work and yes, it was nice and warm inside. To those who have asked me "what will you do when it's all finished Pat?", I can only reply "I don't know yet, but it's sure as heck going to be fun finding out!".

*Pat Cunningham*

P.S. The answer to the "spot the difference" last month - there is only one chimney now, the left-hand one was removed during the extension work.

## Burwell Day Centre

Most of our friends at the Day Centre survived the winter well, thanks no doubt to the mild weather. We had our share of people having quick trips into the hospital with pneumonia and chest troubles but thankfully all are back and fit again.

We banished the winter blues with another coach trip to Hunstanton on a beautiful sunny day on Shrove Tuesday. We visited a friendly sea-front hotel, whose staff spoil us every time we go. There was extra entertainment in the Bar in the form of a middle-aged couple who were canoodling and unable to keep their hands off each other. This caused much merriment amongst our members, especially as the unknown couple were doing a repeat performance on the beach when we walked along the promenade later! We are all off to Felixstowe at the end of April.

The big sadness has been the resignation of Sue Elliot, our Co-ordinator, who has run the Day Centre since it opened eight years ago. She has worked magnificently, building it up to the success it is today. She will be sadly missed and goes to her new post with the love and best wishes of us all.

*Shirley Wilkins*

## “The Joy of April Fools' Day”

At 8.10 am on April 1st one of our most worthy church wardens phoned to tell us about a small item in the previous day's *Cambridge Evening News*. This said that the ECDC Tourist Office was going to floodlight eleven churches, including the two in Swaffham Prior. Well, that certainly made the porridge boil over! Two minutes later she phoned again to shout two of the most fun-making and harmless words in the English language - "April Fool."

I tried this on several people throughout the day and the impact was always the same - shock, horror, outrage, demand for action against it, all expressed in a variety of quite strong language or sentiments. It reminded me of Rob Walker, until recently ECDC Conservation Officer, when he learned that a large number of those living near the churches had always opposed floodlighting. Alas the Church way back in 1994 had failed to report this accurately to ECDC, and Rob was not well-pleased. So we must have a little care with porkies when it is not April 1st.

But this year's April 1st was not over yet. Exactly 12 hours later at 8.10 pm, in The Red Lion, Dencora opened its presentation to Malcolm Hall, and his Sports and Recreation Club (SRC). This concerned Dencora's new plan for developing their field. Malcolm had asked me to attend because he wanted a neutral, fair and unbiased report on the meeting for *The Crier*.

Initially I declined, but I later relented when John Berry told me he was providing delicious sandwiches (WHICH HE DID NOT - April Fool yet again!).

David Hughes (MD of Dencora) and Paul Brighton and Deborah Wenham (both from chartered town planners Barton Willmore) put forward the new plan and, for lack of space, the following were the main points of the evening:

1) The proposed development is smaller and "more sensitive", with it going about half way up Rogers Road and two thirds along Lower End. It will encircle Sheldrick's Cottage with 6 large houses at the top of the site, various others in the middle and "affordable" (not priced) houses at the bottom. 2) Dencora wanted to know if SRC's requirements had changed since they last met. 3) The requirements are the same though Peter Mengham (PC representative on SRC) threw in a cricket pitch. 4) Suggested from floor that the cost would be about £320,000 - "at least" was one comment. 5) Dencora/SRC will mark on the plan all the proposed sporting amenities before presenting it to the PC. Dencora will also work out a ball-park figure for the "affordable" housing. 6) Dencora stressed that the provision of any facilities depended on its profit from the scheme. 7) Dencora mentioned that the Lottery could be a good source of money and that sports centres can be developed over several years depending how well used. 8) Dencora would be happy at any time to sell the land at the original purchase price plus any fees incurred by Barton Willmore - just "to get shot of it." 9) Some took the view that development will happen anyway so why not get something free out of it (I thought this a curious philosophy with neither points being necessarily true). 10) SRC had been inactive over the last six or seven years because it saw the Dencora development as the only means of achieving its ends. 11) John Berry said the whole field should be covered in houses, with all the people coming into his pub. David positively glowed when he heard this, though he became more disconcerted when John elaborated and proposed sky-scrappers stretching all over the field. Was this David's first encounter with John's wry humour? Or maybe it wasn't wry humour.

Conclusion, as far as I understood the meeting - it would help Dencora to have Malcolm's SRC support when presenting the plan to PC; I also got the impression that PC support may be critical before Dencora pushes it too far, but I could be wrong here. And finally I must say what jolly nice people they were and for the first time envied the life of a developer. All those lovely fields to fill, those beautiful drawings, the satisfaction of knowing you are helping others.

*Alastair Everitt*



## Notes from the Parish Council Meeting - April

Apologies had been received from Peter Whitfield and Peter Mengham. There were 4 members of the public present.

Under Matters arising the Council heard a report on the activities of the **Speeding** sub-Committee. It was agreed this item be included on the Agenda for the Annual Assembly on 28th May. Andrew Badcock gave a report on the **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**. There will be a display at the Village Feast, and an Open Village Meeting on 1st June. Regular Co-ordinators meetings are now being held and reported via the *Crier*. The Clerk advised that a response is imminent from legal advisers on the **Sports & Recreational Club** and the matter will be discussed further when this is received. Further costings are to be obtained for extending the **footpath** round the Water Tower lay-by.

The Council heard reports from Cllr J Fitch for CCC and Cllr C Cane for ECDC both of which are reported in full elsewhere in the *Crier*.

**Dencora Homes.** The Council considered a letter from the developers on their latest proposals for Lower End field. It was agreed that they would be asked to make a presentation of no more than 20 minutes at the June PC meeting.

**Annual Assembly.** The Agenda for this meeting on 28th May was agreed. The public are invited to send written applications for inclusion of items for discussion during the Open Question Time to the Clerk.

**Planning Applications.** A revised application for **Green Head Road** had been received but it was agreed that this revision did not materially affect the objections already submitted to ECDC who would be advised accordingly. A site meeting of ECDC Planning Committee will take place on 6th May.

**Any other business.** A revised quote for a **Cemetery light** is to be obtained before any further discussion on this or churchyard lighting. Leaflets on **Dog Fouling** will be circulated to all households via the next *Crier*. Quotations are to be sought for refurbishing the **Village Sign**. A temporary 3-month **Post Office service** in the Village Hall has been arranged while a permanent solution is sought. Notices have been posted with full details. A request for a member of the Council **Planning Department** to attend the Annual Assembly was suggested. ECDC have been approached..

The next Parish Council Meeting (Annual Meeting) will be on Thursday 14th May in the Village Hall Meeting Room at 7.30 pm.

*Peter Cunningham*  
Clerk of the Parish Council



**Belated Easter greetings!** I hope you all had an interesting and rewarding break. I shall concentrate on **public transport** matters this month, starting with the **Concessionary Fares Scheme**. You will now be able to buy a £5.50 pass if you meet the new tighter rules which are:

- 1) people of pensionable age who are also in receipt of either Income Support Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit;
- 2) persons of all ages who are any one of registered blind, partially sighted, deaf or without speech;
- 3) persons below pensionable age who are disabled.

**All above pay half fare**, with one exception, going back to (2) above, those who are registered blind or partially sighted will pay £5.50 for the pass but will be able to travel **free**. Those who are registered deaf or unable to speak (backed by a doctor's note) may buy pass at £5.50 and travel **half fare**. Those in receipt of a disability living allowance which includes the higher mobility element buy at £5.50 and travel **half fare**. I hope this is clear but any queries should be made to John Holmes at Shire Hall (tel. 01223 717765) or Chris Lambart at Ely Council (tel. 01353 - 665555).

The result of all this is that some people who qualified up to the end of March will now find themselves excluded. The saving to the County Council will be in the region of £100,000. A previous proposal to leave the eligibility limits unchanged and put up the cost of the pass to £11 met with such a barrage of protests that it was withdrawn in favour of the new £5.50 scheme. I am glad that the new administration has shown it can change its mind in the face of justified opposition. We, on the opposition side of the council chamber, were not in favour of this penalising vulnerable less well off people.

In its determination to save more money the Council has also cut a group of lesser used **Bus Services** hitherto subsidised by the former Council. Among our nearby villages, the only threatened service was the 4 o'clock 111 bus Newmarket - Cambridge via Reach. The diversion via Reach, which over a year costs a thousand pounds, is under-used but is vital for the clients of the Prospect Trust in Reach. When the County decided to withdraw the subsidy I sought help from the East Cambs. District Council. That Council has come to the rescue for a year using a small sum of money previously used to help the old County bus pass system now to be cut back as mentioned above.

I now turn to **Speed Cameras** on our country roads. Last year, the 18 cameras located at sites with a bad record of accidents involving speed,

trapped over 12,200 offending drivers! Recent checks indicate that over half of the drivers passing these points are now obeying the speed limit and the accident numbers have fallen 15-25%. The news gets better - a further five fixed sites will be equipped with cameras during 1998/9 and we can all hope for a further cut in accidents at these points. Meanwhile, when the time and opportunity is there, PC Paul Davis has his mobile equipment to control speeding away from the fixed cameras.

I hope you are all finding the new arrangements at Quy Roundabout are not causing further delays as was gloomily foreseen by some of our Parish Councillors.

*James Fitch*



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## **From your District Councillor**

The District Council has now set up a Joint County/District Forum covering East Cambridgeshire. This committee will discuss any issues of mutual interest, including transportation and environmental issues. I hope that this forum will allow us to discuss issues as they emerge to make sure that both Councils are working together for the benefit of local residents.

We have appointed a new Assistant Chief Executive - Cecilia Tredget. Cecilia is currently Project Director for the Metropolitan Housing Trust. Before that she worked for over thirteen years in a variety of jobs in local government. When she takes up the post in July the senior staff team at the Council will be back up to full complement.

This is a short report because I was struck down with 'flu and missed the last Council Meeting. The next meeting is our Annual Meeting at the end of April. This meeting decides which committees people will be on for the coming year. I have asked to stay on the Planning Committee and join the Environment Panel.

My next Councillor's Surgery is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall between 10.00am-12.00 noon. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer, you can contact me at home.

*Charlotte Cane*



## St Mary's - Services for May

	<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	11.00am	<b>Parish Communion</b>
Easter 4	12.30pm	<b>Holy Baptism</b> of Isaac Peter Howard Pockney	
	6.30pm	<b>Songs of Praise</b> at Reach with <b>CSD</b>	
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	11.00am	<b>Family Service</b> and	
Easter 5		<b>Holy Baptism</b> of <b>Henry Kingsmill</b>	
	6.00pm	<b>Evensong</b> and <b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	8.00am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	
Rogation	11.00am	<b>Festival Morning Service</b> with <i>Cantilena</i>	
Sunday			
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	11.00am	<b>Festival Mass</b> with <i>Swiss Choir</i> and	
Sunday after		<i>Cambridge Voices</i>	
<i>Ascension</i>	7.00pm	Talk on <i>Plainsong</i> in St Cyriac's	
	7.45pm	<b>Compline</b>	
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	10.00am	<b>United Parish Communion</b> at Burwell	
Pentecost	12 noon	<b>Family Service</b> at Reach and	
(Whit Sunday)		<b>Holy Baptism</b> of <b>Adam James Tarasewicz</b>	
	6.00pm	<b>Evensong</b> and <b>Sermon</b>	

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+ **Holy Communion** is celebrated every Wednesday at Burwell and every Thursday at Swaffham Bulbeck at 10.00 am. Also at 8.00am at Reach on 10th and 24th, and Swaffham Bulbeck on 3rd and 31st May.

+**Evening Prayer** is said on Wednesdays at 5pm at Reach Church. **Evening Praise** (with young people in mind) on Sunday 17th 6.00pm in Swaffham Bulbeck

+**Bellringing** - Tuesday practice nights in St Cyriac's every fortnight at 8pm, Sundays from 10.30am and before 6pm Evensong. Contact Margaret Stanier on 741328.

### Church Calendar for May

+ **Confirmation Classes** on Friday 8th and Friday 22nd at 5.00pm.

+ **Home Communion**, 15 Tothill Road on Thursday 21st at 11.45am

+ **Post Lent Group** Thursday 14th at 7.45 Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall

+ **Quarter-peal** on the bell Sunday 24th 6.00pm.

+ **National Association of Fine & Decorative Arts Church Recording Group** Thursday 28th 11.00 am St Marys.

~The Vicar would be pleased to know of anyone needing a home or hospital visit or would like to receive ~~Holy Communion at home.~~



May 1998

Dear Friends

## **This Joyful Eastertide**

On Easter Monday, four of us joined Bishop John at Upware on his Cambridge to Ely pilgrimage. It was a classic East Anglian day - sunny with dark clouds and a freshness in the air. The cathedral, 7 miles distant, looked superb, its wet roofs shining against a threatening sky - it was a fitting way to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Eastertide carries us well into May this year, May 21st being Ascension Day which we celebrate in concert with Cambridge Voices as part of the Festival. My hope is that you too will come and celebrate the great Christian landmarks in Sunday worship. The May diary reflects the changes consequent upon the Reach Fair and our Festival; it promises to be an exciting end to Eastertide.

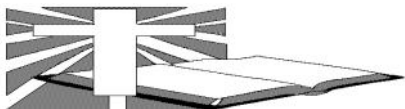
But I return to the vision of Ely Cathedral, approached differently, on foot, given a fresh perspective and I have in my thoughts the testimony of Peter France presenter of the BBC's 'Journey of Faith' programme who said that his conversion to Christianity was all to do with experiencing the Church at work and worship and not merely opinionating from outside, being an onlooker.

My prayer for this place is that the people of this village will come to know God more by 'drawing near', by making an equivalent journey to His house, on foot, by car or even bicycle. Whether or not you personally can be encouraged to take a new step, I hope you will look kindly on a letter you will be receiving about our annual Gift (or Thanksgiving) Day on Friday 5th June. This is the day in the year when the church treasurer and I ask you to contribute of your goodness to the upkeep of the parish church so that you and others may make the journey at all.

The letter invites you to a Cheese & Wine event on Friday 5th June at The Hall by kind permission of Michael and Carolyn Cazenove. Your Gift Day envelope can be brought with you or it can find its way via Sunday's church collection plate or via the Vicarage letter-box. Either way, we hope you will come and feel part of the endeavour of your parish church.

With love

**Mark**



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### Services for May 1998

Sunday 3rd	10.30 am	Family Service - Andrew Buttress
	6.30 pm	Colin Cresswell
Sunday 10th	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 17th	6.30pm	Charles Human
Sunday 24th	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 31st	6.30pm	Steve Ayres

### Flowers

We all like flowers and the brilliance of Spring flowers needs no description. They give us a wonderful appreciation of colour and a hope of new beginnings year after year. In my garden, (which leaves much to be desired), the bursts of colour which Spring flowers bring continually amaze me especially when they appear in places where I know I have never planted them! This year we had a beautiful purple anemone flowering in the middle of our back lawn and some daffodils in our front lawn! How did they get there? Flowers have the ability to bring an unexpected blessing into our lives. It's something that I never tire of - and never get used to. Is it surprising, therefore, that our Lord Jesus Christ is sometimes described in the Bible by the names of flowers? Two in particular. He is called the Rose of Sharon and also Lily of the Valley. I remember the many times I have tried to grow Lily of the Valley without success. And yet there is something about that flower which never lets me give up trying. The delicate fragrance alone is worth a rollover win on the National Lottery. But once the plant takes root it is difficult to control.

Perhaps there is more truth than we realise in describing Jesus as the Lily of the Valley. It often takes more sacrifice than we would like to prepare the right ground in our lives for Him to take root, but once He does - just try to stop Him spreading into even the parts of our lives that we keep secret from our closest friends! You see, He is interested in us and wants to be involved in our lives, even to the extent that He was prepared to die for us. One thing I know about flowers is that to get the blossom it is necessary that something else should die. The cycle is repeated year after year. God's creation is only teaching us a 'life truth'. If we really want to know God's blessing in our lives something has got to die and make room for it. Do you have any idea what has to die in *your* life to make room for Jesus to come in and show you His love? It may seem painful, but the reward will outweigh the pain many times over.

# Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

## Masses

Weekends: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900,1030,1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945; Soham 1700

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

## From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

This month I want to write about an important ecumenical initiative in Newmarket. As a result of the vision of members of one of the community churches in the town, a house in the very centre of Newmarket has been acquired to provide shelter and medium term accommodation for those who would otherwise be homeless. It is called the '**Newmarket Open Door**'. Hitherto there has been no provision in the town at all, and those finding themselves confronted by young people in desperate need of somewhere to live (more often than not through no fault of their own) have nowhere immediately to turn to. Working together, members of all of the Christian communities in the town and in some of the surrounding villages have put together a body of trustees and a management committee with many areas of expertise on it; and with far-sighted financial support from the District Council, they have acquired a property which will provide six medium term living units and two emergency beds. This project would not have happened without a commitment to practical action that is the result of shared Christian values and study, and it is a strong example of what mutual respect between the Churches can achieve.

There is significant Catholic involvement; but it was not a Catholic initiative. I am the one raising it because there is to be a great **Flower Festival** in the Catholic Church in the middle of May which will be hugely enjoyable of itself and a fund-raiser for the 'Open Door' House. The flower festival is itself to be a great ecumenical act, centred around an organiser who has managed similar events in some of our greatest cathedrals and this promises to be Chelsea-on-the-Fen-Edge. We are promised that the Church 'will be transformed into a beautiful garden with magnificent foliage and many thousands of fresh flowers'. It will run from the 14-16 May and we hope to see many of you there, whether during the day or for the concerts each evening, which can be enjoyed by themselves or for additional charge with champagne and canapés. The RAF Band will be there one evening; Cambridge Voices will be there another; and Pam Rhodes of Songs-of-Praise will host a gala final night. There will be leaflets about it everywhere in the weeks leading up to it; but if you want to know more, phone Margaret

## ***Dates for Your Diary - May 1998***

Sun	3	Guided Walk, from Fair Green, Reach at 2pm
Mon	4	<i>Bank Holiday</i> , Reach Fair
Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 11:55-12:15, Chapel 2:30-2:40 Village Hall Management Cttee, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat	9	Charlotte Cane's Surgery, S Bulbeck Village Hall, 10am-12noon "Bulbeck Auction", Downing Farm, SB, 11:00am
Mon	11	Mothers' Union, Free Church, Commercial End, 2:15pm PCC Meeting, The Vicarage, 7:30pm
Tue	12	Social Working Group, 8:00pm
Wed	13	Deanery Synod, Wicken, 7:15pm
Thu	14	<b>Crier</b> Copy deadline Flower Festival, Catholic Church, Newmarket (until 16 <sup>th</sup> ) Parish Council AGM, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat	16	<b>Opening of Village Festival</b> Village Hall Open Morning, 10:30am to 12 noon Village Feast, 2:00 to 5:15pm
Sun	17	Volleyball Contest, Town Close, 3:00pm Question Time, St Mary's, 7:30pm
Mon	18	Karaoke in the Red Lion, 7:00pm WI, 7:30pm
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 11:55-12:15, Chapel 2:30-2:40 Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Wed	20	John Morrill's Lecture, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Thu	21	Gala Concert, St Cyriac's, 8:00pm
Fri	22	Line Dancing, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Sat	23	Flower Festivals in St Mary's and Zion Chapel and exhibitions in St Mary's and St Cyriac's (all until 25 <sup>th</sup> )
Sun	24	Open Gardens: Cream Teas, Village Hall, 3:00 to 5:00pm
Wed	27	Ladies Circle Outing (call 742585 for details)
Thu	28	<b>Crier</b> Collating, <b>Village Hall</b> , 2:30pm Annual Village Assembly, Village Hall, 7:30pm

## ***Future Dates***

Mon	1 June	Playgroup Open Morning, Village Hall, 9am-12noon Neighbourhood Watch Open Meeting, Village Hall
Fri	5 June	St Mary's Gift Day. Wine and Cheese Party, The Hall.
Sat	20 June	Reach Car Boot Sale
Thu	25 June	Village Lunch, Goodwin Manor