



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 23 Number 10

October 1999



## Editorial

It was Larkspur, of course. Small songbird's incentive. Not 'cuckoo-pint' after all (um... well). And we could have won *three* beans. Harvest Produce Showgoers will recognise the quiz, a clever touch in a production of many clever touches. The revamped Show justifiably won the acclaim of exhibitors, spectators and bidders alike. Well done to the organisers, and read all about it on page 7 - winners to appear in the next edition.

Paradoxically, autumn is the season for beginnings, and the debuts continue in this month's *Crier* with Margaret Stanier wittily Getting Down To The Wood as *Our Reporter at the Parish Council* (read this! - in our house, this process is called 'Getting Down to the Carpet' and is only undertaken under extreme duress — eg. imminent approach of Grandma and cohorts) *and* for the very first time, an artistic contribution from the younger generation in the form of our Hallowe'en Cover—well done, Jennifer and Stefani, and many thanks to Ingrid Hoffman, our new Infant Teacher, for organising same in record time.

Last month's new entries, Alastair Everitt's *Our Man of the Millenium* and Francis Riggs' *Domesday Book* continue with second instalments. The plot thickens as Alastair explains that there seems to be rather more Myth than Substance to our Will Shakespeare, and he's joined in the fray by Mark Lewinski (see *Letters*) picking up the gauntlet for the opposing camp. Meanwhile, Francis tells us how the Swaffham lands were redistributed after 1066, and how the lovely swan-necked Edith, mistress of the unfortunate Harold, had all hers snatched by the conquering Nasty Normans. Two unrelated articles. *Or are they?* The alert reader should not miss a trick, and carefully peruse this month's *Crier*, retaining it for future reference. Is there a Grand Plan in all this, Alastair and Francis? Does this spell the end of Stratford's domination of the lucrative literary tourist market as a worthier contender takes the stage? All will be revealed.

Read David Bousfield's poem — it's very good. And to end on a literary note, a literary puzzle: where in the following pages can one find a reference to the opening lines of LP Hartley's *The Go-Between*? Answer to the editors by the 14<sup>th</sup>. Prize: *four* beans.

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** *Hallowe'en* by Stefani Boughey and Jennifer Kingsmill



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Quiz Night at the Red Lion

I hope we are not going to lose this one good night's entertainment in the village, where people of different age-groups can get together and have some light-hearted fun. There isn't much that goes on in this village and we need somewhere to go and enjoy ourselves. Paula and Ade have given us that. Don't let the Quiz Night disappear.

*Lynne Rand*

Dear Editors

### Re: Man of the millenium

I am sure Alastair Everitt would not want anyone to think his views are unbalanced, and will therefore show in the next issue that he has really done his homework by making the case in favour of the William Shakespeare of Stratford as the author of the 37-odd plays. Here's a starter to kick off with.

In his will, the Stratford Shakespeare left £25.8d each to Richard Burbage, John Hemmings and Henry Condell to buy mourning rings. These three men were well known as members of Shakespeare's acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, (later the King's Men) and are listed with Shakespeare in the '*Names of the Principall Actors*' in the First Folio, which was the first collected works of Shakespeare, compiled in the first few years after his death in 1612 and published in 1623.

Seventy-five pounds was a small fortune in the sixteenth century, and the rest of the will is quite careful with its distribution of money - W. Shakespeare of Stratford was no fool, with bequests limited and close to home. It seems he was not unlike successful theatre, film and media folk today - he kept his London and country lives quite separate, not playing on his celebrity, nor reminding people of what he had been once he had finished.

Millennium Cross-Stitch Map

Coffee Morning

Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup>

10:30am - 12 noon

The Barn, 41 High Street, Swaffham Prior

Bumper Raffle & "Collectables" Stall

Without newspapers, TV, film and radio, there would not have been extensive coverage of his funeral; no chat show appearances by his old friends, no reruns of the film adaptations of his plays. So he was not very famous for much of the century after his death, especially when reoccurrences of the plague made theatres unpopular places, then the puritans banned theatre-going between 1642 and 1660. It was only later in that century that there was a revival of interest - by which time the Shakespeare family had all but expired, and documents lost. In any case, W. Shakespeare didn't leave much literary evidence behind probably because he did not want to. Like some astute writers today, he knew it would mean people have to look for him through the plays.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark Lewinski**  
32 Fairview Grove

St Mary's Church  
Swaffham Prior  
**Harvest Supper**

On Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in St Cyriac's

**All Welcome**

Tickets obtainable from Francis Reeks (telephone 743693)

£4 for adults and £2.50 for children

**FREE ENERGY ADVICE  
AND FREE LIGHTBULBS**

With colder weather not too far around the corner now, it might be time to start thinking about making your home more comfortable for winter or discover some tips to cut your winter fuel bill. The District Council has a free advice and information service for residents through which you can find out about grants for insulation and other improvements and obtain a Top Tips leaflet. They are particularly keen to help the elderly and others at home for much of the day. There is still a small stock of FREE energy-saving lightbulbs for over 60's and for others on benefits. Contact the Home Energy Officer on 01353 665555.

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Now and then my dining-room table becomes so deeply buried under papers letters envelopes forms reports magazines catalogues (and perhaps the odd coffee-mug) that I am forced to Do Something. After a strenuous morning's work, ably assisted by the waste-paper-basket, recycling bag, desk drawer and filing cabinet, I am once again able to see what the table is made of. I call this process, "Getting Down to the Wood". Just after a recent "Getting Down..." I had a call 'inviting' me to do the *Crier's* Parish Council report for the September meeting. So here we go - the nucleus for the next batch of papers, reports, and so on. And on.



I arrived at the village hall to find that for this meeting Andrew Badcock (striving for Excellence in Chairmanship) was replaced by Eric Day (Effortlessly Competent). As I entered, somebody said "Is the loop working?" "What was that?" I asked. "IS THE LOOP WORKING?" he yelled. Quickly I adjusted the switch on my hearing aid and yelled back "YES, NOW IT IS." And it worked successfully for the whole evening, and I heard every voice except Karen King's. A great thing, that loop.

Early in the proceedings we had some talk of the contractor' activities in the clearance and cutting back of hedges, verges, pathways: when, where and at what cost, and should weedkiller be put onto paths. This caused me to reflect with pleasure on the very fine job that the PC's contractor had done recently on the footpath down Station Road. No longer am I forced to take my walk down there on the road surface itself, to avoid wet shoes and the clawing of overgrown brambles and rose bushes. The path is one or two metres wide right down to the bridge, and the hedge well trimmed-back. Excellent! I walk with ease, in no danger from the huge farm lorries thundering past.

James Fitch of the County Council told us of the glories of the Cambridge Park-and-Ride, and the splendours of the Bottisham School children's GCSE results. Charlotte Cane of ECDC told us of the sweetness-and-light of Open Government and the District Council's Public Relating. James also congratulated Swaffham Prior PC on the careful orderly presentation of its correspondence to him, all classified in sections; (not like some Parish Councils he could name; well, Bottisham in fact); a nice bouquet for our Karen.

I thought of this again later in the evening when Karen drew out of a neat folder a whole series of reports, letters and leaflets. She held up each in turn for us to see, gave us an outline of its contents, then plonked it down in the middle of the table; whence any member of the PC could pick it up for a

## **World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief**

The nationwide annual Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Relief's most important fundraising event of the year and, certainly in Swaffham Prior, it is a very sociable occasion.

Newcomers to the event will be most welcome as, of course, will our regular loyal supporters. We look forward to seeing you all for a coffee and a chat on:

**Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 10.30 am – 12 noon  
at Ruth and Robin Scovil's,  
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

closer look. She had obviously done a good filing job and had been through everything already. (I bet she never has a dining-room-table three layers deep in bump and has a struggle to Get Down to the Wood).

One of the more interesting items plonked onto the table was a plan of Swaffham Prior from the ECDC: please could we mark in any areas that might have been poisoned in the past? Poisoned? What poison? She explained that ECDC wanted to draw on local knowledge, asking people who knew Swaffham Prior 40 or 50 or 60 years ago where there might have been rubbish disposal sites or ancient coal yards. Well, my garden was a rubbish disposal site before the ECDC had an official rubbish collection. Earlier occupants of my house just buried any broken china or glass or small metal and I unearth them whenever I do a major planting. Is this the sort of thing ECDC wants to know?

A glimpse of the Minutes of the previous PC Meeting (July) had revealed that Mr A. Prince had suggested a commemoration of the Land Girls who lived and worked in Swaffham Prior during the Second World War. There were many, it seems. One may still come across women who say "Ever since I came to Swaffham Prior as a Land Girl in the 1940's...." There were 80,000 Land Girls in their heyday. Perhaps as many as 80 may have come and gone in Swaffham Prior. After the July meeting Mr Prince had been invited to collect names and numbers of Land Girls, and I had been hoping for developments on the Land Girl Question, but no such luck. Perhaps at the October Meeting.

*Margaret Stanier*



## **ARTS & CRAFTS 2000**

For one of the Millennium celebrations next year an Arts and Crafts Exhibition is being arranged for the weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2000.

So all of you who indulge in any craft, be it painting or drawing, knitting, sewing or embroidery of any kind, woodwork, writing, cake decoration, model making, flower arranging - anything you can do which would come under the heading 'Arts and Crafts', please think about it during the winter and have something to exhibit. And please don't book your holiday for that weekend!

For more information watch this space!

## **Swaffham Prior at the Edinburgh Festival**

### **A Star is Born**

Congratulations to 13 year old Philip Mead, who has just returned from a successful season at the Edinburgh Festival as Stephen the Bootblack Boy in 'The Ragged Child', a National Youth Music Theatre production sponsored by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Ryan Schultz and Philip, whose only previous venture onto the boards was in 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dream Coat', were persuaded to audition at Homerton College by that well known Swaffham Prior Impresario, Hilary Sage (who else!). Out of 2000 hopefuls, 150 from Cambridgeshire, both got through to the London auditions and Philip was selected for a part in 'The Ragged Child'.

The play was rehearsed in the Summer Half-term (for a whole 5 days) and opened at Aberdeen, progressing to a two week run at the Edinburgh Festival where it celebrated its 100th performance on the opening night of the Fringe. Described as spell-binding, 5 star jaw-dropping and with a cast with 'talent oozing from every pore', it was hard work — evenings, matinees plus lots of Street Theatre to advertise the play. But Philip loved every minute, and has gone on to play in the opening act of the Vivien Ellis Awards which was shown at the Palladium on 21st of September.

But does he want to be an actor? Well, *maybe*. Or maybe a pilot, or maybe..... it's alright being 13 years old! Philip would particularly like to thank mastermind and coach, Hilary Sage, and the Grand Financier of the enterprise—Grandad Baker!

*Caroline Matheson*



## HARVEST PRODUCE SHOW

"The Greatest Show in Town" probably best describes the Annual Harvest Produce Show held in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th September. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response of so many exhibitors - the tables were laden with a large and wonderful display of the highest quality items. We were particularly pleased to see so many **new** names on our list of entrants, especially the children who had excelled themselves this year, with imaginative and colourful entries over which they had obviously spent much time and effort - well done! And as for the Tallest Sunflower - about 15 ft of magnificence trundled rather unceremoniously to the show by the Bowers family in a wheelbarrow!

All the judges were very impressed with our Show. May we take this opportunity of thanking them individually. Mr Vic Barnes (Fruit and Vegetables), Mrs Sue Rust (Flowers & Plants), Mrs Jane Good (Cakes & Preserves), Mr John Norris (Children's Exhibits) and Mr Peter Whitely (Wines). There was much excitable bidding at the Auction and we hope you all enjoyed the goodies you bought. Our gross takings were £270 on the day and after paying all our expenses, we are left with a profit of £195 (one of the highest!) so thank you all for coming. A full list of all the winners will be in the next issue of the *Crier* - *so don't miss it!* See you next year.

*Pat Cunningham*

## HEREWARD HOUSING ASSOCIATION

St Mary's Lodge, St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EY  
Tel: 01353 669866 Fax: 01353 669447

We provide good quality housing, including sheltered accommodation, at affordable rents, throughout East Cambridgeshire

Sheltered accommodation is available in this area at:  
Ashley Burrough Green Burwell Cheveley Ely Fordham  
Haddenham Isleham Little Downham Littleport Soham  
Stetchworth Stretham Sutton Swaffham Bulbeck  
Wilburton and Witchford

**For further information contact Hereward's Supported Housing Team, who will assess individual needs and arrange a visit to the scheme of your choice**

# **BOTTISHAM PLAYERS**

## **A CLASS ACT TO FOLLOW**

The Autumn production of the Bottisham Players is another great comedy by DEREK BENFIELD, "CAUGHT ON THE HOP" (regulars will remember "Wild Goose Chase" and "Panic stations").

The play involves four men and four women who become involved in frenetic confusion of mistaken identities, plotting and counterplotting, an eruption on one quiet summers day. Come and see if you can follow the plot!

Production takes place at the Drama studio Bottisham Village College October 14th, 15th and 16th at 8.00pm. Tickets priced £5.00 adults and £3.00 concessionaries (Thu. & Fri.)

Tickets will be available from Lushers newsagents Bottisham. Telephone bookings on 01223 812911 from Mid September 1999.

The cast of the production include Graham Horton, Rosemary Jolley, Jane Seekings, Lesley Pilgrim, Chris Brown, Sally Papworth, Richard Clarkson and Grahame Radford.

### **Bottisham Village College Music Society**

Opening Concert 1999-2000 Season

### **The Unusual History of Swaffham Bulbeck Theatre**

With narration, slides, & music of  
**Gilbert and Sullivan**

Come and join us at

**8pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1999**

In the Main Hall, Bottisham Village College

Season Tickets (6 concerts Oct- March): £20

At the door: £5 concessions (students and unwaged): £2.50

Children under 16 with adults: free



## **Cartoonist**

*With Christmas not far off, would you  
like to give something different to a*

**'Loved One'**

*Maybe a specially written poem that says it all.*

*Elegantly illustrated and tastefully framed.*

*Or perhaps you might like an individually designed card for any occasion.*

*For more details, call*

**Jacqueline Humfrey**

**on 01638 578043**

## **CAMBRIDGE VOICES**

### **FAURE: REQUIEM**

Fresh from their recent Paris engagements, Cambridge Voices present a concert in our vicinity of fabulous French choral music, including the famous *Requiem* by **Gabriel Fauré** with its hauntingly simple *Pie Jesu* for solo voice. They will be accompanied on the piano by their dynamic director, **Ian de Massini**, and indeed the concert will also feature some of the music written by this resident of Reach, music which has recently been recorded by this choir whilst in Paris earlier this year. The concert will also pay homage to the centenary of the birth of that great French composer **Francis Poulenc**, and the first half of the concert will begin and end with a choice selection of famous Negro Spirituals especially arranged for this choir. You will also have a chance to buy a recording of the choir's latest endeavour - the very first recording to be made in the composer's church of St Etienne du Mont, Paris of the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé for choir, organ and cello. Officially this historic recording is not due for public release till the New Year but here is a special chance to purchase your Christmas musical stocking-filler!

**Date: Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Venue: St. Cyriac and Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior**

Admission by programme at the door: £5 (free for children)

Please note that the previously advertised programme of **Bach's B minor Mass** on this day by Cambridge Voices has had to be delayed until further notice.

**Ian de Massini**, Director of Cambridge Voices

## TENNIS FOR EVERYONE

Within three miles of Swaffham Prior is Exning Tennis Club which has just added a new court and introduced floodlighting together with the opportunity to play wheelchair tennis.



These new facilities were celebrated at an Open Day on Saturday 25 September with speeches from major donors, the receipt of a Lottery Sports cheque, a wonderful demonstration of wheelchair tennis, a display on the junior grass courts, and a gripping 12-15 junior match on the hard courts. If you didn't hear about it, I'm sorry you missed the event.

But you can still catch up. Until 31 December 1999 the club membership is **only £15**. There is room for the young, for the middle aged wishing to remain fit, and for the retired. Whether you are someone who just likes to knock a ball around or an ex-county player recovering from an injury, we welcome you. Try it out. Three months of pleasure and exercise for just £15.

If interested please phone John Wilson on 01638 730409 or Roland Cross on 01284 810409.

*Catie Whitely*

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## Our Man of the Millennium - II

I concluded last month by quoting Robin Bearman (1994) who lamented that Shakespeare (WS) appears "merely to have been a man of the world, buying up property, laying in ample stocks of barley and malt, when others were starving...."

How have Shakespearians and scholars coped with this extraordinary lack of information about WS the playwright? I recommend turning to Professor S. Schoenbaum's (hereinafter SS) *Shakespeare's Lives* (1991) which gives a detailed and delightful account of how antiquarians and scholars have grappled with the problem over the centuries. SS himself was an eminent scholar and an ardent Stratfordian. "Stratfordian" is the term given to those who in spite of a total lack of evidence insist that only William "Shakspere" of Stratford could have written the plays of William "Shake-speare". SS considered anyone who questioned "Shakspere" to be a "Heretic". SS is a good man to quote.

There are four documentary records of WS as an actor - in 1595, 1598, 1603 and 1623. There are two documents connecting WS to the Globe (1601 and 1603) and one to Blackfriars theatre (1599). Apart from these "the records are frustratingly mute" (SS).

Materials for the biographer of WS "hardly amounted to a great deal" (SS). It was not until 1662, nearly fifty years after WS died, that the first biographical notice appeared. This was in Fuller's *Worthies of England* but he has "little to report beyond ... that WS was born in Stratford. The year of the poet's death eludes him" (SS). Several other notices appeared subsequently but none was satisfactory. Langbaine made an advance in 1691 by providing WS's death date and by mentioning that his widow and daughter Susanna were buried with him in the same church..

Meanwhile the myths and traditions grew with a "proliferation of apocryphal anecdotes" (SS). And don't myths cling on, just like the myth about the two sisters and the two churches in Swaffham Prior. And so it is with the WS myths. I take just two of the many, both initiated by William Davenant (1606-1668, knighted in 1643 fighting for the Royalist cause).

Firstly, he claimed to be the natural son of WS. Davenant's parents ran The Tavern in Oxford which had no accommodation but it shared a courtyard with the Cross Inn where WS is alleged to have stayed on his journeys to and from London. Davenant's mother Jennet was really something and it seems WS would stay at the Cross Inn and nip across the courtyard to Jennet's bed, roister away and William D was the result. Later a long debate ensued about whether WS was father or godfather, or whether there was any truth in the myth at all. Today, I think, all have dismissed the father business but some may remain divided over the godfather status. The whole myth still often appears in some biographical sketches.

Davenant's second story is that WS began his London career by holding horses outside the theatre. There is not one jot of evidence to support this. Now read how Dr Johnson embellishes the tale in his 1765 edition of the plays:- "In this office he became so conspicuous for his care and readiness, that in a short time every man as he alighted called for *Will. Shakespear*, and scarcely any other waiter was trusted with a horse while *Will. Shakespear* could be had. This was the first dawn of better fortune. *Shakespear* finding more horses put into his hand than he could hold, hired boys to wait under his inspection, who, when *Will Shakespear* was summoned, were immediately to present themselves, *I am Shakespear's boy, Sir.*"

SS calls Johnson's expansion "pure nonsense", though inevitably in time Stratfordians would identify the theatre door at which WS waited, and say "This is where WS held the horses." Such is the power of myth that this tale still appears regularly, usually with the proviso it may not be true. But it has to appear because, apart from other myths and traditions, there is not much else to say.

As we have seen, the 17th century produced nothing which could be

called a biography and it was not until 1709 that Nicholas Rowe (1674-1718, playwright, poet and editor) produced the first critical edition of the plays and became the first biographer. Schoenbaum regretted that Rowe had made "no attempt to distinguish between legendary anecdotes and ascertainable facts". But he was grateful that Rowe had set down all the legends and traditions and had saved them from perishing - mainly I suspect because there is little left without them.

Rowe moreover had done a great service by bringing out a modern edition of the plays which made them more accessible to people. Oddly his 'Life', though very inadequate, remained the standard authority throughout most of the 18th century and was included or used in all except one of the editions which began to be published. Bardolatory and the 'Shakespeare Industry' had begun. Editions of the plays poured out - Pope (1725), Theobald (1733), Hanmer (1744), Bishop Warburton (1747), Dr Johnson (1765), George Steevens (1773), Johnson and Steevens (1778). Only Edward Capell in his 1767 edition did not reprint or use Rowe's Life. Instead he regretted he could not include something worthy to be entitled a 'Life of Shakespeare'. He affirmed that people were offered only "an imperfect and loose account of his father, and family; his own marriage, and the issue of it; some traditional stories ... supported by small authority, and seemingly ill-grounded." Not very much had advanced after a century and a half.

So we reach the era of the first great WS editor Edmond Malone, of the rogue John Jordon, and of the forger William-Henry Ireland. Everyone was to become increasingly desperate to find new documentary evidence. Were they successful?

*Alastair Everitt*



## **Quy Art Exhibition**

**The Exhibition at Quy Village Hall this year will again show works by the Quy and Bottisham Art Groups. All paintings will be for sale and there will also be a gift stall, raffle, tombola and refreshments to raise money for Cancer research and care. Please come along and support us during the weekend. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 7.30 to 9.30pm. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 10.30 to 4.30 pm and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 10.30 to 4.30pm.**

**Entrance is free.**



## Recipe of the Month

This is a good spicy recipe for an autumn day. Serve with boiled rice, cous-cous or creamed potato along with your favourite vegetables. Thanks to Betty Prime for this one.

### Red Spiced Chicken Casserole

**Ingredients** - serves 8

8 chicken breasts	2 tablesp. tomato puree
2 tablesp. lemon juice	½ teasp. cayenne pepper
75g(3oz) butter or soft margarine	1 tablesp. french mustard
2 tablesp. sunflower oil	2 tablesp. worcester sauce
2 large onions peeled and sliced	4 tablesp. red wine vinegar
2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped	50g(2oz) soft dark brown sugar
1 red pepper cored, seeded and sliced	4 tablesp. chicken stock or water
1 green pepper cored, seeded and sliced	Salt & freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 200°C, 400°F or Gas Mark 6

### Method

1. Rub the chicken breasts all over with the lemon juice and season with salt and pepper.
2. Melt 50g (2oz) of butter or margarine in a roasting tin. Add the chicken breast and turn to coat with the fat. Cook in the oven for 30 mins turning them frequently to brown on all sides.
3. Meanwhile, melt the remaining butter or margarine with the oil in a frying pan. Add the onions, red and green peppers and cook gently for 5 minutes stirring once or twice.
4. Mix together all the remaining ingredients in a bowl and add them to the vegetables in the pan. Bring to the boil, stirring well.
5. Pour off the fat in the roasting tin and pour the vegetables mixture over the chicken breast. Cover with foil, reduce the heat of the oven to 180°C, 350°F or Gas Mark 4 and cook for a further 35 – 40 minutes until the chicken is tender. Taste the sauce and add more seasoning if necessary.

Serve.

*Hilary Mengham*

### **CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS 1999**

*I am desperately in need of plastic pudding basins of any size, to make Christmas puddings for our Xmas Fair which will be held in early December. If anyone can help please phone me on 01638 742501.*

*Many thanks,*

*Judith Temple*

# DOMESDAY BOOK AND SWAFFHAM PRIOR

... continued

The Commissioners had been told to find eight men of each hundred to swear on behalf of the Hundred the truth of the statements made to them when they asked the Domesday questions. The details of the land only are shown in the table below:

1066	1066	1066	After Hastings	1086	1066	1086
Who owned	How much	Held by	Taken over by	Held by	value	value
Abbott	3h	Abbott		Abbott	100s	100s
Abbott	2h 3v	4 Freeman		Hardwin	70s	70s
Abbott	5h 2v 10a	3 Freeman	Walter Giffard	Hugh de Bolebec	£10	£12
		Alwyn the Harper				
King Edward	2h	19 Freeman	Walter Giffard			
Abbott	3v	Wulfwin	Walter Giffard			
6 Free men	1v	6 Free men	Hardwin	Hardwin	5s	5s
Edeva	1h 3v	6 Free men	Count Alan	Geo. de Mandeville	20s	40s
Edeva	3v	K. Ed's man	Count Alan	3 men at arms	55s	100s
Edeva	2h 2v	Wulfwy	Count Alan	3 men at arms		
Edeva	4h	Ordmer	Count Alan	Odo	£10	£12
Edeva	1h	Grimbald	Count Alan	Odo	40s	40s
King Edward	2v 30a	Freeman	King William	Count Aubrey	10s	10s
<b>Total</b>	<b>25h</b>				<b>£35</b>	<b>£40</b>

The Reverend Hailstones in his unpublished book on Swaffham Bulbeck, makes the following suppositions:

1. Of the 13 parcels of land above, that of Hugh de Bolebec, held of Walter Giffard, whose Baronry was later called The Honour Of Clare, adjoined his acquired land at Bottisham. An "Honour" was a group of Manors held by one Lord, of 500 Hides.
2. That of Hardwin de Scalers who held the Lordship of Dullingham, this land joined that Manor.
3. That the land now owned by Count Alan of Brittainy, and held by Odo and Grimald, was Burgh Hall.
4. That Count Aubrey de Vere merged his land with the Bolebec holding.

This total of land was 10h 1v and was in Swaffham Bulbeck and the remainder of 14h 3v was in Swaffham Prior. Hailstones always contended that the Cambridge hide should be 200 acres, not 120, and the above division he makes equal to the present day Parish acreages. He says the Swaffham Bulbeck Hundred Rolls of Edward 1<sup>st</sup> showed "10 hides of geldable land". That Swaffham Bulbeck included 1000 acres of [nontaxable] marsh equates well with the present acreage, assuming his 200 acre hide, of the modern Parish.

That Swaffham Prior was bigger than its sister village is not in doubt [it was called Greater Swaffham], and using Hailstone’s 200 acre hide, shows that Swaffham Prior was some 2890 fiscal acres plus marsh and open water.

Examination of the table above shows that before 1066 the ownership of land was: -

1. The Abbott of Ely	12h		10a.
2. King Edward the Confessor	2h	2v	20a.
3. Edeva [Edith the Fair]	10h		
3. 6 Freeman		1v	
	<u>25h</u>		

In 1086 the ownership was:-

1. The Abbott of Ely	5h	3v	-
2. Walter Giffard	8h	1v	10a
3. Hardwin de Scalers	-	1v	-
4. Count Alan of Brittainy	10h	-	-
5 King William		2v	20a
	<u>25h</u>	-	-

1. The Ely ownership has fallen by	6h	1v	20a
2. The King’s ownership has fallen by	2h		
[this land annexed by Walter Giffard, his kinsman]			
3. Edeva the Fair lost	10h	-	-
4. The 6 Freeman lost		1v	-
	<u>18h</u>	<u>2v</u>	<u>20a</u>

The Normans gained:-

1. Walter Giffard	8h	1v	10a
2. Hardwin de Scalers		1v	-
3. Count Alan	10h		
	<u>18h</u>	<u>2v</u>	<u>10a</u>

It is said that Edeva or Edith the Fair was called Edith of the Swan Neck and that she was Harold’s mistress, and that she had her manor in Exning. This last, if true, would have been the reason for the loss of her property in Swaffham. The family of Aubrey de Vere went on to become the Earls of Oxford, and those of Walter Giffard became the Dukes of Buckingham, whilst those of Hugh de Bolebec founded Woburn Abbey.

*Francis Riggs*



## STAINE HUNDRED

A brief AGM began the September meeting with an account of the year's activities by the Chairman, Robert Hill, and a financial statement by the Treasurer, Peter Arnold. The Committee remains unchanged: Maureen Rogers is Secretary and the Programme is arranged by Gill Rushworth. Membership was 48, and the subscription remains at £6. Probably not everyone realised the Staine Hundred had started again as attendance was somewhat down.

The speaker was Andrew Pye on the **History of Blue and White China**, of which he had made an interesting display. The blue is from the mineral cobalt which is easy to mine and easy to use. It was discovered around 2500 BC when silver was being mined. Men were dying which was attributed to evil spirits but it was then found that cobalt and arsenic were mixed with the silver and the name cobalt derives from the German word for evil spirits. Blue and white china was made in China around 700 AD by which time their skill in art and calligraphy were well developed and their pictures which are heavy in symbolism are "wordless poems". In the 17th Century Queen Elizabeth gave the East India Company sole rights to trade with the East, and soon imports of up to ¼ million pieces of china would be transported in a 22 month round trip on a sailing boat, largely for use by the middle class. Tax on tea was so high that most of it was smuggled into the country but in 1784 the tax was reduced to 12½% and heavy duty was put on silver and china. This resulted in a change of cargo to tea and by 1800 the import of china was practically over. Thus began the rise of such names as Wedgewood and Spode as the china industry developed in England. At first they had to struggle to make large pieces and also teacups which were only possible with the coming of bone china. Thus Mr Pye had called his talk "**Lots of tea but no teacups.**" Josiah Wedgewood was a scientist as well as a potter and developed first cream-ware then pearl-ware which was found to be suitable for the transfer of patterns. The first patterns were copies of the Chinese patterns mainly because there was a demand to fill the gaps in existing dinner services. Mr Pye gave an interesting demonstration of how the patterns were transferred from copper plates to the china by means of tissue paper, printers ink and cobalt. The willow pattern came about when human interest was added to an existing pattern and was the most popular design throughout the 19th century. At the 1851 Exhibition it became fashionable to leave the centre white so that it did not distract from the food being eaten! At this time 30m pieces of china were being exported annually to America. In a brief "commercial" Mr Pye explained his business in Guilden Morden of



supplying blue and white china of all ages from his stock of around 7,500 pieces. He answered a number of questions and was thanked by Robert Hill.

The next meeting will be at Bottisham Village College at 7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> October when C. Pickford will be talking about “Bells and Bellringing”

*Peggy Day*

## **Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**

### ***Lifelong Learning***

#### **Day and Weekend Courses**

##### **Saturday 2nd October**

*Bonsai Workshop \* How to Sell Your Business*

*Using Art in Care - A Taster \* Using IT in the Pro-School Setting*

##### **Saturday 9th October**

*Basic Counselling Skills for those Working with Young People*

*Basic Food Hygiene \* Create Your Own Garden Pond*

*Dealing with Difficult People \* French Polishing*

*Introduction to Computers \* Life Drawing*

*Personal Massage for People in Sport*

*Planning to Start Your Own Business*

*Stencilling & Paint Techniques \* Wine Tasting \* Wood Turning*

##### **Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th October**

*Emergency First Aid for Childcarers*

*Introduction to Computers & Word Processing*

*Introduction to Stained Glass with Copper Foil*

##### **Sunday 10th October**

*Discover the Art of Italy \* Orchestral Workshop*

##### **Saturday 16th October**

*Chair Caning/Upholstery \* Dru Yoga \* Introduction to Feng Shui*

*Millennium Makeover \* Parchment Craft*

*Still Life & Watercolour Painting \* Using Excel as a Database*

*Playing Games for Positive Behaviour*

Further information from the Community Offices  
at the Village Colleges: Bottisham: 01223 811372  
Burwell: 01638 741901, Linton: 01223 892400





## WI Notes

In August the W.I. held its summer garden party at Dyke End, the home of its President Margaret Phillips. Despite the fact that it rained all evening 40 of us spent a most enjoyable time cosily indoors with lots of good food and wine and friendly chat. Thank you Margaret and Mike for your hospitality.

This month Mrs.Wyatt gave a most interesting talk on her 30 years as a Foster Parent during which time she fostered no less than 120 children.

She had four children of her own, then decided to look after other people's. Some came to her as very young babies, some older children and some teenagers. Occasionally she was woken during the night and asked if she would take a child whose parents had abandoned it or whose mother had been arrested. Some came while they were awaiting adoption.

Her talk was entitled 'Children we have loved' and it was obvious that both she and her husband had a great love for children and a great deal of common sense in dealing with them. Mr.Wyatt accompanied her and showed slides of some of the children.

Next month, on Monday 18th October, Mrs.Hopwood will be talking on "Ladies Fashions 1800—1930".

*Betty Prime*

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## Mug Rooms and Fun Guys

Though trees are losing leaves and all the flowers have gone, (oh where?) woodlands are not devoid of interest. Take a walk and discover such interesting characters as King Alfred's cakes, Dryads saddles, stinkhorns, orange peels and Shaggy Inkcaps all in the name of fungi.

As fungi don't contain the green pigment of plants - chlorophyll - they must absorb their nutrients through the mycelium which is a series of tubes resembling spiders webs penetrating through the soil or wood. Many fungi obtain food this way from dead or decaying organisms, while others are parasites feeding on the living bodies of plants and animals. Sulphur Polypore, a yellow-orange fan, like most bracket fungi is a parasite. Entering via a 'wound', the mycelium rots the heartwood, turning it red in the process. King Alfred's cakes, round burnt-looking fungi, feed on Ash trees, causing the wood to rot.

King Arthurs cakes are also known as Cramp balls as people used to put

them in their beds to prevent cramp. Stinkhorns are a fungi that you wouldn't want anywhere *near* your soft furnishings. Their smell of bad drains or rotting flesh attracts flies which eat its slimy green head and fly off to distribute its spores.

The best way to discover more about fungi is to take part in one of the Wildlife Trusts 'Fungi Forays' this autumn. Please telephone the Wildlife Trust on 01223 712400 for a copy of our latest wildlife events and activities.



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Bridget Smith, our speaker at the September meeting, has a great interest in the countryside, particularly flood meadows. We learned that a meadow differs from an ordinary field as the grass in it is cut. Wild flowers grow in abundance until the grass is cut and used for hay, and then cattle - first cows then sheep - are grazed there.

The flood meadow has a river on one side and a ditch and bank on the other. After heavy rain the river spills over and floods the meadow. The bank prevents the water spreading to surrounding areas and the ditch drains it off the meadow. This leaves the grass very lush. Quite an education for most of us though the farmer members knew it already.

Bridget is a very amusing speaker and we all thoroughly enjoyed her visit to us. She recommended meadows that we could visit, particularly in her own village of Hemingford Grey.

On October 19th we hold our A.G.M. in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 8pm followed by a talk on 'Poppies' by Mr. K. Harbutt from Rougham Hall Nurseries in Suffolk. Why don't you join us?

*Betty Prime*

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## LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August the Ladies Circle had a visit from Miriam Day from the Waterbeach Salvation Army. She gave us a very interesting insight into the work involved with the Salvation Army. It was first known as the Christian Mission and was started by William Booth in 1865. Miriam told us about the many kinds of work the Salvation Army do, from visiting the platforms of many busy London stations to help the youngsters who travel to London seeking work, to running soup kitchens for the homeless. Waterbeach also

hold group meetings for toddlers and their mothers and others various activities. Many members of the Salvation Army stand on street corners selling the War Cry to try and reach out to people who are not involved in the Christian field. It was certainly a very interesting evening.

Miriam's motto is: 'There's a cup of tea and biscuit

If you care to come and risk it'

Perhaps some Crier readers would like to bear this in mind and come along to our Ladies Circle one evening and enjoy a meeting with us. Everyone is welcome, young and old alike.

Forthcoming meetings:

25<sup>th</sup> October 1999 Mrs Bradley Talk on 'Life as a Land Army girl'

*Sandra Butcher*

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## **School Report - September 1999**

The new term has begun with 106 children on roll; 21 children left for secondary schools and we welcomed 14 Reception children. We also welcomed two new members of staff; Ingrid Hoffman who is taking Class 2, and Sandra Lee who is working with Vicki Butcher in Class 3. All our newcomers have settled well and we look forward to a long association. The term is going to be a critical one for us, in which we need to restore our good reputation. The Action Plan, our detailed response to the OFSTED report, has gone to the DfEE and will be the basis for their inspection later this term. We trust that all will be well.

The school is in the second phase of the County's plan to bring all its schools up to date for the National Grid for Learning by the end of this academic year. This is a costly operation and we are very grateful to Ian Hill (one of our parents) and his company Drakken, which has done this work for us without any cost to us. The school is now fully wired up, networked internally and ready for children to be connected to the Internet.

We are pleased to have found a pianist for our hymn practices; Mrs Bousfield, the wife of the new minister at the Zion Baptist Church has agreed to play for us on a Tuesday morning.

May I extend a general invitation through your columns? We are always pleased to have visitors to the school. If you have a special interest or expertise, or a visitor from exotic parts who would be willing to talk to our children, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please get in touch with me at school.

*Brenda Wilson*, Headteacher

## NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

The last year at the College is one that will live in the memory for a long time. The fire at the **swimming pool** in February was a devastating blow, particularly to all of the local people who have worked so hard to build, improve and maintain it. The good news is that builders are on site and rebuilding should be completed in January. The new pool will be even better than the old one and will have improved access for disabled users. The gym and fitness suite have remained open for business and are going strong.

More cheerful news last year was that **the College was named in Parliament on the Chief Inspector's list of the 60 most outstanding secondary schools in England and Wales** - this made us very proud.

In the recent **GCSE examinations** pupils once again performed at a very high level: the number of pupils who passed 5 or more GCSEs at Grade C or higher **was over 60% for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession**: 87% gained at least one 'C' pass, with 99% passing examinations at all levels. There were success stories from pupils of all abilities and there were some very happy faces when results were collected in August.

**Languages results** showed the biggest increase this year, with 50% achieving a 'C' in French and 63% in German. We have been working hard to convince all of our pupils that it is really important to be able to speak a foreign language and that this can be very helpful in the world of work. The message is getting through.

In addition to the emphasis on hard work and achievement, life at the College continues to be a lot of fun with great opportunities for music, drama, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and on the sports field. The new pupils who joined us this term in Year 7 have so much to look forward to, and the staff and I will enjoy working with them as they develop into young adults over the next five years.

*Peter Haines*

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## Bottisham & District Gardening Club

The club held its annual show on Saturday afternoon, 4<sup>th</sup> September when we enticed a good crowd to come indoors from glorious sunshine. During the morning the judges had had their usual taxing job of deciding which items were worthy of awards, then they and all the helpers ate an excellent lunch and the doors were opened. Art, crafts and photography were this year non-competitive (which probably led to fewer entries) and all exhibits were in the large assembly hall. There was a marked increase in the number of entries in the vegetables and domestic sections though they had in fact been submitted

by rather fewer people, so when it came to presenting the trophies, several people's names recurred: Les Smith for example won the Colonel Francis bowl for the most points in the vegetable section, the Lowlands Nursery cup for the best vegetable exhibit and the Ink Stand award for his collection of different vegetables; Phyllis Gerrard for the most points in the Gardening Club award in the domestic section as well as the Abbey National cup for the largest number of points over all (excluding flower arrangements and handicrafts); George Mitchell won both the William Hogben cup for the best floral exhibit and the Flower basket bowl for his cut garden-flowers; Dorothy York for the most points in the Flowers & Fruit section; Sylvia Bedford won the Rose Bowl for her roses; Edmund Rank won the Reg Lambert cup for his bowl of impatiens; Rosmarie Hill won the Lord Fairhaven Challenge cup for her flower arrangements; and Marion Sketchley won the Handicraft cup for her embroidered bedspread. May I add that the club welcomes new members? We are not specialists - we're gardeners rather than horticulturalists! Come along & join us as we begin our autumn programme - on September 28th at 19.30 at Bottisham Village College.

**Robert Hill**

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## Burwell Swifts



Burwell Swifts, whose Junior offshoot, the Burwell Tigers, were advertising for players in the *Crier* last month (much to the joy of certain small



Swaffham Prior would-be Bobby Charltons — tel. 742780 any more eager aspirants) were founded in 1932 by Roger Fuller when, at 16 years old, he had just left school. They are still going now and what's more, Roger is still Chairman. They have played every year since then, rain or shine, war or peace. In fact, Roger was distinguished by a special award in the WW2 ( a *CB* — a punishment, apparently, but no-one can remember what it was) for coming home to play in the Exning Charity Cup. Well, it's a question of priorities. They won the Premier League (no, not *that* one) in 1983-84 when the current Tiger coach, Graham Kelly, was playing and were runners up a year later. Year 2000, here they come!

***Our Sports Correspondent***

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## Donations

Our thanks to Catie and Peter Whitely and Elizabeth and Alistair Everitt for their kind donations to the *Crier*. All donations go towards our

## Notes from the Parish Council September Meeting

E Day chaired the meeting with 4 members and 3 members of the Public.

### Matters Arising.

**Town Close - Playground Equipment:** It was agreed to discuss this further at next P.C. meeting. Should anyone wish to comment or put forward any ideas for the play area, please contact the Clerk.

**Town Close - Grasscutting:** This is to be discussed further at a separate meeting on the general issue of grasscutting in the Village.

**Public Footpaths:** The footpaths on Rogers Road and Station Road have been cleared and edged by CCC. It was agreed that both footpaths need resurfacing or at least patching. The Clerk is to write to CCC.

**General Maintenance Programme:** Two further estimates for work to the Village Hall fence have been received. It was agreed to ask Andy Martin Builders to carry out the work.

**Reports:** Councillors Fitch and Cane reported to the meeting.

### Correspondence Received

A letter and map was received from ECDC asking for any information that local people might have about sites within the Village that might be considered "contaminated land", e.g., old refuse pits, coalyards, haulage yards, etc. This information is being collated for record. To be circulated for further consideration.

ECDC wrote to the P.C. with reference to "Free Energy Advice & Free Lightbulbs". As requested, a notice is to be placed in the *Crier*.

A letter was received from Hereward Housing informing the P.C. of available sheltered accommodation in the area. Further details in the *Crier*.

**Accounts for Payment:** Payments were agreed.

### Planning Approvals received:

Red Lion Public House - corporate signage and planter boxes with cowl lights. Rose Crescent Cottage, 66 High St - 1.8m frontage wall and gates.

### Listed Building Consent:

Red Lion Public House - Replacement signage and lighting.

### Any other Business

**Neighbourhood Watch:** The next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1999.

**Village Shop:** Another applicant has come forward. Discussions are continuing.

**The Millennium:** Materials have been ordered for the sun-dial and this will soon be taking shape.

**Sports & Recreational Committee:** Letters have been sent to two parties. When replies have been received, the matter will be discussed further at next P.C. meeting.

**Ditch - Lower End:** The Clerk is to write to CCC Highways to get this ditch cleared.

**Hedgerow by Cemetery:** It was agreed to ask Mr Shreeve to go ahead and cut this hedge.

**Open question time:** There were no questions.

*Karen King* - Clerk of the Parish Council



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**From our District  
Councillor**

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It's the time of year when we ask you to register to vote. One of the Sunday papers has already predicted that Tony Blair will call a General Election in October 2000, so it is important that you register to be sure of your chance to vote for the next government. You should have received your electoral registration form in early September. Filling in the form is as easy as one, two, three:

1. Read through and check the pre-printed information.
2. If it is correct sign the form, if not, cross it out and enter the correct information
3. Then return it to the District Council

Details of teenagers who will turn 18 during 16<sup>th</sup> February 2000 - 15<sup>th</sup> February 2001, should also be included. If you have not received a form or if you have any queries that are not answered on the form please contact the electoral services department, tel 01353 668833 ext 214/338.

There's another chance to buy compost bins at less than half price on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Two types will be on sale - a large, 325 litre bin for £25 (RRP £59.95) and a smaller, 226 litre bin for £10 (RRP £29.95). You can also collect a free 10 litre bag of compost. These bins are on sale at various sites across Cambridgeshire, but the nearest to us are Tesco's Car Park, Angel Drove, Ely or Tesco's Car Park, Fulbourn.

My next surgery will be at Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Tuesday October 26th from 7.30-9.00. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home.

*Charlotte Cane*





By the time you read this we ought to be back from a first visit to Australia. For the first time for years we are taking a longer four week holiday, so I am writing this before I leave in mid September.

During the late summer the County Council has paraded around the County with a **recycling roadshow**. The main message is to try to avoid binning waste that can be recycled. In East Cambs. we are quite good at this, as our main contractor, Cleanaway, collects much more solid waste such as paper, aluminium and glass than the other Districts do in their areas. The cost of collection and disposal is rising so rapidly that we are spending money equivalent to the budget of three primary schools extra year on year.

Here again is the seasonal offer by the County of **native trees or hedging** to landowners with space to plant 100/300 trees or 100 metres of hedging areas where the public will benefit. Applicants must be prepared to part pay but at a fraction of the real cost. Maybe in a few years' time Cambridgeshire will not be the county with the fewest trees.

**Bottisham Village College** staff and pupils are to be congratulated on the high quality of the GCSE exam results this year. As in last year, three fifths of pupils gained five or more passes at the higher grades (A\* - C). Nearly nine out of ten passed at least one GCSE at the higher grades and nearly all pupils passed at least one at grade C or above. French was outstanding with twice as many grade C results or better compared with last year when only just over a quarter were achieved.

**Cambridge Central Library** users will be pleased to learn that it will open on Sundays (10am-4pm) for a six month trial. There is substantial public backing for this move. In addition weekday hours will be extended on a self-service basis. Fully staffed service will remain in core hours with reduced manning during the extended hours.

Just before I left for Australia, the Policy Committee on which I sit decided to stop for the present supplying foods containing **GM ingredients**, where the levels are sufficiently high to warrant this action. Over the next twelve months we hope to develop a system whereby there will be a choice for school pupils or Social Service clients to choose whether or not to eat GM or non-GM foods.

**Stagecoach Cambus** services continue to occupy a lot of my time. Philip Eden, the Managing Director of Cambus, has written to me about the possibility of extending towards Burwell the service that currently starts at Swaffham Bulbeck and arrives in Cambridge at 9.30am. He also acknowledges a request I passed on for a service on Sundays that would get worshippers to church in Newmarket from Burwell in time for morning service (especially RC's). Mr Eden has also agreed for a notice giving details of the bus stop change at Lode being posted on the side of the existing, now redundant brick bus shelter on the B1102.

*James Fitch*

# SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH

## NOTES FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - HELD AT REACH VILLAGE CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 1999

### 1. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last meeting

- a. Pram/Toddlers' Service: The Vicar has approached the leaders of the relevant groups, and it was suggested that the service should be at 11.30 a.m. for 15 minutes on the third Thursday of each month at Reach Village Centre, the first meeting being October 21g.
- b. Advent and Christmas Services: as previously agreed: Advent by Candlelight, Swaffham Prior, 4.00pm on Nov. 28; Christingle, Reach, 6.00pm December 5<sup>th</sup>, in consequence of which the Vicar said that there would be no other Family Service in Reach during December. Evensong will be sung on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm (SP), the only other service that day being 9.30am Parish Communion (SB).

### 2. Social Working Group Reports

- a) Swaffham Prior: Dates proposed for 2000:

Bring and Share lunch, Village Hall	January 1
Art and Sculpture exhibition, St Cyriac's	For two weeks after mid-May
'Cambridge Voices'	Good Friday evening
Devotional concert in St Cyriac's	
Arts and Crafts/Flower Festival	September 23/24
Harvest Supper and Festival	October 7 and 8
Salvation Army Concert	October 10
Quiz Night	November 20
Advent by Candlelight	4.00 p.m. November 27

- b) Reach dates:

Harvest Supper	7.00 p.m. Friday September 24
St Etheldreda's Gift Day/Fair	10.00 a.m. Saturday October 16

### 3. Fabric Working Group Reports

- a) Swaffham Prior

At a meeting on Thursday 2 September, the following matters were discussed: the tower rainwater drainpipe configuration; the maintenance of the clock; the blocked vestry chimney; the glass door which is binding on the floor at the entrance to the church; the delay to the installation of the new nave and chancel carpet; the completion of the woodworm treatment, except for the vestry wardrobe, which Andrew Graham would complete; and the churchyard recommendations approved, with extra work needed on the yew-tree above the memorial seat. It was decided that, instead of including a replacement electric organ as part of the appeal, we should explore the provision of new speakers to the Washtell Electroponic Organ, not located on the Rood Screen

#### b) Reach

At a meeting on Tuesday 31 August, the following matters were raised: the establishment of a gardening team; the installation of a seat in memory of Kay and Arthur Allen; and the repainting of the front gates and the front door. The Quinquennial Report had emphasised the need for work to the masonry of the walls and to floor joists, tiles and lead flashing. A formal Village Appeal is to be launched to pay for re-ordering work to the church interior, later in the autumn.

### 4. Vicar's Items

#### a) Millennium:

i. The Gospel of St Mark (with Matthew and Luke nativity narratives added) has been ordered for each house in the parish, and the bookmark is about to be ordered. On the eve of the Millennium, there will be a spotlight on St Mary's Church and lights on in both churches, as an opportunity for private prayer.

ii. Reach Parish Council had successfully applied to E.C.D.C. for a Millennium Grant, to go towards the seat in memory of Kay and Arthur Allen in the Church Garden, as a contribution to the village amenity.

iii. The Millennium Yew trees were to be collected on Wednesday 27 October from Dr David Bellamy at Ely Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. Reach Yew Tree would be planted at the NW corner of the churchyard. Swaffham Prior Yew would be planted in the ground between the two churches.

#### b) Gift Day - Reach

Gifts would be received at the Fair on October 16 in the Village Centre. The Vicar already has the envelopes and had drafted a letter to be stapled to them. It was hoped that they could then be folded in to copies of 'Out of Reach' to be distributed.

#### c) Deanery News

Canon Michael Shears would be retiring from Soham, and the Revd Charles Miller's successor at Isleham would be the Revd Christopher Goodwin. A new Baptist Minister, David Bousefield, had been appointed to Swaffham Prior. He would also be in charge at Lode Chapel.

*Jenny Moseley*

### **From the Parish Registers for August**

Holy Baptism:	Ella Jasmine Kate Raby
Holy Matrimony:	Matthew Frowde and Sarah Carter [S Bulbeck]
In Memoriam:	Arthur John Warren [Swaffham Bulbeck]

### **'Saints Alive'**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct at 5:00pm.

An alternative way of keeping All Hallows Eve, a gathering at Ely Cathedral for junior-aged children; just turn up, or have a word with



## Church Services October 1999

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

### ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

TRINITY  
18

**Sun**  
**5**

**9:30am**

Family Service

**6:00pm**

Harvest Evensong<sup>†</sup>

**11:00am**

Parish Communion

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

TRINITY  
19

**Sun**  
**10**

**9:30am**

Parish Communion

**11:00am**

Harvest Family Service

**6:00pm**

Salvation Army Band

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

TRINITY  
20

**Sun**  
**17**

**9:30am**

Village Communion

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**6:00pm**

Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**11:00am**

Family Service

LAST  
AFTER  
TRINITY

**Sun**  
**24**

**9:30am**

Parish Communion

**11:00am**

Mattins<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**6:00pm**

Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

ALL  
SAINTS  
EVE

**Sun**  
**31**

**8:00am**

Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**6:00pm**

Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**10:00am**

United Parish Communion at St Mary's, Burwell

**Holy Communion**  
**Evening Prayer**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church

Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck

Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach

Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

**Sunday School**  
**Bellringing**  
**Housegroup**

Not meeting this term. Creche facilities available as required.

Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.

Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.

Contact Olivia Cole 743434, Juliet Vickery 742676

**Mothers Union**

1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

**Toddlers Service**

3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

The vicar is never too busy to **visit** anyone on urgent pastoral or spiritual matters.

Dear Friends,

### THE HARVEST IS RICH

Whilst many were holidaying during some part of the school holiday period, not everyone has had such opportunity; they were busy managing the harvesting. Even though we may not be farmers, we set aside a Sunday when we celebrate the fruits of **their** labours, and thank God for the harvest. In a way, though, it seems a bit of a cheat; what have we done to help in any way apart from our Rogationtide prayers on the growing crops?

The same question can be asked on the larger stage of life, especially for those who call themselves christian. We can observe specialised labourers in the Lord's Vineyard such as bishops, priests, ministers, lay-workers, monks and nuns, but surely all of us have been called to put our hands to plough, to sow and to reap?

The Acts of the Apostles, from which our New Testament readings at Evensong during September have been drawn, reminds us that everyone shared everything in common. The common sharing of the Word, the Breaking of Bread, the teaching of the Apostles, and the prayers led those early followers of Christ to a life of commitment. Each one of us has been given extraordinary gifts by God for this very purpose; St Paul enumerates them in his letter to the Church at Corinth. The same is true for us today.

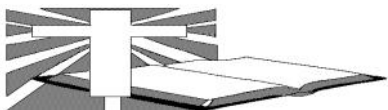
If we really love God, we cannot be satisfied watching other people doing all the work; we should want to be part of the picture, but in order to begin, we must first recognise those special gifts which belong to us as individuals. The farmer takes care in judicious planting of the right crop at the right time, to use the right seed-source, nutrition and herbicide regimes; it is not a haphazard business. Likewise, we must take time to work out how best we might bear witness to our God-given gifts in our daily lives, if they are not to drift randomly along.

Perhaps the seed can be sown in our workplace, in our families, in our part of the village, but each context will be different, and we must discern what type of seed we should sow. It might be the *seed of example* or the *seed of action* in visiting, offering hospitality, or giving to the under-privileged. There are many varieties of seed each capable of producing life-giving and life-sustaining harvest.

So, when we come to reflect on this year's harvest festival celebrations, and sing the familiar hymns with such vigour, let us take time to think what we have done to make sure the Lord's harvest is safely brought in.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark**



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### Services for September:

Sunday	3rd	10.30am	David Hall
		6.30pm	Harvest Service - David Bousfield
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	(Service at St Mary's with Salvation Army)
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Audrey Jacobs
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Andrew Dalewood
Tuesdays		8.00pm	Home Group venues as announced

### ***Next Week Instead...***

I almost went to church last night, But I couldn't find the time.  
So much to do about the house to leave would be a crime!  
So I brushed and sewed and polished, and went wearily to bed.  
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, but then an old friend came;  
And to have closed the door on him would have been a shame.  
So we talked and chatted and gossiped until goodbyes were said.  
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, but my favourite programme was on;  
And by the time it finished the time for church had gone.  
So I stayed before the telly until the set was dead.  
I'll make a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, but the air was chill and cold;  
To venture out on such a night would be foolish I'd been told.  
So I sat by the fire, took up a book and read.  
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night, but a certain preacher was there;  
And for that type of preaching I really didn't care.  
So rather than go to church and come home with heavy head  
I made a resolution to go next week instead.

**Do** *come and join us!*

*David Bousfield*

## 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

Frances and I found the perfect way to recover from the exhaustingly-prepared perfect day (our daughter Rachel's wedding to Matt): we went on holiday to Shropshire and the Welsh Marches and we walked along the Long Mynd and Offa's Dyke, walked around ruined castles and abbeys, walked into churches which had *evolved* and which displayed the spirituality of many centuries, and we flopped down into pubs that brewed their own beer, notably the wondrous Three Tuns at Bishops' Castle (I will never forget their Sexton ale *or* their raspberry and elderflower fool!). All that under sunny but not sultry skies. There can be little on Earth to better all that. And we ran into a proverbial provincial storm in a teacup. In the fine church in the centre of Leominster we discovered the last ducking stool known to have been in use in Britain (it is like a great see-saw perhaps 30 feet in length in which someone could be strapped at one end and held underwater for a spell). This one was last used in 1805 when a 'common scold' was plunged into the icy waters of the Teme and came up far from repentant). Many locals want to use this intriguing symbol of the town's past on the town's Millennium logo. This has outraged another group who see the ducking stool as an instrument of pain and humiliation, of a shameful and sexist past (80% of those ordered to sit in it were women; it was the standard penalty of 'common scolds' and malicious gossips; but it was also used for tradesmen who swindled their customers by rigging their scales etc). Things have become very heated in the local press and the Council Chamber. If we had a ducking stool in Swaffham Prior, and it was proposed to make it our millennium symbol, how steamed up would you be? Let me put my head above the parapet! It is almost as bad to suppress and to sanitise our past as it is view it through rose-tinted spectacles. There is a tendency at present to do both simultaneously; to be intolerant of aspects of the past for not being as 'with it' as the present; and to think how much better things were before 'modernity' (the collapse of the family, the end of morality, the abandonment of the Latin Mass or the Book of Common Prayer). We have rather forgotten that the past is a foreign country in which they did things differently - not necessarily worse, not necessarily better, just differently. And that is especially true of religion. We have, I would suggest, neither evolved to a higher plain nor degenerated. Just changed and adapted and become the same mixture of the noble and the ignoble, the caring and the selfishly blind, remained a blend of the committed and the barely committed. Fewer people worship, but about as many people *care*. I would not want to revive the ducking stool. But I would not want to wag my finger at it either. If the best preserved ducking stool happened to be in Swaffham Prior, I would embrace it as a symbol of our past, and (being a peace-loving soul) I would have it represented with a bent tradesman sitting glumly in it!

## ***Dates for Your Diary - October 1999***

Fri	1	Macmillan Coffee Morning, Ruth and Robin Scovil's, 10:30am Zion Chapel Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7:00pm Quy Art Exhibition, 7:30pm (Fri ) (& until Sun)
Sat	2	Cambridge Voices, <i>Fauré Requiem</i> , St Cyriac's, 7:30pm
Sun	3	
Mon	4	Mothers Union, Free Church, Commercial End, 2:15pm Neighbourhood Watch Meeting
Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	6	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	7	
Fri	8	Bottisham Village College Music Society, BVC, 8:00pm
Sat	9	Harvest Supper, St Cyriac's, 7:00pm
Sun	10	Salvation Army Concert and Service, St Mary's, 6:00pm
Mon	11	
Tue	12	
Wed	13	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm. Staine Hundred, "Bells and Bellringing", BVC, 7:30pm
Thu	14	<b><i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline</b> Bottisham Players, "Caught on the hop", 8:00pm (& Fri, Sat)
Fri	15	
Sat	16	St Etheldreda's Fair, Reach Village Centre, 10:00am
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI, "Ladies Fashions 1800—1930", Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Village Gardeners, AGM and talk, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	20	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	21	
Fri	22	
Sat	23	
Sun	24	
Mon	25	Ladies Circle, Mrs Bradley - "Life as a Land Army girl"
Tue	26	Charlotte Cane's Surgery, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Wed	27	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm. Dr David Bellamy, "Millennium Yews", Ely Cathedral, 7:30pm
Thu	28	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	29	
Sat	30	
Sun	31	"Saints Alive" @ Ely Cathedral, for junior-aged children, 5:00pm