



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 4
April 2003



Editorial

We are the champions of the Wo-orld....!

...oh, alright, Mid-Anglia Community magazines with circulation less than 1000, although not, as meanly suggested by some, “Small Villages beginning with S, rhyming with ‘fire’ and within a two mile radius of Reach”!

On Wednesday evening, *Crier* manager Ruth Stinton (with the *Crier* since the beginning in ‘77) and Treasurer Mike Philips (new boy: joined in ‘89) bravely set off to our local “Brit Awards”, glazed smiles and gritted teeth and at the ready. Not without cause, as the poor *Crier* copies we Definitely-Should-Have-Sent-Something-Else-Instead-Of shrank beneath the weight of seriously glossy competition, and the evening wore on with Highly Commendeds and Runners-Up and never a mention for the *Crier*..... and then.... and then we won!

Here are the judging criteria: “Editorial (no not this! all the articles!) quality, business commitment, community content, local info, front page design, presentation, sign posting, and the number of issues per year” and there’s at least 50 people involved with that lot. Yes, the *Crier* is an *army*, so CONGRATULATIONS to: our contributors, our reporters, our advertisers, our cover-picture people, our collators, our distributors, and not least the *Crier* team: Ruth (who’s written some really nice things about the Eds in this issue — thank-you Ruth!), Mike and Roger. And many thanks to the Cambridge Building Society and the Evening News for running the award.

MEANWHILE, if you weren’t aware, Wells Window Cleaning is back in business (see *Letters*), the CROSSWORD is IN at last, the Jumble Sale was brilliant — still kicking ourselves for hot-headed purchases forgot to send and still lumbered with — and our proof-reader is as eagle-eyed as ever (hope the Church really want some “Rinds”!)

Caroline and James Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Easter Sunday Lunch (Eds title!)* by Brenda Wilson

CAMBRIDGE

BUILDING SOCIETY

Village & Community
Magazine Awards



Winner 2002
Small Community
Swaffham Crier

Sponsored by
Cambridge Building Society

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EDITORS

On an impulse after seeing the entry form in the Cambridge Evening News, we sent two copies of the *Crier* to the Cambridge Building Society who with the C.E.N. were organising the fifth competition for the best village/community magazine. Caroline said 'good idea, but we never win anything'.

Imagine our surprise when we were invited to attend the presentation evening at Over Community Centre on 19th March as we were one of the finalists. Caroline made excuses for herself and James. I tried hard to be excused as I was otherwise engaged on that evening. In the end Mike Phillips and myself went and were even more surprised when we were announced as winners of the under 1,000 copies per issue category. We received a cheque for £500, a shield and a permanent plaque with the award logo on it (see opposite) which we will be able to use in the Crier.

Caroline and James put in many hours so that the Crier is ready on time (usually) and on your behalf I thank them for their dedication. They are now our longest service editors.

After the Editors have done their bit, it still takes a team of seven (from a volunteer list of seventeen, who normally do it about once every three months) to collate the magazine and another team of sixteen who make the deliveries regularly each month. We are always looking for more volunteers, especially for the collating which takes about 1 - 1½ hrs on the last Thursday of each month. If you would be willing to help us please call me on 742641.

The Crier has progressed so much since the first edition in January 1977 which was typed on Canon John Byrom's typewriter which had a long carriage and could accommodate the old Gestetner skins.

Thank you Caroline and James. We do appreciate all you do for our magazine.

Ruth Stinton

From The Cambridge Evening News of 20 March:

Village magazines applauded

THE cream of Mid-Anglia's community magazines were revealed last night at an awards ceremony. The Village and Community Magazine Awards 2002, hosted by Cambridge Building Society and the *News at Over Community Centre*, saw eight publications out of a record entry of more than 60 receive the plaudits. The winning magazine in the small village category was the *Swaffham Crier*, which serves the Swaffham Prior area — and in the large village category, the top prize went to *Melbourn Magazine*.

The runner-up in the small village category was the *Buntingford Journal*,



and runner-up in the large village category was *Sawston Scene*.

Four villages were highly commended, two in each category - *Village Voice*, which serves Haddenham, Aldreth and Wilburton, and the *Wilbraham Warbler*, serving Great and Little Wilbraham (small); and *The Villager*, serving Holywell-cum-Needlingworth, and Newport's newsletter, *Newport News* (large).

The winning magazines received trophies and cash prizes of £500 each, and the runners-up got £250 each.

Bob Jackson, chief executive of the building society and a member of the judging panel, said: "This is the first year the awards have been split into two categories, to reflect the size of the communities the magazines serve, and we were delighted with the number of entries.

"The quality of the magazines produced just gets better and better every year, and we would like to congratulate everyone who took part.

"They really are doing a great job for their communities."

CEN 20 March 2003

And just to prove that this is no flash-in-the-pan win, a charming letter from the Jan 1989 *Crier* when John Chalmers and Ron Prime were the prize winning *Crier* editors.

29 The Causeway,
Burwell.
10th Dec 1988.

Dear Editors,

Over here at 'CLUNCH' HQ in Burwell we're still licking our wounds after the recent battle between the local community magazines. Why, we wonder, should a little titch beyond the Ditch win second place, whilst we couldn't win so much as a mention!

How is it that you're able to produce twelve issues every year and all we can manage is six? How is it that your windmill has four sails and ours only two? How is it that you sport that smart village sign - and we're still struggling?

Not so very long ago, school buses used to take their morning loads from Swaffham Prior to Burwell - and now they drive the other way. The mighty Dyke itself reveals that in the dimmer distant past WE had to defend ourselves from YOU! And now you call yourselves 'The Crier' and leave us to shed all the tears.

Is your secret power in that water tower up there on top of the hill? After all, at the turn of a tap, you could have us die of thirst. (It's as well not many of us realise the gravity of the situation - we'd never sleep at nights!).

Seriously, however, we are full of admiration for your having become runners-up in the competition and we send our warmest congratulations to all concerned - not forgetting Cliff and Betty who put their hearts and souls into the enterprise. They must be delighted too.

You certainly seem to have all your Swaffham Priorities sorted out alright.

Very best wishes for 1989.

Yours sincerely,

John Spence and the 'Clunch' bunch.



Letters to the Editors



Dear Village,

Greg Sage

Greg and I were overwhelmed by your many kindnesses over the past year and greatly appreciated your terrific support.

He died at home on March 5th and his funeral took place on March 17th. I hope that you will all understand that, because there are other sadnesses in our family at present, it was a small ceremony. I shall however be organising a concert in memory of Greg and to raise money for Cancer Research, later in the year, and I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will be able to be there so that we can say goodbye to him and have the kind of evening that he would have so much enjoyed.

Greg loved living in Swaffham Prior for the last fourteen years and your friendship and concern touched us deeply.

With love and thanks,

Hilary Sage

Dear Editors,

March 10th Miracle

This year the frogs have responded to their call of nature and left their winter homes and journeyed to my pond. For the past 12 years or so this migration has happened on the 10th of March. On the 9th no amphibians at all - even the fish are quiet in the cold water. The next day the place is alive with croaking and mating rituals.

The toads arrived last night - the 11th March. I counted 19 on my small lawn surrounding the pond. Their progress is very slow and laboured, no hopping unless frightened. The “lady” toads will arrive tomorrow and lay their strings of eggs on the pond weed. All this activity will cease in 7 days and they will all go, leaving behind the spawn.

After hatching (4 weeks or so) the small tadpoles will be swimming in the pond - good fish food perhaps? Not so, they survive unmolested until they eventually hop away in late May.

All very remarkable - I think it must be something to do with night and day being almost equal as they certainly don't read calendars.

John Norris

Change of Date

Jazz Night at the Red Lion will now be on Friday 20th June 7:00-10:00pm.
Watch this space for details nearer the date.

Dear Editors,

Council Tax

That long-awaited moment! My council tax notice arrived today. It has all but doubled in six years. In the 1970s I'd have thought, well, that's inflation for you. But nothing else has gone up like that - even petrol has taken a decade to double. (I'll ignore heating oil as that isn't going to settle until that nice Mr Bush loses interest in the Middle East). I don't think it's the pay of those in local services - mine hasn't doubled, and others don't seem to be quids in - the fire services have had a word or two to say on that subject lately.

I would like to be positive and grateful to my local services for doing all those jobs and providing all those services I'd rather not have to go out and do, like putting a lamp outside my home to guide the way for travellers. (Actually, now I think about it, I do that one, albeit intermittently). The trouble is, I feel the beginnings of twinges of resentment, but there don't seem to be any anti-Council tax movements or riots in Trafalgar Square, so I have doubts - is everyone else feeling, 'well, it needs to have doubled because ...'

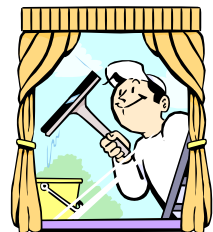
Because what? Could someone explain in basic terms what has changed? I would like to go back to just paying it without thinking about it - fretting seems to increase the burden. I've tried reading the booklet provided with my bill but I can't find the section entitled 'Why Your Tax has Doubled In Six Years'. All attempts to explain will be gratefully received and I will go so far as to promise not to reply if the answer is clear. (I hope the value of that undertaking is appreciated, by some at least).

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lewinski
32 Fairview Grove

PS Whilst I'm fretting, does anyone know what happened to the cheerful chap who came round last summer saying he lived at the top of Cage Hill and was starting a window-cleaning round? I said yes please but I've not seen him since. My windows are a disgrace.

Eds notes: See Councillors Cane and Fitch for *their* explanations about Council Tax! Meanwhile, **Andy Wells** (0787 9050 109) makes an excellent job of cleaning our windows and would, we're sure, be very happy to have some additional business in the village.



Dear Editors

The Wrong Motor

In my January Parish Council Report I said that I thought most speeding problems in the village would be resolved if an eye was kept on “all Rover and Volvo drivers”. I had no idea there were so many Volvo drivers in the village. A few have contested my comment and have persuaded me that I am easily muddled about foreign cars and that I really meant to have written “Citroën drivers”. All seem very happy about the reference to Rover drivers.

Alastair Everitt
Anglesey House

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting **Speeding Traffic and Rubbish: Life at Swaffham Prior** **Parish Council Meeting 13 March 2003**

The Parish Council meeting in March ran its usual course with few surprises. James Fitch of the CCC and Charlotte Cane of the ECDC reported as clearly as always. James Fitch mentioned that our buses suffered seriously from vandalism when in the garage. (In one bus, the diesel tank cap had been removed and a piece of paper stuffed into the tank, so the filter became blocked when the bus was on its next journey.) A happier note was struck when James reported that both the Library Service staff and the Warden of Bottisham Village College were prepared to be helpful about devising an improvised replacement service for the shut-down Bottisham Library. An appeal is being launched for books, to refill the about-to-be-emptied shelves, and for volunteer staff members, an ‘amateur team’, to run the show. Charlotte Cane reported that we are to be offered a ‘visible police presence’ in the form of uniformed non-policemen who would have limited powers of arrest and would walk about thwarting minor disorders and vandalism. A member of the Council remarked that it would be better to have more real policemen, but Charlotte explained that extra money had been voted for this particular form of policing and no other. Perhaps this is a matter which will come up for discussion at the Annual Village Assembly, the date of which was fixed for Thursday 15th May.



The Speed Watch Campaign seems to have been dawdling about for months, unable to get off the ground. It had been announced, at short notice and with little publicity, that there would be an exhibition on the subject, at the village school, on the afternoon of 13th March. (Your reporter went to the school that day and with difficulty found the so-called exhibition all in

among the school re-building-works. But no exhibition or display was visible: nothing but a set of address forms inviting people to give names and phone numbers if interested: disappointing!). The Chairman told us that a machine could be installed beside the road which would record all passing cars (not their numbers, just their passing), and could be made to flash-up their speed on a screen; or else to flash-up the speed-limit. The machine could run continuously for (say) 24 hours; (and presumably could then be placed at another spot, for the next 24 hours.) This was not a device for enforcing a speed limit, but simply for collecting data, to find out where problems were occurring. Don't bother to *Watch This Space: it will probably be months before we have any more news of the Speed Watch Campaign.*

Action may be imminent over the Barston Drove rubbish problem. The rubbish down there, which includes old radiators, mattresses, and a derelict car, is to be gathered up by Community-Work people, and then a skip would be hired for removing it. The site actually belongs to the Parish Council, and the neighbouring farmer has been asking the PC to gas the rabbits, a pest on his ground. But this rubbish removal is necessary first, to give access to the bank of rabbit-holes. Charlotte Cane urged us to instigate the prosecution of the rubbish-dumper (if his identity is known) as a swingeing fine might be a way of preventing a recurrence of the problem.

The Chairman reported with delight that one of our chronic problems, the roadside ditch along Lower End, has now been cleared, and daylight is visible through the culvert. The hedge-trimming and grass-cutting of the Station Road playing field must now be dealt-with: hedges have to be cut before the end of March. It was suggested that we should offer the playing field as grazing to our neighbouring sheep farmer, who could put up an electric fence to keep the stock near the centre of the field, away from the hedges while the hedges were being trimmed. Excellent: look out for 20 living grass-cutters, next time you walk down Station Road.

Margaret Stanier

Tony's Gardening & Domestic Services



OFFICE · CARPET · WINDOW CLEANING

Tony Linsdell,
35 Wheatcroft,
Linton,
Cambridge CB1 6YR

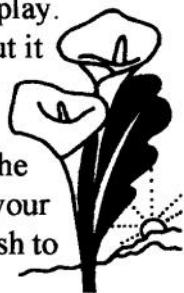
Tel: 01223 890533
Mobile: 07813 783 040

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil

ART THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

*A SPECIAL 5 WEEK COURSE
AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL*

WEDNESDAYS 10-12 AM. 4TH JUNE—2ND JULY

PLUS OPTIONAL VISIT TO NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON

We will explore many images that have shocked or fascinated by their sheer audacity of invention and scale of ambition. Artists include Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Van Eyck, Rembrandt, Monet, Picasso, Dali and Rothko.

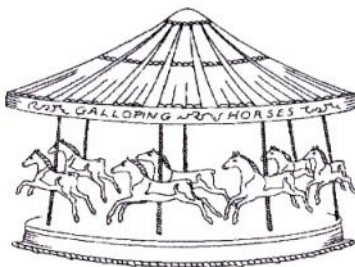
FOR MORE DETAILS/ENROLEMENT FORMS, *please ring the
Tutor, Deborah Monteiro on tel: 743259*



THANK YOU

Everyone at The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm would like to thank those friends of Mrs Jean Lewis who contributed so generously to the donation of £321 received by the Trust in memory of Jean - she was a very loyal supporter of the work of the Trust and this donation is very much appreciated.

Reach Fair



Bank Holiday Monday
5th May 2003 - 12 noon - 5 pm

Grand opening by the Mayor of Cambridge
Knights of Chivalry / Music and Dancing / Country Crafts
Stalls / Arts and Crafts / Children's Entertainment
Hog Roast / BBQ / Bar.....Plus lots more

Free Admission - Programmes £2.00

Grand Prize Draw

Registered Charity: 280601

For Sale

Two single duvet covers with matching pillowcases - light blue.
£7 each set.

Fox - 01638 742000

The Moveable Feast - 1st March 2003

Once again it was a sell-out, with 31 people enjoying good food, wine and conversation in 4 different venues in Lower End. We were all indebted to our hosts for welcoming us into their homes and giving their time in not only organising the food but also shifting furniture to accommodate us.

It was especially good to see some people who had not been to such an occasion as this before and also an opportunity to meet and welcome several people who have recently moved into the village. Not only did we have a very pleasant evening but also made £380 for church funds.

It has been suggested that for future Moveable Feasts, especially for the main course, we might split into smaller groups of say 8 or 10 so that we could fit round most people's dining room tables (this arrangement seemed to work in Bulbeck!). If you would like to participate - probably next year - please give me a call on 01638 743983 - the more the merrier. I have one offer already.

Kate Child

The Village Hall Jumble Sale

The date of this year's Jumble Sale was moved back a week so that it could immediately precede, and give a good start to, the Cheltenham Festival.

More people than ever came to the Jumble and some locals exited the hall quite quickly claiming it was worse than a football match. Takings (£440) were quite a bit down from the record last year (£652) but not too much below the £470 of 2001. Everything helps as a contribution towards the recent redecoration of the Village Hall — had you noticed?

Many thanks to all who contributed, came or helped.

Alastair Everitt

MITCHELL LODGE BOWLS CLUB

The Club's pre-season meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd April, 2003 at 6.30pm in the pavilion at Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck. New members are welcome and those taking up the game for the first time will be given a friendly helping hand.

Competitive games are played in the Ely & District afternoon league, and in the evenings in the Cambridge & District league and the Business House leagues. Some friendly games and the usual club competitions are held during the season.

Contact M. Beeton, tel: 01223 234123

The Moveable Feast

The following conversation was overheard at the recent Moveable Feast held to raise money for Church Rinds. For obvious reasons no-one is being identified. The two ladies are called Daisy and April and, with the Editors' approval, I am Dick.

Daisy: When either he or I has a cold I tell him to sleep in another bedroom.

April: It's exactly the same with me, but I move out.

D: What? Why do you do you move out?

A: Well, he's not going to move is he.

D: More fool you. What I dread is waking up and wanting to go to the loo.

A: Why?

D: I know he's awake and if I move he will start talking to me.

A: Is that so awful?

D: Yes, I have to talk to him in the day and feel I don't have to in the middle of the night. Sometimes I lie for what seems hours with a bursting bladder, not daring to move, just to avoid speaking to him.

A: I know what you mean. If he thinks I'm awake he asks "Are you awake?" Over the

years he's never once asked anything else. He's quite a good conversationalist. D: How awful.

A: Yes, it is rather. Sometimes I feel sorry for him and say "Yes". His response is always the same — "Shall I put on another tape?"

D: Shall he what?!!

A: He asks whether he should put on a talking tape.

D: Oh my poor dear you! Mind you, do you know what mine does every night just before he gets into bed?

AND SO IT CONTINUED

Dick

Of no (specified) fixed abode

NATIONAL REAL NAPPY WEEK

East Cambridgeshire District Council is working in partnership with The Cambridgeshire Real Nappy Network as part of a Local Agenda 21 project to raise awareness of the use of real nappies.

Visit the Real Nappy Roadshow Bus at the Market Square, Ely on Wednesday 9th April between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm to find out more about the use of real nappies and take up the free trial kit offer.

For further information, please call Tracey Harding, East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377.



Cambridgeshire Carries on Composting!

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is recruiting more volunteers this year! You may now be familiar with the Master Composter Programme, which has been appearing in some Cambridgeshire Parish Magazines since last year. The Programme is being run by the County Council, working together with all the District Councils and HDRA Consultants, to promote home and community composting.

Volunteers are required to provide a network of local, friendly advice and support to people who already compost and those who want to start.

Master Composter programmes were established over 10 years ago in the USA and Canada. These programmes have proved to be extremely popular and successful in promoting the benefits of home composting. The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is the largest of its kind, with over 100 volunteers. Nearly 1,500 hours of voluntary work have been completed so far.

Becoming a Master Composter is a great way to meet new people, learn valuable skills, provide leadership and benefit from being part of a team that makes a difference. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter; you **don't** need to be an expert composter (or be composting at all) or have any volunteer or community group experience.

As a volunteer you will receive training in home composting and related environmental issues (provided by HDRA — the organic organisation), a Master Composter resource pack and several day trips; including visits to a composting site and one of HDRA's organic gardens. All training expenses will be paid for; you only need to provide your time. Training will hopefully begin in May 2003. Once the training has been completed, you will be expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting. These activities will be tailored to your individual skills and could be anything from giving a demonstration to your next-door neighbours to giving a presentation to a class of school children or helping promote further compost bin sales. Upon completion of the training and 30 volunteer hours you will be awarded the title Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Composter please contact Penny Holmes, HDRA Consultants, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG, email: pholmes@hdra.org.uk, telephone 024 7630 8202 or fax 024 7630 8225.

The Master Composter Programme is a partnership between HDRA

Consultants*, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The project is being funded through a scheme that allows some Landfill Tax money to be used for research projects that will produce environmental benefits. This project has been funded by WREN using WRG plc Landfill Tax Credits.



Demand Broadband Now!



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

What is Broadband?

Broadband is a fast, powerful, always-on internet facility which enables users to exchange large files at high speed, receive video pictures, hold live video conferences, and have access to the most modern types of on-line training and skills improvement courses.

Who is it aimed at?

It offers big advantages to homeworkers, businesses and for the general community, especially families who have teenagers constantly on the Internet and would like to be able to use the phone for a change!

Who provides the service?

Broadband can be provided by a variety of providers, although the most commonly recognised ones are BT and NTL. BT currently has no service available within the district and NTL have provided service to parts of Ely and Burwell. Invisible Networks have begun to roll out service through Wireless to two settlements within the district including Bottisham and plan soon to include Swaffham Prior.

How can I help get it?

EEDA is preparing to hand out £3m through its Connecting Communities Competition to help towns, villages, businesses and other organisations and individuals throughout the Eastern region get broadband. With a deadline of the end of April for applications for funding from EEDA fast approaching, the council held a meeting at the end of February, at which 50 representatives from businesses and other organisations formed a 15-strong committee to spearhead the attempt to win a share of the money for East Cambs. The committee will be aiming to sign up many more backers for the bid, and will also be helping to strengthen the council's application.

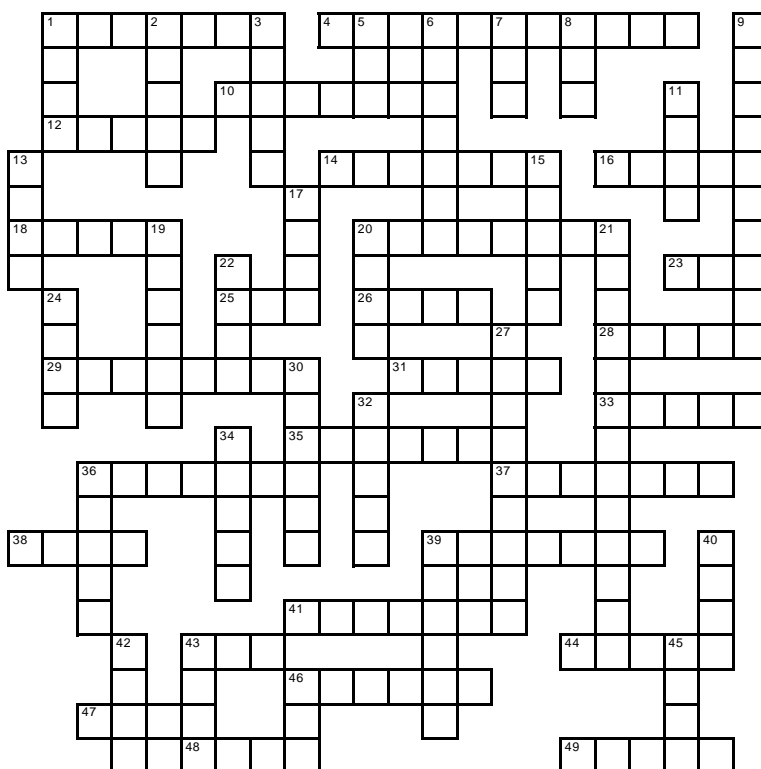
To help East Cambs get onto the broadband bandwagon, the Council needs to gather more letters of support from local businesses, community groups, Parish Councils, homeworkers and individuals, all saying they would like to have the service installed. These testimonials would be the crucially important back-up to the Council's application to EEDA. The Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce has already thrown its weight behind the proposal, after its East Cambridgeshire members had met earlier to express their strong endorsement of the initiative.

So What Do I do Now?

If you want to help can you please register your interest on www.demandbroadband.com, this does not mean that you are legally committing yourselves to anything. Can you also send letters of support showing how you could benefit from having broadband to Margot Harbour at ECDC, Babylon Bridge, Waterside, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AU or email margot.harbour@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Crier Crossword No. 1

By Presto



*Every extremely devious and cryptic clue is something to do with **21 Down**. Entries (if there are any!) to the **Crier** before copy date. Bottle of wine to winner.*

Across (mostly!)

- 1,31** Poetic pilgrim's uncertain gender (7,5)
4 It's a tornado in a whirl (7,4)
10,46 Garbled Euphrates RSVP (7,6)
12 See 34 Down
14 See 15 Down
15D,16 Southern Cockney is not Madonna's (5, 5)
18,25 Bovine extremity (5,3)
20,20D Stanley's Scottish child misses one (8,4)
23,19 Articled tracker (3,6)
25 See 18
26 See 2 Down
41,28 Old prisoner in dreadful circumstances takes loud Orient (7,5)
29,36 Get clear VEN code corrupted (8,7)
31 See 1 Across
33 See 1 Down
35,31 Jackpot for confused citizen? (7,5)
36 See 29
37,36D Harmonious Albert's light speed fastening (7,5)
38,39D Bard's unnecessary letter with press, say, and fellow with the Spanish (4,6)
39,2D Burwell shop on Queen's lawn (7,5)
41,43 Pounded a limp gavel (7,3)
44 See 42 Down
46 See 10 Across
47 See 46 Down
48 See 8 Down
49 Central Line North (5)

Down

- 1,33** Nuke those letters! (4,5)
2,22,26 Naive poll with small heater within ring (9,4)
3,24,11 Garden creature for Harry with novice and loud member (9,4)
5,40 Each get crazy (3,4)
6,26 Drill a tooth badly (7,4)
7,32 Not new and almost can't remember (3,5)
8,48 Revolutionary crusader with no heart (3,4)
9 Gets hither in a muddle (4,6)
11 See 3
13 See 40
15,14 Sciatic yarns unwound (5,7)
17,43 Zephyr with pepper dispenser (8)
19 See 23 Across
20 See 20 Across
21 Points to a very noisy pig before (8,5)
22 See 2
24 See 3
27 Heavy-weight secretive about direction (4,5)
30,26 A dog's error—messy! (6,4)
32 See 7
34,12 Attendant I left and wrote perplexed (5,5)
36 See 37 Across
39 See 38 Across
40,13 Precious metal in secular time greeting novice duo (4,4)
42,45,44 Non-cloudy outlook to sheltered area (8, 5)
43,13 How to get a ground mound? (8)
45 See 42
46,47 We hear relative make a call(7)

News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



During the week of the 24th February the school had a successful inspection; more details will follow next month as we are awaiting the full report. I am confident that outcomes reflect what we already know about our school and are due to the commitment and hard work of all staff, the good attitudes and behaviour of the children and the strong parental partnership. Thank you Steve Lang for all your hard work in supporting the teaching of ICT.

Focus on Class 2

Class two has children from Y1 and 2, aged between five and seven, Their class teacher is Mrs Hanke and invaluable classroom support is provided by Mrs Cole and Mrs Doe.

Talking to children in class 2 shows that they are really enjoying their science work and have been carrying out experiments to find out the effect of heat on various materials and food. Looking at the effect of heat on popcorn proved most popular.

The County recycling bus will be visiting the school to support the class topic work and to focus more closely on recycling.

Following a visit from the ever popular "History Off The Page", the children are all wanting to be archaeologists, and have set up an archaeology



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corner within their class.

Their art work in also an inspiration and they have explored the properties of materials in a large class and individual weavings.

Hockey

A team of ten year five and six boys and girls went to Ely to play in the Grand Hockey Final, a competition organised by East Cambs Sports Development.

Their team spirit was excellent (probably better than their overall skill level!) but due to Ryan's good goal keeping and several long shots, excellent defence from Max, and Jack's eye for a goal, our team came second and returned home jubilant.

Community Events

Tuesday 8th April 2.00pm puppet exhibition

Thursday 10th April Easter assembly 1.30pm St Mary's Church

Monday 5th May Maypole dancing at Reach Fair

As part of our refurbishment on a budget, the school is looking for reception type chairs for the newly built staff room, filing cabinets, as well as PCs and multi media projectors. If you know of any offices which are going to be upgraded and might have these items spare, do let the school know.

The school wishes Reverend Bousfield well in his move and would like to thank him for his contribution to school life through his regular assemblies. The children always love their strong visual appeal and I'm sure that he will be successful in his new post.

Joanna Lakey

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WI Notes

Swaffham Prior W.I. held their A.G.M. in March. This went through quite smoothly with Pat Airey continuing as President. We were pleased to welcome two members of Swaffham Bulbeck W.I. as Tellers, and would you believe it they walked off with two of our three raffle prizes! They have already asked if they can come again next year! After tempting food provided by the committee we enjoyed a rather noisy Beetle Drive.

Next month our meeting will be a week early because of Easter. So on 14th April Keith Goodwin from Wimpole Hall is coming to talk to us about "Pots and Pans". Visitors are always welcome.

The coach trip to Houghton Hall on Sunday, 17th August, is definitely 'on', so book your seats by ringing Betty Fox on 742000. There is a stately home with lovely gardens to visit and refreshments available.

Betty Prime.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

19 MARCH

We had an introduction to orchids from a dedicated enthusiast. There are some 20,000 species worldwide of which 54 grow in Britain. Lady's Slipper is the most rare with only two or three left in the wild. Growing in laboratory conditions and then replanting in traditional sites will hopefully conserve and subsequently increase the stock. It was fascinating to learn the details of how the plant markings attract the appropriate insects inside by the lure of nectar and the pollen mass then attaches itself to the insect, which then goes on to the next flower to complete the pollination. These specialised plants often spring up in unexpected places. The seeds are so light that dust storms can disperse them over hundreds of miles. Global warming could lead to an expansion of their growing range and herald new arrivals.

The dangers to the future of the orchid arise from the smallness of the seeds and the slowness of their development. It can take years for seedlings to grow; some can take fifteen years to develop flowers. Other hazards come from fertilizers, habitat change, illegal picking, etc.

Orchid sightings may be possible on Devil's Dyke and in Wicken Fen during late May and early June.

Visitors are welcome to our next talk on 15 April on the History and Flora of Wicken Fen. Our first outside visit of the year will be to the University Botanical Garden in May and in June we will be visiting Wicken Fen.



STAINE HUNDRED

Members at the March Meeting of the Staine Hundred were well rewarded with an excellent talk by Ann Holton-Krayenbuhl on ‘Medieval Ely: Monks, Merchants and Craftsmen.’ The first monastery was founded by Elthreda in 670 and though it is reputed to have been destroyed by the

Danes, no evidence of burning has been found. In 980 a Benedictine Abbey was founded and this was superseded by the Norman Abbey in 1081 when it was the second richest in England. In 1109, the huge building was cut in two with half being downgraded to a Priory, and the other half being taken over by Bishop Harvey, including more than half of the property and wealth. The various officials in the Monastery let the land to tenants and it was from this income that the Almonry, Infirmary, the Lady Chapel and Sacristy had to be maintained.

Ely developed into an important town in the period 1150 to 1350, but then declined into a secondary market town. During this period, the course of the river was diverted to its present position at the foot of the Ely Hill and this attracted much water-borne traffic as it was between Cambridge and Kings Lynn, the latter having been developed by the Bishop of Norwich when Wisbech harbour silted up. In 1120 Ely was granted its Annual Fair in June for seven days. Ships came into King’s Lynn from the Baltic and the Mediterranean, thus there is reference to Henry II sending his buyers to purchase Baltic furs and Far Eastern silk at Ely. Most goods were transported in barrels as these were easy to load or unload. Stalls were out up in the streets, cemeteries, and even in the nave of the cathedral which was used as the parish church. There were seven shops on the town side of the Almonry.

In 1417 there was a dispute between Bishop Fordham and the Abbot as to whom owned various parcels of land and the Inquiry details all the tenants, the rents, and to whom they were paid. These tie up with other existing monasterial documents so it has been possible to trace the properties — some of which exist until this day, such as the Three Blackbirds which is a very early brick building with a hearth stone that was once a millstone originated in Germany. This was a time when people were taking on the name of their trade as a surname, for instance Barkers who worked at the second stage of the tanning industry. Leather was very important and there were many cordwainers who made shoes and cobblers who mended shoes or recycled the old leather into new shoes.. Breweries and maltings flourished and there is evidence of ale being exported from Ely in Medieval times. The talk was illustrated by some excellent slides.

The next meeting is on April 9th when Mrs S.Pearl will be talking on “The History of Strawplaiting” and there may be a chance of some hands-on participation!

Southwell Minster and a 19th Century Workhouse are the venues for the

Youth Club News

As some of you may have heard the new floor in the club has been laid. It is a slip resistant floor, which means that it is a lot safer for the children who use the club. What we must not forget is the people that made this possible. The church parochials, The parish council and The sports committee have ensured us that this project was a great success. The leaders of the club wish to express their gratitude to these people for making this happen. Many thanks to you all.

On Friday 7th march we had a disco in the village hall to raise money for the club funds. The support and attendance staggered us. The evening was excellent and everybody had fun and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you for the generous raffle prizes that were given. A special thanks to Gill who worked VERY hard to make this happen.

Alan

Free Computer Training from ECOL at The Dykes End Pub at Reach

East Cambs On-Line offers free introductory computer training to people living in the East Cambridgeshire countryside. The most popular courses are learning to use email and 'surf the Internet' You can also can learn Microsoft Word, Excel PowerPoint and Publisher or how to use a scanner. You can even train for a nationally recognised computer qualification or take a learndirect course.



ECOL training is tailored to suit your particular needs. You do not need any previous experience of computers to start learning. Over 1000 people, including many complete beginners, have learnt computer skills with ECOL .

ECOL IT tutors visit each Access Point at pre-arranged times. There are currently vacancies at your local access point. Contact Access Point Organiser Denise Meale 07 789 273 904

ECOL is part of the UKonline government IT training initiative, For further information about other access points contact Geoff Durrant, Project Manager on 01353 865448 .

Internet users can go to www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html.eol.asp.

Eds note: See also Charlotte Cane's offer (opposite) of the possibility of an ECOL computer in the Village if we can find somewhere suitable for it.



The elections for your Parish Councillors and your District Councillor will be held on Thursday 1st of May. You do not need your Polling Card to vote, just go to the Village Hall where the clerk will ask for your name and address. The Polling station is open from 8.00am until 9.00pm.

A free Health Fayre, organised by the East Cambridgeshire and Fenland Primary Care Trust and the District Council, will be held on 17th April from 10.00am-3.00pm at The Ely Beet Sports & Social Club, Lynn Road, Ely. Many local organisations will be there, giving health advice including how to give up smoking and a chance to have your blood pressure checked. There will also be lots of competitions and entertainment for children.

East Cambs have increased our share of the Council Tax by 10 pence a week for a Band D property to £107.29. The County is charging £797.40 (an increase of £1.29 per week), the Police are charging £113.31 (an increase of 36p per week) and your Parish Council is charging £33.83 (an increase of 6p per week). This makes the total bill for a Band D house in Swaffham Prior £1,051.83. For a Band A house the total charge is £701.22, just £71.53 of this is for East Cambs, and for a Band H the total charge is £2,103.66, just £214.58 of this is for East Cambs. East Cambs collects the money for all of these authorities, so it can be difficult to be sure how much of what you pay goes to which authority. For each pound that you pay, 76 pence goes to the County Council, 11 pence goes to the Police, 10 pence is kept by East Cambs and 3 pence goes to the Parish Council.

Several people have asked me why we don't collect plastics for recycling and why we don't have wheelie bins. We don't collect plastics yet because we have nowhere locally to recycle them. But we are actively looking for somewhere that will recycle plastics for East Cambs. However, it is unlikely that plastics would be included in our kerbside collections as they are so bulky that the collection lorries would have to return to the depot too often. So we would put collection bins in our paper and bottle banks around the district. We don't have wheelie bins because whenever these bins have been introduced elsewhere the amount of rubbish which people have thrown away has increased significantly and we want to continue to reduce the amount of rubbish which is thrown away, as this ends up in landfill sites.

East Cambs On-Line (ECOL) celebrated its first birthday in March. I would like to know if you want an ECOL computer in Swaffham Prior and, if so, where you would like it to be – please ring me on 742509. They need to be somewhere where they are reasonably safe from theft and vandalism and yet readily accessible to local users.

Charlotte Cane



COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID MARCH 2003

Last month I wrote about the emerging Council Tax (County) and the threatened closure of Bottisham Library. To complete those comments I can confirm that the County's share of **Council Tax 2003/4** will be £708.80 for Band C, £797.40 for Band D, and £974.60 for Band E. The increases over last year are £1.14, £1.29 and £1.57 per week for Band C, D and E. The percentage increase is 9.2% over the year ending this month. To the above are added Police (increase £18.32p /year /Band D) and the District and Parish shares.

The whole **Council Tax** money against services provided is contained within the combined County Council/District Council/Police leaflet which comes with your tax bill.

All elected members of all the above authorities (plus the Fire Service included in the County part of the bill) regret the necessity of a larger than the retail price index of national inflation. Equally, we have all come to the conclusion that to maintain services without major cuts we had to vote through these various increases. In this we were backed by opinion polls taken over the last 2 months within Cambridgeshire which supported up to 12% tax increase. Our Lib Dem opposition Group tried to add about 10p/week to the bill to save the 10 libraries to be closed and improve payments to foster parents. The majority of Conservative Party decided to reject this. The Labour Group followed with a similar also unsuccessful amendment.

Lastly, I should say that we are very conscious that the increase falls heaviest on those with pensions or fixed incomes. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that pensioners are just the people who often need substantial help from Social Services, so we believe we are directing scarce funds to those most in need. As it is the Government's intention to gradually transfer payments for local services to the local people involved, we are entitled to expect reductions in Income Tax or VAT. I'll believe that when I see it.

At the time of writing I can give no more news about the threat to **Bottisham Library**. The position should have been clarified by the time you read this following the meeting at Bottisham Village College on 15 March. As **Burwell Library** is in the long pipeline for refurbishment, there is at least some good news on this service.

South Cambs District Council on behalf of Quy, Horningsea and Fen Ditton have also joined the County and East Cambs and objected to 24

Seven's plans for a parallel **line of transmission cables** to that already crossing our fen areas. I understand the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry will have the final say-so but I hope only after a Public Inquiry.

The Independent **Structure Plan** Panel recommendations following the recent Examination in Public of the draft Cambs Structure Plan agree that housing growth should be 70,000 between 1999 and 2016. The location of an 8/10,000 dwelling settlement should be at Longstanton / Oakington.

Cambridge Airport should be accepted for development before 2016. The panel did not agree expansion into the Green Belt east of Cambridge Airport (Tevensham / Fulbourn) in the longer term. However, they thought that Waterbeach was a sustainable location for a second settlement in the longer term. The County will now reconsider and come out to consultation with the public in May / June.

James Fitch

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges

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Starting week beginning Tuesday 7th May



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

Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 5 members and 2 member of the Public.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising.

Parish Council Vacancies: The Parish Council still has two vacancies. Nomination Papers for the Parish Elections on the 1st May were issued. Notices will be displayed in due course.

CALC Subscription: This was agreed.

Meeting Dates for 2003/04 + Annual Village Assembly: These were agreed. The Annual Village Assembly will be held on the 15th May 2003.

Village Maintenance:

- a) *Bus Shelter.* Three estimates were received for the work needed. It was agreed to ask Steve Maynard to carry out the work. The Clerk will also ask Steve Maynard to clean and repaint the upright to the Village sign.
- b) *Play Area Fencing.* Andy Martin is to be asked to repair the fencing.
- c) *Cemetery Noticeboard.* This is to be inspected and repaired or replaced. To be confirmed at next meeting.
- d) *Village Hall Driveway.* The holes to the driveway have been filled.

Barston Drive – clearance work. Following a meeting with Mr Steele of Community Services on site, he confirmed that a working team would help with the clearing of a large amount of rubbish plus cutting back of brambles/hedgerows. Cllr Cane was asked if ECDC would then help with the taking away of this rubbish. She did note that this is the responsibility of the Parish Council as the owners of the land but that she would speak with the relevant department at ECDC to see if any assistance can be offered. Once the area is cleared, the problem of rabbit infestation can be dealt with.

Speed Watch Exhibition: This was held on Thursday, 13th March 2003. There was a good turn out and it is now hoped to move the project forward to the next stage of putting together a “working party”. Christina Greaney of CCC will be writing to all interested residents.

Correspondence Received:

CCC: **“Imposition of 40mph Speed Limit No 1 Order 2003”** This relates to the traffic calming *measures on Mill Hill and came into force on the 3rd March 2003.*

General: School newsletters.

“Periodic Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire County Council” This was received from The Boundary Committee for England.

School Newsletters.

Histon Sector Newsletter & Crime Figures.

A letter was received expressing concerns about the positioning of the rumble strip at the Swaffham Bulbeck end of Mill Hill, noting that vehicles approaching the village at 60mph caused a “tyre slap”. This was discussed and the Clerk will reply.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Application: Commissioners Farm Cottage, S.P. Fen – *Extensions and alterations forming bedroom, en-suite, kitchen, garage, etc.* There were no objections to this application.

Any Other Business:

Wall at The Beeches. Andrew Tipple of CCC Highways has been chased on this matter.

Lower End Ditch. The clearance work has now been carried out.

Bus Timetable. The Clerk is to contact the Bus Company/CCC to ask if the timetable now sited on the lamp -post at the bottom of Cage Hill could be resited to inside the Bus Shelter.

Traffic Calming Measures – Mill Hill. Work is continuing on this project. Interactive signs are due to be installed by the end of March.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10th April 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Notice and Application for Grant - Community Premises Licence

I Joanna Lakey of Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School propose to make application for a Community Premises Licence for Swaffham Prior Primary School to commence 1 April 2003.

Any objections should be submitted, in writing, to Mr S C Clements, Executive Director, Environmental Services, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4PL.

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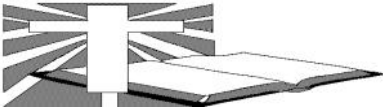
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Zion Baptist Chapel

Who is he?

No DNA file.

No birth certificate.

No dental records.

No school reports.

No tax returns.

No recording of his voice.

No film footage.

No portraits.

We don't have anything he wrote or made.

But on the other hand...

He's the most famous person who's ever lived. The most debated person in history.

There are loads of films about him and libraries filled with books about him. And just about everybody has a theory about his true identity. Some people say he was no more than a good man. Others say he was a revolutionary. Or a magician. Or a con man. For some he's a mystic, a spiritual guru. For others a myth.

Who is he? He is Jesus. The one who's death and resurrection Christians throughout the world will be celebrating this Easter. Come and celebrate with us at Zion Chapel at our special Good Friday Service.

Good Friday 18th April at 3:00pm

Special Service with refreshments afterwards

There will news concerning the future of the Chapel at this service.

For more information please telephone
David Bousfield on 01223-563307

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1830;

Kirtling: Sun 0930;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

That new Bishop of East Anglia I spoke about last month -- Michael Evans -- has now been ordained and installed in the Catholic Cathedral in Norwich. I am just back from it and much inspired, I have to say, and filled with hope for the future; and not just because we have a Bishop with a sense of humour! And it was a great ecumenical event. On the surface, nothing could be more *Catholic* than the rite: a Nuncio from Rome with fractured English, one cardinal, three Archbishops, 23 Bishops, 180 priests, 24 deacons and 1,300 layfolk cramming the magnificent neo-Gothic Cathedral, incense, holy oil, laying of the Book of the Gospels on the head of the Bishop just after he had lain prostrate on his face as the saints one by one were invoked to help him in his helplessness and to become the servant of the servants of God. For those in other traditions, it must all seem rather strange and perhaps alienating. In the Creeds we express a belief in 'one holy, catholic and apostolic church' -- that is in a Church that is infused with the Holy Spirit, that is Catholic (= universal) in its mission and responsibility to re-present Christ to the World, and apostolic: the guarantee of a truth and unity that lies in the successor of St Peter (the Pope) and of the other apostles (the bishops) through the laying on of hands by each generation to the next. The institutional Catholic church 'the sinless one made up of sinners' seeks constantly to recreate the shattered unity of Christians and of the world. But it does so in recognizing the powerful witness of those outside itself. No longer do we dwell on the matters that divide us, but build on the things that unite us. Ecumenism, the practice of mutual respect amongst the Churches, is a top down movement, with dialogue between the church leaders (Bishop Michael Evans being a prominent member of the Catholic-Methodist conference for example), and bottom up, as Christians pray together, study together, work together for social justice and to reach out to those in need. Churches Together in Newmarket and Churches Together in Burwell are shining examples of this. And the extent to which we have progressed was demonstrated at Bishop Michael's ordination: the very large ecumenical presence (four Anglican Bishops, at least five Methodist ministers I recognized and representatives of many other churches, including the Salvation Army in their equivalent of cope and mitre, (uniform and military cap!)) It was represented in the willingness of the United Reformed Church to let 180 priests and 24 deacons completely take over their church adjacent to the Cathedral (the queue for the Gents was alleviated by those who felt it completely safe for once to use the Ladies!). Above all it demonstrated by the jokes made by the Anglican Bishop of Norwich in extending a welcome from all the other Churches to Bishop Michael Evans. It is only when relations are good, warm and close, that you can joke in the following way. Bishop James said that one of his jobs was to train those who selected men and women for training for Anglican ministry. Part of the training, he said, was for him

to play the role of an imaginary applicant and to get the trainee selectors to grill him. The imaginary applicant was a bit dull, slow on the uptake, not very good at listening, and shy about talking about his prayer life. What the trainees had to find out was that behind this dull man was a very pushy wife who dreamed of life in a country rectory. The name of this imaginary applicant, said Bishop James, was *Michael Evans*. But you, he said, looking at our new Bishop, do not seem to be least like my Michael Evans, and if you have a pushy wife, you are keeping her well hidden! When an Anglican Bishop can get 24 Catholic Bishops, 180 priests and 1300 lay people laughing at a gentle dig at themselves, then ecumenism has come a long way. Good!



Church of England Services

April 2003

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior
<i>LENT 5</i> <i>PASSION SUNDAY</i> Sun 6th	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion ^{CW}
<i>PALM SUNDAY</i> Sun 13th	9:30am Parish Communion ^{CW}	11:00am Family Service 6:00pm Evensong
<i>EASTER</i> Sun 20th	9:30am Village Communion ^{CW}	11:00am Parish Communion
<i>EASTER 1</i> Sun 27th	9:30am Parish Communion ^{CW}	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Mattins
<i>MAUNDY</i> <i>THURSDAY</i> Thur 17th	ST MARY'S, Burwell	
	7:30pm Service	

Dates for Your Diary - April 2003

Tue	1	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Enquiries/Renewals 01223 712000 or 742858
Wed	2	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Tue	8	2.00pm Puppet Exhibition, SP School
Wed	9	10.30-3.30 Real Nappy Roadshow, Market Square, Ely
Thu	10	1.30 SP School Easter Assembly, St Mary's 7.30 PC Meeting, VH
Sun	13	11pm Family Service, St Mary's
Mon	14	7.30 WI: Pots and Pans at Wimpole Hall, VH Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	8pm VG: History and Flora of Wicken Fen Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Fri	18	3pm Good Friday Zion Chapel Service, Zion Chapel
Wed	23	6.30 Mitchel Lodge Bowls Meeting, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck
Thu	24	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Tue	29	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
May	1	Thursday: Local Elections, Village Hall
May	4	Mon: Reach Fair
Weekly Events		
Sun		11am, Boules, VH Car park
Tue		2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, VH 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		Messy Play, 2.30-3.15, VH 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