



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 4

April 2002



## Editorial

Yes, it's that time again! See page 12 for details of Swaffham Prior Festival 2002. It's going to be a big one, so alert your friends, invite your house-guests and get going in the garden, because of course this is going to



coincide with Open Gardens. Not that anybody needs to do anything with our local lush and verdant greens save whipping off a few choice items to the Chelsea Flower Show (see Village Gardeners!). Anybody bar *us*, that is, and we've decided not to break with our long tradition of keeping the garden gate firmly *shut* during this exercise! The Moveable Feast is far more up our street and they need houses to move to, so if you have a house to offer — it doesn't have to be *big*: just clear out that space-consuming unwanted clutter at the Marquee Sale first! — get in touch with Kate Childs.

More delightful memories this month, this time from Doris Osborn (née Nash), whose evocative article paints such a vivid picture of a village life that has fairly vanished during the last forty years. She says the wild flowers were everywhere, and that's true, they were — I too remember the meadows absolutely spangled with them, *and* the winner of the most-varieties-of-wild-flowers-in-a-jar contest coming in with near on a hundred (well, his mother helped!).

Lots of flowers on the Dyke still though. Is it true that King Len of Reach always maintained that the Dyke was built by Boadicea and the Iceni to keep the Romans out? Could he have been right? Historians always seem to be a bit at sea when it comes to explaining anything about our Dyke, and perhaps our old families know better — their ancestors were probably in residence at the time!

Meanwhile, we are chasing up the elusive Cock-Horse that wasn't made of wood and lived at the bottom of Cock Hill. Or did he? We have it on good authority that the Railways frequently employed a Cock-*Engine* at the bottom of steep gradients for similar purposes of helping pull heavy things up, so..... But maybe you know better — write in and tell us!

Happy Easter All,

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture: Verse from the Song of Trico (see page 12)**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Vandalism**

Some villagers used a lot of time and energy over the years to plant our daffodils. I think most people would agree they are an asset.

We were therefore really disappointed when, for a second year, all the heads were torn off the daffodils by our garage gate.

Surely people have better things to do with there time.

*Mike and Margaret Phillips*

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### **Some Personal Memories of Swaffham Prior**

I first came to Swaffham Prior from Royston area in 1920 when my father Tom Nash (an agricultural steam engine driver) came to work for Mr Charles Woollard (a local farmer). Father and eldest brother took up lodgings in the village.

The journey I remember was made sitting on a wagon with all our worldly belongings, drawn by two farm horses, and moving into 'Beech House' now known as 'White House' - a home that went with the job. As a young girl I remember there were two large walnut trees, several greengage, apple and plum trees and a well outside the back door. Interestingly my father took up beekeeping. When the bees started to swarm, we had to ring a bell, which motivated them to 'stay at home' - it really worked!

Like other villagers, we later kept chickens. Our family circle was also expanded by two dogs, cats and even included pigs and a tame jackdaw.

As Mr Woollard had another farm at Gt. Wilbraham, my father had to take the steam engine with threshing tackle trailing behind through the village (en route) to leave the threshing tackle there for several days. They would take my brother Charles' motor bike with them - so it would be an early start every morning (about 4am) with brother Arthur driving and father sitting on the back holding their day's 'dockie' and a special rush basket for our dog 'Rose'. Lots of little boys loved to run behind.

Wild flowers seemed to be everywhere, white, pink and mauve violets and the smell of sweet briar as it mingled with the wild roses along the Heath road.

Devils Dyke proved an ideal place for summer picnics, and when relations visited, father would harness his horse to a light cart, put a board across with a blanket, and we would go riding down the fen (no road in those days). This was a real highlight for us all.

Twice a year a ‘Hat Man’ would arrive from Luton with many ‘Hat Shapes’. (My mother would cover some for local weddings). These ‘shapes’ were carried in a huge basket shaped like a gigantic hat box.

In those days the village had 3 butchers, 1 baker and several grocers, 4 public houses, 2 carpenters (one of which was also a wheelwright), 1 undertaker, a vet, a post-office, a blacksmith, a dairy, and of course Mr Fosters Windmill.

Mother opened a small sweet shop at Beech house. Next door were several ‘condemned’ cottages, one of which was used as a place for fish and chips for about two evenings a week.

In the 1930s the combined harvester began to be used, and father was made redundant, resulting in a move to a cottage known as ‘Mount Pleasant’. After his decease, mother moved to the old Alms Houses at Town Close (now no more) spending her 92nd birthday as the eldest living village resident. Later moving to Newmarket and living until 97 years.

Of course my special memory was my wedding in Swaffham Prior Church (St Mary’s) in 1952 with a reception in the old reading room. My father was not in good health when I married so we were a little concerned in his ‘giving me away’. I arrived at the church with friends waiting to take photos when I was asked ‘Where is your bouquet?’ The vicar was waiting and the organist (Mr Tom Cooper) was repeatedly replaying music again and again, whilst friends (who had arrived late) rushed home to find it. Apparently my mother had placed the bouquet behind a settee on a stone floor to ‘keep it cool’.

Sadly my father passed away a few months after the wedding.

No one could have asked for a nicer location, or so many friendly folk, whose good wishes still remain with me to this day — some 50 years on.

*Doris Osborn (née Nash)*

***Swaffham Prior Pop-Idols!***

*Folk/Popular/Rock*

***Singer Needed***

*By song-writer, Andrew Noyes*

*Telephone 743864*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

On the morning of the Parish Council Meeting on 14 March I opened my daily paper at the News Section on page 14 and the two headlines read:

“Shakespeare had a herb for it”

“Chewing gum boosts brain’s performance”

A team of psychologists at Northumbria University had discovered that Rosemary can enhance long-term memory by about 15 per cent. As Ophelia said - “There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance.” Also from the University of Northumbria, researchers discovered that chewing gum improves short- and long-term memory by up to 35 per cent.



Whether you take note of these findings matters not. At least the activity provided work and interest for university teachers and researchers. No harm can come from it. But, apart from keeping in work bureaucrats with index-linked pensions, the same may not be said of the new Code of Conduct which is being inflicted on Parish Councils throughout the country. It seems to be ruffling a lot of feathers and the aim appears to be a wish to apply to our local representatives the same rules as those adhered to by MPs so that we can in future expect our PC to act like members of Parliament or even the Government.

It was a full house, possibly because the Code of Conduct was on the Agenda. To put everyone in a good mood Elaine turned all the lights down to give a soft ambience and served coffee/tea and biscuits. And then it started. The PCs feathers had certainly been ruffled and the following comments represent much of the mood and restrained anger: “What business is it of anyone if I have shares in a South African mining company?” “What happens if we don’t sign?” *We cease to exist.* “What happens then?” *They advertise for a new PC.* “What happens if no-one comes forward?” *ECDC take it over.* “Why can’t we meet unofficially?” *You won’t have any money.*

“Let’s put it to the test.”

“Derry and Cherie must have discussed over dinner the best way to put the boot into Parish Councils.”

“Couldn’t Karen just lose the Book of Declarations?” *It has to be copied to ECDC and made available for anyone to look at.*

“This is a human rights issue. It’s an infringement of our personal liberty.”

“It’s just another bureaucratic step from Whitehall and completely over the top.” “It’s difficult enough to get people to serve on PCs without putting them off with this. “If you don’t declare everything can you be sent to

prison? *Don't know, but MPs don't go.*

No one objected to a Code of Conduct. In fact Parish Councils have always had one. But some members objected to some of the new clauses especially (a) the Declaration of Interests which included whether anyone held more than a *nominal* value of £5000 in the shares of any company; (b) listing membership of all organisations and charities (e.g Unison, Mormons, Masons, VHNC, NSPCC etc); and (c) reporting any gift or hospitality over the value of £25.

These were the clauses which caused the problem. Another difficulty is that it was drawn up by the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (you know, the bloke who did for Railtrack), and his lawyers. Like many legal documents it is open to interpretation. A Guidance Document issued in March 2002 says “All the Monitoring Officers [those who ensure PCs follow the Code] have read it. However some of the Monitoring Officers have their own interpretation of the new model Code of Conduct and therefore there might be some differing opinions..., you are encouraged to adopt the interpretation of your local monitoring Officer.” Elsewhere in the same document we are told “The Code has been carefully drafted in an effort to avoid any legal pitfalls.” It seems to me that it has been drafted to provide work for lawyers, and it is no wonder the PC is amazed and a little put out.

Having said that, as an observer and a rate payer, I think it worth looking at the points which appear to be stumbling blocks:

a) Declaring shares exceeding a *nominal* value of £5,000. There was a quite reasonable concern about the relevance of some South African mining shares to events in Swaffham Prior. On the other hand an awful lot of shares would need to be held to equal the nominal value. Shares in Anglia Television may be a different matter?

b) Giving details of membership of all organisations, charities, unions, etc. Most people appeared happy with this and it is not unreasonable to wish to know about PC members affiliations and interests. After all there should be nothing to hide and the one issue which has caused some unease in the village over the years has been not knowing which members were Masons. No doubt they are all jolly good chaps which is why they support each other.

c) Telling the Monitoring Officer about “any gift or hospitality over the value £25”. This clause does not specify whether this includes presents from friends and relatives and it takes the recent ‘Guide’ to explain that it only refers to gifts received as a result of their position as a PC member. Why not put this in the clause instead of leaving the interpretation to another document which has no standing in law? And, not all Monitoring Officers

may make that particular interpretation! We might test this out by the VHMC giving to each PC member a bundle of books worth a minimum of £100 for having repaid at the meeting the remaining £6,900 Public Works loan which had enabled the Village Hall to be refurbished. The least the VHMC can do is offer a valuable gift in gratitude.

Other titbits during the evening included the final selection and completion of the Standing Orders' clauses, the news that the rickety wall near the Beeches really is the responsibility of Hereward, crime figures very low at present, beware of doorstep sales (no reason given), minor crimes may now be reported on the internet ("will that do any good?"), but still continue to phone 999 ("will that do any good?"), a letter is being sent about an unruly overhanging hedge, with no nesting birds, in the Lower End area (I dare not give the exact location).

Meantime if you want to improve both your short- and long-term memory don't forget to chew gum and eat a twig of Rosemary in the middle of the day - or had you forgotten already.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **Cantilena Singers**

### **Spring Concert**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2002  
7:30 pm

St. Edward the King and Martyr, Peas Hill, Cambridge

A selection of unaccompanied music for spring including:

Vaughan Williams - Three Shakespeare Songs

Moeran - Songs of Spring

Stanford - Three Motets

Bruckner - Geistliche Gesänge

A selection of traditional folk songs

A selection of Tudor Church Music by Tallis, Weelkes, and Byrd

Conductor Daniel Spreadbury

Programmes on the door

Retiring collection



## Village Gardeners

### Outing to Bressingham Gardens

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2002**

Price £15.50

Includes: coach, entrance to gardens and museum (rides extra), coffee, with gateau, cake or sausage roll on arrival and driver's tip.

#### Timetable

9.30 Leave from Swaffham Prior Village Hall

10.30 Arrive at Bressingham

Coffee

3.30 Leave Bressingham

4.30 Arrive back at village hall

This timetable should allow time for you to enjoy the gardens and visit the museums, leaving plenty of time to ride the trains if you wish. There is a restaurant but also a place to picnic if you prefer. There is also a large garden centre and an excellent shop too.

To reserve a place, contact Mike Phillips, 741495, Dyke End, 50 Lower End, Swaffham Prior CB5 0HT (cheques made payable to Village Gardeners, please).

## Open Gardens

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2:00-5:00pm**

Please let Kate Child (01638 743983) know if you would like to open your garden. The more the merrier! You don't have to be a member of the garden club, just a resident of Swaffham Prior.

## Goodwin Manor

### Marquee Event

Sell your unwanted gifts, clothes, toys at the Goodwin Manor Table Top Sale in aid of the Centenary Restoration Fund to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**To reserve a sale table, please ring 743693**



## **Venetian Art**

Enjoy the splendours of Venice in Burwell. The Art History class is offering a course that examines the art of this wonderful city. Feast your eyes on the art of Titian and Bellini, marvel at the mosaics of St Mark's and admire the architecture of Palladio. Eight weekly meetings in Burwell and a double session at the National Gallery.

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 from 25<sup>th</sup> April

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Details from Burwell Village College 01638 741901

## **Moveable Feast**

During the past two years the moveable feasts have been enjoyed and requests have been made to hold another one. What we are looking for is premises to hold it in. We usually have 3 venues and there are about 30 people, but it could easily be 4 venues, so that one course could be split between houses - 15 people per house. May I emphasise that if you offer your premises - for about an hour - you are not expected to provide the course and a dining table for 30 people. The food can easily be arranged and we have found that guests like to be seated informally - stools, cushions and the stairs create a friendly atmosphere - everything is very flexible.

If you are able to help, please let me know a.s.a.p. so that I can start planning the next one. I already have some offers.

*Kate Childs 743983*

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## **East Cambs Leisure Week 8<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> April**

The Community Services Department has announced the programme of activities organised for East Cambs second leisure week. The events planned offers local residents the opportunity to experience the wide and varied leisure pursuits available throughout the district.

The events organised range from Healthy Walks, Street Dance & Percussion Workshops to a detailed programme of sporting activities at the eight Sports Centres for children during the second week of the Easter Holidays.

For more information about Leisure Week contact Chris Fennell Tel: 01353 616382



Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>

Swaffham Prior House,  
**SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

*by kind permission  
of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marshall*

# MUSICAL EVENING

in aid of St. Mary's Church Restoration Centennial Appeal

*music from Cambridge Voices to include*  
***Folksongs, Close Harmony,  
Spirituals and diverse light entertainment!***

*Dress: Jacket & tie; women similar!*

*Singing with canapes & champagne from 7.30pm*

*Buffet dinner*

*Carriages from 10.30pm*

***All tickets: £25***

***Tickets, which must be pre-booked, are available after April 1<sup>st</sup>  
from Kate Child, Priory Close, 73 High Street, Swaffham Prior  
(Tel: 01638 743983)***

*Cheques should be made payable to St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior*

***[www.cambridge-voices.org.uk](http://www.cambridge-voices.org.uk)***

# PLAYSCHEME 2002!!!!

5 – 9 August, 9.30-12 noon

Sorry that we had to change the date of the last meeting – I hope not too many people headed to the Red Lion on the original date!! However, the timetable is coming together for this year's Playscheme and things are looking very exciting! Music, dance, craft, magic, visitors, trips – don't miss out!

Thank you to those who responded to last month's notice – we have been offered storage space, have found a magician, and should have the crèche well staffed. However, we would still very much like volunteers to help with refreshments. Even if you are not yet sure of your plans for August, if there is a possibility that you may be able to help it would be great to hear from you. It is a none too onerous way of sharing in this fun event – and an absolutely crucial aspect of the morning's activities!

Please do check the information below to ensure the eligibility of your child(ren) for Playscheme – one strength of the week is that children attending different schools spend time together and get to know each other.

Finally, Playscheme would very much like to acknowledge financial support over the last few years from local bodies including the Parish Councils of Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Reach, the Red Lion in Swaffham Prior and the Swaffham Prior Sports and Social Club. We are grateful for your generosity.

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 24 April in the Red Lion at 8pm**. All are welcome. Please support your Playscheme.

Some basic information: All primary school aged children normally resident in Swaffham Prior and Reach, or who now attend or have attended Swaffham Prior School, are welcome to attend Playscheme 2002. The cost will be £2.50 per day, or £6 for a family ticket, with some subsidised places available. Application forms will be issued through Swaffham Prior School in the summer term; please get in touch with Dee Noyes on 743864 if you will not be included in this circulation.

Thank you in anticipation of your support – Liz Thompson, Mandy Kingsmill, Jo Pumfrey,  
Tracy Jeacock, Dee Noyes

## Village Variety, 23<sup>rd</sup> November

The response has been most encouraging so book this date in your diary — a memorable evening is forecast. Don't forget to ring Tim Doe (743656) or Hilary Sage (742978) if you haven't already got round to it.

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### Music for Holy Week and Easter

**7.00pm - Easter Monday Bank Holiday April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's, Swaffham Prior**

This year we are delighted to welcome Mr. Rütli once again to our village where he will, together with his choir, present our village's annual concert of Music for Holy Week.

The first half of the concert focuses on the events leading up to Good Friday, with a performance of Franz Liszt's "Via Crucis" set for choir, soloists and piano. But, to open the concert, Mr. Rütli will play some of his own music for solo piano, from his cycle "Book of Hours" that portrays the inner turmoil of Christ in the Passion narrative.

The second half rejoices in the exuberance, not-to-say unashamed theatricality, found in Rossini's hugely entertaining "Petite Messe Solennelle" composed for piano, choir and uninhibited soloists! If you are put off by the religiosity of so much church music then this is the concert for you!

The concert will end with a real Easter flourish by inviting all you potential singers in the audience **to come and join the choir** in the singing of the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah, accompanied by Carl Rutti and Ian de Massini on the piano! Scores will be provided or bring your own.

Admission to the concert is by programme (£5) available at the door: children are welcome free of charge. There'll be an interval (with toilet facilities kindly provided by The Red Lion pub just down the road).

*Ian de Massini,*

24 Fair Green, Reach. Tel: 01638 741366

**EASTER SUNDAY AND MONDAY In Quay Church**

**11 am to 4 pm**

**Exhibition of Art and Flowers**

Free Admission



**21<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2002**

**Including:**

**Songs for a Summer Evening (a Victorian Evening)**

**Flower Festival**

**Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition**

**Classic Cars**

**Karaoke**

**Moveable Feast**

**Jazz in the Red Lion**

**Open Gardens**

**Guided Tours of the Village**

**And much more.....**

**All proceeds will go towards  
the Centenary Church Restoration Fund**

### ***Song of Trico by WS***

What bird so sings yet so does wail?  
 O, 'tis the ravish'd nightingale,  
 Jug, jug, jug, jug, tereu, she cries,  
 And still her woes at midnight rise.  
 Brave prick song! Who is't now we hear?  
 None but the lark so shrill and clear;  
 Now at heaven's gates she claps her wings,  
 The morn not waking till she sings.  
 Hark, hark, with what a pretty throat  
 Poor Robin red-breast tunes his note;  
 Hark how the jolly cuckoos sing  
 Cuckoo, to welcome in the spring,  
 Cuckoo, to welcome in the spring.

# SWAFFHAM BULBECK COUNTRY STORE & POST OFFICE

Kamal & Bal- a friendly service with a smile!

*OPEN EVERY DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK*  
*CASHPOINT MACHINE, accepts all cards*

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Saturday 7:30am to 8:00pm: Sunday 8:00am to 2:00pm

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*SPECIAL ORDERS* Phone or fax 01223 811354

*Use it or lose it!*  
**The Mobile Library**

This is a wonderful resource. It offers a good selection of fiction and non-fiction, hobbies, homework, children's fiction, information on holidays and days out. The very helpful librarian will gladly order books for you. Greetings cards at only 99p, stamps too for sale. And a wide range of children's videos to hire. Wheelchair access is good.



**Reach Fair 2001**  
**May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 12 noon**

Rides-stalls-games-country crafts  
Morris men-juggling-assault course  
Cub courts-raptor foundation-knights-Refreshments & beer tent  
Cream teas-salads-roast and BBQ

free admission, £2 programme



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SWAFFHAM BULBECK  
TEL/FAX 01223 811090  
MOBILE 07789 513359



**DRIVEWAYS PATIOS DRAINAGE FOUNDATIONS**  
**DEMOLITION FENCING**



FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN





## STAINE HUNDRED 25<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

The Staine Hundred Local History Society started in Bottisham 25 years ago shortly after evening classes on Local History at the College had been so successful that they had to be split in two, one taken by Lionel Mumby and the other taken by Chris Taylor. The chairman, Robert Hill, welcomed Founder Members, Mr and Mrs Lionel Mumby, Rev. Derek Billings and Peggy Day. Apologies were received from James Fitch and Dan MacMahon.

The speaker was Dr Desmond Hawkins whose subject was the Wilbraham River. His talk, which traced the history of the river through the centuries up to the present day, was well illustrated with maps and photographs. The spring line is on the impervious layer of Burwell rock where the lower and upper chalk meet, and the water for the Wilbraham River sprung originally from Temple Springs in Great Wilbraham, Shardelow Wells in Fulbourn and Caudle Head in Fulbourn/Cherry Hinton area. This provided enough head of water to drive mills at Fulbourn, Hawk Mill at Little Wilbraham, Quay Mill and Lode Mill. The rivers are artificial and stand up above the level of the surrounding land, with ditches built parallel to them for the drainage of the land. The drainage system was at its height around 1830 and the Wilbraham Fens grew some of the best crops in Cambridgeshire, some on what had been large mere to the south of Quay.

After 1870 and up to 1950 the system fell apart, through mismanagement and lack of maintenance which led to flooding and much once productive land is now reverting to fenland. Water was first extracted for domestic use in Fulbourn in 1891, and the pumping station was moved and enlarged in 1910 but after an outbreak of typhoid at Fulbourn Asylum, plans were made to move to its present site at Fleam Dyke. These were held up by World War I but the new pumping station finally opened in 1921. This effectively dried up much of the water courses, banks were eroded by burrowing animals and beds became porous so that they would not hold water even in wet winters. Shardelow Wells, described in 1920 as being the “finest spring in Cambridgeshire”, is now dry. More recently repairs have been made to river banks and beds to stop leakages. Water is pumped in from a bore hole at Dungate Farm, West Wrattling but 90% of this has been lost before it gets to Quay Water. Changes in policy mean that four fields are now SSI sites and are undrained Nature Reserves. Dragon flies and otters are beginning to return but the water vole has disappeared. After the talk, Lionel Mumby cut the birthday cake made by Gill Rushworth and members enjoyed a chat over a glass of wine.

There will be a visit to Ely Museum at the Old Gaol,

*Peggy Day*



## **WI Notes**

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March was AGM night when Pat Airey from Burwell was elected as our new President.

She then gave us a fascinating talk illustrated by lovely slides of her trip to Outer Mongolia and the Gobi desert.

Accommodation was in low huts on Campsites and even Pat had to lower her head to enter. Arrival in the desert was by a very suspect plane and departure was by the Trans-Siberian Express with four and a half hours spent changing bogies to enter China followed by wonderful views of the Great Wall.

All ladies are invited to our open meeting (ladies only) at 7:30pm on 15<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall when Susan Taylor from Newmarket Hat Hire will entertain us with 'Glorious Hats'!

*Margaret Phillips*

## **THE VILLAGE HALL JUMBLE SALE**

Takings went up from £470 (2001) to £652 this year. The numbers attending were about the same but tea sales rocketed from £3.95 (2001) to £11.00.

Very heart-warming it was to meet again what are now regular attenders from across the county. Before it opened the colourful and jolly queue stretched almost to the road. One stall holder observed that they usually drove Volvo estates.

Many thanks to all those who brought items to sell, to those who attended the stalls, and to those who came. This is recycling at its best.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **The Manor House Coffee Morning and Bulb Walk**

We raised £365 for St Mary's Church Restoration Fund.

Thank you to all who came to the coffee morning and made it such a success. My thanks to the helpers on the stalls, the raffle, those that brought things to sell and Marie serving coffee.

The weather was sunny but windy so all who came including mothers and toddlers were able to enjoy the bulbs and walk round the garden.

*Rosalind Wood*





## VILLAGE GARDENERS

**MARCH 2002**

I preface my report this month with the exciting and well deserved news that Janet Hall has been asked to supply “Nigella” plants for the Chelsea Flower Show. A great sign of approbation. Congratulations.

Our talk this month was on “Vegetables, ornamental and edible” by Mark Williams, Trials Manager with Unwin of Histon. He explained that this family-owned firm is one of only two in its field in the UK. Founded in 1903 by William Unwin, it is now the largest retail source of seeds in the country. The trial grounds are open annually for only three days. (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August this year.) Further details can be found on the internet.

Mark showed us a kaleidoscope of strikingly coloured vegetables primarily grown for taste. Company policy is not to use genetically modified food until it is proven to be non-toxic.

The dazzling array of vegetables began with a pack of 7-8 mixed varieties of aubergine; wonderful shapes for barbecues. A useful tip to increase the germination rate is to cover the seed pots with fine grey vermiculite, rather than finely sieved compost or soil as this will attract increased moisture. Tomato food later on completes the most favourable conditions.

The edible loofah looked most attractive and is held to be less repetitive and nuttier than cucumber.

A practical innovation has been to encourage the growing of vegetables in tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes. The shades of “Sunset Mix” peas create rainbows of colour. Obviously you would have to water twice a day but well worth it if space is at a premium.

Dwarf sweetcom “Sweet Blue Jane” from Peru looked beautiful. My favourite was the broad bean “Red Epicure”. If carrots are your delight then try the “Yellowstone” variety. A wonderful pack of mixed lettuce seeds can provide a cornucopia of deliciously tasting leaves.

Please join us on April 16<sup>th</sup> for what promises to be an extremely stimulating talk by our very own Dr Greg Sage on “Genetic Modification in the Garden”. You will be most welcome.

Other coming attractions include our plant stall at the Village Feast on May 11<sup>th</sup> and our visit to the Cambridge Botanical Gardens on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost is £4 per head and further details can be obtained from Glenna Turner on 01638 578428.

*Tricia Harrison*



## COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID MARCH, 2002

### **BUS SERVICES 111, 122 X.12 (Sundays and Evening Services only)**

I should warn anyone interested that the County is considering **reducing services** because there are not enough people using them, and they are consequently expensive to subsidise.

If anyone, in particular parents of teenagers and young people, are prepared to use them more, please let Alex Gee or Claire Ritson know at Shire Hall and argue the point. It is another example of “use it or lose it”. Failing them, ring me.

### **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX**

On 19<sup>th</sup> February the County Council agreed a £400m budget after recognizing once again the unfairness of being the fastest growing county, yet the poorest funded county in England.

Although the Government and business pay for a large share of what is needed to provide education, social services, environment and transport etc., there is still a gap which is filled by Council Tax. Because the Government still delays in recognising our proper needs, the Council Tax portion has to rise in order to avoid cuts.

As from April the Tax will rise 9.3% (£1.20 per week for an average property) to which will be added an increase by the Police, District Council and your parish which will tot up to between 15.3% (Reach) and 18.1% (Swaffham Bulbeck).

Councillors at all levels regret this increase and at County levels the Leader Keith Walters admits it is higher than he would have wished and in future years increases will have to be lower. Both opposition parties reluctantly agreed the budget after some suggested Lib. Dem. amendments were voted down.

I will do what I can to ensure value for money and also a fair share for our villages. We certainly are doing well on various traffic and road improvements. Sorry about the current delays due to construction work.

### **FIRE ALARMS**

This is the time of the year that the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority push the installation of smoke detectors in the home. Between 40 and 60 people die in the UK each year because detectors are not fitted or worse have no battery in them. Please consider buying one, if you have not already done this. Last year's statistics for our two fire stations show results as follows:

**Attendances at 1. Fires 2. RoadTrafficAccidents 3. Others eg. flooding**

<b>Cambridge l&amp;2</b>	679	153	339
<b>Swaffham B.</b>	42	11	15
<b>Burwell</b>	26	5	11
<b>Ely</b>	69	35	28

We can be thankful that the figures are not higher. Drive safely and use a wrung-out wet dish cloth over a chip pan fire.

Happy Easter.

*James Fitch*



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor

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I attended the first joint meeting between Fenland Primary Care Trust (PCT), East Cambridgeshire Primary Care Group, Lifespan, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Fenland District Council in mid March. The meeting considered how to carry the new East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT forward, taking the best from each of the existing bodies. It was a very positive meeting. The first appointment has been made to the new Board - Alyson Broadhurst, former Mayor of Ely and Member of Lifespan Board was appointed the new Chair of the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT. The new Trust comes into being on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The Audit Commission has scored our Planning Service as a 'good, two star service that has uncertain prospects for improvement'. The report commends the Planning service for successfully balancing speed and efficiency with securing quality outcomes, particularly in recent new housing developments, with a high level of customer satisfaction and good record of appeal and enforcement resolution. Some concerns are raised about accessibility to the service, a lack of capacity and resources to deliver change and the need for an improved customer perspective. I am confident that we can improve the service, despite increasing pressures on it. The report is on the Audit Commission website [www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk).

East Cambridgeshire has organised a 'Leisure Week' between 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April. This is a chance to try out new activities from sports to arts at reduced cost. Most of the events are for children, but some include adults. There are many opportunities, including a fun session at Bottisham pool for 8+ year olds on 13<sup>th</sup> April 10-12am, cost £1 – tel 01223 811121. Burwell Community Sports Centre has something every afternoon from 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April for 6-11+ year olds (some sessions only for the older group), cost £1- tel

01638 742125. Mepal Outdoor Centre has a holiday club from 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April for 8-12 year olds, cost for the whole week £80 with Council's promotional leaflet (otherwise £100) – tel 01354 692251. For full details of the week's events 'phone Chris Fennel on 01353 616382 or check the web site - [http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/leisure\\_week.asp](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/leisure_week.asp).

On a personal note, Jon and I are expecting our second child in late July. Because of this, I have been getting tired in the evenings and missing more meetings than I would like, for which I apologise. I have decided that I should stand down as Leader of the Council to allow me time with my growing family, so there will be a new Leader after our Annual Meeting in May. I hope to continue as your Councillor, but ultimately that's a decision for you at the next election!

*Charlotte Cane*

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SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH. EXTRACT FROM THE  
MINUTES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
THURSDAY MARCH 7TH, 7.30, WATER HALL COTTAGE

**Treasurers' and Gift Aid Officers' Reports**

The accounts for Reach and Swaffham Prior which had been examined by Paula Ingram were submitted for acceptance by the PCC. Both accounts were running at a deficit, and there would have to be some really big fund-raising events during the next year to help make up the shortfall. Michael Cazenove moved that we should adopt these accounts to be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. He was seconded by Jen Holmwood - carried nem.con. The Treasurers were thanked for all their hard work.

**Social Working Groups' Reports**

Swaffham Prior

Attention was drawn to the 'Music for Easter' concert Monday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.00 p.m. in St Cyriac's; also to the Buffet Dinner and Concert at Swaffham Prior House, on Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, a grand fund-raising event for St Mary's Centenary Restoration Fund, tickets £25 each, for 60 guests. Tickets would be available from Kate Child.

Arrangements were well under way for the Swaffham Prior Festival from June 21 - June 30. The PCC was asked to provide a rota to supervise the church during the flower festival (29<sup>th</sup>—30<sup>th</sup> June), but it was felt that they could not provide tea and coffee in the church on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Reach

The Moveable Feast would be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. More people were needed to help the Social Working Group at Reach. Laura felt that much

more could be made of St Etheldreda's Fair to raise more money. Perhaps it could be delayed into November.

## **Fabric and Finance Working Groups' Reports**

### Swaffham Prior

John Norris reported that the vestry improvements were now almost complete, though more shelves were required. The electrical system had been much improved. The lighting "throw" over the gate had still not been lit (but it was E.C.D.C.'s responsibility).

### Reach

The tender estimates for the refurbishments to Reach Church were far too high, the lowest being £25,000. Doreen Robinson was negotiating with Ian Frearson to reduce these figures to below £20000, which was the upper limit we were prepared to spend. The Vicar felt that the legacy that Reach Church had received should be used to put the building in good order, which was agreed, but the figures quoted for refurbishment were far too high.

### **Vicar**

There would have to be a new Electoral Roll from 2002-2008. To be included on the Electoral Roll parishioners must sign an Electoral Roll form (obtainable from church or from Eric Day or Jen Holmwood). The list would close on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting would be on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30 p.m. in the School. A new PCC would have to be elected. At present there would be one vacancy, as David Thomas was withdrawing. Two Deanery Synod representatives would also have to be elected for the next three years.

Local fees for 2002 were discussed for revision. It was felt that videos for weddings should go up to £60 and heating up to £30. There was some feeling that flower arrangements for weddings should also go up in cost. (Ruth Scovil to be consulted).

### **A.O.B.**

Jan Petersen reported that attendance at Family Services had increased to over 60. He hoped that more members of the PCC would support these services, and that those people who had been involved in the organisation of Family Services would continue their good offices once he had returned to Germany in the middle of May. He proposed that a Lutheran Holy Communion should be held at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May where he would officiate. There should be a party afterwards, to mark his departure.

*Jenny Moseley*



## Church Services

### April 2002

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST ETHELREDA &amp; THE HOLY TRINITY</b>
<i>EASTER</i> 2 <b>Sun</b> <b>7</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> United Family Service for parishes of the group	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>12:00</b> Holy Baptism of Imogen Kirkpatrick
<i>EASTER</i> 3 <b>Sun</b> <b>14</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service <b>2:30pm</b> Holy Baptism of Samuel Sharp <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"><small>† — Book of Common Prayer CW — Common Worship</small></div>
<i>EASTER</i> 4 <b>Sun</b> <b>21</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
<i>EASTER</i> 5 <b>Sun</b> <b>28</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins <sup>†</sup> and Sermon	<b>6:00pm</b> Evening Service

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

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church  
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach  
Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

**Bellringing**

**Mothers Union**

Wednesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.  
1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.  
Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

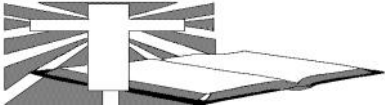
**Toddlers Service**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @ 10:00am for 15 minutes in Swaffham Bulbeck School Hall.

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

### Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030; Kirtling: Sun 1700;  
In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### Cars & Pencils

What do cars and pencils have in common? Their design incorporates safety devices. Cars have bumpers. Pencils have rubbers.



Why? Because people will always make mistakes. No matter how good we are we will never be perfect.

And no matter how effective are the bumpers and rubbers, evidence of the mistakes will still be visible to a discerning eye.

You may say you have always done your best. You may say that you have done as well as anybody else. The idea of self-justification and making excuses is written deep into our human nature. It goes back to the Garden of Eden and to Adam and Eve when they rebelled against God.

I am sure each of us would admit there are times when we could have done better. There are other times when we have deliberately chosen a selfish way.

God measures us not against other people but against Jesus Christ, the one perfect person that ever lived.

Many think that God has a giant ledger in heaven. Everyone has a debit and credit page. It is easy to accumulate lots of sins on the debit side. The aim of our efforts is to get as much as possible on the credit side by good living. Then hopefully we will end life with a credit balance and God will welcome us into heaven.

Wrong! We can never do enough to balance the account. There is only one way out of the hopeless debt. Jesus must pay for everything. Only then will the debit page be wiped clean. *"This is my blood of the covenant, which poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins"* said Jesus.

The debit page will be wiped clean and every trace of our mistakes blotted out and completely erased without leaving a trace. It means we can make a fresh start.



This is the offer of a lifetime. We can't afford to miss it.

*David Bousfield*

PS. We are still praying about the future of the Chapel but there is no news to report

at the moment. In the meantime if you have any questions, thoughts or simply memories that you would like to share, please do get in touch with me via the Chapel post box or on the number below.

David Bousfield - 01223-563307

## ***Dates for Your Diary - April 2001***

Mon	1	7pm Music for Holy Week, St Cyriacs 11am—4pm, Exhibition of Art and Flowers, Quay Chruch
Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm ☎ 01223 712000 (Renewals) 742850 (Village)
Wed	3	
Thu	4	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Tue	9	CLEANAWAY Collection Day
Wed	10	7.30, Staine Hundred Visit to Ely Museum
Thu	11	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Sat	13	
Sun	14	<b><i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	15	7.30 VH WI Open Meeting for ladies only
Tue	16	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch ☎ 743992 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Genetic Modification in your Garden, Village Gardeners, VH
Wed	17	
Thu	18	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Tue	23	CLEANAWAY Collection Day 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group
Wed	24	8pm Playscheme Meeting, Red Lion
Thu	25	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas Venetian Art, 7.30 BVC
Fri	26	
Sat	27	7.30, Cantilena Singers, St Edwards, Cambridge
Sun	28	
Mon	29	
Tues	30	2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
May	5	Village Gardeners Outing to Bressingham Gardens