



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 23 Number 5

May 1999



Editorial

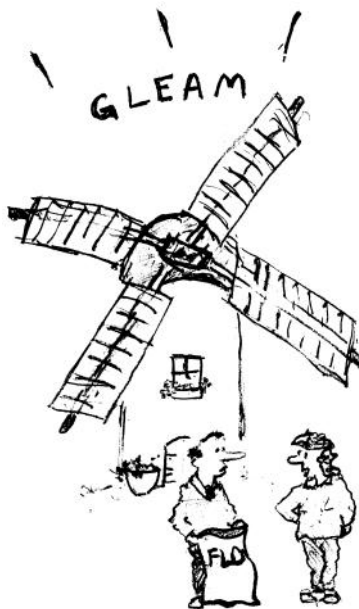
Goodbye Pat! We didn't get a chance to say this last month. Pat has been involved with the Village Mag for nearly seven years now. As we all know, she's a real *doer* and her hard work and unstinting enthusiasm have achieved enormous amounts for the village, not the least in ensuring this magazine kept going when the previous Editors retired. She will be much missed, and her expertise and advice will always be welcomed by the (smaller and smaller!) Editorial Team.

No dog-poo please, we're British! It seems like that - a brief tour round the world -wide web indicates that current concerns about doggie-dos do *not* emanate from our US cousins. Oddly. They seem more interested in making it into manure, heaving it into fans, etc. Personally, I think there are more important issues. Specifically, cat-poo. On the new carpet. So, in the spirit of last month's editorial: Orange. Stripecy. Called Bonzo. You have been warned.

Meanwhile, it is a truth universally acknowledged that those in possession of pristine spanking brand new *furbishings* must quail at the sight of approaching infant life (*VHMC Questionnaire, Playgroup Report, Letters*). I hear this very problem occurred not a hundred years ago, not a thousand miles from here, in another village hall. But time puts things right. Ah yes, the smart new car wraps itself around the gate-post, the new carpet.....well, enough said about the new carpet. In the end, everything gets back to normal. Come back soon, Playgroup!

Foster's Mill needs our help (*National Mills' Weekend, page 15*). To have a working windmill in the village is wonderful, and yes, I keep meaning to bake that bread - I will, I will! The Mill needs new sails, so dig deep in your pockets and don't forget the Open Day on May 9.

We hope you like our cover (see last month's *Crier* - thanks for the photo, Tina!). And thank you for timely copy, everybody, and remember: Bank Holiday Monday, REACH FAIR. See you there.



WE USED TO DO IT, BUT IT MADE
SUCH A MESS OF THE

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *The Old Fountain* by Brenda Wilson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Last Month's Editorial

It is with deep regret that we find ourselves in the position of having to respond to the editorial of the 'CRIER' volume 23 number 4. Of course we tender our sincere apologies for the alleged events of Monday 15th March, but wish the matter could have been dealt with in a more constructive manner.

For instance could not the person who witnessed these events just simply have picked up the telephone and called us? After all the business number is clearly visible, sign written on our vehicle, the result of such a call would have been the immediate dispatch of one of the proprietors of the business to clean up after our dogs, which would surely have been more constructive than the vitriolic bile which forms the content of the aforementioned editorial.

Be assured that the person concerned has been left in no doubt as to our feelings on the matter, and he readily acknowledges that to take two dogs to anywhere the public may be reasonably expected to gather, and let them off the leash, at whatever time of day, unacceptable, and then not to clean up any mess, unforgivable. However was this a case of a teenager simply not thinking, as most of them seem not to, or the actions of someone obviously and seriously mentally deficient.

As for him being too stupid to read the editorial, this is not the case, he simply chooses not to bother reading the *Crier* as is his right, and frankly I do not blame him, although some members of the editorial team probably consider this a capital offence worthy of a banner headline in the 'TIMES' and firing squad at dawn. Are we not all guilty of stupid actions in our lives? I most certainly have been, and some of my actions I deeply regret, but does that make us mentally deficient? Some people may consider the act of jumping out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft in mid-flight, and then relying on a few square metres of silk and a few bits of rope to arrest their plummet toward earth incredibly stupid, but that does not mean the participants of such activities are generally stupid.

Once again our sincere apologies to those affected

A.W. Hodgson

Fidoe Replies

Mr Hodgson has written an elegant, passionate and at times graceful apology on behalf of A.N.Other, as the result of my bile laden editorial in

last month's issue. I must confess however that I remain unconvinced that the incident was entirely due to teenage 'thoughtlessness', and a letter from the perpetrator himself might have carried a little more conviction. I don't think that any of the offended ladies would have expected anything like the well marshalled arguments presented by Mr. Hodgson, but a simple '*OK it was a fair cop, I was stupid and I will not do it again*' might have suggested greater contrition, and indicated that the man in question was prepared to admit his obligations to the society in which he lives.

At what age does teenage thoughtlessness become adult stupidity? Is it fourteen, at which age midshipmen in Nelson's ships commanded divisions of guns at the battle of Trafalgar? Is it 16, at which age subalterns who had lied about their age were leading their platoons 'Over the top' at Mons and Ypres? Or perhaps it's 18? After all, Pilot Officers were flying Spitfires against the Germans, and as sure as hell, those guys had to think! At that age, the vote is available for those who wish to use it, it is the age of consent for homosexual sex, no special consents are needed for marriage and you are legally responsible for your own debts. So, 18 it is then! But why does Mr. Hodgson feel the need to make the point that most teenagers seem not to think? Where have we gone wrong? Is it the fault of parents or teachers or is it just an excuse to cover increasingly antisocial attitudes in an increasingly crowded world?

Let's examine this particular case! The dogs were let out of a van driven by A.N.Other. Minimum age for obtaining a provisional licence is seventeen, give a few months for learning, and another few for the wait to take a test brings it to seventeen and a half, perhaps another few months to develop the confidence to take a vehicle out alone and in the dark, call him 18 by a whisker. Old enough to listen when somebody says 'Take the dogs out for their run before we go to bed will you, you can use the van!' but then, old enough to make the conscious decision to ignore the thousands of acres of open farm, heath and fen land that is available less than half a mile from his front door in order to drive to a children's play area with limited space, right in the centre of the village. I'm afraid that this does not sound to me like teenage thoughtlessness, but more like malice aforethought.

Mr Hodgson makes the point that this young person does not bother to read the *Crier*, and I certainly agree that that is his right. (In fact I would guess that more than a quarter of the copies produced go straight in the bin), but it is the only vehicle that we have for passing on the views of residents where we at least have a chance that they will be widely circulated. In the last two years to my certain knowledge, the subject of dog mess has been complained about at least six times. It has been discussed by the Parish

Council, and free pooper scoopers have been provided. Yet **every** month , members of the editorial team receive complaints, and requests to 'Put something in the mag'. It seems that 'Over the top' editorial bile is the only way to get a response.

It was a strange stroke of coincidence that distribution day for the magazine coincided almost exactly with a letter from a nurse in Burwell, published in the Newmarket Evening News, pointing out that she was having to deal with sad cases of Toxicara that has been spread in dog faeces. For A.N.Other and any other dog owners who have never heard of the disease, a simplified explanation is that it is a kind of worm that can invade the bodies of young children and lives in their eyeballs and livers causing permanent damage to both organs. Very difficult to diagnose in the child and not apparent in the carrier dog. The infective stage can live in the ground for up to two years after being deposited.

For God's sake, dog owners (and I have been one for over fifty years) wake up to the consequences both medical and social, of dog fouling, and please don't rabbit on about telephone calls and fines. We all know how difficult it is to obtain convictions for anything without several corroborative witnesses. We all have experience of the kind of foul mouthed abuse which is likely to meet anybody who attempts to check the activities of many young people, and I was obliged in the editorial to omit the name of the witness because he/she was afraid of violent retribution. I deny absolutely that this was likely to happen with A.N.Other, particularly since receiving the letter from Mr. Hodgson, but the fear was there and had to be recognised, and since I do not have that particular fear, I set myself up as the 'aunt sally'.

In future, please let us be able to fill the ***Crier*** with articles that A.N.Other might want to read, not this never ending whinge, which invariably reflects upon innocent dog owners as well as the guilty.

John Fidoe

Dear Editors,

Last Month's Editorial

With reference to the front page of the April edition of The Crier entitled "Journalists save man from lynch mob". There are some comments that we would like to make.

Firstly, Although we sympathize entirely with the young mothers you referred to and cannot condone what was clearly a thoughtless and antisocial act, was it really necessary to use such phrases as "obviously and seriously mentally deficient" and "too stupid to read it"? Families affected by mental handicap, mental illness and learning difficulties such as dyslexia, have

enough prejudices to cope with without these type of insensitive and deeply offensive comments.

Secondly, we think it was reckless to partly identify the man concerned. Is he the only person who drives that van or who walks those dogs? It is quite conceivable that the rest of his family were unaware of the incident and would never dream of allowing the dogs to foul a public place, we find it worrying that they may be subjected to ugly (but undeserved) abuse as a result of being wrongly identified as the individual responsible.

There is a penalty for allowing your dog to foul in public places, it is a £100 fine. If the identity of the owner was known and he was seen allowing the dogs to foul then surely the appropriate action would have been either to contact him or report him, rather than use the village magazine to abuse, threaten and libel him.

Finally, the two dogs were identified as German Shepherd/Alsation. We own two German Shepherd/Alsation dogs. How would anyone who didn't see the dogs and doesn't know who the van belongs to, know that it was not our dogs that the article was referring to? Your article has made us feel somewhat uneasy when we walk our dogs along the High Street. We trust that your next banner headline won't be "Ugly scenes as innocent dog owner is wrongly accused".

Yours sincerely

Clare and Mick Brooks
10 Lower End

Dear Editors,

Attempted theft of Toyota Hi-lux 4x4 Pick up truck

At 9.50pm on Wednesday 14th April 1999 outside the below address, two young males smashed the driver's side window and then attempted to push the above vehicle along Greenhead Road. They failed to break the steering lock which made progress beyond No. 26 and past parked vehicles impossible. Their inept attempt to steal was foiled as they were seen and chased along Greenhead Road. Baseball cap and woolly hat along with Fluffa coat and bomber jacket was their chosen evening wear.

Although the police have a fairly good description of both men, any more information would be greatly appreciated, as the police appear more "interested" than usual.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy R. Doe
28 Greenhead Road,

Dear Editors

Speeding

James Chesterman in his April *Crier* letter kindly acknowledged that I had asked for "facts". But in his letter he gave no facts - he just voiced his impressions!

His impression is that the heavy lorries and farm-vehicles mainly turn left at the top of Station Road. We who live on the Chapel side of the High Street have the impression that at least half turn right. We also have the impression that over half the heavy lorries and farm-vehicles enter the village via the Chapel direction.

So, working on the wrong impressions, James says "It was *felt*" that the committee's proposed solution "would at least keep half the lorries" off his part of the High Street. Maybe he meant to have said "most of the lorries", because that would be the result. He also expresses annoyance because cars and lorries have really to slow down to pass the parked cars at the School *in term time*. This happens at every school throughout the nation, so Swaffham Prior is nothing unusual. And why complain? The parked cars form a 'natural traffic calming measure' at the very time it is needed. The result is the very thing James advocates.

James proudly refers back to his December 1997 *Crier* letter with its *Sun* type headline "Death on the Road?" In this his concern is that cars use the High Street near his home as a "race track", and that "articulated lorries and trailer-tractors roar through the village at high speed *shaking the houses as they go*."

The results of the speeding survey disproved the "race track" and "high speed" statement, which is perhaps the reason why they have never been published. And no-one disputes that heavy lorries and farm equipment do make a great noise, and do shake buildings, even at 15 to 20 mph. Here I suspect we are touching the core of James' concern. Give the shakes to Oak Cottage, the Red Lion, Shadworth House, St. Mary's Cottages, Well House, Priory Cottage, Anglesey House, Rose Crescent Cottage, but, please, please, preserve the other end of the High Street.

Alas, there was so much hope and promise when the Speeding Sub-Committee made its first statement in the May 1998 *Crier*. It said "We need statistics first", and concluded "It will be our intention eventually to prepare a Feasibility Study, with plans and cost based on statistics obtained, plus views expressed through letters. A meeting will be held for the whole village to discuss and express their views on the subject." This was brilliant. It gets ten out of ten for its intention.

But what a joke it all turned ought to be. It did not achieve even one of its intentions. Very few statistics were obtained and no discussion was ever held. The full Speeding Sub-Committee was never consulted, the Parish Council never discussed it, the village was never given a chance to comment on the so called Feasibility Study, one member of the public who dared at the June PC meeting to show a **silent** interest was literally bawled out of the

Is the date in your diary?

Saturday June 12th
St Mary's Church Fete

Full details in next month's magazine...

room.

So let's take a look at the final report which appeared in the December 1998 *Crier* (page 18). There is no analysis, there are no statistics, there are no plans, and everything appears to have been thrown in apart from the kitchen sink. If this had been a departmental report at a place of work, I think the department would have been rapidly closed.

The final report begins by implying that the speed checks in the High Street and Mill Hill produced pretty much the same results. They did not. High Street has a minimal problem while Mill Hill does have a greater one following the increasing size of Burwell. It was an insult to Mill Hill to blur the figures in this way. And it must have taken longer to work out that particular wording than just giving the simple figures. What is the hidden agenda here?

And then we come to the issue which really concerns us. Without any explanation this Sub-Committee wants to divert all vehicles **over 7.5 tons**, in **and** out of the village, via the Chapel. No longer is it just the huge lorries, but anything which might disturb the peace at the other end of the High Street.

However I do seem to have got something wrong when referring to Peter Whitfield. I wrongly assumed that the Sub-Committee would have held more than the one meeting. The fact that it did not, only increases my misgivings about this Sub-Committee. Also I would have expected that all Sub-Committee members would have been circulated with notes and minutes, with the speeding results, and with a draft final report.

As for the Village Hall's entertainment licence, James knows perfectly well that music has always stopped on Friday and Saturday at 11.45pm (Mon-Thurs 11.00pm, and 10.00pm on Sunday). He had been told this many times by the VHMC Secretary. He was also told this by the private hirers he invaded. Two were extremely irate and expressed their views at some length in a recent Village Hall Survey. They really did resent his intrusions into their private parties.

As for James leaving the Sub-committee to devote more time to work, perhaps he should have agreed his story with his Parish Council colleague who at the November Parish Council meeting reported that James had resigned in some dudgeon. I wonder why?

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

Millenium Meeting

At the Millenium Meeting held at the Village Hall, I suggested that it would be great if all the artists of Swaffham Prior could get together and come up with ideas to portray village life in Swaffham Prior for the Millenium (what life was like 100 years ago and what it is like today).

If you are interested in participating, could you please contact me by 30 May 1999, telephone 741750, giving your name and telephone number so we can arrange a meeting in June to discuss our creative ideas for the Millenium.

I look forward to hearing from all creative and artistic people.

Yours sincerely,

Tina Jost
The Stables,
High Street

Dear Editors,

Playgroup and the Village Hall

At the risk of being partisan, I must express my disappointment and concern that the playgroup is moving out of Swaffham Prior. I think it's sad for the village but I am much more concerned about the repercussions on the children's admission to school. At the moment, playgroup comes into school on a regular weekly basis to share a PE session with the Reception Class and use the playground facilities. By doing so, the children get used to the school buildings, to being part of a larger group and to the idea of what school is about. It's an easing in process so that when they do come into school, they come happily. If the playgroup moves to Reach, the village children are denied this access to their school. Without this easing in, it is much more difficult for children to settle. I regret that very much.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Wilson
Swaffham Prior School

FOR SALE

Qualcast Concorde electric lawn mower complete with grass box.
Excellent condition. £25. Phone 741221.

NEWMARKET LADIES CIRCLE BARN DANCE



**SATURDAY 26TH JUNE
7.30-11.30**

**AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR
VILLAGE HALL**



**WITH THE
WIDE GLIDE BAND**

RAISING MONEY FOR FSID

**The foundation for the study of infant death
(Cot death research and support)**

BAR AVAILABLE

**Adults £7.50 incl Fish & Chips
Child £4.00 incl Sausage & Chips**

**Tickets 01638 743472
01638 742317**

FROM OUR REPORTER AT THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 8th April 1999

'All good things must come to an end' and this month's Parish Council meeting was positively the last appearance of the current team. Now we have to elect a new council on May 6th that will represent us and manage the village's affairs for the next four years.



This month's meeting began with an announcement that Karen King was in hospital and a unanimous decision that flowers and good wishes should be sent from the members. Finding himself up the creek without an amanuensis Andrew attempted to combine both Chair and Recorder jobs with, so far as I could see, some help from Erica. He was not, he confessed, looking forward to having to type a report for the *Crier* later on.

Several items from the minutes of last month's meeting were discussed including a reply from Anglian Water who had been approached about the lack of a footpath at the layby in front of the water tower. Nothing to do with us they said, try the Highways Department. So the 'footpath officer' at ECDC seemed to be the next target. If there is to be a footpath around the back of the layby I would have thought Anglian Water would need to give up a sliver of land and move part of their fence to accommodate it. I doubt if lowering the kerb at either end of the layby (one suggestion) would help much when the latter is full of parked cars.

The decision to replace the now demolished piece of play equipment at Town Close prompted careful scrutiny of catalogues and Peter Whitfield was going to look at some promising, and hopefully easily maintained, apparatus recently installed in the new play area at the top of Fair Green in Reach.

Elain reported on the Millennium meeting held recently to pool ideas for possible village activities and artefacts to celebrate the event. The three favoured by the Council - a sundial, a village map, and a decorated mug for every child in the village - were discussed and costings considered. It seems there could be some 70% funding from ECDC.

The annual Village Assembly meeting is booked for 27th May when the whole community can hear reports from, and can question, councillors - parish, district and county. Book the date. Estimates are being sought for resurfacing the drive down to the car park at the village hall. And there are other small maintenance jobs around the village that are being attended to.

In his report James Fitch announced that this year's Police Precept was one of the lowest in the country but that thefts of antiques and also items from cars were still major problems. An attempt to improve Neighbourhood

Watch communications had been inaugurated to work on a pyramid structure - hopefully better than the past rather haphazard arrangements. There were inevitable cuts in education budgets. The Government study of the A14 problems has been brought forward; despite the accident record on our roads being down by 3% there were still 52 fatalities last year. And so on. A wealth of detail which I am sure James will include in his report to the Assembly meeting in May. For the swimmers amongst us there was welcome news that the Bottisham Pool might be open again in September or October.

Charlotte Cane said there had been only seven nominations for nine vacancies on the Parish Council so it looks like some arm twisting (I mean co-opting) might have to be resorted to to fill the other seats. She reported that the bus pass had been restored (at £11). Also that retrospective planning permission for buildings at Mill Hill had been refused and the buildings would have to come down. Not many people in the village will know the area around the second mill (across the road opposite the working mill). I only visited the site once when I filmed the cap and sails being assembled and mounted for Steve Bradley's imaginative restoration seven or eight years ago. Apparently the buildings in question belong to Walter Bradley (Steve's father and now resident in the village again) and I have a feeling we may hear more about this. Both Walter and the present owners of the mill and other property on the site were in the public gallery (an eight strong attendance this month) to see democracy in action.

Before declaring the meeting closed Andrew thanked the members of the outgoing Council for their years of work and support.

Ron Prime

e

Rags to Riches Beauty



A home based beauty salon
offering professional treatments in
private and relaxed surroundings

Tel: 01638 612069

Mellisa Goss . IHBC . IIHHT . BABTAC

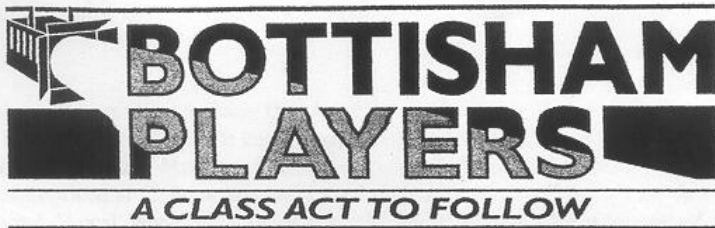
Annual Village Assembly
Thursday 27th May
in the
Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Minutes of last meeting held 28th May 1998
2. Matters arising
3. Accounts and report of Parish Council to 31st March 1999
4. Accounts and report of Parochial Charities to 31st March 1999
5. Accounts and report of Village Hall Committee to 31st March 1999
6. Accounts and report of Sports & Social Club to 31 March 1999
7. Report from Cambridgeshire County Council
8. Report from East Cambridgeshire District Council
9. Report on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
10. Open question time

The public are invited to put forward suggested items for discussion during the Open question time - in writing please by Friday 21st May to:

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council



Bottisham Players are presenting One Act Plays on Thursday 20th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd May 1999 at 7.30 pm at the Village College in Bottisham. It is called "*A Evening of Murder, Mystery and Merriment*" and the tickets will be on sale from Lusher's Newsagents, Bottisham priced at £5 for adults and £4 for concessionaries. The plays are of a variety; one is entitled "*Local Warning*" a black comedy that has been written by one of the group's members, Graham Waterhouse. The second play is entitled "*What shall we do with the body*" a mystery by Rae Shirley. The third is entitled "*Anyone for Tennis*" a farce by Gwyn Clark, this play being in association with Samuel French.

EAST ANGLIA'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

Milton, Cambridge

Reg. Charity 1069284



BIG TOP GALA DAY

Church Lane
Milton, Cambridge

F
U
N

F
O
R

A
L
L

T
H
E

F
A
M
I
L
Y



11 am – 4 pm Saturday 15th May 1999

Entertainment includes

Clown Show-Walkabouts,
Juggling – Spinning Plates – Stilt Walking
and lots of side show attractions



Live Band



Stansted Airport
Sniffer Dog
Display Team



Karaoke



refreshments



F
R
E
E

E
N
T
R
Y

A
N
D

C
A
R

P
A
R
K

Bouncy Castle

* Gun Pull from Cambridge to Milton
by Cambridge University Officer
Training Corp

Stalls, Plants, Toys,
Cakes, Tombola,
Brica a Brac
& much much more

* Dunk Tank, Face Painting, Raffle

Supported by



EASTERN



Village Feast 1999

Saturday 15 May

at

2.00 pm

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

Maypole Dancing *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy*

Bowls *Childrens Play Area* *Face Painting*

Egg Throwing *Raffle*

Teas & Home-made cakes *Ice Creams* *Beer Tent*

*** Stalls Galore ***

Millennium Stall, Bottle Stall, Cakes & Preserves, Books,
Plant Stall, Gifts & Collectibles and more.....

Admission: 30p. Children Free

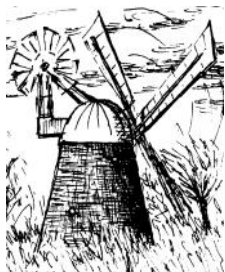
Your help is needed....

As usual, we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves etc. All offers to Betty Prime (741221) or Pat Cunningham (741183) or to the stall on the day.

We shall also be collecting for the **Bottle Stall**. Members of the Village Hall Committee will be calling during week of 10th May for anything you can offer.

And, please don't forget the **Millennium Stall** - articles for sale to Elaine Malster (743894) or Pat Cunningham (741183).

Thanking you for your usual generous support.



National Mills Weekend

As mentioned in last month's Swaffham Crier, the weekend of May 8/9 is National Mills Weekend. A number of mills in the area will be open to the public over the weekend, including: Steven's Mill, Burwell; Downfield Mill, Soham; Lode Watermill; and of course Fosters Mill, Swaffham Prior.

We will be open on Sunday 9th May from 2.00pm onwards. Visitors will be able to tour the mill, hopefully (weather allowing) see it in action, view our collection of pictures of the mill which date back to around 1890 and of course purchase our range of flours and associated products.

We will also be launching our Year 2000 appeal. This year alone, we will have to spend over £2000 on the Mill, replacing two sails which are suffering from severe fungal rot and re-fitting the remaining two sails. All profits from the sale of our products is put straight into a fund for the mill to help defray the costs of maintaining it. However, our sales at this time do not in any way cover the overheads inherent in keeping a mill such as ours in good repair.

We will therefore be mounting a number of special events to help raise funds for the mill. We sincerely hope the village will feel able to take part in these, to keep the mill working into the next Millennium. All donations are gratefully received.

Jonathan Cook

Mrs Marcia Miller invites you and your friends to a

Coffee Morning

at

Baldwins Manor, Swaffham Prior

on

Thursday 20th May from 10.30 onwards

*** Raffle * * Plant Stall ***

and more

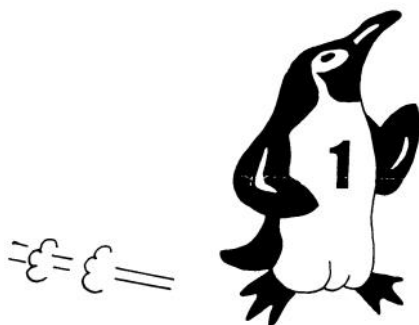
In aid of the British Red Cross



BOTTISHAM SPORTS CENTRE

**RUN FOR FITNESS
RUN FOR HEALTH
RUN FOR FUN**

FUN WALK / RUN IN AID OF **BOTTISHAM SWIMMING POOL**



SUNDAY 16TH MAY
10am Start

BBQ & REFRESHMENTS
HELP YOURSELF, HELP THE COMMUNITY

Bottisham Pool and Sports Centre is a Registered Charity, Number 283885

**MORE INFORMATION AND SPONSORSHIP FORMS
AVAILABLE FROM THE SPORTS OFFICE
TELEPHONE 01223 811121**

**Friends of Bottisham Village
College**

CAR BOOT SALE

**BOTTISHAM VILLAGE
COLLEGE**

SUNDAY 13th JUNE

9am - 1pm

(site open at 8am to set up)

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

presents

Gilbert and Sullivan's

THE SORCERER

with some very interesting special effects!

and

COX AND BOX

never before seen in Swaffham Bulbeck!

It will all take place in Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane,
Swaffham Bulbeck on

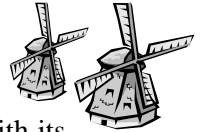
Thur 10th, Fri 11th & Sat 12th June at 7.30pm and Sat 12th June 2pm

Tickets, which include a programme and light refreshments, are priced
at £4 for Thurs, £6 for Fri. and Sat. evening and £2.50 for Sat. afternoon
and are available from Swaffham Bulbeck shop
or phone Rosemary Upton on 01638 742933



Little Windmills Playgroup

April 1999



Yes. We have left the Village Hall at Swaffham Prior with its facilities which many rural communities long for. The Playgroup and Mothers and Toddlers sessions are now held at Reach Village Centre.

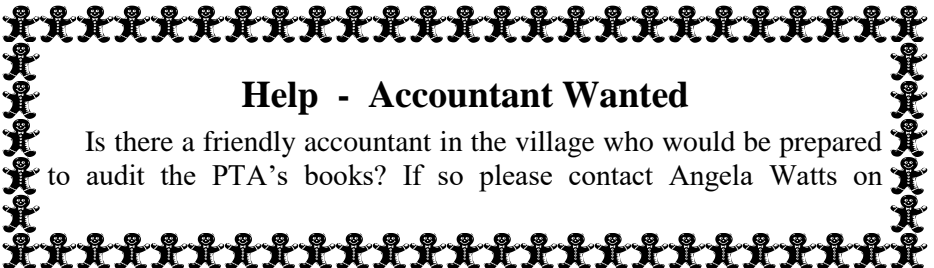
The prospect of the Post Office/Shop operating concurrently with Playgroup sessions in the not too distant future caused concern to the parents, staff and officers regarding the security of the children. We all know that there is no law forbidding this sharing of premises, but in this day and age, unfortunately, we have to be ultra-careful when caring for very young children.

The numbers of children the playgroup caters for varies from year to year, and this has made it very hard for us to finance the rates of hire charged by the Swaffham Prior Village Hall. According to the Social Services and the Pre-School Learning Alliance, of which we are a member, all playgroups using village halls obtain special rates of hire, because of the service they provide for young children of that community.

In February 1998, we were inspected by OFSTED and passed. This means we provide satisfactory instruction in all six areas of the curriculum set down by the Government for pre-school children (four year olds). To maintain our standards, we must display children's work and topic material on wall boards. With the refurbishment of the Village Hall, our old display board was removed and a replacement not included in the design of the new hall. We thought we could manage with free-standing display facilities, but has has proved woefully inadequate and would prevent us from passing our next Government inspection.

We will miss our closeness to the school. During the second part of the summer term we very much hope to arrange extra daytime visits, to enable those children transferring to full time education next September to make a confident and happy start to their school careers.

Brenda Doe



Help - Accountant Wanted

Is there a friendly accountant in the village who would be prepared to audit the PTA's books? If so please contact Angela Watts on



Swaffham Bulbeck Bright Sparks Playgroup



Are you lively and enthusiastic? Do you enjoy working with children? Are you available Monday and Wednesday mornings term time only?

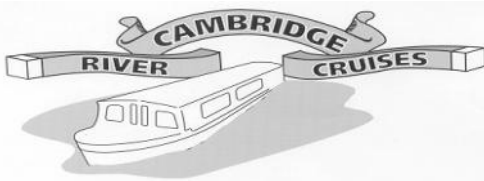
We are looking to employ a new assistant for our village playgroup. If you are interested, please telephone Lynn Rayner (01223 811841) or Caroline Thomas (01223 812417) for more information.

**DO YOU WANT
YOUR WINDOWS CLEANED?**

FOR A GOOD RELIABLE SERVICE RING

ALLIED CLEANING SERVICE

Telephone 0467 263902 or
01223 811506 (Evenings & Weekends)



River Cruises from Jesus Green, Cambridge. Summer Season starts at Easter.
New for 1999! ***The Cathedral City Cruise***, a day excursion to Ely.

Public Service Talking Timetable Tel: 01223 300 100

Private Hire & Special Trips Tel: 01223 410 100

Send an sae for a free leaflet to:

CAMBRIDGE RIVER CRUISES
CHESTERTON ROAD, CAMBRIDGE CB4 3BD

BURWELL

THE BUILDING SOCIETY THAT BELONGS TO CAMBRIDGE

BURWELL
63 High Street, Burwell
Cambridge CB5 0HD
Telephone 01638 600875



Head Office Administration Centre: 51 Newmarket Road Cambridge CB5

THOROUGHBRED FINANCIAL SERVICES



Simon J Gibson ALIA (dip)

- LIFE ASSURANCE
- SCHOOL FEES PLANNING
- INVESTMENT ADVICE
- INCOME PROTECTION (PHI) *
- MITIGATING TAXATION
- RETIREMENT PROVISION

* PIA DOES NOT REGULATE THESE SERVICES

NEWMARKET 01638 744095
FREEPHONE 0800 328 6124
9 North Street, Burwell, Cambs, CB5 0BA

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISER
REGULATED BY THE PROFESSIONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Village Hall 1998/99 Questionnaire

Well, we spread the mortar, we laid the stones, we installed the heating, we put up the curtains - but has it been successful? Has the refurbished Hall met all expectations? Is it being used more? Do people value it?



To discover the answer 31 Questionnaires were sent out to all organisations which hire the hall and to a number of private hirers. 27 Questionnaires (including 3 verbal responses) were returned.

1). All except one thought the **Rent** to be "About Right". PTA said it was "Too High".

2). No-one thought the **Hiring Conditions** "Onerous and unnecessary".

3). **Fixtures, Heating, Lighting, Kitchen** - all thought these "Good" apart from one who thought the lighting "Satisfactory" and another who thought the fixtures "Satisfactory".

4). **Changes and Improvements.** Few were suggested. Some had already been resolved, some are impractical. Others were "Some outside quality chairs" and "A child size toilet".

This all sounds too good to be true - and so it is. We turn now to **Ambience**. All said this was "Good" apart from the Playgroup, the PTA and the School. These three organisations thought the **Ambience** "Poor" because it is "unwelcoming" and "sterile" for children.

There are two divided views. One sees the Hall as "Primarily a Playgroup Hall which is also used by others", and the other sees it as "A Multi-Use Hall of which the Playgroup is one of the users". This is not unique to Swaffham Prior. Sadly the divide was never totally bridged, and the situation illustrates why national crises throughout the world are so difficult to resolve.

Anyway the Playgroup is leaving Swaffham Prior and returning to Reach, but **not** for the above reasons. The reason is that if there is a full-time Post Office/Shop some mothers are worried about the security of their children. The rules governing playgroups using multi-use premises would allow the Playgroup to stay but the mothers have chosen otherwise.

That apart, the Questionnaire shows that we appear to have fulfilled the hopes of most of the very large number of villagers who supported the refurbishment in the October 1996 Survey. There are a lot of people who like and appreciate the Hall. All we have to do now is to maintain it, and for this we need to build up reserve funds.

Village Hall Management Committee



Recipe of the Month

This month, from the 10th to the 16th is **'Food Awareness Week'** which is becoming an annual event organised by the British Dietetic Association, to focus our attention on our eating habits. The slogan



'Give me Five' is a repeat of last year's campaign to encourage us to eat **five** portions of fruit and vegetables a day but this year is focused on children. Do look out in the press, on TV and in the big supermarkets for details and ideas. So, for the recipe this month I have included a very simple cake incorporating fruit and very easy to make!

Banana Bread

Ingredients

4 medium bananas	100g (4oz) caster sugar
200g (8oz) plain flour	1 large egg, beaten
75g (3oz) margarine	2 teasp. baking powder

Method

1. Mash the bananas with a fork - using well-ripened fruit will help.
2. Sieve the flour and baking powder together.
3. Place all the ingredients in a mixing bowl and stir together mixing well.
4. Transfer the mixture into a greased loaf tin (1 lb size)
5. Bake in the oven for 50-55 minutes at 180°C or Gas mark 4.
6. Allow to thoroughly cool before use, slice and enjoy with butter, spread, jam or on its own.

Hilary Mengham

PS Try your hand at this quiz to see how you fare on vegetables and fruits!

Are you eating enough Fruit and Vegetables?

For each question, choose the one of the following which best describes what you eat, scoring as shown:

Never or less than once a week	3
One to three times a week	2
Four to six times a week	1
Every day	0

- 1 How often do you eat fruit for breakfast?
- 2 How often do you eat fruit at lunch?
- 3 How often do you eat fruit as a snack?
- 4 How often do you eat fruit as a dessert?
5. How often do you eat vegetables* or salad?



6. How often do you eat vegetables* or salad at lunch?
7. How often do you eat vegetables* or salad with your evening meal?

* *Do not include potatoes in your calculations, these count as a starchy food!*

How did you score? - add up your marks for all the questions:

Between 0 and 5 - you are doing very well - carry on!

Between 5 and 10 - OK, but try to include more.

Between 10 and 14 - you could improve your health by eating more.

Above 14 - you are *strongly* advised to improve your intake of fruit and vegetables.

Give me 5 - portions of fruit and vegetables a day. What is a portion?

Medium fruit e.g. apple, banana, orange	1 fruit
Very large fruit e.g. melon or pineapple	1 large slice
Small fruits e.g. plums, apricots, satsumas	2 fruits
Raspberries, strawberries, grapes	1 cupful
Fresh fruit salad, stewed, frozen, canned	2-3 tablespoons
Dried fruit	½ - 1 tablespoon
Fruit juice	1 glass (150 ml)
Vegetables: raw, cooked or canned	2 tablespoons
Salad	1 dessert bowl

AGE 55+ NEED COMPETITIVE INSURANCE?

Age Concern Insurance services can provide the answer from our range of insurance products

HOME & CONTENTS

TRAVEL INSURANCE

MOTOR

MOTOR BREAKDOWN

PET INSURANCE

INSURANCE

AGE CONCERN INSURANCE - A BETTER DEAL FOR ALL

AGE
Concern

**INSURANCE
SERVICES**

Age Concern Cambridgeshire

2 Victoria Street

Chatteris

Cambs PE16 6AP

Tel: 01354 696677

Mon-Fri 9.00am - 4.30pm

~~All income generated from our insurance service is used to support services,~~
like the following, throughout Cambridgeshire

* Information & advice * Home Help Service * Village Link Scheme * Day Centres *

Everyone seemed to enjoy our Easter Coffee and Bingo morning. The Easter eggs were very popular with the winners. As usual our friends from Lode and Bottisham came and supported us. We served Hot Cross buns with our coffee and tea, helped by our volunteer "Marg" who comes to help us on a Monday & Friday. She serves the tea, coffee and helps with the lunch. We really appreciate our "Marg", so if anyone would like to come and help on a Tuesday or Thursday and have a nice lunch we would like to hear from you. Please contact us in the Day Centre on 01223 811905.

We are hoping to go out this Summer, the most popular suggestion was a mystery tour then a pub lunch. The seaside is too long a journey, as our friends are very frail and the trip would be too much for them.

It makes us (the carers) in the Day Centre look at our busy lives and realise how lucky we are to have good legs, sight and can move about quite easily. We are sure we won't be so contented when (if) we get to be their age. All our friends need is a cuddle and someone to talk to.

See you soon,

Hilary, Sheila, Lynda, Brian and Jonathan

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges Day and Weekend Courses

Saturday 8th May - Parchment Craft * Upholstery and Chair Caning

Sunday 9th May - Pottery Workshop

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th May - Word processing, An Introduction

Saturday 15th May - Introduction to Computers

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd May - Excel (Spreadsheets) for All

Further information from the Community Offices
at the Village Colleges:

Bottisham: 01223 811372

Burwell: 01638 741901

Linton: 01223 892400





STAINED HUNDRED

The last lecture of the season was given by Terry Cubbin who is a room warden at Ickworth House. The first mention of Ickworth is in 995 when it was given to the monks at St. Edmunds Abbey. From the 15th century until 1956, it belonged to the Harvey family who were a wealthy local family who married well. The first house which stood near the church was demolished in 1710. The 1st Earl of Bristol drew up plans for rebuilding but then instead moved into a modest farm house, Ickworth Lodge. He had 2 wives and 19 children. The 4th Earl, Frederick, became Bishop of the Anglican Church in Ireland and held the Diocese of Derry where he ensured that the money for the various leases went into his pocket instead of into the church. Although he was popular with the Irish, he was too frivolous for George III and his hopes of promotion or a political career were dashed. He then spent much time travelling in Europe acquiring art treasures. He started the rebuilding of Ickworth in 1795 but did not live to see its completion. He was in Italy at the time of the Napoleonic Wars, was imprisoned because he was a foreigner and his vast collection waiting to be sent to England was confiscated. He died in Italy in the outhouse of a peasant who would not allow him into the house when he was suddenly taken ill because he was not a Catholic. To get his body back to England, he was first put into a coffin and this was then put into a large packing case, labelled as a "Statue", because sailors were too superstitious to have a dead man on board. The Bishop Earl was obsessed with circular buildings and designed Ickworth to have a large Rotunda in which the family would live, with curved corridors leading to an East and West Wing which were to be galleries for his art treasures. However the next Earl had different ideas and made the East wing the family home, the rotunda the art gallery and state rooms, and the West wing was never completed.

Ickworth was handed over to the National Trust in the 1950s but at first there were few visitors and little was done. Now the NT is very keen on conversation, and redecorating and restoration work are done as far as possible in the original style after much research. Once the house was up and decorated throughout between 1827-35, it was only redecorated twice in over 100 years which explains why so much work is now being carried out - but it was encouraging for some of us who hate redecorating at home!

Peggy Day

Carpet Bowls

I would like to begin by saying to all members that I am sorry for not writing anything in the *Crier* for a long time.

We have just finished our 1998/99 games. We played all our matches from the first half matches of the season, away, and would like to thank the League for letting us do that as the School Hall was unavailable due to building works. The second half of the season, we played all our matches at home.

We won 11 games and lost 5 games, and we came third in the First Division for the third year running. We won the Swaffham Shield back from Swaffham Bulbeck.

On the 30th March, we had our AGM and the Committee has decided to stay the same, so I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support.

We have also decided to keep playing in the School Hall. The new season will begin in September and we would be happy to welcome some new players, so think about joining us!



Ladies Circle

Once again The Ladies Circle met on Monday 29th March 1999 at 7.30 pm. This month, we were entertained by Mr Scott from Cambridge who demonstrated the art of Glass Blowing. Mr Scott made a small glass mouse and put a 5p piece inside a bottle - just a couple of examples of some of the items he makes. This provided a very interesting subject, and at the end of the meeting Mr Scott allowed the members to buy any of the items he had brought with him.

Forthcoming meetings:

24th May - Mr Jagger Laycock from Burwell - musical evening

28th June - Mrs Bowers - Talk on the Spinning Wheel

We would welcome any new members along to our meetings so please come along and join us.



Village Gardeners

This month's meeting proved to be a fascinating illustrated talk about many of the common varieties of vegetables we can grow successfully in our gardens. It was given by Bill Chowings, deputising for Mike Day of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany in Cambridge, an organisation of which the Queen is patron. When we buy our weekly supply of greenstuff from Sainsburys or Tesco we have very little choice but Bill showed many varieties of common vegetables that never see the shelves of a supermarket. They don't always comply with the displaying and handling requirements of modern mass food retailing. The excellent slides showed many unusual varieties of vegetables as well as views of the vast testing grounds run by the Institute in Cambridge.

Next month, on 18th May we shall be visiting Janet Hall in Reach to learn about propagation.

Betty Prime



Swaffham Prior Women's Institute

Last night, we were transported to Peru by means of slides and an illuminating talk by Pat Airey. Pat and her husband spent a fascinating holiday visiting Lima, the capital, and other towns. These are built high in the Andes and they were given quantities of water and cacao tea to help cope with the altitude. There were splendid buildings and also great poverty, which contrasted with churches and cathedrals encrusted with gold, silver and jewels. Evidence of the Incas seen everywhere, with irrigation channels and stonework, some of it massive. Elsewhere, tiny hard potatoes grew in dry, sandy soil, and herds of alpaca lived on next to nothing. However, plenty of water seen in Lake Titikata, where floating islands were built on reeds, and in the mile wide Amazon.

On May 17th, Joan Bradley will tell us about the Women's Land Army.

Jean Lewis

Village Hall Management Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be the Annual General Meeting on Monday 24th May in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Pat Cunningham
Secretary

Notes From The Parish Council Meeting 8 April 1999

A M Badcock chaired the meeting with 7 members and several members of the public present.

Matters Arising

Lay-by - Water Tower: CCC have not yet responded to correspondence from the PC. Anglian Water's response was to suggest contacting CCC.

Village Shop: Of the two applicants to Post Office Counters, one has withdrawn. Further information is not yet available.

Playground Equipment: Equipment has been removed. P Whitfield will report to the incoming PC with some recommendations regarding replacement playground equipment.

The Millennium: E Malster reported that an Open Meeting was held on 23 March attended by 21 people. A Sundial and Map will mark the Millennium celebrations. The Sundial is being designed by Peggy Stanier. The PC could offset some of the costs.

Annual Assembly/Future Meetings: A suggested date of 27 May for the AA (to be agreed by incoming PC). Future meetings will take place as follows: 8/4, 13/5, 10/6, 8/7, 12/8 (tbc), 9/9, 14/10, 11/11, 9/12, 13/1, 10/2, 9/3.

General Maintenance Programme: PC confirmed Mr Shreeve's grass cutting had been of a good quality to date. Greenhead Road footpath still causing concern. Quotes for varnishing of wooden seats to be requested. Incoming PC to complete a walkabout regarding other maintenance required in the village.

Reports

Councillors H J Fitch and C Cane reported to the meeting

Accounts

None.

Planning Applications

The following applications had been received:

- a. Conversion of redundant farm buildings to five units of working and living accommodation - Sterling Farm, Heath Road
 - b. Planning application - adjacent to 34 Lower End
- The Parish Council had no objections to the above applications
- c. Erection of new disabled toilet at St Mary's & St Cyriacs

Any Other Business

Police Consultation Meeting: A M Badcock and E B Day attended the meeting. Major points raised included bogus callers. Histon are maintaining beat officers in residential areas. Local Policing budget is spent. Next neighbourhood Watch Meeting 26/4/99.

Rogers Road: trimming of verge required & the dead cherry tree on Mill Hill needs to be removed.

Open Question Time

A question was raised regarding fountain (at present in storage) relocation back to playground.

A question relating to reducing the speed limit from 40 to 30 miles per hour on Mill Hill was requested. PC confirmed the answer from the CCC seems to be that Swaffham Prior is a non-priority case. PC also confirmed correspondence would continue to be sent to CCC.

The next meeting will be held on 6 May 1999

Footnote: All members of the Parish Council wished Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council a speedy recovery.

Erika Condie
Parish Council



EAST ANGLIAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor

You will be wondering what has happened to the local elections in Swaffham Prior. The answer is that you do not have any, because there were insufficient nominations to fill all the Parish Council places and I was the only person nominated for the District Council. I shall therefore continue to serve as your District Councillor for the next four years. I am pleased to be continuing as your Councillor, as I have enjoyed working with so many of you over the last year, but I am sorry that you were not given a chance to

vote for your Councillor.

All the other seats on the District Council are being contested, so I shall have to wait until 7th May before I know who I shall be working with on the new council. The new District Councillors will hold our Annual Meeting on 18th May at which we will select our Chairman for the coming year and elect people to serve on Council Committees. I shall be able to report the result of this meeting in next month's issue of *The Crier*.

Full Council at the end of March decided to restore a bus pass for all Pensioners. I am delighted by this, because I know that last year's cut by the County Council caused great difficulty for many pensioners living in Swaffham Prior and other villages. Now that we have more frequent services as well people should have much more opportunity to get to the shops and to visit friends and relatives. All we need to do now is improve the reliability of the buses and find ways to bring down the cost for all of us. The Public Enquiry into Cambus/Stagecoach is now scheduled for 20th May. I shall be writing to the Inspector with the experience of the service in this ward. I already have a lot of information, and if you want any of your observations included please contact me by 7th May.

I cannot close this article without thanking Pat Cunningham for her work as part of *The Crier* editorial team. I certainly valued her helpful comments on my first article and her tactful reminders when my copy fell overdue.

My next Councillor's Surgery is on Tuesday 15th June at Reach Village Hall between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home.

Charlotte Cane



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County

Two vital meetings either side of Easter need to be reported to you this month. The first was the Government's inspection of **Cambridgeshire's Child Protection Services** carried out last November. You may remember the Dept. of Health first inspected our child protection services in 1997 following the death of Ricky Neave. There were forty recommendations and last November's follow-up visit was to check how far they had been achieved.

The recent report runs to 115 pages, so I will not go into too much detail. I can let anyone with a particular interest see my copy. What I can do is to summarise the latest conclusion simply by saying some progress has been

made but much remains to be done.

As so often happens with a large department, it takes more time to make radical change than anyone expects. So many other bodies are involved in child protection, such as Education representatives, Police, Health Visitors and paediatric and GP services. Bringing them together in the newly reformed Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) case conferences is in itself a time consuming job. Nevertheless progress has been made in addressing problems associated with both Social Services Dept. and its associated ACP Committee.

All County members are hoping that the protection vulnerable children in our County deserve, will become increasingly effective. It is our role to keep up pressure on those entrusted with these duties. We aim at a swift response and effective action, so as to prevent, in so far as it is humanly possible, any future tragedies of the Neave type. We cannot guarantee no child will come to life threatening harm, but we will try our utmost to achieve this.

To put this subject into its context, there were 321 children on the County's Child Protection Register in September 1998. The rate of registration is slightly below the national average.

The other meeting of note since Easter was a long series of presentations by consultants of their favoured suggestions as to where **new towns or large village extensions** should be located over the next half century. As you may know, in response to rapid economic expansion, we may have to find space to build **45,000 new homes** by 2016 within the Cambridge area. The debate is where and how many in any settlement.

Three possible locations would be on disused land owned by the Ministry of Defence at Waterbeach, Oakington and Wyton (Hunts.). Between them there would be 16-17,000 homes plus firms to offer jobs. Infrastructure would be needed but there would be the prospect of using the disused St. Ives railway as a transport artery for two of the villages. All three would be popular with the Government as the land has been used before and qualifies for the description "brownfield" and does not mean taking farm land from the green belt.

Another suggestion coming from the local entrepreneur Peter Dawe would develop a large new town based on Oakington/Longstanton. A further suggestion aims at the Six Mile Bottom area. I warned the author of that idea that nearby Hare Park had been rejected before and any reappearance of that on the list would raise a whirlwind of objections!

All the above ideas are only in a very early stage of discussion, but I warn us all that we should be watchful about what might happen in the Cambridge hinterland as the next millenium gets under way.



Church Services

May 1999

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck		ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY, Reach
<i>EASTER</i> 5	8am Holy Communion [†]	11am Parish Communion	6.30pm Songs of Praise
Sun 2	9.30am Family Service and Holy Baptism of Paul Varty		
<i>EASTER</i> 6 <i>ROGATI</i> <i>ON</i>	9.30am Parish Communion ^A	11am Family Service 6pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8am Holy Communion [†]
Sun 9			
<i>ASCENSI</i> <i>ON DAY</i>		7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Cambridge Voices (ST. CYRIACS)	
Thu 13		6pm Holy Communion ^B	
<i>ST THE</i> <i>APOSTLE</i>			
14			
<i>EASTER</i> 7	9.30pm Parish Communion ^A	11am Parish Communion ^B 6pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8am Holy Communion [†]
Sun 16			
<i>PENTEC</i> <i>OST/</i> <i>DEANER</i> <i>Y DAY</i>	10.30am Deanery Confirmation and Holy Communion (at BURWELL)	3.00pm Deanery Family Service (at ST. CYRIACS)	8am Holy Communion [†]
23			
<i>TRINITY</i>	10am United Parish Communion ^A	6pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8am Holy Communion [†]
30			

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer
Sunday School

Bellringing

Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church
Wednesdays, 5pm. Reach Church
Sundays 9.30am. Bulbeck Village Hall/Church.
Contact Angela Roebuck on C. 811722
Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs.
Contact. Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.



My dear people,

TIME IS NO GOD

The final year of the second christian millennium is ticking away as fast as we plan our end-of-year celebrations in each village, and yet, despite its epoch-ending status, 1999 is just like every other year in the chequered history of the human race. That said, our hope is that the God of surprises may accomplish some great things this year; He has all times and all seasons in his hands and is not enslaved by 'clock time' as we allow ourselves to be.

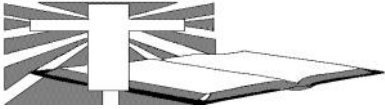
St Paul had something to say to the Galatians about all this. He accused them of being slaves to time ... *'You observe days and months, seasons and years! I am afraid I have laboured over you in vain'* (Gal.4:10-11). Time is by nature 'no God', so we must not allow it to gain a hold over us. While therefore christian folk will take the lead in the special celebrations marking the 2000th birthday of Jesus Christ this Christmas, we shall worship the God who saves and redeems us, not just from sin, but from time.

It is the reality of that salvation, and the cost of it, that occupied our thoughts during Lent; it is the achievement of it that we celebrated at Easter. The Resurrection is first and foremost a victory over death, but with that goes a liberation from time, and all those other things which are 'not God'.

For 30 years or so, God in Christ allowed Himself to be subject to time, thus identifying himself with His creation, but his *'bursting from the spiced tomb'* (as the words of St Patrick's Breastplate have it) marks His return to the unlimited freedom which had been His from the beginning. Through the Holy Spirit He is alive and at large in today's world, through the ministry of individuals and His Church, so that Easter is a permanent reality.

Easter, and hence Ascension Day 40 days later, and Pentecost (or Whitsun) 50 days later, is unique among christian festivals in not falling on a fixed date; if you want to know how to calculate it you need to consult the table in the Book of Common Prayer. We tend to complain sometimes about this (Easter is very 'late' in 2000 on April 23rd), but perhaps it is important to be reminded in this way that the Resurrection cannot be held within time. Jesus is alive for evermore, and we share in his victory over time, and in His endless life. We are His 'Easter People', not bound by days and months, seasons and years.

Your friend and Vicar,
Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for May:

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Family Service - David Bousefield No evening service
	9th	6.30pm	Colin Dailly - communion
	16th	6.30pm	Paul Giddings
	23rd	6.30pm	Percy Crisp
	30th	6.30pm	David Smith

Are you superstitious? I'm not really but I don't usually walk under ladders!

Ladders come in various types. There is the rope ladder which folds up and would probably have been used to climb up a city wall. Fish ladders are used to help salmon when they are coming in from the sea to begin their breeding cycle. Firemen use turntable ladders to fight fires and to rescue trapped people.

When we were children our favourite board game was snakes and ladders!

However, the best ladder of all is referred to in the Old Testament. Jacob in a dream saw a ladder set up on earth and the top of it reached to Heaven with angels ascending and descending.

We know as Christians that one day we will be on that ladder to Heaven.

From the Parish Registers

In Memoriam: Muriel Cynthia Willet.

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

I am sitting down to write this just hours before fleeing the country. It will be a stream of consciousness this month, I fear! I am just off to lecture in Chicago and Los Angeles and Vancouver and left it much too late to write the lectures, which are all about why it is not surprising or shocking that the shape of Britain is changing with the election of a Scottish Parliament and of a Welsh Assembly and with the (let us hope) new cross-border institutions in Ireland. There has never been a century in which the relationship of the component parts of what I have called ‘the British state system but not the British state’ has not radically altered. In 1250 there were at least five wholly separate kingdoms in the British Isles, and wild areas subject to no king. By 1550 there were three kingdoms but two royal houses. There were three Parliaments and a fast reformation taking place in England, a slow Reformation stalling in Ireland and no Reformation in Scotland. By 1750 a fifty year war of two dynasties - the Stuarts and the Hanoverians - was coming to an end. Religious persecution was more or less over, but discrimination was everywhere. There were other major adjustments in the early 1800s and in the 1920s. The British state system is as liable to constitutional earthquakes as California is to physical earthquakes, so wish me well in LA.

And what has this to do with my being the Catholic spokesperson in the Swaffhams? Not much. I cannot write about the wonderful Easter themes which are the only other things on my mind. I should be writing about what will be in our minds as May dawns, and that may include the elections. The shape of Britain is changing, because nothing stays the same. The shape of Britain is changing and that is neither of itself a disaster or a triumph. It is how things are. And churches, faith communities, have to accept that they will change too. One of things as a historian I have learnt and which helps me with my churchmanship is this: that change is inevitable and is rarely of itself bad or good. The daily readings in the missal at present are all about the dilemmas of the Apostles and how much Jesus’s death and Resurrection needed to change the pattern of their lives: should they still go to the Temple and the synagogue? How could Jesus’s command to them to baptise and to recall the Last Supper be made compatible with continuing Temple worship? The challenge of faith today pales in significance to that but there is a challenge to growth, to change. Jesus told Nicodemus, the Pharisee who was attracted by Jesus’s teaching but not if it meant turning his life upside down, that the Spirit ‘blows wherever it pleases; you hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. That is how it is with all who are born of the Spirit.’ The only unchanging thing is the inevitability of change.

Dates for Your Diary - May 1999

Mon	3	Reach Fair, 12 noon
Tue	4	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	6	PC Meeting
Sun	9	Open Day, Foster's Mill. 2:00pm Teas at Wicken (in aid of Christian Aid Week). 3:00pm.
Thu	13	Cambridge Voices, Sung Eucharist, St Cyriac's. 7:30pm
Fri	14	Crier Copy deadline
Sat	15	Children's Hospice Big Top Gala Day. Milton. 11am. Bulbeck Auction, Downing Farm. 11am. Village Feast. Village Hall. 2pm Fordham Prom. St Peter and St Mary Magd, Fordham, 7:30pm
Sun	16	Bottisham Swimming Pool Fun Walk/Run. 10:00am.
Mon	17	Mothers Union Mtg, Free Church, Commercial End. 2:15pm WI Meeting, Village Hall. 7.30pm. PCC Meeting. 7:30pm
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35 - 4:00pm Village Gardeners, visit to Janet Hall, Reach
Thu	20	Red Cross Coffee Morning. Baldwins Manor. 10:30am Bottisham Players. Village College, Bottisham. 7:30pm
Fri	21	Bottisham Players. Village College, Bottisham. 7:30pm
Sat	22	Bottisham Players. Village College, Bottisham. 7:30pm
Mon	24	Ladies Circle. 7:30pm VHMC Annual General Meeting, Village Hall. 7:30pm
Wed	26	Parishes Pilgrimage to Bury St Edmunds. 6:35pm
Thu	27	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm Annuual Village Assembly. Village Hall. 7.30pm.

June

Sat	12	St Mary's Church Fete
-----	----	-----------------------



Advertising in the ***Crier***
is **very** cost effective

Ring John Fidoe for details

☎ 01638 742666