

The Swaffham Crier Volume 26 Number 6 June 2002



Editorial



So this is it. The Festival *and* the Jubilee, in the same month, of course! Jubilee Celebrations include the Cooper's Green Picnic on Monday, 3rd June continuing into the evening with Steve Somers at the *Red Lion*. This is followed on Tuesday by Cambridge Voices with *God Save the Queen* at St Cyriac's. In the *Crier*, John Morrill returns with a thoughtful and (he thinks!) controversial article on the role of the Monarchy in today's world

— don't miss it!

The Festival kicks off on June 21st with *Home Sweet Home*, the Victorian Evening not to be missed. So step out with your spouse and family and prepare to be vastly entertained. You will be getting a program enclosure in this month's *Crier*— the schedule in the *Diary* may not be quite up to date (but note *Jazz on a Summers Evening* postponed to 5th July), so please check. Apologies to all those regular weekly events that haven't appeared in the *Diary* this month: we tried, we gave up!



And now to more prosaic matters: no doubt chuffed by their starring role in last month's Editorial, the THIEVES in question struck again, depriving our carpenter of all the tools he'd left in his van. Not before time, *Neighbourhood Watch* is BACK: Andrew Camps is to take it on in the Autumn. *Watch this space*.

Meanwhile, there's trouble 't Airport in Cambridge. Correspondents in Thursday's *Cambridge Evening News* are claiming that plans afoot project a traffic of 15000 large commercial flights a year (3 an hour between 6am and 11pm), with a noise footprint extending over much of the city and particularly affecting Addenbrookes. Readers will recall our local dispute over the intrusive chiming of the church clock! And will the extra road traffic mean that Prior commuters would be better bound for Kathmandu? — Marshall's Airport is very nice as it is, but we're not sure about *Heathrow* on our doorstep! Scare stories, perhaps— get in touch with the City Council to find out . Plans to be decided upon in early June.

The evening with Cambridge Voices at Swaffham Prior House was delightful (see Michael Casenove's account—p. 8) and we'll be returning there for the *Classworks Theatre* production with the School on 15^{th} June. FoSPs (who raised £900 at Reach Fair) are also preparing for the July Summer Fair: they're going à la *Français* and BOULES TEAMS are needed to enter the Grand Boules Knock-out competition — so be prepared! See you at the Jubilee, the Festival, and everything-else.... *Caroline Matheson*

Cover Picture: Jubilee 2002





Dear Editors,

Bob Smith

As many people will know my dad "Bob Smith" has not been in circulation for the last few months. Unfortunately he has become unwell with a Dementia type illness, and now needs twenty four hour care. He is at the present time in West Suffolk Hospital at Bury St Edmunds awaiting a place in residential care, which I hope will not be very long. "Bob" sends his best wishes to everyone, and thanks everyone for helping him when his illness became more severe, especially Mary, Brian and Ruth, his near neighbours in Greenhead Rd. Also for the visitors and "get well" cards he has received and of course the doctors and nurses at Burwell Surgery for all the emergency arrangements.

I will write again when there is a "news update".

Many thanks,

Judith Sylvestor (Bob's Daughter)-

Dear Editors,

Those Birds Again

Before he goes on asking Trico or anyone-else if they know what they are talking about, Mr Everitt has an account to give for his comments relating to 'the classy end' and grit bins in the December *Crier*.

Mark Lewinski

PS. 'Jug' is to nightingale as 'oink' is to pig. Not close but just recognisable.

More birds from Alastair on p. 9. Eds





GOD SAVE THE QUEEN A TRIBUTE CONCERT BY CAMBRIDGE VOICES

ST. CYRIAC'S 4PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH

DON'T FORGET!!

GOLDEN JUBILEE PICNIC ON COOPER'S GREEN (off Green Head Road)

on Monday, 3rd June 2002 from 2pm

BRING AND SHARE FOOD & DRINK

Red/White/Blue dress theme Lots of fun for all Bring something to sit on

Phone Karen on 742358 or Mary on 742945 for more info

In Village Hall if wet Anyone needing a lift, phone above.



Everyone Welcome!!



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting 'Roads, Paths and Open Spaces'

This was a recurrent theme of the P.C. meeting of May; a natural enough outdoor interest for the early summer. Roads featured briefly because there has been a request for road signs saying 'Old People' down on Lower End. Also, there is a possibility of action at last about traffic-calming on the cross-roads at the top of Cage Hill: we are envisaging automatic signs saying 'Slow Down' if drivers are doing more than 40 (or is it 30?) mph



.Paths came to our attention several times. First it was the cycle-path, admired and loved by James Fitch of the County Council, who rejoiced that the Lode-to-Bulbeck section is now complete, and expects the extension to Swaffham Prior before long. But cycle paths once in place must be used, and the Chairman wished that their use could be made compulsory. Mr. Fitch recalled seeing a helmeted child on a cycle-path and its non-helmeted parent cycling along the road beside it. Then, Mr. Fitch asked the P.C. about the possible closure (to four-wheel traffic) of a 'Byway' which runs from Heath Road, Bulbeck, to Burwell, (parallel with the A14) traversing Swaffham Prior parish. It seems that the farmer whose land it crosses would like it closed to traffic, (open only to walkers and riders) in order to help him deal with a problem of hare-coursing. The two parishes at each end have given consent to this, and we are the middle parish. (We said we would inspect the path and give a decision after the survey). Finally on village-footpath matters we had a detailed report from our careful and thorough footpath-watcher Andrew Camps. He told us which footpaths were to be spraved to get rid of weeds, and which needed the vegetation cut back. He gave us an update about the Beeches Wall, of disputed ownership, alongside the path beside the Beeches Houses. The C.C.C. has proposed removing the ruins of the wall and replacing with a post-and-rail fence, but the P.C. did not care for this idea. The C.C.C. is to be asked to take up the question of ownership/repair with Hereward Housing. .

As to public open spaces, rather surprisingly, there was nothing on the children's playground this month, (except that the Chairman noted in passing that we had a split swing-seat.) Cooper's Green came in for a mention, as it was to be the site of a Village Picnic on 3^{rd} June: Queen's Golden Jubilee celebration, and we voted a £50 donation towards the cost of decorations.

But our real time-consuming consideration was the Recreation Ground down Station Road: the eviction of the Travellers, the related expenses and consequences, and how to prevent its recurrence. A suggestion that we might 'get rid' of responsibility for the Recreation Ground was turned down because it appears that a village football club is about to be started up, and this would mean participation in league matches with nearby clubs. The Travellers had vandalised the pavilion so that it would have to be cut up and burnt. They had demolished the bar and padlock across the entrance. The P.C.'s real worry was the expense. It cost us over £900 in legal fees to serve notice on the Travellers, who then took advantage of the two days' grace to move off, before the threatened court action. We are expecting further expenses connected with clearing up the Travellers' mess.

But the problem is what to do next. Must we always budget for heavy legal costs when we allot to money from our precept? Henry Hardiment produced a mighty padlock, which could be housed within a wooden box opening only at the bottom and thus unavailable to bolt-cutters such as the Travellers had used on the last padlock. (My suggestion is a deep wide moatlike ditch, and a drawbridge hinged on the field side.) But the subject of the Field and the Football Team will come up at the Village Assembly so you can all produce ideas.

Margaret Stanier

The Changing Nature of Swaffham Prior?

Accurate figures and statistics do often illustrate a trend.

For example, the gross taking of the FEAST over a five year period (1998 to 2002) *suggests* that something rather weird has happened in the village. The number of adults paying to enter the Feast has always remained about the same with the number this year being the second highest. But what is extraordinary is that in 1998 takings at the Bar were £207 whereas in 2002 they had dropped to a mere £60. On the other hand in 1998 the takings for Teas were £51 and in 2002 they had risen to £132.

Is SP going dry, is it becoming a temperance enthusiast's paradise? And yet the number of people crowded nightly into *The Red Lion* belies this. Maybe others can explain the change.

This year the Feast had gross takings of £936.82 which was £57 less than last year. The Committee thanks all who donated bottles, cakes, etc., and all who helped in any other way.

Alastair Everitt

Well, we think it was just the weather— hot tea being preferable to cold beer in the circumstances! Eds.



Exciting opportunity to learn about play!



On Wednesday 19th June 2002 there is a Play and Youth Leisure Conference taking place at Young People March, City Road, March.

This conference is looking at play for all ages - from swings and roundabouts to skate ramps. There will be speakers on the following subjects: *Play equipment, Skate facilities, Youth Shelters, Funding, Community Safety, Insurance, and Safety.*

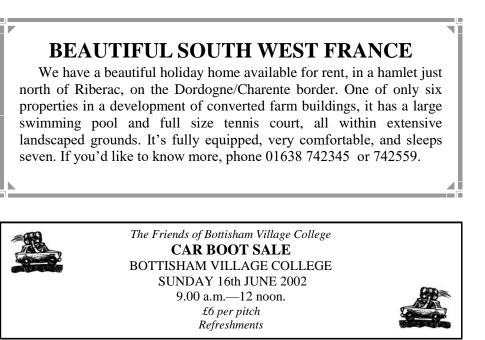
There will be trade displays and opportunities to talk to other groups who have started or even completed a similar project.

The conference starts at 4.30 p.m. and runs till 8 p.m.

Outside the centre will be demonstration ramps for young people to try out (they need to bring their own skateboard and safety equipment. Parents should be aware that young people using this equipment do so at their own risk). This is a free opportunity!

Tickets for the conference are: $\pounds 12$ for ACRE members / $\pounds 15$ for non ACRE members / $\pounds 5$ for under 18s in education (this includes refreshments and a buffet meal).

ACRE on 01353 860850, email: enquiries@cambsacre.org.uk www.cambsacre.org.uk



SWAFFHAM PRIOR HOUSE SUPPER CONCERT

In aid of St Mary's Centenary Restoration Appeal

The supper concert last Friday held at Swaffham Prior House was a huge success for many reasons.

Firstly, from my perspective as treasurer it raised nearly £1,900 which is the largest amount ever raised by a single event. Secondly it brought together 65 fortunate people (a sell out) from Swaffham Prior and surrounding villages who were able to socialise and enjoy wonderful entertainment from Cambridge Voices very ably and amusingly compéred and conducted by our resident maestro Ian de Massini. Thirdly we all enjoyed delicious canapés and a Michelin starred dinner organised and cooked by Penny Walkinshaw and her helpers, and some excellent champagne and wine that Christopher Walkinshaw had coaxed from his and other cellars in the village. Lastly, and most important of all, none of the above would have been possible without the ongoing and generous support of our Church by Michael and Sibyl Marshall who lent Swaffham Prior House for the occasion. The transformation of this house from when I remember it as a child is truly staggering. It used to be a quiet sombre house with gloomy family portraits and endless ticking and chiming clocks, that ensured no sleep whatsoever ---the drawing room was permanently shuttered and under dust sheets. Today it is a beautifully restored (and somewhat enlarged!) treasure house and family home, and we were very privileged that such a spectacular venue was made available to us..

Having arrived to enjoy drinks outside with the glorious sight of deer grazing in the park, we left with the house and the grounds bathed in floodlights and our route to the cars lit by flares — a fitting end to a memorable evening.

St Mary's Church is one of only sixteen in Cambridgeshire mentioned in Simon Jenkins book 'England's Thousand Best Churches', and this village is, I think, one of only nine in the country where two Churches share the same churchyard.

I believe it is the responsibility of this generation to make sure that this wonderful legacy is handed onto the next in good order.

The cost involved in achieving this goal is £900 a month just to pay the Parish Share, and a further £900 a month in upkeep of the fabric, insurance, and other services—this is why occasions such as this are, quite literally, the life blood of our Church. I would like to say to all who put so much time and effort into organising and running this evening, to those who supported it, and especially to Michael and Sibyl Marshall, a very big thank you. Without

the commitment of time and money by so few our Church would not always be available to so many.

As a final comment, if anyone in the category of the 'many' would like to join the ranks of the 'few' do please let us know!

Michael Cazenove

UNREQUITED LOVE IN THE CHURCHYARD

Birds, Birds, Birds. What a remarkable April it's been, and some remarkable things have happened with the birds. In my garden there were two male blackbirds tending the same nest. What's going on I wondered, especially after I'd been told that it is not unusual to find a pair of gay swans which stay together for life. Is this why the bird population is dropping? Not in the case of the blackbirds - some chicks were hatched, a female was seen occasionally, and both cocks continued to serve the nest. All ended happily.

This is not so with the stock doves or pigeons who used to inhabit the churchyard. This may be because of a directive from on high (not known whether from archdeacon or bishop, but certainly not from St. Francis), a directive which asked that the church should rid itself of pigeons because they undermine the fabric of the church. Maybe this directive applies to all things which undermine the church.

Last year a beautiful white dove (I suspect with rather lax morals) set up house with a really scruffy run-of-the-mill grey pigeon and produced a successful brood in a small window going up the bell-tower. This year the same white dove returned and during the early part of April she, and her new very handsome slimmed down grey consort, flew from tower to tower displaying the full repertoire of their beautiful pigeon flight. How they loved each other, how they exulted in their love, and how they wished others to witness it. As the phrase goes, the tails of both birds were up. And then disaster!

Suddenly there was nothing. Not a pigeon in sight. It was as if they had all been decimated, as if Tom Lehrer had paid a visit and given his cyanide (or was it strychnine) to the whole lot. The bishop's directive appears to have been carried out with a vengeance. Briefly on Wednesday 24 April the white dove did return (why was she spared?). She sat on St. Mary's tower, all by herself, sadly looking around, and then flew to St. Cyriac's with the same melancholy body language. She was looking for her love and could not find him. Tears could almost be seen running down her cheeks. And no-one cared, and she went away, and has not been seen since. At the time of writing all we are left with are the nice Collared Doves, as well as a mass of overweight Wood Pigeons which sit in my trees instead of going down Caddenham Lane to eat James Willmott's crops.

> Alastair Everitt Anglesey House

"...an holy nation, a peculiar people"

(1st Peter 2.9)

I'd like to visit the Holy Land Where Christianity was planned. They have the best of everything And all the Good that Faith can bring.

But then again, on the other hand, There is quite simply, too much sand.

I'd like to think that I could see The shores and boats of Gallilee, And visit the bread 'n fish takeaway That was surely there in J.C's day.

On second thoughts, it *was* simple fare And I wouldn't like the sand which is there.

I'd like to think that I could be One of the thousands who daily see The famous stable and the star That shone in the sky, that night, from afar.

On consideration though, I don't think I might, It's probably not safe to go out at night!

And so you see, I am still here Nor think I've sold adventure dear. News of their conflict starts to pall And it's probably not safe to go there at all!

Ophir Catling



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Thank you to all those who kindly supplied goods for our stall at the village feast on May 11. People were very generous both with offerings and buying the plants. Especial thanks to Prudence Mead who potted up some

splendid Streptocarpus plants which proved very popular.

It was a happy family afternoon and I hope that the Village Hall Committee did well.

Our visit to the Botanical gardens on May 21 has been postponed. The next outing will be on June 15 to a herb garden.

Tricia Harrison



LADIES CIRCLE

At our April meeting Mrs Bradley from Newmarket came to tell us about pressing dried flowers. Mrs Bradley told us that over the years she had wanted a hobby but could not find one that really interested her until she met another lady who

pressed flowers. Now she makes her own cards, bookmarks, key rings, dairies, pictures and many other items. It was very interesting to hear where she gets the flowers from and the variety too — wild flowers were as much a part of her array as were garden flowers.

In July the Ladies Circle are having a barbecue at the home of Mrs Mary Cook.

We have a varied programme arranged throughout the year and new members are always welcome. Why not come along and see for yourself.

Mrs Sandra Butcher



WI Notes

"Support for Local Abattoirs" and "Stricter Control of Imported Foodstuffs" are two resolutions to be put forward at the National W.I. annual meeting in Brighton in June. They were discussed at our May meeting and we decided we were all in favour.

We were then expecting to have a Beetle Drive but there was a slight mix up and instead Mr Vernon Place gave us a most interesting talk on his childhood as a 'Fen Boy'. When only seven or eight he had to fetch water from the river for use in the house (drinking, washing, cooking etc.) and to do this he had a wooden yoke across his shoulders with a bucket on either end — no light weight for a young boy. And he remembers the 'fen blows' which used to rock the outside toilet alarmingly.

We learned about the Fen people who would do anything to help each other. Families were usually large but there always seemed to be enough food to feed an extra one if you called at meal times.

Mr Place is a very amusing speaker and we had a most enjoyable evening.

Next month we'll be having a social evening including the Beetle Drive. If you feel like having a bit of fun come and join us -17^{th} June, 7.30pm. Village Hall.

Betty Prime

Burwell Bellringers: the 'Sheffield' quarter-peal

People in the village, especially anyone having a connection with the Royal Navy, may be interested in a recent activity of the bellringers at Burwell. On 4th May they rang a quarter-peal in honour of H.M.S.Sheffield, which was struck by an Exocet missile in the Falklands exactly 20 years ago. About 20 members of the crew were killed by the explosion. The rest of the crew, including the Burwell bellringer Jonathan Hardy, (aka Able Seaman Radar), spent the next 5 hours fighting the fires on board and trying to save the ship. After 5 hours, when the fire was getting close to the ship's magazine, the Captain gave the order to abandon ship. Another frigate, the Arrow, was fairly nearby, but a choppy sea was running and the ships could not get close without damage. But all the living crew-members of the Sheffield survived, most of them aboard the Arrow.

The commemorative quarter-peal was timed to start at 2.45 p.m. the time the ship was struck. It came round successfully 50 minutes later.

Margaret Stanier

Ringing, 1st June 2002

On 1st June, when bellringers of Ely District will be holding their striking competition at St Cyriac's Church, the ringing will start at 6 p.m. and continue until about 8.30 p.m. The times given in last month's Crier were erroneous.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR TWO THOUSAND

I have some copies available now of the video I made of village events that took place during the millennium year. They cost £8 each. If anyone is interested in buying one please contact me on 741221.

Ron Prime

PLAY SCHEME 2002

5-9 August 2002

Birdsof Prey~Jazz Dance~Fishing~Sound Studo~Rock et Buildng~Woodwork~ drumming~swimming~Cookery~Police ~dogs~Theatretour~magic tricks....Andso muchmore!!

The timetable for this year's Playscheme has now been finalised and registration forms will be available immediately after half term. PLEASE, if you will not automatically receive a form through Swaffham Prior School or Swaffham Bulbeck School, contact me on the number below. Playscheme is open to ALL primary school aged children in Reach or Swaffham Prior, or those who now attend or have previously attended Swaffham Prior School. One of the highlights of Playscheme is the opportunity for children from various schools to get to know each other.

We will need forms back within a week in order to allocate activities fairly, so do not delay!

Thank you for the offers of help already received. We would now be glad to hear of any reliable teenagers interested in helping during Playscheme week, and also from anyone else able to help with refreshments for about an hour on any or each morning.

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.

Paddock for two horses available

Mrs Wood 742020

Free taster sessions

Have you ever wanted to try something new? Come and have a taster for Free!

A variety of arts based activities (for instance hat and cushion making, silk screen painting, pottery) will be on offer on

Saturday June 15th

10am -1.30 at Burwell Village College

For more information, contact Shirley Glennie

Tel 01638 741901

Or

e-mail: <u>commed.Burwel1vc@education..camcnty.gov.uk</u> Each session lasts for one hour

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE 2002 PATIENCE

(AS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE)

First produced at the Opera Comique on April 2nd 1881, one hundred and twenty one years ago, this GILBERT & SULLIVAN masterpiece was intended to be a jibe at the Aesthetic Movements of the day inspired by Oscar Wilde, William Morris and the Pre-Raphaelite brigade.

Come and see this performance transformed into the modem day era of the ROYAL MARINES and the FLOWER POWER PEOPLE.

Musical Director Angela Roebuck

Director Anne Datson

Performances:		
Thursday 13 June	8pm	£5.00
Friday 14 June	8pm	£6.50
Saturday 15 June	2.30pm	£3.00
Saturday 15 June	8pm	£6.50

At Mitchell Hall Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck.

Tickets available from: Rosemary Upton 01638 612173 & Swaffham Bulbeck Village Stores



E SWAFFHAM PRIOR NO E FESTIVAL



21st - 30th 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





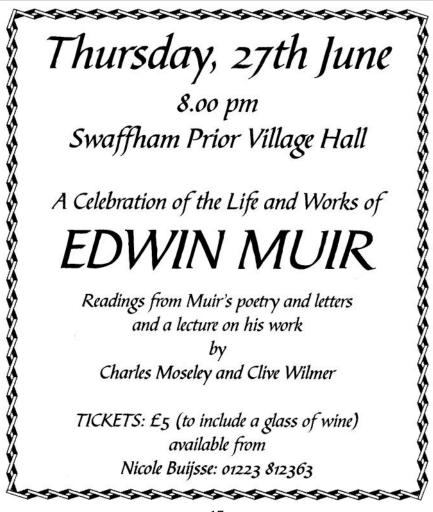
CIIURCH RESTORATION FUND Recycling Art and Craft Material

Due to the cancellation of the Marquee event on

June 2, I shall be holding an Art & Craft Material Sale during the Open Gardens on Sunday 30th June at Sheldricks Cottage, Lower End, from 2pm to 5pm.

Lots of unloved goodies.

Barbara Jones 741197



Saffron Walden Choral Society Conductor Janet Wheeler accompanist Janet Evans Summer Song including Handel's Zadok the Priest: Gershwin's Summertime Vaughan Williams' Songs : Part Songs : Songs from Africa Saturday 29th June 2002 at 2.45 pm St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham, Ely, Cambs

Tickets (Unreserved) £5, *Concessions* £4 - *Available From: Discus Music, The Rookery, Newmarket or The Friends* — *Telephone* 01638 720328





SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH: EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 22nd APRIL 2002

EASTER VESTRY Election of Churchwardens for 2002~3

The Vicar thanked John Norris and Carolyn Cazenove for serving as Churcbwardens. Since they had said that they were willing to stand again, it was proposed by Jenny Moseley and seconded by Francis Reeks that they should be reelected (passed nem. con.). Norah Smith was thanked for her work as Deputy Warden at Reach, and it was proposed by Jan Robinson, seconded by Jen Holmwood that she should continue for another year (passed nem. con.)

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Electoral Roll

A new Electoral Roll to last for the next six years had been established. Swaffham Prior Electoral Roll had dropped from 52 to 43, and Reach from 16 to 12.

2. Churchwardens' Report

John Norris presented the Churchwardens' report He highlighted the fact that the vestry refurbishment was now complete, and that the wall at the bottom of 47 High Street had been rebuilt. The wall next to the Vicarage had still to be repaired by East Cambs. District Council. He reported that the Family Services had flourished under Jan Petersen's leadership and there were plans to build on the foundations he had laid when he left us in May.

3. Treasurers' Reports

a) **Reach:** Laura Luckyn Malone presented the accounts as examined by Paula Ingram. She remarked that expenses had exceeded receipts but the legacy has made Reach solvent. We do need to increase our day-by-day income, however. The Social Group raises quite a lot, but an ongoing commitment to church giving needs to be made. The cost of the work for the vestry and screen re-ordering will be taken out of the legacy, but the cost of this must be kept down to a reasonable figure.

b) Swaffham Prior: Michael Cazenove presented the accounts for Swaffham Prior as examined by Paula Ingram. He said that we were trading at a deficit and needed to find ways of increasing giving. It was decided to have Thanksgiving Day instead of Gift Day next year. There had been an increase in Free Will Offering and Gift Aid had raised the income of the church because of recovered tax.

4. Social Working Groups' reports

a) **Reach:** Jan Robinson presented this report. She said that, although the age profile of those running events tended to keep getting older, we were recruiting the help of some youngsters in Reach, which is very encouraging. Last year a Moveable Feast, a Family Barbecue and Harvest Supper were arranged, as well as St Etbeldreda's Fair. Another social event needs to be added next year to raise the funds of the church.

b) **Swaffham Prior:** A written account was distributed of the social events of the last year. The Vicar gave thanks for some very enjoyable occasions, and especially thanked Ellsabeth Everitt for organising the superb "Music on the Move" performances by "Cambridge Voices".

5 Bellringers' Report

Peggy Stanier reported that they were just managing to keep Sunday service bells

going with the help sometimes of ringers from Swaffham Bulbeck. She needed to have more notice of those who were coming to ring, and ringers needed to be regular. Practice nights were on alternate Wednesdays, helped by ringers from Bulbeck, Bottisham, Brinkley and sometimes Burwell or Fordham.

6. Deanery Synod Report

The Vicar presented this report Attention was drawn to the proposal to form a group ministry, comprising the parishes of Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett and Snailwell, to be known as the Three Rivers Group. Also a new deanery of Fordham and Quy was to come into being in June, comprised of ou~ own ten parishes (11 churches) and nine parishes (10 churches) of the old Quy deanery.

7. Vicar's Benefice Report

The Vicar drew attention to highlights of the year, ongoing work outside the church, the monthly pattern of worship, and worship attendance figures. He felt that attendance had become more fragile, and certainly the attendance at communion services was diminishing, although family services were attracting large numbers, thanks to the ministrations of Jan Petersen. More reciprocal attendance was needed at Reach and Swaffham Prior churches.

8. Election of PCC 2062/3

Last year's PCC had said they were willing to stand again, except for David Thomas and Eric Day. The following new members were elected:

Dan Tucker, proposed Norah Smith and seconded Jan Robinson

Patricia Harrison, proposed Elisabeth Everitt, seconded Ruth Scovil.

Jan Robinson, proposed Ian Holmwood seconded Norah Smith.

It was proposed by Ruth Scovil and seconded Norah Smith that the following members be re-elected *en bloc*:

John Norris (churchwarden), Carolyn Cazenove (churchwarden), Michael

Casenove (treasurer), Jenny Moseley (secretary), Norah Smith (deputy

churchwarden), Doreen Robinson, Laura Luckyn Malone (treasurer—Reach), Rosalind Woods. One more person could be co-opted during the year.

PCC meetings for the following year:

Wednesday May 29th (Reach), Monday July 22nd (SP), Wednesday September 25th (Reach), Monday November 25th (SP), Wednesday January 22nd (Reach), Monday March 24th (SP) APCM.

9. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Jan Robinson had said that she could not continue. Patricia Harrison said she would continue, and was duly elected. Another person was needed, but none came forward.

10. Election of Sidesmen

Sidesmen were re-elected *en bloc*, except for those who had withdrawn from last year. Thanks were due to Andrew Camps, our Sacristan and Verger, who was appointed to serve again.

11. A.O.B. Future of Reach Church

Philip Lewis gave his perception of how he saw the church and its role in view of its dwindling numbers. He did not see the church relating to the villagers. Others disagreed, and there was some discussion about how Swaffham Prior and Reach could join services.

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr Trevor Jones with 6 members + 2 members of the Public attending.

Election of Chairman/Vice-Chairman: Trevor Jones was elected as Chairman. Eric Day reported to the meeting that he did not wish to stand again as Vice-Chairman but would continue as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman extended the meeting's appreciation of Mr Day's contribution over many years as Vice Chairman. The meeting went on to elect Mr A Camps as Vice-Chairman.

Confirmation of Representatives for other Bodies: A letter of resignation had been received from Mrs Malster, which meant that a P.C. representative was needed for the Village Hall Management Committee. A Camps agreed to represent the P.C. *At this point the Chairman asked that the P.C's thanks to Mrs Malster for her hard work and efforts during her time as councillor be recorded.*

Henry Hardiment will continue as the P.C. representative on the Sports & Recreation Committee.

The P.C. representatives for the Charities will be Eric Day, Henry Hardiment & Trevor Jones.

Accounts for 2001/2002: These were reported to the meeting by Andrew Badcock and agreed subject to audit.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported for CCC.

There was no ECDC report.

Wildlife Trust Subscription: This was agreed.

Insurance Renewal/Review: This was discussed and agreed.

Queen's Jubilee Picnic (contribution): A contribution of £50 was agreed.

Recreation Ground & its Future: This was discussed at length in light of the recent problems with travellers. ECDC had agreed to clear up the rubbish, old tyres, etc., left by the travellers. It was generally agreed that it would be a shame to lose the use of the field. A meeting is to be arranged between the P.C. and the Sports & Recreation Committee to discuss what is needed to bring the ground up to standard for use as a recreational area. This will also be an agenda item for the Village Assembly where everyone's views and ideas will be invited.

Ways of securing the area are also to be looked into. It is hoped that the barrier can be found and reinstalled as a temporary measure whilst more

secure ways are looked into.

Correspondence Received:

CCC/ECDC: General correspondence was reported to the meeting. **General:**

A letter was received about the tidying up work carried out at the Cemetery by the Community Services' team, noting the good work that had been carried out and is still ongoing. A note of thanks is to be put on the Cemetery noticeboard.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: 22 Mill Hill – *Garage*. There were no objections.

Any Other Business:

Footpaths/Pavements, etc: Andrew Camps met with Mr Thornton of CCC Highways to discuss maintenance work to various footpaths/ pavements plus the wall at The Beeches. Mr Thornton suggested that the wall be taken down and replaced with a 'Key Clamp' barrier. The meeting disagreed with this and CCC will be asked to take this up with Hereward Housing with a view to a full repair to the original wall.

Other proposals put forward by Mr Thornton were to:

Resurface the pavement from The Beeches to Rogers Road.

Cut back vegetation at the top of Rogers Road and spray path edges.

Cut back vegetation and spray the footpath on Station Road and then assess what needs to be done to reinstate footpath.

Mr Thornton also reported that finings had been used on Station Road to help fill in holes caused by lorries, etc.

Grasscutting: Several complaints had been received about the grasscutting in the village. The Clerk will contact Badcocks and ask that a full cut be carried out this month.

Neighbourhood Watch: Andrew Badcock reported to the meeting the importance of getting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in place in the village. Anyone who feels they can help with setting up such a scheme, please contact the Clerk.

Note: There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13th June 2002 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King Clerk of the Parish Council



EASICAMBOISH R

From our District Councillor

Local Agenda 21 has made enormous progress in promoting sustainability in East Cambridgeshire through policy and practical projects such as Ely's farmers' market. The LA21 Action Group, which has a membership of over 50 local people and organisations, aims to push forward sustainability in the district and works on issues such as transport and reducing rubbish. The group's latest challenge is to make links with the emerging Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Community Plan. We rely on the local people who join this group to help us to improve the environment and the way we live in East Cambs. Please let me know if you would like to join the group and I will give you details of their future meetings.

One of the first meetings of East Cambridgeshire's Shadow Local Strategic Partnership took place on Thursday 25th April in ECDC's Council Chamber. Over twenty key organisations, which work within the district, attended the meeting including the Police Authority, the Primary Care Trust, representatives from the voluntary and community sector as well as representatives from the private sector. One of the key tasks for the LSP will be to bring together existing strategies and action plans, which relate to the district, so that an over-arching community plan for the district can be developed. Subsequent meetings of the LSP will be held in September, December and March 2003 with the aim of establishing a formal LSP and a Community Plan for the District by June 2003.

As my second child is due in July, I have now stood down as Leader of the Council. My Deputy, Councillor Donald Adey also decided to stand down. The new Leader will be Councillor Valerie Leake, who represents the next door ward of Bottisham, and the new Deputy is Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith, who represents the Ely West ward. At the Council's Annual meeting on 21st May we will elect a new Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman, I will let you know who they are in July's edition of 'The Swaffham Crier'.

The trial anti dog-fouling scheme undertaken in the Villages of Little Downham and Haddenham has been a success. Veronica Avory our Dog Warden worked with the Parish Councils to locate the bins in area's that have a dog-fouling problem. The Parish Councils buy the bins and the District Council empties the bins free of charge every week, sometimes twice depending on the location. We are now looking for more Parishes to join the scheme. Charlotte Cane



COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID MAY ANNUAL REPORT

Each year at about this time I attend your Annual Parish Meeting and give a personal view of what the County Council has done over the past twelve months that might be of interest to you.

Over a few minutes I describe the main events of the year and then try to pick out how it has affected the six villages within the Bottisham—Burwell Division.

Perhaps it is not surprising that so few people come to the parish meetings as they sound pretty dull if you read the bare agenda. Maybe people are expecting to be bored or have clashing activities but nevertheless it is an obligation for us, your publicly elected servants, to report annually and do our best to answer your questions. This will be the thirteenth such occasion for me. In view of the likely audience I think it makes sense to tell you in this report most of what I will say. My apologies to those who did turn up for the repetition.

A YEAR OF CHANGE

Last June you re-elected a **new Council** of 59 Members. There was a surprisingly small change in spite of individual gains and losses. The Conservatives retained control and the Liberal Democrats remained the main opposition party. My thanks to those who voted for me locally.

We have worked to a new Constitution—a Leader, Keith Walters, and a Cabinet of 9. The rest of us from all parties make up Scrutiny committees, Services Development Groups and one or two other bodies like Standards and Development Control.

In addition we are all more involved in the Government's addiction for monitoring and consultation so the job seems to get bigger and bigger.

HIGHER COUNCIL TAX

Cambridgeshire provides a lot of services but **Education** dominates. Other mainline (and costly) spending goes on **Social Services**, **Libraries and Heritage**, **Public Transport** and **Roads**, **Fire Protection** and **Rescue**, **Trading Standards** and **Environment**.

The Council had to vote in a 9.3% increase in **Council Tax** in order to maintain services in the face of low Government Grant and faster than general inflation all in the context of a rapidly growing population.

Last year the Council voted Longstanton/Oakington as the recommended new town site—not **Six Mile Bottom**.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

Cambridgeshire educates 71,250 pupils at 255 schools and last year our GCSE results (A — C level) was 7% above the national level.

We are trying to achieve less than 30 pupils per class at two thirds of the primary schools. Local schools have had good OFSTED reports but are already close to capacity. I have asked for a seminar to discuss how we fit in more pupils expected in this area over the next 5 years. We provide 41 **Libraries** plus 7 mobiles. Although the book stock is suffering from limited funds we have money to spend on I.T. for those who do not have it already.

SOCIAL SERVICES cost us £84m net of charges and the County provides care at home for 3000 frail elderly people. As you may know, Queens Court, **Bottisham**, has at last been sold to Hereward Housing and is due for expansion shortly.

Working with Addenbrookes, Social Services is hoping to continue the trend downwards in the number of over 75s stuck in hospital with no suitable accommodation to go to outside.

FIRE AND RESCUE

There were 12.000 emergencies to rush to last year in addition to the peak demand for help at the time of the Autumn floods. Fortunately for us the nearest was Waterbeach.

Burwell Fire Station is operating temporarily on some extra land beside the Station which it is hoped to buy in due time.

TRANSPORT AND ROADS

With about 20 services/day (Mon-Sat) our local **bus service** should be satisfactory. However, there are major problems on timing from/to Cambridge. Traffic congestion and shortage of drivers are the excuses most used by Stagecoach. Complaints about timing to Shire Wall (Alex Gee) as soon as possible after the delay may help us put on extra pressure.

Although improvements to the A14 and the Fordham By Pass are ,still some way off, we are getting nearer to some activity on the latter.

Last year I spent a lot of time on trying to get money for traffic calming in **Burwell** and **Swaffham Prior**. We keep getting tantalisingly near to big funding of the three main entry roads to Burwell and I shall be working on that this coming year. We have some limited money for "soft" traffic calming along Mill Hill, **Swaffham Prior** and that will be discussed with the Parish Council shortly.

The interactive road signs on the Al303 at the **Swaffham Bulbeck/ Heath Road** turn work well. Lastly, the long-awaited cycle-ways from Lode to **Swaffham Bulbeck** and **Quy** to **Bottisham** are now realities and my next goal is to link the two **Swaffhams**. James Fitch



Zion Baptist Chapel

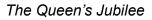
Can remember the silver jubilee in 1977 and the way our street was decorated with red white and blue streamers and balloons. I also still got the photo's of the red white and blue bedding plants that coloured our front garden at the time. And then there were the parties ... not just in the street but in the centre of Norwich near where we lived at the time.

For some reason the Golden Jubilee does not seem to hold the same sort of anticipation even though it celebrates the remarkable achievement of 50 years since Queen Elizabeth came to the throne.

I am not old enough to remember the coronation - I wasn't even born just in case you were wondering! However I have seen the TV footage and it is striking how much Christian symbolism was present in the Coronation Service. Almost every object, colour and part of the ceremony says something about the Christian faith.

For instance, the Sovereign's Sword, the Orb, and the Royal Sceptre, are all placed in the Queen's right hand. In the Bible the right hand is symbolic of God's power and strength.





When the Queen signed the Oath she was presented with a Bible and the Archbishop of Canterbury said these words, 'This is the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is wisdom; this is the Royal law; these are the lively oracles of God.'

Then as the Queen knelt she was anointed with oil consecrating her to be God's 'anointed servant'. In the Bible prophets, priests and kings were anointed in the same way. 'Christ' also means 'anointed one'.

The Bible also tells us that one day Christ will return as the king above all other kings, and queens, and on that day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is The Lord.

Now that really will be a cause for celebration!



David Bousfield

PS. We are continuing to pray about the future of the Chapel. We are currently investigating the use of the building as a pastoral centre but it is too early to say whether this possibility can become a reality. We will continue to keep you in touch. 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.



Church Services June 2002

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA Reach	
TRINITY 1 Sun 2	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service 6:30pm Jubilee Songs of Praise on The Denny	11:00am Parish Communion	†: Book of Common Prayer CW: Common Worship	
TRINITY 2 Sun 9	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Family Service 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]	
TRINITY 3 Sun 16	9:30am Village Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 6:00pm Choral Evensong [†] and Sermon	11:00am Blessing of Animals Service on Fair Green	
TRINITY 4 Sun 23	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Festival Morning Service with Bishop John 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]	
TRINITY 5 Sun 30	6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	10:00am United Parish Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†]	
Holy Communion1st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck ChurchEvening PrayerTuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham PriorBellringing Mothers UnionWednesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328. 1st Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End. Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509				

Toddlers Service

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509 3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre 2rd 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.

PASTORAL LETTER, June 2002

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

FESTIVAL

I want to use my letter to highlight events this month of HM the Queen's Jubilee of her Accession, and to invite you all to *a special service* on Swaffham Bulbeck's Denny on Sunday 2nd June at 6.30pm when we celebrate that event with our friends from the Salvation Army Band. Cambridge Voices do so in concert, '*God save the Queen*' on Tuesday 4th, the 'extra' bank holiday, at 4.00pm in St Cyriac's Church.

Although the table-top sale at Goodwin Manor on 2nd June has been cancelled, a *Strawberry Tea* takes place at Waterhall Cottage, Great Lane, Reach from 3.00-5.30pm on Sunday 9th June and all are welcome.

'*The Wonderful Adventures of Farmer Giles of Ham*' a Classworks Theatre production, takes place in the grounds of Swaffham Prior House on Saturday 15th June at 2.30pm, as an antidote to the Gilbert & Sullivan matinee in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Choral Evensong at 6.00pm on Sunday 16th June by Cambridge Voices in the incomparable surroundings of St Cyriac's will not disappoint - if you're not familiar with the service, don't worry, it lasts no more than an hour, and is guaranteed to touch your soul. The next evening is our *Parish Pilgrimage* to Clare in Suffolk, where we look round the parish church and Priory; we leave at 6.00pm and anyone can come along by signing the lists in the churches or by telephoning me (741409). The Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rt Revd John Flack, leads a *Mothers Union service 'Thanks & Giving* with me in Swaffham Bulbeck church on Tuesday 18th at 2.30pm - all are welcome, and not just women.

Then it's *Swaffham Prior Festival*, beginning on Friday 21st —the full diary is listed elsewhere in this issue, Bishop John returns to preach at the Festival Morning service in St Mary's at 11.00am on Sunday 23rd - drinks will be served afterwards, and all are welcome.

As always, not everything is happening on your doorstep, and so if you need a lift, just ask! Let's make sure we support all the efforts of the many and various organisers, and truly celebrate both the *Jubilee* and the *centenary* of the last restoration of St Mary's, which was completed in 1902 - our fund raising this year is so that we might mark this centenary with something tangible. Jan Petersen's final service collection was a start towards a *sound* reinforcement system in the parish church for use at school and family services particularly, an idea we have nursed for some time; the other major initiative is the *internal lighting and electrics*, a more major task but one the building sorely needs.

See you at some or all of these I hope.

Mark

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

On 2 June 2002 every Catholic Church in England and Wales will celebrate a special Mass to mark the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, with readings from the 1^{st} Book of Samuel about how David was anointed king c.990 BC in a way strikingly similar to the way the Queen was anointed in 1952; from St Paul's letter to Timothy in which he tells Christians that 'there should be prayers offered up for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority'; and from Matthew's Gospel, about the house built on the rock (of faith) that stands as against the house built on sand that is washed away in the floods.

Queen Elizabeth II manifestly has a faith built upon rock, and she has been a beacon of Christian duty and compassion for half a century. She is the fortieth monarch since the Norman Conquest in 1066. That means that on average, our monarchs have ruled for about 24 years, but Elizabeth's reign is exceptional - only Victoria (1837-1901), Henry III (1216-72) and Edward III (1327-77) have ruled for longer. And for all those years she has shown astonishing stamina in affirming people, in travelling to wherever in the realms of which she is titular head there is something to be celebrated or wherever there is distress and bringing a dignity, concern and engagement. A hereditary monarchy is a bizarre anomaly in the present world; but it works! The great strength of our monarchy is not the power it enjoys, but the power it denies to others - the fact the ceremonial roles of head of state are conducted above and beyond the roar of party politics. Heaven protect us from a republic where the president is a superannuated politician. (If you or I were given a gong for public service, would we rather it was conferred by Elizabeth II or by President Sunny Jim Callaghan or President unsunny Margaret Thatcher?) That the loyalty of our troops, our judges and our police is not to a (party) government but to queen-above-party is another huge reassurance.

So we have a system that has historical logic to it. Medieval Kings presided as justice was done, occupied the throne as contentious laws were debated, led their armies in war. All that has changed; so other things can change. The fact that Elizabeth is Queen by accident of birth or that if she had had a younger brother, he not she would have been on the throne is surely unacceptable. What if Prince William has a daughter, then a son. By the existing practice, the son will take precedence. Can that be right?

And while I am on my soapbox, let me make another contentious suggestion. Why should our monarch still be head of the Church of England? She is Queen of Wales, Scotland and Ireland without being head of the Churches of Wales, Scotland or Ireland. When she is in Scotland, she, although head of the Episcopal Church of England, attends not the Episcopal but the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Her daughter was unable to have her second marriage solemnized by the Church of England, but could by the Kirk. Less than half the children of the younger generation born in England become members of the Church of England through baptism; there are fewer folk worshipping in Anglican churches on 50 Sundays of the year than in other Christian Churches (let alone other faith communities).

Ending the claim that the Queen is 'supreme governor of the Church' would end the interference of the Queen's ministers in the selection of church leaders, would allow the anachronistic law that prevents the monarch from being, or from marrying, a Catholic, and would allow the monarch, in Prince Charles's phrase, to be the defender of faiths. The current tie is unhelpful in ecumenical terms (sustaining the mild anti-catholicism that is still around in England), it is disastrous in terms of the rhetoric of distrust in Northern Ireland, and it allows politicians to interfere in religion far more than it allows churchmen to interfere in politics. As we give unqualified thanks to the Queen for her relentless generosity of spirit, let us consider whether there are not some ways in which monarchy itself needs to evolve to meet more fully the needs of our pluralistic society.

John Morril

From the Parish Registers for April

Holy Baptism:	Imogen Mary Elizabeth Kirkpatrick [R]
	Samuel Edward Sharp [SP]
In Memoriam:	Thomas Benjamin Blaydon (79) [SB]
	Elizabeth King [SP]

Dates for Your Diary - June 2002

Sat	1	Bell Striking Competition, 6-8.30pm, St Cyriac's	
Sun	2	Marquee Event CANCELLED	
Mon	3	2pm Jubilee Picnic, Coopers Green, 4pm Steve Somers, Red Lion	
Tue	4	4pm: <i>God Save the Queen</i> Concert, St Cyriacs, C. Voices 2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group Zion Baptist Ch ☎ 743992	
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm	
Thu	13	Patience, Mitchel Hall Barn, SB, 8pm PC Meeting 7.30 VH	
Fri	14	Patience, 8pm Crier Copy Deadline	
Sat	15	Patience, 2pm and 8pm 2.30 "Farmer Giles of Ham", SP House Village Gardeners Outing to Herb Garden Art & Crafts 10-1.30pm, BVC	
Sun	16	Car Boot Sale BVC, 9-12pm	
Mon	17	6pm: Parish Pilgrimage to Clare WI Social 7.30pm VH	
Wed	19	Play and Leisure Conference, 4.30-8pm March	
Fri	21	8pm VH Home Sweet Home	
Sat	22	10-5pm: Patchwork & Quilting, St Cyriac's, Personalised Scrolls VH, Jubilee Flower Festival St Mary's, Archive Photographs St Mary's, Classic Cars outside VH, Teas VH, 2-5pm Model Steam Engines next door Red Lion	
Sun	23	11am Festival Morning Service, Bishop John 2-4pm St Cyriac's Bell Tower open	
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm	
Wed	26	School Governors	
Thu	27	8pm Life & Works of Edwin Muir, VH <i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm + Teas (2.30-4.30)	
Sat	29	 2pm Guided Tour of Village (meet outside VH) 7pm Moveable Feast 2.45 Summer Song, St Peter and St Mary Magdelene, Fordham 	
Sun	30	10am Service in St Mary's, 2-5pm: Open Gardens (tickets from VH) Art & Craft Sale (Sheldricks Cottage) Plant Stall (outside VH) Tour of Working Windmill (Mill Hill) Teas VH	