



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 26 Number 11

November 2002



## Editorial

Dark deeds in Swaffham Prior this last couple of months as it appears that shots have been fired at two householders windows, in both cases fracturing the outside pane of the double-glazed glass and leaving the inner unaffected (see 9). In both incidents, the shot appeared to come from the public footpath leading through to the Beeches, and the most recent incident took place in the dead of night. The *Crier's* expert criminal profilers are on the case, and their conclusion is that the culprit is almost certainly *a bored teenage boy with an air-rifle* (if in doubt, blame youth!).

But the thought of someone crouching in the grass at 1.45 in the morning, taking careful aim at someone's bedroom window and pulling the trigger really makes one shiver. Not least, because this is clearly a very cold and damp if not to say *spooky* occupation! So, young teenage person of a male persuasion, we recommend you desist from these daft deeds and instead, direct your energies to....

*Youth Club!* Where it is by contrast light, bright, warm and friendly, or would be, if they could get the creosoting and the spring-cleaning and all the rest of the stuff done without all the hassle they're having at the minute! Yes, this month is SOS Youth Club. They need help — and as we've said before in this magazine, money may make the rest of the world go round, but in this village, nothing happens without an army of volunteers from Parish Councillors (apologies to them—their copy got missed this month) down to lowly tea-ladies. If we had to pay the true cost of the services we get, none of us could afford it, and there wouldn't be any. So think on, it's-nothing-to-do-with-me people!

Meanwhile, it's Quiz Night again, and the Crier are *definitely* putting up a team this time—see you there

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture:** "Five Eleven"

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Birthday Greetings**

I have received the latest *Crier* and have seen a whole page devoted to my birthday on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 92 now! I would like to thank everyone involved with the idea. I had a nice day, and went to my daughter's house for lunch and tea. She also baked a cake for me to take back to the hospital and share with the nursing staff in the evening!

It seems a long time since I was at Swaffham Prior and Reach, but I do get out and about with the nursing staff and of course my daughter Judith. I have had more pub lunches in the last six months than I had in the last 6 years(!), and I often go to *Tesco's* for a cup of tea as long as someone is with me. I am next door to *Tesco's* so it is not far to walk.

My health is improving with the help of medication and nursing care here, and eventually I hope to obtain a placement in residential care. I am fortunate in that I am the least severe patient here, there are others a lot "worse off" than myself, so I should be thankful!

Once again, thanks to everyone for remembering my birthday.

*Bob Smith*

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Dear Editors,

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

I should just like to say an ENORMOUS thank you to everybody who contributed to the Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning held at my house on September 27<sup>th</sup>. We had approximately the same number of people as in previous years and, once again, you were all VERY generous; the total raised was **£411.55!** Each year the total goes up a little — it was £397 last year — which is so encouraging.

Swaffham Prior is only a small village and I think the response to 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' has been fantastic.

Once again, thank you, and I look forward to seeing you all again next year — same place, same time — for our tenth year.

*Ruth Scovil*

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## **S.O.S. A FLOCK OF SHEEP**

**(required for the beginning of ADVENT)**

You may recall that for the last two years during Advent families in the area have been following the Mexican custom whereby two crib figures (Mary and Joseph represented by knitted dolls) have travelled round Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach. They have been hosted by a different family each night and then handed on the next day to another host family.

The final family will take them to the **Crib Service at St. Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve.**

Last year the children were invited to choose a sheep from the flock to keep.

**Are there any knitters out there** willing to knit sheep (about 4" long)?

I have the pattern. Please give me a ring on 01638 74983 if you would like to help. They are fun to make and are much appreciated by the children.

Families wishing to take part should ring Mandy Kingsmill on 01638 742482 who kindly organises the rota.

*Kate Child*

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### **Priory Youth Club**

## **Table Top Sale**

**Sunday 17th November**

**10am-1pm**

£5 pitch booked £6 on the day

Phone 01638 742228 or 01638 743291

Refreshments available

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

When I reported on the March PC meeting earlier this year all members were in a bit of a state about the New Code of Conduct which had just been introduced. I had it on reasonably good authority that this Code of Conduct had been introduced by Central Government (Mr Byers actually) because of the fairly regular shenanigans of some councils in the North of England. Anyway our PC, in spite of some quite reasonable reservations, eventually decided to sign



This is just as well because Mr Byers had also introduced a “new Ethical Framework”.

Quoting from the Guidance Leaflet it seems that the foundations of this Ethical Framework are the following principles:- **Selflessness; Honesty and Integrity; Objectivity; Accountability; Openness; Personal Judgement; Respect for Others; Duty to Uphold the Law; Stewardship; Leadership.**

Only the most unimaginative bureaucratic inept committee could have put together such an unhappy formula. BUT it did not stop there. To ensure everyone remains on the straight and narrow, a new ‘Standards Board of Britain’ had been set up. It operates from the 5th floor of St. Christopher House in Southwark Street, London SE1. You write to it if you have a complaint regarding the “ethical conduct of Councillors”. One must wonder what they will do on the 5th floor if no-one ever complains.

Apart from that idle speculation, isn’t this all rather wishful thinking on the part of the government, isn’t this just another new initiative to try to show something is being done when in fact nothing is happening. This new Ethical Framework is not going to stop some of the major scams which escape conviction through power, influence, position or just gall.

Even in a village this size it will not matter. Most people know if someone has transgressed. It soon becomes very common knowledge and everyone hopes it is soon rectified. But this Ethical Code appears to be only directed at our PC members who, as far as most people know, are highly respectable, law abiding and honest.

One irony with the new Code of Conduct is that you have to declare your membership of societies, organisations, etc., but NOT if you are a Freemason. This is unsatisfactory for everyone — to Masons because they are often, without evidence, accused of being involved in scams, and to the general public who occasionally worry about the secrecy. On good authority I gather the question went right up to the doorsteps of No.10 before Masons became exempt.

After six months of the new code of conduct what has changed or been achieved apart from the resignation of two members? Not much as far as I could see. The PC and its agenda appears to be very much the same.

At long last an “enforcement notice” has been served to prevent Mr Dyson of Whiteway Drove dumping waste materials. Mr Dyson is appealing against the order so this will remain on the agenda for months to come. As will the recreation ground and travellers, an additional electricity line across the fen, and the Youth Club floor.

New additional items include the safety of headstones in the cemetery. Now that the world has become over safety conscious, especially with the growing battalion of no win/no fee lawyers enticing people to go to law, the insurance business has been thrown off course, some businesses are finding it hard to get insurance cover, and some previously harmless activities and pastimes are now in jeopardy. Eric thought the responsibility for headstones rested with the people who had paid for them, but all agreed that after a number of years many of those people may take a less than lively interest in the matter. There is no easy answer. Meanwhile the PC will offer the now quite large pile of chalk in the cemetery to James Willmott as the PC thought his was the greatest need.

An application is to be made for additional 30mph signs in Lower End -

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the larger signs, not the small ones. Rabbits are infesting Barston Drove and they have destroyed a quarter acre of wheat planted by a tenant farmer of land owned by the PC. A letter of complaint was supported by some graphic photographs. After of variety of comments and suggestions it was thought best to conclude “We’ll look into it”. I wonder how Snake Hall Farm gets on.

The usual collection of ‘correspondence’ included a mass of notices, information about meetings, requests for money, and only rarely interesting items such as the letter about rabbits. Cambus want either more money or may look to reducing the Sunday service. The PC received a questionnaire on the 13th October about usage of the bus service and this had to be back by 25th October after everyone in the village had been consulted! An impossible task and I thought the PC was incredibly restrained in its comments. There was an invitation to attend a lecture/meeting about “Community Safety Partnership” but no one could understand what this meant or what it would be about. So no one is going. Then there was the completely unintelligible letter about the ‘Freedom of Information Act 2000 publication schemes’. Karen said this would need to be put into English before trying to understand it.

The Boules Club asked whether the PC would pay the £200 material costs for laying out a good Boules Pitch at the end of the Village Hall Car Park, with the Club providing all the labour. Benches are to be provided. The area would still be used as a car park, and occasionally the PC would light a bonfire on it. The PC welcomed this new village activity but could not make a decision until after the budget meeting arranged earlier that evening.

*Alastair Everitt*

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<b>SENIORS THURSDAY 7-10pm</b>		
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<b>table football</b>		

# QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
7.30 pm ❖ Saturday  
16th November 2002

Tickets: £4.50 each ❖ To book a table contact:-  
Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161  
or  
Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ❖ Raffle  
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Friends of Swaffham Prior School

# Christmas Fayre

2 Dec 3.00pm

**Come along to FoSPS Christmas Fayre  
on Monday, Dec 2 in the School Hall  
after school.**

**Cake Stall, Lucky Dip, Cards, Decorations,  
Toys, Raffle**

**Mince Pies and Mulled Wine**

*Contact Jane Blanks on 741558 .*



**DESPERATELY NEEDED**

**Somebody to clean our house for three hours a week. We have no pets or children living at home but other interests seem to prevent me from doing the housework!**

**So, if anyone can help, please ring**

**Ruth Scovil on (01638) 743720**

**I look forward to hearing from you**

**POLICE INCIDENT REF. 74810-02**

**Date** Sat. 19 October 2002

**Time** 01:45 approx.

**Site as above**

**Conditions:** clear, moonlit sky, cold (ground frost)

A loud noise woke us up. It came from the window a few feet away, in our bedroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the back of the house.

The outer pane of double glazing in the French windows was crazed all over; the inner pane was untouched

Drawing back the curtains in the morning, a small hole in a top corner could be seen surrounded by a rose of cracks. This suggests the impact of a projectile, and it cannot have been an accident.

Glass fragments inside the cavity between the two panes of glass indicate an external source for the projectile. There was nothing else in the cavity and searches of the gravel below have been fruitless.

The projectile probably came from the elevated public footpath behind the house, leading through The Beeches. There is a clear line-of-sight from there to the broken window about 30m away.

History of similar incidents we know of (plus distance away).

3 years ago at the Village Hall 400m

1 year ago at a cottage next to The Red Lion 500m

**less than 2 months ago at the bottom end of Rogers' Road 200m**

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## Priory Youth Club

We (the leaders and helpers) thought that it was time to share with everyone in our village how the youth club is run. Both leaders and helpers run the club entirely on a voluntary basis. It is also a registered charity and mostly self-funding. We have received donations from the sports council and church parochial towards some of our larger projects.

At the moment, we are trying to raise funds to replace the floor in the main part of the building to make it safer. Recently a letter was sent home with all the youth club children, asking for help to paint the interior and creosote the hut, ONE parent turned up, ONE young adult and ONE offered to come and help another time as they were already booked up that day. Whilst we enjoy running our club it would be a great help if others could help support us on the occasions when needed.

We clean up the building after every session but also 'Spring Clean' after every term and unfortunately, it is the same people (leaders and helpers) that do this.

As we have now been running the club for 13+ years, we now feel that it is time to introduce 'new blood' so to speak. **New leaders and helpers are needed for the club to continue.** Therefore, anybody that can spare some time or can do any arts and crafts or sports would be welcomed with open arms.

Juniors run on a Tuesday from 7-8:30pm

Seniors run on Thursday from 7-10pm

The club is only open during term times.

**SO PLEASE HELP SUPPORT US!!**

**Ring Alan Badcock on 742228**



### SOHAM COMRADES BAND IN CONCERT

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*The concert is generously sponsored by Allen Newport Ltd , Fordham*



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FORDHAM

## LET'S HAVE A DISCUSSION

One thing I always enjoy about the *Crier* is its Editorial. This is a wonderful piece of compressed writing covering a very wide range of subjects and usually having its finger right on the button. It contains a lot of meat and comment and unless you are quick you could miss some of the references.

With a glass of wine in hand I was lazily reading the October Editorial (*not necessarily agreeing with all the first paragraph*) when I came across the comment on the Harvest Show Report about which this so far brilliant Editorial said “which unfortunately seems to be *snipping* at last month’s carefully considered editorial re lorries.” My first reaction was protective. “How dare anyone snip at the Editors” I thought. Then I woke up with a start. Hey up, I had written that Harvest Show Report. What had I done wrong. AT WHAT had I SNIPPED?

I turned to the Editorial in question (published at the end of July) and read that lorries had been passing the door of the Editors’ house “at great speed and at 5 o’clock in the morning, no less!” and avoiding “certain *swanky street lights*.” That’s certainly very spirited stuff The Editorial went on - “We’d like to invite immediate contributions on this matter.”

Well, of course no-one did write anything, because not many people care about it now. (*Eds - this is a deliberately provocative remark to help you get a response*). But, inadvertently I did appear to have made a comment by referring to Andrew Badcock’s statement about our being part of an agricultural community. I had genuinely forgotten all about the Editors’ end-of-July comments. All I had attempted was to give the Harvest Show a slightly wider context, and also to show some sympathy for the difficulties of farmers about which you can learn something if you are woken up early enough to hear ‘Farming Today’. *That* was the point of my piece. The vegetables and flowers in the Show had been grown in the ground locally, and not just bought in a supermarket. The difficulty with discussing lorries and agricultural machinery in this village is that no one has ever collected the facts. Unless we do gather some facts there is no way that the people in the lower part of the High Street will believe that some lorries and heavy agricultural machinery do also come in and go out past the churches and the chapel. Two, or was it three, years ago when people were rushing down to Cornwall to see the total eclipse of the sun, I thought of hiring out my kitchen where a total eclipse can be witnessed several times a day.

So, let’s get together and volunteer to do some *real work* and to put in some *real time* rather than responding emotionally to some occasional happenings. Any survey will inevitably be selective, the results will to some

extent be random, and some people will be reluctant to accept the figures. But if conducted over ten days the village will at least have some data to discuss - that is if people are seriously concerned or interested enough to put in the effort.

*Alastair Everitt*

PS. I feel a little vulnerable in submitting this piece as the Editors may well make italicised comments (*in brackets of course*) throughout. I don't mind, but, apart from improving the piece, it does sometimes disturb the flow and confuse the reader.

PPS. The really significant news is that the **The Red Lion** sells the best Pickled Eggs throughout all East Anglia - nay, in all the United Kingdom! The eggs are so popular that they are sometimes only sold from under the counter. To get one you have to be quite insistent. Do not accept NO!



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## What is FoSPS?

Friends of Swaffham Prior School was formerly known as the PTA and it's function is to act as a communicator between the school and the parents, by supporting the school in its work and raising funds for the school to the benefit of the children.

The committee and parents/staff meet twice per term when we discuss how our efforts can be best used in helping the school and its pupils.

### **Our Target:**

We are currently discussing with the school FoSPS plans to raise money for a major project..

### **Planned Events:**

The following events are planned for the forthcoming year.

**Christmas Disco - 8th November 2002**

**Beetle Drive - 22nd November 2002**

**Christmas Fair and Cake Stall - 2nd December 2002 (see separate notice)**

**Race Evening - 22nd March 2003**

**Easter Egg Bingo - 11th April 2003**

**Reach Fair Barrow of Booze - 5th May 2003**

**Summer Fair - mid July 2003**

**Summer Disco - 13th June 2003**

Some of these events could be made even more successful if attended by as many people as possible within the village and local community, who in turn would be helping us to reach our target. We would also love to see some of the non-parent residents supporting some of our events, and in the future these will be advertised in the village magazine. Everyone would be made welcome and of course, offers of help would be appreciated.

Any queries or comments, please contact Jane Blanks, Secretary: 741558

## **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.

# News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Children have settled well and we have welcomed new families into not only Class One, but all the other classes as well. Many of these families came to our September Saturday barbecue which featured the traditional rounders match. We were fortunate with very fine weather, which was not the case when we had our recent playground tidy day (this did not deter the keen volunteers).

Classes have been very active. As well as their normal curriculum, Class One have been particularly learning to care for their new addition - Toffee the guinea pig; Class Two have enjoyed an environmental day at Upware Field Study Centre, Class Three have supported their work on Romans by visiting the Cecil Higgins museum at Bedford, and older members of Class 4 are taking part in safer cycling. Recently some Year 6's have visited Bottisham Village College as part of the Circle Link group (local primary schools) to learn skills to become playground buddies - children supporting other within the playground.

Over to the children for their views on this day:

**Charlotte**, “We did a pretend parents’ evening where we were asking some other children who were playing as adults if they wanted us to answer to questions about the scheme and I was chosen to be the chairperson.”

**Emma**, “We did lots of things and I learnt that some things you could help with, but some times you had to tell the teacher or ask for help.”

**Luke**, “We saw all our old friends.”

**Philippa**, “We played games to help us listen and get to know each other”.

**Leoni**, “We had a description of Billy Brown, everyone had different descriptions, and we had to draw a picture of him. This showed that people are different and view each other differently”.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and are using their skills back at our primary school.

School Community Dates –

- **Disco** – primary aged children accompanied by adults, 8<sup>th</sup> November Village hall 6.45-9.45pm, Tickets available on the door.
- **Beetle Drive** 22<sup>nd</sup> November School Hall time tba
- **Christmas Fair and Cake stall** 3pm 2<sup>nd</sup> December School Hall

*Joanna Lakey*  
Acting Head

P.S. We are collecting the bus tokens from the Cambridgeshire Evening News. The local small school are hoping to get enough between them!



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## Extract from The Histon Sector Newsletter

Swaffham Prior held a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. There was an informative talk by Trading Standards Officer David Broughton and volunteers came forward to start three new Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Following the publication of the East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategy in April, a multi-agency group has been formed in Burwell to tackle local problems of crime and disorder. The aim of the group is to reduce crime, reassure communities and work better together. Chaired by Inspector David Howell, the group consists of parish and district council and representatives from education, young people the farming community and housing. The next meeting is a 3.00pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Reading Rooms. One of the first matters that the group would like to tackle is Neighbourhood Watch in the village. A forum is being held at in the Jubilee Reading Room, The Causeway on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Existing NHW co-ordinators will be there – the group are keen for other Burwell residents to come along and join the group.



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## Wired up Communities Competition

The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) has launched a competition to enable Small Towns and Villages to win a substantial contribution towards getting broadband provision into their town/village.

Broadband is an 'always on, fast Internet access', which enables people to download information a lot quicker as well as viewing media images without the jerkiness found with the usual slow 56K modem.

The competition will take place over two rounds. During the first round communities will be invited to submit informal entries. It is envisaged that interest and enthusiasm will be generated at this stage. According to EEDA it is those who demonstrate the greatest degree of enthusiasm, together with support from a wide range within the community, that will win the first round.

Communities who win the first round will be invited to enter the second round. Support will be offered to help communities prepare a more formal application, this will incorporate the preparation of a proper business plan. These entries will then go before a panel of judges who will choose the winners.

There will be three categories of winners across the East of England:

1 Market Town (~750,000)

4 Large Villages /Small Towns (~250,000 each)

8 Small Villages (~125,000 each)

There will be a meeting held in November to show people who are interested in entering the competition, examples of some of the things that you can do with broadband as well as looking at how Bottisham went about getting broadband into their community. For further details of the meeting and/or to reserve your place please contact Tracey Harding on 01353 616377. If you require further information about the competition please contact Margot Harbour on 01353 616376.

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## Environmental WARNING!

'The scientific evidence is growing that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are having a noticeable effect on the earth's climate. Globally, seven of the ten warmest years on record were in the 1990's. In the future, the earth's climate could warm by as much as 3<sup>o</sup>C over the next 100 years. The social, environmental and economic costs associated with this could be huge' (Source: *department for environment, food and rural affairs*. Climate Change.)

Scary stuff made all the more real by the recent floods at home and in Europe.

You may ask yourself what we can do on a local level to alleviate this very real problem.

One area where we can all make a difference is by reducing the amount of energy we use to heat and power our own homes. Did you know that domestic dwellings produce approximately 25% of U.K. CO<sub>2</sub> (one of the main greenhouse gases) emissions, and that the average home produces more CO<sub>2</sub> per year than the average car? (Source: *Energy Saving Trust*)

That's enough to fill 6 hot air balloons 10 metres in diameter!

It has also been calculated that we waste around **£200.00** per household per year by heating and powering our homes inefficiently, and that a regular house loses over 40% of its heat through loft spaces and walls!

**'Is your home behaving badly?'** is a magazine produced by EST, copies of which can be obtained by telephoning the Energy Advice Centre on 0800 512012. It details the energy efficiency grants that are currently available and also contains some handy tips on how we can all save energy, money and protect our environment.

## Are you doing your bit?

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LEPRA



### Cookies for a Cure

**World Leprosy Week 20th — 26th January 2003**

**Can you cook up a cure? Join in the Greatest Cookie Party Ever — and help cure people of leprosy**

**LEPRA** — the Leprosy Relief Association — is asking people to hold a **Cookies for a Cure Party** during **World Leprosy Week — 20<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2003**.

All the money raised will go towards supporting LEPRA's vital medical development programmes in Asia, South America and Africa.

Simply bake (or even buy) some cookies, and invite your friends, neighbours and colleagues to join in the fun at coffee break, lunchtime, afternoon or evening.

By collecting 'cookie contributions' at your party you will soon raise the £21 it costs to cure one person of leprosy, restoring their health, hope and dignity. If you wanted to be really ambitious you could make it a real community **Cookie Party** by inviting **everyone in your neighbourhood!**

Leprosy is one of the oldest recorded diseases in the world, with references to it in the New Testament. Yet around 700,000 cases are still

diagnosed annually and an estimated 4 million people have dreadful disabilities as a result of the disease. Every minute of every day one more person is found to have leprosy and some of these will already be severely disabled.

Yet leprosy is easily curable and the complete eradication of the disease is the stated aim of LEPRO and the reason that the charity exists.

**So, do something wonderful — change someone’s life by helping to cure leprosy!**

To receive your party pack, which includes, poster, balloons, invitations, collecting box and special cookie recipe, please write to:

**LEPRO, FREEPOST, Fairfax House, Causton Road, Colchester, CO1 1YY,** or contact Sally Ormond, Community Contact Assistant, ☎01 449 710073

# **ANDY’S**

**MEN’S HAIRDESIGN**

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**NEWSPAPER BOYS AND GIRLS NEEDED  
URGENTLY! NEED ONLY WORK  
WEEKENDS OR WEEKDAYS IF PREFERRED.**

*including Sunday papers!*



## WI Notes

For their November meeting the W.I. enjoyed a trip to Marks & Spencers in Cambridge.

We were met at the door by a young lady whose position was 'Personal Shopper' and she first took us to the staff canteen where we were given drinks and a talk about the new range of underwear. After that we were let loose in the store to roam about and shop as we wished, with some drinks, chocolates and biscuits. It was lovely to have the store to ourselves with no other customers and no queuing for changing rooms, and we spent a most enjoyable evening.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs V.Bennett will be telling us how a National Trust house is put to bed for the winter.

*Betty Prime*



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

**Annual general meeting  
Thursday 15 October 2002**

Underpinning the meeting was a collective wish to enlarge the membership of our club. We would really like to welcome more people as full members, as visitors to occasional meetings or on our outside visits. The new programme is incredibly diverse and well tuned with talks arranged to precede relevant visits.

Why not come along to our next meeting on 19 November at the Village Hall where all of our meetings are held.

The usual minutes and reports were given. The Chair mentioned that the £475 surplus (mainly as a result of the Open Gardens) would be divided between the club and the church. The accounts were crystal clear. The annual membership fee will be £12 and individual meetings charged at £3.

We thank Kate Child for being such a staunch and indefatigable Chair and Glenna Turner for fulfilling the secretarial role so well. We welcome Roger Connan as our new Chair and Margaret Joyce as secretary. Janet Cooper will continue to provide invaluable assistance.

After coffee we tested our horticultural knowledge with several quizzes. It was great fun, albeit sometimes chastening. The group I was in failed miserably over plant associations with host countries.

The next meeting, on 19 November, will be "Growing bulbs in the Garden" ...a good way to have flowers all year round without hassle. The

speaker will be J. Walker (a Chelsea Exhibitor) and there will be bulbs for sale.

We will continue to meet at 8 pm on every third Wednesday and recommend you to look at our exciting programme for 2002/2003 (*see last month's Crier — Eds*).  
*Tricia Harrison*



## LADIES CIRCLE

Our monthly meeting was a ‘surprise’ meeting organised by two of our members Mary Cook and Christine Plume.

Mary and Christine decided that they would take us back to the 1950’s and the whole evening was centred on that era.

1950’s music was played as we all joined in games such as “Pin the tail on the Donkey”, “Musical Chairs” and “Pass the Parcel” amid roars of laughter by all members. Prizes were awarded to the winners.

After our exhausting games we were served a delicious tea of jam and Spain sandwiches daintily cut into triangles, jelly in paper cases, and fairy cakes. We had Camp Coffee with Nestle’ milk (the memories kept flooding back), but many of the members found they could not drink it and wondered how we ever managed to do so all those years ago.

As we sat eating our ‘1950’s’ tea we all reminisced about the games we used to play as children and the things we used to do—it was a really a good evening and members thanked Mary and Christine for all their efforts in making our meeting such fun.

On 25 November Mr and Mrs Evans from Newmarket will be taking our meeting and in December members are meeting at the home of Mrs Iris Stannett for a pre-Christmas party. New members are welcome to join us so please come along to Zion Baptist Chapel and see what fun we have.

*Sandra Butcher*

### Mobile Library

## Use it or Lose it!

Mothers collecting children from school may find the Chapel stop easier. Everyone welcome. Bargain cards, videos for sale, as are stamps. Brilliant range of books and ideas. East access for wheel-chair users.

Contact no: 742850



We have started a free 'Park and Ride' scheme in Ely every Saturday. You can park for free at the City of Ely Community College, and free buses run to Market Street every 15 minutes from 9.30am to 5.00pm. The scheme has been funded through the Market Town Initiative.

We are also trying to make it easier for people with disabilities to get around Ely. To help us with this we have an Access Group who make recommendations for things which will improve access for disabled people. The latest initiative is a Shopmobility service providing two powered scooters and a wheelchair. The Council is running the new scheme in association with Ely Museum. It is available on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 10.30am and 4.30pm. It allows people with limited mobility to borrow an electrically powered buggy or wheelchair free of charge so that they can get around the City independently. Generous sponsorship by the City of Ely Chamber of Trade and Brands store has enabled the scheme to purchase this equipment. To book one of these you should ring the Museum on 01353 666655. You then use an intercom system just inside the car park to call for your pre-booked buggy or wheelchair to be brought to your car which you should park in the specially marked spaces in front of the Council Offices. You will need to have 2 items of identification with you – the Museum staff will explain this to you when you book.

The pilot Green Waste Recycling Scheme to 1,000 households in Little Thetford and Stretham has been an overwhelming success, and in view of this the Council has decided to expand the scheme to Bottisham and Lode starting in November.

The official Launch event for Healthy Living – East Cambridgeshire took place at The Maltings, last month. The evening's entertainment was provided by Barry Smith, one of Ely's top Chefs, who prepared a three-course meal. Afterwards, people had the opportunity to sample some of Barry's tasty dishes, and take a look at the seventeen project displays that make up 'Healthy Living - East Cambridgeshire'. The Council together with East Cambs & Fenland Primary Care Trust are the main partners of Healthy Living - East Cambridgeshire, with other partners from the voluntary and community sector. If you would like to find out more, visit their newly launched website at [www.hlec.org](http://www.hlec.org), or contact Andrea Compton, Project Development Manager, on 01353 654227 or email [andrea.compton@cambs-ha.nhs.uk](mailto:andrea.compton@cambs-ha.nhs.uk).

*Charlotte Cane*

## COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID-OCTOBER, 2002.

### **A1303 Newmarket Road/Bell Road Junction, Bottisham**

A lot of local motorists use this hazardous junction and have been complaining about the changes made a little more than a year ago. Soon after the red strip and double solid white lines were installed I arranged to monitor the junction with an officer from Shire Hall Transport. We both agreed that the system was not working as intended. Drivers were overtaking recklessly. Since then I have been chipping away at Shire Hall to get some improvement.

What has now been decided is that a pre-fab traffic island will be built on the A1303 at the junction with Bell Road. I cannot say precisely when this will be done, but I hope before the end of the financial year. Let us hope that this will meet our anxieties and possibly persuade impatient drivers to avoid stupid and illegal overtaking.

### **Proposed duplicate power line Burwell — Horningsea**

24 Seven are submitting an application to double the supply of much needed extra power to Cambridge area involving a parallel power line across the Fens in our locality. Quy, Lode, Swaffhams and Reach fen dwellers and parish councils are worried about the effect on our landscape, farming and general amenities. I have written to 24 Seven mentioning these anxieties and asking if it is possible to substitute the existing pylons with larger stronger ones able to take twice the present cable load. I am also keeping in touch with a small group of interested villagers who are requesting adjustment to soften the effect on our Fen area.

### **Cambridge Citizens Panel**

For the last 3 or more years I have been a member of this panel. We have responded to long questionnaires regarding the County priorities and policies. This body is now being disbanded and the County will seek opinions by other means. Personally, I am quite sad as I thought it was interesting and useful and I was able to reflect the views, I hope, of the people who live in this part of the County.

The results of the last survey were as follows:

**Library Services:** highly rated, demand for more hours, book stock needs improvement

**Registration births, deaths, marriages** — used by a quarter of Cambs. residents in the last 3 years — largely satisfied except for parking and

opening hours for Ely office.

**One-stop Council Services** — preferred at Post Offices and libraries with computer/telephone link with someone on hand to help.

**Quality of Life** — a large majority very or fairly satisfied with local neighbourhood as a place to live. Two fifths complain about traffic noise, a quarter about aircraft noise and one fifth noisy neighbours.

**Safety cameras** — wide spread acceptance. Women more pro camera than men.

**Bus and train services** — more using both than 2 years ago. Fewer complaints about bus frequency than before.

**Financial priorities** — most feel additional funding should be used to improve Services before reducing Council Tax. Emphasis on care for elderly, tackling youths offending and schools. These are mostly my views and I hope that, on the whole, you agree.

*James Fitch*

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**Nonpareil.** Well, almost

Once, I thought, I had erred;  
But it didn't take me long  
To realise the concept was absurd;  
And just the thought, was wrong.

So, away with doubt  
Be firm, be strong.  
Misgivings are out  
They don't belong.

Now, grasp the nettle;  
And lead the throng;  
Show your mettle—Right?  
Or possibly, wrong.

*Ophir Catling.*



## Church Services November 2002

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY
<small>TRINITY 23</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>3</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion	No Service
<small>TRINITY 24</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>10</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup> <b>10:50am</b> Remembrance Service	<b>10:50am</b> Remembrance Service <b>6:00pm</b> Sung Eucharist	<b>10:50am</b> Remembrance Service
<small>TRINITY 25</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>17</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>CW</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong <sup>†</sup>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
<small>NEXT BEFORE ADVENT</small> <b>Sun</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins <sup>†</sup>	No Service <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> <small>†: BCP              CW: Common Worship</small> </div>



**FREE PARK AND RIDE**  
**Every Saturday**  
**9.30am to 5.00pm**  
**From**  
**City of Ely Community College**  
**To Market Street**  
**Every 15 minutes**

SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH: EXTRACT FROM THE  
MINUTES OF THE PCC MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER  
AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR HALL, AT 7.30 P.M.

**1. Matters Arising**

**Reach re-ordering project**

Doreen Robinson showed the PCC the new drawings of the entrance doors to Reach Church, which were approved. It was proposed by Dan Tucker and seconded by Jan Robinson that the architects should ask for new tenders for the work. This was carried nem.con. John Norris suggested that Coachhouse Joinery might very well be the cheapest, and should be approached for tenders.

**2. Service Arrangements**

The PCC had been circulated with the pattern of services for October and November, which were similar to the existing regime. John Roebuck was organising visiting clergy. Revd Roger Bowen had agreed to look after most regular services, with occasional help from Revd Laurie Marsh. In addition to regular services, Ian de Massini had arranged a Choral Communion Service on the evening of Remembrance Sunday 10th November in St Cyriac's.

**3. Rotas**

New rotas were to be drawn up: Ruth Scovil would organise the Flower Rota; Kate Child would draw up the Cleaning Rota, and Francis Reeks would organise the Rota of Readers and Sidesmen. Ruth and Robin Scovil were to be asked to type them up into a single sheet.

**4. Parish Working Groups**

These had been subjected to a little revision by the Secretary, following the departure of Mark Haworth. The Worship Group would be convened by John Norris, and Francis Reeks would join that group. The Church in Community Group would be convened by Tricia Harrison. Churchwardens and Treasurers needed to meet soon to decide on Charitable Giving for the next year.

**5. Parish Profile**

The Secretary circulated a draft of the Parish Profile which was soon to be sent to the Bishops to help in the choice of a new incumbent. The PCC agreed to Paragraph 7 concerning the payment of the Parish Share and the incumbent's expenses. Two Parish Representatives were to be elected who would interview the prospective incumbent. Ros Woods proposed and Francis Reeks seconded that Jenny Moseley and Michael Cazenove should be the Parish Representatives. This was carried nem.con. The qualities

required in a new incumbent were discussed by the PCC.

## 6. A.O.B.

### a) School Assemblies

Jenny Moseley, as Foundation Governor of the school, pointed out that, following Mark's departure, someone needed to take school assemblies. This did not necessarily have to be clergy, and it would be difficult to get a regular commitment from Stephen Earl or local clergy at this busy time for them. The school had often used David Bousfield, and were happy to keep asking him to come. Lay people could also take assemblies. Perhaps parents would help, or some of the Family Service organising team.

### b) Pulpit

John Norris pointed out that the D.A.C. would not accept the design for a new pulpit. Ian Frearson was to be approached for ideas to make the pulpit more acceptable to the DAC.

### c) Cheque Signatories

Extra signatories were needed at the Bank for cheques on the church accounts. It was proposed by Ros Woods and seconded Jan Robinson that the signatories for the Reach accounts should be Laura Nottingham, Carolyn Cazenove and Alexander Tucker, and for the Swaffham Prior accounts, John Norris, Michael Cazenove and Francis Reeks. This was carried [nem.con](http://nem.con).

*Jenny Mosely*

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<b>Holy Communion</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)
<b>Evening Prayer</b>	Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior
<b>Bellringing</b>	Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
<b>Housegroup</b>	Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach. Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676
<b>Mothers Union</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End. Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509
<b>Toddlers Service</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

## **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).

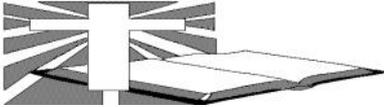
### **From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community**

This column has appeared rather erratically this year. I have written five columns and failed to write five more. This is sheer busy-ness: I have taken on new responsibilities in my secular employment, as deputy director of a research centre, alongside a host of other jobs; and the parish has not exactly been sleepy – down from two priests to one in distressing circumstances, the throbbing, numbing pain of the Soham murders with their pastoral consequences, the constant activity surrounding the design of the new pastoral centre when the ‘Waitrose’ development finally takes place (we now expect ground to be broken in July or August 2003, and completion in the summer of 2004, seven years from the first proposals! Nonetheless I apologise to any of you who actually read this column (as a number of people kindly say that they do). I take consolation from the words of Bishop Peter Smith on the eve of my ordination, when he said that I must always put my family first, my secular employment second and that the church would be grateful for whatever was left after that. I have tried to obey him and his wisdom in this; but I fear it means I do have to make compromises and make painful choices (if anyone knows the secret of bi-location, I will buy them a case of their favourite tittle for it). And within the ‘time left over’ for ministry, I have to make a similar series of hard choices, and (3) writing comes after (1) prayer and (2) people-contact.

So that is my public confession over. If you want me to stand in a public place in a white sheet with a placard round my neck saying ‘inconstant columnist’ I am sure your editor can arrange it. In the olden days this would have been my punishment by the church courts and you could all come and told me what you thought of me. Nowadays, I assume I would just do it for charity and you would all sponsor me!

And finally a piece of breaking news: Mgr Tony Rogers, administrator of the diocese while we await our new bishop has placed Mgr John Drury with us in Newmarket for what is likely to be a good spell. Fr John is one of the most senior priests in the diocese and he just spent five extraordinary years in Ecuador building up a parish and a community supported by the prayers and donations of our diocese: a real example of building faith and hope with love and (in the true sense) charity. So it is likely that with two priests again, Mass times will return to those of former years – with Kirtling reverting to

0945 and the 1700 Mass returning to Newmarket. I will confirm that next month, but in the meantime phone 662492 (mornings if possible) for confirmation.



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### *Past, Present & Future*

There are three reasons why we need Jesus. The FIRST is because we have a past. We can't go back. But Jesus can. The Bible says 'Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8). He can go back into those places where we have done things wrong and bring forgiveness. He can wipe the slate clean and give us a new start.

The SECOND is because we need friends today. Jesus knows the worst about us, yet He believes the best. He's always loving and always on our side encouraging us to take His hand of friendship that is always stretched out to us.

The THIRD is because He holds the future. Who else are we going to trust? In His hands we are safe and secure - today tomorrow and for ever. The Bible says 'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope' (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

If you would like to have a new start and have a personal friend to encourage you from now to eternity, then you can. By saying this prayer you can have that new start now.

Lord Jesus - I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. I ask your forgiveness and I will turn away from everything I know is wrong. Thank you for dying on the cross for me to set me free from all my sins. Please come into my life and be my friend. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and be with me forever. Thank you Jesus. Amen.



If you say this and mean it then the Bible says you are a new person in Jesus Christ (2Corinthians 5:17). If you would like help to grow in your new friendship with Jesus just get in touch with me or with someone you can trust at a church near where you live. You can reach me on the number below or via the Chapel post box.

*David Bousfield*

**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.

Rev. David Bousfield on 01223-563307.

## ***Dates for Your Diary - November 2002***

Sat	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sun	3	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Fri	8	6.45-9.45pm, School Christmas Disco, VH
Sat	9	Soham Comrades Band in Concert, St Peter and St Mary,
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	13	
Thu	14	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Fri	15	
Sat	16	7.30, Quiz Night, VH
Sun	17	10am-1pm, Tabletop Sale, Priory Youth Club
Mon	18	WI, 7.30, VH
Tue	19	
Wed	20	8pm, Village Gardener's, VH
Thu	21	8pm. PC Meeting. VH
Fri	22	School Beetle Drive, School Hall
Mon	25	Ladies Circle, VH
Tue	26	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	27	
Thu	28	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Mon	Dec 2	Christmas Fayre, SP School Hall
<b>Weekly Events</b>		
Sun		11am, Boules, VH Car park
Tue		2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mnths), 11-11.45 (18-38mnths), VH Water Colour For Beginners, 1- 4pm VH 7-8.30pm, Youth Club, Youth Club Hut
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu		2.30-4.30pm VH Teas. 7-8.30pm Karate, VH. 7-10pm, Youth Club, Youth Club Hut