



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 8/9

August/September 2001



## Editorial

Sad days in Swaffham Prior where we have recently lost a number of our older residents. This month's issue contains tributes to Philip Sheldrick, Francis Riggs and Annie Dowdeswell, all well-loved members of our community who will be severely missed. Many thanks to our contributors for these fascinating and reflective accounts of the lifetimes of three residents who have each played such a significant part in the moulding of village life as it is today.

Things have changed too. Mary Jacob's (nee Benstead) letter explains the old custom of 'May Dollies' and the pretty song the children used to sing, but I think we will need a rendition of this to get the true picture! Our striking clock, lovingly re-instated by Philip Sheldrick (in the days when noise wasn't an issue!) is gone at the moment but we may be about to get it back since things are finally moving again: the Churches Conservation Trust have at last replied to the pleadings of our hard-pressed committee for progress on this issue, so watch this space.

Meanwhile, the *Crier* has lost a few things in recent years which it too is beginning to recover. Ophir Catling returns with one of his delightful whimsical poems, and then of course, as billed last month's edition, *Out and About* (otherwise known, we are told, as 'Out of touch and Not About Much'!) makes a re-entrance and *better still*, we are promised *more next issue*. Editors of the *Crier* always tend to be new to the village (they are the only ones who are innocent enough to 'volunteer' for the job), rarely knowing much about the history of the magazine and more specifically, what they are missing. But this situation was partially put to rights last month when the *Crier* threw a party to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (thanks to Ruth Stinton's capacious memory banks for providing comprehensive lists of Editors, columnists, collators, distributors, workers generally past and present for the guest-list — and if YOU got missed out, let us know!) and thereby caught up with a few skulking contributors who have been slacking of late.

This is a bumper double-issue this month—thanks to all our contributors who participated in the mad scramble to get everything ready on time.

See you in October!

Caroline Matheson

**Cover Picture:** *Bee in Venus Fly Trap* by Tina Jost



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

### **Nancy Dowdeswell**

For the latter part of her life my mother, Nancy Dowdeswell of 2 The Beeches, was able to remain in her bungalow due to Mrs Mary Day. Mrs Day was extremely vigilant, caring and self sacrificing. She performed a hundred and one tasks and was so dedicated in her determination to do the best for my mother that I had every confidence in her judgement and the making of decisions on my behalf for her well being.

An important part was also played by Mrs Jean Fielden, Mrs Barbara Bridgeman, Mr Ray Perrett (his deceased wife Joyce) and Mr Bert Aves.

My mother appreciated and still understood to the very end the contribution these people made to her existence.

People who visited her when she became very handicapped and housebound lifted her spirits enormously. Those who managed to get to Cottenham Court brightened her day.

At the age of nearly 94 an emergency forced me to have her transferred to Cottenham Court. For her the transition could have been traumatic. The move was effected in such a sympathetic manner that my mother had nothing but praise for the carers. In fact she flourished from the attention and was always cheerful.

The last two weeks of her life, at the age of 95, she began to ebb away. She could have been admitted to a hospital or the Nursing Home section at Cottenham Court. The Carers though thought she was “a lovely lady” and were adamant she should stay in her own room and see familiar faces. The nursing care was well beyond the call of duty and the end for her was peaceful.

I should like to extend a very big “thank you” to everyone who lightened her day. I shall always be very grateful.

***Mavis Nickson (née Dowdeswell)***

104 Cressex Road, High Wycombe,  
Bucks HP12 4TZ

PS. It is many, many years since I have lived in Swaffham Prior. I have extremely happy memories of my childhood days. Life in the village has changed dramatically but I do hope you are equally happy.

Dear Editors,

I read with interest John Norris' tribute to Mrs Annie Dowdeswell in the July *Crier*.

I too have a great regard for this lovely lady being a pupil at Swaffham Prior Primary school some years ago.

On my first day at school I felt at ease. Throughout my years I loved my school days and have many fond memories of all the teachers, kitchen staff and of course Mrs Dowdeswell.

In the summer she would take a group of us over to Rose Cottage to tend to her garden. We felt this was a great treat (getting away from maths etc) and loved the idea of weeding, digging, and cutting — to be rewarded with a lovely cool glass of squash at the end of our hard work.

On Reach Fair day we were all allowed out of class to stand at the top of Station Road to collect pennies off the Mayor. This also was a great treat. Now of course this day is a Bank Holiday so children have the day off school.

Once a year when it was 'Rally Time', those of us who belonged to the Sunday School would be allowed the afternoon off to walk around the village with our Zion Baptist Chapel banner singing and collecting money for the Sunday school. We were the envy of other classmates.

Christmas time again was good fun. Every year all the children were presented with goodie bags from 'Corona'. Inside this bag was a hat, colouring book, pencils and lots of other bits and pieces. The Christmas meal was delicious and all the kitchen staff would join in the festivities. My mother too worked in the kitchens and although now in a home she too had fond memories of Mrs Dowdeswell and for many years every Christmas Mrs Dowdeswell would send a box of Cox's apples to mum and dad with a lovely message wishing them a good Christmas. She was so thoughtful.

At the end of our last year at school we were all presented with a book which I still treasure.

Again I reiterate what a lovely person Mrs Dowdeswell was. I too have very fond memories of her and even in later years whenever I met her she was always so friendly and we were more like friends than rather than teacher and pupil. I agree she will be greatly missed and memories of her and Swaffham Prior School will be with me forever.

**Sandra Butcher**  
7 Rogers Road

Dear Editors,

**The Late Francis E. C. Riggs**

Mrs Rosemary Riggs, Carolyn and Clive thank everyone for their cards and their messages during this sad time. Also thanks for the donations to Arthur Rank House at the Service.

Thank you.

***R. Riggs***

10 Station Road

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Dear Editors,

**Philip Sheldrick**

The family of the late Philip Sheldrick would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for the many cards and kind messages of sympathy following their very sad loss.

Thanks to John Norris for the tribute to Phillip and to all who attended the Service, sent flowers or made Donations to Papworth Hospital.

The Muffled Peal of Bells before and after the Service was much appreciated.

***Bubbles Sheldrick***

61 High Street

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Dear Editors,

**New House**

Now that our new house is nearly finished we wish to thank our neighbours for their patience and understanding. They have tolerated all the noise, dust (and TV interference) over the past eighteen months with great humour, and they even served up regular refreshments for the workers. We have made some mistakes, like the JCB in the garden one Sunday in May, a one-off event for which we apologise.

***Frank & June Readhead***

36, Lower End

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Dear Editors

***Crier Party***

What a brilliant idea to have a party to celebrate the first twenty-five years of this magazine.

It was a most enjoyable occasion when so many people involved in its production over the years got together, and we would like to thank the present committee for arranging such a lovely evening.

***Ron & Betty Prime***

Dear Editors

### **Does anyone remember?**

My Performing Arts students who are currently researching for a project based around the Cambridge area in the second world war have unearthed a newspaper article which refers to Land Girls based in this village - possibly at Swaffham Prior House? - and that behind it there was a camp of conscientious objectors. There was some reference also to German and Italian prisoners of war working on the land, apparently in such close proximity that there were rules forbidding the girls to speak to the PoWs.

We are keen to find out more, as this suggests there were much more diverse groups of people in the locality than we'd expected. Does anyone have any more details about these, or any other situations or stories? I would like to talk with anyone who would be willing to share their knowledge of this time in the past, and to write down or audio record recollections if possible. Please phone or drop me a line if you can help.

**Mark Lewinski**  
32 Fairview Grove

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Dear Editors,

### **Lorries**

The Editor's comments in the July Crier re lorries in the High Street give me courage to support her arguments, and perhaps introduce others.

She was right to have protested at the re-routing of the lorries down Cage Hill from the B1102, thence to Station Road and onwards to the Fen, because this pushes them *past the school*. The PCC should realise that these agricultural juggernauts often get stuck besides the school particularly when parents are dropping off or collecting their children at 9 a.m. or 3 p.m. This is when pick-up can occupy both sides of the road and lorries are thereby forced to negotiate a narrow space to get through — and often can't manage it and have to back up.

The risk to children to or from school ?? Be increased if lorries are all channelled in one direction. The sensible thing to do, in my opinion, is to let lorries come and go as they prefer, so that the High Street and the roads all get their share of the heavy (and dangerous) traffic.

The June Crier refers (p. 21) to the fact that it is the Lords Farm lorries that are the target for the re-routing. What scientific study has there been here as to the number of lorries taking the High Street route and which favours one route against another at present? Has anyone instituted an actual count of lorries?

**James Chesterman**  
Knight's Manor

Dear Editors,

### **1950's May Dollies**

Does anyone remember children going round the village, with their best dolly in a shoe box, surrounded with flowers? We used to take them to school, and Mrs Dowdeswell would choose the best one. After school we knocked on people's doors and sang:

*Sing a song of Maytime  
Sing a song of spring,  
Flowers are in their beauty  
Birds are on the wing,  
Maytime, Playtime.  
God has given us Maytime  
Thank him for his gifts of love,  
Thank him for the spring.*

In return for our lovely singing, we were given a few pence, maybe a sixpence or sometimes fresh flowers for our boxes.

**Does anyone have a photo of this Swaffham Prior custom from our younger days?** I would love a copy, if anyone has one.

Thanking you, and hello to anyone who knows me!

**Mary Jacobs {Benstead}**  
2 Stretton Avenue,  
Newmarket, CB8 8BN

### **John and Gloria Fidoe**

..would like to thank all their friends for the wonderful send-off they received from Swaffham Prior! They very much enjoyed their re-visit for the Moveable Feast, and if you haven't heard from them yet, you will be doing very shortly!

### **LOST!**

**In or near the churchyard, a bunch of keys, one mortice, two yale, also wooden acorn on the key-ring.**

**Finder, please notify M. Stanier (01638 741328)**

### **Community Crockery**

This crockery is available for hire by contacting Jean Connan on 742182. The cost is £2 for Charity Functions and £5 for private functions.



**The Swaffham Prior**  
**HARVEST PRODUCE**  
**SHOW**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**FROM 3.00 PM**

**SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:**

- \*CREAM TEAS \* \*CHILDRENS REFRESHMENTS\***  
**\*FUN COMPETITION\***  
**\*FOSTERS MILL STALL\***

**GRAND AUCTION OF**  
**PRODUCE**  
**4.00PM**

**And Classes this year for the children:**

- \*HAPPY FACES BISCUITS\* \*A VEGETABLE OR FRUIT ANIMAL\***  
**\*AN ORIGINAL**  
**LEGO/KNEX (OR**  
**SIMILAR) MODEL\***



**FOOTPATHS & PAVEMENTS**

*It is that time of year again!* Many footpaths and pavements are becoming almost impassable due to overhanging vegetation. Please would residents with footpaths and pavements on the boundaries of their properties ensure that all vegetation is kept cut back to enable clear and safe walking for pedestrians.

***Karen King***  
Clerk to Parish Council

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Footpaths and pavements! On the face of it not very exciting, but there are very few topics that the Swaffham Prior PC cannot turn into a rivetting debate. A shame I was the only person to witness the level of the analytical brilliance and sparkling vitriol, viz: "They are arrogant as well as ignorant - apart from that they are all very nice people." The most serious obstruction is on the footpath at the back of Greenhead Road, with others being the trees of the Manor House in Lower End, 2a Greenhead Road, 22 Fairview Grove and the footpath down Station Road. Many will be getting letters which will make them smart.



The main problem is the Greenhead Road backpath where some High Street home owners have allowed the growth at the back of their property to spill over onto the path and at times almost make it impassible. Here the PC displayed a rare sensitivity. So that no High Street resident feels picked on, a letter will be sent to everyone giving them 14 days to either clear the vegetation or to get in touch with the PC. After this time the PC reserves the right to clear it and to send the relevant resident the bill. Another irritating problem is that some residents have illegally fenced on the footpath side of the official boundary wall thereby reducing the width of the path. There is a very good story here if a person with the knowledge and the will would give it to the *Crier*.

James Fitch reported that our School had 99 pupils last January and that it is projected to have 97 pupils in January 2006. This is according to the demographers who James said had been remarkably accurate in the past. With a capacity of about 120 the school will have a wider local area beyond the strict catchment area, probably going as far as Newmarket. This news will probably result in a letter from one of the receding number of Dencora developers. James also reported that the millionth customer had just bought a Park and Ride Ticket. Balloons, jazz band, free gifts. Our PC appeared to be underwhelmed with the news! Still, the PC has never been very enamoured with the newfangled park and ride business which it once thought to be an infringement on our natural British right to drive wherever and whenever we like.

I really am very impressed by our Parish Council. Reach PC only has to ask our PC to note the problem it has with huge juggernauts and our PC acts. It incorporates, with only a slight variation, the solution recommended by that quite amazing Speeding Sub-Committee which was run by James Chesterman on behalf of the Parish Council. Congratulations to all involved.



Charlotte Cane had some really great news. In the same month that David Blunkett imposes league tables on the police so the Parish Council is informed that it is to be controlled by a Standards Committee at Ely which itself is to be controlled from a central office in London. All PC members will have to sign a "Code of Conduct" - and not a moment too soon I thought. The downside is that if anyone wants to complain about a district or parish councillor they will now have to write a letter to the central national body. If it is decided that a minor complaint is reasonable the case will be passed back to the local Standards Committee to administer punishment. Elaine thought it might be a good idea if they rewrote the hedgcutting letter about to be put through people's doors.

Just before James and Charlotte left for other meetings the apparently illegal storage of waste material and old iron on a property down Whiteway Drove was discussed. Charlotte said that if a planning agreement was being broken ECDC could prosecute. Trevor then produced correspondence from 1997 about the same complaint in which the planning enforcement officer did promise prosecution. But nothing happened. Charlotte looked sad, and half admitted, I think, that it is very difficult for ECDC to win if people ignore or break planning laws, as many in the village already know. But she will look into it.

The barrier to deter travellers has now been erected at the entrance to the football ground. After some serious debate it was agreed that the combination number should be given to a member of the Sports and Recreation Committee. It was also agreed that the number of the combination lock should change next year, and Henry, noting this year's number supposed it "will be 2002 next year." Then grasscutting came up again, and as this is the PC's largest item of expenditure it was worrying to find that we are being charged for four cuts in what was a quite dry June - 7th, 14th, 20th, 27th. They are paying half on account until they have more evidence and meanwhile they will be working with Mr Shreeve to solve what has become a quite complicated problem. Elaine, always positive and cheerful, said that "if we are rude to someone in the future we might be banned from these exciting topics for some months."

*Alastair Everitt*

**Crime Watch Swaffham Prior**

Swaffham Prior	Lorry stolen and burnt out on Swaffham Prior Fen.
Reach	Metal five bar gate removed by unknown person(s) on Fair Green.
Swaffham Bulbeck	Attempt to steal items in Maryland Av. Detected.

## MOVEABLE FEAST 23 JUNE

All of us were fortunate, but some of us were very fortunate. Let me explain. We all sampled excellent food with relaxed, friendly company in some lovely houses and gardens; the summer evening sky was a joy too.

Guests made their ways home under the stars, remembering conversations about such matters as the universe, the meaning of life, bringing up children, letting down parents, then serious things like gardening on chalk, and so on, (sadly, no literary dispute though). Their hosts meanwhile faced clearing up after an outside - inside - outside feast for 34 diners. Bless them.

In the merry-go-round everybody got to talk to everyone else, and walking from house to house between courses was really quite a healthy thing to do (the keep-fit part).

Many thanks go to those who made possible such a successful event. It raised £300 for St. Mary's Centennial Restoration Project.

*Frank Readhead*



*We are running again  
Thursdays Evenings  
from September*

*Reach Village Hall*

*£30.00 for the 10 week Course*

*Contact Sue Summers*

*(01638) 742884*

**7.00 for 7.30 pm, Saturday  
22nd September 2001  
St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior**

# **HARVEST SUPPER**



## **Tickets**

**Adults: £4.00 each  
(children: £2.50)**

**available from**

**Ruth Scovil ☎ 743720  
Marion Norris ☎ 741465**

**Raffle proceeds to  
The Prospects Trust**

## On Queen Boadicea:

Said the bellicose, Queen Boadicea, "That's good! Though it's not my  
idea;  
But I think "Boudicca",  
Sounds a lot slicker;  
Please paint it on all of my gear.  
And if I like how it looks,  
We'll change it in books;  
Then I'll treat you all to a beer".

*Ophir Catling.*

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## Harvest Produce Show

### Harvest Time is in September

THE HARVEST PRODUCE SHOW WILL BE ON SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.

There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you like, **nor** do you have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's classes) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly, yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**. All you have to do is to bring your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 9.00am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards take place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea and then join in the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction starting at 4.00pm**. It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

With no September *Crier* the list of classes and entry form are not being distributed in the usual way this year. We intend to give a copy to all those who entered last year, and to many others. But if you think you may be forgotten or have been ignored please contact:-

Janet Cooper (741326) Trevor Jones (741197)

Alastair Everitt (742974)

PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER INTO YOUR DIARY NOW

*Janet Cooper*

## Out and About

(or ‘Out of Touch and Not About Much’, as a disgruntled reader once described it) was a column inherited from Cliff Curtis by myself, Ron and Betty when we took over the editorship of The Crier twelve years ago. Cliff and his wife knew everyone in the village, and were well placed to provide general chat about village life; we were newcomers with a more limited acquaintance, and my contributions could more accurately be described as ‘View from the Pub’, embellished by personal opinions which often got me into trouble but ensured an eager readership (what is that awful man going to say next?).

It would be more difficult to write it now – I no longer have children at the school where the afternoon playground gathering is a great place to chat with other parents, I can’t go to Parish Council meetings because they clash with something else that I’m not prepared to give up, and business keeps me away for long periods. Except for the few village activities that I do get involved in, I have to rely on The Crier to keep in touch.

This reveals that things haven’t really changed: the school, the church, the village hall, the WI, the pub, the Parish Council and (presumably) even the Conservative Association are still in business and each has its share of supporters and hard-working activists, but I can only claim membership of one of them (guess!), so don’t know as many people as I once did. There doesn’t seem to be as much cross-fertilisation these days, although the Crier’s excellent 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party (thank you, Caroline) cut across all boundaries and brought together an amazing cross-section of the village past and present.

Meanwhile, back to the plot: I couldn’t believe the reaction to the new street lights – anyone who doesn’t want one of the nice new ones outside their house can swap it today for the monstrosity which shines directly into my bedroom window. I can’t understand why we need them at all, and the idea of the village burglar in his stripy jumper and mask sneaking between the newly-created pools of shade gave me the best laugh of the year so far.

I am saddened to hear that Barbara Ives has decided to move on a trial basis into sheltered accommodation; she is a wonderful character who contributes much to the village (notably her support for Cambridge Voices – Swaffham Prior’s great cultural secret - did you know that we are the home base for a world-class choir?), and will be sorely missed if she chooses not to return.

The saga of the bell for the church clock still trickles on, but with the best will in the world I have lost touch with who is for and against, and probably wouldn’t be able to hear it anyway so don’t have a legitimate interest.

Someone please let me know when it is resolved.

Now I've got started, I've run out of space. Maybe more next month.

*John Chalmers*

### **Looking at Paintings**



Join the Art History class for a new course to help you gain more enjoyment from looking at paintings. Enthusiasm is the main requirement; homework and previous knowledge are not expected!

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 from 27<sup>th</sup> September

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Details from Burwell Village College 01638 741901

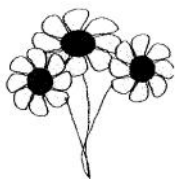
### **Real Nappies — There is a Choice!**

East Cambridgeshire District Council is working with the Real Nappy Network as part of a LA21 project to raise awareness of the use of real nappies. Did you know that disposable nappies contain gels and chemicals which are not subject to government controls or independent testing and hence could be harmful to your baby's skin? Did you know that you could save £600 for your first child and even more for subsequent children by switching to real nappies? And did you know that every disposable nappy that has ever been buried in a landfill site still exists and could take more than 200 years to decompose?

To inform people of how they can protect their baby's health, save money and care for the environment at the same time we are setting up a series of roadshows. These are essentially displays where people can have the opportunity to **view** the wide choice of cotton nappies available today and generally find out more about real nappies. An official launch of our campaign along with a new leaflet detailing free incentives is being planned for late summer.

If you organise a group or attend one and think you may be interested in having our roadshow visit one of your meetings, then we would like to hear from you. We are planning our roadshows to start this September and will hopefully run throughout the district for at least the next 12 months!

For further information about our Real Nappy Project and the roadshow please contact Tracey Harding, East Cambridgeshire District Council Tel: 01353 616377 or e-mail: [tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk).



# HELP!

## **FLOWER ARRANGERS**


Do you enjoy flower arranging?

Could you spare an hour every five weeks?

If the answer is yes to these questions then I think you must be just the person we're looking for to help with the church flowers. We tend to work in pairs so that if one is unavailable then the other person can help out.

If you would like more information please give me a ring. We really would love to hear from you.

**Ruth Scovll**

 743720

**Calling boys and girls between 8 and 11 years old.....**

**Do you enjoy exciting  
challenges and activities?**

***IF THE ANSWER IS "YES"***

***JOIN THE CUBS***

The 1st Swaffham Prior Cub Pack meets on  
Wednesday evenings at Swaffham Prior School  
Hall from 6.30-8.00pm

*For more details, please phone 01638 742973 or 742063*

**WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**  
in aid of  
**Macmillan**  
*cancer relief*

The Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Mornings will be held throughout the country on this day. The Swaffham Prior event may not be the largest but perhaps it will be the friendliest and we shall raise plenty of money for this cause. Please do come and support this very worthwhile (and necessary) charity by enjoying a cup of coffee and meeting friends, old and new.

The coffee morning and raffle will take place at Ruth and Robin Scovil's house:-

***The Oaks, Manor Farm Court  
Lower End, Swaffham Prior***

**Friday  
28th September  
10.30 am – 12.00 noon**

Everybody will be most welcome, even if you can only stay for a short time.

*Ruth Scovil*



## MUSIC ON THE MOVE

### ZOAR STRICT BAPTIST CHAPEL

**Roger's Road, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**  
**Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 8.00 pm**

*The Zoar Chapel stands, in the tradition of early Dissenter buildings, on a small plot of agricultural land given by a member of the group, in this case Thomas Blinks, who was awarded it at the time of the Enclosure. The pews and the singing desk date from 1820. Singing was central to Baptist worship and was led by an unaccompanied choir. The present organ was not installed until 1959.*

### **Cambridge Voices**

Will sing Anabaptist hymns and metrical Psalms from the period, further illuminated by a selection of unjustly neglected "dissenting" anthems for unaccompanied choir.

**There will be no sale of tickets for this event,  
which will be regarded as an act of worship.**

A retiring collection will be taken for the maintenance and conservation of this rare chapel.

**PART TIME GARDENER NEEDED, SWAFFHAM  
PRIOR.**


**HOURS BY AGREEMENT**

## **Stamps and Foreign Currency**

THE ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE in Cambridge has a volunteer who collects used stamps and foreign currency which are sold on to raise funds for the hospice.

If you would like to help by saving your stamps and left-over foreign currency notes or coins I would be very happy to take them into the hospice. I help with the flowers once a fortnight so I am in quite regularly. You could put them through my letterbox or give me a ring if you are not sure where I live.

*Ruth Scovil*

 743720

## **News from Bottisham Surgery**

Perhaps you are as excited as we are to see the progress of the new surgery building. Despite very adverse weather at the beginning, the project remains on track for completion in October as planned. (Not August as optimistically but misleadingly stated on the board outside.) With the roof now complete the structure and shape of the building are clearer. We have gone to some lengths to try to make it blend in with the surrounding buildings and we hope that people will judge it to be an appropriate addition to the village. Yes, it does look very big! This though perhaps says as much about the cramped conditions of the existing surgery as it does about the requirements of a modern general practice. We are of course delighted to offering accommodation to our community nurses when they move from Queen's Court as well as to Clare Jackman, the dentist that some of you will already have met.

Following our first article we have had a number of excellent suggestions for pictures and displays within the surgery. We are very keen that the new building should reflect and be a part of the surgery so if people have other ideas do please bring them forward. Suggestions please to Mrs Kate Wright, Practice Manager at the surgery. There is one particular way in which you might be able to help. We are planning to make a children's corner within the waiting room and to furnish it with plenty of toys. If you have any toys that you no longer have need of and which are in good condition, or if you would like to contribute to the purchase of new ones (or to any other features within the surgery) do please contact Kate.

More news soon, including of a final opening date!

# ELY'S SUMMER OF MUSIC

Join us in the town centre for music and entertainment  
between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm on:

**Saturday 28th July — Classical/Classics**

**Ely Sinfonia and Viva Youth Theatre**

**Saturday 4th August — Salsa/Samba**

**Arco Iris performs with dancing lessons from Nelson Batista**

**Saturday 11th August — Folk**

**Music and dance from the members and friends of Ely Folk Club**

**Saturday 18th August—Reggae**

**Octavious Steel band performs with taster sessions**

**Saturday 25th August — Family**

**X-Cel FM roadshow with freebies and competitions for the children**

*Supported by City of Ely Perspective Marketing Working Group and ADeC. For  
Further Details Contact: East Cambridgeshire District Council 01353 616377*



## News From The Fen

Wicken Fen celebrated its centenary as a nature reserve in 1999. As the National Trust looked back over 100 years of protecting one of Britain's rarest habitats, it also decided that in order to protect this ever-decreasing habitat it should adopt a 100 year proposal, to create new fenland habitats.

The Trust aims to acquire up to 10,000 acres of surrounding land, as it becomes available, and to create new landscapes around the existing nature reserve.

Conservationists within the National Trust hope that this can be achieved during the next 100 years. The first 115 acres has already been bought, in October 2000, from GA Thornally and Sons. Funding from Countryside Stewardship has been acquired for ditching and fencing to be put in place in 2001.

We would like to hear your views on the plans to extend Wicken Fen. If you wish to comment on them, please contact our Project Officer, Bridget Carter. The National Trust would like to establish a Citizens' Panel, to represent the views of local communities, and to comment on the plans as they develop. If you are interested in representing your local community, please contact the Project Officer at Wicken Fen.

Bridget Carter, Project Officer

Wicken Fen, Lode Lane

Wicken, Ely

Cambridgeshire

CB7 5XP

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Telephone 01353 720274

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## **The other Jazz Event!**

A Jazz Evening. Great! Those events I know well from Germany. You sit in a dusty pub in a corner with one or two or more beers. In the air is a smell between sweat, smoke and beer and you enjoy it nevertheless. So I thought it might be better, to go alone to this event and leave the family at home. But as I arrived, hardly anybody was in the pub? At first I thought that I pencilled in the wrong date in my diary. Suddenly I heard a contrabaß deep in the background. But there was no contrabaß at all. With a facile irritation on my face I asked for the Jazz Evening and I got the answer in the garden. Gosh! In the garden?! But why not, and I went looking for the garden.

The garden looked as if more prepared for a family BBQ than for a dusty jazz evening. And indeed, families with prams arrived instead of guys with their motorbikes. After a short irritation I decided to adapt myself to the new situation: I went home, picked up my wife, put my ten months old son Malte from his bed into the pram and we went together to the Family-BBQ-Jazz-Event. We enjoyed the music and the perfect musicians by beer and sausages, the lovely warm evening sun and the good atmosphere. Sure, after a while my little son decided, Gershwin was not his favourite composer and they could sing, 'Night and Day', but night and day was not his time to be awake, so he gave loud protest. And we had to go home. But it didn't matter - it was worth!

It was my first Family-BBQ-Jazz-Event but I hope not my last. But I had known, that this was going to be a special Jazz Event. Because there must be a good difference, if the church organises a Jazz evening. And it was different in its best sense.

*Jan Petersen*

## Musical Howlers

*Test answers accumulated by music teachers in the state of Missouri*

- 1 It is important to be able to reach the brakes on any piano.
- 2 It is easy to teach anyone to play the maracas. Just grip the neck and shake him in rhythm.
- 3 Tubas are a bit too much.
- 4 The plural form of musical instrument is known as orchestra.
- 5 The most dangerous part about playing cymbals is near the nose.
- 6 Anyone who can read all the instrument notes at the same time gets to be the conductor.
- 7 The main trouble with a french horn is it's too tangled up.
- 8 When electric currents go through

them, guitars start making sounds. So would anybody.

9 While trombones have tubes, trumpets prefer to wear valves. 10 It is unusual to be contemporary. Most composers do not live until they are dead.

11 A harp is a nude piano.

12 My favourite composer is Opus.

13 Music sung by two people at the same time is called a duel.

14 Henry Purcell is a well-known composer few people have heard of.

15 John Sebastian Bach died from 1750 to the present.

16 A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.

17 Refrain means don't do it, A refrain in music is the part you better not try to sing.

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## Free classes for Volunteers

Would you like to attend a community education class such as art, crafts, pottery, needlecraft, local history, computing, scrabble or gentle exercise free of charge? Well you can - if you volunteer to take an isolated or vulnerable person with you. You will also be offered help with your fuel costs.

Volunteers are needed by Health for Life, the local community project which helps isolated or vulnerable people improve their confidence, health and independence by attending community education classes and village clubs. People are referred on to the project by their GP or other health workers. Volunteers provide essential support for these people who have lost their confidence and become isolated for many social or medical reasons including bereavement, anxiety, depression, disability, family problems and caring responsibilities. In their activities they make new friends, learn new skills and interests and start to 'feel better'.

So, if you have a couple of hours free a week and would like to know more about becoming a Health for Life volunteer, please contact Samara Philpott 01638 743658.



## WI Notes

On Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> July we were given an insight into how to trace our family histories by Mrs K. Curtis. To start, one needs Birth, Marriage Certificates plus memorial cards, diaries, letters. Further information can be obtained through Records Offices which hold the Parish records for most churches, General Service Records at Kew and the Newspaper library at Colindale. Do not be surprised if you find criminals or illegitimate children as this is quite normal!

The year, our Garden Party will be on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> August at 19, Mill Hill - 6.45pm for 7.00pm.

The September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting (4<sup>th</sup> not 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) will be an open meeting when Dr. I. Calden will talk on Forensic Pathology. We look forward to welcoming husbands and friends.

*Margaret Phillips*

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## LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday evening 25<sup>th</sup> June the Ladies Circle met for their monthly meeting. Roger Spurling came to tell us about the work of Dial-a-Ride. Cambridge Dial-a-ride is a door to door mini-bus service for those with mobility difficulties who are unable to use conventional public transport. The aim of the scheme is to lessen the feeling of isolation by offering journeys to shops, day clubs, friends or garden centres etc. Isolation and loneliness are just two difficulties that face many of the elderly population and obviously this service brings a lot of happiness to them. Cambridge Dial-a-ride now has 5 mini-buses and seems a very popular venture.

The mini-buses are fully adapted to cater for all those with disabilities including wheelchair users. The drivers are specially trained and offer a safe and secure journey.

Cambridge Dial-a-ride also operates a village service for residents in isolated areas. The scheme covers over 40 villages in East and South Cambridgeshire and offers a weekly return journey to Cambridge centre.

Members found this a very interesting topic and after watching slides and asking many questions we finished the evening off with refreshments and a bring and buy stall.

*Sandra Butcher*



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

The next meeting will be on 18<sup>th</sup> September in Reach Village Hall at 8.00pm, when the expert, Mr M. Oviatt Hamm, will be giving a talk on "Making the Most of Clematis". There will also be a raffle with interesting prizes for all Gardeners.

*Kate Child*

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

### ***Lifelong Learning***

**The Autumn Term Programme will be delivered to your home this month. If you do not receive a copy please contact your nearest Village College Community Office.**

*A levels and GCSEs*

*Computing and Information Technology*

*Counselling — all levels*

*Early Years Care and Education*

*Languages (Dutch; French, German; Italian; Spanish)*

*Many general interest courses*

*Day and weekend courses*

**From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August the Community Office at Bottisham will be open from 9.30 to 12.30 each week-day. You may leave a message on 01223 811372 at any time and your call will be returned as soon as possible.**

Further information from the Community Office  
at Bottisham Village Colleges: 01223 811372





I have been receiving complaints that Stagecoach bus drivers are not always stopping between bus stops when requested. The Operations Manager, Peter Bald, has confirmed that in rural areas buses should stop between bus stops if requested, unless it is not safe to stop. He has assured me that he has reminded all drivers to stop on request in rural areas and ensured that it will form part of driver training. If you have problems with drivers not stopping on request please let Mr Bald know at Stagecoach in Cambridge, 100 Cowley Road, Cambridge, CB4 0DN, 01223 423578 and please let me know as well. We must make sure that drivers stop on request so that the buses are convenient for the majority of us to use.

The Independent Panel on Members Allowances has reported and recommended an increase in most allowances and a fall in some. The Panel was totally independent, with no members of the District Council on it. It looked at allowances paid by other Councils, timesheets kept by Councillors detailing our Council work and questioned the three Group Leaders about the role of Councillors. They have recommended that our allowances should be based on the hours which we put in to Council work at £4.50 an hour, which includes an allowance for costs such as telephone and postage. They have recommend that all members should get a basic allowance of £2,862 a year. Members with additional responsibilities would get an additional annual Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) – Council Leader £4,702, Deputy Leader £1,175, Leaders of other Groups £216, Chairmen of most Committees £864, Vice Chairmen £216, Chairman of Licensing Committee £216, Chairman of Working Parties £36 per month. There would cease to be an SRA for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council, who get special expenses allowances of £2,820 and £579 respectively. In addition members can claim for travel costs for attending Council meetings and some meetings on behalf of the Council and Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowances on the same basis as the staff scheme. The full report is available from the Council. I would like to hear your views on these recommendations before Council decides later this year whether or not to accept them.

My next Councillor's Surgery will be at Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall on Tuesday August 14th from 7.30-9.00pm. These Surgeries are a chance for you to come and discuss any District Council matters with me and I also have a selection of leaflets giving information about Council services and Planning matters. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home: 34 Swaffham Road, Reach, CB5 0HZ, 01638 742509,

[charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk).

*Charlotte Cane*





Do you know what your elected councillors do? The reason why I raise this is that in a recent national MORI poll two-thirds of the people asked claimed to know little or hardly anything about what their local councillor does.

In the light of that sobering opinion it is only a slight relief to find that the same survey shows that the public think local councils generally perform better than Westminster.

Over half of those polled said councillors should be active, listen to their public, be available and deal effectively with their complaints.

So how do I respond to these disturbing national opinions?

As most people who have tried to contact me already know -

- I am available on the 'phone (01223 811425) any reasonable time. If out I'll ring back on request. You can always leave a message on the answer-phone or with Harriet.
- When at home, I will see you any time you call although a bit of warning helps.
- My e-mail address is: [James.Fitch@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:James.Fitch@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk)
- I regularly attend and report to parish council and all annual parish meetings.
- If you want to discuss anything when you see me in the street, the Legion, the pub or wherever, please do so.
- I always write an article for your parish magazine and contribute to the Lib.Dem "Focus".
- I try to reply to letters or other approaches within two days, although sometimes there may be delays if a contribution from the council officers is needed.
- Apart from the above, I pick up your opinions or information from Bottisham Village College Governors, Burwell House managers, Bottisham Swimming Pool Association and one-off meetings such as traffic or environment meetings.

I wish I could think this is enough, but I was alarmed to read that MORI's boss Bob Worcester declares that "only one in ten people across the country say they have spoken or written to their local councillor in the last two to three years".

In response I would just point out that there are at least 4250 houses and over ten thousand people living in the Burwell - Bottisham county division. How do you get round that lot?

## EDUCATION

I have received the County draft School Organization Plan 2001/2006. You may be interested in the projected pupil numbers for our local schools (subject to change in final report).

	Planning Capacity <u>2001</u>	Pupils on <u>roll</u>	Forecast Numbers <u>Jan 02</u>	Pupil <u>Jan 06</u>
Bottisham Village College 1050	1050	980	1007	1050
Bottisham Primary	270	227	228	205
Burwell VC Primary	420	422	414	418
S. Bulbeck CE Primary	90	75	68	67
S. Prior CE Primary	120	99	101	97

As far as reception / nursery places go:

	Total for <u>four year</u>	<u>olds+</u>	Total for <u>3 year olds+</u>
In Bottisham, there appears to be	75		35
Burwell	127		63
The Swaffhams	67		35

All the above depends on continuing growth in Cambridgeshire. It is the fastest growing county in the country. Also, East Cambs is the fastest growing district in Cambridgeshire.

*James Fitch*

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## **Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting**

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 7 members and 1 member of **the Public.**

### **Matters Arising.**

**Footpaths/Pavements:** Several footpaths and pavements in the village are suffering from overhang in vegetation from nearby property boundaries. A separate notice asking people to help with this annual problem is included elsewhere in this issue of the *Crier*.

CCC is to be chased for the long awaited resurfacing works for the footpath on Station Road past the School to the bridge.

The work needed to the footpath at Camping Close has been carried out.

**Bus Services/Stops:** Following complaints about the service buses not stopping between bus stops when requested, the P.C. and Cur Cane contacted

Stagecoach. A notice has been issued by Stagecoach to all drivers in rural areas to stop on request as long as it is safe to do so.

**Standing Orders:** This is a procedural matter for the P.C to implement. Guidelines were issued to all members for their consideration before the next P.C. meeting.

**Reports:**

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

**Correspondence Received:** Correspondence was reported by the Clerk.

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

**Planning Applications:**

32 Lower End. *Alteration to existing dormer windows.*

2B Green Head Road. *Extension to existing bungalow to provide loft accommodation of two bedrooms and one bathroom; ground floor extension providing study and new porch.*

There were no objections to the above applications.

**Any Other Business:**

*Modifications to Village Enhancement Scheme:* The Clerk has contacted ECDC and was told that they are waiting to hear further from the contractors Ringway.

*Repair of lay area fencing:* An estimate for this work has been received. Referred to next meeting.

*The Pound/Keep.* As this is a listed building and in the Conservation Area, a meeting is to take place between the ECDC Conservation Officer, John Selby and P.C. members to discuss the way forward before repairs are carried out.

*Sign - Coopers Lane:* Following a request for a sign to mark this lane, the Clerk will contact CCC-Highways to discuss.

*Sign - The Beeches:* The Clerk has written to Hereward Housing to ask if they would be able to help with replacing the sign to stop skateboarding, etc., through The Beeches. Reply awaited.

*Sign - Adams Road:* The reinstatement of this sign is to be chased-up by the Clerk. *Barrier-Recreation Ground:* The baffler is now in place.

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August unless matters arise that need attention in which case a meeting will be called.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

***Karen King***

Clerk of the Parish Council

## Francis Edwin Charles Riggs 1930—2001

Francis Riggs died of cancer on the 29<sup>th</sup> June. We said farewell to him on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at a beautiful service held in St Mary's Swaffham Prior.

Francis was born in 1930 in a village near Wimborne in Dorset. He went to Sunday School and became a Chorister at Wimborne Minster where he gained his love of Church Music. He was a pupil at Wimborne Grammar School.

After leaving school, Francis volunteered for the Royal Navy as a seaman. He served on Carriers in the Fleet Air Arm and rose from Seaman to Petty Officer, of which he was very proud.

It was in the Navy that Francis gained his extensive knowledge of electronics.

After the Navy in 1955, Francis moved to **Kenya** in Africa where he joined the Civil Police. He learned **Swahili** and rose to the rank of Superintendent of Police.

During his time in Kenya, he had to deal with the murder and atrocities carried out by the terrorist movement known as **Mau-Mau** led by **Jomo Kenyatta** later to become President.

Francis was obliged to leave Kenya because of Mau-Mau and moved to **Uganda**. He continued in the Police there until obliged to leave in 1966 by the antics of another tyrant known as **Idi Amin**, so called *Field Marshal*, who was really an Army Sergeant.

It was during his time in Africa that he met and married Rosemary. Francis had two children, Carolyn born in 1963 and Clive born in 1964 of whom he was very proud.

When Francis came home, he and the family went to live in Reach, where they built 'Orchard Cottage' and then moved to Swaffham Prior in 1975 when they bought the Allix Arms which they turned into an attractive and valuable property, always immaculately maintained.

Francis then joined Pye Phillips and travelled the world for them until retirement.

Francis had a strong Christian faith and immersed himself in Church affairs by joining the Parochial Church Council and by becoming a Sacristan, lesson reading. He was a Church Warden for 10 years.

When, on a Sunday morning, one saw Francis' car parked in the High Street, one knew everything would be ship-shape and Bristol fashion in Church that morning.

Francis was a loyal worker for the Conservative Party, and became Chairman of the Local Branch and a Vice Chairman of the S. E. Cambs

Constituency Party.

Francis had a strong interest in history which he showed by his research into the History of St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior. He showed the archive history of the Church for many years during each Church Fête.

Francis was always smartly turned out with highly polished shoes.

'Nice Mr Riggs' was a lovely man who will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

We may be certain that all the Trumpeters sounded for him on the other side.

*Bob Ropner*

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## **Philip Sheldrick**

On Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup> the village lost one of its longest surviving native inhabitants.

Philip was born in Swaffham Prior eighty four years ago, and, apart from his time in the Air Force, lived here all his life, during which there were very few village activities with which he was not associated.

The thirties, after Philip left school, presented very few opportunities for village lads, and he joined the R.A.F. shortly before the war. It was during his service that he met Nora (Bubbles) and they married in 1946 after his demob.

For some years, Philip and Bubbles lived in the east lodge of Swaffham Prior House, and during this time their children John and Sylvia were born. They also took over the running of the village shop opposite the Church.

In his spare time Philip and his father undertook the task of restoring the church bells to ringing condition, and for many years Philip was the tower captain. Indeed at this time half the team was composed of Sheldricks. Philip's father, and brother Bob were also keen ringers.

Another undertaking which affected the village was the repair of the church clock to going and striking state. For many years the bell on top of St Cyriac's reminded us of the passing hours, and nobody objected to the noise!

Just to fill in the odd hours when there was nothing else to do, Philip joined the special constabulary. He served for many years, and on his retirement from the force was awarded a long service certificate.

Around 1960, the lodge was becoming too cramped for their growing family, so Philip began what was probably the biggest task of his life. He, with a little help from some professionals, built Bramble Tye which became the family home, where Sandra, their third child, was born. The preparation of the garden at their new home now kept Philip busy, but it did not prevent

him being a member of the Parish Council, a trustee of the Parochial Charities, a school governor, and eventually provider of the monthly gardening notes for the Crier.

The past two years were not the easiest of times for the family. Sylvia's sudden death and the subsequent deaths of two of Philip's brothers, and of his sister, hit hard, although Philip still retained his sense of fun, and we still managed to set the world to rights over the garden gate, but, regrettably, the illness which was eventually to kill him, was sapping his strength, and he hated the fact that he could no longer do the things he found easy twenty years ago. On June 13<sup>th</sup> he lost the battle with his illness. His family lost a husband, brother, father and grandfather, and I lost a good friend and neighbour.

Our sympathy and condolences go out to Bubbles and all the family. Philip will be long remembered.

*Sidney Hewitt*

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## ***Family Services*** **ARE IMPORTANT**

Like every service this service is for **every** age and this is a service with children in mind.

We offer Family Services, because we think it important for children to hear that there is more in the world than we can see. We want to tell them something about the power behind the visible world. The Christian faith speaks about our possibility to live in connection with this power through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. This includes of course to get in contact with the Christian Festivals, Christian Traditions, and which lie at the heart of our village life.



### **FAMILY SERVICES ARE:**

**12. AUGUST**

**9. SEPTEMBER**

**14. OCTOBER**

**ALWAYS 11.00 a.m.**

**ST. MARY, SWAFFHAM PRIOR**





## Church Services

### August 2001

#### ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

#### ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

#### ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

TRINITY  
8

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**9:30am**  
Family Service

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

CW—Common Worship  
† — Book of Common  
Prayer

TRINITY  
9

**9:30am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**12**

**11:00am**  
Family Service  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

TRINITY  
10

**9:30am**  
Village Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**19**

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon  
(*St. Cyriac's*)

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

TRINITY  
11

**9:30am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**Sun**  
**26**

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**11:00am**  
Mattins<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and  
Sermon

### From the Parish Registers for May and June

**Holy Baptism:** Mia Elizabeth Wanlan Blanks [SP]

Amy Louise Norris [SB]

Charlotte Emily Woolley [SB]

Zebulun Thomas Hjalton-Rayner [SB]

**Holy Matrimony:** Gary James Blunsten and Kelly Louise Folkes [SP]

**Re-affirmation of Marriage Vows:**

John and Joan Curtis [R]

**In Memoriam:** Ernest (Ernie) Aaron Cole (83) [R]

Philip Austin Roe (71) [SB]

Philip Gordon Hawkes Sheldrick (84) [SP]



## Church Services September 2001

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

TRINITY  
12

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**9:30am**  
Family Service

**Sun**  
**2**

TRINITY  
13

**9:30am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>

**Sun**  
**9**

TRINITY  
14

**9:30am**  
Village Communion<sup>CW</sup>

**Sun**  
**16**

TRINITY  
15

**9:30am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>

**Sun**  
**23**

HARV-  
EST

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**Sun**  
**30**

### ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>CW</sup>  
**6:00pm** Deanery  
Evensong and Sermon

**11:00am**  
Family Service  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**11:00am**  
Parish Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and Sermon

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>  
**11:00am** Harvest  
Morning Service<sup>†</sup>

**6:00pm**  
Concert by Cambridge  
Voices in St. Cyriacs

### ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**8:00am**  
Holy Communion<sup>†</sup>

**6:00pm**  
Evensong<sup>†</sup> and  
Sermon

**10:00am**  
Harvest Festival  
United Parish  
Communion<sup>CW</sup>

#### Holy Communion Evening Prayer

#### Bellringing Housegroup

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)  
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck  
Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach  
Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior  
Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.  
Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.  
Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676



Dear Friends,

“DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE”

So said Jesus at the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan to the lawyer who had enquired what he had to do to inherit eternal life. The true friend is the one who showed mercy, even though he was the stranger, the foreigner.

It is a tale of what the true character of friendship should be, a crossing of expected boundaries, a reaching out in love; hence the Latin word for friend ‘amicus’, (giving us ‘amigo’ etc). Such is the hallmark of the word neighbour, which at its best demonstrates friendship rather than a simple living alongside, be that next-door, or one’s neighbours across the world. (Jesus’ answer to the lawyer’s question “And who is my neighbour?”)

Human behaviour which demonstrates an understanding of this teaching is real living, heaven on earth if you like, but certainly a positiveness that transcends any idea of merely existing. The Christian ethic is to love God, and your neighbour as yourself, which means honouring God’s image in you — you can’t love others if you can’t love yourself, the person God wants you to be.

At a more practical level of neighbourliness in Swaffham Prior, might some of you be interested in joining the list of names which cover *flower arranging* and *church cleaning*, as well as *sidesmen/readers*? (There is no commitment to regular churchgoing implied — it is simply good that people of the village feel able to offer this type of support to their parish church.) Also, we would like to encourage local musical talent - anyone who plays the *piano* and who feels they might like to play the *organ (or keyboard)* should please be in touch with me or either of the churchwardens; the *bellringers* too are always seeking new recruits (please contact Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328).

Wishing you all a very good summer, and safe journeying if you are going away.

Yours sincerely

*Mark*

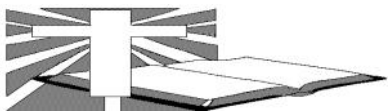
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**Mothers Union** 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

**Toddlers Service** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### *The Dream...*

For many years I had a recurring dream of falling off a building, over a cliff, down a hole or into a canyon. I would wake up sweating, frightened, and with my heart racing.

Then I read that if you landed in your dream you would die. 'Rubbish and nonsense!' I may have dismissed it consciously but my subconscious absorbed it and added a new terrifying dimension to my dreams. If I was falling I would struggle to force myself awake, terrified that I would land and so foretell my early death.

One day a cartoon caught my eye. An atheist fell off a cliff and on the way down grabbed a small bush. His position was precarious and he shouted 'God help me!' God answered 'Let go my child and I will catch you.'

That very night I once again dreamt I was falling into a dark hole. As I struggled frantically to wake up I remembered the cartoon. 'Let go my child and I will catch you.'

I made a conscious effort to relax and in my dream I floated gently down and landed in God's arms. I have never had the falling dream again but I still remember that sense of complete security as God's arms held me close.

Gods uses different ways to communicate with us and the Bible cites many occasions when He used dreams; for example Paul's dream of Macedonia in Acts 16:9<sup>ff</sup>. Whilst wary of some modern trends of interpreting dreams, I know that God took a recurring, terrifying, negative dream and turned it into a positive reassuring experience.

*Pat Taylor*



He can do the same for you.

If you have a story to tell about what God has done for you I would love to hear about it. Get in touch with me via the number below or drop me a note in the Chapel postbox.

*David Bousfield*

**Sundays 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship**

(Communion on the first Sunday of each month)

For further information, transport, or a home visit please call

David & Janet Bousfield on 01223-563307.

## Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

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

In our family of six – Frances and myself, four daughters, holidays – birthdays are like the proverbial London buses: they come in threes, in a 14 day burst in late May, early June, and a second burst either side of Christmas. And indeed my married daughter Rachel's husband has a birthday in the second cluster, and Rachel has just announced that she is expected our first grandchild in the first week of January. Even London buses do not run in fives!

The odd thing is that remembering and celebrating birthdays is a modern invention. As far as I know, no-one marked, perhaps even remembered, their birthdays until Victorian times. Before 1538 no record was kept of any kind. From 1538 to 1839 registers were kept of everyone's *baptism* date, but only in 1839 did the state register *birth* dates. A lot of people had only a hazy idea of the year of their birth, let alone the day and month, and there were no parties, no presents, no cards, no act of celebration. And, come to think of it, no wedding anniversaries either. As it happens mid-way between my writing of this and your reading of it, my parents will celebrate their diamond jubilee (and I bet in whole of the seventeenth century less than a dozen couples in the whole of Britain would have achieved that). I have been editing the lives of the 6,000 most prominent men and women to live in seventeenth-century Britain (part of a larger project, the Dictionary of National Biography, which will give the lives of about 60,000 people altogether). The *birthdays* of more than half of these prominent seventeenth-century folk is unknown.

I wonder why this is? Why, universally in the second half of the nineteenth century, did the celebration of birthdays and anniversaries has become what it never was previously in the history of mankind? Before that kings celebrated the anniversary of their accession day (and sometimes the anniversary of their coronation day), people exchanged presents on New Years Day (not Christmas), and the nearest thing to a celebration of their birthday would be the celebration of their patronal feast day, that is the day in the religious calendar which was the day of the saint after whom they were named (which was bad luck for people called after Old Testament Prophets or called [as many were] Posthumus before their fathers had died before their birth). But no-one thought to celebrate or commemorate their birthdays or anniversaries. I have sat here for quite a while and pondered it. Surely, I thought, somewhere amongst the five million books in Cambridge University Library there must be one that gives the answer. But for once I am completely stumped and when I asked the computerized library catalogue for entries on birthdays and anniversaries nothing immediately plausible came up. And when I searched my CD-ROM which contains information about 250,000 books and articles written about British and Irish History to list all the works which deal with the subject of 'birthdays' I got a shortish list which contained (this is really true) titles like "The Pyssing Ancestry of the Hulls of New England" and "The Forth Bridge has a birthday". So perhaps this is an unstudied subject. At least I have a title: "what was the birth day of the birthday?"

# ***Dates for Your Diary - August/September 2001***

## **August**

Tue 14 Cllr Cane's Surgery, Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall, 7:30pm

## **September**

Sat 1 Music in the Move, Zoar Chapel, Rogers Rd, 8.00pm.

Sun 2

Mon 3

Tues 4

Wed 5 Village Hall Committee Meeting, Village Hall, 8.00pm

Thur 6

Fri 7

Sat 8 Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride  
Church Gift Day & Coffee Morning, School Hall, 10.00am.  
Swaffham Bulbeck Church Fete, 2.00 pm.

Sun 9

Mon 10

Tues 11

Wed 12 Parochial Charities Trustees Meeting

Thur 13 PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm

Fri 14 ***Crier* Copy Deadline**

Sat 15 Harvest Produce Show, VH, 3:00pm

Sun 16

Mon 17

Tues 18

Wed 19

Thur 20

Fri 21 Concert, "The Vagabond", Soham Village College, 7:00pm

Sat 22 Harvest Supper in St Cyriac's, 7.00pm.

Sun 23

Mon 24 WI Open Meeting, "Forensic Pathology"

Tues 25

Wed 26 PCC Meeting, Reach Village Centre, 7:30pm

Thur 27 ***Crier*** Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm

Fri 28 Coffee Morning, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, 10:30am

Sat 29

Sun 30