

The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 9 September 1998



Editorial

As summer(?) draws to a close, our thoughts turn to the different delights of Autumn - harvesting. bottling, freezing, jam-making and so on. A busy time of the year. September too sees the start of a new academic year and for some children the start of their school life. What a big event for them and their parents too!! To see the little ones toddling off with school bags nearly as big as themselves, some perhaps a little more eager than others, must bring a lump to the throat of many a mum and dad.

I was delighted to share the fun of the Summer Playscheme again this year. What a valiant effort by all concerned. A wonderfully varied programme kept around 70 children happy and amused every day for a week and the only criticism I heard was "why can't it last longer?" Ask the organisers, now taking a very well-earned rest!!

It's always nice to welcome new-comers to the village but equally delightful to see familiar faces of those who have moved away for one reason or another but return to visit old friends. Two recent meetings were with Paul and Penny Cannings and Lynn and Nick Dee with their young families. It was lovely to chat for a while. Don't forget you can always keep in touch with what is going on by arranging to have a copy of the *Crier* mailed to your new home - perhaps a nice idea for a Christmas gift! And talking of Christmas, does this beat all records? While in a local garden centre on 17th *August*, I was amazed to see Christmas decorations being unpacked ready for display!

Natural and 'man-made' disasters continue to dominate world news, from tidal waves to bomb blasts. The latest heinous crime in Omagh with the dreadful loss of life of innocent men, women and children has touched us all. Sympathy must go to all the bereaved families and to those so horrifically injured who, somehow, have to try to pick up their shattered lives. Violence, terrorism, murder must **never** be allowed to succeed and it is to be hoped that the perpetrators of this latest outrage are brought to justice swiftly. "Life will go on," said one survivor "and we must continue to hope for an end to the killings. I pray for those who have committed this act". A very brave man.

Pat Cunningham

Cover Picture: Back to School by Barbara Ives

To Be, or Not To Be?

Dencora Homes Ltd speculatively bought some agricultural land in the hope of acquiring building permission. Inevitably the Company is lodging two of the objections to the Draft Local Plan. Another is being lodged by the daughter of the wealthy farmer who sold the land to Dencora. ECDC and our own PC support the Draft Local Plan. Charlotte Cane (see her reports in the July and August *Crier*) wants to know what residents in Swaffham Prior think. To help both ECDC and the PC a small group of people, often in a rather desultory way in this hot weather, are asking for signatures on a 'Statement' saying:-

"We the undersigned residents of Swaffham Prior welcome and support ECDC's decision to oppose building on the Dencora Field and to exclude it from the development envelope. We believe that to develop this field would be highly damaging to the present character and attractiveness of the village."

Some people are in favour of development and *may* present a very good case. *How will ECDC present its own case if all it has is that the PC opposes it.* After all, about nine years ago, the then PC was very much in favour of development and ECDC would have been misled if it had accepted that the PC's view represented the village. While the current PC almost certainly represents the majority view of the village, ECDC still needs more facts for the D of E Public Enquiry in November. *ECDC needs the help of Swaffham Prior villagers.* Unfortunately, at least one Parish Councillor is going around the village saying that the 'Statement' is a waste of time, that the PC has the matter totally under control, and how dare anyone organise this. Goodness me, why get so fractious about something which can only help and which supports the ECDC and PC view. Maybe the PC should have organised it?

If you have yet to be asked whether you would like to sign the 'Statement' but would like to do so, please phone Robert Hollingsworth (741613), Caroline Matheson (744008) or myself (742974), and it shall be arranged.

Alastair Everitt

PS. Dencora Homes Ltd has been holding grimly onto the coat tails of the Sports and Recreation Club (SRC). Many may wonder why, as the SRC is probably the most tenaciously inactive club in existence. Dencora would probably been better advised to have tried to curry favour with the Gardening Club by promising an arboretum. Anyway, the latest news is that SRC has arranged, on behalf of Dencora Homes Ltd, an Open Meeting in the Village Hall on 7 September. Dencora will be making a presentation. It should be fun! Incidentally, the Dencora outline plan (and it is only an outline 'plan' which can so easily change) is that there should be 'Six Dwellings in Parkland Setting' (these appear to be the same size as Lower End House but with considerably more land) and some 'affordable housing'.

Open Meeting

The village are invited to an **open meeting** for a presentation of the proposed plan and model of the **Dencora field**, which will include a sports facility for the village.

This will take place at the Village Hall on **7th September at 7.30pm** with the viewing of plans and models followed by general outline of proposals from BWPP-Anglia and open question time.

Malcolm Hall

Chairman, Sports and Recreation Club



Summertime Astronomy

Summer is not a good time of year for stargazing. You have to stay awake till nearly midnight before the sky is dark enough. But one of the best summer constellations has a fine bright star, easy to locate by following the line of the curved handle of the Dipper, which is also the tail of the Great Bear. Your eye will soon pick out Arcturus, a bright yellow star of first-magnitude, the tip of a kite-shaped constellation called Bootes. In one legend, out of many, Bootes invented the Plough (another name for the Great Bear), and is up there driving the oxen which pull the Plough around the Pole star.

The 20 brightest stars in the sky are called 'First Magnitude', the slightly less bright, 'Second Magnitude' and so on. Stellar Magnitude refers to the star's apparent brightness and has nothing to do with its size. On a very dark cloudless night, the naked eye can see stars down to 'sixth magnitude'; for anything fainter, you must use binoculars or telescope. Stars of each magnitude are $2\frac{1}{2}$ times brighter than those of the magnitude below.

Planets are often brighter than even first-magnitude stars, so their magnitudes are negative quantities. Jupiter, now visible in the eastern sky soon after midnight, is now -2.8 magnitude; Venus, about -4 magnitude, is visible this month in morning twilight. If you are up early, you may be lucky enough to see the planet Mercury (-1 magnitude) which rises $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before sunrise.

Margaret Stanier



MAD FROGS AND ENGLISHMEN

Yes, the August midday sun nearly claimed all of us, French hosts and Burwellians alike, on the recent twinning exchange leg in Lizy-sur-Ourcq, east of Paris. Temperatures soared for virtually the first time this summer and despite the annual

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August exit of the French southwards, the sixteen strong group from Burwell (and Swaffham Prior!) managed to find enough welcoming French hosts prepared to risk sunstroke to entertain and spoil us.

The local twinning exchanges have been going on for several years with the French return leg coming in February, which seems a little inhospitable right from the start. Local twinning 'members' number over 100 in Burwell and regular fund-raisers are held during the course of the year; there is no obligation to go to France or indeed to receive guests, but the object is to promote the principle of exchange and indeed to be at least *un peu francophile*.

Ann and I only joined this year and were unable to receive guests in February, but nevertheless enjoyed the barn dance and cider and cheese evening leading up to our recent visit. We left in several cars on Friday morning, took the midday ferry, and arrived at the salle des fetes in Lizy (pron. Leezy) for 7.30 after a three hour drive mainly on autoroutes. Our hosts were gathered there to whisk us away after a welcoming drink and the culinary delights and stumbling conversation began there, some hosts having better English than others, but, pas de probleme, wine cures all inhibitions. Saturday was left to the discretion of hosts – we had a day out at the Chateau of Compiegne and enjoyed poodling about the forest seeing such things as the Armistice Day Clearing, the Wagons-Lits car where the First World War ended and also where Hitler forced the French to concede defeat in WW2. Superficially dry but emotionally stirring. The evening was devoted to a dinner-dance with all the participants into the early hours. Day three was spent together by coach on a visit to Chantilly and their own horse museum, more approachable than Newmarket's in our opinion. There followed a farewell evening with our hostess, a farming widow in a nearby village, and we really felt like long lost family members by the time we left next morning - overall a friendly and relaxed experience with no pretensions or formality, rather a fascinating glimpse into how another nation lives.

If you'd like more details about local twinning events or exchanges, contact Trudy Lamb on 742817.

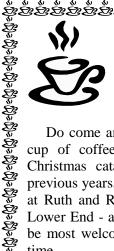
Tony and Ann Truman

Post Office/Village Shop

The Post Office/Village Shop survey has been collected from most of you and your responses are currently being analysed. It certainly appears from first glance that an overwhelming majority of you feel it is very important to retain this facility and hence the Action Group will continue their investigations and feasibility studies accordingly. Thank you all for completing the questionnaire, for the helpful comments and thanks also to those who helped in delivering/collecting the forms.

A visit to the shop is not only convenient but is proving to be, as so many of you pointed out, a great place to meet, chat with friends and enjoy a "cuppa" perhaps, in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. *Please* continue to support it...

As and when we have more news to impart, we shall let you all know as soon as possible.



World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief

Friday, 2nd October 1998

Do come and support this very worthwhile charity by enjoying a cup of coffee (or several!) and meeting friends, old and new. Christmas catalogues can be perused and cards ordered. As in previous years, there will also be a raffle. The coffee morning will be at Ruth and Robin Scovil's house - The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End - and will be from 10.30 am to 12 noon. Everybody will be most welcome, even if you can only manage to stay for a short time.

welcome

to Sabine and Chris Lake who have recently moved into 5 High Street. We hope they will be very happy living here.

CAMSIGHT

THANK YOU SWAFFHAM PRIOR!

Camsight (The Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted) would like to thank the residents of Swaffham Prior, and in particular, the very kind people who collected on our behalf from 25th April to 2nd May this year. £30.87 was raised towards helping blind and partially sighted people in the county both in the community and in our resource centre at 167 Green End Road, Cambridge CB4 IRW Tel: 01223 420033.

We are most grateful for this wonderful boost to our funds.

Mrs. Vicki Russell



Bottisham Village College Music Society

> Saturday 12th September 1998 7.30pm Bottisham Village College

Tickets £6: Concessions £4: Members £3
Family Ticket (up to 4 members) £12.
Available from: Lushers Newsagents, Bottisham
Joan Denison - Tel No 01223 811279
or at the door

Ceci n'est pas une voiture...C'est un art de vivre

Swaffham Prior was very well represented in Paris at the 50th anniversary of the Citreon 2CV earlier this year. 2CV clubs in the UK, Holland, Germany, Spain and France had organised various events to mark the golden anniversary of this idiosyncratic French 'people's car'. With infamous design instructions such as the need

to be able to negotiate a ploughed field with a load of eggs on board and to reach your destination with your fragile load intact, the 2CV has won the hearts of so many drivers who appreciate its curvaceous lines, lean running and bouncy ride.

The Paris 2CV club had invited everyone to a grand 2CV procession around central Paris to take place on Saturday 23rd May. Dennis, Ann Garlick's former lodger, persuaded Paul and myself to take our two year old son Tristan to this unique event. Our green and white 2CV, plus my brother's white and red 2CV, with his fiancée Tracy and an old friend Jonathan on board, together with Dennis's Red 2CV, made up a small 2CV convoy bound for Paris.

A beautiful day of sunny May motoring saw us in St Quentin en Yues at a campsite close to Paris around which the weekend's events were centred. It was spectacular just to drive into the campsite with so many different colours and types of 2CVs. Some had been metamorphosed into strange 'Modcons', others were original 1950's cars (my favourites), all had one thing in common - proud owners! We were very pleased and surprised to find that the 2CV club had arranged a day at a local race track as well as the 'tour de Paris.'. We couldn't believe that we were actually allowed to 'race' around the race circuit. Part of the circuit was so steeply banked that I was nervous as we queued on the starting grid for our turn. Paul described driving on the bank as a 'strange experience' with him having to 'steer into the bank to maintain the height of the car on the bank'.

The next day we set off in a massive 2CV convoy to 'raid' (I think this meant to 'see the sights of') Paris. Nearly three thousand 2CVs toured Paris. It was magnificent, and processing up the Champs-Elysees was a beautiful experience which I shall never forget. It was a fantastic day and we almost waved our arms off to the thousands of cheering Parisians lining the route.

That evening the 2CV club held a banquet in a huge marquee. We shared a table with three Japanese gentlemen who had travelled from Japan to attend the event. I realised while talking to these men that the 2CV has contributed to helping break down boundaries across generations, across nationalities and across class. What an achievement for a car!



Foster's Mill is now running regularly providing a range of basic, speciality flours and associated products. Our range includes organic wholemeal and Rye flours, Oats, our own delicious Muesli and local honey. We will soon be producing organic white flour and some other blended flours.

The mill is working most evenings and weekends and we welcome personal callers during these times. If you wish to check we are open, call us on 741009.

Our products are also stocked by Lanes Bakery in Burwell, plus a number of shops in Cambridge.



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Saturday September 26th 7.00 for 7.30pm

in the Village Hall *****

Raffle in Aid of The Prospect Trust and Farm Africa

Tickets: £4. for adults
Family Tickets: £10
(2 adults & children under 16)

There will be a

cash bar

Wanted!

Black & White Television Wooden ladder (min. 5 ft) Pls ring: 743348 Pre-school Learning Alliance (for all children under 5 years)



** The Little Windmills Playgroup **

(for children 2½ to 5 yrs)

Fully Inspected

 Registered under the Government Scheme to provide pre-school education for 4 yr. olds.

Sessions: Mon. to Thurs... 9.15am to 11.45am.

Also: **Mothers & Toddlers Group** - Wed. afternoons 1.45 to 2.45pm

The Village Hall

Swaffham Prior

Tel: Maxime 01638 730441

Brenda 01223 860680

CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

Saturday 12th September 1998

Last year, a grand total of over £26,000 was made in the annual CHCT sponsored cycle ride. This year will be the thirteenth ride in Cambridgeshire. Since the foundation of the Trust, loans totalling over £500,000 have been made to maintain old churches in the county.

The Sponsored Cycle Ride is the Trust's main annual fund-raising event. Cyclists of all ages are invited to seek sponsors who will pay them an amount of their choice for each church they visit on the day. Half of the money so raised will go to our own church and half to the Trust to be allocated to churches in special need of repair and restoration.

Why not, with a couple of friends, take part in this event. It can be good fun; it certainly is healthy, and it will also benefit a very worthwhile cause. Please be a cyclist in this event. For further details and to obtain sponsorship

Need a Bed? - a 4'6" box mattress bed in good condition with headboard is available at no charge. Must collect. A donation to Crier funds would be appreciated. ** 743883.

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER GALA SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

1pm - 5pm

SWAFFHAM FIRE SERVICE PRESENTS THEIR 10th SUMMER GALA.

Also celebrating 60 years of Swaffham Bulbeck fire station.

GIANT CAR BOOT SALE - pitches £5

Bar-B-Q & Pig-Roast ~ Beer Tent ~ Teas & Refreshments Puppet show ~ Bouncy Castle ~ Majorettes Line Dancing ~ Karaoke ~ Dog Show Displays and Slide Shows

FUN FOR ALL

For further details and Car Boot Bookings contact 01223 811987 or 812141

SWAFFHAM BULBECK FIRE SERVICE

INVITE YOU TO

DANCE

TO LIVE MUSIC

CAMBRIDGE FIRE STATION SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

7.30 TILL Late

Proceeds to Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Station Funds and The Fire Service Benevolent Fund

For further details contact Brian Chalkin on 01223 812141

Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

The new seasons programme starts at Bottisham Village College on 15th of September 1998. We meet at 7.30 on Tuesdays, and new members and visitors will be most welcome. For more information, please contact the secretary: *Mrs Daphne Hawson, 16 Meadowlands, Burwell, Cambridge CB5 0HG. Tel: 01638 741106.*



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE NEWS

Public Speaking at Planning Committees

A new system to let the public speak at planning meetings has been agreed today (Wednesday 1 July) by East Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee. The scheme is set to start at the September meeting.

Under this new scheme, parish council representatives, objectors, the applicant, agent or supporters will have a 3 minute slot to give their point of view. As in many other councils that run a public speaking system, interested parties will register their wish to speak on an item before the meeting. If more than one objector wishes to speak, they will need to organise the time slot between them. At the meeting, the registered name will be called to speak and people will have 3 minutes to address the committee and then return to the public seating area.

Meg Vale, chairman of the Planning Committee, explains:

"We endeavour to operate a system which is fair to all parties involved in planning applications and which should ultimately help the committee to reach good decisions. We have examined systems put in place by other councils and feel confident that our scheme will also run smoothly".

All interested parties will be told about their right to speak on an application and will receive a leaflet explaining how to register, how to obtain copies of the agenda, what are relevant planning considerations and how the system will operate on the day.

For more information, contact on Ely (01353) 665555:

- David Archer, Planning Manager (Ext. 225)
- Rachel Almond, Team Leader Development Control (Ext. 205)
- Greta Barclay, Committee & PR Manager (Ext. 278)

The Crier Reporter on the Parish Council

"'Ere, why haven't there been any *Crier* reports of Parish Council meetings in the last two issues. It's our right to know what that lot are up to." That has been the recent outraged cry from the public, though not always as bluntly as the above.

So for the month of August, when there is usually no PC meeting, the *Crier* offers this extra piece to try to make up.

In actual fact a *Crier* reporter did attend the June meeting. But, after thinking carefully and looking at her notes, the reporter decided it would be "unedifying" to record it. This is the meeting after which both the Clerk and a PC member resigned. So obviously it was a corker of a meeting about which you can only learn by word of mouth. Some parts were quite choice and would have made an excellent story. Perhaps they will one day.

No reporter was available to attend the July meeting. You can read a brief summary in Peter Cunningham's 'Notes' in last month's *Crier*. Of course this does not tell you - who looked at questions with calm reason, who just pontificated, who had steam coming out of the nostrils, who knew the facts, who just tub-thumped, who just followed the leader. So this cannot be reported, but a little gem has spewed out sideways and this can be reported. And the best way to do this is to publish the two following letters. The PC members present when the item came up for discussion were Messrs. A. Badcock, A. Camps, E. Day, H. Hardiment and P. Mengham. The Chairman abstained but all the other four members voted for the resolution mentioned in the PC letter.

The letters speak for themselves; and villagers can judge for themselves.

Letter dated 11th July from Clerk of the Parish Council to Mr Everitt, Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee:

" Dear Sir

At the meeting of the Parish Council on the 9th of July your invoice No 04/98 was considered for payment. After discussion it was considered unanimously by the Council that to charge the Council the standard rate for the use of the meeting room was inappropriate. They have agreed, however, to pay £10.00 for the use of the Main Hall for the meeting on the 28th of May. Please arrange for a revised invoice to be submitted.

I appreciate that the Council used to pay the standard rate for the use of the meeting room in the Village Hall in the past before moving to the school. However the Council has now decided that as they own the Village Hall and have given £10,000 towards the hall's refurbishment they will not pay the standard rate.

The Council has informed me that the bookings and hiring agreements signed by myself in good faith were done without the prior permission of the Council and are therefore invalid. I hereby cancel all the agreements in existence. I have also

written to the Treasurer to inform him of this.

The Council, however, is prepared to consider paying a charge towards the consumables only. Please advise the Council what these charges would be. These will be considered at the next meeting in September. If the Council then agrees the proposed charges new hiring agreements can then be raised.

Yours faithfully P.W.J.Cunningham"

Letter dated 11 August from Chairman Village Hall Management Committee to Clerk of the Parish Council.

"Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 11 July which was discussed by the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) at its meeting on 4th August. After due consideration ten members of the VHMC approved the response below and two abstained.

I had hoped that when your Chairman said in his letter dated 23 June that he would be looking at the VHMC "constitution" (eg Lease, Trust Deed etc) that he would begin to understand the nature of the VHMC and its relationship to the Parish Council (PC). Obviously this understanding has yet to be achieved. Therefore the VHMC urges you to persuade him and all other PC members to read these documents. I must say that the PC would have been well advised to have asked someone to read the various drafts for the PC before it signed the final documents.

When all PC members have read and understood the above said documents, the PC will realise that it is totally out of court. The fact that the PC is Landlord of the Trust Property gives it no more rights than any other user group when hiring the Hall. This is also the case with the Tenant to whom the PC has leased the Trust Property for 99 years. The Village Hall Management has the sole responsibility for managing the Charitable Trust and is responsible to the Charity Commission.

However, as the PC is one of the user groups, it does share with the other user groups the responsibility for making the Village Hall viable and maintaining it in good condition. Has the PC forgotten this?

The VHMC also reminds the PC that the £10,000 grant towards the refurbishment is being paid for by Swaffham Prior residents via the Council Tax. If the PC's 'logic' were to be extended, everyone who is resident in the village or who had contributed to the Building Fund could claim free usage. We hope the PC agrees this would be ridiculous and would contravene the responsibility it has as one of the user groups.

It is somewhat surprising that the PC should arbitrarily cancel an agreement signed in good faith by its Clerk without any prior discussion with the VHMC. But it is totally amazing that it should refuse to pay for services already rendered. And I am sorry, Peter, that you should have been placed in such an embarrassing position. The PC paid when it used the school, it paid when it used the old Village Hall, the PC wanted to move to the new Village Hall - therefore you drew up an agreement. Any reasonable and conscientious Clerk would have done the same. The fact remains that the PC still owes the VHMC for invoice number 04/98. If the PC

refuses to pay, this becomes a bad debt with which we will have to deal in the normal way.

Leaving aside any legal issues for the moment this calls into question the good faith and integrity of the PC. In the eyes of the CCC, ECDC and other villages, to have our Parish Council renege on its commitments cannot reflect well on Swaffham Prior.

Of course if ever the PC wishes to take out a new agreement at the standard rate of hire it is possible that the VHMC will request a statement from the PC that it has decided to do so and this will need to be signed by:- a) The Chairman, b) The Vice Chairman, c) The Clerk, d) The RFO. In the meantime we will be hiring out the Village Hall on the understanding that the PC does not wish to hold any of its future meetings there.

All that having been said we do very much hope that the PC will relent and that it will reverse its resolution unanimously taken by the few PC members attending its 9 July meeting. Although trying to take everyone's needs into account, the VHMC had the PC very much in mind when selecting the furnishings for the small meeting room. We aimed to provide something which would match the dignity of the Swaffham Prior PC. The VHMC thinks it would be a pity if the Parish Council returned to the mobile classroom.

Yours sincerely Alastair Everitt "

This is how the matter stood as at 14 August, the *Crier* copy deadline.

Alastair Everitt

Welcome

to Chris and Mike Carrington and their sons James and Thomas, plus Tim the cat and assorted fish, who have recently moved into Heath Road. We hope they will be very happy living here.



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

'Penny'

On October 13th 1985, my daughter took me to Wood Green Animal Shelter to look for a dog to keep me company after my husband died. We had a good look round but could not see any dog until we saw this little puppy. It was in a run and had two beautiful eyes looking at us almost saying "Please take me". This little dog seemed just what I was looking for, she sat on my lap all the way home. She licked my hands and face as if to say "thank you". Her name was Jenny but we changed it to Penny.

Sadly on the 31st July 1998, Penny died very suddenly but peacefully. It has been a great loss as any dog lover will know. We had thirteen wonderful years together, she was my life and my best friend.

She was such a special dog, she had a character all of her own, always ready for a bowl of tea or coffee and biscuits. If only I could give her a cuddle and say "Thanks Penny" for all those happy years, but she's at peace now and will never be forgotten.

Mary Day 4, The Beeches.

Queens Court Day Centre

We have had our outings, two mystery tours and lunch out, one pub lunch and one seaside trip. We had some lovely meals out.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs brought their bygones to show us - their talk was very interesting. We also had Norwich Archives come and show us some films about our villages - before, during and after the war.

Our coffee morning on the 24th July went very well considering that most of our village friends went on an outing.

We are not having any activities during August but start again in September. Our Tea Dance is on 10th September 2.30pm to 4.30pm so do come and join us and dance and sing to the music of Leigh Murfitt. Our theme this time is Rock-n-Roll.

See you soon.

Brian, Hilary, Lynda, Sheila and Derick



Recipe of the Month

September 14th to 20th is National **Breakfast Week.** This has become an annual event sponsored by Kellogg's, so look out for information on TV, radio and in the supermarkets. The following ideas have been sent to me by Kelloggs so I thought I would share them with you to

provide a slightly different start to the day - do try them!

The Country Crunch - grate an apple over a bowl of Crunchy Nut Corn Flakes and add a tablespoon of your favourite yoghurt. Finally, pour over some ice cold semi-skimmed milk.

Fresh Fruit Crumble - roughly chop a kiwi fruit, a banana and add some fresh strawberries. sprinkle with a generous helping of All-Bran Plus and eat as a delicious alternative to cereal and milk.

Summer Treat - top a bowl of Bran Flakes with a generous scoop of vanilla ice-cream and slice a small banana over the top.

Wake Up Shake - Here's one for the kids or those who are children at heart! Make your Rice Krispies extra special by serving with banana, strawberry or chocolate milkshake instead of milk.

Chocolate Delight - for a quick chocolate fix first thing in the morning, serve Choco Krispies mixed with Choco Corn Flakes, drenched in ice cold semi-skimmed milk.

Hilary Mengham

Ladies Circle

On Monday evening 27th July, a group of ladies went to Landbeach for a Mechanical Musical evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt.

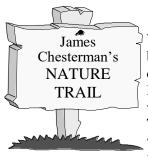
We were entertained by various Pianolas, musical boxes, organs and many other bygone musical instruments. Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt have been collecting this memorabilia for many years and had many of the instruments restored to working order. It was a lovely evening and we even managed to sing along with many of the old tunes played.

Forthcoming dates:

28th September - Christine Plume's home at Newmarket for a social evening.

26th October - Mr. Wright from Waterbeach - Work as a Registrar.

Sandra Butcher



Spanish birds and cats

While on our hols in Spain this year, we took our binoculars (as usual) and were lucky enough to see a couple of nightingales as well as hear them. These little birds are about 50% bigger than a sparrow and with the same somewhat unprepossessing plumage. They skulk in the densest trees and do not move when you peer into the branches to try and locate them. Out of this minute frame issues forth this

unearthly and indescribably sweet song. A song that ripples up and down the scale for minutes on end and one wonders when they find time to draw breath.

Then, the jays. They are about twice the size of our British birds, are relatively unbothered by people (in Britain they are very shy) and squawk their rather ugly cries from tree to tree seemingly in pursuit of each other. We were in a villa overlooking the sea and trees where the jays (and magpies) cavorted. Other birds included the nightjar just before dusk (a rare bird in Britain) with its aptly named jarring note, and the quail uttering its mournful single note, actually during the night. During the day, the tits and finches flitted busily about and occasionally there were red squirrels.

And semi-wild cats. Soon after we arrived, we were visited, in a rather frightened way, by a mangy black cat asking for food. Anna obliged with bread and milk and we spotted her three kittens under a bush which, in due course, she brought individually to see us. These were wild, of course, with golden staring eyes, long feral ears and took a fortnight or so to accept us as friends rather than foes. They were ranging far and wide before we left, quite able to fend for themselves. Lizards are a speciality and must taste like young chicken does to us.

FOR SALE

JETMASTER *Broadlands Universal 600* wood-burning firebox, plus log retainer, screen and poker.

O.I.R.O £100

Dark Green marble slab for hearth (46" x 20" x 1")

O.I.R.O £50

Tel. 743698 for further details



Playscheme 1998 3-7th August



5.4.3.2.1 and we had "lift off"!

At the beginning of this week, the sky was the limit and we were excited about rockets and shuttles, planets and stars, a visit to Marshall's Airport with David Pittham and Margaret Picton, which will be talked about for a long time to come and a trip to Burwell Museum with Mike Pike and Joan, a walk in the country and hand-bell ringing in St. Mary's with Gareth Jones, to name but a few.

Outdoors, the Samba Music Workshop, led by Matthew and Fiona from Norfolk Music Works, just had to be one of the highlights, and ended with a procession down the High Street - what a sight and sound. Indoors, we screenprinted five blackout blinds for the School Hall, in keeping with our Space theme, led by Ricki Outis, generously funded by our PTA.

We received two other donations this year, one from Reach Parish Council and the other from the Parochial Charities, for which we are very grateful.

Craft activities included mug painting, tie-dye and batik, fridge magnets, mask making, stencilled pillow cases, hot air balloons, candle making, woodwork, building space shuttles, glass engraving, bead weaving and quilling. We were certainly busy!

For the animal lovers amongst us there was horse riding on the Fen with Hilary Almond, who made the event so special and presented everyone with a Polaroid photo of themselves on horseback as a memento of their experience, and a trip to the Blue Cross in Cambridge. We managed to return without *any* feline stowaways!

For the sporty ones, we had fun with an Earth Ball, roller skating, short tennis, table tennis, crazy golf (designed and constructed by Daniel Becket and Tim Palmer - thanks guys) and swimming which, unfortunately, we were only able to offer once, even though the weather was hot, as we had far fewer parent-helpers this year.

Thank-U's go to first and foremost **Ruth Dalton**, who is always there for us, **Nicola Townsend** for holding the fort in the creche, **Hilary Sage** for being a wonderful storyteller, **Ian Parsonage** from Parkside Police Station (all ink fingerprints have now been removed from the Village Hall!), **Helen Barrell** for the ever-popular drama workshop, **Martin Thogood** for the inspiring Fen walk (we're still trying to work out what is in the owl pellets!), **Trish Harrison** for once again giving up her kitchen and this year creating some wonderfully scrummy Martian biscuits and **Kim Sheldrick** for all his help and "understanding" with transportation - let us know when you get the trailer "fixed"!!

Special thanks go to a small and dedicated group of teenage helpers who have all been through Playscheme and now come back to give their help and support: Chris and Bob Hall, Kirsty Moore, David Lloyd, Alistair Brown, Abbey Alderson, Shireen Badcock, Joseph Arksey and in particular Charlie Kirby and Ryan Szulc without whose help clearing up would have taken so much longer. You are all stars!

A small group of parent helpers have been the backbone of this year's Playscheme, turning up every day and leading sessions - understanding activities they had never tried out before - we could not do it without you - thank you so much.

As always, none of this could have taken place at School without the permission and good humour of **Brenda Wilson** but moreover the understanding and patience of **Mr & Mrs Day** for which we are truly grateful. Everything was always unlocked for us when we arrived at 8.30am and we never seemed to get tidied away and set up for the next day by the time we said we would be finished - they were, and always have been, so accommodating. Thank you both so much for all the interest and enthusiasm you have shown in what was going on.

We were delighted to be able to use the newly-refurbished Village Hall and Pat Cunningham was the best tea-lady we could have ever had - many thanks. It is no small task to organise, serve and clear up after so many thirsty and hungry youngsters and made our job so much easier.

Last but not least, we have to say that *our* children really are stars. They put up with all the preparation without *too* much moaning (!) and by the time the week arrived had indeed prepared many of the demonstration models for their friends to look at to help them choose what they would like to do. They all helped set up every morning which meant an early start, not like being on holiday at all, accepted that they would not have much of our attention for the whole of the week and in particular George and Josh worked so hard with the clearing away on Thursday and Friday, we were very proud and grateful.

So a BIG thank you to all of you out there for helping to make this year's Playscheme the best one yet (in our opinion that is!!)

Yours

Janet Willmott, Sally Pearson, Claire Acklam

Ed.Note: I heartily endorse the last sentiment - the Playscheme just keeps getting better and better. Can they do it again next year? - of course they can!! Well done ladies.......Pat Cunningham



Village Gardeners

For our August meeting, we visited Doreen Sanders' garden in Woodditton. This is a very large garden with lovely trees and interesting plants. It is divided by hedges

in some parts making little 'rooms', some of them paved with attractive low plants growing between the slabs.

Afterwards, we were invited by our Secretary, Dorothy Hones, to her garden in Swaffham Bulbeck for wine and cake. Here a lovely surprise awaited us, for the garden was lit by dozens of candles, making it look like fairyland. A lovely ending to a most interesting evening.

Next month, we shall be back in Reach Village Centre on Tuesday 15th September at 8.00pm for a talk on 'Gardening in the shade' by Geoff Hodge.

Betty Prime



W.I. Notes

Gillian Mallett, a gemologist, came to the W.I. meeting in August to talk about gemstones. She was a very enthusiastic speaker with lots of interesting information and we were taught how to differentiate between real, synthetic and imitation stones and how to identify gems by weight and light. We also

Gillian brought with her a very large selection of necklaces and earrings and a variety of small stones including one from Space which was part of a meteorite

learned that gems have animal, vegetable or mineral origins.

Next month, on 21st September, the talk is entitled 'Everything I always wanted to know about Sex'. How about that then! As always new members will be welcome - ladies only please!

Betty Prime

Welcome

to Lindsey and Sereg Raja and their children Kieren and Liza who have recently moved into Green Head Road. We hope they will all be very happy living here.

Burwell Day Centre

We're nearly there! The appeal for money for a new ambulance for the Day Centre has now reached the magnificent sum of around £24,000, which means we have almost reached our goal. With just a final little push, with luck we should have the new ambulance by the end of the year. As we only opened that appeal last November we are truly humbled by and grateful for the generosity shown to us by the people of Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Reach.

Let's hope Brown's of Burwell won't see as much of the new vehicle when we get it as they have done of the current one in the past! I would like to pay tribute to them, meanwhile, for their very rapid response each time we have broken down or had a puncture. They have dropped everything immediately to come to rescue us from each dilemma.

With the thought of our new ambulance in mind, could I put in a a request for some people to join our happy little band of volunteer drivers? Just the occasional hour or so once a week would be a great help. We have just had three people retire, so are now rather short. Work mainly involves ferrying senior citizens from their homes to the Day Centre and/or back again. They are a very jolly crowd and any volunteer will receive quite as much pleasure as he or she will give. If you feel you can help, please contact the

Co-ordinator, Burwell Day Centre, Parsonage Close, Burwell or phone 743363 between 9 a.m and 3 p.m Monday to Friday.

Shirley Wilkins



From our Local County

August may be a quiet month for most council affairs such as schools, but it is a major work period for the **Highways Department.**

By the time you read this, **Lode Road**, **Bottisham** will have been widened, so as to allow buses to pass each other without driving over the verges. The cycle path will not be affected, although I have asked for the lumps in it to be flattened and weed killer applied.

On the 24th August we expect to start resurfacing on the remainder of **High St**, **Swaffham Bulbeck** left after the last visit. The opportunity will be taken to try and relieve some of the drainage problems there and round to opposite Burgh Hall.

Back in **Bottisham**, I am constantly reminding both councils about the unsatisfactory surface on **Howlett Way** and the County in particular about the edge of **Bell Road** opposite its entrance. There are plans that *when* money becomes available, we may be able to get a kerb on the Police Station side of Bell Road. Money is unlikely for a footway there because there is already a path on the other

side.

A splendid new footbridge has just been opened near the Fish and Duck Pub near Stretham where the Ouse and Cam join. On the way to its opening, I walked all the way from Stretham church with John Edwards, Assistant Director (Highways). This was a wonderful opportunity to have him all to myself without interruption. I went over all the cycleway projects in East Cambs., and in particular, all the connecting paths of what I think of as the fen edge villages **cycleway**, i.e. **Burwell to Quy** via Swaffhams and both Bottisham and Lode (i.e. both ways to Quy). I found John to be sympathetic and also encouraging. The list of various bits that need to be done is headed by a path from Bulbeck to Long Meadow and already feasibility studies have been costed. Part of the money Cambs. County Council hopes to obtain from the Government may be directed to this cause. At any rate, even if the connecting paths are not likely this year, I would like to think we would be getting near before the millennium.

On another transport issue, I am very hopeful that some of the Government **Rural Bus Subsidy** can be used to create a bus service from Soham via **Burwell through our villages** to the Newmarket Rd Park-and-Ride where it can pick up motorists and transport them to **Addenbrokes**. This would meet a long felt need expressed by those of our villagers who work or need to visit the hospital but cannot do it without an extended detour and bus change at Drummer Street.

Anyone who would particularly benefit from this suggested service would be well advised to write to John Edwards at Shire Hall soon, so that the support can be recorded.

I hope you all had a good August break with some cool periods!

James Fitch



From our District Councillor

As mentioned elsewhere in the *Crier*, from September the Public will be allowed to speak at Planning Committee meetings. I have supported this proposal since I was elected as your Councillor. I believe that we will make better decisions after having heard directly from the people concerned in Planning Applications. It has taken longer than we intended to introduce this policy. This is because we decided that it was important to allow proper time to see how other Councils manage public speaking and to consult with the Parish Councils.

There will be arrangements in place to let people know of their right to speak on an Application. It is then *their* responsibility to find out if and when

that application is coming before the Planning Committee. You can do this by contacting East Cambridgeshire District Council. You will then need to register your right to speak on a first come first served basis. For each application, the name of the first person to call as an objector and the name of the first person to call as a supporter will be noted and any subsequent callers will be given their details to organise between themselves how their three minute slot will be used. The public will not be allowed to ask questions or to use maps, handouts or overheads.

This may sound restrictive but it is important that we retain fairness between representations and keep the Planning Committee meetings able to handle the same number of applications as we currently process. We will review the process once it has been in operation for a while and make any changes which are shown to be needed.

Several people came to my last Councillor's Surgery at the Swaffham Prior Village Hall, mainly to discuss Dencora's arguments that the Draft Local Plan should be changed to allow them to build in Swaffham Prior. My next Councillor's Surgery is on Saturday 12th September at the Reach 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



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for September 1998:

Sunday 6th 10.30 am Steve Ayres

6.30 pm Steve Ayres

Sunday 13th 6.30pm Peter Finnis

Sunday 20th 6.30pm No service- we visit Swaffham Bulbeck Free

Church for their Harvest Festival

Sunday 23th 6.30pm Steve Ayres

Advance Notice Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 4th October and Monday 5th October. We look forward to your company.

Felix Bradley

Felix Bradley, who lived on Cage Hill, died quite suddenly on the morning of July 23rd, leaving a space in our hearts and lives that nobody else will be able to fill. One week later we held his funeral service at which his family and many friends came to pay their last respects and to remember

someone who was a true 'character'.

Felix was born 76 years ago in the High Street, and went to school at Swaffham Prior Primary and then at



Burwell Secondary Modern. Afterwards he worked at boarding kennels both locally and in Stroud, where he worked with bloodhounds and hunters.

The event that changed his life was the outbreak of the Second World War. He was called up at 18 years old and served in munitions in the Kings Own Scottish Borderers - people have told me how they remember Felix in uniform dancing in the village hall. He was involved in the 'D Day' Normandy landings where he was shot 3 times, narrowly escaping death. Later he was in service at Arnhem - losing part of his leg after stepping on a mine and seeing a colleague killed by the same mine. He survived, but the injuries would take their toll for the rest of his life.

After he eventually left hospital, his love of gardening found great expression. From the garden by his Mill came a wonderful variety of flowers and produce which supplied many a table, decorated the Flower Festival, and were sold at Covent Garden. He spent many hours as a jobbing gardener as well as being an active member at our chapel and very involved in the early days of the YPF at Swaffham Bulbeck.

The last memory of Felix for many of us is of him sitting at his front door, watching the world pass by, asking people to post his letters, and no doubt reflecting on the events of years past. I shall also remember his generosity, the smile on his face when we talked about Jesus, and the uncomplaining way he bore the pain of his injuries and the frustrations that they caused. Felix was always ready to talk of His Saviour, and had no fear of death, but saw it as the gateway from this life into the next, where he is right now.

I ought to let Felix have the last word. These words which he wrote in his Bible speak for themselves. Maybe they have a message for you as well:

'Lo, I am with you always,
Even unto the end of the world.'
He is my constant Friend upon Life's Highway,
My Leader and Guide in everything I do.
When shadows darken all the way before me
I falter not, for He will see me through.
Through to the sunshine of a brighter day,
Because He walks beside me all the way.

Steve 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

Our parish is currently debating the issue of euthanasia. Some members feel quite strongly that we should speak out publicly against what seems to them to have been a slippage in the protections that the more vulnerable in our society are entitled to enjoy to prevent them being 'eliminated' when they are a gross inconvenience to others. Others feel that the changes in recent times reflect a humane response to the awkward reality that modern medicine can keep alive and in pain or without a shred of dignity those who in the past would have slipped away. The issues are sensitive ones, but if the churches are in business for anything, it is to affirm the dignity of every person uniquely created and loved by God. It is a particular issue at the moment because the last government, believing that the current law was unclear and left doctors, carers and others in a very grey area, commissioned a number of 'expert' reports, especially from the Law Commission. The responses in these reports have now been gathered together into a Green Paper by the new Government. The Green Paper makes it clear that there is no intention to allow euthanasia in the sense of permitting anyone to die as a direct result of medical interventions. It also makes clear that there are no circumstances in which anyone will be legally permitted to die by the withholding of food or drink so long as they are capable of taking that food and drink by mouth. But the Green Paper does envisage that where those closely involved believe it to be in a person's 'best interests', food and water artificially administered (e.g. by a drip) can be withdrawn, with the knowledge and intention that death will result.

I am not sure how far our parish group will succeed in achieving unity on the questions raised by the responsible and thoughtful Green Paper. I write about this to invite everyone to look at the issues from his or her own standpoint. Under what circumstances is it right to act so as to 'let someone die'? If Christian ethics do tell us (which I do not unequivocally assert that they do) that the existing proposals would legalise a moral wrong, do we have a right or duty to protest? How far, in a secular, multi-cultural society in which practicing Christians, with their many differing opinions, are a minority, is it appropriate to ask for everything that they agree to be immoral to be made illegal? Where should we draw the line? What is the connection in the modern age between calling something immoral and making it illegal?



Church Services in September

Sunday 6th 11.00a.m Parish Communion (Rite B) Trinity 13 6.00p.m Evensong (BCP) and Sermon

Sunday 13th 11.00a.m Family Service and Holy Baptism

Trinity 14 Rebecca Arksey Emilia Hubbard

6.00 a.m Evensong (BCP) and Sermon

Sunday 20th 11.00a.m Parish Communion (Rite B) Trinity 15 6.00p.m Evensong(BCP) and Sermon

Sunday 27th 8.00a.m Holy communion (BCP) Harvest Festival 11.00a.m. Mattins (BCP) and Sermon

- ◆ Holy Communion is celebrated every Wednesday in Burwell Church, every Thursday,in Swaffham Bulbeck Church, both at 10a.m.and at Reach Church at 8a.m on September 13th and 20th.
- ♦ Evening Prayer is said on Wednesdays at 5 p.m in Reach Church
- ♦ **Bellringing:** Tuesday practice in St. Cyriac's every fortnight at 8p.m., Sundays at 10.30a.m. and before 6p.m Evensong. Contact Dr. Margaret Stanier on 741328

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

Church Diary for September

Monday 7th 2.15 pm. Mothers Union at Swaffham Bulbeck

Saturday 12th 3 pm. Holy Matrimony-Denise Speed & Gary Fox-Trace

Monday 14th 7.30p.m. PCC meeting - Village Hall

Thursday 17th 7.15 pm. Fordham Deanery Synod at Reach Village

Centre

Tuesday 22nd 2.15 pm Mothers Union 'Harvest' at Swaffham Bulbeck with Bishop John - all welcome

7.30 pm School Governors

Thursday 24th 12noon Home Communion, 15, Tothill Road **Saturday 26th** 7.30p.m. Harvest supper, Village Hall

Parish Register for July 1998

Holy Baptism - Harry Richard Thomas Doe

Dear Friends, Mission, Church and Community

'Mission' is a word to strike fear into the hearts of even strong folk, let alone those who wish to avoid being 'got at'; the non-church world has taken up the word now with its Mission Statements, so I'm sure you will get the flavour that it is a word meaning 'intention', 'crusade' even, certainly 'purpose'. Every church, as part of God's world-wide Church, is called to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone; but there is a clear sense that mission can be a passive action, as well as an active one. By this I mean that mission is the interface between the Church and the community in which it is set; the local Church being there for the people, the Church sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ, a love which is so much in need in many lives today. This is why Church means (or should mean) so much more than Sunday church-going; it is in serving and befriending the community that folk learn and grow in Faith. Hence, we put great stress here in these parishes on our Church-in-Community working groups and their agendas.

'Mission' means 'being sent', but not sent out with a package, trying to persuade people to take it. It's more like being sent to walk alongside people, listening, sharing, caring, as we journey together through life. This we try to do with the facilities and resources we have. Thus, if these hinder the work and witness of the Church, then we need to undertake to improve them; hence some of the work we do on our buildings. But we all know that our most valuable resource are people, and sometimes these are in short supply.

It has been said that the Church is only one generation from extinction. To preside over non-existent, or struggling Sunday Schools and gappy, irregular congregations and not to worry about where the congregation of the future is going to come from (to carry on the work, as well as the worship and witness of the Church), would be a dereliction of duty. If the following agenda from the back of the Baptism card, given to every parent/candidate, seems a bit more than you can manage, might I suggest that just *some* movement in this direction would make a powerful difference to all our lives in this parish?

A Short Guide to the Duties of Church Membership - Archbishop of Canterbury All baptised and confirmed members of the Church must play their full part in its life and witness. That you may fulfil this duty, we call upon you: to follow the example of Christ in home and daily life, and to bear personal witness to Him; to be regular in private prayer day by day; to read the Bible carefully; to come to church every Sunday; to receive the Holy Communion faithfully and regularly to give personal service to Church, neighbours and community; to give money for the work of the parish, diocese and for the work of the Church at home and overseas; to uphold the standard of marriage entrusted by Christ to His Church; to care that children are brought up to love and serve the Lord.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

	Da	tes for Your Diary - September 1998
Sat	5	Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Gala, 1:00pm
Mon	7	Dencora Open Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	8	School re-opens
		Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-3:50pm
Wed	9	"Mothers & Toddlers", Village Hall, 13.45-14.45pm
Thu	10	Tea Dance, Queens Court Day Centre, 2:30-4:30pm
		Parish Council Meeting, Mobile Classroom, 7:30pm
Sat	12	CHCT annual sponsored Cycle Ride
		ECDC Councillor's Surgery, Reach VH, 10:00-12noon
		Autumn Show & Pumpkin Fair, Village Hall, 2:15pm
		Concert, BVC Music Society, BVC, 7:30pm
Mon	14	Crier Copy deadline
		Playgroup restarts, Village Hall, Mon-Thurs 9:00-12noon
		Parochial Church Council, Village Hall Mtg Rm, 7:30pm
Tue	15	CPRE - E.Cambs AGM, Mtg Rm, Ely Museum, 7:30pm
		Village Gardeners, Reach Village Hall, 8:00pm
		Bottisham and Burwell Photo Club restarts, 7:30pm
Wed	16	Mothers and Toddlers
Sat	19	Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Service Dance, Cambridge, 7:30pm
Mon	21	W.I., Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tue	22	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-3:50pm
Wed	23	Mothers and Toddlers
Thu	24	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Sat	26	Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7:00 for 7:30pm
Mon	28	Ladies Circle Social Evening at Christine Plume's home
Wed	30	Mothers and Toddlers

October: World's Biggest Coffee Morning, 10:30-12noon

The Village Shop & Post Office - opens every Tues & Thurs 1:30-4:30pm

Mobile Library - Newcomers, mothers and toddlers, anyone, everyone welcome! Please make time to use this service.

Mothers & Toddlers - restarts in the Village Hall, every Wed afternoon from 9th Sept. Come along and enjoy the fun...