



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 2

February 2003



## Editorial

Anyone passing Kent House this weekend will have heard the *oohs* and *aahs* of delighted appreciation as we compiled the *Crier* with our newly installed **improved computer products**—*NOT!* Yes, much the same as before with a few essential features sabotaged, a few useless ones added, yet more gratuitous graphics etc. etc. etc. Have the manufacturers ever published anything? I think not.

Also this month, we're a bit fed up with well-meaning PR reps sending us wads of glossy copy to "please include in your magazine". Thank-you very much, we'll just spend an hour or so précising and reformatting so it will fit into anything but a small novel... why can't *they* précis?? So, ECDC Healthy Living, *Our Reporter* has kindly done the job:.....*drink a couple of glasses of wine, spirits and beer a day and you will probably be ok.* I'm sure that's what they meant!

In fact, *Our Reporter* is particularly informative this month: why, with inflation at 2%, need rates go up by **+12%**? Could expensive new **improved computer products** and armies of costly PR reps be making their mark *everywhere*? But local financial embarrassment is more straightforward: the illegally encamped Travellers made their mark, to the tune of a trenching £3000. Not to worry, the **Crier** team has heard of a cheap and effective *go-traveller* strategy: dump manure in the field, and/or park a large elderly farm vehicle across the entrance — block *them* in, and fridges *out*. Oh yes, what crafty Colonel Blimps we become when we move to the country!

Meanwhile Broadband!!!! Read about it here, you must have it (um... *another* new improved computer product?), **QUIZ EVENING** is in **FEBRUARY** and....

Belated congratulations to ELISABETH EVERITT, much-deserving winner of this years *Gay Bulleid* award.

See you Quizing, Jumbling etc. **Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture:** Village Map Fragment

## CONTENTS

<i>Letters</i> _____	2
Joan Bradley _____	2
Advance Diary Dates _____	2
<i>Our Reporter</i> _____	4
<b>Broadband is Coming!</b> _____	6
Playscheme _____	7
Messy Play _____	8
SP 100 Club _____	9
Toddler Group _____	9
Advent by Bagpipe! _____	10
Family Service _____	11
SP Toddlers All _____	11
<b>The Hockey Match Song</b> _____	15
<b>.. and Henry IV and</b> _____	
<b>Rourke's Drift</b> _____	16
Burwell Surgery News _____	18
Bottisham Courses _____	20
WI _____	21
Staine Hundred _____	21
Village Gardeners _____	22
Carols around the tree _____	22
FoSPS HELP! _____	23
<i>Cllr Cane</i> _____	24
<i>Cllr Fitch</i> _____	25
<i>Parish Council Notes</i> _____	26
<i>Church Services</i> _____	28
<i>Church News</i> _____	28
<i>Church Cleaners</i> _____	29
<i>Christmas Holly</i> _____	29
<i>David Bousfield</i> _____	30
<i>John Morrill</i> _____	31
<i>Diary</i> _____	32
<b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b>	
Quiz Night _____	3
Grand Jumble Sale! _____	8
Moveable Feast _____	14
Bulb Walk _____	19
WEA Centenary _____	9
Dr Ridsdill Smith's _____	
Retirement Do _____	18
Ely Folk _____	23
<b>SITUATIONS VACANT</b>	
Church Cleaners (please!) _____	5
<i>White Page Ads</i> _____	12/13



## Letters to the Editors



### Joan Bradley

Joan Bradley, aged 80 years, died suddenly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2002.

Walter and family would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, kindness and support. A special thanks to all those who attended the memorial service, and the generous donations to East Anglia's Children's Hospices.

---

Dear Editors,

### Christmas Holly

I am delighted to let you know that all those who bought bunches of holly just before Christmas helped to raise £80 for St. Mary's Flower Fund. Thank you for all your support.

Thanks are also due to Elisabeth and Alastair Everitt who advertised the holly sale, cut it, and then sold it all from their garage. We are very grateful to them for organising this each year.

*Ruth Scovil*

---

Dear Editors

### Name Withheld

For the record I would like to point out that "Name and address withheld" in the January issue and I are not related - insofar as one can be sure, of course, since I don't know who wrote it; but since I know I don't know who wrote it I can be sure I am not because I don't know. To prevent any possible confusion in future, I hereby renounce any claim to the title of Name Withheld or to anything similar.

I hope that is clear.

With all good wishes for the New Year

*The Writer Formerly Known As Name Withheld*

### More Advance Diary Dates

*(apologies — these should have been included last month — Eds)*

15 Oct	Village Harvest Lunch	VH	12 noon
15 Nov	Village Variety Show	VH	7-10pm
22 Nov	Christmas Market	VH	2-5pm
30 Nov	Advent by Candlelight	2 Churches	4pm

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall**  
**7.30 pm ❖ Saturday**

**8th February 2003**

**Tickets: £4.50 each ❖ To book a table contact:-**

**Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161**

**or**

**Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960**

**Jacket Potato Supper ❖ Raffle**  
**Bring your own drinks**

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I'm not a regular listener of the *Archers* but it seems the programme has never covered a PC meeting. I did listen to it before attending the last PC meeting and heard how a bullock had got his head stuck through the bars of a feeder and how Bert spent an hour cutting it free with a small hacksaw which made him late for a PCC (Parochial Church Council) meeting at which they were selecting a new vicar from a large number of candidates. Bert wanted a cheerful vicar, Shula hoped for a good preacher and another (I think it was the person known as the Village Bicycle) wanted him to continue the good work of his predecessor. All quite exciting but nothing about Parish Councils.



After the previous minutes had been approved James Fitch kicked off with a greeting which left everyone looking rather blank. It was Happy New Year in Swedish! He then broke the good and the bad news about next year's county council tax. (For details see James' piece). He was taken to task by both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman for the possible tax increases. An increase of 12% meant that £1 million needed to be saved; an increase of 9% would mean significant cuts; and an increase of 6% would mean cuts of about £9 million. Because inflation is running at two and a half per cent Trevor wanted to know why increases considerably larger than this resulted in cuts. James produced several reasons as also did the leaflet being circulated. But Trevor was not happy and wondered why the county and district councils were unable to provide a cheaper service (such as refuse collection) than a private company which has to make a profit. Was this a proposal for a return to public ownership and control? It seems not. It was rather a suggestion that councils are inefficient and ought to get their act together.

James parried the charges, obviously did not think all councils were inefficient and quoted a number of private companies who left a lot to be desired. And the provision of the police and fire service pensions has always been an expensive issue and Eric in particular was incensed that with his fixed pension he has to contribute to the pension of Ben Gunn. James sympathised but said someone had to pay for Ben Gunn until a new arrangement is made. In Open Question time at the end Michael Limb asked how much our PC was increasing its tax. 10% said Trevor, but there is a very good reason for this. £3000 from the reserves had been spent on evicting the travellers. ECDC are increasing by 5%. (I have since heard that PCs are increasing by an average of 14% while South Cambs is proposing a 50% increase). So, there you go.

It is about 5 years or so since the last PC speeding initiative. There is now

to be a new Speed Watch activity. In the *Archers* Linda Snell had often tried to involve the village in traffic problems with always the same result - boredom and lack of enthusiasm. It could well be different in Prior because you will be able to become involved in exciting speed readings, and naming and shaming. My feeling is that if you keep your eye on all Rover and Volvo drivers any problem will soon go away.

The Parish Forum is one of the most important regional meetings of the year. This is when ECDC host all the PCs in its area and has a free and frank discussion about various aspects of local, national and imposed governmental. issues. One of the highlights this year appears to be just how much ECDC has fallen down on providing "affordable housing". 500 per annum are required but only 50 are being built. Ignoring all building line envelopes and with no stop lines, ECDC is writing to all major landowners asking if they will *sell* any land at a "reasonable" figure. ECDC also asked all PCs if they would identify suitable land in their parishes. One relatively recent PC member suggested the agricultural land just after the old police house in Lower End. Ouch! Another suggested asking Stockbourne if they would sell part of the Dencora field. Ouch! Ouch! But no- one suggested the Charity land at the end of the village which was once proposed for low cost housing. HOWEVER, since ECDC has stipulated that any such development must be near shops and offer local employment the PC concluded the request did not apply to SP.

As more and more regulations are introduced so more workshops and lectures are being provided. One of these is on "election procedures" but Trevor considered this to be of minimal value because we haven't had an election in this village for about 10 years. The good news is that "someone is *thinking* about becoming a member". The Chairman thought this a huge advance, which is a little sad. In the local freebee the reason given for electing local representatives is "to safeguard the future of the area and to ensure that it is a pleasant, safe and prosperous place in which to live." Isn't that what it's all about. There are at least two places still to be filled.

My space is up so I shall rush through the rest. Peterborough/Cambridgeshire are having a forum to discuss a strategy for dealing with "solid waste" from 2002 through to 2022. That's an awful lot and it sounds as if one is best out of this. SP had only one crime last month, in Greenhead Road, details withheld. ECDC has issued a "Healthy Living Newsletter" which appears irrelevant as a study published on the day of the meeting said that drinking a couple of glasses of wine, spirits and beer a day protects against most health problems. It was noted that Cathie Manning's house has now been demolished and many will lament the last vestige of this colourful character. Andrew Camps wants to buy 100 engineering bricks to mark out the various burial plots as there has been some confusion in the past. Eric

Day confirmed this because when he was Clerk many years ago he regularly had to check up on the cemetery because twice people had dug a grave and slipped people in without telling him or paying a fee. The present Clerk confirmed the same thing had happened to her. This is one practice they have never covered in the *Archers*.

*Alastair Everitt*

# BROADBAND IS COMING!

## And it could be sooner rather than later ...

Since last month when Bob Matheson asked for anyone interested in high speed, permanently-on access to the Internet to register their interest on BT's website ([www.btopenworld.com](http://www.btopenworld.com)), another option has appeared.

The **CARNET** ([www.carnet.uk.net](http://www.carnet.uk.net)) project which started in Bottisham is now spreading to other villages. Swaffham Prior has the opportunity to join if enough people are interested for the supplier's start-up costs to be justified. This means that about 15 people need to register an interest on the CARNET website and, as we already know of 5, this is more likely to happen in the foreseeable future than BT's service (though there is no harm registering for this as well!).

Both services offer high speed connection without the need to dial-up (and possibly not get through!) each time. The CARNET system uses wireless and is potentially much faster than the BT system which uses telephone lines. The cost in both cases is likely to be a flat rate of around £30 per month after an initial set-up fee.

The Countryside Agency and EEDA are both running schemes at the moment to encourage the use of broadband in rural areas (the CARNET Website has details) and the village can apply for grants which would help to reduce the initial costs. To apply, we need to be able to demonstrate local interest, so **the village needs you** and quickly if it's to get a good connection to the Internet with the aid of a grant!

As early signers-up from Swaffham Prior to CARNET, we'd be happy to talk to anyone else who is interested or wants more information or advice.



*James Matheson ([jmrm@eng.cam.ac.uk](mailto:jmrm@eng.cam.ac.uk))*  
*Adrian Nicol ([adrian@nicol1.demon.co.uk](mailto:adrian@nicol1.demon.co.uk))*

# PLAYSCHEME 2002.... AND 2003!!!

On behalf of the organisers, may I apologise for failing to report in the Crier on last year's summer Playscheme? I am afraid this was due to exhaustion on my part!

For the adults, and the organisers in particular, it was a stressful and tiring week; Holly and Jessica went missing the day before Playscheme opened and as a result we had to monitor the children in a much more rigorous way. In spite of this, the children had a great week trying out all sorts of new and exciting activities, including cake modelling, magic tricks, wiggle karts, karate, visit to Marshalls, backstage theatre tour, swimming, craft, dance, drumming, sound studio, owls, rocket building ..... and much, much more!



Very many thanks to everyone involved in making the week a success, and especially to Shirley Wilkins and Betty Prime who came in to help with refreshments. Our thanks are also due to the Parish Councils of Swaffham Prior and Burwell, and the Swaffham Prior Sports and Social Club who made donations towards Playscheme activities.

We will be meeting soon to start the ball rolling for Playscheme 2003! If you are at all interested in being involved in planning this year's events, please contact me on the number below, or via the school office. The more organisers we have, the more thinly we can spread the responsibilities and the lower the stress levels! Alternatively, if you have a particular skill or interest to share (e.g. fishing, cooking, woodwork, gardening, craft), or work at an interesting place which would welcome a visit from a small group of well supervised school children, or could spare an hour during a morning to help with refreshments, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Traditionally (but still to be confirmed at our first meeting!), Playscheme runs in the second week of the school holidays and is for all primary school aged children resident in Swaffham Prior or Reach, or from elsewhere who attend, or have attended, Swaffham Prior School. Registration forms will be circulated through school in June; if you have children who are eligible and will not receive a form in this way, please let me know.

*Dee Noyes 743864*



## **GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE**

**IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30PM**

We require jumble, nearly new items, toys, clothes, bric-a-brac, books - in fact, anything saleable

Items can be collected by or left with:

**Elaine Malster, 28 Fairview Grove (743894)**

**Trevor Jones, Sheldrick's Cottage, Lower End (741197)**

**Alastair Everitt, Anglesey House, 59 High Street (742974)**

Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall

on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.30-9.00PM

or Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 12.30-1.30PM

**We would very much appreciate your help**

## **Messy Play**

**Art and craft club for little ones**

for mums, dads or carers with babies or toddlers aged under 3 years.

**Collages/Hand prints/Finger painting/Splash painting/Salt-dough modelling/Card making/Printing/Gluing etc. etc.**

Thursdays 2.30-3.15pm

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

(Term Time only)

Starts 6<sup>th</sup> February 2003

**£2.00 per session to cover hire of hall and materials**

**Please note that both mums and children should come prepared to get quite messy! Old clothes and/or aprons are recommended!**

**For further details call Fleur on 743992 or Nicola on 742184**



# SWAFFHAM PRIOR CLUB 2003

The 100 club, a scheme organised annually through Swaffham Prior School, is open to anyone and costs just £10! Just choose a number (or more!) sit back and wait for the telephone to ring, and you could have won one of the two £20 prizes drawn each month, or one of the two £50 Christmas prizes drawn in December. These are much better odds than the National Lottery!!

Numbers are now available for the 2003 100 Club and all profit (ie £460 if we sell all 100 numbers) is put to good use for the pupils and in particular, is used to subsidise school trips.

Please consider supporting this scheme - it is great value for just £10! Details are available from Dee Noyes 743864

---

## Come and Join the Celebrations

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is celebrating its centenary in 2003. As part of those celebrations the Bottisham and District Branch is holding a coffee morning for all past, present and potential class members on Thursday, 20 February 2003 at 11:00 am in the Bottisham Youth Centre.

The Bottisham and District Branch has been very active over the last 25 years. We have created some display boards which give a flavour of some of the fascinating courses we have enjoyed over the years. It is hoped that some of the tutors will be able to attend. Do come along and join us for coffee, cake and a chat. If you would like more details contact the secretary, Shirley Ellis (01223 811891).

For details of the work of WEA in Cambridgeshire contact Sue Young, WEA County Organiser (01480 455080). Charity Registration Number: 314001

---

## Swaffham Prior Baby and Toddler Group

The Toddler Group has been meeting in the Chapel room for nearly a year now providing a much appreciated opportunity to chat, exchange concerns and advice, and allow children to let off steam. More and more of the 'founder member babies' are now energetic toddlers needing a bit more space so we have decided to move our group to the Village Hall. We - a group of about eight mums and children ranging in age from 0 to 2½ years - meet every Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm, do come along. *(See picture on page 10 — Eds).*

***Fleur Routley (Tel: 743992)***



## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT 2002 & 2003

First, I would like to extend a heartfelt thankyou to all those parishioners of Swaffham Prior and Reach who helped towards the preparation and presentation of last December's "Advent by Candlelight" in Swaffham Prior; those who read, those who prepared the candlelight, the heating and lighting of both churches, the moving of the chairs and church furniture, and those who helped "on the door". As you may know, after expenses, we are able to give about £700 towards the erection of the new building on EMMAUS's premises. Plus, the choir gave a donation towards the running costs of both churches, the candles and the heating costs incurred.

It's true that the expenses were higher this year as we wanted to help cover some of the considerable travel expenses incurred by former members of Cambridge Voices who had come from far away to join us, thereby enabling us to present a multi-choral repertoire that would normally be beyond the means of the regular 16 singers.

In the end the event turned out to be quite a serious affair: the poems, all from female authors, were often thought-provoking and controversial in their unorthodox reflections upon the Annunciation and Incarnation. Variety was achieved by the constantly varied disposition of the 40 singers, something that both St. Mary's Church and St. Cyriac & St. Julitta's Church beautifully lend themselves to.

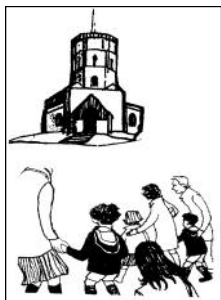
The next "Advent by Candlelight" should prove quite a contrast, falling as it does on the Feastday of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland (November 30th). For this we hope to present a series of literary and musical items of a Scottish nature. I would be very grateful for any help and advice regarding possible Scottish poems, prose and musical items (including favourite hymns, folksongs and choral works) from all residents of the parish. Do please contact me, well in advance, and let me know your suggestions so that we can create a large short-list of works early on, which can then be shaped into a pleasing liturgical sequence. I hope that the readings will include some words of a lighter nature that might encourage younger people to offer themselves as readers.

Finally, I think it would be terrific to include the sound of real Scottish bagpipes during the concert, and for which I'll write a special piece for pipes, organ, choir and congregation. So, does anybody have any recommendations or details of a good piper? The player would be paid a fee and receive travel expenses, and he or she would be well-watered and fed, preferably after the event!

Please send all your suggestions, advice and information to: Ian de Massini (Director of Cambridge Voices), "The White Horse", 24 Fair Green, Reach, Cambridge CB5 0JD.

*Ian de Massini*

**Tel 01638 741366, Fax 01223 508449, Email [iandemassini@argonet.co.uk](mailto:iandemassini@argonet.co.uk)**



## Family Services in Swaffham Prior

**F**amily Services are held on the second Sunday of every month in St Mary's church, Swaffham Prior at 11.00 a.m. We have a growing congregation of all ages and this note is included in the Crier to let people know the form the service is taking (at the moment!).

The service lasts for 30–40 minutes and each month a particular theme is chosen. We have a very enthusiastic group of children aged 6–10 who perform a play; this is followed by a talk from a visiting vicar. Younger children get their chance during one of the hymns which always has a percussion accompaniment. After the service, coffee, squash and biscuits are served thanks to a very hard-working refreshments team.

If you would like to be involved in the family services in any way – on the planning side or taking part in the acting – please contact Mandy King-smill (01638 742482). The next family service will be on Sunday 9 February and all are welcome.

*Mandy Kingsmill*



Yvonne, Grace and Alec Hartley, Sarah and Lucy Whiteside, Amanda and Sebastian Parton, Alison and Samuel Black, Verity Routley and Gregory Seed.

**Swaffham Prior Toddlers — September 2002**

SWAFFHAM BULBURN  
COUNTRY STORE & POST OFFICE

Kamal & Bal- a friendly service with a smile!

OPEN EVERY DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK  
CASHPOINT MACHINE, accepts all cards

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

ALL POST OFFICE SERVICES

Except Car Tax & Passports



THE NATIONAL  
LOTTERY

PLAY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY



THE NATIONAL  
LOTTERY

GROCERIES, BREAD & PROVISIONS

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

Dry cleaning & Photoprocessing

A LARGE SELECTION OF WINES, SPIRITS &  
BEERS, Cigarettes & tobacco  
PHOTOCOPYING & FAX SERVICE

D.I.Y. & ELECTRICAL

Paints, seeds & gardening 'things'

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

including Sunday papers!

Carpets supplied and fitted  
**RP CARPETS**



City & Guilds qualified

**Rob Palmby**  
19 Speed Lane, Soham, Ely,  
Cambs, CB7 5BT



 **01353 721205 · Mobile 0802 636469**



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



**DRIVEWAYS PATIOS DRAINAGE FOUNDATIONS**  
**DEMOLITION FENCING**



**FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN**



**Tony's Gardening**  
**& Domestic Services**



**OFFICE · CARPET · WINDOW CLEANING**

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

**Tel: 01223 890533**  
**Mobile: 07813 783 040**



**1st March 2003**  **7.00 pm**



**TICKETS**

**£15.00**



**(to include 3 course meal & wine)**

**available from**

**Ruth Scovil**  **(01638) 743720**

**(not later than 21st February please)**

## **The Boxing Day Hockey Match**

*To the tune of Delaney's Donkey (if you're old enough to remember it)*

Swaffham Prior has a hockey team that everyone admires.  
No-one has a hockey team like good old Swaffham Prior's:  
A centre, wings and forwards and a goalie at the rear,  
And they play the Swaffham Bulbeck team, but only once a year.  
Calling, bawling, Alastair is begging "Please",  
It is Christmas. Come on, please take part."  
Keen ones, lean ones, (some are creaking at the knees),  
Turn up on the Denny, when the ref blows for the start.

There is Prior, dark and fair, old and young, not a care,  
Swaffham Bulbeck and all their jolly crew;  
Ball flying in the air, players here and players there,  
No strategy, no tactics; and the rules go too.  
The ref is blowing hard. He has lost his yellow card.  
Mud flies in his eyes, but still he has his say,  
"No more dirty tricks. Be careful with those hockey sticks."  
At the Swaffhams' hockey match on Boxing Day.

Spectators on the sidelines have deserted home and fire.  
They're yelling "Come on, Bulbeck!" They're yelling "Come on, Prior!"  
Boxing Day is chilly, but they're cheering one and all.  
They are cheering the mulled wine and not the players with the ball.  
Mothers, brothers, husbands, dogs and babies too,  
Sisters, cousins, visitors and friends,  
Cheering, jeering, with their hands and faces blue,  
Ready for the finish, but before this saga ends.

There is Prior, wearing white, Batman too, what a sight,  
Bulbeck score. Their fans all shout "Hurrah!"  
Prior equalise. Batman loses his disguise.  
They've all changed ends so often that they've lost their way.  
The teams have one last fling, the ball is passed from wing to wing,  
Drawing, scoring another goal they say.  
Then Prior spectators cheer, "We can say again this year,  
That Prior wins the hockey match on Boxing Day!"

*Chris Carrington*

## OF HENRY V AND ROURKE'S DRIFT

### The Hockey Match report

**Y**ou may be wondering what the above title can possibly have to do with the annual Swaffham Prior v. Swaffham Bulbeck Boxing Day Hockey Match. All of course will become apparent as you read on.

Bulbeck were on the back foot as far as the form guide was concerned, but as the teams nonchalantly knocked practice balls around, eyeing each other up, it was obvious that Bulbeck had pulled out all the stops and were fielding their strongest side for many a year, and so to Rourke's Drift.

Imagine, if you can, the noble Priorites to be the beleaguered British army, and the roaring Bulbeckians with their vociferous supporters to be the mighty Zulus.

First quarter, the onslaught begins.... penned into their half the British hold off the marauding Zulu hordes. Time and time again the waves of attacks battered the defences. They probed and parried but they could not break the British lines. The furrowed brows of my fellow players wondering what we could do to counter the barrage were comparable in depth to the ploughed surface of the pitch upon which we were "playing". Second quarter. The British grow weary and a weakness appears in their lines. A scrambled break away goal gives the Zulus a taste of blood and a glimmer of what victory may offer. One could sense they felt that this was to be their year.

Third quarter. How the enemy pressed. But there was new steel in the British resolution. There was no way through. No matter what they blasted or chipped to gain what could have been an unassailable advantage, there was a response from their foe that caused their resolve to ebb away. Every shot was blocked or parried by a goal keeper who seemed to have the senses of a bat, as if detecting by radar the precise flight of the ball. No matter where the ball dropped a solid defensive line cleared the danger and initiated a worrying number of counter attacks.

Final quarter To and fro the play moved about the battlefield. How the Zulus clung onto their narrow lead, hoping to hold on until the end. But then a moment of sublime inspiration, the ball was moved swiftly out to the smallest and youngest soldier in the field. Without hesitation and with a number of Zulus bearing down upon his position, a deft chip pierced the Zulu goal and deflated their dreams of holding onto the narrowest of margins for victory.

The Zulus pressed, but the lines they assaulted stayed true, and possession for them was not so easy to come by as before. For a time they were on the



defensive, a couple of range finders by some of the big guns had them worried, and with good cause, as with only minutes to go a thunderous strike found the target. Like a wounded monster sensing its own demise, the Zulus lunged forward in desperation, but to no avail. The final whistle sounded and Prior had victory once again by 2 goals to 1. Bulbeck will have to lick their wounds for another year and continue to plan their revenge.

This was without doubt one of the closest and most hotly contested games in the history of this fund-raising hockey match and for this both sides and all those involved should be patted on the back. Also the supporters who turn up every year no matter what the weather should be congratulated for their part in making this event an important part of the local festive calendar.

And now for the Henry V bit. Such was the resolution and spirit of the Prior team that I feel justified in cannibalising a great piece of literature to express this esprit de corps. . .

"And gentlemen in Prior now a-bed

Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here upon the Denny,

And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks

That played hockey with us upon that Boxing Day!"

*Tim 'Batman' Doe*

PS. £76.25p was raised for MAGPAS.

## **CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY WIND ORCHESTRA**

**Conductors: JAMES TORRY & SAMUEL HAYES**

*Cartoon*

*Suite No. 2 in F*

*Paul Hart*

*Gustav Holst*

*Downland Suite*

*Dona Nobis Pacem*

*Overture: Candide*

*John Ireland*

*Mark Ellerby*

*Leonard Bernstein*

**St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at 7.30pm**

**Unreserved Tickets £6 Concessions £4 from**

**Artists' Corner, Ely \* D N Jenkins, Fordham \* Discus Music, Newmarket**

**Soham Books \* At the door \* Ring: 01638 720328**

# THE BURWELL SURGERY NEWSLETTER

I would like to say a very big thank you to all of you who gave us biscuits and chocolate at Christmas. Your kindness is much appreciated by us all.

## Repeat prescriptions

We process hundreds of prescriptions each day, a high proportion are straightforward and are ready for collection the following day. However to provide this standard of service we do need your help and ask you to note the following procedure:



### Help Us to Help You

1. You may deliver, post, phone or fax repeat prescription requests. Tel no. 01638 743602 Fax no. 01638 743948
2. When requesting a repeat prescription, please use the green repeat prescription form and tick the boxes of the items you require.
3. Prescriptions requested before 12.00 noon will be ready the next working day (ie. prescriptions received on Monday will be ready on Tuesday, prescriptions received on Friday will be ready on the following Monday). Those requested after 12.00 noon will take 48 hours to process.
4. Only those items on the repeat list will automatically be issued. If you request a change in medication *or* an item that is *not* on your repeat form, your request will be referred to a doctor to issue and therefore the prescription will take longer than 24 hours.
5. Normally, prescriptions are *not* issued ahead of time, but if you need a prescription early because of holidays etc. please write the reason on the repeat form *or* tell the receptionist.
6. Please make a note of the medication review date on your prescription form and book an appointment to see your doctor before ordering any more medication.
7. Dispensing patients should request their repeat prescriptions in the same way and preferably *not* during a consultation with their doctor.
8. Prescriptions may be collected during normal surgery hours Monday - Friday (Saturdays are for emergencies only). Alternatively, you can arrange for Lloyds Chemist to collect them for you.

## Dr Ridsdill Smith's retirement

May I remind you all that we will be holding an open afternoon at the surgery on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 3.00pm - 4.30pm for those of you who would like to wish Dr Ridsdill Smith well for his retirement.

**Aileen Allen**  
Practice Manager



# **BULB WALK**

**AND  
COFFEE MORNING**

**Thursday, 6th March**  
**10.30 am - 12 noon**

**The Manor House**  
**Lower End, Swaffham Prior**  
**by kind invitation of Mrs R Wood**



**Bring & Buy**  
**Produce Stall**  
**Raffle**

**Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges**  
***Lifelong Learning***

**Weekend Courses**

**1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Basic Food Hygiene – Basic Sign Language  
Chair Caning & Upholstery  
Chinese Brush Painting  
Computer Hygiene – Life Drawing  
Mailmerge – Meditation & Relaxation**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March**

**Appointed Persons First Aid**

**8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Creative Life Changes – Dressmaking  
Equal Ops in Early Years Setting  
Excel – French Polishing  
Hope to Cope with Work  
Intro to Internet & Email – Life Drawing  
Managing Stress – Patchwork & Quilting  
Wildlife Gardening – Woodturning**

**8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> March**

**First Aid for Childcarers**

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





## WI Notes

The W.I. were very sad to lose two of its members during the Christmas period, Sylvia Bridgeman and Jean Lewis. Sylvia was in her 90s and had not been attending of late, but Jean was a devoted member and had been since the W.I. reformed after the last war. We shall all miss her.

On a more cheerful note we were very happy to present the Gay Bulleid Award to Elisabeth Everitt. Elisabeth is always on hand to help with jobs connected with the Church and the Village Hall, many of them menial tasks which nevertheless have to be done. She copes with emergencies and does everything in a quiet unobtrusive manner. Without people like Elisabeth this village may well fall apart.

In January the W.I. had a very interesting illustrated talk by Mr. Ian Storey, personal assistant to Mr. Paul Turner, head of Turners (Soham) Ltd., the road haulage firm in Fordham.

In 1930 two brothers, Frank and Wallace Turner, purchased their first lorry and the now nationwide firm was born. It now employs 1300 people, owns 800 lorries which travel 72 million miles in a year, the petrol consumption of which is 40 million litres per annum.

The head office is at Fordham but there are 16 other depots across the country. There is storage for frozen foods and a packaging plant, and among their many customers are such well known names as Tesco, Asda and Blue Circle Cement. This is a story of great enterprise, from very small beginnings to the huge organisation it is today.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February we shall be learning about the Devil's Dyke. So ladies why not join us in the village hall at 7.30pm. Visitors £2.

*Betty Prime.*



## STAINE HUNDRED

All meetings of the Staine Hundred Local History Society are held in the Lecture Room of the Bottisham Village College at 7:30pm.

Feb 12 - 'A short history of the department store' (Gill Rushworth)

March 12 - 'Monks, Merchants & Craftsmen, the Broad Street area of Ely' (Ann Holton-Krayenbuhl)

April 9 - 'History of straw plaiting' (Mrs S Pearl)



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

The subject of our first meeting of the New Year was "A Tour of My Greenhouse". This proved to be a very well illustrated and interesting talk which could equally have been entitled "Cacti and Succulents from around the World".

It was amusingly presented by Mr Bill Morris, holder of the national collection of Oxalis, another of his passionate interests. His greenhouse is packed with plants like spiny cacti (did you know the spines on many species are protecting the plant from excess levels of ultra violet light?) plants like living stones (which have just two leaves) and insect eaters with elaborate attraction and trapping systems. Under his care throughout the year he has something in flower in his greenhouse, an achievement we all envied.

Our next meeting is in the Village Hall on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>., when we shall hear about "The Restoration of Audley End Organic Vegetable Garden". As always the meetings are open to all; we look forward to seeing you there, together with your friends.

*Francis Reeks*

---

## CAROL SINGING AROUND THE TREE

For the first time for a couple of years the Village Hall held its traditional carol singing for those who just want a good pre-Christmas shout and blow. And for the first time for many years it was held outside, round the tree. And what a jolly good evening it was.

Twenty four cubs attended, a very goodly crowd turned up, and the music was provided by Ali (accordion), Jochen (melodeon), Karen (fiddle), Andrew (guitar), and Pam (singer). The weather was kind. We eventually earned our retreat into the Hall where we ate mince pies and enjoyed mulled wine while the Band played the most congenial background music. They were great! As also were the makers of the mulled wine, the providers of the mince pies, and everyone who turned up.

*Alastair Everitt*



**F**riends of Swaffham Prior School, held a meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2003 where a number of points were discussed.

Fundraising during the Winter Term was very successful, with a total of £763 raised. Thank you to all of the villagers who supported the Christmas Fair —£305, was raised - it was nice to see so many of you there.

Work around the Pool area will begin shortly, and hopefully when the Summer eventually arrives, the pool will be looking a little less tired!

We are also developing different areas of the playground, beginning with a "quiet area" adjacent to the main entrance. This will include seating areas and planters and hopefully the work will be carried out by willing helpers. IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY WITH EITHER MATERIALS OR LABOUR, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Contact Tim Doe, Chairman 743656.

Thank you to those of you that have come forward with ideas for the schools 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - we are currently looking at a number of ways in which we can celebrate during next year culminating in a Ceilidh and Hog roast in June 2004. If anyone does have any ideas for an appropriate way in which we can celebrate, please let us know.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003, 8pm at school.

*Jane Blanks, Secretary.*



## Ely Folk Club

The Old Rope String Band

The Maltings, Ely

8.30pm, Wed 26 Feb

ADVANCE: £5.00 [ £4.00 / £3.00 concessions]

ON DOOR: £6.00 [ £4.00 / £3.00 concessions]

From 01353 740999 / 664706

*Once they were merely hilarious, these days, they are  
devastating — Glasgow Herald*



Would you like to cut your fuel bills and keep warmer, as well as help the environment? If so, you will find our 'Stay Warm Surgeries' useful. For people who live in private accommodation, whether you own your home or rent it, we can help you find discounts on insulation materials and in some cases help you get grants towards the costs of insulating your home. Anyone can come to the surgeries and you will be given a free energy efficient light bulb and asked to fill out a home energy check about the insulation in your home. Our Home Energy Conservation Officer will then use this home energy check to help you find ways to save on your fuel bills and to keep warm. Unfortunately, these grants and discounts are not available to Housing Association tenants. I shall be joining Ian Bowers, our Home Energy Conservation Officer, at the Stay Warm Surgery in Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February between 1.00-4.00pm. I hope people from Swaffham Prior will be able to come to this surgery. If you cannot come at that time, but would like to come to a 'Stay Warm Surgery' please let me know. If there is enough interest, I will organise another surgery later in the year.

In order to keep the Council tax as low as possible next year, we are considering moving the date on which we collect the tax forward to the first of each month. This will increase the interest that we can earn. I would be interested to know what you think of this suggestion.

We are finding that more and more people need help with their housing. We have therefore put a lot of effort into devising our Housing Strategy. In 1999 and 2000 the Government Office for the Eastern Regions said that our Housing Strategy was 'Below Average'. By 2001 we had improved to 'Average' and our 2002 strategy was assessed as 'Above Average'. I hope this will help our housing Association partners to succeed in their bids for funding to build new affordable housing across the District.

We are working closely with Housing Association partners to identify land and funding to build new affordable housing. We are also asking Parish Councils to help us to identify suitable land. In 2003/04 we hope that our Housing Partners will get funding to build 89 new affordable homes in Ely, Soham, Little Downham, Witchford, Stretham and Fordham.

In order to dump less rubbish in landfill sites, we have been piloting the doorstep collection of green organic waste, which we then have composted. The pilot was very successful, and during 2003 we will be rolling out Green waste collection across the District. From Spring you will be given paper sacks to keep your green waste in and Cleanaway will collect it fortnightly.

*Charlotte Cane*





## **COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES MID JANUARY 2003**

First of all greetings and wishes for a better year than last. In May there will be elections for all District and Parish Council seats so there will be opportunities for new policies and development of old ones derived from changes in representation.

This is an opportunity to confirm that I shall not stand for re-election to East Cambs District Council. This is a two-year old decision as colleagues knew and gives me the chance to concentrate on the ever-increasing demands of the County Council, Fire Authority and Village College Governors.

### **BOTTISHAM LIBRARY**

The major news this month is to report that the Conservative County Council Cabinet will recommend the closure of the community side of the rural libraries. Bottisham Library is one of them. We have known of this threat since late November and there has been a magnificent response from the people of Bottisham and nearby villages contesting these plans. (154 individual written protests. Thanks for this outstanding effort). Our protests whether verbal, letter, e-mail or petition may have convinced most people of the rightness of our case - regrettably not the Cabinet.

At the crucial meeting Annette Steckelmacher, representing the Friends of Bottisham Library, and I both had only three minutes each to put forward our case for the defence. Annette was very good and had to withstand some hostile questioning which the Cabinet Leader should never have allowed.

The subsequent "debate" was totally one-sided, cabinet members regretting the situation but hurrying to back Cllr Lucas' recommendation to close all ten libraries. No opposition spokesperson was allowed to comment or correct and they even forgot to take a vote! Not a good advertisement for the new cabinet system. So now the Cabinet of 28 January will have to consider against its own recommendation. Obviously, the decision may be a repetition of 7 January.

The Scrutiny Committee met immediately after the Cabinet on 7 January but their probing questions and the unconvincing answers received hardly altered the main decision of the earlier Cabinet. The Liberal Democrats put in a minority report suggesting "maintaining the present library network with a substantial increase in the book fund". The better than expected Government Grant would allow this if the will was there. A monitoring check could be done in mid-year to see how the libraries then stood and there

would be more time available to negotiate alternative solutions to crude closure.

I fear the minority report will receive the reaction as already witnessed to verbal and written comments of supporters of the 10 libraries now under sentence of death.

We must now move to alternative plans to save as much as possible of the public side of our library, preferably not just a mobile for half the hours at present. After all, the school side will remain untouched and the building remains. There must be a way if we all rally round. I have started discussions with the Warden and other interested parties, such as the District and Parish Councils. We can expect some help from officers at Shire Hall.

At least Burwell Library is not threatened!

*James Fitch*

---

## **Notes from the Parish Council January Meeting**

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

### **Reports:**

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane

### **Matters Arising.**

**Parish Council Vacancies:** The Parish Council still has two vacancies. **If anyone is considering becoming a Parish Councillor but would like to discuss this first, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk (742358) or the Chairman, Trevor Jones (741197).**

**Wall at The Beeches – repairs:** A meeting was held on site with Andrew Tipple, CCC to again try to resolve the problem of ownership of the wall. He assured the P.C. that the wall is not the responsibility of CCC. He agreed to write to Hereward Housing & ECDC.

**Lower End Ditch – clearance:** Andrew Tipple confirmed that the ditch is the responsibility of the adjacent land owners, Stockbourne Plc. CCC Highways do drain into this ditch but under the Highways Act 1975, it is the adjacent landowners who are responsible for clearing and maintaining the ditch. He agreed to write to Stockbourne Plc and confirm this with them and ask that they clear debris from the recent storms and clear the ditch to allow water to flow.

**Grasscutting – tenders for 2003 Season:** No tenders were received and, following consideration and discussion, it was agreed to appoint K H Services to carry out the grasscutting for 2003.

**Speed Watch Project – Community Speed Partnership:** A draft “flyer” was shown to the meeting for approval. This will be circulated to all households in the village.

**Parish Forum – report:** Several members attended the Parish Forum at ECDC offices on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2003. Items on the agenda included ECDC’s budget for the coming year and the urgent need to build new affordable housing. ECDC will be writing to all major landowners in the district like CCC and the Universities to ask them to consider selling their land. Parish Councils are also to be asked if there are any suitable parcels of land within their villages or surrounding area that could be considered for development. Several elements will have to be considered alongside the foregoing including facilities such as shops, public transport routes, employment, etc.

### **Correspondence Received:**

#### **CCC: County Council Budget 2003-04**

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Scheme 2003-04 – successful bids.  
Comprehensive Performance Assessment

#### **General:**

Police - Histon Sector Newsletter crime figures for month of December.  
School Newsletter  
Devil’s Dyke Restoration Project – Draft Management Plan.

### **Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.**

**Planning Matters:** With reference to the application by 24Seven to erect additional power lines across the Fens, Horningsea P.C. invited a representative of 24Seven to their next P.C. meeting. J Covill will attend this meeting on behalf of Swaffham Prior P.C.

**Any Other Business:** With reference to the faulty streetlight in Rogers Road, new parts are on order and the work needed will go ahead in due course.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

*Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council*



## Church Services February 2003

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST ETHELREDA Reach</b>
<small>CAND- LEMAS</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>2</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <sup>cw</sup>	<b>6:30pm</b> Evensong (Taise)
<small>EPIPH- ANY 5</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>9</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion <sup>cw</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup>
<small>SEPTUA GESIMA</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>16</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <sup>cw</sup>	<b>11:00am</b> Parish Communion <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <sup>†</sup> — <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>  CW — <i>Common Worship</i> </div>
<small>SEXA- GESIMA</small> <b>Sun</b> <b>23</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Parish Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion <sup>cw</sup>

### SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL CHURCH NEWS

We would like to bring you up to date with what is happening in the parish during the interregnum. The Church services for February will be as above. Please note that services for Reach will be changed from the beginning of February, as Stephen Earl will be looking after Reach Church from that time. Services at Reach will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 8.00 am (Parish Communion - Prayer Book version from the Common Worship Liturgy) and at 11.00 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Family Communion-Common Worship (Modern Language). Services at Swaffham Prior will follow the same pattern as usual until after the installation of the new incumbent for Bottisham, who will be looking after Swaffham Prior church

as well as Swaffham Bulbeck, Quay and Lode. Interviews for this position have taken place on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

After the Annual General Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March, four Reach members of the PCC will move over to Burwell PCC and attend meetings there (including myself, who will no longer continue as secretary). Burwell and Reach have already started the process of joining together, and the members of Reach Church have been warmly welcomed. They are sorry, however, to leave Swaffham Prior, and some of us will continue to attend services at Swaffham Prior too, occasionally. It is hoped that the new Bottisham Group will work successfully, under a strong leader.

*Jenny Moseley (PCC Secretary)*

---

## **S.O.S Help Required**

Is there anyone out there who has about an hour to spare once in 5 weeks? Could you join the small band of helpers who keep the church looking spick and span? You don't have to be a church attender — just someone who lives in the village with a bit of public spirit. If you are hesitant about making a commitment, perhaps you would prefer to be a relief worker who could be called upon if one of the regulars goes on holiday or is indisposed? If you think you could help, I'd love to hear from you, so please give me a call on 743980 — the more the better, then it could be once in 6/7 weeks. Everything is very flexible, you can do a stint when it suits you — we usually work in pairs, and you won't get roped in for anything-else should you volunteer for this! (*a likely story!* — Eds). The church has a lot of visitors, in fact, during the past couple of weeks, we've had four funerals and a wedding and over 50 people attending the family service, all this on top of normal happenings. We do like to keep everything up to a good standard and welcoming.

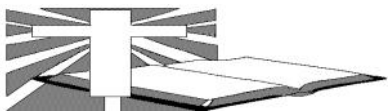
*Kate Childs*

---

## **CHRISTMAS HOLLY**

There they were in November. Holly Trees loaded with Berries. Come mid-December and most berries have vanished. Consult a local Sage. *"No, it's not a South Cambs villain. It's the Fieldfares."* Why have they taken so many berries this year. *"Dunno"* says the Sage very informatively, *"It happens."* But Mr Fred Day's Holly Bush in the High Street is full of berries. Why is that? *"Ah"*, said our noble Sage, *"if you were a Fieldfare would you dare go near one of Fred's trees?"* Of course one wouldn't. £80 was raised for the Church Flower Fund.

*A.E.*



## Zion Baptist Chapel

### ***Afraid of the dark***

The bogey man is coming to get you' - childish screams, quick hide under the bedclothes. Alfred Hitchcock films. Dr Who, Psycho, horror stories. No wonder I am scared of the dark. But - 35 years old, terrified to the point of blind panic if the light is switched off as I go upstairs. Frightened to close my eyes to wash my hair in case someone or something 'gets' me - get real!

That was the trouble it was real, a total, irrational fear of the dark.

Washing my hair one day I felt the familiar paralysing panic start as soon as I shut my eyes. Then, into my head popped the words 'perfect love casts out all fear'; followed by the thought 'Jesus is perfect love'. I prayed there and then that Jesus would release me from my fear. He did.

Today, nearly 20 years on, I can still relish that freedom from fear. Whenever I feel that God isn't answering my prayers, that I am too insignificant or leastways my troubles are, I look back to that time and remind myself how God set me free, that I am no longer 'afraid of the dark'.

*Pat Taylor*

This is an example of how God changed the life of one of the people who come to Lode Chapel. Has something similar happened to you? If it has then I would love to hear about it. You can contact me via the Chapel post box or on the number below.

*David Bousfield*

There is still no news to report at present on the future of the Chapel. However if you want to get in touch with me please use the Chapel post box or phone me on the number below.
--

For more information please telephone David Bousfield on 01223-563307
--

# Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

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

I had a wonderful winter break in the west of Ireland, ostensibly examining a PhD thesis on the O'Byrnes and the O'Tooles in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but really taking a long time to get from Shannon airport to University College Galway and an even longer time to get back. And en route I stopped off at Paddy Flannagan's and Maggie Murphy's and Jimmy O'Callaghans for plates of smoked fish and the odd drop of Guinness. All this dawdling put me into reflective mood, and I pondered why Irish pubs were called after (long-dead) *people* and English pubs were called after *things*: The Red Lion, The Black Horse, the Royal Oak, the Five Bells, the Fox, the Anchor etc. Could it be because the English are more snobbish than the Irish? From the Middle Ages until quite recent times, pubs in England and Ireland were called after their owners. In Ireland, this changed into pubs retaining the names of well-loved licensees; in England pub names were changed to make them sound more like more posh establishments, to sound indeed like taverns and inns. Now hands up those who know the difference? It was fundamental. In Elizabethan times, three different kinds of establishment required different kinds of license: *alehouses* [*trendy places* in Elizabethan times, since *ale* was replacing *beer* (ale is beer with hops added)] were your bog-standard boozers, serving homebrews and perhaps bread and cheese; taverns sold ale and in addition wine and spirits; and inns provided a full service of food and drink and accommodation. Alehouses were licensed by local magistrates (as now), taverns and inns were licensed by central government. And this is the crucial point – taverns and inns had the sort of names we now associate with pubs of all sorts. But this blurring of the difference really is a modern thing. The owners of public houses (itself a Victorian term) wanted their alehouses to sound grander than they were. You will not be surprised to hear that there has been extensive research in pub-names and a league table of their popularity; and if there is enough public demand, I will make something of this in a future column. But since this is supposed to be a column loosely linked to the presence of Roman Catholicism in the Swaffhams, I had better return next month to the good old days when the Catholic Church was not only the founder and proprietor of all the parish churches, but also the owner of all the industrially-produced beer in the country and the provider of almost all the hospitality!

You will not be surprised to learn that this column results from my being on a diet and a self-imposed boycott of pubs (other than Irish ones in Ireland), but at least it ensures that the editors will print the Mass times in our parish and let you know how welcome all and sundry are to come to what will remain the Church of Our Lady and St Etheldreda. We have no plans to re-brand ourselves as The Rat and Parrot public worship house!

## ***Dates for Your Diary* - February 2003**

Tue	4	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	8	7.30pm, Quiz Night, VH
Wed	12	Staine Hundred, BVC, 7.30
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	17	WI Devil's Dyke Talk, 7.30, VH
Tue	18	VG, Restoration Audley Hal;l Vegetable Garden, VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	19	
Thu	20	WEA Centenary Coffee Morning 11am, Bott. Youth Centre
Wed	26	Old Rope String Band, 8.30, The Maltings, Ely
Thu	27	<b>Crier</b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	28	
<b>Weekly Events</b>		
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