



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 11

November 1998



EDITORIAL

Hilary Mengham resigned this month from the Editorial Team (see *Letters*). Many thanks for her help in the past - she will be sorely missed. Hilary has very kindly offered to continue to help, when she is able and when her computer's brand-new software will talk to our old software again.

Sometimes people write things that other people disagree with. In the pages of this magazine even. (Yes, you should read it more carefully!) Our policy (*constitution* even, handed down) on this and other controversial issues is to - um - publish. *Ainsi sera, groigne qui groigne* (that's the way it's going to be, grumble who may), as Anne Boleyn used to say, although why she should spring to mind, I'm not quite sure.

Alas, most groigning is reserved for the things we *don't* publish (see *Letters*). Perhaps this is because although some of us occasionally read the odd issue to see what everyone-else has put, what we ALWAYS look for is *what we wrote ourselves*. And God help the editorial team if it's not there! So apologies in advance for any missing copy: it's probably a mistake (we lost it) *or* it's going in next month (we've run out of money for more pages) *or* it's the Foreign News Desk hogging all the copy again (at last, the real reason?). Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Lower End - where are these places, anyway?

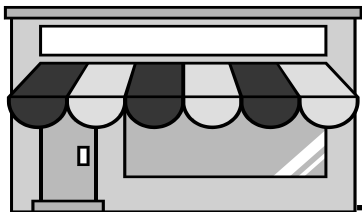
Congratulations to the Village Shop team who are doing an excellent job churning through bureaucratic gobbledegook to save our village shop and post office. And many thanks to all those residents who filled in the original survey: 80% responded and 96% of these were in favour. As an add-on to the Village Hall it seems ideal.

Whatever became of the Speeding Survey? Did *nobody* get snaffled doing 80 mph down the High St.? Not even one of these Megasaurus Brave New World preserve-our-roads-drive-on-the-squishy-bits-at-either-side TRACTORS? Hmm - maybe that's what happened to the Speeding Survey.

Hope to see you at the Quiz Night on Saturday 21st. The Editorial Team will be "competing" again!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: by Pat Cook



Village Shop and Post Office

Open Meeting - 22nd October 1998

The meeting was attended by 45 people, disappointing considering the population of the village and the publicity efforts undertaken prior to the meeting. Interestingly, those of the older generation who are using the Post Office/shop regularly now were very well represented but we could not truthfully say there was a good *cross section* of the community present.

Consequently, the Action Group did not feel it appropriate at this meeting to ask for votes on the options presented nor for pledges of any financial assistance you could offer as we had originally intended.

The following is a brief synopsis of the Action Groups presentation.

The questionnaire.

A return of 80% with almost 96% saying “yes” in favour of re-establishing a facility

The location:

64% favoured the High Street area, 20% Lower End and 16% all others .In actual fact, the Action Group looked at 10 possible sites, 7 of which had to be later discounted for various reasons. Three were considered further:

- 1 in Lower End (near the Beeches)
- 2 in the High Street (Town Close and an extension to the Village Hall)

The facility:

- A stand-alone building (est. cost £46,000/£50,000)
- An extension to the Village Hall (est.£43,000/£45,000)
- Conversion (short-term 2/3 years) of the Meeting Room in Village Hall with shelving, chill cabinet etc. (est.£3,500)

Type of shop - The Choices:

- **Commercial Shop.** Along the lines we have now but better equipped.
No community involvement or management responsibility for running it nor for stocking or price fixing. Could result in higher prices.

Community Shop Owned and run by the village. A responsibility and commitment requiring (at least) 30 unpaid volunteers from within the community. There would be many tasks to be undertaken from counter, buying stock, pricing, shelf-filling, accountancy, administration, cleaning etc. Minimal profit required, hence lower prices.

The Post Office:

Post Office Counters PLC appoint and pay the salary for a Postmaster/Mistress so this is out of our control. It is not a job than can be done by volunteers. Unfortunately

POCL are stating at the moment that to retain a Post Office service, they will downgrade the sub post office we had up to April 1998 to a “part-time” office (max 30 hours pw with consequent lower salary) because of fall in business. Early in the consultations of the Action Group, we were told that to be viable, you need a Post Office **and** a Shop - one without the other will not succeed.

So do we go for a **Community Shop** with probability of losing a Post Office facility?

Or a **Commercial Shop** with, hopefully, continuation of at least a part-time Post Office service.

The Funding

Whichever of the above options is chosen, money will be needed to keep a facility going. We cannot go as we are now partly due to (a) the dictates of Post Office Counters on security grounds and introduction next year of computerisation and (b) inconvenience and poor provision for better stocking of a shop.

Would you be willing to offer an interest free loan?

If so, you could complete the enclosed form and return.

The presentation concluded with the following recommendations from the Action Group

- a) To convert the Meeting Room for an interim period as outlined above and finalise costings, approvals etc
- b) To continue investigations as to how to obtain funds for the construction of a purpose built extension to the Village Hall.
- c) Continue negotiations with Post Office Counters for a “best-deal” post -office facility.
- d) To elect a Steering/Management Committee to take the project for ward.

A discussion time followed before the meeting ended with refreshments.

The Post Office and Shop Action Group

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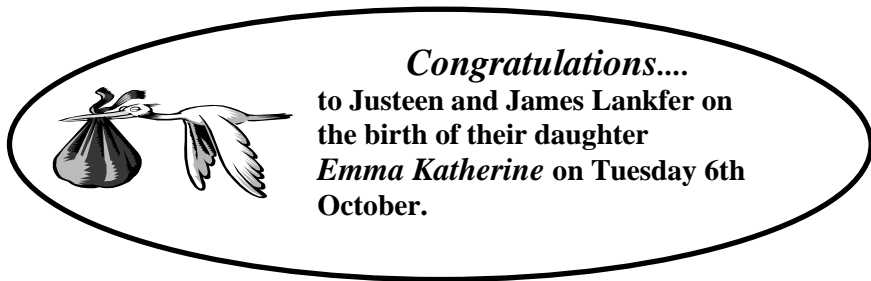


Donations



We are delighted to tell you that we have received a generous donation this month from John Norris for which we are very grateful. As you know every penny received goes into production of the *Crier*.





Congratulations....
to Justeen and James Lankfer on
the birth of their daughter
***Emma Katherine* on Tuesday 6th**
October.

Neighbourhood Watch



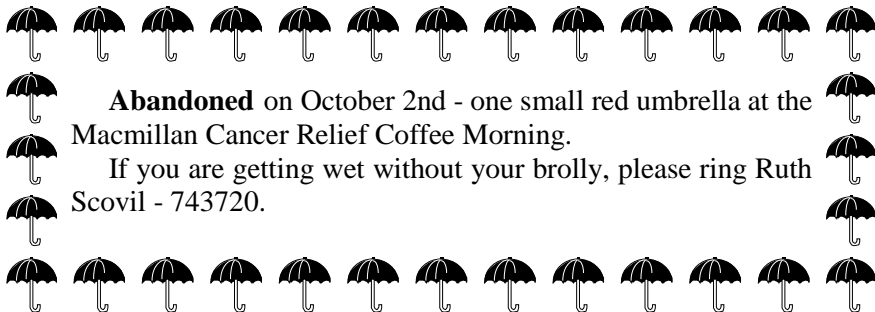
The co-ordinator's meeting in October highlighted a growing problem of theft in our village. During August and September there were a number of incidences in the village ranging from thefts from cars to break-ins of empty property. One such incident was **very serious** resulting in considerable damage to a house. It was felt that we should use the *Crier* to alert everyone in the village of the problem and encourage everyone to be more neighbourly.

With the nights drawing in, the cover of darkness encourages the petty thief and burglar. It is very important to ensure that your sheds and garages are locked with stored property preferably marked. Do not leave your garage doors open unnecessarily even for a short time - it invites prowlers. If you see anything suspicious, whether it is a person or a vehicle, **please** let your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator know. It would also help to keep an eye out for the more vulnerable neighbours in your road.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the **Open Meeting on Monday November 2nd** where PC Anne Fairbanks will talk on ***Safety for Women*** - men as well as women are very welcome!

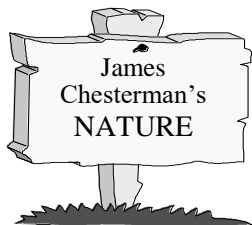
The next co-ordinators meeting will be in February next year.

Hilary Mengham



Abandoned on October 2nd - one small red umbrella at the Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning.

If you are getting wet without your brolly, please ring Ruth Scovil - 743720.



Wild cats, Snails and Wild Boars

In an earlier *Crier* I wrote that in June we were in a villa in Spain and played host to a wild cat with her three kittens. Jet black with wild staring eyes of an amazing yellow, they were ravenous and we could not leave them unfed. Of course we were then saddled with them morning, noon and night but had the infinite pleasure of seeing them pursuing each other round the rather wild garden. An enormous cactus plant leaf acted as a trampoline on which they loved to dance up and down. Now, near the end of September they had revisited us, all three kittens in good shape and still asking for food. But this time we have had to be hard-hearted for, being wild, they must maintain themselves this winter in their own habitat. Lizards watch out!

On our way home through France we stayed at a B & B we had seen advertised and discovered we had booked into a *Cordon Bleu* establishment where Françoise, our hostess, was apparently famous for her cuisine and had had articles in French glossy magazines for some of her prize dishes. She said she had a surprise for us. The usual French meal with its five courses had as its main dish rabbit with a snail sauce. We were handed little forks to scoop out the snails - the first one I extricated looked like a superior worm and of much the same consistency. To the derision of the assembled guests (a half dozen or so hardened French snail enthusiasts), I pushed the snails on one side and concentrated on the rabbit. Anna reclaimed the lost dignity of the British by eating her snails with every sign of relish.

The owner of the house, husband to Françoise, was a keen shooting man and regaled us with stories of shooting wild boars on his 500 acre estate. To attract the boars into the property, he sprinkled maize inside a wired run which he then closed off once the boars were inside eating. Then - yes - he shot them. I found this to be totally unsporting and typically French. In France even blackbirds are shot. What a heathen lot!

James Chesterman

Welcome

To Alison and Simon Black who have recently moved into Rose Crescent in the High Street. We hope they will soon make many new friends and be very happy living here.



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Several of us have been working hard over the past couple of months in the hope of having a first and, hopefully, successful Christmas Fayre on December 5th and raising some money for MAGPAS and the Church. We had intended to place ads in the *Crier* for the three months prior to the event, giving more information each month to entice more people along! We were, therefore, very disappointed on reading through last month's *Crier* (Oct. 98) that our advert for the Fayre had not been included. I was told that there can be no guarantee that the ad. will appear in both of the next two issues either. Why is this? There appeared to be the space.

It's very hard to know how best to advertise events within the village if we cannot do it through the village magazine.

Yours sincerely, but sadly

***Ruth Scovil, Barbara Jones, Kate Child,
Judith Temple, Sue Rust, Jenny Brand***

Ed's Note: We shall be running three ads for the Christmas Fayre (the first appeared in August) , instead of the desired four. Similarly, Ruth's (extremely excellent - I won all the raffle prizes!) Macmillan Coffee Morning appeared just twice instead of three times - another contentious issue!

This problem hasn't arisen before - once or exceptionally twice is the norm for advertising events - and we didn't handle it very well.. Sorry, ladies, and best of luck on the day!.

Shadworth House
High Street

Dear Editors

Two comments please on the P.C. meeting reported in the October issue.

The light on the church vestry wall was a necessary sequel to the provision of steps on the adjacent path. These, in turn, were put there after a particularly severe winter when that section of the path, devoid of direct sunlight, remained frozen all day. The ice, together with the slope made it very hazardous. The steps cured the problem - but at night they could not be seen and were dangerous. That path has been there for many centuries - but not traversed by many after dark until the development of Green Head and Tothill Roads.

As the P.C. is the lighting authority, the Church council were persuaded to allow the light if the P.C. paid the energy cost. There was good co-operation between the two bodies in those days!! The charge was £26/year when I worked it out on an 8 year average use and current prices. Perhaps 2 years is owing and a discount allowed?

The other matter is the Low Cost Housing the Charities are trying to negotiate with the Cambridge Housing Association. They have been assured that priority will be given to local needs - but they will not be left empty if a vacancy should occur. At one time, the Charities were able to offer 6 dwellings in this village and it is with regret that plans to redress this shortage have been thwarted on their own land.,

I hope this recent ongoing attempt will be successful - it merits everyone's support.

Yours

John Norris

7 High St

Dear Editors,

There appears to be a certain quite healthy scepticism about the tale I related in last month's editorial, about the activities of a building/development company for which I once worked. I can assure the doubters that the facts are absolutely true. The date of the episode was, as far as I can remember, in 1976 or 1977, and the Company was based in Langley Mill in Nottinghamshire, but has subsequently gone bust, following the jailing for fraud of the Managing Director. I will supply the name of the company to anyone who contacts me directly.

John Fidoe

10 Tothill Road

Dear Fellow Editors

Then there were four!

It is with regret that I have decided to resign as part of the Editorial Team of the *Crier*. My prolonged absences from the village which cause me to miss editorial meetings where decisions are made and pressure of work are the reasons for my standing down. However, I will continue to contribute to the magazine and help with the practical production when possible.

I wish the *Crier* every success in the future.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Mengham



Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr A Badcock chaired the meeting with 4 members and 4 members of the public.

Matters Arising:

Speeding: Mrs Condie and Mrs Malster attended the Parish County Meeting on Maintenance and Traffic Issues held on the 5th October. Mrs Malster reported to the Parish Council.

Several points were raised at this meeting, including the reducing of the speed limit on Mill Hill. The County Council Traffic Calming Manager explained that from past experience reducing the speed limit would have little effect and the cost would be considerable. It is County Council policy not to reduce the speed limits in any villages at present. With regard to the HGV's turning left out of Station Road along the High Street, the Traffic Calming Manager agreed to send someone to survey the area to see if this is feasible.

After further discussion it was felt that the Parish Council had pursued all background data it could at the present time. Mr P Mengham will write to the County Council. There was further discussion about the Village raising its own funds, due to limited monies available for traffic calming schemes through the County Council. It was generally agreed that this warranted further investigation.

Village Sign: This is now back in place after refurbishment.

Village Shop: The Chairman presented to the Council a report received from The Swaffham Prior Post Office & Shop Action Group. The Council was asked for their views on the possibility of including a Post Office & Shop facility within the Village Hall. This could possibly involve an extension to the present building or use of the Meeting Room. After discussion, some concerns were raised about actual manning of such a facility but it was generally felt that this was an avenue to be pursued.

Pound & Keep: The Chairman reported to the meeting that the arrangements for the refurbishment of the bier were progressing. The Ely Fire Station had been approached about help with the renovation of the fire engine but no response to date had been received.

Enhancement Scheme: Mr E Day & Mr P Mengham will meet with The Conservation Officer of ECDC on 20/10/98 to discuss possible schemes/projects for the Village.

Footpath (Mill Hill): Concerns had been brought to the Parish Council's attention about the new stile on the footpath. This had been

reported to the County Council's Footpaths Officer and is being dealt with.

Precept Meeting: It was agreed that a separate meeting would be held as in previous years. Date and time to be agreed.

War Grave: This was discussed and it was agreed that further research into archives was necessary.

Reports:

Councillor H J Fitch reported to the meeting.

Correspondence:

Village of the Year results received. Posted on the Village Hall notice board.

Letter received about **ownership of the clunch pit** on Barston Drove. Further investigation needed.

A letter was received from **Dencora's Planners** advising of Dencora's proposed revisions to their scheme for Lower End Field. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would action a reply requesting up-to-date plans of their proposed scheme before the Local Inquiry.

Accounts:

Payments were agreed.

Planning Applications:

One Application had been received since the last meeting;

Addition of rear bathroom 45/47 Lower End. The Council had no objections.

Applications passed. New house with associated parking & new garage to No.34 at land adjacent to 34 Lower End.

Any Other Business:

Neighbourhood Watch. A meeting was held on 5/10/98. Further break-ins had taken place in the Village.

Parish Forum. The Chairman & Clerk attended the Parish Forum on 23/9/98. The Chairman reported to the Council.

One verbal estimate had been received for the **pollarding** of the **trees** alongside the **Village Hall Drive**. Further estimates are awaited. A Camps to look into Conservation implications.

Open Question Time:

General discussion. No report.

The next meeting will be held on 12th November 1998.

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council



Recipe of the Month

With the nights drawing in and cooler weather ahead, it is the time of year for warming stews and casseroles. This one, provided by Kate Childs, is low in fat.

Sharp Steak and Mushroom Stew

Ingredients

300g-400g lean stewing beef	125 mls water
1 tablesp plain flour	2 teasp. Worcester Sauce
1 teasp soft brown sugar	1 tablesp Tomato Ketchup
¼ teasp ground nutmeg	2 teasp wine vinegar
1 teasp rosemary	50g mushrooms
1 medium onion, sliced	salt and pepper to taste
chopped parsley to serve	
Oven - 160°C, 325°F, Gas 3	
Time 2.½ - 3 hours	

Method

1. Cut meat into small cubes and put into a casserole dish. Add flour and stir well.
2. Add rest of the ingredients except mushrooms and parsley - stir well.
3. Cover with tightly fitting lid and put in oven to cook.
4. 15-20 minutes before the end of cooking time, add mushrooms (whole if button variety, or quartered if larger). Stir well and return to oven to complete cooking.
5. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve with potatoes, tagliatelle, noodles or rice with vegetables or salad.

Hilary Mengham

Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning



Thank you to **all** those who contributed so generously to this year's Coffee Morning. The grand sum raised was **£285** which was absolutely marvellous! We may only be a little village but you certainly dug deep into your pockets and many people will benefit from your support.

Ruth Scovil

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The meeting got off to a gloomy start when Elaine Malster reported on a traffic meeting which she had attended, together with Erika Condie. She had been told that (i) there would be no money available for putting up new signs or making traffic-calming devices as we had suggested, and (ii) in any case we would not be allowed to *reduce* the speed limit on Cage Hill from 40 to 30mph as we had hoped. If we want to spend money on traffic matters the parish would have to raise the money. It was agreed that we should write to the County Council; expressing our disgust over the turning down of our anti-speeding suggestions, and James Fitch, CCC representative, said that he would support us in this matter. The chairman remarked that he had found, during a conference of village PC chairmen and secretaries, that speeding was a matter of major concern to many other villages in Cambridgeshire. (It was noted that the CCC is spending money on cycleways around the villages, but the cost of cycleways comes out of a different money pot).



The village shop/post-office was discussed briefly; the High Street-Lower End areas were the most popular sites, and the idea of a purpose-built structure between the village hall and the school was floated. Since by mid-1999 Post Office Counters would require a solid structure with counter and grill, and a permanent computer on-line, it was obvious that the post-office could not function in a room that was ever used for any other purpose.

A planning application received in August was now a matter of urgency. It concerned a row of four small houses, to be as 'low-cost housing' in Heath Road, for letting by the Cambridge Housing Association. The P.C. agreed that it had no objection to the structures; but unhappiness was expressed about letting-policy, because Hereward Housing's letting policy had caused trouble. However, the P.C. has no control over letting policy, and anyway the Cambridge Housing Association may have a different policy from Hereward's. It was agreed to telephone the ECDC with the go-ahead.

James Fitch's report on County Council matters contained items of interest. (i)The site of Burwell Fire Station is to be sold for housing and light industry, though a small piece of the site will be retained for a tower. (ii) There are to be cycle-lockups at the Newmarket Road Park-and-Ride (so you will be able to park your *bike* and ride by bus into town). (iii)The

police force is to be increased, with many more telephonists: (one accident on the M 11 may generate 200 phone calls as every passing motorist with a mobile phone reports it). We are likely to have fewer problems with thieving Travellers, because Travellers don't like the police helicopter and are moving off to counties which do not have one.

The chairman read the report on the Eastern Area Best Kept Village competition. (Burwell and Isleham came top.) There were several good points in the Swaffham Prior report, including the appearance of the pub. But we lost points on our Village Notice Board, village road-signs, play-area gate, and allotments; (2/3 well-kept, 1/3 overgrown.).

A report had been received from the Dencora people to say (i) that the recreation facilities had been withdrawn, and (ii) that they proposed to double the number of 'affordable houses' on its field from 6 to 12, if planning permission was obtained. But they had sent no plans to show *where*, precisely, so the P.C. did not even consider the matter.

The chairman had been sent an updated list of 'listed buildings' in the village; the Pound is now listed and so is the telephone box. One curious little item concerned the Parish Clunch Pit, down Barston Drove. Did we own it? Eric Day thought we did, possibly. The adjacent farmer said that its area had been included in his area for assessment for drainage rates, though he did not own it, so please would we tell the rating officer that it was ours; this was agreed, but since the area is scrub-covered and scrubland is not assessed for drainage rates anyway, nobody need pay anything. There were other curious little discussions: concerning grave-sites on the cemetery; somebody wanted a free site on the grounds that it was a war grave, but nobody knew precisely where it was situated in the cemetery. Another person wanted a refund of payments already made for grave sites, because he had decided that he wanted only one not two sites, and the refund of £112 was agreed.

The village may undergo 'Enhancement': the ECDC Conservation Officer named John Selby is coming on 20th October and will walk round the village with Peter Mengham to find out how we want to be enhanced. It was suggested that what we would really like is to have certain electricity wires put underground, and to have our hideous sodium lights replaced. But these items are probably outside Mr.Selby's Enhancing remit. Some DIY Enhancement is already under way: a clearup of the Village Hall Car-Park, the pollarding of the lime trees down the drive to the Village Hall, and the cutting-back of the hedge on Mill Hill.

Margaret Stanier

BACK BY DEMAND



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SCHOOL PTA



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Staine Hundred

Prickwillow and the Fens was the subject for the October meeting which was very well attended. Chris Jakes, who lives in Prickwillow, has worked in the Cambridgeshire Collection for more than twenty years and is now in charge there. The parish is 7 miles long and 4 miles wide and includes Burnt Fen and Shippea Hill, the latter dating back to pre-historic times. In 1826, Sandy's Cut was made, diverting the Ouse from its original course in the Prickwillow area. The main road in Prickwillow runs along the bank of the old river and the village was built after about 1850. One of the early buildings was used as both a church and a school but the slates on the roof were too heavy for the peaty soil and the church was rebuilt in 1866, designed by the architect who planned the Corn Exchange in Cambridge. As in most Fen areas, there were also a number of chapels of different denominations in the village. The first part of Chris's talk dealt mainly with the problem of drainage, the windmills and the later pumping engines, powered first by coal which came by barge, then early diesel engines, steam engines, up to the present efficient modern engines.

Prickwillow was fortunate to have a vicar from 1887 to 1917 who was a keen photographer. He was lame and used a horse to visit his widely spread parishioners, having a lamp on the stirrup which would reflect in the water if he got too close to a ditch! From his work, we saw the kind of housing in which people lived (one condemned in 1854 was still being lived in in the 1920s!). Women gathered leaches, paddling in the receding waters and putting the leaches into little barrels for the local hospitals. The shrinkage of the peat means that most of the land is below sea-level and the effect of this could be seen on houses which were once entered at ground level and some need as many as 13 steps now to the door. (All new houses have to be built on piles.) The nature of the soil means that no-one can be buried in Prickwillow, and in the older times the coffin was taken by horse and cart for burial in Ely. Local farmers used their horses to harrow the road until 1939 when the first of the cement roads were put in. We saw the effect of three serious floods this century, and the 'fen blows'. The population has decreased since 1900, as the isolated fen dwellings became deserted after electricity and water became available elsewhere.

The next meeting will be on 11 November at 7.30 in the Lecture room at Bottisham Village College. The speaker will be David Drury on *St Andrews Church, Chesterton*. As we heard a little about it on our summer Walkabout, we know it has a fascinating history.

Peggy Day

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CAMBRIDGE VOICES

6pm Saturday November 7th,

St. Cyriac's and St Julitta's Church


One of the most important engagements for our Cambridge Voices in their annual performance in the most elegant of Parisian churches - Eglise St. Etienne du Mont. For well over 60 years, **Maurice Duruflé**, together with his wife, retained the position as church-organist in this beautiful church and it was for this very building that Duruflé composed his masterpiece, the celebrated ***Requiem Mass***. Following the recent death of the composer, his widow invited *Cambridge Voices* to perform this marvellous work for her as a tribute to her late husband, an invitation which is to be repeated once more later this month. The choir has also been invited to make the very first recording of the requiem in this church using the very same organ and acoustics for which it was originally written, complemented by a first class line up of soloists from Glyndebourne and Covent Garden. I'm delighted that the choir will perform this great work for us here in Swaffham Prior, it being their very first performance of this *Requiem* liturgically in this country, though on this occasion, sadly, without the glamorous soloists!

It will be sung as part of the Parish Communion, appropriately enough on the **Eve of Remembrance Day**, within the ravishing acoustics of St Cyriac's. If you don't know the work, it's in a similar spiritually contemplative vein to Fauré's Requiem, but in Duruflé's version, much of the music is derived from Gregorian chant, suffused with luscious French harmonies.

The church will be well-heated before the service and we hope to light up the paths approaching the church from both sides for your comfort. Being a liturgical production, **entrance is, of course, free** and all are very welcome.

Ian More
director of *Cambridge Voices*





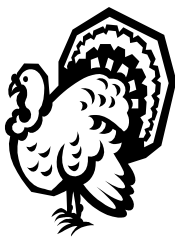
?? Quiz Night ??

Saturday November 21st
7.30pm in the
Village Hall

Teams, maximum of 6 people, should book now with
Mrs J Brand (Tel: 742161) or Mrs B Ives (Tel: 742552)

Tickets: £2.50 each includes your Baked Potato Supper,
but please bring your own drinks & glasses.

Organised by Members of St. Mary's Church.



Turkeys

My first Class, white Norfolk Turkeys are hand reared, hand plucked and are deliciously succulent.

They come to you fresh and oven-ready and are available from about 9 lbs. to 25 lbs. in weight.

Please telephone ***Marcia Miller*** on (01638) 741141 to place your order for Christmas 1998



Wine and Cheese Party

The Little Windmills Playgroup and the Swaffham Prior Mothers & Toddlers group invite all parents and children to a Wine and Cheese Party at the Village Hall on **Sunday 22nd November** 5:00-6:30 pm.. **All** friends and families welcome. We would like to encourage new members and support the two groups and helpers. **Do come.....**

Contact: **Sue Wade** Tel: (01638) 741736 or

Jane Blanks Tel: (01638) 741558

BUDGET PROSPECTS 1998/2000 are difficult to forecast largely because we do not yet know what the Government will tell us what *they* think we need to deliver all our services to an acceptable level.

Things will become clearer before Christmas, and as usual a budget will be put together before the beginning of April.

I am hoping that this year the wide difference between Cambs. at the bottom of the league and those higher up, such as our neighbours in Suffolk, Essex and Herts. will be narrowed in our favour. We have suffered too long from Government tightfistedness, reminding me of the harsh days of rationing during the last war. We are a wealthy nation in times of peace. We deserve grant not just enough to preserve the skeleton of our service but to have enough to reach out to help those of our fellow villagers and citizens in need. Lack of Government grant should never have been so severe that we see our vulnerable neighbours suffering cuts such as in day centre, home care and bus pass availability; our children seeing cuts in staff, larger classes and fewer books for libraries; all of us seeing the steady decline in the conditions of our roads.

Yet another Government study reckons that Cambridgeshire deserves a larger cost of living allowance (or ACA as it is called) and perhaps this is the moment, if you feel as strongly as I do about the unfair treatment our County receives, to write to John Prescott MP at the D.E.T.R., Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU, and if possible send a copy to James Paice MP and also to me, so that I can tell our officers at Shire Hall.

Having got that off my chest, not everything else to do with the County Council is bad news. Our **Social Services** team continues to take action to avoid the need to take children into care. In the last three months, the numbers are down by 4% and the trend will continue.

Trading Standards recently spent a day checking electric blankets for safety at **Burwell**. I went along with ours and was given a pass mark (and a new plug!). I was alarmed to hear that up to 60% of those tested fail in some way. If you have an old blanket, do get it tested every 3 years. I heard of bare wires and one case of a person who had cut the heating wires down the middle of the blanket and wired both halves to separate plugs! The name "bright spark" sprang to mind.

In an effort to reduce the number of fires caused by youngsters our **Fire Service** has set up a team of staff volunteers to provide advice to young

offenders who become involved in fire-raising activities. The process starts when a worried parent contact the Service and after details have been taken the volunteer makes a visit by arrangement.

Both **Police** and **Fire** control rooms are also learning how to deal with suspected hoax calls in an effort to avoid expensive and time wasting calls out.

Meals on Wheels. There has been concern over the major changes to this traditional service. My main worry is that the old people receiving say 3 meals per week delivered by hand will now have to make do with a delivery once a fortnight, thus losing the frequent friendly contact with the deliverers.

Any comments can be fed back to me and I will make a general case to the Social Services Dept.

Overheard in the children's playground

"I don't think Jesus will come down here again. Not after what happened first time....."



***Bottisham Village College
Music Society***

**Friday 6th November
at 8.00pm
A Recital by**

Phyllida McCormick
(Soprano)

Accompanied by: David Price

**There will be music by Purcell, Handel, Brahms,
Faure and Strauss**

Tickets: £4.50 Members & Concessions: £3.00

Family Ticket (Up to 4 persons) £9.00

*** Available at the door ***



Bottisham Group W.I. Meeting

15th October '98

Swaffham Prior W.I. hosted the above meeting in the Village Hall. It was attended by the County W.I. Chairman, Fran Saltmarsh and Anne Ballman who serves on many W.I. Committees.

The speaker, Janet Naylor, gave an interesting and amusing talk about the Life & Times of Marie Lloyd, illustrated by her singing some of the music hall songs.

This was followed by a general Singalong, wine and a lovely cake, made by June Wolfenden, to celebrate the 80th birthdays of Bottisham and Lode W.I.'s. The competition for the best music hall type hat was won by Shirley Wilkins with June Wolfenden second.

Margaret Phillips



Why not advertise in the *Crier*?

Our rates are very reasonable!

Please contact us on 01638 741183



Ladies Circle

On Monday 28th September, the Ladies Circle met at the home of Christine Plume (one of our members). We decided to have a relaxed social evening for a change - a chance to be able to get together for a chat and to be able to relax away from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives. We played a few quiz games and enjoyed a buffet prepared by Christine and Mary Cook. It was certainly a most pleasant evening.

Forthcoming meetings:

23rd November Jenny Fairbairn - "Ways of Using Scarves"

21st December Social Evening.

We would welcome any new members - just pop along and see what a friendly group of ladies we are.

Sandra Butcher



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From your District
Councillor

The draft 1999 Electoral Register will be published on 28th November and will be available for inspection at the Council offices, with the Parish Clerk or with me, until 16th December. You should check that your name has been included in the draft register and inform the Electoral Services immediately if you have been left off.

There has been an addition to the people from Swaffham Prior who are having a hearing of their appeals against the draft Local Plan. As well as Dencora and Mr SF Day, Mrs J Brownsdon will be appearing to put her case to have the field behind number 38 Mill Hill included in the planning envelope. All these hearings will be held on Thursday 19 November. This date may change, so if you want to attend, please contact the Programme Officer, Mrs Jenny Borsberry on 01353 668833 extension 345 to confirm the date. Anyone is entitled to attend these hearings, but you will not be able to speak. Nevertheless, it will be an opportunity for you to hear the appellants' objections and their arguments in favour of changing the Draft Local Plan.

There has been a worrying increase in fly tipping across the District. This is illegal, and carries heavy fines. For example, anyone caught fly-tipping household rubbish can be fined up to £2,500. If you see anyone fly-tipping or if you see dumped rubbish, please contact our Client Officer John Grain on 01353 668833 extension 335. He will ensure that legal action is taken wherever possible and will arrange for the rubbish to be cleared away promptly. If you want to dispose of rubbish which cannot be taken in the weekly collection, e.g. old furniture, please 'phone Cleanaway on 01353 863864 who will arrange to collect the rubbish from you. Usually there is no charge for this service, although there is a small charge for some types of rubbish, but it will be a lot less than £2,500!

Charlotte Cane



SEEN ON A CHURCH NOTICEBOARD

This weeks ladies group meeting is at the cathedral. The title is ' Heaven - and how to get there'. The coach leaves the car park at 7pm.



W.I. Notes

At the October meeting, Mr Cecil Nash took us all back to the old days when the cows were led home through the streets for milking and when men worked in the fields stacking the hay, or hedging and ditching. He then led us through the time when machinery gradually appeared on the farms.

We were amazed to learn that at one time there were no less than 17 small holdings in Swaffham Prior.

Next month, on **16th November**, the talk is entitled 'Town and Gown' when Mrs. Ridout will show us how Cambridge has changed over the years.

Come and join us - £1.50 for visitors

Betty Prime



Village Gardeners

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Gardeners was held on 20th October in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. The Chairman reported on an enjoyable and successful year, the Secretary announced the interesting programme for next year and the Treasurer revealed a fairly healthy bank balance.

The new Committee for the coming year is: **Chairman** - Michael Limb, **Vice Chairman** - Betty Prime (both from Swaffham Prior), **Secretary** - Dorothy Hones and **Asst. Secretary** - Tricia Franklin (both from Swaffham Bulbeck) and **Treasurer** - Peter Hale (from Burwell).

Following the AGM, Mr & Mrs Adams of *Adams Plants* showed slides and gave us the history of Clematis. They have over 160 varieties at their garden in Buckden and we were able to purchase a number of them at very reasonable prices. Mr. Adams also showed us how to propagate them.

As you can see, there is always something to learn at our meetings, so do come and join us. Subs are still only £10 per annum per garden, or £1 per meeting for visitors.

Next month, on **17th November at 8 pm in Reach Village Centre**, Mr. Ken Akers, a professional garden designer, will be talking on designing with trees, shrubs and perennials.

School Report

This term has seen a lot of changes. We have the largest number of children on roll that we have ever had, 130 children. This has meant a rethink about our internal organisation. Rather than have very large classes, the Governors and I made the decision to employ another teacher (or at least, as much of one as we could afford) and create another class. We welcomed Mrs Vicki Butcher to the staff and I am covering for that part she doesn't quite reach! We are very pleased to have her.

We have been promised a replacement classroom for our old mobile, but unfortunately this won't be ready until the beginning of next term. Work has begun this week and we are promised it will be finished by Christmas (please let there be good weather!). In the meantime we have sectioned off the end of the main hall to make a temporary classroom. This is obviously not ideal and affects the whole school in that the hall is out of use for other things. But we are managing, with a little help from our friends. PE is mostly done outside, in the way of games or small apparatus; lunches we just manage to squeeze into two sittings, and we hire the Village Hall for Shared Assemblies.

Everybody is being very flexible and patient, and it seems incredible that we are so far into the term already.

The Government's Literacy Project is being implemented this half term in various degrees. The aim is for teachers to get used to the format of the Literacy Hour, familiarise themselves with the materials and work involved and have it fully operational as soon as it is practicable. It has meant a lot of extra work for teachers who are already working to capacity but such is their dedication that they are prepared to put in the extra time to plan and search out suitable resource materials.

A good start to the term, which bodes well for the rest of the year.

Brenda Wilson
Head Teacher

For Sale

A FINE VICTORIAN ROUND MAHOGANY 'TILT TOP' TABLE, 4'3" DIAMETER TRIPOD BASE WITH CLAW FEET.



Church Services

November 1998

	St Mary's Swaffham Bulbeck	St Mary's Swaffham Prior	St Ethelreda and The Holy Trinity Reach
<i>All Saints</i> Sun 1	8am Holy Communion [†] 9.30am Family Service	11am Parish Communion ^B 12.30 Holy Baptism 6pm Annual Bereavement Service	11.15am Holy Communion ^B
Sat 7	6pm Requiem Mass with Cambridge Voices at St. Cyriac's Church		
<i>Remem brance</i> Sun 8	10.50am Remembrance Service 6pm Parish Communion ^A	10.50am Remembrance Service	8am Holy Communion [†] 10.50am Remembrance Service
Sun 15	9.30am Parish Communion ^A	11am Parish Communion ^B 6pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8am Holy Communion [†]
Sun 22	9.30 Parish Communion ^A 6pm Evening Praise	8am Holy Communion [†] 11am Mattins [†] and Sermon	11.15pm Family Service
<i>Advent</i> Sun 29	10am United Parish Communion ^A	6pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8am Holy Communion [†]

Holy Communion *Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church. Reach Church, 8am on November 8th, 15th and 29th.*

Evening Prayer *Wednesdays, 5pm, Reach Church*

Belringing *Tuesday practice in St. Cyriac's every fortnight at 8p.m., Sundays at 10.30a.m. and before 6pm Evensong. Contact Dr. Margaret Stanier on 741328*

Parish Register for July 1998

Holy Baptism **Rebecca Elizabeth Rose Arksey, Emilia Grace Hubbard
Oscar John Stanley**

Holy Matrimony **Gary Fox -Treece and Denise Jane Speed**



Pastoral Letter

The Vicarage
Green Head

Dear Friends

November 1998

HARD GRAFT!

It has seemed to many observers of the 'world of work' that those in paid employment are working increasingly long hours and not always with remuneration to match; there was a 'Panorama' documentary on the subject only recently.

Sunday trading has its part to play in this too; the issues at stake are a mixed category of fear of unemployment, increased stress levels, less time spent with family and friends, workaholism, earlier retirement encouraging 'burn-out' for the shorter working career linked to an unhealthy pre-occupation with ageism (B&Q and the Church excepted). I could go on.

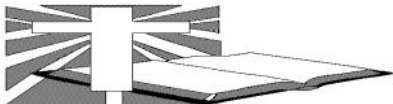
All the churches are conscious that many committed Christians are unable to play as full a role in their local church and community as they would like; the situation in this part of East Anglia is apparently the most acute in this regard with Cambridge Science Park industries, in particular, driving up the length of the average working week, which may only be alleviated by the new EU directive on the ideal maximum. All this is linked to an unemployment level of thankfully only 2% in this area, which is so low that it is 1% less than the theoretical minimum of 3%!! Still, for even that small number, the hardship of being out of work in an expensive part of England where everyone else has a job can be quite profound.

The Church has an important part to play in all this, ministering to people in their home parish, but also via its chaplaincy to people-at-work, which we support by our diocesan giving, taking the church into the nitty-gritty of the workplace, listening, reconciling, mediating or just 'being there'. This is as true in Eaden Lilley's as it is on the Science Park and we should be praying for all who exercise this valuable ministry, whether clergy or lay-people, paid or volunteer. That said, it is important that those who have time and energy, the scarcest of all resources, plus the inspiration, should contribute what they can to fill the gaps unavoidably left by others. The lack of volunteers to work within our local institutions is, nationally, a serious problem; people are just too busy, and/or pre-occupied with their own concerns to offer assistance to others. Thank God this is of course not a universal truism; we all owe a debt of thanks to the many, often unsung, heroes of local communities but it is an issue of personal stewardship that we should all consider.

Sunday 1st November is the Eve of All Souls Day and at 6.00 pm in St Mary's we hold our annual bereavement service, giving thanks for those we have loved and lost, by name. Many of those names will have given lives of service in our villages; it is one aspect of remembrance that we honour their memory by following in their footsteps and sustain that which has been bequeathed to us.

Yours sincerely

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for November 1998:

Sunday 1st	10.30am	Family Service (Robin Fleet)
	6.30pm	Cecil Nash
Sunday 8th	6.30pm	John Sargent
Sunday 15th	6.30pm	Paul Jolleyman
Sunday 22nd	6.30pm	Four Point Turn
Sunday 29th	6.30pm	Paul Giddings

Agony and Ecstasy

Once again the cycle of the seasons has taken us through another harvest and on to the cold and damp of yet another winter. Yet again the turn of the seasons reminds us of God's faithfulness and sheer power that the wonders of modern technology cannot match. However much we may wish to change the cycle of the seasons, we cannot. God has a way of making us realise that there are limits to our powers and abilities. As He promised those many years ago to Noah "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease". Sometimes the cycle of life seems unremitting and we wish we could change it - get rid of the 'winters' in our lives. Yet we should remember that there is a good purpose in winter - not enough sharp frosts and we are plagued by wasps the following summer!

This view of life may be considered simple but only this morning I was talking to a friend who has lived through a protracted and painful experience concerning the health of a loved one. It lasted some years. It took him to the limit of his faith but now he can talk of the ecstasy he feels as he sees his loved one not only healed of the illness but leading a very successful life. 'Without the agony I couldn't have appreciated the ecstasy' is how he describes it. Talking to another friend only a few days earlier I heard about his experience of financial difficulty which has left him expressing similar thoughts. Both these friends are Christians and have learned that God is faithful to those who trust Him and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. They both know, also, that this earthly life is only the introduction to an eternal life which, if lived in the presence of God, will have no 'winter' at all.

One further thought about seasons. After our brief stay at Zion Baptist Sylvia and I are moving on - the cycle of *our* lives moving on again. We have enjoyed our brief stay here and have so much for which to thank the members and friends of the chapel. We hope we have sown some good seeds of our own which will bear good fruit; we know we have received much more from the very good friends we have found here.

We wish you all the very best for future days.

Steve and Sylvia Ayres

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: 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

As I move around our villages, I am constantly asked about the rumoured demolition of our church to make way for a hypermarket or superstore. It will be very much in the news as the November *Crier* hits the streets, and will be stale news by 1 December, so I am writing this ahead of the postal ballot of all 700+ members of the worshipping parish community and without having a clue as to the outcome.

What has happened is that we have drawn up a register of all those who see our church as their primary place of worship; we have circulated them with information; we have had three parish meetings, the most recent attended by 200+ parishioners on 3 October; and we are conducting a postal ballot, the results of which will be announced on 26 October. The result of that ballot will not bind the Diocesan Trustees who have the legal responsibility but they will pay close attention to it.

The case for accepting the offer is this: that we are in a dignified 35-year old church that is extremely expensive to maintain; that it **is** dignified but it was designed before the Second Vatican Council and built after the great liturgical reforms, so that it does not work as well as a purpose-built church would; that if we stay, we are likely to find ourselves surrounded by car-parks and commerce and less and less dignified as a result; and (more important for most of its advocates) that there is a chance to bring all the Catholic witness - church, hall, school etc - onto a single site in Fordham Road. The case against accepting the offer is simpler: that we are in a beautiful church which many people - visitors as much as 'regulars' find a place of great peace, suffused with prayer; and that the Catholic Church is the only prominently-placed church in the town: one prominent Methodist regularly refers to it as 'Newmarket Cathedral'! Why risk pulling down so beautiful, prayerful and prominent a place of worship for an uncertain alternative?

There has been an increasing charity in the way the debate has been conducted. The meeting on 3 October was exceptional for its generosity of spirit and for mutual respect amongst people with strong preferences. And many people are torn. The most moving thing for me was the comment of someone who has spent his life in the parish. He would not be voting, he thought, because 'I am too biased'. I asked what he meant. 'I have spent 25 years manning the car-park in pouring rain and undertaking other chores to raise money for that church. I have invested a lot of myself in the building'. Why not vote to stay there, I said. 'Because', he replied, 'that would be to put my concerns first. It may be better for the community to move'. I found that a powerful statement of Christian selflessness. As we make our fateful decision, please pray for us. A church is a community not a building. Whatever the decision of 26 October, which you might well know as you read this and which I do not know as I write it, it will be a beginning and not the end.

Dates for Your Diary - November 1998

Sun	1	
Mon	2	Neighbourhood Watch Open Meeting, 7.30 Village Hall
Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill, 2.40-3.30, Chapel 3.35-350 School Govenors AGM, 7.30 Bellringing Practice 8pm St. Cyriac's
Wed	4	
Thu	5	
Fri	6	BVC Music Society Concert 8pm
Sat	7	Cambridge Voices, 6pm, St Cyriac's
Sun	8	
Mon	9	PCC 7.30 Meeting Room, Village Hall
Tue	10	
Wed	11	Staine Hundred, 7.30, Lecture Room BVC
Thu	12	PC Meeting 7.30 Meeting Room Village Hall
Fri	13	
Sat	14	<i>Crier</i> COPY DEADLINE The Orlando Singers Concert, 7.30, St. Cyriacs Red Cross Bazaar, 10.30-2.30, Impington Village Hall
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI Meeting, 7.30 Village Hall
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, 8pm Reach Village Centre Mobile Library, Cage Hill, 2.40-3.30, Chapel 3.35-350 Bellringing Practice 8pm St. Cyriac's
Wed	18	
Thu	19	Parochial Charities Trustees Meeting, 7.30, The Vicarage
Fri	20	
Sat	21	Quiz Night, 7.30 Village Hall
Sun	22	Wine and Cheese Party 5-6.30, Village Hall
Mon	23	Ladies Circle, 7.30 Zion Chapel
Tue	24	
Wed	25	
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating
Fri	27	
Sat	28	PTA Race Night, Village Hall, 7.45

December:		Christmas Fayre, Village Hall
Sun	13	Christingle 11am, Advent by Candlelight 4pm
Tue	22	Candlelit Carol Service, 7pm
Wed	23	Carols at the Village Hall, 7pm