



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 26 Number 8/9

August/September 2002



Editorial

The news that Brenda Wilson, Headmistress of Swaffham Prior School for the past eleven years, is retiring, has come as a sad blow this month (see *Letters*). As Lorna Wells writes, she's going to be a very hard act to follow. The *Crier* team wishes her the very best for the future, which we hope will involve us (and the Boules team, see page 4!).

The Festival went off swimmingly and raised a stunning £2000 (reports, page 20—wrongly entitled *Feast* — come back proof-reader!), while the School's Bastille Day Fair clocked up another £850. This was a delightful event which meandered on into the setting sun accompanied by the gentle clink of glasses, clunk of Boules balls and quite a lot of irrelevant back-chat. Congratulations to Tracey and Simon Jeecock,



who, under the eagle eye of umpire Serge Raja, became the very first *School Boules Trophy* holders. And of course, to Sally Pearson, Fair organiser-in-chief and whose jolly good idea it was in the first place

If you haven't heard the news, the Peterson family have had a baby girl called Finnja. *Congratulations, Jan and Gabi — send us some photos soon!*

Now, on a completely different tack, this half of the village has been troubled recently with large vehicles *rrrrrumbling* past their door-steps on the designated route for a certain *award-winning farm* that avoids certain *swanky street-lights*. At great speed and at 5 o'clock in the morning, no less! We'd like to invite immediate contributions on this matter, but that's it now for a whole two months. The *Crier* team is officially on leave until **September 14**—yes, almost half as good as being an MP! Have a lovely holiday, and see you after the break.

Caroline Matheson

PS. It seems that no Priorites have yet figured out 'oo was zees *un petit, d'un petit* and wot 'appened after 'ee *ca tonne zat oil* (see last month's *Editorial*). *Nil points*, Swaffham Prior, and this is your final chance...

Cover Picture: *Summer Deserts* by Clare Newbolt



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Retirement of Brenda Wilson Headmistress, Swaffham Prior School, 1991-2002

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Brenda Wilson who has been head teacher at our school since January 1991. It has been a time a great stability in staffing and a time that has had its highs as well as its lows. Throughout it all, Brenda has built on a tradition of a caring and Christian environment in which all are cherished and valued, and all are treated as individuals. The real strength of the school lies in its ethos and its values and for that we have to thank Brenda.

Brenda has always seen the school as at the heart of the community and she has always been active in the community as well as in school. We wish her a long and happy retirement, and hope that she will continue to be part of our community for a long time to come.

In Brenda's place, we welcome Jo Lakey as acting head teacher for next term. Jo Lakey is deputy head at Morley Memorial School and has been acting head there for the last year. We thank the Governors of that school for releasing her to come to us.

Roz Chalmers

Dear Editors,

FoSPS (Friends of Swaffham Prior School) were very sad to hear the news of Brenda's retirement. We know that Brenda had planned to retire in the next year or so after leading the school through the forthcoming OFSTED Inspection in the Autumn term, but we were devastated to learn that the broken leg had unexpectedly precipitated her retirement. Given her disability, she did not want to let the school down by being unable to make the necessary preparation. It is a very great pity that OFSTED were unable to show any flexibility in these circumstances.

Since arriving in Swaffham Prior in 1991, her obvious love for the children, her dedication to the school, enthusiasm and resilience have set an example to both parents and children and contributed strongly to the achievements of the children and the happy and welcoming environment that is so noticeable at Swaffham Prior School. As parents, we feel that our children have had an excellent start to their education and I am sure that they will look back to their days here with many happy memories.

We offer Brenda our warmest and best wishes for the future which we understand is planned to include Voluntary Service Overseas and some *serious* art-work. Immediately, though, she's helping organise the new Boules Club (first meeting, July 30 — see page 4), and since a good memory for dates is *not* one of her strong points, we hope she's not forgotten!

Caroline Matheson
Chair, FoSPS

Dear Editors,

I really enjoyed my time teaching with Brenda at Swaffham Prior, all schools since have failed to live up to the excellent staff camaraderie and general family feel! Although I left to start my, now rather large, family I have enjoyed keeping up with the village and school news, and have often wished to come back one day. I make a point of coming to Reach Fair every year to meet up with old friends and last saw Brenda there this year. She was as bubbly as ever, full of excitement about various projects on the go at school and the success of her maypole dancers! I was dumbstruck when I heard about her broken leg but even more so by the news that she is leaving the school. Brenda, you are a great loss to the school, the village and the LEA, and an incredibly hard act to follow.

Lorna Wells

Dear Editors,

Tasteless Joke

Readers of a certain age who remember many jokes about luncheon meat will be dismayed by a proposal to rename our popular festival with a rather unappetising mouthful:

The 'Swaffham Prior Arts & Music' Fest.

The temptation to make a sandwich of the acronym is, sadly, quite irresistible.

Frank Readhead

Boules Club

After the stunning success of the School Boules Trophy, it is proposed to start a Swaffham Prior Boules Club.

First meeting

Tuesday 30 July, 7pm

Village Hall Car Park

Anyone interested, come along!

More info from:

MUSIC & MATHS

Do you love one and hate the other?! Then come to an entertaining and lively presentation led by Ian de Massini, Director of Cambridge Voices and resident of "The White Horse" in Reach.

There'll be "live" music performed by members of his well-known choir plus Ian himself playing the piano. Come and discover the hidden depths of Bach, Tallis, Stravinsky and others. Give your brain-cells a boost! At the very least, come along and eat the free chocolate cake in the interval!!



FRIDAY AUGUST 30TH

8.00PM

**THE VILLAGE CENTRE, FAIR
GREEN, REACH**

£5 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

Ian de Massini

The White Horse, 24 Fair Green, Reach

Bring & Share Harvest Lunch



Sunday 8th September
After family service (approx. noon, St
Cyriac's)

This replaces Harvest Supper. Watch out for posters nearer the

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who kindly
sponsored me on my cycle ride on 30 June for the

Arthur Rank Charity.

I completed thirty miles round local countryside and through your
generosity have raised just over **£850**

Trevor (Postman)



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

Come and join us for coffee and friendly chat
in aid of a very good cause at

Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court
Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Friday
27th September

10.30 am – 12.00 noon



The Swaffham Prior HARVEST SHOW

**SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 3.00 PM**

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

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

**GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE
4.00PM**

And Classes for the Children Include:

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

See Page 10 for Full Entry Details



The Massive Book Sale

Our aim was simple. We wanted to remove all the old book stock from the Village Hall and to begin collecting afresh next year. We succeeded.

120 adults came (plus about 30 teenagers and children) most of whom were townies who had come out into the country for the day. It was very easy to attract them. Just walk around Cambridge for a couple of days with a placard around your neck and you cant fail.

It was a beautiful day and the Village Hall banked £92.

Alastair Everitt

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Scenes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 July 2002 – and from further afield.

Picture the scene — a field strewn with all sorts of foul rubbish left by uninvited visitors. See lean, tanned young volunteers in overalls, happily clearing up, putting the mess onto vehicles that take it away. Picture a green and pleasant land, a recreation ground fit for young and old heroes alike, a place to play and relax. No! Wake up. It's a dream. It wasn't like that. Not at all.



The reality was seen on photographs last night, a shocking highlight of the evening. These show a small group of parish councillors, most of whom cannot really be described as lean or young (forgive me) struggling to cope with a disaster possibly unprecedented in recent village history, with just a couple of volunteer helpers. The sight of filthy rubbish, the amount of it, smoking piles of it, grimy faces, all conjured up images of war. This passed most of us by but, like most wars, there is a cost. The volunteers paid with sweat, if not with blood. You will pay another way. We shall all pay.

Now, you may be wondering where were the imaginary, able-bodied volunteers? After all, one sees many sporty young folk, through clouds of smoke, downing pints at village discos. Well, no-one knows or, if they do, they are keeping their heads down — as well they might. Whatever, we now know that so far there is over £3,000 to be paid for fees, site works and clearing up. That sum must be added to the - parish precept for next year, and who pays for that? You pay. We all pay.

Last month we saw that other questions naturally follow. Why pay contractors to cut grass where no-one plays? Why lease land that's used only by nuisances as a campsite at further expense to us? And — the response has been? Well, don't hold your breath. There has been no response, so the answer is clear to me at least — next year it should be a crop of carrots, not rubbish. Yet only a few months ago, the PC promised financial help towards a rubbish skip to a hard-up group planning to play football here. I foolishly joked (knowing no other way) about playing outside in the freezing rain. It's nice to know that someone out there actually reads this column, but I didn't intend to put them off outdoor activities. So it's all my fault. Sorry.

Other matters pale by comparison, even CCC's humour — '*riparian** owners' alongside a dry footpath. More seriously, the school will shortly face Offsted with temporary staff due to an amazing outbreak of damaged limbs among the worthy teachers. They all deserve sympathy — the disabled

of course, but also the children and also, probably, the new staff. There are 50 county villages waiting for speed control measures, so the average speed through here remains 65 mph then. Dog dirt nuisance is increasing again, punishable by fines, not just by curses. And now for the annual warning - hedges encroaching over footpaths may be cut back by the PC and owners charged for the work. For example, the journey along the footpath from Lower End to the Red Lion is obstructed by hedges (and the return journey is often worse).

Finally, pay attention at the back please. There are two vacancies for co-opted parish councillors. Those with some concern for village life, who can spare a couple of hours a month — not August — are invited to apply. You don't need to be fit and able-bodied, but it helps (overalls supplied).

Frank Readhead.

***ripar'ian, a.& n.** Of, on the bank of a stream, river or pond. (esp. '— proprietor, rights) [L riparius]



Ploughing For Fun

On the weekend of the 17th and 18th August, we will be holding the fourth annual Ploughing for Fun' event (Vintage Tractors working) at Southfield Farm, Reach Road, Burwell by kind permission of Mr G. Harrington and Sons.

The money raised from the event, as in the past, will be donated to MacMillan Cancer Relief.

Proceeds from past events and sponsorship from local firms has previously allowed us to donate a total of £3400 to MacMillan Cancer Relief.

Entry to the event is free and open to all. Anybody wishing to donate money for MacMillan Cancer Relief can do so at the event. Refreshments, supplied by Mrs Pauline Harrington and helpers, will be available in the barn next to the field.

Enquiries to:- Bill Pedley 742031, G. Harrington 741162, P. Dolman 741919.

The Swaffham Prior Harvest Show

Harvest Time is in September

THE HARVEST SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER.

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

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

Janet Cooper (741326) Trevor Jones (741197)

Alastair Everitt (742974)

PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER INTO YOUR DIARY

Janet Cooper



S & J GROUNDWORKS
SWAFFHAM BULBECK
TEL/FAX 01223 811090
MOBILE 07789 513359



DRIVEWAYS PATIOS DRAINAGE FOUNDATIONS
DEMOLITION FENCING



FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN



PLAY SCHEME 2002

5-9 August 2002

Birds of Prey ~ Jazz Dance ~ Fishing ~ Sund
Sudo ~ Rocket Building ~ Woodwork ~
drumming ~ swimming ~ Cookery ~
Police ~ dogs ~ Theatre tour ~ magic tricks
... And so much more!!

It is going to be a great week – so make sure you sign up!

Dee Noyes – 743864, on behalf of the Playscheme 2002 team –
Mandy Kingsmill, Jo Pumfrey, Tracy Jeacock and Liz Thompson

Dates: 5 – 9 August, 9.30am-12 noon.
The cost will be £2.50 per day, or £6 for a
family ticket,
with some subsidised places available.





Volunteers needed for September

Are computers a mystery to you? Would you like to learn how to use them? Would you like to improve your fitness? Would you like to try your hand at pottery, painting, needlecrafts and other crafts? Would you like to learn more about the local history of where you live? Do you enjoy playing scrabble? Would you like to do any of these activities during the daytime and free of charge? Well, you can — if you take an isolated person with you.

There are people in and around Swaffham Prior who have become very depressed and isolated and who would like to go to such activities but do not have the confidence to do so. Their GPs refer them to the local community project, Health for Life, which encourages them to get out of their homes and go to local community education classes and village clubs. Here they make new friends, learn new skills and interests and start to feel better. But, the project needs volunteers to drive them to the activities. In return for their help, volunteers can stay and enjoy the activities free of charge. We will also help with fuel costs.

With the new term starting in the autumn, we are looking for more volunteers to accompany people to their activities starting in September. Are you interested? Then all you have to do is phone 01638 743658 to find out more.



NOTICE

It is that time of the year again and following complaints received, the Parish Council would appreciate your co-operation in keeping overhanging vegetation on property boundaries cut back from pavements, etc. Thank you for your help.

Karen King
Clerk to Parish Council

Looking for Childcare?

Do you need a:-

Childminder?

Day Nursery?

Pre-school playgroup?

Holiday club?

Other childcare?

Or would you like to get a job in childcare?

Call Opportunity Links on
freephone 0800 29 89 121

Or visit their website at
www.opportunity-links.org.uk

Opportunity Links is a non-profit making
organisation offering free information on all
registered childcare, jobs and training information
in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.


Opportunity
www.opportunity-links.org.uk



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Continuing Education

The Institute of Continuing Education at Madingley Hall will be offering the following 10-week course at Anglesey Abbey on Mondays from 2 – 4 p.m., commencing 23rd September. If you would like to learn more about the fine country houses of the region please join us. Everybody is welcome.

The Country House in East Anglia

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Further details from the Institute: 01954 280399

Is this the New Millennium?

Wishing and Hoping T.V. won't get worse,
I'm prompted to write a topical verse.

Unworthy material gets rave reviews,
Untalented artists fail to amuse.

Singers', who can't, win fulsome praise,
Whilst 'Song writers', cling to one boring phrase

Dry wit and Humour have gone 'into hock'.
So-called comedians try only to shock.

Though at the moment it may be only a smidgen,
Football is becoming The New Religion.

Shows where contestants win thousands of quid
Manipulate audiences to do as they're bid.

We're being conditioned to accept Europe's Law,
And America's habits—*Caveat emptor*

Ophir Catling



News from Histon Police Station

A VISIT FROM THE LAW!

PC Graham Whitby, the Cottenham Community Beat Manager, was pleased to accept an invitation to meet with the children of the Stepping Stones Montessori playgroup on Thursday 13th June. He was greeted with a very warm reception after some mild apprehension from some of the tots! They took the opportunity to take a close look at his police van, and examine his equipment. And a few of the youngsters tried on his helmet and jacket for size.



PC Whitby was also able to give the children advice on how and when to make an emergency call for police assistance and answer any questions. I think you'll agree that this was an ideal first encounter with the law for these junior residents of Cottenham. And you never know, we may see one or two of the youngsters pounding the Cambridgeshire streets themselves in a few years time!

STUD WATCH

Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Constabularies have together launched a new Stud Watch scheme. The scheme is free and its aim is to ensure the sharing of information across the borders of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk - to include crimes and incidents of particular relevance to studs. If you would like more information about the scheme, please contact Julie Gilbert at Histon Police Station.

MONTHLY CRIMES

The figures below relate to reported crimes for Histon Sector for the period 1st – 30th June 2002. The figures shown in brackets relate to the number of crimes reported last month.

Dwelling Burglary	13 (23)
Non-dwelling Burglary	42 (38)
Criminal Damage	82 (64)
Theft of Motor Vehicle	12 (13)
Theft from Motor Vehicle	39 (45)
Theft of Cycle	8 (13)

SOUTHERN DIVISION

DETECTION RATES

FOR THE PERIOD 1st TO 30th June 2002

Category	Target Detection Rate	Actual Detection Rate
Household Burglary	24.7%	17.7%
Violent Crime	78%	54.2%
Vehicle Crime	8.2%	14%

CRIME PREVENTION

TIP OF THE MONTH!

Don't be a victim of cashpoint crooks. When using a cashpoint machine take the following steps: -

- Make sure the card slot is empty. You can check this by running a finger across the opening to the slot
- Stand close to the machine to ensure that no-one is watching you type in your PIN
- If someone you don't know offers you their assistance, don't accept as they may be on to a scam.
- If the machine retains your card, report it immediately to the bank or credit card company.

LATE NEWS.....Officers have recovered a quantity of stolen property following a number of recent shed burglaries in the Waterbeach area. Police are hopeful of identifying all the property and enquiries are continuing.



Bottisham Parent and Toddler Group - Hopscotch

Hopscotch is the new parent and toddler group for Bottisham and the surrounding areas. The group has been formed by eight first time mothers who felt that there was a need for a parent and toddler group within the village.

We have researched the setting up of the group very carefully and have liaised closely with the pre-school learning alliance and the Cambridgeshire County Council Childcare Advisory team to ensure that the environment we provide is a fun but safe one .

Hopscotch is held in the Bottisham Community Centre every Monday afternoon (except bank holidays) 2pm to 3.30pm for all parents, childminders and carers of babies and toddlers. Each session costs £1 per family which covers the cost of the hall hire and some light refreshments.

If you would like to know more about Hopscotch or if you are able to donate any toys (good condition please) then please contact Tracy on 812665.

Please come along and support your new playgroup. We look forward to welcoming you to Hopscotch.



REMINDER

Several complaints have again been received about dog fouling on pavements, verges and grassed areas within the village. Please remember to clear up after your pets! "Poop" bags can be obtained from the village hail or the clerk.

Karen King
Clerk to Parish Council

Impressionist Painters



This new Art History course will begin 26th September at Burwell Village College. The focus will be on 19th century French painters such as Monet, Manet, Morisot, Degas and Renoir, and will consider how changes in

Parisian society affected the art of this period.

There will be 8 weekly meetings and a double session in London at the National and Courtauld Institute galleries.

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 from 26th September

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Details from Burwell Village College 01638 741901



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There will be a meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th of September at 7.30 pm. to restart Neighbourhood Watch, the aims of which are to

- Cut crime and the opportunities for crime.
- Help and reassure those who live in fear of crime.
- Encourage neighbourliness and closer communities.
- Tell the police and your neighbours about suspicious incidents in your neighbourhood.

If you are interested in taking part, why not come along?

Our Community Beat Officer, P.C. Hurry will be present to answer any questions and offer advice

It is hoped to have a speaker from The Trading Standards Office present who would be able to offer advice when for example, dealing with door step traders.

Andrew Camps

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

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

ALL POST OFFICE SERVICES
Except Car Tax & Passports



**THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY®**

PLAY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY



**THE NATION
LOTTERY**

GROCERIES, BREAD & PROVISIONS

Grocery, Stationery & Cards, Haberdashery, Patent medicines,
Cooked meats, Cheeses & Ice creams, Chocolates & sweets.

Dry cleaning & Photoprocessing

*A LARGE SELECTION OF WINES, SPIRITS &
BEERS, Cigarettes & tobacco*

PHOTOCOPYING & FAX SERVICE

D.I.Y. & ELECTRICAL

Paints, seeds & gardening 'things'

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

including Sunday papers!

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges

Courses for Adults

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

A levels and GCSEs *Computing and Information Technology*

Counselling – all levels

Early Years Care and Education

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

***RHS General Certificate in
Horticulture***

Many general interest courses

Day and weekend courses

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



Reports from the Village Feast

Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition St. Cyriac's

The exhibition by the local quilting group 'Nine in the Frame' was excellent. There really was something for everybody's taste— from the traditional to the modern—and it proved to be a very popular exhibition.

The real enthusiasts and the casually interested both found it very enjoyable. So much work had been put into making the quilts and they were shown to their very best in the wonderfully light surrounding of St. Cyriac's.

Let us hope the 'None in the Frame' continue to be as productive so that we can look forward to another equally good display in the future.

Ruth Scovill

The Moveable Feast, 29th June

The Moveable Feast was held again this year by the kind invitation of the householders. This event, where an evening meal is shared in several houses, has been a great success for several years now, and this year was no exception.

Out thanks are extended to the Primes and Wilkins Families for hors d'oeuvres; Mrs Bryant, Elisabeth Everitt and the Cook Family in the High St. for the main course, and we all assembled in the large garden of Betty and Wilson Fox's house near the Windmill for "afters" and coffee.

The weather was kind and our hosts generous in this hospitality — a splendid evening — I am looking forward to the next one!

John Norris

And more.....

As the sun set over the distant fens, groups of itinerant diners were observed emerging from houses round the village to climb the heights of Mill Hill to enjoy the final course of the Moveable Feast.. Thanks to the hard work of the host families, everyone had enjoyed a convivial and relaxing evening with friends old and new. So from all the diners, a very big thank-you to Shirley and John Wilkins, Betty and Ron Prime, Isobel Bryant and Elisabeth Everitt, Pat and Peter Cook, Betty and Wilson Fox. We enjoyed a splendid evening and now look forward to the next one!

Francis Reeks

A Celebration of the Life and Work of Edwin Muir

27 June, by Charles Moseley and Clive Wilmer

Edwin Muir was well known in his lifetime as a poet and critic; when living in Prague in the 1920s he and his wife made some much praised translations of Franz Kafka; in 1954 he published his autobiography - which is now on my reading list. Muir spent the last happy years of his life in Swaffham Prior living in Priory Cottage; he died in 1959 and is buried in the cemetery here with his wife, Willa.

Muir was born in Orkney in 1887. His father was a tenant farmer on the tiny green island of Wyre, with its ancient castle ruins and whirling, calling seabirds. His earliest memories were of the sea, the slow rhythms of working the land, and the animals on which the family depended for their livelihood. All his life Muir loved Orkney and returned whenever he could, yet even as a tiny child he was aware of shadows, of the potential for catastrophe in his world: the huge patient Shire horses could crush him with one mighty hoof. When he was fourteen his father left Wyre to seek work in Glasgow: a long nightmare after Wyre's precarious happiness. Like Wordsworth, Muir looked back to the Eden from whence he came and forward to his eventual return. Yet he did not despair of this world:

*But famished field and blackened tree
Bear flowers in Eden never known.
Blossoms of grief and charity
Bloom in these darkened fields alone.*

In the first half of their presentation Charles Moseley and Clive Wilmer read some of Edwin Muir's poems and extracts from his autobiography, then after a short interval, Clive Wilmer gave a lecture on Muir's poetry. Perhaps the best message of my appreciation is to say that this delightful well-attended evening has inspired me (and I understand, others) to start reading Edwin Muir's poetry.

Meryl Moore

From the Parish Registers for June

Holy Matrimony: Philippa Jane Harrison & Nicholas Edward
James White {SP}

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I intended writing personally to all the people who helped with the teas at the Festival on 22nd, 23rd and 30th of June, but when I added up all the names there were no less than 34! Some cooked, some served, some washed up, some helped with the tables and chairs etc. etc.

So I do hope you'll all forgive me and take this as a very big thank you. You all know who you are. As Kate Child said when she received the Gay Bulleid Award at the end of 2000: "Without you nothing would work".

Everything went well and I should think the Church Treasurer will be very pleased with the result - no less than £350. From the refreshments.

Betty Prime

And finally, from the Chief-of-Staff...

A very big thank-you to all who helped make the Festival such a success! There were far too many people to mention by name who assisted in one way or another, whether it be moving chairs, putting up (and taking down) posters, selling tickets, helping with raffles, opening gardens etc. and as important those who came out and supported the various events. It was indeed wonderful to have people ring up and say: 'I'm here after-all, how can I help?'.
Festivals are not only about making money, but also all the hidden "spin-offs" such as meeting people one doesn't normally run into. One remark overheard: "At last I've spoken to the family down the road when we had tea at the Village Hall. I've had a lovely afternoon."

Kate Childs

PS. We made **£2000!**

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH WEST FRANCE

We have a beautiful holiday home available for rent, in a hamlet just north of Ribérac, on the Dordogne/Charente border. One of only six properties in a development of converted farm buildings, it has a large swimming pool and full size tennis court, all within extensive landscaped grounds. It's fully equipped, very comfortable, and sleeps seven. If you'd like to know more, phone 01638 742345 or 742559.



WI Notes

We had a most enjoyable evening for 'Pat's Party', our W.I. meeting in July. Pat and Keith have a lovely garden, the weather was warm and the food - provided by members — was delectable. There were also games to play for the more energetic, though most of us took pleasure in chatting to friends. Thank-you Pat and Keith for your hospitality.

A little trip back into history next month when Fran Saltmarsh brings along the fabulous dress she has made which can be adapted to suit any of Henry VIII's six wives. If you're interested in joining us come along to the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on August 19 . Visitors £1.50. We'll be pleased to see you.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Visit to Madingley Hall Gardens on 18th July

Following Richard Gant's (Head Gardener) illustrated talk in the Village Hall, a visit was arranged so that he could guide us round the gardens.

It was a perfect summer evening when several car-loads ventured forth from Swaffham Prior. On arrival, Richard gave us each a brochure with a short history, which he briefly explained, and also included was the earliest picture of the gardens 300 years ago. We spent the next hour or so exploring the gardens and many of us had had no idea how extensive they were. It was fascinating to learn about the development over the years and also Richard's plans for the future. In all, it was a very worth-while informative evening for our last visit of the season.

The next meeting will be held on 19th September in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 8.00 pm when Yvonne Lennard (a very good knowledgeable speaker) will talk about Cacti in their natural surroundings in Arizona. Visitors welcome!

Kate Childs

Bellringing at Swaffham Prior

Bellringing Practices on Wednesday evenings at St. Cyriac's are temporarily suspended during the summer holiday season. It is expected that practices will resume on:

Wednesday, 4th September 2002

Margaret Stanier



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

As you have probably heard on the news, many Council staff across the country are taking industrial action. The first strike day was on Wednesday 17th July. The Unions have rejected the 3% pay rise that they have been offered and are claiming a 6% rise. Pay for Council workers is negotiated at a national level and the dispute will have to be resolved nationally. But the strike action will affect us locally. East Cambridgeshire District Council will try to ensure that local services are not affected, but we will be unable to take cash payments at our offices on strike days.

The Government is reviewing the way that Councils are funded. This review is long overdue, but could mean bad news for East Cambs residents. For years Cambridgeshire has been arguing that we need a higher grant to recognise the higher cost of living in the County. Some of the options that the Government is considering would increase our grant, but other options would decrease it. Worse still, the Government is intending to take money from Councils, like East Cambs, which are debt free to give to Councils that are in debt. They are proposing to pass a Bill that will allow them to take a percentage of any income that we make from the sale of capital assets, such as land. This Bill will have to go through both houses of Parliament. The Bill will allow the Minister to adjust the level of this percentage through Secondary legislation. This means they can increase the percentage without taking it through Parliament. Losing money in this way will make it harder for the Council to attract investment into the area and will mean that we will find it increasingly hard to remain a debt free Council. We shall therefore be pressing the Government hard not to proceed with this plan.

Volunteers from various departments at ECDC have been taking part in a training programme on energy efficiency. The Centre for Sustainable Energy, who were the consultants on our recent energy audit and resulting action plan, took the training which looked at ways the participants could monitor and promote energy saving techniques at the East Cambs offices. The new Energy Stewards will now be reviewing the information from the training, and looking to begin a pilot project to encourage energy savings and the environmental benefits and cost savings using less energy brings.

I am on maternity leave through to the end of August. If you want to raise any queries or concerns about East Cambridgeshire District Council during that time please contact Caroline Coates on 01353 616354 and she will help.

Charlotte Cane



COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID-JULY

PARKSIDE FIRE STATION

Some of you may know that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Service has been looking for two sites for new stations within Cambridge's boundaries. The idea was to sell the ageing Parkside site to fund the building of the two new stations. We got half way to our goal with one potential site at Homerton Street (junction of Hills Road, Cherry Hinton Road below the railway bridge), but in spite of extensive search failed to find another on the opposite side of the city to give adequate fast response to emergencies.

Finally, earlier this month, the Fire Authority met at Parkside to decide to explore the possibilities of refurbishing the existing station and expand it to allow for additional living accommodation both for the benefit of the fire service and the local community. Assuming the plan goes ahead there should be no break in the handling of emergencies.

As there is now no likelihood of a new station anywhere near the Airport, this leads me to believe there should be no knock—on threat to the Swaffham Bulbeck or Burwell stations. Nevertheless, we are short of volunteers to join the retained part-time local firemen's ranks and anyone suitably fit who would be prepared to consider answering this need will be very welcome. If you are interested, speak to one of our local firemen or contact me and we can then tell you more.

On the **SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION** sector it was nice to attend the opening of the Bottisham Village College Sensory Garden . It is primarily aimed at children and adults with disabilities and sensory impairments, but of course it will be open to all. Funds come from the National Lottery, our local authorities and businesses.

Also, at the College there is now a discussion between the governors and the Director of Education regarding the size of the College. Governors are concerned at the number of places over-subscribed this year and we see no slackening of demand locally. It may not be easy to get Government money to finance expansion when there are schools nearby in Cambridge that have spare places.

On July 1st the Duke of Edinburgh opened the **JUBILEE CYCLE PATH** from Newmarket Park & Ride to the City centre. He didn't know it, but in a sense he also opened the Bottisham to Quay link at the same time. I

cycled to the Park & Ride and back/for the ceremony and the path rides well. It needs white flashing to mark it at night and grassed verges. Both will be done.

Now we have a nucleus of paths between our local villages can we please persuade relatives and friends to use them. I am particularly concerned about youngsters coming to and from the Bottisham Village College, some of whom still use the main roads.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 5 members and 3 members of the Public.

Reports: Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

Parish Council Vacancies: The Parish Council still has two vacancies. *Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.*

Whitway Drove — deposit/storage of waste materials: This is an ongoing problem. CCC Planning started proceedings but the person dealing with the case, Jason Day, has now left CCC and the matter has been referred to another department for further investigation. Councillor Fitch will pursue the matter with CCC. The Chairman expressed the Parish Council's concern about the length of time it was taking to resolve this matter.

Recreation Ground: The rubbish left by the travellers was partially cleared by members of the Parish Council and volunteers from the village. A new stronger barrier has been erected and further steps are to be taken to ensure the security of the entrance. Further clearing up is needed and a contractor is to be instructed to carry out this work.

Request to erect Golden Jubilee Seat on Coopers Green: The P.C. was asked if a seat could be placed on Coopers Green to mark the Golden Jubilee. This will be paid for with the money raised through the raffle at the Jubilee Picnic. This was agreed.

Correspondence Received: CCC/ECDC: Routine correspondence was reported to the meeting.

General: Letter received from School Governors informing the P.C. of Brenda Wilson's resignation.

Letter from Lode Parish Council reference the proposed additional electricity line across the Fen.

Letter re allotments.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed

Planning Applications: 2A Green Head — *Demolition of existing property and erection of new c/welling.*

There were no objections to this application.

Planning Approvals: Commissioners Farm, S.P. Fen — *2No two-storey extensions and terrace structure to dwelling house.*

Fencocks, 2 Cage Hill — *construction of new conservatory*

Any Other Business:

Damaged sign at the top of Rogers Road has now been replaced.

Footpath on Lower End from Rogers Road to The Beeches has been repaired & resurfaced.

Community Services' Team continue to carry out maintenance work at the Cemetery.

Dog fouling is again a problem. *See notice in Crier*

Overhanging vegetation. *Again, see notice in Crier*

There will be no August meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th September 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

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

As I write, Catholics in East Anglia – and I hope and believe Christians more generally – are grieving the death of Alan Clark, the first Catholic Bishop of East Anglia.

He was the first Bishop because the huge bishopric of Northampton – which straddled the counties of Northampton, Bedford, Buckinghamshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk - was finally found to be unrealistically large. From 1559 when Elizabeth finally expelled the Pope and those who accepted his authority from England until 1850 there were no Catholic dioceses in England. Although Rome sent many priests to support the Catholic minority, it never sought to provoke the Protestant authorities by establishing an ‘underground’ hierarchy. But with the relaxation of persecution in the nineteenth century came the opportunity to re-establish internal order for Catholics. And so in 1850s a new network of bishoprics was set up, but all centred on towns in which there was no major Anglican see. For the whole of the east of England, where there was the lowest density

of Catholics, the location of the see was Northampton, which is a long way from the east coast!

By the 1960s, it made sense to have an assistant bishop in Northampton to cover the three more easterly counties, and Alan Clark was appointed. He had been Vice Rector of the English College in Rome during the 2nd Vatican Council. That reforming Council first met 40 years ago (Nov 1962) and over a period of three years all the English Bishops came and went, always staying in the English College. He was proud of claiming that his main contribution was to give each bishop a gin and tonic at lunchtime just to each one's liking and that put them in the right mood, after a difficult morning, for positive thinking in the afternoons!

At any rate, in 1976 Rome decided to separate off Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk into a new diocese, and Alan Clark was confirmed as its Bishop, continuing until he retired in 1994. He was a popular Bishop, with a radiant smile and the ability to make people feel special (when Rachel, our eldest, was confirmed, he whispered to her as he confirmed her with the new name of Bernadette, 'thank you, thank you for being my favourite saint' and she still remembers it with a smile).

In private he could be irascible and short-tempered, but in general he was a man who cared passionately for fairness. He was the son of an Anglican vicar who had become a Catholic when Alan was two years old, and the sadness of his father, torn between a vocation to Roman Catholicism and a vocation to the priesthood (which in those days, as a married man, he could not pursue in the Catholic Church) made him a great champion of the Catholic Church's welcome and acceptance of those Anglicans, married and unmarried, who, out of conscience 'came over' in the 1990s.

One of my friends rather teasingly said that one headline following his death could have been 'Alan Clark, Bishop who welcomed asylum seekers from the CoE, dies.' In fact, his commitment to ecumenism was deeper than that. He was an outstanding co-chair of ARCIC, the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, in its heyday, and helped to produce some outstanding statements that underlined what the churches had in common. Not long after his retirement he suffered a severe stroke that left him with partial paralysis. He bore the loss of capability with dignity and composure, and was a welcome sight, still with that lovely smile, at diocesan events. He was present at the celebrations of the diocese's silver jubilee last year, for example. So we grieve the passing of a man who did much to bring Catholicism into the mainstream of East-of-England life, leading Catholics into fuller partnership with the other churches. May his soul, and the soul of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



Church Services

August 2002

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY Reach
TRINITY 10 Sun 4	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	
TRINITY 11 Sun 11	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Family Service 6:00pm	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
TRINITY 12 Sun 18	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Parish Communion 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
TRINITY 13 Sun 25	9:30am Parish Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 6:00pm Choral Evensong	11:00am Morning Service
September			
TRINITY 14 Sun 1	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion 6:30pm Deanery Evensong at Fulbourn	
TRINITY 15 Sun 8	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Harvest Family Service 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]



Church Services

September 2002 Continued

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY Reach
TRINITY 16 Sun 15	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Parish Communion 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
TRINITY 1 Sun 22	9:30am Parish Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Mattins and Sermon	6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon
ST MICHAEL Sun 29	6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	10:00am United Parish Communion at Burwell	8:00am Holy Communion [†]

PASTORAL LETTER, August/September 2002

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Compromise

Personal choice, the god of the age, is symptomatic of the current era when it seems that our rights as individuals are prized above any sense of corporate or common good. We do what suits us on a daily basis, and churchgoing for example can become just another leisure pursuit. (Indeed, the consumer surveys use 'religion' or 'church' in just that way, alongside watersports or whatever.)

The Book of Revelation (of St John the Divine), the last in the Bible, wishes that the young church in Laodicea was not lukewarm, but rather hot or cold, and while we often crave that sense of being definite about something, we need to draw on that very English sense of seeing both sides of every argument, which can be a curse, but which at its best gives the benefit of the doubt to both sides and rejoices in the middle ground, where compromise is the solution.

The result is often messy, which in an increasingly tidy and neat colour-

supplement world doesn't fit well, but which is often the way of making progress. The government's health-care and education policies perhaps exemplify this well, where the old public/private battle-lines are merged and we have begun to stop throwing metaphorical hand-grenades from behind our sandbags. We see benefits to the system, in each case, of a mixed economy, which ultimately serves us all and maximises resources.

With best wishes for the summer,

Mark



I Asked God to...

Zion Baptist Chapel

I asked God to take away my pain.

God said, No. It is not for me to take away but for you to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said, No. Her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God for patience.

God said No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations, it isn't granted it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my Spirit grow.

God said No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said, No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me love others, as much as he loves me.

God said ...ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16 NIV)

PS. We will continue to keep you in touch with developments at the Chapel,
but there is nothing new to report at present. 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 on 01223-563307.

Dates for Your Diary - August/2002

Tue	30	JULY, Boules, Village Hall Car-park
Thu	1	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Mon	5	First day of Playscheme , 9.30-12, School
Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	8	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri	9	Last day of Playscheme
Tue	13	Cleanaway
Thu	15	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Sat	17	+18th , Ploughing for Fun, Southfield Farm
Mon	19	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	22	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Tue	27	Cleanaway
Thu	29	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri.	30	8pm Music and Maths, The Village Centre, Fair Green,

September/2002

Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	4	Bellringing resumes
Thu	5	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Sun	8	Harvest Lunch, noon, St Cyriac's
Tue	10	Cleanaway
Wed	11	Neighbourhood Watch First Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Thu	12	2.30-4.30pm VH Teas PC Meeting, 7.30, VH
Sat	14	Harvest show, 3pm, VH Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	19	Village Gardeners, 8pm VH 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Mon	23	The Country House in East Anglia, 2-4pm, Anglesey Abbey
Tues	24	Cleanaway
Thu	26	Impressionist Painters, 7.30-9.30pm, Burwell Village College 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas
Fri.	27	10.30am Macmillan Coffee Morning @ The Oaks