



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 1

January 2003



## Editorial

Once upon a time, there was a *Crier* Editor who said: "It's far too difficult getting the January *Crier* out in the New Year. Let's do it before Christmas". And so it came to pass. Until along came another Editor (guess who) who said "It's far too much hassle getting *two Criers* out just before Christmas. Let's do January *after* Christmas". And it so happened that *everyone* was exceeding sorely taxed when this proposition was put forth, and leapt at it like a shot. Consequently, here is your *Crier*, rather later than usual — we hope we've not missed anything— but at least out before the beginning of February, and so.....

## Happy New Year, All Our Readers!

With this issue, we must proudly announce that we are now the longest serving *Crier* Editors *ever* (thanks to previous eds. Ruth and Robin for this information). Yes, the original *gang of five* is down to two but we're still here, and we've decided it's about time we made some "improvements", the first of which you see to the right, which is "Contents". In the days of cut & paste in the Village Hall, *Contents* were impossible, but now, 5 years after the home-made cut & paste machine was consigned to dust wraps, the innovative editorial team have finally got round to it, and not by halves, we may add: our *Advertisers* now also have they're very own *classified* listing on the coloured pages. Ho yes! This is a much needed innovation — we hope our Advertisers actually *like* the way they've been classified—although it looks like our long-suffering readers have indeed been patiently thrumming through the centre pages all this time since one advertiser who cancelled recently did so because he had acquired far too *much* business.

However, the MISSING innovation is the *Crier* CROSSWORD, which *was* due to start this month, but which will now start next — many apologies to our setter, it just wouldn't fit, and February is fast approaching.....

Wishing a Specially Happy New Year to our Emergency Saturday Collators..... **Caroline Matheson**

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**Cover Picture:** "Old Year, New Year", Thomas Newbolt



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL

This year will be the first time for many, many years that I will not be sitting in Zion Baptist Chapel joining in the Christmas celebrations at their annual Candle-light Service. I am sure a lot of other people will be feeling the same.

It used to be so warm and friendly entering the chapel to see the whole place decorated with a Christmas tree, and holly and ivy adorning the front of the chapel, with candles lit. After singing the rapturous Christmas carols we would all enjoy a nice cup of tea/coffee and mince pies and have a good chat amongst ourselves before wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and going home.

For so many years many of us have enjoyed this lovely service at the chapel, not just the chapel members but other people from the village and villages afar. I am sure they will also be feeling the sadness I feel at not being able to join in these festivities this year.

*Name and Address Withheld*

*We're sure many villagers feel the same as this correspondent. Perhaps Prior Baptists could take matters into their own hands and hold a meeting to see if Chapel problems really are so insuperable? There may be more support than they think. Eds.*

---

Dear Editors,

### Churchwork

Can I thank those kind people who share the task of keeping our two churches accessible and safe every day. A surprising number of people use the churches, which is very satisfying.

Please ring me on 742850 if you would like to help by joining the rota or in any other way. Thank-you.

*Tricia Harrison*



**C**ongratulations to Judy and Andy Tozer on the birth of their son, George, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, a brother for Anna, Joe and Martha.

# 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

## Rabbits and Roads

Our County Councillor James Fitch started the proceedings as usual, giving us the ‘feel good’ impression that ours was really one of the best and most soundly financed county councils in the country. However, he reported no success in the C.C.’s agreement to our traffic-calming suggestions. So we will try again next year, with some modifications in form. The C.C. was looking into Lower-End traffic-calming, and noted in passing that Lower-End is to be part of a large ‘Sustrans’ cycle-network enabling cyclists to ride in safety from Cambridge to Mildenhall and points east.



Several other road-related matters came up during the evening. Trevor told us that in frosty weather we would *not* have lumps of salt dumped on the road; instead the road-surface would be sprayed with brine. Then, we had once again the question of a road-sign to show the way from Swaffham Prior to Upware, to help poor lost Spanish lorry-drivers (‘What is the Spanish for ‘Upware?’ said someone). We *used* to have an ‘Upware’ signpost pointing down Station Road: why couldn’t we have it back again? Better still, why couldn’t we have a notice pointing left to Upware at the bottom of Cage Hill? There is a signpost there already, pointing right to Reach: a small addition would make it twice as useful. Another chronic sore-point is the ditch along Lower End, which as we all know needs regular clearing-out and maintenance. Ditches along roads are part of the highway authority’s job (the County Council, in fact), not the job of the neighbouring landowner. We have heard of this ditch so often that it might be expected that our county councillor by this time might have mentioned it to the Roads people at the C.C. But wind-torn tree branches stuck in the telephone wires, another Lower-end trouble, must be cleared by the owner of the tree.

There were a couple of items involving the need to keep contractors up-to-the-mark.

One was the street-lighting, which has still not been completed, though intended as ‘enhancement’ of the High-street conservation area: the ironwork archway over the church steps is still awaiting its light. A ‘stiff letter’ should go to John Selby indicating that his contractors had not finished their job. Then, there was the matter of clearance of the recreation-ground field. The contractor (Mead) said he could not remove some items stuck in a hedge, one of which was a drum: he refused to move this for ‘health-and-safety’ reasons, not knowing what, if anything, was inside it. Everyone thought that this was pretty poor and that we should insist that he should do what he had

contracted to do. Later in the meeting we had some talk of strenuous cutting -back-and-shortening of brambles and hedges around 3 sides of the Recreation ground. Perhaps we shall soon be able to write-off the Recreation Ground as one of our recurrent themes.

Trevor provided some entertainment when the P.C. discussed the proposed 'Speed Watch Project', a scheme which requires active public participation. It will therefore give all those complainers about cars-speeding-through-the-village a chance to put their time where their mouths are; and the P.C. is going to find out how much enthusiasm there really is, for the Watching process. This, we were told, might involve hand-held interactive signs; and even hand-held mobile radar-speed-monitors. One could 'monitor' a speeding motorist emerging from Lower-end, then dash up to the main road and 'monitor' him again coming back. Wait-for-it: you will be asked in the February Crier.

And where do the Rabbits come in? A mild item of correspondence with Snakehall Farm led to a lengthy account from John Covill about rabbits and rabbit holes along Baston Drove, and the impossibility of doing any gassing because the vegetation/brambles/hedges were so overgrown that access to the holes was impossible; and perhaps we should put up an electric fence to keep the rabbits *in*; even if we gassed them some more would come soon; and so on and so on, for nearly 20 minutes. In the end it was suggested that Community Service workers should be asked to clear back the vegetation to give access to the rabbit holes, and then we would think again.

Under 'Planning Applications', John brought up the question of an additional cable carrying an electric current across the fen, with consequent need for more pylons.

We began to fear that we were in for another 20-minute tirade. But this time, John had drafted a clear and well-expressed letter to the electricity company explaining just how they could make use of the existing pylons and still have a possible alternative supply in case of breakdown during routine maintenance. Trevor read out the letter and congratulated John, and it was agreed that this would be our official comment on the cable-and-pylon proposal. And we all hope that the electricity board will realise that it hasn't a leg to stand on.

*Margaret Stanier*

Competent adult rider wanted to share exercise and care of 16.2hh gelding.

Please contact 077 8631 8065

**News from**  
**Swaffham Prior**  
**Church of England**  
**Primary School**



We are now embarking on a building project which will give the school a staff room where all the staff can fit in! The office space will also been increased with work due to be completed at Easter. The next project in the pipeline is a group room which can be used for music lessons, teaching small groups and for meetings.

**Focus on reception...**

Children have a wealth of experiences in their reception year and the delight of working in a secure, friendly atmosphere. The children follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum which covers broad areas of learning: Personal and Emotional Development, Mathematical Development, Communication, Language and Literacy, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Physical Development and Creative Development. These areas make up the curriculum for three to five year olds, allowing for their learning to take place via the Early Learning Goals which outline stages in development within the Foundation Stage.

Here are some thoughts about our school from some of the reception children, who have now been in school a term.

*I've been counting. Mr. Muddle muddles up the numbers and we have to sort them out again*

*I like feeding the guinea pig.*

*I like playtime, playing on the space ship.*

*We have been colouring, and learnt the rainbow colours. We learnt a song.*

*I have done abcs.*

*When I was at home I practised doing school things. I played in the vets.*

*I had a circle and I cut some bits and I sewed some ribbons on.*

*I know how to save work.*

*I like printing.*

Last term's pet focus was a great success, leading to their first class assembly where the class sang rhymes and songs, explained what pets needed, linked babies to their adults, booked a poorly cat into the vets. Class assemblies are one of the ways parents can be involved in the school.

Thank you for your support at our recent events – our Christmas Fair was a big success and it was lovely to see lots of villagers joining in.

**Joanna Lakey**  
**Head teacher**

### QUIZ NIGHT 16TH NOVEMBER

Congratulations to ‘Out of Reach’ on their victory - hope you will be back in February to defend your title. Thanks to all who supported the night either by participating or helping with the food preparation and serving or donating prizes. All help was much appreciated. The proceeds of the draw will be donated equally to the Cubs and the Family Service. In addition to the draw £230 has been raised for Church Funds.

The next Quiz will be on Saturday 8th February. *Jenny Brand and Lynn Rand*



### Bottisham WEA

#### More choice this Spring

**W**e know that many people would like to attend a WEA class but are not able to do so on a Thursday morning. So this term we have arranged for two courses, a daytime one and an evening one.

The Thursday class, starting on 16 January from 10:00am to 11:30am, will be looking at “The Silver Age of Russian Culture”. Alison Wilson will be showing us how Russian literature, music, art and ballet during the reign of Tsar Nicholas II played an influential role in the developments of the Arts in Western Europe. All this is set against a background of growing political unrest in the decades leading up to the revolution of 1917.

On Wednesday evenings, beginning on 15 January from 7:30pm to 9:00pm, we shall be much closer to home in the “Wetlands of East Anglia”. Dr Frances Dipper will be introducing us to the wild and wet places of our region, both freshwater and coastal. We will be finding out about the wildlife, history and the conservation problems of the different habitats.

Both courses will take place at Bottisham Youth Centre, next to the Church in the High Street. The fees for each are £26 (concessionary rate £17.50).

Come along to the first lecture before you commit yourself. If you would like more details contact the secretary, Shirley Ellis (01223 811891).

For details of courses elsewhere in Cambridgeshire contact Sue Young, WEA County Organiser (01480 455080).



## Pantomime 2003

This year our Pantomime is **“Sinbad the Sailor”** written by Ron Hall and directed by Val Quy. This is Val’s second time of producing our pantomime.

“Sinbad” is a traditional pantomime and was chosen as Bottisham Players have not performed it before. As usual there is a “goodie” and “baddie”, a slapstick scene and an audience participation song. We follow Sinbad in his adventures to prove he’s not a rogue he goes by ship to a tropical island where he overcomes danger to “get his girl”. See him ride on a magic carpet and fight a serpent.

Come and be entertained, come and laugh and join in the fun of a traditional show that can be enjoyed by young and old.

Dates for your diary are **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.p.m. and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2003 at 2.30.p.m. and 7.30 p.m. in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.**

Buy your tickets from beginning of January either direct from Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham or the Burwell Fireplace Shop, North Street Burwell; or through our telephone booking line (01223 812779) price £6.00 for adults and £4.00 concessions (not Saturday night).

*Any reserved tickets must be paid for before the date of the performance. Tickets will be available on the door at each performance subject to availability.*

## OBSTACLES

For a long time it seemed to me  
that real life was about to begin,  
but there was always some obstacle in the way.  
Something had to be got through first,  
some unfinished business;  
time still to be served,  
a debt to be paid.  
Then life would begin.  
At last it dawned on me  
that these obstacles were my life.

*Bette Howland*



## Diary of Events for 2003

I hope you will find it helpful to have these dates for your diary. Further details will be available nearer the date of each event so watch this space and also notice boards and telegraph poles in the village. You will of course realise it is not easy working a year in advance so there may have to be slight adjustments as the year progresses.

*Kate Child*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
8th February	<b>Quiz Night</b>	Village Hall	7.30-10pm
1st March	<b>Moveable Feast</b>	Lower End	7 - 10pm
5th March	<b>Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday. Cambridge Voices</b>	St Cyriacs	7.30pm
6th March	<b>Bulb Walk &amp; Coffee Morning Lower End</b>	The Manor House	10 - 12 noon
18th April (Good Friday)	<b>Music for Holy Week Proposed concert by Cambridge Voices</b>	St Cyriacs	2pm
5th May (Bank Holiday Monday)	<b>Cambridge Voices and Orchestra English Baroque Music</b>	St Cyriacs	7.30pm
29th May Ascension Day	<b>Holy Communion with Cambridge Voices (with Carols on roof)</b>	St Cyriacs	7.30pm
21st June	<b>Jazz Evening</b>	Red Lion	7 - 10pm
22nd June	<b>Choral Evening</b>	St Cyriacs	6pm
27th July	<b>Choral Evening</b>	St Cyriacs	6pm
24th August	<b>Choral Evening</b>	St Cyriacs	6pm
12th - 14th September	(In conjunction with Civic Trust Open Days)		
12th September	Preview of <b>"Pictures at an Exhibition"</b>	<b>St Cyriacs</b>	6.30-8.30pm
13th September (Saturday)	<b>A week-end of PICTURES AND MUSIC in St Cyriacs with a visiting Hanovarian band. Roy Tricker has also agreed to come (not in his usual capacity). There will be something t suit ALL AGES.</b>		

# St Mary's Concert

directed by Martin Gent

## Duruflé: Requiem

Jennifer Oldham — mezzo soprano

Simon Adams — baritone

## Fauré: Cantique de Jean Racine

## Bach: Suite no. 4 in D

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

Saturday 8 February 2003 at 7.30 pm

Tickets: £6 centre aisle, £4 side aisles, £3 & £2 children/students  
from 01223812402 and choir members

*Supported by GB Geotechnics and ADeC*

### THE PARAGON

One is often a recluse, that shuns society;  
And one of two that make a pair, may shun sobriety.  
And if they're joined by yet a third, the one that makes them  
three

Forms an eternal triangle then breaks it up, maybe  
One in four's not married, one fifth wait their decree;  
One in six is married, but wishes he were free.  
One in seven's an atheist and denies a God.  
One in eight's agnostic or only slightly odd.  
One in ten, it seems can boast that he, or she's "done time"  
One in nine's in prison for some sort of crime.  
One in eleven's a deviant or has some anomaly;  
I know I'm not any of these —  
Is there nothing wrong with me?

*Ophir Catling*



## Red Lion Crib Charity Shield

On Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, the *Red Lion* held an evening of knock-out Crib. This was a charity event with proceeds going to the Milton Hospice Appeal. A sum of £65 was collected.

This year, the winner was Martin Mead. Many thanks to Lorraine and Dave for the wonderful buffet.

*Pam Waters*

## GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

on 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2003

*Full details in the next Crier*

Don't throw it away - save it for the jumble sale

## Bottisham Bowling Club — Hello Everyone!

Readers of this village magazine may or may not be aware of the Bottisham Bowling club which is located alongside the British Legion here in Bottisham

Obviously we are in the closed season at this time of year, but we would like to encourage those of you who feel they would like to be an active member even if you have never played before to come and join us when the new season begins, spare bowls are available to anyone wishing to give it a try.

I will be only too happy to provide any information to anyone who may be interested, contact me, Ted Sketchley, 01223-811582.

May I bring one of our fund raising events to your attention? We are holding a **JUMBLE SALE on the 18<sup>th</sup> of JANUARY at the British Legion**. Cindy King is co-ordinator for this event on 01223-811220 so if you have any item of bric-a-brac, books, any unwanted items hiding in your cupboards now's the chance to give them a new home. We will be happy to collect and you can also drop off any suitable items at the Legion on the morning of the sale from 10:30 pm.

Refreshments will be provided so do make a note in your diary to come and support this event.

SWAFFHAM BULBURN

## COUNTRY STORE & POST OFFICE

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**FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN**



**Mobile Library**

**Cage Hill: 2.40 - 3.30**

**Chapel: 3.35 - 4.00**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Mothers collecting children from school may find it easier to use the Chapel stop. Order books, buy stamps and very reasonable Greetings Cards.

*Use it or Lose it!*



## WI Notes

At our meeting in December the WI had a Christmas Party. The meal - turkey and all the trimmings followed by trifle, with wine - was prepared and served by the Committee.

The competition was for Christmas earrings and some ingenious examples were produced, including singing birds and flashing angels. Pat Airey, our President, won with her dangling Santa Clause.

To end the evening we had a brain-teasing version of Call my Bluff. I was glad I was on the panel and not on the other side trying to guess the true meaning of the obscure words chosen.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January Mr. Ian Storey will be telling us the Story of Turners, Fordham. And in March, when we are all fed up with Winter and need cheering up, we hope to organise a Beetle Drive, open to all. But more of that later.

*Betty Prime*



## LADIES CIRCLE

Once again the Ladies Circle met at Zion Baptist Chapel on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2002. We welcomed our regular speaker Geoff Evans from Newmarket who showed us slides about his holiday to the Shetland and Orkney Islands.

We always enjoy having Mr Evans to our meetings, as his talks are most interesting and his slides most magnificent. We took a trip around the islands to see the puffins, seals and various wild life and flowers. We also saw the sheep that seem to survive only on seaweed, and were taken on a trip over the marvellous cliffs and waters of the islands.

In December we are meeting at the home of Iris Stannett for our Christmas celebrations. Members will enjoy a buffet meal, play silly games and Christmas presents will be distributed to all.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Happy New Year.

*Sandra Butcher*

### *Donation!*

Many thanks to Ivy Jackson for her kind donation to the Crier this month!



## STAINE HUNDRED

Professor J. S. Parker was the speaker at the December meeting of the Staine Hundred Local History Society, which was well attended. He is only the fifth Director since 1919.

He began with a slide of the impressive gates to the Botanical Gardens in Trumpington Road, which originally stood in Downing Street when the Gardens were first created. Botanical Gardens originated in Italy in the 16 century as an aid to medical students. Plans were discussed for one in Cambridge but they did not come to fruition though Oxford set one up in 1621. In 1762, a site was bought with a house in Benet Street and five acres of land which had its entrance opposite Tennis Court Road, on what is now known as the New Museum Site. Regular beds were set out with a water supply from Hobson's Conduit, glass houses (then known as Stove houses) were put up. Lecture Rooms were built which were the first for University (as opposed as to for College) use and here a good collection of dried plants was housed.

The first curator was Professor Martyn who was followed by his son who made a catalogue of the plants growing in the garden nine years after he was appointed and then did virtually nothing to improve the Gardens before his death in 1825. He was followed by Professor Henslow, who did much to stimulate science in Cambridge. Darwin was inspired as a student under him. Soon Henslow wanted a larger site further out from the centre of Cambridge as light conditions were poor because of the smoke. He arranged to exchange the site with Trinity Hall for one of 40 acres on its present site in 1831 though it was 15 years later before they could take possession by which time the University were short of money and would only agree to half of it being developed (The rest was used as allotments until 1951). Applicants for the post of curator had to come up with a plan for the Gardens and the layout still follows this pattern with plantations of trees round the outside, a lake, systematic garden with plants of related types set in 144 beds hedged in with hawthorn, and the greenhouses.

Since the War, the remainder of the 40 acres has been developed including a winter garden, dry garden, a rock garden and a sandstone garden with sandstone. It houses genetic collections of plants which may be endangered. Throughout it has worked to be a centre of scientific excellence but also a place of beauty for the general public to enjoy. Festive refreshments brought the meeting to a happy end.

The next meeting will be on January 8 when Peter Hewitt will be talking



## STAINE HUNDRED

### Advance Programme

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

**February 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 strawplaiting' (Mrs S Pearl)

*Maureen Rogers*

Secretary 01223 - 812146

### **Funding For Crime and Disorder Projects**

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership has produced a three-year strategy for how crime and disorder in the district will be tackled. The main priorities included in the Strategy are:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Property Crime — vehicle crime and burglary
- Violent Crime
- Protecting vulnerable groups (such as ethnic minorities and older people)
- Reducing the fear of crime
- Increasing levels of reporting
- Developing data sources for future research and to inform project work
- Adopting a problem solving approach to reducing crime and disorder in Ely, Soham, Littleport and Burwell.
- Reducing the Risk Factors of crime.

**Some funding is available to community groups who are experiencing any of the problems listed above and can provide details of how their project would reduce crime and disorder.**

To request an application form and a summary of the Community Safety Strategy, contact Julie Buck on: 01353 616394 or Melanie Rose on 01353 616256.





**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor

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Happy New Year. I hope you and your families had a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday.

Households with a person with a disability may qualify for a special Council Tax Band, which will reduce their Council Tax. To qualify the householder has to show that the property has been adapted for the needs of the person with the disability, e.g. doorways widened to allow wheelchair access or a room with medical equipment such as a dialysis machine. If you think you may be eligible contact John Longworth in the Council Tax Section on 01254 585561. Once you have applied, a Council Tax Inspector will visit your home to check that you are eligible. To qualify for the relief, the disability has to be permanent but you do not have to be registered as a disabled person.

The Council has recently introduced a £47 charge for treating rat infestations. This puts rats in the same category as treatment for other pests, for which we have charged for some time. When our pest control contract came up for renewal the quotes were significantly higher than the cost in previous years. By charging for the rat service we saved £25,000 from these extra costs. This represents £1 for a Band D Council Tax Payer or 1% of their Council Tax. I understand that the commercial charge for controlling rats is £120 per visit. The £47.00 that we charge is to eradicate the problem regardless of the number of visits, so it is still cost effective. We were concerned that it may lead to increased problems with rats and mis-use of poisons. We looked at the experience of other councils who introduced charges some time ago and they did not find that these problems had increased. This gave us sufficient re-assurance to introduce the charges. Nevertheless we are monitoring the situation and will reconsider the charges if there is a growth in pest problems and/or mis-use of poisons. We also have a budget which officers use at their discretion to provide free treatment to householders who otherwise could not afford it.

We are starting the consultation process for our budget for 2003/04. The government has finally accepted that East Cambridgeshire needs a higher grant. But because they set a ceiling on their grants, we still do not have as much as they now agree that we should have. Despite this, the draft budget is suggesting limiting the rise in the District Council's share of the Council Tax to 5%. This will take the Band D Council Tax to about £107. The bill that you will receive from us will be considerably higher, as we also collect the tax for the County Council, the Police and the Parish Council. In 2002/03 these added about £763 to a Band D Council Tax.

*Charlotte Cane*



## **WHY CLOSE A DUAL-USE LIBRARY?**

The proposal to close the Community side of the dual-use Bottisham Village College Library has met with astonishment, anger and action locally.

Since 1937 when the College was founded, Bottisham Village College has provided education for increasing numbers of pupils and life-long learning to pre-school children and to adults.

At the centre of the College, the library has offered an ever-widening range of services based on books, videos, IT, and tapes as well as somewhere to sit and look at reference books. It is the only centre of locally posted information from The Government, all three Councils and clubs. Bottisham has no village hall. There is an obvious need for an accessible information centre, which both County and District Councils have boosted recently with a bank of computers and other modern equipment.

Over the last decade, but particularly since 1997, the library service has been starved of resources leading to substantial cuts in the book fund. In turn this has meant a decline in the number of new books or older stock in good condition. For this and other reasons there has been a slow spiral of decline in the number of book issues in the county's libraries.

The decline at Bottisham has been less than average according to published statistics, which also separates withdrawals made by pupils during the school year. The criteria for closure surely need widening when relating to a whole community service.

It is worth mentioning that Bottisham has a superb collection of children's and young adult's books and evidence of this is clear from the number on loan to other libraries throughout the county.

Should the community library service be withdrawn from Bottisham imagine the thoughts of people of all ages walking past an under-used College library on their way to meet a mobile library vehicle - open half as often - parked inconveniently elsewhere in the village! What a waste of resource, what a shame to go against Government encouragement to use education resources for the whole community, what a lost opportunity to expand our existing services in a splendid new building offering the chance to meet others of all ages in warmth and comfort!

***James Fitch***

## Notes from the Parish Council December Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 6 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).**

**Conservation Area – *streetlighting*:** The Enhancement Scheme for this area still remains incomplete. The Clerk will write to John Selby, Conservation Officer for ECDC and Charlotte Cane to express the P.C's serious concerns about this. Councillor Fitch agreed to talk with Charlotte Cane at the next ECDC meeting.

**Lower End Ditch – *clearance and maintenance*:** The ownership of this ditch is still disputed. The meeting agreed that this ditch should be the responsibility of CCC highways. Following recent storms a lot of tree branches have fallen into the ditch and also one bough is caught up on the overhead cables. It is hoped that Stockbourne Plc (Dencora) will visit the area to examine the trees on the boundary of their land and arrange for clearing of the fallen boughs, etc.

**Recreation Ground – *cutting back of hedges/brambles*:** Following the general clearance of the ground, it was agreed that the hedging on the front boundary should be cut down to approximately 1m and that brambles and hedging on the other boundaries should also be cut back and tidied. The Clerk is to obtain estimates for this work.

**Road Signs for Upware** – The Clerk is to contact CCC about the reinstatement of a sign for Upware at the top of Station Road. Also the possibility of installing similar signs at the top and bottom of Cage Hill.

**Village Hall Building Fund – *closure & transfer of funds to VHMC*:** This account was opened at the time of the Village Hall restoration. The account was administered jointly by the Parish Council & the Swaffham Prior Village Hall Committee. Now the restoration has been complete for some time, it was agreed that this account should be closed and the remaining funds transferred to the VHMC.

**Speed Watch Project – *Community Speed Partnership*:** Despite a note put in the last *Crier*, only one person has volunteered to help with this project.

Further details on the project are to be included in the January *Crier* in the form of a flyer to see if anyone else would be willing to take part.

**Bottisham Village College – request for donation:** A £50 donation was agreed.

**Cambridgeshire ACRE – renewal of membership:** This was agreed.

**“Freedom of Information Act 200”** A “Model Publication Scheme” was issued to all Parish Councils by the Information Commissioners Office. This is a statutory scheme that all Parish Councils have a legal responsibility to publish. This scheme is “*intended to encourage local councils to publish more information proactively and to develop a greater culture of openness and transparency*”. Should anyone wish to see any further details on this, please contact the Clerk.

### **Correspondence Received:**

**CCC:** “Preparing for Floods” Package of information to “*promote flood awareness*”. This is to be circulated. Should anyone wish to see this, please contact the Clerk.

With reference to the dumping and storing of waste materials on Whiteway Drove, a date for the Appeal was received. The P.C. will outline their concerns to the Planning Inspectorate.

Letter from CCC Highways informing the P.C. that the stretch of footpath on Station Road is at present the subject of a budgeted bid proposal for 2003/04.

**General:** Police - Histon Sector Newsletter crime figures for month of November.

School Newsletter

With reference to the problems of rabbits on Barston Drove, a letter was received from The Prospects Trust informing the P.C. of their own measures to control this problem and offering their assistance.

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

**Planning Applications:** *Burwell to Horningsea proposed 132Kv dual circuit overhead line running through Burwell, The Swaffhams, Reach & Lode Parishes.* This was discussed at length and the Clerk is to confirm the P.C’s concerns over the installing of a second parallel line.

### **Any Other Business:**

There were further discussions on the problems with rabbits on Barston Drove.



**The Parish Council would like to wish everyone  
a very Happy New Year!**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

### **Advent by Candlelight**

The now well-established Advent concert in the two churches enjoyed its usual success on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the audience of about 200, Ian de Massini was able to give £800 to Emmaus, the organisation at Landbeach that creates homes and work for homeless people.

As well as the maestro conductor, the stars of the afternoon were:

- The 40-strong choir, some of whose loyal members had travelled from as far away as London, Colchester and Bath.
- The village readers, coached by Mark Lewinski, who gave moving performances of sometimes difficult poems.
- The many generous people, coordinated by Kate Child, who gave enough mince pies for everyone, and made sure that everyone had one.
- The mulled wine team of Jutta and Francis Reeks and Marcia Miller, who conjured up the usual nectar.
- And last but not least, the beauty of the place —ancient churches lit up in the dusk of a December afternoon.

*Elisabeth Everitt*

### **In Memoriam**

**Ida Badcock  
Joan Lewis Bradley  
Arthur Bye  
Jean Lewis  
Peggy Woollard**

### **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).



## Church Services January 2003

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA Reach
Sun 12	Apologies for limited Church Service information this month. Normal service will be resumed next month!	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	
Sun 19		<b>11:00am</b> Eucharist	
Sun 26		<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>†</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Mattins	

**Holy Communion**  
**Evening Prayer**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by Home Communion)  
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck  
Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach

**Bellringing**  
**Housegroup**

Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior  
Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.  
Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.  
Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676

**Mothers Union**

1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial End.

**Toddlers Service**

Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

# BROADBAND IS COMING!

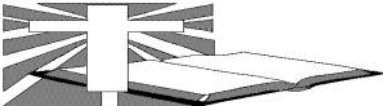
Well, it could be! All you need to do is *register an interest*, and if there are enough people who do, BT will bring it here! Please the community is counting on you to help us. So get onto the internet and register at:



**[www.btopenworld.com](http://www.btopenworld.com)**

*Bob Matheson*





## Zion Baptist Chapel

### ***A New Year ... A New Start***

Sixteen hundred years ago, in a garden in Milan, a young man from north Africa became a Christian believer. His life seemed to lack direction. He had been searching for something for many years and had tried quite a few of the spiritual disciplines and therapies on offer. He had a girlfriend, whom he had abandoned, and a little son.

The young man managed to find a good job in a university, but his underlying depression weighed him down. As he sat in the garden with tears in his eyes he heard the singsong voice of a child next door, chanting in Latin: "*Tolle lege, ..... tolle, lege*" ("pick up and read"). In response, the young man took hold of a Bible and read: "Arm yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ, and spend no more thought on nature's appetites."

This is a story with which many Christians are familiar. It is the story of the conversion of Augustine, who was destined to become one the greatest philosopher-theologians of the Western Church. Here is another story known about someone else who came to believe in Jesus.

"1994 was a terrible time for my family. I was in despair: I simply didn't know what to do and on one particular occasion was close to suicide. That very evening was the first time in my life I appealed to God for help. The next morning my Grandmother came to visit and invited me to attend a Christian mission. I went very reluctantly and received a copy of the New Testament as a gift. I started to read it and found I could not stop - I read it practically without interruption for three days. I decided I had to respond somehow, so I went to church with my Grandmother and understood for the first time the meaning of repentance."

In both these stories extraordinary connections are forged between Jesus and everyday people who can no longer make sense of their everyday lives. If you want to make sense of your life why don't you start the New Year like these two people and read the Bible. It could change your year and change you forever!

*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.
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For more information please telephone David Bousfield on 01223-563307
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## ***Dates for Your Diary - January 2003***

Mon	6	
Tue	7	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	8	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH
Fri	10	
Sat	11	
Sun	12	
Mon	13	
Tue	14	
Wed	15	Bottisham WEA evening classes begin, B Youth Centre, 7:30
Thu	16	Bottisham WEA morning classes begin, B Youth Centre, 10:00
Fri	17	
Sat	18	Bottisham Bowls Jumble Sale, British Legion, Bottisham
Sun	19	<b><i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	20	WI, 7.30, VH.
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	22	
Thu	23	Bottisham Players Panto, BVC, 7:30pm (until Sat 25)
Fri	24	
Sat	25	
Sun	26	
Mon	27	
Tue	28	
Wed	29	
Thu	30	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	31	
<b>Weekly Events</b>		
Sun		11am, Boules, VH Car park
Tue		2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Thu		2.30-4.30pm VH Teas.