



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

For some twenty years after surpassing the age of legal driving, *I* wouldn't drive, on the grounds that cars were *thoroughly nasty and disagreeable things*. It was only when — being yet again transported by some obliging acquaintance to yet another otherwise unattainable destination — I realised I was *jealous* that I finally gave in. Is it possible that some Priorites feel the same way about COMPUTERS?? If so, NOW IS THE TIME to buy (Milton's World of Computers will not rip you off) and join our LOCAL COMMUNITY BROADBAND, because FINALLY, it's here! With your very own local support team to help (while they're still enthusiastic!).

And you can email the Crier straight-away (see our new email address) instead of all those *Now-I'm-Cross-And-Definitely-Writing-To-The-Crier-About-This* imaginary letters you never quite get round to sending....!

On which topic, we are anticipating a *hot* (but not, we hope, *cross*) *Bonfire Debate* (see *Letters*) and for which we have been promised at least *one* amusing snippet from SP Great Bonfire Debates Past. Meanwhile, there's some wonderful memory-lane stuff in this month's edition. Can you remember Asbees' Shop? Or what about COCK-UP BRIDGE? (No. *not* you and partners customary play at the well-known card-game!) Read Joy Fuller's fascinating article concerning our old friend the Cock-Horse (and much more), and if you *can* remember, ring Joy—your support is needed. Oh, and a *wooden* horse has been spotted being wheeled into Dencora's field by suspicious-looking Mediterranean types (*Not* Gypsies! *Not* bikes... See *Letters*, Extraordinary Meetings, etc.)

Apologies to Church-goers unfairly maligned in last months Editorial, and to Paul Ward (07879 847 392) our new local Pest Control Expert whose advert is missing. And....we're off on our Hols! — see you in September (with a *Crossword* again! We promise!)
Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: A *Prom* by Claire Newbolt

CONTENTS

<i>Letters</i>	2
Ely's Summer of Music	3
<i>Our Reporter</i>	4
..At Dencora Meeting	5
PC Extraordinary	24
Burwell Surgery	9
Bottisham Com. Library	11
BROADBAND IS HERE!	12
Cock-up Bridge	14
David Unwin Award	16
<i>Police News</i>	17
Asbees' Shop	18
Down on the Farm	19
NHS News	19
<i>School News</i>	16
<i>WI</i>	20
<i>Staine Hundred</i>	21
<i>Cllr Cane</i>	23
<i>Cllr Fitch</i>	22
<i>Parish Council Notes</i>	24
<i>Church Services</i>	26
<i>David Lewis</i>	27
<i>Diary</i>	28
<i>White Page Ads</i>	Centre
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Playscheme 2003	7
Harvest Show	8,9
SP Summer Festival	10
Macmillan Coffee	10
Thurlow Fayre	8
SITUATIONS VACANT	
Minibus Drivers	7
Aloe Vera Distributors	7
AVAILABLE/FOR SALE	
Electronic Organ	15
Aloe Vera Products	7
WANTED	
Garage	5



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

TROJAN HORSE IN SWAFFHAM PRIOR

At the special PC meeting to consider affordable housing on Thursday 26th June people from ECDC (the Greeks) proposed six dwellings on the “DENCORA” field along Rogers Road. They assured the meeting that this would not create a precedent for further development.

After much debate the PC (the Trojans) welcomed the gift but said that eight dwellings would be better. The Greeks could not believe their luck. It should be noted our equivalent of the bearded King Priam, the Chairman, abstained from voting even though the horse would be stabled on his doorstep.

The ECDC request was based on a survey of District needs resulting in eight people giving first priority to live in SP. ECDC did not know if these people were local or were related to local people or were from neighbouring parishes! Yet again no demographic survey of SP was done to estimate the possible future availability of existing rental housing.

Were not these people the ones who assured us that the building of the affordable houses on Pulpit Corner would deny “Dencora” one of their arguments for developing the field? Were not these the people who used local taxes to stop house building in Ely to create a park?

SP already has a very high proportion of rental property do we really need more?

Yours truly,

D H Phillips

Dyke End, 50 Lower End

Dear Editors,

Bonfire Nuisance

The sun is shining and at last, we can believe that Summer has arrived. The doors and windows are open and the house is benefiting from the feeling of being filled with fresh, warm air. The children are busily playing in the garden, as the washing machine churns out another load of sweetly fragranced washing (yes, the fragrance does come out of a bottle), to be hung on the line to dry. A scene replicated throughout many households of our village, I am sure

But quickly close the windows and doors, fetch the children in (or reach for the asthma inhalers), and just forget that washing. Yet another domestic garden fire has been lit. Not to mention the fires in the rubbish bin in the cemetery.

WHY is it that garden fires are so important to some of the villagers, that they have to be lit on a beautiful day, when surely everyone wants to enjoy the weather, not be choked by the terrible stench and smoke. On Saturday 21st June, I took my children out to Anglesey Abbey for the day, leaving two lines of assorted children's clothing out to dry. On our return, not only did the house reek (the windows had been closed), but the washing had to be redone.

This situation is now getting beyond a joke, and is happening far too regularly.

It is my understanding that there are guidelines for when it is appropriate to light a garden fire - after 7pm? Is there anyone out there that can clarify this so that we have more consideration for other village residents from those who light the fires?

Mike and Jane Blanks.

33 Tothill Road

*Oh, a Wasps' Nest you have trodden in, Mike and Jane —we're sure **all** our readers will have bonfire opinions, one way or another! Of course, the perverse Eds are more suspicious of that **fragrance in the bottle** when it comes to allergies, but then they would be.....*

Dear Editors

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year, 2003, is the 10th year that I have been hosting a 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief. I would like to make it a really bumper year and try to raise even more than we did last year (£411.55). All the money we donate is used by our local branch so it could well benefit people we know.

In order to raise more money, I thought we would have a Bring and Buy Cake Stall - preferably homemade - and if anybody would like to volunteer to run this stall on the day I'd be very grateful if he or she could get in touch with me.

There will, of course, still be the Raffle so there will be no shortage of opportunities for you to spend your money!

Ruth Scovil

ELY'S SUMMER OF MUSIC

Join us in the Town Centre and Jubilee Gardens for Music
and Entertainment throughout the Summer

Saturday 2nd August - CLASSICAL: Ely Sinfonia

Town Centre - 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 9th August - DANCING: Littleport Lancettes/Ely's Octagon Studios

Town Centre - 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 16th August - POP: A4TEEN

Jubilee Gardens - 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday 23rd August - JAZZ: Jazz Ambience

Town Centre - 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 30th August - POP: Saxappeal

Jubilee Gardens - 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Supported by City of Ely Perspective Marketing Working Group and ADeC.
For further details contact: Tracey Harding, East Cambridgeshire District
Council on 01353 616377

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It is not often anyone has the chance of witnessing a Parish Council setting an example to National Governments - whether Tory or New Labour, or Democrat or Republican. But it was a real privilege to be present at the last PC Meeting. Some have suggested it would help the world if our PC was despatched to Iraq. What it lacked in quantity it more than made up in quality. The only four attending councillors were either existing or previous Chairmen or Vice-Chairmen. The loyal Clerk was also in attendance, together with the resident member of the public and a **Crier** reporter. It was a highly select bunch — with no riff raff such as CCC or ECDC representatives or any junior councillors. And what a difference this made as they rattled through the agenda with an alacrity and sureness of touch only enabled by years of experience and the conviction of being right in everything they think and do. With a little more effort they might well have finished at 8.30pm (more on this later).



Almost immediately the PC was a-quivering with indignation, emotion, and over-flowing excitement following receipt of a letter from the CCC demanding payment for the Mill Hill speeding project. If the money was not sent immediately it could well jeopardise any future applications from the village!! Our PC prides itself on its prompt and accurate payments and was incensed. “Totally out of order”, “Deplorable behaviour”, “Outrageous”, “We have to safeguard public money” and “nothing is paid for until the work is completed and working properly.” Trevor affirmed that no county council or government department would ever pay for any goods before satisfactory completion and delivery - is this really true?

And what about the Village Light Enhancement Scheme they wondered. The village did not make any contribution to this - just as well because it may be six months, six years, or even sixty years before it's completed. No-one has any idea when the scheme will be finished off. Meantime some residents of the Lower Part of the High Street still envy the Upper Part with its new lights and asked at the General Assembly if they could have similar lights. Charlotte Cane elegantly and gently hinted that they didn't have a hope. But there have been some improvements. Fairly recently all the lights in the Lower Part of the High Street have been numbered. (If the vegetation around number 9 was cleared the notice could be put at the same height as all the others - or was it erected by a very short man?) From now on if a light fails you only have to phone up and give the number. Of course if the light is being repaired at night you would need a torch to discover the number of the light which had gone out.

They (whoever “they” are) did not dare to disfigure the new lights in the Upper Part of the High Street with these signs but another local government authority has had the nerve to do this with a number of “No Parking” signs. The original landscape designers insisted on the removal of such signs and placed them on the walls of houses in the location. Now they are a terribly intrusive eyesore. Not unreasonably people do park on double yellow lines in the Upper Part of the High Street - to act as a cheap kind of traffic calming, to go to church, to visit friends, to save walking far

on a hot day, and for many other quite understandable reasons - and putting up more defacing notices will not stop any of this. Having got the offensive CCC letter out of its system the PC rattled on and got to planning applications at 8.25. Would they finish by 8.30? Alas, it was only a simple application for the addition of a conservatory which would not be seen from the road. After talking idly about the location, who lived there once, who lives there now, who lived next door forty years ago, someone lazily picked up the plan to look at it. Another councillor thought he should look at it also and the minutes passed. Eventually they agreed there were no objections BUT the 8.30 deadline had been passed, especially as they had been diverted into discussing the dubious heap of soil which is growing apace in Heath Road and which the PC will inspect (O, beware ye who live in Tothill Road) during the annual Village Inspection later this month. At 9.30am on Sunday 20th July some of you may have seen a very miscellaneous collection of people outside the Village Hall. I hope you were not frightened, and did not lock up your wives and daughters, because it was only THEM - doing their duty.

Just after 8.35 the Chair closed the formal meeting and asked if there were any questions from the public. Our resident member of the public welcomed the fact that the meeting had finished early as this would allow him some time to raise a number of questions and to put his own views forward. The PC always enjoys any interest from the public but it was quite interesting to see the open cheerful enthusiasm on their faces change first to puzzlement, and then to dismay, and then to alarm, and then to panic and a little crossness, before the Chair asked whether there were any more questions in a voice which only invited one answer - "No" - whereupon the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Alastair Everitt

NOTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2003.

The meeting was held to consider building 'affordable housing' on part of Dencora Field between Lower End and Swaffham Prior. Affordable housing is not an option on land within development envelopes where high land values are prohibitively expensive, so 'exceptional sites' must be sought. ECDC has therefore sought potential sites from land owners to help meet the demand for 529 new dwelling units p.a. in the District over the next 5 years. 110 units p.a. are required in our local sub area. The owners of Dencora Field responded positively.

All the issues were explored from a variety of viewpoints in a serious and informed debate which ended with the PC agreeing in principle to the development of eight units here, subject to conditions recognizing planning criteria established in current planning policies, and supported by Planning Inspectors' decisions refusing appeals for previous proposals on the field. The wider issues, covering the general lack of affordable housing for local people, particularly the young wishing to remain close to family, preceded attention to site-specific issues and planning aspects. There were valuable contributions from those with personal experience of housing need,

and from others foreseeing the needs of their own children.

The lack of information presented was a concern, but Cllr. Cane explained that a decision in principle must come first. Only if the PC agreed could the possibility be examined further. Conversely, if the PC ruled out development, the matter would end there. It was strongly felt that this could be the 'thin end of the wedge', so Cllr. Cane added that only affordable housing can be permitted on 'exceptional sites', outside village envelopes (e.g. Pulpit Corner). And Swaffham Prior is well down the list in the hierarchy for 'market' (private) housing too. Fears were expressed that the village may provide homes for people with no local associations. However, the 8 people seeking homes here as a first choice do have local connections, and others expressing interest may have some too. Those with local connections get first choice.

The fact that any housing development here would remain 'affordable' in perpetuity calmed other fears. Part-ownership schemes (an intermediate category for those in need, but with some capacity for investment) may also be possible. If the part owner wishes to sell, it is offered to applicants from the shared ownership register. Only if there are no suitable applicants on the register would the house be sold on the open market - but the HA would keep 20% of the equity. 'Right to buy' social housing in rural areas is no longer possible.

The idea that the remainder of the field could be purchased by the Parish for recreational or conservation purposes at an advantageous price is a non-starter without a large charitable donation (wealthy patron required) and the case for public open space here is not strong. If alternative sites for development in the village were sought instead, (e.g. extending the 'ribbon' development up the north side of Rogers Road) there may be no progress for years to come, and the housing demand (need) is now. If this proposal is realised, ECDC will stress 'No more development on Dencora Field'.

Although opposing in principle any development here, ECDC planners (believed to favour option A below) have offered informal comments on the criteria any development must satisfy. The main planning issues aim to avoid harming the local character by retaining the separation of Lower End hamlet from the the village proper, maintaining open country views, and preserving strong visual boundaries (e.g. hedges and mature trees). Just two locations on the field merit consideration; both would involve extension of mains services:

A Facing 12 existing houses across Rogers Road, filling in part of the inverted 'L' plan shape of the hamlet. Direct access from existing road.

B Immediately north of The Beeches. A new road needed. Some tree-felling required for a new access, made either from The Beeches or from Lower End.

Frank Readhead

Garage Wanted

A Garage, garage space, or a barn in Swaffham Prior is required. If you can help, please phone Barbara Dennis on 743939.



The Swaffham Prior
HARVEST SHOW

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 3.00 PM

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

CREAM TEAS * *CHILDRENS REFRESHMENTS
FUN COMPETITION

GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE

4.00PM

And Classes for the Children Include:

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

*See page oppo-
Entry Details*

site for Full



Family fun at Thurlow on Sunday 7 September

THURLOW FAYRE from 1pm onwards at
Thurlow Sportsground, Great Thurlow, near Haverhill

Includes car boot sale from 11am

Surf to www.thurlowfayre.org.uk for further details

Adults £1.50; OAPs and under-16s 50p; Under-5s free; free car parking

A family-focused village fayre with a strong countryside theme, including gun dogs, falcons, bouncy assault course, circus tricks, toddler rides, puppet show and much more! Fun for the whole family will include puppet shows and a giant walkabout puppet, face painting, crockery smashing, buzzosaurus, train rides, toddler rides, bubbles, Doc Spinoff with his crazy bicycles and circus tricks and much more.

The Swaffham Prior Harvest Show

Harvest Time is in September

THE HARVEST SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER.

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

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

Janet Cooper (741326) Trevor Jones (741197)

Alastair Everitt (742974)

PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER INTO YOUR DIARY

Janet Cooper

THE BURWELL SURGERY

CLOSURE FOR PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

In future, Burwell Surgery will be holding regular practice development meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, except August and December.

The surgery will therefore be closed all afternoon from 1 pm onwards on the following Wednesdays:

September 10th 2003

October 8th 2003

November 12th 2003

January 14th 2004

February 11th 2004

March 10th 2004

Suffolk Doctors on Call will be providing a service for urgent cases only during this time. In an emergency please ring

01638 741234 or 01473 299614

Please remember to collect your prescriptions or medication before 1 pm on those days.

Aileen Allen, Practice Manager

RAFFLE

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

BRING AND BUY
home-made cakes

10th YEAR!
in Swaffham Prior

in aid of

Macmillan
cancer relief

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

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

Friday
26th September
10.30 am – 12.00 noon

Swaffham Prior Summer Festival

September 12th-14th

COLOUR AND SOUND

This is to alert you that there will be a weekend of music and paintings in **St Cyriac's Church** in September, that will, we hope, offer "something for everyone". And by knowing the date in advance perhaps you can plan not to be away.

An Exhibition of Paintings by Keith Gentle will hang from Friday evening to Sunday evening. Keith is a local Cambridge painter who knows Swaffham Prior very well. He has spent a working life in arts education and now in "retirement" is producing a body of exciting, large-scale, vibrantly-coloured watercolours. He draws on the countryside, landscape and buildings of Britain and Europe to paint wonderfully evocative pictures.

Entrance to the exhibition is free

There will be an opening party on Friday 12th, 6.00-8.30pm

A Concert by *Cambridge Voices* and *The Orchestra of the Age of Reason* will be dedicated to performing Handel's "Israel in Egypt". Forty musicians will fill the church with this great protestant Georgian oratorio and complement the building's late Georgian architecture.

Tickets are £7.50 at the door. Saturday 13th, 7.30pm

A West Gallery "Quire" and Band will indulge in some light-hearted shenanigans with Roy Tricker on Sunday evening. The event is inspired by the little West Gallery in St Cyriac's church - a typical Georgian feature. This is a chance to learn about the music played in country parish churches at one time, and be surprised. Fancy dress optional. Audience participation unavoidable!

Tickets £5.00, children free. Sunday 14th, 6.00pm

A programme of the weekend's events will be delivered to you in late August. If you would like to know more please telephone either Elisabeth Everitt (742974) or Kate Child (743983).

Bottisham Community Library Association

Bottisham Community Library Association is delighted to announce the re-opening of Bottisham Library to the public on Tuesday 15th July 2003 at 3pm, with storytelling at 4pm.

After a long and sadly unsuccessful fight earlier this year to prevent the Bottisham library from closing, along with 9 other village libraries, the villagers of Bottisham and the surrounding area have rallied around and formed the Bottisham Community Library Association to run the public access side of the library, which is situated in Bottisham Village College.

We are the first of the recently closed libraries to re-open, and are proud of our team who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes collecting and cataloguing

donations, and organising the shelves. To go from closed on 21st June to open again on 15th July is a wonderful achievement and we would like to thank everyone who has made this possible by donating books, money or time.

We will be keeping to the normal library opening hours, (given below) staffed entirely by volunteers who are giving their time out of a sense of loyalty to the community and a desire to retain a library service that is accessible to as many as possible. Bottisham also now has a mobile library service on alternate Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

You do not need to be a member of the BCLA to borrow books from the library – all you need is the CAMBOOK library card that you used to borrow books from the library before it closed. However, if you would like to join us we would be very pleased to welcome you. Membership of the BCLA, which costs £1 a year, and lets you have a say in the running of the association, is open to all. Application forms are available from the library.

For further information, please contact:

Geraldine Lockett 01223 811236

Margret Coles 01223 812199

Catherine Wightwick 07984 959284 or email catherine@wightwick.co.uk

Library opening hours:

Monday	Closed	Thursday	3.00-5.00pm
Tuesday	3.00-5.00pm, 6.00-8.00pm	Friday	6.00-8.00pm
Wednesday	10.00-11.30am	Saturday	10.00am-12 noon



Broadband ... has arrived.

**You wait for ages for broadband
and then two arrive at once!**

Invisible Networks have at last (see the *Crier* from February onwards for the unfolding story) provided broadband to a number of customers in the village. In the meantime several of us, noticing that Reach had just got a working broadband service from Drakken, had decided to investigate joining with them instead.

This began with a meeting in the Red Lion and was followed up within the week by Robert Hollingsworth having an initial connection to a transmitter in Reach up and running. Shortly after this, one damp Monday evening, Gregg Cotner, Dave Summers from Reach, and I wandered round the village with an aerial strapped to the top of Dave's 25 foot fishing pole to see where else we could receive the Reach signal. We could from each of the five houses we tried and four of us signed up there and then to what had just become Reach **and Swaffham Prior** Community Broadband.

Unlike the Invisible Networks system, this is a true community project. All the work of setting up connections is done by members of the community - mainly Dave

WICKEN LODGE COCK-UP BRIDGE and the FEN DROVES

In the autumn of 1995, a new Cock-Up Bridge was built over Wicken Lodge near Upware, to replace the old bridge which was in a very sad state of repair. Following representations from local people, Cambridgeshire County Council consulted with the Parish Councils of Burwell, Swaffham Prior and Wicken, and all agreed that the new bridge should be a replica of the original. Even though only pedestrian public rights were recorded over the bridge, the new bridge was built to be suitable for use by horse drawn vehicles and Cambridgeshire County Council invited local users to submit a claim for higher rights.

Why is the bridge called a Cock-Up Bridge? Like the 'cock horse' going to Banbury Cross, a cock horse is a trace horse - as would be used for towing or 'haling' boats on the Lodes, or hitched in front of a shaft horse to give an extra pull along the fen droves. Bill Coppin, formerly of Upware, can remember working with a 'cock' horse, helping to pull carts along the Swaffham Prior fen droves and crossing the River Cam by chain ferry at the 'No Hurry'.

For centuries the chain ferry at Upware provided a very important link between the communities either side of the River Cam before the Military Bridge was built. Horses and carts regularly crossed the river on the ferry, as did people on foot or with bicycles. Children from Waterbeach Fen attended the school in Upware, and cart loads of grain crossed by the ferry on the way to the mill at Soham. Carriers carts came back and forth, and the baker from Waterbeach visited the outlying farms on Swaffham Fen. There were cattle pens at Burwell station, and cattle arriving from the north of England would be driven along the fen droves, some being taken across the river by the ferry to reach the summer grazing on the other side.

In February 1993 part of the old road to the ferry at Upware, only designated as a public footpath, was upgraded to byway following a Public Inquiry held in Wicken. Later that year the residents of Waterbeach went to a Public Inquiry to establish another section of the through route on the other side of the Cam. Black Drove was designated as a byway in July 1993.

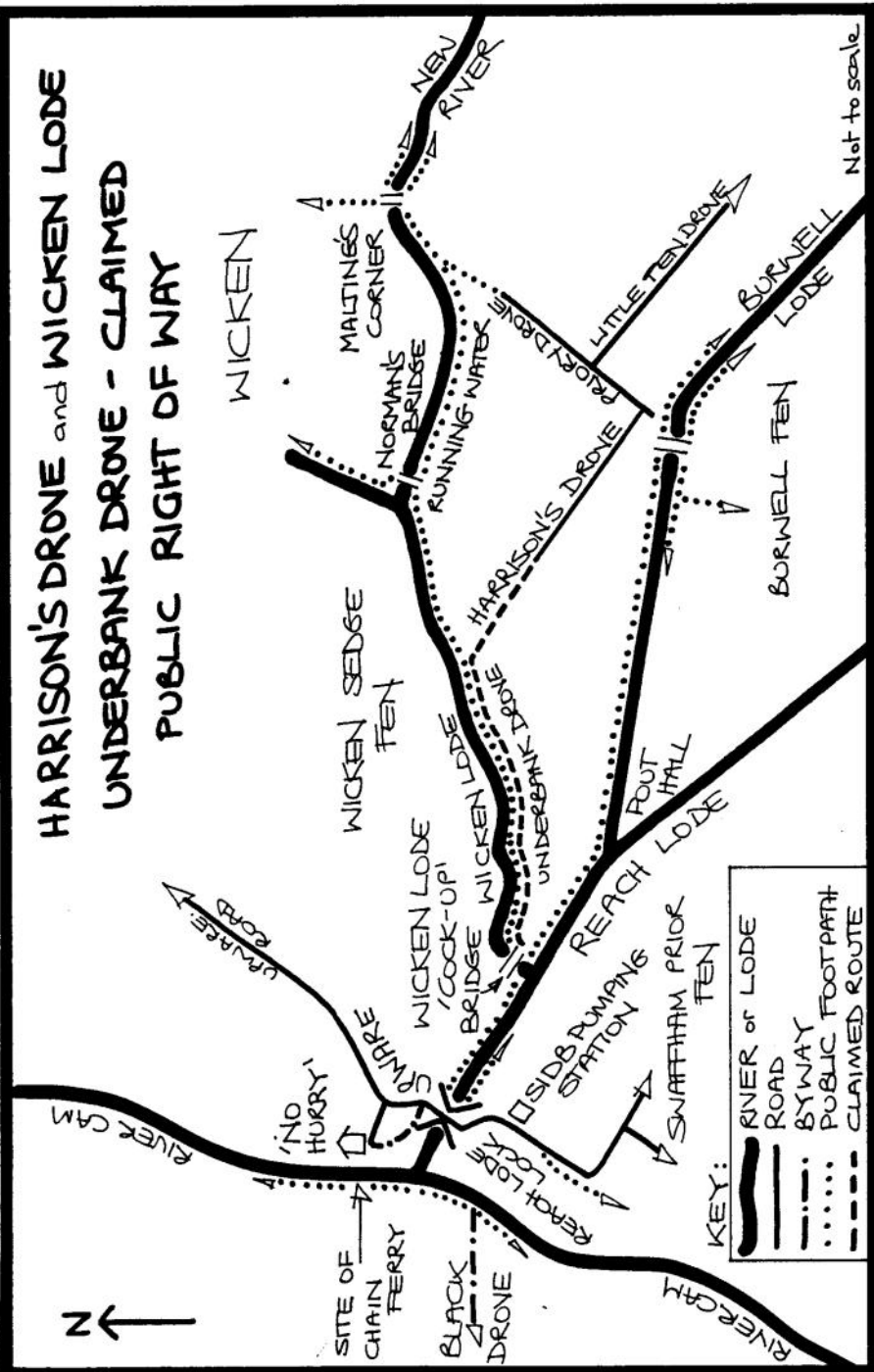
Bill Pedley has lived in the fen all his life, and can clearly remember when the fen droves, the Cock-Up bridges at Burwell and at Upware, and the chain ferry were all part of a network of busy thoroughfares. When he heard that another part of the through route between Burwell and Upware was under threat of closure, and remembering how the old road at Upware had been claimed, Bill made a Formal Application to Cambridgeshire County Council to record Harrison's Drove, Burwell and the through route to Upware as a byway. There will be a **Public Inquiry** at the Gardiner Memorial Hall in **Burwell on Tuesday 9 September 2003**.

If you have memories of using Harrison's Drove or the route to and over the Wicken Lodge Cock-Up Bridge *in any way* over the years, Bill and his supporters would like to hear from you. We would particularly like to hear from fishermen who used all or part of the claimed route. Perhaps your parents or grandparents used the route? We'd like to hear about that too! Please contact **Joy Fuller** on 01353 720288.

Joy Fuller

HARRISON'S DROVE and WICKEN LODGE UNDERBANK DROVE - CLAIMED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

WICKEN





7 July 2003

Initiated in memory of the Cambridge Town Planner, David Urwin who lived in Swaffham Bulbeck, the **David Urwin Arts Award** has engaged annually, for 10 years, in funding arts projects requested by applicants from all varieties of groups and individuals in the catchment area of Bottisham Village College. Three years ago, the Trustees decided to break with tradition, and explore a new way of supporting arts locally, by proactively bringing innovative projects to the area. Our first such project, **Music Plus Plus** - an integration of music, Islamic Art and maths, including children from Kettlefields Primary, mobius ensemble, and the Fitzwilliam Museum, was an outstanding success! CDs and videos of the project are available from the Awards secretary, Kathie Neal.

We are delighted to tell you that, for this year and the next, the Trust has agreed to sponsor arts projects in the Circle Link Schools which include Bottisham Village College and twelve local primary schools. The first such project will be an African Day with **Aklowa**, planned for 15 July.

For a lucky group of 320 year 3 pupils, Africa will become more than just a name associated with famine and political struggle. With the help of six Ghanaians called **Aklowa**, the children will spend a day immersed in African culture, exploring the richness of their singing, dancing, drumming, cooking, weaving, story-telling, fabric printing, mask-making and pottery - all through doing it the African way. Talented staff and parents will join in to help lead some of the workshops; for example one parent will be working on small hand-made looms with the children, helping them to weave typically Ghanaian Kente cloth, while a teacher helps them weave baskets with raffia and ribbons.

This multi-arts project is just the sort that David Urwin would have supported, and very likely might have been involved in, helping out or leading the pottery sessions, when his own children were young. Since the initiation of the Award, the Trust has enabled a notably large variety of projects ranging from photographic equipment, wood sculpting residency, ballet shoes and bell pulls, to singing days, book illustration, original music composition and performance, musical instruments and masterclasses, and theatre tuition. Any arts application from residents in the catchment area of Bottisham Village College, submitted in the open period, was considered through a competitive process.

The Award was funded initially by a charity drive, and subsequently by covenants from generous donors. Please contact the Award secretary if you would like further information, to see a video of the Award, or would like to make a donation.

Kathie Neal
Honorary Secretary

Police News



The summer months are always extremely busy for our Community Beat Team and June has been no exception in this regard. Officers have attended numerous village fetes, schools etc (with many events still to come) – both for operational policing purposes and to participate in activities on the mobile police station.

If you are taking a holiday this year, remember to take a few steps which will increase home security whilst you are away. Remember to cancel newspapers, milk etc. Tell only those who need to know that you are going away. Consider using automatic timer switches to activate lights and radios in your absence. This list is not exhaustive. For more security advice on this or any topic, call our Community Safety Unit on 01223 358966.

IF YOU SEE A WAYWARD CONE.....!

If, whilst out and about, you happen to see any of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's traffic cones which appear to have been forgotten or dumped, we would be very appreciative if you could either bring them into the station or 'phone in to let us know where the cones are, and we will be happy to collect them.

CYCLE MARKING –FREE OF CHARGE

Did you know that cycle marking is available free of charge on the last Saturday in every month at the Park Street Car Park in Cambridge – in the free cycle park? The system works by embossing your bicycle with a unique identity number which is stored on a database accessible to police. This means that if a cycle, which has been marked, is stolen, and then recovered, police can quickly trace the owner and, hopefully, prosecute the thief.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – THINK SAFETY

As the school holidays approach.... please make sure that you know where your children are, and what they are doing whilst out with their friends. It often doesn't occur to children and young teenagers that unsuitable areas to play in can be particularly dangerous. Rubbish dumps and areas near water might seem exciting play areas for children, but in reality are fraught with danger. Ensure the safety of your children by making sure they only play in areas where the proper facilities are provided – football pitches, skateboard parks and supervised trips to the swimming pool etc.

CRIMESTOPPERS

If you have information about any crime call CRIMESTOPPERS. This call is FREE. You do not have to give your name or address and any reward you may get will also remain anonymous. **Call 0800 555 111**

Julie Gilbert
01223 823730

Asbees' Shop

This photograph of the village street and the Asbees' shop dates from some time before the First World War. On the left is the now 50 High Street The woman wearing the dark skirt is Nellie Asbee, the shopkeeper. She and her two sisters lived in the house. Their father also lived there, and kept the shop before Nellie took it over. Minnie Asbee kept house for the family, and Emily worked as a housekeeper elsewhere. Emily and Millie were formal and very *correct* ladies. Nellie was more friendly and cheery.

The walls inside the shop were lined on both sides with wooded drawers containing the stock. On the left, groceries of all kinds were sold. Sugar and flour and such items were weighed on scales and poured into paper bags; coffee was fresh ground from beans. Cheeses were cut with a wire on a block. Old Mr. Asbee was said to be very exact in making up the weights of fruit precisely.

At the right hand counter clothes and boots were sold, along with shirts, collars and all kinds of haberdashery. At a door at the back left of the shop, paraffin for lighting and cooking could be bought.

When Nellie Asbee retired from shopkeeping, the shop was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Sheidrick, who lived at Swaffham Lodge and kept the shop until the 1950's. Then the premises became a private residence.

The gate at the right of the photograph led into the Infant School playground, where the lower corner of the churchyard is now situated. The Infant School was north of the church gate, the school for older children was to the south of it. Both were demolished when the present school was built in the 1920's.

(Information from Mrs. Lucy Butler and Mrs. Sheldrick)





Down On the Farm

Readers who have recently been disturbed by reports of the plight of South American coffee-workers might like to know a bit more about what happens to food-producers in this area. Supermarket *lettuces* are the subject of this article, and the scenario is as follows: supermarkets “order” a certain estimated quantity from local farmers and negotiate a price. The farmers supply, the supermarkets buy, but *then* what happens is something like this, depending on the degree of civilisation of the super-market in question!

UnCivilised Supermarket: Great News! We’re having a two-for-one offer this week. We’ll need twice as many lettuce

Farmer: That’s good! I’ll see what I can do...

UCS: They’ll be half-price, of course.

Farmer: “Yes, you said.”

UCS: “No...but that’s half-price to you. We’re only offering you half-price. Take it or leave it!”

Alternatively, there’s the Civilised Supermarket:

CS: “Um...your lettuce. Excellent quality...we’re very pleased. Only thing is, we wondered if you could possibly ...um... take twopence off your price?”

Farmer: “NO! I need to eat too!”

CS: “Yes, quite. Oh dear. You see, we’ve just been offered this cheaper deal from Italy. We’re going to have to take it up, I’m afraid ...”

You see, agricultural producers are *sitting ducks* for big buyers once crops like this are ready for harvest. They can whistle round the world, but we’re rooted to the spot. It’s not *Fair Trade*, any more than *gazumping* is fair trade, and the result is that good, reputable farmers are driven out of the business, and the hapless few that remain are up to their ears in debt and despair. What price all those critical *food-safety* issues in such a climate? Don’t ask!

Agricola

South Cambridgeshire **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

PCT to be Star Rated in July 2003. Along with all other PCTs and Trusts, the PCT will receive a Star Rating in July 2003 (0-3 stars) to reflect our performance. See the CHI website: www.chi.nhs.uk/eng/ratings/2003/pct_list.shtml

Pam Smith, our **Patient Advice and Liaison Manager** is now contactable on a free phone number - 0800 279 2535. Pam’s role is to resolve patient and carer problems at an early stage, and provide information about local health services.

The Local Health Delivery Plan for South Cambridgeshire has now been finalised with local partners. The full LDP will be posted onto the PCT website, <http://www.southcambs-pct.nhs.uk/>, for those wishing to seek more detailed data.

At the PCT’s May Board meeting, proposals for the appointment of a General Dental Practitioner to the role of **Clinical Governance Lead for dentistry** were

approved. Clinical Governance is all about improving the quality of care provided.

On 27th June, Addenbrooke's had 26 Cambridgeshire residents, of all ages, who were classified as delayed transfers (medically fit to leave hospital but awaiting alternative facilities), which is 5 above the agreed target. Local PCTs, Addenbrooke's and Cambridgeshire Social Services continue to work in partnership to address this issue.

The PCT hosted its first **Expert Patient Programme for people living with chronic diseases** in March/April 2003. The aim is to help people self-manage their conditions and improve their quality of life. The PCT host its second programme in the Autumn. Please contact Karen Mason if you are interested (see below).

Two bids have been successfully submitted to the Department of Health for funding from a national programme called '**Action On**'. These are a bid from Addenbrooke's Hospital, supported by the PCT, to become a pilot site to redesign Urology services, and a second bid to improve plastic surgery services to patients requiring breast reconstruction. Addenbrooke's Hospital has also submitted an application to become a pilot site for *Action On* General Surgery to improve patient access and experience of general surgery services - the outcome of this is awaited.

South Cambridgeshire PCT approved a **Psychological Treatment Services** strategy following a service review in December 2001. The strategy was developed to address the issue of excessive waiting times, to clarify referral criteria, to establish a Complex Cases service and to fund primary care psychological therapy teams to enable direct access to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Psychology and Counselling within Primary Care.

For more information on any topic included in this Bulletin, please contact Karen Mason, Head of Corporate Services on 01223 885717 or karen.mason@southcambs-pct.nhs.uk

2003 PCT Board Meetings to be held in public

Everyone welcome. Come along and find out what's happening in your local NHS!

25 September, 9.15 am - Wysing Art, Bourn,

27 November, 6.00 pm - Girton Pavillion, Girton



WI Notes

The Ladies Circle joined the W.I. on 23rd June for our visit to Gifford's Hall Vineyard and Sweet Pea Centre.

When in his mid 40s John Kemp decided to give up his career as a Fleet Street journalist and to concentrate on the things he liked doing most - gardening and wine making. He and his wife moved to Suffolk and bought Gifford's Hall with about three acres of land to start a small holding. Gradually they were able to buy more land and they now have a vineyard containing 9,000 grape vines, wild flower meadows, a rose garden, a sweet pea tunnel, Hebridean sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese.

Our tour began in the sweet pea tunnel to see rows and rows of flowers of beautiful colours, long stems and wonderful fragrance. We learned how to grow

them to achieve the best results.

We were then taken for a tour of the vineyard on the 'Grape Express' past the wild flower meadows where we heard about the very large variety of flowers John hopes to encourage in the future. After hearing about the types of grapes grown and the expected yield we went into the barn to see a video on a year's work in the vineyard and then had tastes of the various types of wine produced. We were offered four or five 'tasters' so the drivers amongst us had to restrain themselves!

This was a very interesting evening and most of us travelled home with wine, sweet peas, eggs etc. bought from the little shop. Gifford's Hall is well worth a visit and is open daily from Easter to the end of September 11am to 6pm.

We had another night out on 21st July when we enjoyed our Summer Party in our President's garden in Burwell. The weather was perfect - just gently warm - and the food, provided by the members, was delicious. Pat and Keith had devised some quizzes to give our brains a bit of exercise, so altogether a most enjoyable evening. Thank you Pat and Keith.

Next month, on 18th August, the talk is entitled 'Fresh Food Ideas'. Maybe we shall learn some new recipes for next year's party! Village Hall, 7.30pm.

The day before that, on Sunday 17th August, we are having a coach trip to Houghton Hall in Norfolk. Cost of £18 includes coach fare and entry into the house and garden. There are still a few seats available. Contact Betty Fox on 742000.

Betty Prime.



STAINE HUNDRED

Programme for 2003/2004

All meetings are in the Lecture Room of the Bottisham Village College at 7:30PM.

2003

- Sept 10 Honor Rideout - Stourbridge Fair
- Oct 8 Steve Cassidy, Rattee & Kett - Stone & Restoration
- Nov 12 Cloe Cockerill - 1000 years of English Churches
- Dec 10 Local Talent - Quiz - Readings - Displays

2004

- Jan 14 John Durrant - Cambridge Part II
- Feb 11 John Sutton - Charles II in Newmarket
- Mar 10 Ms Twigs Way - John Loudon and the Histon Road
- Apr 21 Donna Martin - Soham and its Abbey
- May Local Outing
- June Day Outing

Maureen Rogers



ALL CHANGE AT CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL IN 2005

Having just been through the change of District boundaries before the recent District elections, the County is now to be treated in a similar fashion. Because of the massive increase in the County's population (4000 per year over 10 years), the Boundary Commission will probably agree to an increase of 9 members in the size of the County Council giving a total of 68. These members will each represent a slightly reduced number of electors than at present. For instance, my current Burwell / Bottisham Division includes over 8300 electors compared with 6600 when I was first elected in 1985.

What is now proposed in this area is to separate Burwell and Swaffhams (and Reach) District Ward, with 6100 electors from Bottisham and Lode 2200 electors. New Division has been suggested called Woodditton which would include the new District wards of Cheveley, Dullingham with Bottisham, containing 7500 electors.

The new Burwell Division makes good sense and I support it. I am not so sure about Woodditton which covers all the villages inside E.Cambs south of Newmarket, and is about 1500 electors larger in population. However, none of our parish councils have commented on these proposals yet. Meanwhile, I have verbally briefed them. Should they wish to, they will have a final chance to send in their views when the Boundary Commission responds in the late Autumn. Since the Commission will not allow Bottisham Ward to expand towards Quy because it would cross in to South Cambs District, there does not appear to be much room for manoeuvre.

AIR QUALITY

The County Council is now leading a review of air quality throughout the County, checking on levels of polluting gases such as sulphur, carbon and nitrogen dioxides. Cambridge City centre is the only area with undesirably high nitrogen dioxide caused by road transport, and that only in the bus station and nearby narrow streets area. Various ways of combating these gases should mean that we will meet the requirements of the Environment Act of 2000 within the next few years.

Within East Cambridgeshire the limits are being met and will be improved again when the Fordham Bypass is built (starting next Spring).

WEED CONTROL

Although there have been several paths and cycleways obstructed by the abnormally fast growth of weeds and bushes along the verges, the cutting contractor ought to have this under control by the time you read this. Apologies from Eastern Highways Division for any inconvenience. The Division says the growth comes all at once but the grass cutters can only do a few villages per day.

CYCLEWAY

The cycleway from Lode to Quy is a problem. There are two obvious choices : from Station Road along the old railway or along the B 1102. In the first case the landowner is reluctant to allow passage and in the second the road is too narrow to allow a cycleway when you get to Collier Road, Quy. We are working on it!

James Fitch



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

We have published the Council's fourth Best Value Performance Plan, which is available in public libraries, on the website and by request from Simon Fraser, Corporate Strategy Officer (01353 616351). This describes how we performed in the past year, and what we are planning to do this year, highlighting areas of good and bad performance and showing how improvements will be made. The Council's performance against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) is included. The document also contains a wealth of background information about East Cambridgeshire.

The Local Government Association has chosen an East Cambs project for inclusion as a good practice example in the area of poverty and social inclusion in their UK National Action Plan. The "Breaking Through the Barriers" project which draws 'women returners' back into learning through involvement in the Understanding Communities programme has been successfully run in Littleport and High Barns, Ely.

The final UK On-Line Inspection visit to East Cambs On-Line has praised the project, saying that 'The project has developed well, responding to changes in local needs and resources. An effective Management Team, backed by sound partnership support, ensures that the best use is made of the facilities in a variety of rural centres'.

There are a variety of concerts coming up in Ely during August. These are free and if the weather is nice the concerts in Jubilee Gardens are a good opportunity for relaxing to live music – many people bring a picnic and while away the afternoon (for details see page 3).

I hope that you will have a Green Waste collection in Swaffham Prior by the end of September. You will get a leaflet through your door to let you know when it will start and how it works. In the meantime you can use your black box to recycle newspapers, magazines, Junk Mail, white telephone directories, yellow telephone directories and cardboard (please flatten boxes etc). You can also put out washed cans, green glass, brown glass and clear glass in separate bags. We cannot yet collect plastics, textiles or green waste.

Charlotte Cane

Notes from the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting on 26th June 2003

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 6 members and 4 members of the Public. Also attending were Councillor Cane & Susan Candlish, Rural Housing Enabler for Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Minutes of Last Meeting. These were agreed.

Affordable Rousing, Rural Exception site off Lower End.

This extraordinary meeting was called to consider a request by the owners of this site, through ECDC offices, to build a number of affordable housing units.

Two locations for the housing were discussed:

- Opposite existing housing on Rogers Road within 'L' area of the field with access off existing road.
- North of The Beeches with gardens backing onto the existing gardens of houses on Fairview Grove. This would entail a new access road. It was noted that should this option be considered further, the existing line of trees should remain with a Preservation Order placed on them.

Susan Candlish of Cambridgeshire ACRE explained to the meeting the need for affordable housing in the district using data from a recent Housing Needs Survey. She also explained that any housing on this site would be for rent/shared ownership in perpetuity and that local people would be given first choice. Councillor Cane confirmed that the Parish Council would be kept informed at every stage.

Following consideration of the above, it was agreed to confirm with ECDC that the Parish Council agree in principle to the building of up to 8 dwellings on the site provided the reasons for non-development set out by the Planning Authority and reinforced by subsequent Planning Inspectors are not affected so as to prevent any additional "Open Market" housing development at any time.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 3 members and 2 members of the Public.

Minutes of Last Meeting. These were agreed.

CCC Report: There was no report this month.

ECDC Report: There was no report this month.

Traffic Calming Measures (re outstanding account from CCC).

A letter was received from CCC's East Highways Division asking that this account be paid. This account related to the Traffic Calming Measures installed at Mill Hill and had not been passed for payment due to the scheme being incomplete with the interactive speed signs having failed on several occasions. The CCC's letter concluded that failure to pay this account could jeopardise Swaffham Prior's inclusion in the bidding round for 2004-05.

The meeting considered this was an unnecessary comment and agreed that a reply

should be sent to CCC reminding them of the Parish Council's duty to manage public funds responsibly and certainly not pay for works or services that are incomplete.

Following confirmation that the interactive speed signs were now in place and working, it was agreed to pay the outstanding account.

Matters arising: *(for information only)*

a) New Play Equipment - *report from sub-committee.* This is ongoing. A meeting is to be arranged between PC members and the suppliers at the play area to discuss the scheme more fully.

b) Recreation Ground - *update.* This has again been topped and cut. The filling in of holes, etc., will be carried out in the near future. Once the area is cut to a suitable length, the Sports & Recreation Committee will help further with re-erecting the goalposts.

c) Date for Tour of Parish. This was agreed.

Village Hall - Finger sign. A letter was received from the Village Hall Management Committee with reference to the erection of this sign noting the difficulties experienced by visitors in finding the Hall, especially at night. There were no objections to this.

Town Close - Lease Agreement for Play Area. A draft document had been received from the SPPC. This was discussed and generally agreed. It was noted that a location map should be added to the document for completeness.

Play Area - New Sign. CCC Highways had been contacted about the erection of a sign outside the play area. Their response is still awaited.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: Hillside, 41 Cage Hill – *erection of conservatory.* There were no objections.

Any Other Business:

The meeting expressed their thanks to Andrew Camps for his hard work in cutting back vegetation on the footpath/cycleway on the 'top road' and clearing the Pound/Keep of weeds, etc.

It was noted that the footpath on Rogers Road from the speed limit sign to the main road was in serious need of repair.

Open Question Time: It was brought to the PC's attention that any signs erected in the High Street should be first approved by the Conservation Officer at ECDC. The Chairman confirmed that this was in hand.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11th September, 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. (There will be no August meeting unless otherwise called).

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



Church of England Services

August 2003

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 3	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Family Service
Sun 10	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 17	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 24	11:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Sung Evensong (St Cyriac's)	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 31	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

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).

A Message from the new Vicar – The Rev'd David Lewis

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you at the end of a very full day attending Church Fetes at both Bottisham and Quy. Pauline and I were very struck by the strong sense of community spirit that we encountered at both occasions, and we remembered that it was the desire to rediscover that strong sense of community spirit which prompted us to seek to return to rural ministry.

Community spirit is even more essential than ever in today's world, where we can often find ourselves in an environment where we are isolated from true face to face human contact, despite being in regular communication with scores of individuals on an electronic basis. Our world is becoming increasingly dehumanised, and yet human beings are essentially social creatures. That is why community activities are so important for us.

God created us to share together in community in order that we might support and encourage each other on our journey of life. God values and understands community so much because he is a community in himself – the Holy Trinity. The Russian Orthodox Church has an Icon that depicts the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It portrays three heavenly beings gathered around a table sharing a meal together. Sharing a meal has been, and always will be, a perfect example of togetherness and fellowship. The Icon, is laid out in such a way that there appears to be a fourth place set at the table, and the figures are so positioned that the person viewing the Icon is the one being invited to take that fourth place. The clear message of the Icon is that God invites us to join him, in order that we too can share in all the joys and blessings that flow from the sense of community that he himself values and experiences.

There is a story of a king who had a son to whom he gave a yearly allowance, paying him the entire sum on the fixed date. It soon happened that the day on which the allowance was due was the only day of the year when the father ever saw his son. So the king changed his plan and gave his son each day that which was sufficient for the day; and then the son visited his father every morning. In this way the son discovered just how much he needed his father's unbroken love, companionship, wisdom and giving!

That story is a lovely illustration of the kind of close loving relationship that God seeks to have with us. In rural communities we can understand more clearly that kind of relationship because we can encounter something like it in our everyday human lives. I believe that our village Churches should stand out as places where God's community spirit is most strongly felt and experienced, and you can be assured that Pauline and I will be working hard to help and encourage our five Churches to be just that.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - August/September 2003

Sat	2	Ely Music, Town Centre 11.30—1.30pm
Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	9	Ely Music, Town Centre 11.30—1.30pm
Sat	16	Ely Music, Jubilee Gardens 2-4pm
Mon	18	WI Fresh Food, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	23	Ely Music, Town Centre 11.30—1.30pm
Sat	30	Ely Music, Jubilee Gardens 2-4pm

September

Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sun	7	Thurlow Fayre, 1pm, Thurlow Sportsground, Gt Thurlow
Wed	10	Staine Hundred Honor Rideout, Stourbridge Fair, 7.30pm BVC
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH
Fri	12	SP Festival Opening Party, St Cyriacs, 6.00pm
Sat	13	SP Harvest Show, 3pm, VH SP Festival Concert, 7.30pm, St Cyriacs
Sun	14	<i>Roy Tricker + “Quire”. DON’T MISS IT ! St Cyriacs, 6pm</i> <i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Fri	19	Public Enquiry re. Cock-up Bridge, Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell
Thu	25	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	26	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30—12 noon, The Oaks, Lower End

Weekly Events

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
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6pm 0pm. Scouts, 7.45-9.15, School
Thu		Messy Play, 2.30-3.15, VH 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas. 7-8.30pm Karate, VH. 7-10pm, Youth Club,