



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 7

July 2001



Editorial

Expect something good in next month's issue, and be warned: everybody had better be whiter than white between then and now or they might find themselves in a starring role. XXV is the number of this Volume, and we are celebrating. Over the years, many columns have come and gone in the pages of this magazine, but nobody could ever forget the *Gossip Column*. Dreaded by some, devoured by others, it returns for one month only....don't miss it!

Unhappily, there will be **no September edition** this year — we are taking a Summer break. Some copy will unavoidably be affected, but we hope to pack most of the essential announcements into the August edition if contributors can get them to us in time. The Editorial Team (recently expanded by our new Business Manager, Roger Connon....welcome to the *Crier*, Roger!) hope this won't be too inconvenient, and they won't do it again if it is.

We always, as everyone knows, proof-read the Crier with great attention before going to print. Extremely irritating then it was to find that last month a small snippet escaped my eagle eyes. Not that it seemed to be about very much....lorries, B1102, redirection signs, all very innocent.....but read on! The Parish Council, it transpires, are redirecting all the juggernauts along the *scenic* route through the Village. You know, Mill Hill, Cage Hill, *our doorstep*, Children's Playground, Village School and finally Station Road. Fortunately, we're a very stoic lot in this part of the village. Outcry has there been absolutely none in this month's issue. Unlike, I may add, the predictable response of that *other* half of the Village, new street lights and all, should the more direct route have been selected!

Read Annie Dowdeswell's obituary in this month's issue. Thirty two years our Village School-mistress, one of her first acts was to *burn the school cane*. Ever an exceptionally happy and friendly school (come to the July School Fair and find out!) Annie evidently set things on the right track with this simple demonstration of her faith in the good behaviour of her charges.

Enough space, alas, we cannot conjure up to do justice to the remarkable antics of Mr Tricker (Vicar) and Mr Moore (Choir Master), complete with assorted band of yokels and minstrels (aka Cambridge Voices), who at Sunday evening's *Music on the Move* concert re-enacted another part of our history: Church Music as it used to be (*there's black notes and there's white notes and what you do is you rush through the black notes until you get to a white one!*). Not on any account to be missed when, as must *surely happen*, they DO IT AGAIN!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: by Claire Warren



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Vandalism in the school playground

There have recently been several acts of vandalism in the school playground. Tubs of plants have been destroyed, the goal nets have been burnt, grease or candle wax has been smeared over the playground and school steps making them potentially dangerous. During half term some of the school windows were also smeared. There is also evidence to suggest that somebody tried to set light to the school shed.

It has always been the school's policy to allow the school playground and field to be used for after school activities but we would ask those who do so, to respect school property.

With the summer holidays almost upon us we hope that the perpetrators of these acts will stop vandalising school property. The only people that suffer from this mindless destruction are the children of Swaffham Prior School.

Friends of Swaffham Prior School
on behalf of the children

Dear Editors

Signed off on Shakespeare am I, but I will stand against cruelty, untruth, and name-calling. Wicked Mr Everitt, to do violence to his thesaurus in order to extort synonyms to use against me when all the poor thing can provide is similarities, close and distant; then to declare (again) that I said something I didn't by pretending his words mean the same as mine. Without getting medical about it, stupidity and sanity are not degrees of the same thing. There are people who are both stupid and sane; others who are clever and insane. (Fortunately for the human race the first lot tend to significantly outnumber the second). Unhand your thesaurus, sir!

Mr Everitt is economical with the actualité (facts, truth, realities, basics, fundamentals, bedrock, brass tacks). To quote someone else is not to endorse their view. Mr Everitt quotes me, but he doesn't agree with me. One of my favourite quotes is Mrs Thatcher's 'There is no such thing as society' - which is not to say I agree with it (or her). As any writer of any wit can tell you, someone else's words shed more light on them than on you: factual writing - biography, journalism and the like - is all about quoting without endorsing. (My now ex-students would be delighted we're still going on like this, though, which might be an endorsement of sorts).

Mr Everitt can call himself what he likes. If he wants to be 'Oxfordian',

fine, but calling me ‘Stratfordian’ (listing typical failings of the species as evidence) without ever taking the trouble to ask me my views, isn’t really on. I don’t actually have much of a view either way. I learned long ago not to decide the outcome then look for the evidence, and I can live with the available evidence till something better comes up. Which it has not, and won’t by arguing either, nor by shuffling dates about. (Of course I know about disagreements about dating. It’s a way to keep the argument going when you’ve got nothing else to argue about).

As for jeering, I don’t think I do, and I happily yield to him. His letter does it better than anything I could write. Jibe away, sir. The rest will be silence. (to misuse a Hamlet quote, written by someone or other around the beginning/middle/end of the 16th century).

Mark Lewinski
32 Fairview Grove

Dear Editors,

Jessie Partridge

The family of the late Jessie Partridge would like to say thanks to all the friends and relations who sent messages and cards at the time of our recent sad loss. Also, thanks to those who attended the service and for the donations kindly given for Addenbrookes Hospital Ward D9.

Peter, Ena and family
Green Head Road

Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Tel & Fax: 01638 741529

email: office@swaffprior.cambs-schools.net

Support Assistant Needed

We are looking for a Support Assistant to work with a Reception child with special needs starting in September. The little girl is friendly and affectionate. The appointment will be initially for mornings only but will extend to the whole school day as the child settles into school. The applicant must have experience of young children, be warm and practical. If you are interested please get in touch with the headteacher.

Brenda Wilson (Mrs)

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I don't often attend Parish Council Meetings. To be frank it usually happens only on those rare occasions when I'm asked to deputize for one of the regular CRIER reporters - Alastair Everitt or Margaret Stanier. On those occasions I have never seen the 'Public Gallery' occupied by more than one or two interested villagers and you might think that is a matter for regret. On the other hand the very full and detailed 'Notes' each month from Karen King and the selected 'in depth' observations from our regular reporters usually convey a more than adequate account of the Parish Council proceedings. I am certain not many local villages have as efficient a coverage of Parish Council affairs as we enjoy. So is it necessary to sit in the public gallery each month? The answer of course is 'no'. There wouldn't be room for all of us anyway. But I can assure you the experience is well worth the effort now and then (even if the seats do get a little hard after an hour or two).



This month's meeting covered a wide variety of minor domestic matters. For instance, just as our own gardens do at this time of year the public areas of the village need a lot of attention to keep them ahead of the rapid growth of grass and weeds. And then there is always need for adequate maintenance. On that score the Pound requires attention as does the hedge alongside the Village Hall drive. Some of the Drovers need looking at and the Play Area fence is due for repairs and the wood needs treating.

On the subject of the Play Area and its equipment there was discussion on the provision of a climbing frame (wooden preferably) and to that end a sub-committee was appointed to explore the possibility of securing a grant towards its cost. The installation, we heard, was likely to be more expensive than the frame itself.

The problem of grass cutting in the public areas of the village occupied the Council for a considerable time. It was felt that the quality of work and the way invoices had been presented recently was far from satisfactory and representations had been made to the contractor. A close watch on quality would monitor future work. It so happens that a local farmer has asked if he could harvest the Recreation Ground grass for hay. It sounded a good idea and would save the PC the cost of having it mowed.

The chairman read a letter from Elizabeth Everitt who broached the subject of some kind of village celebration to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee next year. These things always take a long time to organise and while Elizabeth firmly declined to be responsible for that she made a number of suggestions for possible elements of such an event: a band on Town Close;

Donation!

Many thanks to Peter and Ena Partridge for their kind donation to Crier Funds this month.

Country Dancing (or Line Dancing somebody suggested); Races; a Bring your own Picnic; etc. etc. all of course involving village organisations. (The W.I. was mentioned naturally). The idea was warmly received by the meeting so watch future issues of the ***Crier*** for further developments of what could be a major 2002 village event.

Slightly disturbing crime figures for the area were tabled. They were for the month of May only and it seems we suffered 4 incidents and Reach had 3. While not a high figure compared with some areas there is no room for complacency. The publication of these figures is a new development and in future the PC will receive monthly updates. It was felt that the ***Crier*** should carry these reports as a STOP PRESS! announcement and that villagers should be strongly encouraged to report any suspicious activity immediately to the Police - 01223 358996 (the number is always on the inside front cover of this magazine). Promptness and detailed descriptions are of the essence.

There had been a request that the Council should ask the bus company to place bus stop signs at the top and at the bottom of Rogers Road. The matter of bus stops had been broached with the bus company who pointed out that busses will stop anywhere in the village at your request, whether there is a bus stop or not. (They want your custom after all). However it was felt that perhaps all the drivers did not appreciate the need for this service and should be reminded. It was also felt that there was enough street furniture in the village already and we could live with the present number of bus stop signs.

Ron Prime

Reported crimes for May

Swaffham Prior	Padlock of shed forced - nothing stolen Window broken at the Youth Club Car broken into and property stolen 3 trees dug up from roadside verge
Reach	Gate removed to gain access to stable area - nothing removed Insecure barn entered - Jetski removed

Playscheme 2001!!!

Playscheme is open to all primary school aged children in Swaffham Prior and Reach or those who have previously attended Swaffham Prior School. It will run for the mornings of the week 30 July - 3 August at a cost of £2.50 per child per morning or £6 for a daily family ticket.

By the time you read this, the registration letters for this year's Playscheme should be available. If your children are eligible to attend and you will not automatically be receiving a letter via Swaffham Prior school, please do get in touch with Dee Noyes on 743864, or via the school office.

Puppets
Rockets

Karate
Volleyball

Riding
Cooking

**MULTI METHOD PROFESSIONAL CLEANING
AND GUARANTEED GUARDSMAN PROTECTION OF
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THE YEAR
AWARD WINNER
2000



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The Doorstep Initiative

Cambridgeshire Trading Standards regularly receive enquiries from consumers complaining of the activities of doorstep salespersons. These range from itinerant traders offering to lop trees, repair roofs, tarmac drives, to alleged house security, gas and electric supply experts and high-pressure double glazing salesmen. The common complaint is excessive payments being requested for poor quality goods or services. To help combat this problem and offer assistance in particular to the elderly and vulnerable, surrounding Trading Standards Authorities have joined to promote **The Doorstep Initiative**.

The main purpose is to advise and educate consumers on their rights when approached by sellers on the doorstep. As from July this year, a Doorstep Hotline telephone number - 0845 6044466 (local rate) will be available for you to seek advice and information. The Doorstep Initiative also seeks to work with and keep other agencies informed of rogue traders involved.

Cambridgeshire Trading Standards offers the following advice:

- Do not be pressurised into having work done that you do not want or need even if the trader tells you it is urgent.
- If you are considering spending a large amount of money on goods or services, always shop around and obtain 3 quotes for any work before you choose a trader.
- Never pay large amounts of cash. Insist on writing a cheque so that in the event of a problem, Trading Standards officers can trace the person that received your money.
- Always get the name, address and telephone number of traders, so that you and Trading Standards have somewhere to contact should anything go wrong.
- Be a good neighbour. If you see work being carried out at a neighbour's house, check that your neighbour knows about the Trading Standards campaign.
- If you are suspicious, call Trading Standards on 0845 3030666. *Don't forget to take down the registration number of any vehicles.*

Consumers and Traders can obtain help and advice on doorstep selling and other aspects of trading standards law by contacting Cambridgeshire Trading Standards Service Helpdesk on 0845 3030666 or E-mail trading.standards@camcntv.gov.uk.

Annie Scott Dowdeswell 1906 - 2001

The funeral of Mrs Dowdeswell, known to all who knew her as Nancy, took place on the 6th of June at the Cambridge Crematorium. She was ninety five.

Nancy came to Swaffham Prior in 1934, after a short spell teaching in Sheffield and retired from teaching 32 years later. The school building in those days was just the old hall, divided into three class-rooms. It was all very basic by today's standards, and most of the teaching aids had to be generated here in the village. I am not sure when piped water came to the school, but I do remember the primitive loos against the gate, and the only playing area was in the front of the school.

The age range in those days was from 5 to 14, and Nancy had one untrained helper to cope with the three classes.

On her arrival, her first action was to call for the cane. After explaining that it was now redundant, one of the children was told to take it to the boiler-room, where it was consumed by fire.

During the war Nancy was an Air-raid Warden, and in charge of billeting evacuees who came to the village from the cities. She helped to raise money for the war effort, and was responsible for collecting over £40,000 in National Savings.

Mrs Dowdeswell lived with her husband Vernon and daughter Mavis in Rose Cottage on the corner opposite the school. He was a lead singer in the Bottisham Operatic Society, and Nancy helped back stage. Sadly he died when only 56 years old.

In village affairs Nancy was always a leading light, especially in church functions. When I first came to the village she had the children singing at the Church Fete on the front lawn of the old Vicarage, as well as the traditional Christmas Nativity Plays.

After thirty-two years in charge of the school, she retired, and spent much of her time in charitable works, and was one of the first occupants of the newly-built Beeches. She also was a participant in writing the village history, and the first president of the newly-formed Women's Institute.

Mrs Dowdeswell was a committed Christian, well skilled in the art of teaching, ready and willing to undertake charitable duties, and looked after the welfare of the children in her care as if they were her own. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Adieu old friend.

John Norris



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
SWAFFHAM PRIOR PRIMARY
SCHOOL
SPORTS DAY & SUMMER FAIR
SUNDAY 8TH JULY AT 12PM**



BAR

**LUCKY
DIP**

**BOUNCY CASTLE &
INFLATABLE SLIDE**

**THE AMAZING KERNEL
MARVO
WITH HIS MAGIC
SHOW, STILT WALKING
AND BALLOON
MODELLING!**

GRAND RAFFLE

PRIZES INCLUDE:

**A CHAUFFEURED PUNT ALONG THE CAM WITH A
BOTTLE OF BUBBLY!**

A FLIGHT IN A VINTAGE DE-HAVILLAND BI PLANE

PLUS MORE

WINE OR WATER?

BOOKS & TOY STALL

CAKE STALL

PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE !!

BBQ

**TOMBOLA
LUCKY
LOLLIES**

SALAD BAR

SPLAT THE RAT!

Village History

About 40 years ago the W.I. produced a History of Swaffham Prior, illustrated with old photos. Many people have read it, and it is now becoming rather fragile, as well as being cumbersome to read.

Peter Cunningham has now done a marvellous job of transferring both text and photos to the computer. He has also produced hard copy, so that anyone can borrow and read the history and make a copy if required. It is also available on disk.

Copies (one virtually a facsimile, one in an A4 binder) are kept at the Village Hall and by the W.I., and you are welcome to ask to borrow them.

Elisabeth Everitt



STAINE HUNDRED

On Tuesday, June 12th, members and friends went by coach to March where they visited the church of Saint Wendreda. This is the only church dedicated to Wendreda who was one of the sisters of Saint Ethelreda who founded the monastery at Ely. She had a flair for healing and devoted her life to helping others. The double-hammerbeam roof adorned with 118 angel figures is famous worldwide. It is a supreme example of the woodworkers' art around the turn of the 15th century. Many fine roofs were destroyed by Dowsing in the early 17th century but he seems to have avoided the Fens with their unhealthy atmosphere so March church was spared.

After coffee, the coach drove to Deene Park in Northamptonshire. Here lunch was taken before exploring the gardens. The formal gardens in front of the house were a blaze of various purple flowers surrounded with neat box hedges and we were surprised to learn they had only been set out eight years ago. The party split to be taken round the house by two extremely knowledgeable guides. Deene Hall has belonged to the Brudenell family since 1514 and there were a number of examples of the beautiful embroidery of the present Hon. Mrs Brudenell. Portraits and uniform of the 7th Earl of Cardigan who survived the 'Charge of the Life Brigade' are on show together with the head and tail of his horse Ronald on whom he went into battle. No doubt he knew Soame Jenyns of Bottisham Hall who also survived this Crimean battle. We had full and interesting explanations of the various changes which have taken place over the centuries as it is largely a sixteenth century house incorporating a medieval manor but has also been renovated more recently.

As well as the main reception rooms, we were shown into guest rooms with the adjoining bathroom in the turret. What was once a billiard room has been turned into a chapel and services are held once or twice a month so that the parish church is now redundant. Stewart Bell was thanked for organizing such an enjoyable trip, and he in turn thanked Peter Arnold for dealing with the money!

Peggy Day



LADIES CIRCLE

On a very warm Tuesday evening, 29th May the Ladies Circle visited Burwell Museum (along with two of the husbands). Mike Pike met us and gave us an insight into the running of the Museum. He expressed that they have been very lucky in the generous items people have given them and that many people are very keen to see their items displayed in the Museum.

After we had listened to the history of how the museum first started members were allowed to wander around and look at the many interesting items on display.

To finish a very pleasant evening off some of the members went to the Five Bells for a nice long cool drink.

Sandra Butcher



WI Notes

This month, four car loads of members had a most informative tour round the expanded Sainsbury's store in Cambridge in the company of two Trainee Managers. At the end of the evening we enjoyed a drink and refreshments in the new restaurant area.

Next month's meeting will be a talk on Skeletons in the Cupboard - Family Trees.

For many years the W.I. have been custodians of a Village Book started by Mrs Dowdeswell. Peter Cunningham has now put all the information on the computer, the resulting book is a wonderful work of art. We are most grateful to Peter and would like to put our thanks on record in this magazine. If anyone would like to borrow the book, please contact Betty Prime on 741221.

Margaret Phillips

ART HISTORY

Piero della Francesca's *Baptism of Christ*



An illustrated talk about one of the most famous paintings in the National Gallery's collection.

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
Monday 2nd July 2001 7.30 p.m.
Entrance £2
Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth
01638 741613

Next talk 1st October: A Visit to Santa Maria Novella in Florence



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners have been out and about recently. On 20th May a party of members and friends visited the late Geoff Hamilton's garden at Barnsdale, near Rutland Water. This is very large, but divided into small individual gardens as seen on his TV programmes. Although so beautiful, it had a very homely feel about it.

For our June meeting we visited two very different gardens. The first, at Crossing House, Shepreth, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Fuller is a real country cottage garden. It is crammed full of flowers interspaced with little gravel paths, in a higgledy-piggledy fashion. They have lived there for over 40 years and the garden has obviously grown up with them.

Nothing could have been more different than our next port of call. Mr. Aldridge has only been gardening in Melbourn for four years, yet his garden is very structured with a large circular lawn surrounded by flower beds with the smaller plants in the front and larger ones at the back. Here again are masses of flowers with roses and clematis growing over arches and fences. It seems impossible that it has only taken 4 years to create.

Next month, on 17th July, we shall be visiting Alison Davis' herb garden in Comberton. If you would like to join us be at the Swaffham Prior Village Hall in time to leave there at 6.30pm. Visitors £2.

Betty Prime

Walking the way to health

The East Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group and District council health workers are putting plans together to start a walking scheme.

What would the scheme involve?

Walk routes marketed and public information available.

As above, which are led walks.

As above, with the emphasis on GP involvement and incentive schemes.

10 Good Reasons To Walk

1. Improves your overall fitness- by decreasing your blood pressure and the risk of heart disease by exercising the heart at a moderate level.
2. Improves balance, co-ordination and joint flexibility.
3. Reduces anxiety and depression.
4. Can help with weight management.
5. Allows a family quality time together.
6. Increases stamina and energy levels.
7. Gives you the chance to appreciate your surroundings and the environment.
8. Increases oxygen levels in the body, which has many benefits.
9. Can be done at anytime during the day.
10. Walking is FREE!

We need your help.

Would you like to take part in the scheme in the future?

Do you have a few hours a week free to lead a walk (training provided)?

Have you ever taken part in a 'Walk your way to health' scheme before?

Would your company/organisation like to be involved in the preparations for the scheme?

Claire Ingram

Healthy Lifestyle Co-ordinator

East Cambs Primary Care Group

52-54 Market Street

Ely

Cambs CB7 4LS

Tel: 07884250909 or 01353 654200



Advertising in the ***Crier*** is very cost effective
Ring Roger Connon for details: ☎ **01638 742182**

BOTTISHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Football for boys & girls of all ages

Another season has come to an end and what a season it has been. The weather was atrocious which led to lots of games having to be re-scheduled and the season extended to the end of May. It was a very busy and successful season for the club.

A big “Thank You” to all of you who have helped the club over the season - those who have sponsored the teams, managed a team, refereed the games, run the line, transported boys to matches, made the teas and generally cheered the teams on. We really couldn’t run the club with you.

U15’s WIN PROMOTION!!!

Team of the Season has to be the U15’s - they have had a fantastic season finishing runners up in the U15B League and consequently winning promotion to the “A” League for next season. The team will be attending the Cambridge & District Colts League Presentation Evening being held on 17th June at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge.

Of the 18 league games they played this season they won 12, drew 2 and lost 4. Goals scored 46 and goal conceded only 17. Only 8 teams in the entire colts leagues (which consist of 273 teams) conceded less goals during the season. Congratulations go to their Manager John Wreathall, his assistant Dave Stanbridge and of course all the boys.

Squad: Rob Newman (Captain), James Shrubbs (Vice-Captain), Peter Maskell, John Turner, Scott Billington, Jamie Dama, Craig Elmer, Shane White, Stuart Hodgson, Phil Mead, Phil Webb, Jack Bunning, Will Dunn, James Wreathall.

OTHER SUCCESSES

Congratulations must also go to the U13’s who ended the season with two trophies and the U 14’s who ended the season in 4th place in their league. Well done to both squads.

AGM/”PLAYER OF THE YEAR” PRESENTATION EVENING

On Sunday 10th June we held our “Player of the Year” Presentation evening and AGM. During the morning the different club teams played friendly games against each other and despite the rain everyone had a good time. At the AGM the club adopted a new more detailed constitution. We are working towards becoming a “F.A. Charter Standard Club”. The Football Association has introduced the Charter Standard to raise standards, recognise good practice and reward quality and in order to achieve this there are several criteria that we have to fulfil. More on this in the coming months.

Club Officers for next season were elected and are as follows:

Chairman	Jim Tideswell
Vice-Chairman	Nick Drake

Secretary	Tessa Shrubbs
Treasurer	Vacancy!!!! (any volunteers?)
Minutes/Press Secretary	Clare Brooks

TEAM AWARDS

All boys were presented with medals and awards were also made to the following boys:

	Award	Players	Managers
Under 9	Player of the Year	Marcus Hall	Alan Dennis &
	Managers Award	Jordan Haynes	Stacey Hall
	Leading Goalscorer	Nicholas Hall	
Under 11	Player of the Year	Sean Rayment	Chris Lively
	Managers Award	Jonathon Harker	
Under 12	Player of the Year	Johnny Abbs	Sally Maskell
	Managers Award	Henry Drake	
Under 13	Player of the Year	Matthew Leggett	Graham Leggett &
	Managers Award	Adam Wilson	JimTideswell
Under 14	Player of the Year	Thomas Abineri	Gordon Arnott
	Managers Award	Joe Pinnington-Hughes	
Under 15			Doug Hodgson
	Player of the Year	John Turner	John Wreathall
	Managers Award	Shane White	Dave Stanbridge
	Most Improved Player	Craig Elmer	
Under 16	Top Goalscorer	Jack Bunning	
	Player of the Year	Ryan King	Jim Tideswell
	Managers Award	Dave Newman	
Under 17	Player of the Year	Lloyd Hughes	Ali White
	Managers Award	Neil Flynn	
	Recognition Award	Steven Newman	
	(Steven has played for the club from Under 11-Under 17)		

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!!

NEXT SEASON

We will be running teams for Under 10's, Under 12's, Under 13's, Under 14's, Under 15's and Under 16's next season. Registration forms for next season should be out during July. May I remind everyone that the leagues will be asking for 2 passport size photographs to accompany the registration form - please get photo's done now so you are ready to complete your registration form.

If anyone would like to join the club as a player or could help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tessa Shrubbs
Club Secretary



I congratulate James Paice on being re-elected to serve as our MP and James Fitch on his re-election as our County Councillor. The turnout for the General Election in South East Cambridgeshire was 63.5% - down from 74.4% at the last General Election. The turnout for the County Election in the Burwell Division (which includes Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach) was 65%. Compared to the rest of the country these turnouts were good – one MP was elected on a turnout of just 34.1%. But the fact that one third of people entitled to vote did not vote is very worrying for the health of our democracy. East Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for running all elections within the District's boundaries. I would be very interested to hear from people, especially from those who did not vote, what we could do to encourage more people to vote.

East Cambridgeshire District Council held our Annual Council Meeting on 22nd May. We elected a new Chairman of Council, Cllr Valerie Leake who represents the neighbouring ward of Bottisham. We also elected the Chairmen of our new Policy Committees, which will take most of the decisions about how we run the Council, once Full Council has set the budget and the policy framework. Cllr Edward Twentyman, who represents Cheveley, will chair Policy and Resources; Community Services will be chaired by Cllr Hazel Williams, who represents Burwell; Environment and Transport will be chaired by Cllr Ian Allen, who represents Ely West; and the Chairman of Strategic Development is Cllr Philip Lewis, who represents Cheveley. I remain as Leader of the Council, responsible for ensuring that these four Committees work together to deliver the targets set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The Personnel Committee, which is responsible for ensuring that we have the right staff and staffing policies, is Chaired by Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith, who represents Ely West. We also have two quasi-judicial committees – Planning, which is chaired by Cllr John Abbott who represents Fordham; and Licensing, which is chaired by Cllr Neil Morrison who represents Littleport. Quasi-judicial means that these committees take decisions based on the law and the information supplied by applicants, officers and sometimes objectors. It is illegal for there to be a party political steer to the decisions taken by these two committees.

To further open up the Council's business to public scrutiny and questioning, I hope that by autumn the Community Services Committee and Full Council will meet in the evening. Licensing Committee already meets in the evening and more members of the public have attended these evening meetings than attended when the meetings were held during the working day.

Charlotte Cane

ELECTIONS

The County Council's election was overshadowed by the national contest to such an extent that it is difficult to find all the details within the press.

After all the campaigning around Cambridgeshire very little change happened. The Conservatives will control the County Council for the next four years having boosted their power base from 33 seats to 34. The Liberal Democrats stay unchanged at 16 and Labour lost a seat leaving them with 9.

Around here there was very little change except in the number of votes. In common with the rest of the country our local turnout went down — in our case by 9% to 65% compared with the national decline of 13% to 59%.

The voting figures for the Burwell/Bottisham Division which includes all our villages was as follows:

Susan Coomey (Lab) 761

Lavinia Edwards(Con) 1,781

James Fitch (LD) 2,732 majority 951 or just under 52%.

May I take this opportunity to thank those of you who voted for me and reassure those who did not that I will continue to do my best for everyone regardless of their political views. If a higher than average number of people take the trouble to cast a vote, then I consider they are entitled to a higher than average level of representation. This is what I shall continue to try to achieve. Once again, thank you for your support and friendliness on the doorstep. I could not get round to all 4,100 dwellings in the Division but I met a lot of you.

OTHER MATTERS

The County Council on 15th May decided to introduce new executive arrangements on 19th June 2001. Under these the Council will elect a Leader (probably Keith Walters) with a Cabinet of up to 10 councillors. It will be the function of the remaining councillors to scrutinize and if appropriate question the Cabinet's actions.

Overall, the full Council will be responsible for deciding the Annual Budget and major policy. The Cabinet members will then carry out these policies in the same way as we do at national level. The Annual Meeting of the County Council takes place on 19th June.

I shall continue to keep you informed of matters of interest to this locality through magazine articles and attending parish council meetings as I have done over the last eight years.

James Fitch

Don't Bother Campaign

As part of the Government's commitment to reduce vehicle crime by 30% over five years Cambridgeshire Constabulary have commenced a vehicle crime campaign called "Don't Bother".

The campaign aims to remind owners of vehicles to remove all valuables from view. This is achieved by the distribution of small information cards that measure 3.5" x 7". Samples of these cards are as shown.

If you would like a supply of these cards or any other literature that relates to vehicle crime reduction issues, these can be obtained from the Community Safety Unit at Parkside Police Station Cambridge CB1 1JG or you can contact PC Iain Perry on (01223) 823251.



SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH: EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY 2001 AT REACH VILLAGE CENTRE

Matters Arising

(a) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 23rd April in the School Hall had been very poorly attended indeed. The Vicar proposed that next year the A.P.C.M. meeting should take place in Church after a 10.00 am. service, beginning at 11.00am., to finish by 12.00am. The PCC were in agreement.

(b) The Vicar said that Jan Petersen, the German pastor, would arrive on 3rd June, with his wife and child. He would live at 58 High Street. The Vicar requested that parishioners should make him feel welcome, and perhaps provide a meal on his arrival. He would be here for a year and help with services, Deanery business, etc.

Fabric Report

Swaffham Prior

John Norris reported on the following fabric matters:

1. Lighting “throw” E.C.D.C. had finally agreed to light this from an electricity source in the highway, and to defray all costs.
2. Light at St Cyriac’s: a small lamp standard would cost about £800. A clock mechanism could be installed at the bottom, so that a timer could be put on. Carnage and VAT would bring the price to about £1000. Kate Weaver from C.C.T. had been approached for financial help, and a funeral bequest would also go towards it. Michael Cazenove proposed, seconded by Ros Woods that we should go ahead with this project.
3. Vestry re-ordering: David Weir from Cambridge Pine would provide cupboards at a cost of about £6,000+VAT. Together with the sink and other fitments, the total cost should be about £10,000. Ros Woods, seconded by Carolyn Cazenove proposed that we should now go ahead with this refurbishment.
4. Churchyard: The yew tree at the east end of the church had been reduced by 20% and a copper beech had been planted, courtesy of Ros Woods, who was warmly thanked. Walls were gradually being repaired, starting with that which had fallen into Barbara Ives’ garden.
5. A Faculty had been granted for the installation of a seat in memory of Geoff Lewis.

Reach

The PCC agreed that all work on Reach church must be finished by Christmas.

Social Working Groups’ Reports

Reach

The Moveable Feast had raised £193. There would be a Barbecue at Spring Hall Farm on 14th July.

Swaffham Prior

It was emphasised that the Christmas Market on November 24th should be the major focus of fund-raising. The proceeds were to be shared with the Village Hall.

Jenny Moseley

From the Parish Registers for May

Holy Baptism: Mia Elizabeth Blanks {SP}

In Memoriam: Frederick Alvin Badcock-Miller (92) {R}

Isabel Mary Bowden (86) {SP}

Jessie Elizabeth Partridge (94) {SB}



Church Services

July 2001

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

TRINITY
3

Sun
1

8.00am

Holy Communion[†]

9:30am

Family Service
and Holy Baptism of
Thomas Adam Rayner

TRINITY
4

Sun
8

9:30am

Parish Communion^{CW}

TRINITY
5

Sun
15

9:30am

Village Communion^{CW}

TRINITY
6

Sun
22

9:30am

Parish Communion^{CW}

TRINITY
7

Sun
29

10:00am

United Parish
Communion^{CW}

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

11:00am

Parish Communion^{CW}

11:00am

Family Service^{CW}

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon

11:00am

Parish Communion^{CW}

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon
(in St. Cyriac's Church)

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

11:00am

Mattins[†] and Sermon

12:30pm Holy Baptism of
Alexander William James

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon

ST ETHELREDA REACH

6:30pm

Deanery Songs of
Praise on the Village
Green at Wicken

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

†- Book of Common Prayer

CW- Common Worship

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer
Bellringing
Housegroup
Mothers Union
Toddlers Service

1st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)
5:30pm: Tues, Swaffham Bulbeck; Wed, Reach; Thurs, Swaffham Prior
Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
Tues, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach. Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676
1st Mondays, 2:15pm. Win Norton on 01223 811509
3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

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

Dear Friends,

I DREAM OF Churches here on earth:

WHERE not only the person who cleans is valued as highly as the person who preaches, but where the person taking a rest from all tasks is valued too.

WHERE different expressions of worship are not only tolerated but welcomed. Where meditative contemplation, symbolic ritualism rich with meaning, dance, drama, hugging and laughter take place, each in their time and turn.

WHERE fashions in the style and structure of worship, are recognized as here today but gone tomorrow; held in cupped hands so each movement can pour in for a while and grow, and then pour out again.

WHERE order and structure are recognized as necessary and valuable, so that people can have a part to play and see where their contribution fits in as they work with others.

WHERE senior citizens are valued for being reservoirs of life's experiences which are there to be poured out for the benefit of others.

WHERE people are given space to grow. Where each can prayerfully reflect, reconsider, move on, make different and more appropriate contributions to the fellowship and receive affirmation and support from others whilst doing so.

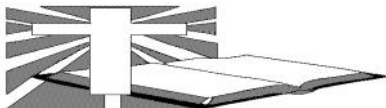
WHERE we have learnt to love and accept one another as we are.

WHERE what happens outside the life of the church is seen to be of as much importance to God in his world as what happens inside, and both are given attention.

WHERE the inner strength of Christians is built up so that, no matter whether the immediate environment is secular or Christian, they feel secure enough to make their contribution alone or with others. Where this inner strength enables them to withstand social pressures and realize God-given abilities to take initiatives and make choices.

FINALLY, I dream of a church here on earth where Christians realize that they are part of the local body of Christians, who are part of the whole national body of Christians, who are part of the whole international body of Christians, who are part of the body of Christians throughout all ages. A rich variety of all sorts, but all HIS. To the glory of God, amen!

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Sundays 6:30pm Evening Worship
Communion - first Sunday of the month

The real business of living...

It's over! The General Election that is. As I write this the post-mortem is well under way and the media is full of interviews with people who were not in the slightest bit interested in the election. They didn't see the relevance to their own lives and circumstances. It struck me that a similar thing happens with church too. Many think the Christian faith has little relevance to them. They are concerned with the real business of living. The fact is that the election has everything to do with daily life. Taxes, the NHS, our schools, Europe, and relationships with foreign countries all have a big impact on our day to day lives. The electorate's apathy is a real concern to the politicians.

However of much greater concern to me is apathy about the things of God. Jesus once told a story about a man who was so busy with the real business of living, and in fact was so successful at it, that he had no time for God (see Luke 12:13-21). He decided to build more storage barns for all his produce. But God said "*You fool! This very night your life will be demanded of you.*" The Bible explicitly warns us against evaluating the relevance incorrectly, because you will then suffer the greatest possible loss. The message of the Bible is important for each and every person because God's judgement is for everybody; '*...for no-one living is righteous.*' (Ps 143:2) Even so God has provided a rescue plan through His Son Jesus: '*salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*' (Acts 4:12)

We will profit greatly when we correctly estimate the relevance of this message to our lives. In the story Jesus told the rich businessman was not lost because he was wealthy, but because he had misjudged the relevance of the things of God. The things of God have everything to do with the real business of living.

If you would like to pursue the relevance of the things of God in your own life then please contact me on the number below or via the Chapel post-box and I would gladly get in touch with you.

David Bousfield

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

One of my daughters gave me for my birthday a video of a film that meant a great deal to me when I was a young student: the Swedish Director Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*. In the film, a knight physically and morally exhausted by fighting a dirty war on Crusade in the Holy Land returns home just as the Black Death strikes. All around him, people are dying of the plague, and Death comes for him. They agree to play chess, the stake being the Knight's life. The film follows the 24 hours of intense experience as the knight plays and loses the game. He sees with an extraordinary intensity all the mess of human life, the exploitation, the suffering, the profiteering from misery. But he also finds in the uncomplicated love of two traveling players and their joy in their baby evidence of a love that endlessly renews itself and overrides all the destructive force that mankind unleashes against itself. At the end, as Death leads most of those we have come to know during the film in a dance across the skyline, the young couple and their baby get down to the next day of their lives.

The film had a new and powerful effect on me as I watched it again for the first time for 30 years. For on the very day I received it, I also heard that I was to be a grandfather. It brought Frances and me a joy beyond joy. It has brought us back to fundamentals. The world is the product of God's love, a love so powerful and overwhelming that it spills out beyond itself. And God has fashioned mankind and breathed life into each and every member of the human race. We are the product of God's love. And the most fundamental of all God's laws is that mankind will endlessly renew itself in love. However much we may abuse and spoil even the act of love, God has provided that it is by love, by *making love*, that we make new life, and into the cells resulting from our acts of love God breathes new life. Not every act of love is the pure gift of one person to another that it can be; but it is by total surrenders of each to other that God wills new life, that new love is made possible. As the world toils and compromises itself, it is endlessly renewed by new life and new love. However bleak the world may seem sometimes, the light of that truth remains undimmed. And it is the Christian hope that this constrained life is as much as preparation for the glory of life in God's presence, as the life of the womb is for life in our world. As we celebrate the life that comes from God, let us recognize the even greater life that is on offer with Him.

Dates for Your Diary - July 2001

Sun	1	
Mon	2	Art History, Ann Hollingsworth, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	3	School Trustees, 7:30pm
Wed	4	
Thu	5	
Fri	6	
Sat	7	Car boot sale on the Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck, 10:00am 'Viva Las Vegas' Ball, Bottisham Village College, 7:00pm
Sun	8	Village School Sports Day and Summer Fair, Noon
Mon	9	
Tue	10	
Wed	11	School Governors, 7:30
Thu	12	
Fri	13	
Sat	14	<i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI - "Skeletons in the cupboard", Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, from Village Hall at 6:30pm
Wed	18	
Thu	19	
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	
Mon	23	
Tue	24	
Wed	25	
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	27	
Sat	28	
Sun	29	
Mon	30	
Tues	31	