



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 7

July 2003



Editorial

Email! Isn't it wonderful? Yes, *until it goes wrong*, of course. Which explains why this month's Crier is a bit of a titch — there's rather a lot of copy missing, munched up by that ghastly and irritating email system, which *would not* regurgitate it despite last ditch mega-efforts from the Eds incorporated.

So here's some of what you missed (with profuse apologies to the contributors!): Rev David Lewis's *first submission* to this magazine — a big welcome from the Eds to David and wife, we *will* do better next time, Robert Good's invitation to his Open Studio's Exhibition of Paintings and Wildlife Garden (53, Lode Rd, Lode, every weekend in July, 11am to 6pm) — this sounds good, *and* an advert from an extremely enterprising entrepreneur who's offering to CLEAN OUR OVENS!!! Telephone 01353 661257 (Mobile: 07799 218062) or go to www.ovenclean.com — the Eds are ahead of you!

The Jazz Evening was a great success, and much appreciated by all who attended. As we know, it raises money for the Church, so church-goers all, you need to be jazz-fans for one night in the year, but meanwhile, non-churchies came from miles around, and the only problem was the wretched *Marquee* (you know, don't have a Marquee, it sheets down, *do* have one, well really, who wants to be in a tent is this heat?!) The *Lion* have specially bought a Marquee for this event but could do with some help erecting it next year.

Meanwhile, we see from a small note in our neighbouring magazine *Out of Reach*, in 12 inch high ***bold letters*** all over the front cover as it happens, that Broadband seems to have arrived in Reach but not yet in Swaffham Prior. Ha!! We've got *more trees* in Swaffham Prior and we've got *a hill*, and, and.... Well, anyway, congratulations to our advertisers *Drakken* who did the job for Reach and now the race is on! *Who* will do it here??!

Lastly, the ***Crier*** is now desperately short of collators. HELP!!!! The job only takes an hour (last Thursday in month), and is quite fun really. Also, you'll get asked to the highly desirable and exclusive ***Crier*** party...oh alright, don't all rush at once. See you Summer Fairing!

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Cover Picture: "The Village Fountain" by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

A Mystery Unravelled.

Those of us with a long memory will remember that just before Christmas, nearly three years ago, the pulpit in St Mary's Church fell over, and collapsed on the floor. It has always been a mystery to me that nobody was seriously hurt; just a few bruises and a red face.

The incident happened when a child was passing a microphone to the school master, who was in the pulpit wiring it up for the Christmas play. He leant over the side to reach down for the apparatus, and over it went taking him with it.

Why did this happen after being in the church since 1902? Until recently activities in this holy building have been of a very traditional nature. Very few concessions to modern living have been installed or required, save electric light and oil fired heating. Even the heating was the latest thing in 1902, and only had to be updated to oil when the old boiler rusted away.

After the collapse, a temporary repair was put in hand until a final solution was agreed upon. Several new designs were submitted to the authorities, but they all had adverse comments from at least one of the four controlling bodies. Being frustrated by officialdom, we decided to make a larger base, and restore the stability. It was during this operation that I discovered what had taken place since the pulpit was removed from St Cyriac's one hundred years ago.

Today the steps up to the floor of the pulpit are at the back, and are in a straight line. This enabled entry from the side, and the pulpit to be against the wall. There is good evidence that originally the steps surrounded the pulpit with entry from the front. In this latter arrangement the hourglass pulpit was supported both east-west, and north-south, and was very stable. After the alterations, stability was only in one direction, east-west. As the school master was leaning to the north, he toppled it over.

I suppose that in the years between 1902 and 2000, only clerics would have had the timidity to go into the pulpit anyway, and perhaps that's how it should be.

John Norris

Dear Editors,

Council Tax Bills

I'm sorry that I took 6 Council tax bills rather than 6 calendar years and thus used different figures from those concerning Mark Lewinski. Since 1997 the Council tax has risen by 85%, from £568.45 to £1,051.83 for Band D. Since 1993 the Council tax has risen by 133% from £451.73 for a Band D.

Part of the reason for us being higher than the national average is that in 1993 the East Cambs Council tax was £nil (because the interest earned covered our costs). This rose to £25 in 1995, £56 in 1998 and has continued to rise since – with a 59% rise in 2002 to £102.18. So in strict mathematical terms the East Cambs element has risen by an infinite percentage since 1993. In 1993 the total raised from Council tax

for East Cambs was nil and in 2003 it will be £2,779,000.

In 1993 the County and the Police were one charge – if we add this years two bills together the percentage increase is 108%, from £438.40 to £910.71 for Band D. If we compare this year's figures with 1995 (the first year they were separated) the County Council has increased by 84% and the police by 154%. The Parish Council has increased its precept by 154%, from £13.33 to £33.83 for band D.

Since 1993 the government grant to East Cambs has increased by 40% from £3,752,000 to £5,253,000. But the government assessment of what we should be spending (net of interest) has increased by 96% from £5,262,000 to £10,293,000. In 1993 they funded 71% of what they thought we should spend and this has now reduced to 51%. We have not increased the Council tax to the level implied by government figures. If we had, the Band D Council tax for East Cambs would be £181.32 as opposed to the £107.29 which we are charging.

I understand the frustration that I did not answer for all tiers – I simply do not have the information, I can only answer why East Cambs has increased. I did not mean to suggest that the total level of spend had remained the same – it has increased by more than inflation for the reasons I outlined in my previous letter.

It is very difficult to resolve these issues through monthly correspondence. If there is sufficient interest in these issues I would be happy to try to get representatives from all tiers to meet with people locally to discuss and perhaps shine some light into the dark depths of government accounting!

Charlotte Cane

Dear Editors,

The Frogs

I hope that the recent correspondence about frogs and their habits did not contain even the slightest hint of levity. For why? Go to the performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* in September in St. Cyriac's to hear how frogs did and can again leave the rivers and ponds **in their millions**, and move into **your** houses, and into **your** bedrooms, and crawl all over **your** very beds, and over **your** friends and family, and into **your** ovens, and even into **your** supermarkets from whence you get your food. (Read it all in Exodus chapter 8). They will be everywhere. SO DON'T MUCK ABOUT WITH THE FROGS.

Alastair Everitt

PS. Maybe the frog experts know why Jackdaws over the last eighteen months have supplanted Stock Pigeons in the Churchyard.

QUY CHURCH FETE

Saturday, 12th July at 2 pm

In The Orchard

Parking and entrance in the Avenue

(on the corner just beyond The Wheatsheaf)

Adults 50p Children Free

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The June PC Meeting: Speed Watch and Overhanging Vegetation

It cannot have escaped your notice that our village has been doing some earnest speedwatching recently. James Fitch told us that our speedwatching activities had met with warm approval from all concerned. (So much for those who told us beforehand that the Speed Watch Campaign would be a non-starter). At the time of the PC meeting there would be one more week to go, for our flash-speed notices; then they would be removed, to go to help in some other village's Speed Watch Campaign. And how soon will Swaffham Prior's fast drivers go back to their bad old ways? Kevin gave a spirited account of trying to catch-them-in-the-act. The trouble was that speed-recording volunteers are obliged to wear reflecting-yellow jackets, which make them 'stand out like a belisha beacon'; and any driver would slow down quarter-of-a-mile away. So Kevin took to hiding behind his garden hedge and just popping out at the last minute. (It did not work though. His score was still zero).



There were a couple of items down Station Road and Whiteway Drove. The recreation ground had been mown, but not short enough: The Youth of Swaffham Prior will not kick a ball about there until the grass is short and a goal post (at least one) has been put up. Should we press for re-instatement of the footpath beside Station Road? (Yes) Then, the ongoing saga of the Whiteway Drove rubbish dump is nearing its end, as the owner of the rubbish has lost his appeal against the clear-up requirement. Trevor read out to us the list of jobs the owner must carry out, and the time he had to complete them (three months, maximum): remove-rubbish-fill-in-hole-level-with-surrounding-field-put-on-topsoil-sow-grass-seed. Later in the meeting, we heard that the owner had requested permission from the ECDC to put up a storage barn. So we suggested that the ECDC should withhold permission until the rubbish removal and pit infill had been completed.

We spent a lot of time on the RoSPA inspectors' report on our playground. Each item on their list of recommendations is given a letter according to its degree of urgency. We did not get any H's, (for Highly urgent); but several M's (moderate) and one or two L's. Most of the M's and L's can be carried out locally. We also appointed a committee of three, to go into the question of funding/sponsorship for a new piece of play equipment

We managed to Get Done by 9.45 p.m. but only by deferring the Major Item (Affordable Housing Lower End) to a special additional meeting in 2 weeks' time. And what about the 'Overhanging Vegetation'? There was a lot of that, all the way through the meeting, as you might expect in a lush full-leaf June. Round the Recreation Ground, down the Station Road Footpath, at the Fairview Grove corner, and (as an 'L' item) over the baby-swings in the Playground.

Now I will go out and cut back the Overhanging Vegetation in my garden.

Margaret Stanier



FRIENDS of SWAFFHAM PRIOR SCHOOL

SUMMER FAIR 2003

Saturday July 5th

at 3.00pm, School Field and Playground

The Friends would like to invite all villagers, families and their friends to join us for an afternoon of fun and activities for all of the family.

To include:

Bouncy Castle, Bouncy Assault Course, Tombola,
Children's Tombola,, Boules, Children's Arts and Crafts,
Pony Rides, Face Painting,
Beat the Goalie, Ice Creams, Bar, Barbecue
and many, many stalls.

Followed by

CHILDREN'S DISCO

6.00pm-8.00pm in the

Village Hall, pay at the door
(NO unaccompanied children)



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Dates: 4-8 August, 2003, 9.30am-12 noon

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Fees: £2.50 per day; £6 for a family ticket

Activities: Craft, cookery, basketball, art attack, dance, drama, music, fishing, animals, trips, visitors..... and much, much more!

The programme is now being finalised and if all goes according to plan (!) registration and choice forms should go out in the week beginning 16 June to be returned by 23 June. Children will be able to select their activities for the week on a first-come-first-served basis, so please do be in touch if you are eligible, but will not receive forms through Swaffham Prior School. Playscheme is for all primary school aged children resident in Swaffham Prior or Reach, or from elsewhere who attend, or have attended, Swaffham Prior School. A small number of assisted places are available.

Dee Noyes, 743864

Anniversary Weekend @ Lode

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 July 2003

Including

Flower Festival in St James' Church

Exhibition of photos and bygones in the Broughton Hall

Teas at the Social Club

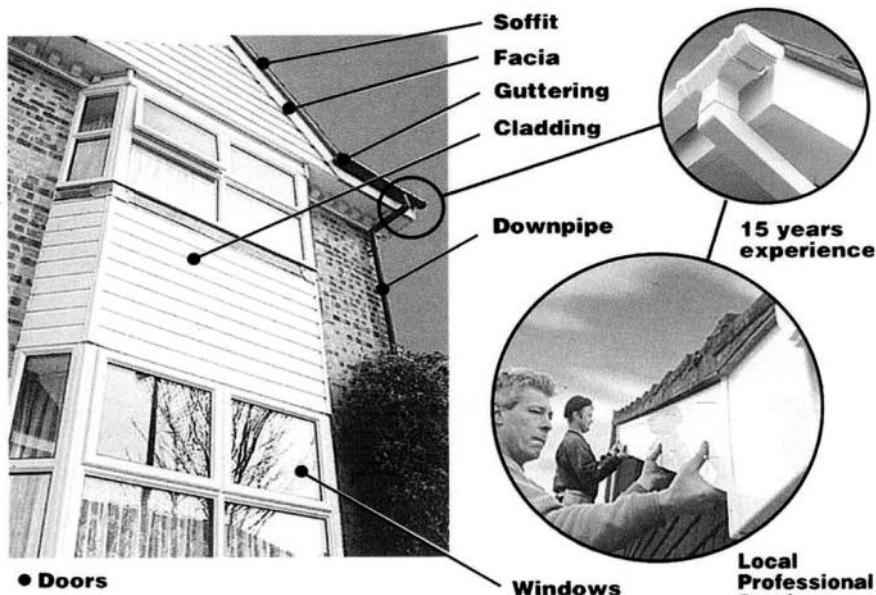
Stalls and Raffle

Village quiz

Cantilena concert 7.30pm on the Saturday Evening

Songs of Praise 6.30pm on the Sunday Evening

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The Grand Duke

It is a sunny afternoon in early June. Millions of faces are glued to the television. Will the Americans win the tennis, will England win the Test Match, which horse will win the Derby? I have no answers to these questions because I am being driven in the Cambridgeshire countryside to a village with the gobbledegook name of "Swaffham Bulbeck". There, I am told, I will witness a performance of a long forgotten Gilbert and Sullivan operetta called "The Grand Duke" and, what is more, it will take place in a farmer's barn with *no raised seating*. My programme informed me that "The Grand Duke" was the last and longest of the D'Oyley Carte productions. The length probably explains the dearth of productions of this operetta and caused the Director to involve himself in a little judicious pruning - expertly done!

Now, I am having to admit that the love of the TV sport is fading away. Why is this? The answer is to do with memories. It must be sixty-five years since I climbed to the topmost seat in the gods in the Manchester opera house and there became bewitched by the Gilbert and Sullivan magic. I never missed a show. Despite having no musical talent I learnt songs and sang them to myself when I thought no-one was listening, but I favoured Gilbert's librettos. I must have been close to qualifying as a Savoy Orphean and being able to act as prompt for the whole cast. The time I spent learning G & S songs was time I should have spent studying actuarial mathematics. I don't regret it. Martyn Greene was my hero with his seemingly endless encores. Now I must return to the present. Am I to be disappointed by the performance? We shall see.

Stepping out from the sunlight into the gloom of the barn I was confronted by a large red illuminated curtain which covered the whole stage. Would the drawn curtain reveal a success or failure? But what do I see in front of the curtain sitting quietly and patiently? It is an orchestra of a respectable size. There would be no relaxation for the singers who now had to compete with an orchestra. I had forgotten that all the G & S operettas started with an overture, and as it drew to a close, the curtains were drawn apart.

The stage illuminations outshone the sunlight outside. Richard D'Oyley Carte was the first to welcome the use of electric lighting. The singing of the full cast swung you along and I found myself comparing it with the opening chorus of "The Gondoliers" where "Roses are red and roses are white". There was a tasteful backdrop with the beautiful ladies in their colourful clothes in the wings and the handsome men in their more demure clothes making a line at the back. The middle of the stage was for the principles to sort out their Gilbertian situations. I am pleased to say that they *did* resolve their mistakes and differences and all ended well as it always does in the G & S operettas. I gave myself the task of looking for songs that had connections with songs in previous productions. The Lord Chancellor had a rather long Nightmare song in the opera Iolanthe while here the Grand Duke bewails his confinement to bed whilst feeling ill. The Nightmare song was much longer than this - I wondered if the Grand Duke's song was one of the ones abridged by our resident censor!



Waiting to go on stage for Act 1

L to R: Jemima Bowers, April Cook and Jan Pattinson [Julia] (kneeling) (all three from Swaffham Prior), Jonas Roebuck [the Notary], Lynne Bullen [Lisa]

Had my choice of how to spend a Saturday afternoon been the right one? I really enjoyed the songs and the music. My lack of musical education means I can't comment any further on the actual performances, but movement about the stage is another matter. There must have been several times when there were forty or fifty actors on that stage but never did I see confusion. The principals were never obstructed and there was no 'elbowing' during the chorus! The cast seemed really to have enjoyed the performance as much as the audience. We all had smiles on our faces. I had forgotten it was an amateur performance in a farmer's barn in a Cambridgeshire village with a funny name and just record that, for me, it was just as thoroughly professional performance as any I have seen.

Hugh Proctor

Church Lane, Tealby, Lincoln

PS. Congratulations to the Director, the Caste, the Orchestra and the Backroom Team!

Bottisham Library news same time, same place!

As you are probably aware Bottisham Library closed on 21st June. However the good news is that the library will

RE-OPEN,

under Community management, hopefully in mid-July. We will have continued access to the Village College books and a new rolling stock of 1000 books will be supplied by Cambridgeshire Library Service (this include 100 large print books). In addition we have received many donations and these will become available as they are catalogued. We expect the book supply and service provided to constantly improve over the coming months so please be patient as our volunteer helpers get to grips with this new challenge.

We intend to keep to the current opening hours: Tuesday 3-5pm and 6-9pm, Wednesday 10-11.30am, Thursday 3-5pm, Friday 6-8pm and Saturday 10am-12noon.

Offers of help and books are always welcome; please contact Gerry Lockett
Tel: 811236, email: g.lockett@ntlworld.com

We will need books in good condition and in particular paperbacks in the following categories: picture books and early readers for young children; fiction for primary school age children; general adult fiction; biography; crafts; health and fitness; cookery; DIY; gardening; travel.

Clare Enright

Police News

Burwell Beat

PC Butcher met in Swaffham Prior with members of Countryside Watch and the farming community on Thursday 8th May to discuss their concerns and local issues, including the prevailing problem of illegal hare coursing. A number of possible ways forward were discussed and this was a well attended meeting.



SELLING VALUABLE ANTIQUES?

There have been incidents reported recently whereby elderly residents have been approached by disreputable antique dealers, who have proceeded to purchase very fine furniture at prices dramatically lower than the market value. If someone you know is considering selling expensive items such as these, please advise them first to obtain an independent valuation. People dealing in this unscrupulous manner are well aware of the law and know that, in these circumstances, police find it very difficult to prove that anything unlawful has occurred.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....

When at the supermarket, please remember to take care of your handbag. In a recent incident, a purse was taken from a handbag which had been placed in a wire trolley whilst the person did their shopping. With a quantity of cash in the purse, this was an expensive mistake. Please keep bags secure at all times.

We frequently receive reports of valuables being stolen from motor vehicles. Please reiterate the message to your friends and neighbours – do not leave any items unattended in your vehicle.

SUSPICIOUS E-MAILS

We often hear from people who are concerned because they have received a suspicious e-mail from overseas (most often from West Africa). An offer is usually made to transfer millions of pounds into your personal bank account – reasons such as business investments, legacies, real estate ventures are given and throughout this fraudulent transaction, you are asked to provide advance fees for taxes, legal fees, transaction fees or bribes. Whilst this is an obvious scam, unfortunately some people do follow up these e-mails and lose money as a result. Please make your friends and neighbours aware of these e-mails, and urge them not to enter into any correspondence with the sender of the e-mail, under any circumstances.

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Broadband ... is coming?

At the time of writing - hard to tell! Reach just have, from Drakken, but our suppliers, Invisible Networks, have been rather erm invisible.

After some mutterings from the Village, there has been at least been a bit more information though still no firm service date. All that is unfortunately certain is that another couple of "target service dates" (end of May and 16th June) have been missed. Maybe this month ...

James Matheson



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Ely Shopmobility — a new service

Getting around the shops and tourist attractions of Ely can be difficult if you have limited mobility but with the new Shopmobility Scheme help is at hand. The Scheme provides electrically powered scooters and manual wheelchairs right in the heart of Ely. The Scheme is run on behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council from Ely Museum in Market Street, close to the bus terminus. If you are coming to Ely by-car there are two dedicated parking spaces at The Grange (ECDC), which is in Nutholt Lane. A member of the Museum staff can meet you there with your scooter. The Scheme is completely free to those over 18 but you will be asked to provide a form of positive identification when you register.

The Scheme operates on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 4pm, but to make sure that a suitable scooter or wheelchair is available booking is advisable by telephoning Ely Museum on 01353 666655 anytime between 10.30am and 5.30pm. When you arrive you will be asked to sign a couple of forms registering you as a user of the Scheme and if you are unfamiliar with the equipment a member of staff will show you how it works. When you both feel confident and happy, off you go. When you have finished with the equipment you can either leave it at the Museum or a member of staff will return with you to your car.

An increasing number of people now benefit from the Scheme but there are still times when the equipment is not in use, so why struggle? Telephone 01353 666655 and speak to a member of staff to find out more and place a booking.

Julie Weekes, Ely Museum

Everybody concerned at the College was delighted to learn this month that we have been recognised once again as a Beacon School. What this means is that the government will provide some additional funding so that Bottisham Village College can share good practice with other schools locally and nationally. There are four Beacon Schools in Cambridgeshire.

Over the last three years we have been involved in more than sixty activities:

- working with other schools on teaching and learning,
- the design of the curriculum and the construction of school timetables
- how to deal with bullying in school and how to involve pupils actively in this work
- how to manage school finances
- how to provide a high quality adult education and youth provision.

This award is all the more pleasing since we have already received national recognition for our work in community education and on the 1st July we will be visited by a Government Minister, Baroness Kate Ashton, on a fact-finding visit as part of the government's drive to encourage schools all over England to work more closely with their communities.

As well as looking at the school, Baroness Ashton will visit the charity, *Turning the Red Lights Green*, which is based at the College. She will talk to some of the adults with disabilities who work in our garden project, supported by older students of the College. They raise plants for sale and look after poultry. Our pupils gain a great deal from working alongside these adults and we are very proud to show the Minister what has been achieved.

Peter Hains, Warden



News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Many thanks for your donations of plants for our bedding areas. These have been welcome additions to perk up a few empty areas. However... could the few who keep tipping over the main pots or taking out the plants just think about the way they are affecting others by their thoughtless actions.

Later in the holidays, ready for the new term, we are having a working party day which will involve making raised beds and developing a quiet multi sensory area. If you would like to help in this and could add muscle power please contact the office. Date 30th July time to be confirmed.

In July, Class Four will be going on a week's field trip to Aylmerton in North

Norfolk. Their work is focusing on the coast line and here are a few of their poems which they have written.

How to Make A Beach

Put rough blue water everywhere,
Carve jagged cliffs beside the water,
Lay out crystal sand,
Dig a hole, put rocks around and then fill with water,
Put boulders at the bottom of the cliff,
Shove a big yellow ball in the sky.

The Light House

On a misty moon light night in Devon
An old man snores in his deep sleep
As his light house creaks and churns,
Its bright light shining on the occasional pearl on the bottom of the great sea.
Also spotting the odd dolphin and a stranded boat or two.
In the shiver of the coldness a salty smell rises from the rocks below

The Light House

A tall light house stands
Beneath the cliff
It has a pattern
Red and white
Its flashing beams of light
Sent across the sea at night

How To Make A Beach

Turn on the tap to make the sea
Carve out the cliffs and the rock pools
Sprinkle diamonds for the sand
Lay out the grass.

Community Events – ALL WELCOME

Summer Fair Saturday 5th July 3.00 p.m. Please see the FoSPS advert.

Summer Open Evening Thursday 17th July 5.00 pm, concert by the children 6.00pm.
This is to celebrate the year's achievements and invitations are extended to families and members of the community.

Joanna Lakey



LADIES CIRCLE

On Wednesday 28th May David Butler from Swaffham Bulbeck came to tell us about his 'walk on the wildside'. David and his wife Marion along with two friends decided to get some exercise and took upon themselves to do a 120-mile trek in Nepal.

They flew from the UK to Kathmandu and then caught a mini-bus to Pokhara where the start of their journey began. Their two-week trek took them along the Kaligandaki gorge (deepest in the world). They travelled through cultivated fields and farmland, forests of magnolia and rhododendrons, gradually

climbing through villages and towns to their final destination Muktinath where Hindus and Buddhists go every year to see the ‘burning water’ at a height of 12,000 ft.

They returned to the small town of Johnsson, a Tibetan style township with a small airstrip. David said they felt like ‘small insects’ as they flew down the world’s deepest gorge back to Kathmandu.

David’s slides were amazing and a real pleasure to see. Everyone enjoyed his talk and are looking forward to witnessing David’s next trek to Peru, which we are sure will be equally amazing.

Sandra Butcher



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Visit to Wicken Fen

Once again we braved the elements - torrential rain, thunder and lightening, along with our fearless canine Skye Reeks, and went on a walk at Wicken Fen. Our guide was Adrian Coulson, its extraordinarily knowledgeable Land Agent.

The rain miraculously ceased and the sun shone, albeit briefly, and Kate Childs was heard to say “all you need is a little faith”!

The broadwalks were pretty wet, but the air was full of birdsong - reed warblers, chiffchaffs, and grasshopper warblers, to name but a few. The cormorants were in their favourite roosts near the mere, but the marsh harriers, Adrian suggested, had taken shelter from the awful storm.

The Fen was densely packed with its great diversity of plant life: the sedge, just coming into flower and still cut as a commercial crop and sold to thatchers; grasses, comfrey, meadowsweet, a few remaining yellow flags, marsh thistles, marsh orchids and in the Lode, the yellow and white buds of water lilies appearing. The last indicating the purity of the water.

Sadly there are no longer any swallowtail butterflies on the Fen, as the milk parsley on which they lay their eggs, and their caterpillars feed, is not tall enough to attract them. However the “stinging” nettles are no longer of the stinging variety as there are no predators to warn off.

We climbed the tower hide, from which Swaffham Prior’s two windmills can be seen, and a wonderful view of the surrounding Fen. The mere was still and the Konigs (wild Polish ponies), two of whom are in foal, were not much in evidence, again probably because of the recent storm.

We could see the farmland, recently acquired by the National Trust, and from such a relatively great height, it was possible to imagine the vision that the Trust have for this lovely informal nature reserve.

Our **next visit** is to Manor House gardens in Balsham on 15th July. Please let Roger Cannon know, by the first week in July, if you’d like to come (01638 742182).

Margaret Joyce



STAINE HUNDRED

The outing to Southwell was well supported and the weather was bright and sunny. Leaving the Youth Centre at 9am, we arrived at the uniquely named Ram Jam Inn on the A1 an hour later for coffee and biscuits. The first visit in Southwell was to the Minster, which became the cathedral for Nottinghamshire in 1884, where we split into two parties for a conducted tour. The nave of the building is Norman but the large round pillars not solid but filled in rubble, probably from the earlier Saxon church which was pulled down. The Minster was struck by lightning on Bonfire Night 1711 and fire spread through the roof and though it was replaced with a flat roof at the time, a magnificent new roof copying the original Norman style is now in place. The clerestory windows are uniquely round, and a Norman chimney remains which served the room above the porch. Not all is ancient, however. In the west there is an enormous Angel window where 20th century glass has been fitted into the 15th century stonework tracery - and it is double-glazed!.

In the 13th century, it was decided that the choir was not long enough and it was rebuilt in Early English Gothic style. The shining brass lectern spent 250 years in the bottom of a lake at Newstead Abbey where it was put to save it from Henry VIII's hands and was rediscovered in 1768. The top half of the east window is of Victorian glass but the bottom half is of 16th century Flemish glass, originally made for a church in Paris but, at the time of the Revolution, it was found on sale in a pawn shop and brought to England. The three dimensional effect of these windows is particularly remarkable. These and other stories were told as we feasted our eyes on the many beauties of the building, before lunching in the Great Hall.

We then went to the 19th century Workhouse at Southwell, now owned by the National Trust, where by contrast the rooms were bare and bleak. It was used as a model for other workhouses in the 19th century and housed some 150 inmates, separated into men, women and children which in turn were separated into the poor and infirm and those who were able-bodied. The latter had to work hard in the workhouse in the hopes that harsh treatment would deter others from coming there. Again there was a fascinating commentary for which we all had our own audio equipment.

Stewart Bell was thanked for organizing such an interesting trip, and he got us back to Bottisham just as the clock was striking six o'clock.



WI Notes

Unfortunately our June meeting was too late for a report in this issue, so more about that next time. In July we shall be holding our summer party at the home of The President, Pat Airey. This will be on the 21st July commencing at 7.00pm.

Betty Prime



At our Annual Council in May we elected John Abbott as our Chairman. He represents the Fordham ward. The Vice-Chairman is Jeremy Friend-Smith, who represents an Ely ward.

The Conservatives and Independents voted to “halt all revenue and capital expenditure of agreed service improvements, unless contractually committed, forthwith.” They argued that this would allow new members to review these service improvements and decide whether or not to proceed with them. But one of the consequences is that we cannot put our matching funds into agreements which were to bring £450,000 of grants into the District, and so could lose these grants. I hope that if this spend is approved soon we will not lose much of this funding. But I am very concerned that as a Council we have lost credibility with funding bodies by showing that we are willing to overturn the Council’s decisions from one meeting to the next.

In 2002/03 we collected 263 abandoned vehicles from around the District (5 every week). This cost us £7,000 and we are keen to reduce the numbers and to ensure that new laws introducing charges for owners to get rid of old cars do not increase the numbers. If you see anyone dumping a car (or other rubbish) you should never approach the person, but if possible take the registration number and report it to the Council on 01353 616335. An officer will always investigate. If you want to report an abandoned car, please ring 01353 616283 and we will remove it as soon as possible.

The children’s play area and the Bandstand in Ely’s Jubilee Gardens were officially opened in May, by Cllr John Abbott. The sun shone, the Reggae band Octavius gave a lively performance and people of all ages enjoyed themselves; from toddlers in the play area, through teenagers kicking a ball about, to pensioners relaxing in the sun. At 4.00pm 1,000 balloons were released, making a spectacular sight. Profits from the sale of the balloons went to the Friends of Jubilee Gardens who are raising funds for further improvements, such as more benches. There will often be live music at the weekends, which makes Jubilee Gardens a relaxing and enjoyable place to spend a weekend afternoon.

The Council has launched a new Customer Care Code, defining the level of customer care which you can expect. The Best Value Review of customer service found that there was a high level of satisfaction amongst customers, many of whom commented on the Council’s friendly and helpful staff. The reviewers recommended that we formalise our high standards in a published code.

Charlotte Cane



CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

As a member of the Fire Authority I was alarmed to be told at our last meeting how bad the plague of **arson** has become in the UK as a whole and Cambs in particular. To set the scene, arson is the single largest cause of major fires in England and has doubled between 1990 and 2000.

Deliberate vehicle fires have trebled in the same period. Arson attacks on schools have doubled in cost over the last 4 years to nearly £100m. The average school will suffer an arson attack every 8 years. Nine out of ten school fire setters are male and he nearly always attends or used to attend the school he attacks.

In Cambs our fire crews were called to 2,847 arson attacks in 2002/3 which resulted in 31 injuries. About 1350 of these fires were vehicle burning about a quarter were derelict. Many of these will have been fairly local and happen in the fen areas. Along with the Police, Youth Offending Service and local representatives, the Fire Service is now fighting to reduce the number of attacks by, for instance, home visits to known offenders. Fire prevention officers also visit schools to warn pupils about the risks of playing with fire. The results have been good and re-offending is being much reduced.

We need to help by keeping our eyes open and reporting any suspicious sightings especially children interested in playing with matches.

There are five schools in my County constituency, so there is a real risk. We should be vigilant and not just rely on our two local fire stations at **Swaffham Bulbeck** and **Burwell** to deal with outbreaks. Because of our open policy at the Bottisham Village College there is a potential to do harm. I hasten to add that the disastrous fire at the Swimming Pool was, as far as we can tell, not a result of arson.

OTHER NEWS

Plans for **BOTTISHAM LIBRARY** are moving ahead and there is reference to this elsewhere in this magazine. The existing community part of the library will close midday 21st June. The new arrangement, sticking to the same hours as now, will start shortly after. We hope to open before the summer holidays — watch the notice boards.

The mobile library which is still run by the county, will call fortnightly at Bottisham on Saturday mornings from 28th June and Friday evenings from 4th July. In both cases the mobile will park at the Village College. Of course, it will be important to use the library, so please come and browse and borrow to show your support.

ROADS AND TRANSPORT matters in brief include the following information:

- **Marshalls** are reported as postponing plans for a new passenger terminal at Cambridge Airport.
- Resurfacing of some local fen roads in **Swaffham Prior** should start soon.

- The Speed Watch pilot scheme got off to a good start, again in **Swaffham Prior**. I have heard nothing but praise for the interactive signs that tell you what is your speed as you pass them. I believe the intention is to check the situation in other villages and towns in the county if the experiment is a success.
- About £11,000 is to be spent on improving the “ice bend” between **Swaffham Bulbeck** and **Longmeadow**, starting in the next few months.
- The unsatisfactory junction **Bell Road, Bottisham**, and **A1303** is in the hands of the design team. I hope we shall soon see some action.
- Three quarters of a million pounds have been allocated to preliminary work on the **Fordham By-Pass** which will skirt **Burwell** parish.
- Reconditioning of sidewalks in Ditchfields, **Reach** and Park Corner in **Swaffham Bulbeck** have come up in this year’s programme but no dates are yet available.
- Surface dressing is scheduled for various places in **Burwell** and **Bottisham**.
- Additional work will be undertaken to cycleways to ensure that grass, trees and hedges do not obstruct cyclists. As yet no location is mentioned, but I will raise the matter this month at the joint Transport meeting.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 7 members and 2 members of the Public.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were agreed.

Reports

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising

Speed Watch Campaign: Kevin Glennon reported to the meeting. The flashing signs placed at different points in the Village are proving a big success in slowing the traffic down. These will continue to monitor traffic in different parts of the village. The results have been and will continue to be collated by CCC. If anyone would like to see the results of the various stages of the scheme, please contact Kevin Glennon or the Clerk.

Traffic Calming Measures – Mill Hill: Unfortunately the interactive signs are suffering ‘teething problems’. The suppliers of the signs are aware and one sign (Swaffham Bulbeck end) has been taken back to the workshop for repair.

Planning Appeal – Whiteway Drove: CCC confirmed that the Inspector’s Decision had been received on this. The Appeal had failed and the area will now have to be cleared and tidied.

Recreation Ground – update: James Wilmott had very kindly ‘topped’ the field to allow the regular grasscutting contractor to continue to keep the field cut. A letter was sent to The Sports & Recreation Committee asking for their assistance in having the goalposts reinstated.

Clerk's Training - Quality Status for Parish Councils

As part of the Parish Council's application for Quality Status, the Clerk is required to attend a series of training sessions. The P.C. agreed to the costs for this and the Clerk agreed to attend.

Play Area – New Equipment and Receipt of RoSPA Report

Further prices have been received. A sub-committee consisting of Andrew Camps, Sandra Wilson and Kevin Glennon with the assistance of the Clerk, will consider the various options for funding through grants, donations, etc.

Sandra Wilson also noted that it would be nice to have more seating in the play area. This will be included as part of the project.

RoSPA had carried out the annual inspection. The report noted several minor repairs, listed as either "low risk" or "medium risk". Repairs will be put in hand.

Accounts for Approval: These were approved subject to audit.

Affordable House – Lower End: It was agreed that an extraordinary meeting would be called for the 26th June 2003 to discuss this further.

Correspondence Received:

CCC: Details of resurfacing & reconstruction works. These areas are; Lords Ground Drove, Great Drove and Harrisons Drive.

Changes to Bus Services.

ECDC: Affordable housing rural exception site off Lower End (referred to meeting as noted above).

Notification of Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Council

Community Safety Partnership – details of meeting to be held re "Making Safer Communities – How P.C's can Tackle Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour".

General:

School newsletters.

Histon Sector Newsletter & Crime Figures.

Hereward Housing – Newsletter/Benefit information

The Voluntary Network – Community Transport (details in Crier)

Cambridgeshire Police Authority – Open Style Consultation Event – Histon Sector

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Approval: Gant Farm, Swaffham Prior Fen.

Any Other Business

Station Road Footpath: The path is to be sprayed and cleared by CCC's team.

CCC will be putting in a further bid for repair work to this path.

The Pound: This is to be cleared of weeds, etc.

Overhanging Vegetation: B1102 (stretch between top of Fairview Grove & Rogers Road). This to be cut back from the cycleway/footpath.

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

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Services July 2003

Sun 6th	11:00am * Parish Communion
Sun 13th	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 20th	11:00am Parish Communion
Sun 27th	11:00am Mattins

* Please note that , this is the first service that the Revd. David Lewis will be conducting in our church, and as usual , all are welcome.

From St Mary's Church

The induction of our new vicar of the Anglesey Group of Parishes took place on June 10th, in the beautiful church of the Holy Trinity, Bottisham. Very moving ceremony and a lovely feeling of unity, and moving forward.

The first service in Swaffham Prior that the Revd. Lewis will conduct will be Holy Communion on Sunday, July 6th at 11.00.a.m. All are welcome.

Our prayers for all the young people taking exams at this time. Please let any of the P.C.C. know if you would like prayers said for anyone at this time.

P.Harrison

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900, 1030, 1830;
Kirtling: Sun 0930;
In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

Dates for Your Diary - July 2003

Wed	2	Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8:00pm.
Sat	5	School Summer Fair (3pm - school) + Disco(6-8pm, VH)
Tue	8	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	10	PC, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sat	12	Quy Church Fete, The Orchard, Quy; 2:00pm
Mon	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Village Gardeners visit to Balsham Manor House
Thu	17	Village School Summer Opening Evening, 5:00pm
Mon	21	WI Summer Party, Pat Airey's house, 7:00pm
Tue	22	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	26	Lode Anniversary Weekend
Sun	27	Lode Anniversary Weekend
Mon	28	Ladies Circle Tour Round Windmill
Thu	31	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:15pm

Weekly Events

Sun		11am, Boules, VH Car park
Tue		2.30-3.30, Baby & Toddler Group, Zion Baptist Ch Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mnths), 11-11.45 (18-38mnths), VH Water Colour For Beginners, 1- 4pm VH 7-8.30pm, Youth Club
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6pm (Cubs) Scouts, 7.45-9.15, School
Thu		Messy Play, 2.30-3.15, VH 2.30-4.30pm VH Teas. 7-8.30pm Karate, VH. 7-10pm, Youth Club,

Crier Crossword No. 3

In a fierce contest, *Ounce's* elegant and much commented-on *Village Feast & Reach Fair* Crossword was won by MARTYN & DEBBIE CLARK. Congratulations, Martyn & Debbie — free grub at *The Lion*, another crossword next month!

