



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 6

June 2003



Editorial

Congratulations to Charlotte Cane, who romped home to victory last month with a local vote 30% up on the region's average. (Was it the *Crier* wot did it? Um no! The big vote was *bigger still* in Reach and Bulbeck) and congratulations to our champion WI, who carried off the May Queen Tableau Cup in gorgeous splendour — Wellie boots and kaftans!

Meanwhile, the Editors viewed last month's *Crier* with a cautious eye — was it too political? Were those technical comments about the PC entirely fair? But not to worry, we were outflanked by the scurrilous *Toad News Desk*, who attracted serious complaint. Why?! And to the Parish Council, no less! But hang on a minute, it's not their fault, they don't run the *Crier*. It's to the Ed's house you must come. Yes, to *Mordor* itself! You know, through the maze, bypassing the big fat man-eating spider and on to the Eternal Fires of the Mountain of Doom — sorry, the *Complaints Department*. No problem there then.

But how often do we think that Sauron's red eyes lurk behind the lace curtains of out neighbours, and that should we tap on their doors to point out that something is, well, *irritating*, a positive posse of **Black Riders** will engulf us? Oh alright, all the time, and that's one of the reasons why we have....

...The *Annual Village Meeting*, which was a great success this year. The participants — who never knowingly agree about anything! — allocated an unprecedented *nul point* to the proposition that *unsightly fly-posters* advertising local events should be regulated, if not banned. On the other hand, the proposal that Dencora's Field, whatever-else it might be used for, should cease to host *Brands Hatch*, got an equally remarkable *douze points*. Fortunately, the matter of the 80 foot high Leylandii currently occupying the Ed's garden did not come up. Neither did the regrettable events that took place in the Village Churchyard in the early hours of Easter Monday morning.

And Miss Delia wants a home! Read all about her, and see you next month!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Time to get down to it

CONTENTS

<i>Letters + Toad News</i>	2
<i>Playscheme 2003</i>	4
<i>Our Reporter</i>	6
<i>Village Assembly</i>	7
<i>Broadband is Coming?!</i>	14
<i>Village Feast</i>	15
<i>Miss Delia</i>	16
<i>Crossword Answers</i>	17
<i>Crossword</i>	18
<i>School News (+BVC)</i>	19
<i>Andy Wells Thank-you</i>	21
<i>Gardeners</i>	22
<i>Ladies Circle</i>	22
<i>WI</i>	23
<i>Staine Hundred</i>	23
<i>School Disco</i>	20
<i>Cllr Cane</i>	25
<i>Cllr Fitch</i>	26
<i>Parish Council Notes</i>	28
<i>Art that Shook the World</i>	29
<i>Church Services</i>	30
<i>Jan Peterson's Visit</i>	30
<i>Rev David Lewis's Licensing</i>	31
<i>PCC News</i>	31
<i>RC Services</i>	31
<i>Diary</i>	32
<i>Ads</i>	11,12,24

Forthcoming Events

<i>Summer's Evening Jazz</i>	5
<i>Summer Fair + Disco</i>	9
<i>Renaissance Music</i>	10
<i>Zion Nostalgia</i>	15
<i>New BVC Library</i>	17
<i>Gilbert & Sullivan</i>	13
<i>Teatime Concert</i>	10
<i>BVC Car Boot Sale</i>	16
<i>Lode Anniversary Wknd</i>	13



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

BIKE ON DYKE.

Yesterday afternoon, we saw a noisy green scrambler motor bike bearing no licence plates being ridden back and forth along the top of Devil's Dyke close to the village. The bike then went down the slope onto the dismantled railway track, and returned towards the village along the Reach Road.

The fair haired young rider wore a quilted black leather jacket and camouflage trousers, with a white helmet bearing red flashes. Those with his welfare in mind should advise him that:

motor vehicles are not permitted on public footpaths

motor vehicles are not permitted on national monuments

motor vehicles are not permitted within nature reserves

unlicensed motor vehicles are not allowed on the public highway, and

underage drivers doing so place themselves and others at unnecessary risk

Of course, those responsible for minors may face claims for compensation for damage or injury arising from the actions of the minor.

Frank Readhead.

Dear Editors,

The Red Lion Incident and that Clock

I refer to your amusing account of recent events at The Red Lion (May edition), and I would like to put it on record that I have never objected to "that noisy chiming clock"; in fact, I would prefer to hear it chiming on those nights when I do lie awake in the small hours.

Janet Cooper

Many apologies, Janet! We meant "next door" in a loose sense. The naughty Eds are perfectly well aware that the chiming clock has never woken up anyone. Except, of course, the Chairman of the Chiming Clock Restoration Committee!

Dear Editors,

Of Frogs and Taxes

I'm not sure exactly how my contribution to the last Crier represents a return until normal service from the Editors is resumed, but I would like to take this opportunity to deny absolutely any involvement in Frog-sparring, with Mr Everitt or with anyone else: I have my standards and a frog is rather lower than I would go (whatever might be alleged by documents that may or may not subsequently be unearthed in the Baghdad Foreign Ministry).

However, if Mr Everitt were to read his Frogham Croaker more closely he would know exactly what those frogs were up to, and that legislation regarding these and

similar activities is being prepared. (I decline any challenge to spar upon the subject, so whosoever chooses can say what they like).

Thank you to Charlotte Ca-ane, long may she rei-eign (just toadying to the Editors here) for her reply re Council Tax: I don't take issue with her arguments - indeed, I for one would be willing to pay more if I knew my pensioner neighbours were paying less. However, whilst I wouldn't choose maths as my specialist subject, I'm fairly sure 1998-9 is not six years ago. I can check this against my daughter, born a few days before the start of the fiscal year 1998, who is happy to announce to anyone who asks that she was five in March.

My council tax records verify that 1997-8 was indeed not that many quid short of half what I am paying now, whereas 1998-9 was at least 10% higher than that. Reading Charlotte Cane's letter prompted visions of a set of balances with central government taking off weight from their side, leaving local government to pile up on theirs to achieve the same total - at which point the image failed: that total is **not** the same - it must be increasing annually and the figure she does not give is: how much more does it actually cost since 1997, per council taxpayer, to run the systems she describes - not how much is levied from us by different services. These are figures I could obtain for 1998 from her letter and for subsequent years - had I kept all the council's literature, but I didn't. Readers who had surmised from my reference to my records that I may be an eccentric hoarder of old bits of paper may at this point opt to revise their opinion. I only have eight pieces of paper, one for each year I have owed council tax to ECDC, stating how much I should pay them (I especially didn't keep the grumpy letters for when I had forgotten to pay up for a given month). I do not quarrel with the transparency of her figures - only that they don't tell me what I asked.

The Guardian reports (April 25) that on average, council tax has doubled since it was introduced in 1993 - that's ten years, not six. Something very different has happened here. Why?

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

No Miracle here I Fear

Where has our worthy Village Hall Chairman been all these years? Come, come, Alastair. In the family Ramidae/Bufonidae (Frogs/Toads), unlike we humans (as a rule), the females are larger than the males. However, like humans, a male frog/toad when choosing a partner, "clings" on to her for all he's worth, if he has any sense, once the selection has been made.

Need I remind that it's only spring in spite of the weather. At that time, as with humans, whose fancy is supposed to turn to thoughts of you know what, so it is with frogs/toads. Mr frog/toad is just doing what comes naturally. The real miracle is what ensues.

Tony Denby
41 Cage Hill

Dear Editors,

... and back to the main story

May I update you as to the state of the amphibians in my pond.

The early arrivals hatched and formed a cluster of spawn of small tadpoles. One night in early April, a sharp frost froze the water and most of the young toads. We now have a batch of toads from a later spawning plus two or three large tadpoles from the first lot.

The frogs are doing well, having arrived later, and the cluster of these young amphibians is growing fast and will soon be swimming all over the pond.

Reference to "piggy-back" of these animals in your last issue seemed trivial to me as I thought everyone knew that the large female, full of eggs, carried her mate on her back ready to fertilise her eggs when she had found a suitable pond or stretch of water.

Yesterday, 8th May, whilst inspecting the pump on the waterfall, I lifted the cover to the electric supply and out slithered a grass snake some twenty inches long. He (she) was in no hurry to hide, and my wife had time to come over, and we both watched it swim across the water, and climb out and disappear among the rocks. It will feed on tadpoles and young fish, and has most likely eaten my newts, as I haven't seen them this year.

We are all very lucky to have all this wildlife: hedgehogs; amphibians; reptiles; and a large variety of birds, all living happily in our back garden.

John Norris



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

Venue: Swaffham Prior School and Village Hall

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.



Friday, 20th June

7.00 – 10.00 pm



JAZZ ON A



SUMMER'S EVENING



with

The Kemp Brothers

featuring **Ruth Applin**

at

The Red Lion

(in the garden, weather permitting)

No tickets & no admission charge

(collection for the band & PA system)

BAR-B-Q & DRINKS & FAMILIES WELCOME

Raffle and sweet stall in aid of St Mary's Church Family Service



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

2nd hand report of the PC meeting held on 08 May 2003.

It was not the joyous peace under a glorious evening sky, with newly arrived swifts wheeling and whistling overhead. Nor was it the snarl of kids' motor bikes on Dencora Field caressing the ears of The Beeches' residents nearby, and others further away. Parents please note - they also use the highway.



No. Pre-occupied entirely with something else, I simply forgot about the meeting and my passive role in it. That means that this piece could be even less reliable than usual. Mea culpa, sorry, apologies. This could raise such philosophical questions as whether my absence will ultimately cause revolution in the Middle East, or Global warming, etc. Clearly, it will not, although a tidal wave across the fen cannot be entirely ruled out as Wicken Fen comes close, hopefully before my very personal smoke signal climbs into the sky. (Actually, it is now 'greener' to be planted under a sapling, so I must change the instructions). I for one would welcome the chance to moor a boat at my doorstep, but others would have to suffer for that to happen.

However, using a little initiative, a little guesswork, and ear-wiggling at Le Lion Rouge, there is now just about enough to make an effort worthwhile, with hobby horses much in evidence. The editors say I must do something and, having missed both Jumble Sale and the Village Feast this year, I had to agree.

We have a new PC (Parish Council, not a personal computer)! It may look much like the previous PC with Trevor Jones back in the chair, with the usual suspects in support, but there is now Christopher Wilson as a new PC (Parish Councillor). Congratulations to all, and strength to your arms. Only one vacancy now stops there being a full house, but they seem to manage very well.

I missed my favourite subject of The Beeches wall coming up yet again. Sadly, we are back at square one, with Hereward Housing having misplaced their paperwork about it, and CCC still maintaining their disinterested distance. The phrase 'Watch this space' may become very appropriate if the wall disintegrates from years of neglect. Let us just hope that no-one gets hurt, if that happens.

Dencora field has been the subject of a request to ECDC for consideration to site new affordable' housing there. Where shall we walk the dogs? Where will the motor bikes go to? Where will cars park for the Reach Fair? More seriously, will the village lose young people if there is no housing for them here, near Mum and Dad? Is this just a ruse, a foot in the door for more extensive plans? Of course, the metal, plastic and glass debris here, gifted by the mindless, must first be cleared up. The mindless are best fitted for this task, and polluters should always pay for their lack of consideration. The recent grass cut here had to take great care to prevent damage to cutters by avoiding some areas.

This old favourite (Dencora) will no doubt be a hot topic for the Village Assembly later this week. Hopefully, more village residents than usual will attend the annual opportunity to make their views known. Past evidence suggests that most

people are not much bothered about anything around them, but the possibility of new play equipment may make a difference this time.

The PC agreed to go for 'Quality Status', whatever that means. They already do a sterling job, and we have a quality school, a quality church, a quality pub and a quality youth club, not to mention a quality monthly magazine, so what's new? Will it mean more money from government? Will hedges now be cut back from footpaths? Will eyesores in the (Quality) Conservation Area at last be improved, or perhaps an annual competition set up to nominate the worst, with a plaque (in the best of possible taste) to the winner? That would be fun, and there's plenty of competition – 'And the winner this year, with new PVC windows, is'

I am enjoying the new Speed Watch signs. I scored 24 in Rogers Road. Is this a record? Are old Volvos exempt? There were no reports of shot cats this month. (Getting desperate now).

The New York Times has just discovered that its leading reporter has been reporting on distant events from home, in front of his television. You too now have a taste of something similar! The Swaffham Crier is always at the cutting edge.

THE END

Frank Readhead@GrumpyFen

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY – 16 May 2003.

The 25 people in the village hall included 2 councillors, so all of 23 villagers had enough interest in village affairs to make the effort. Would a licensed bar help?

Hard working County Councillor James Fitch's piece confirmed that there is lots of news – the new Parish Council, a new Chief Executive at ECDC, a new bit of cycle path, and a new settlement proposed near Cambridge (but not in our back yard), a new County Structure Plan and new local administrative boundaries. The new Fordham bypass starts (at last) in 2005, a new bend, without ice thank you, soon for Swaffham Bulbeck, a new terminal at Marshals Airport, new expansion of Park & Ride, not forgetting a new Police Officer, PC Butcher. Oh, and a new, third, lane for the A14 from Girton to Conington - a few miles up the A1(M) and down again? I may have got that wrong. Beacon status is the IN thing, awarded to ECDC for ICT, and to Bottisham VC for being very good indeed (Pass*). Our close relations in Reach have been elbowed aside in favour of closer links with Burwell. How many Burwell kids are there in our school? I'm sure this would not have happened if Reachees just drove more slowly through SP.

The always able District Councillor Charlotte Cain gave a masterly summary of local matters, including the problems of extending green credentials with more recycling, quite a challenge for the new energy conservation officer. There is now a European glass mountain. There are grants to pay for energy saving improvements to homes. We have a good Farmers' Market in Ely, though energy must be used to get there. A computer is on offer for SP if we can find a suitable location, and there is an ICT trainer available. Two would make a pair of trainers. ECDC is much pre-occupied with housing needs, and looking into shared equity arrangements as an

alternative to rentals. Increasing numbers of people cannot afford to buy their own homes, and there is a known need for 500 new affordable housing units in the area over the next 5 years (and everyone says 'not in my back yard'). What do we think about Police Community Support Officers? Were they not called 'specials' when we were younger?

Our PC Chairman outlined very local highlights of the year, reminding us of the expenditure needed to expel mucky travellers from the playing field and to prevent any future attacks. The roadside hedge has been cut down so they cannot hide behind it. Now we can afford the new climbing frame on the playground, with bouncy rubber matting for safety. The sagas of the Beeches Wall, and rubbish dumping down Whiteway Drove, both continue. An appeal against an enforcement notice there has been lodged, let us hope that it is seen for what it is – a load of rubbish.

After the PC's accounts, a lot of others were gone through. Many weddings raised income for the Village Hall, and the largesse of the Parochial charities was celebrated. Our very own Sports & Recreation representatives were sadly absent, but we know they are rolling in it, so would they please erect the goal posts on the playing field? The school was Ofsteded by inspectors who praised the teaching, and everything else despite funding problems. The Summer Fair will be held on 5th July. Be there. Just be there, that's all.

Kevin Glennon gave a run down on the Speedwatch campaign. Actually, he went through it at some speed, much too quickly, I thought. The speed monitors active now will substantiate the subjective impressions that many motorists in the village are indeed driving supersonically, with little regard for the safety of either babies on board, or pedestrians outside their cocooned mobile environments. Rumours that a Speedwatch sticker in the back window confers immunity from prosecution are unfounded, but I find that mine so interests other drivers that they get very close indeed to read it better. Other clever devices will later record licence plates for the prosecution of speedsters.

The serious stuff really came with a proposition by the owner of Dencora field that affordable housing could be built there. ECDC have indeed invited land owners to come forward for that very purpose, to satisfy the demand mentioned above. Nothing will happen without the agreement of our PC and, if you have views either way, please make them known. Charlotte Cane reminded us that 3 planning appeals for private housing development here have been refused (1985, 1993, 1999), most significantly because Lower End hamlet should remain clearly detached from the main body of the village, though other planning criteria for private development really cannot be satisfied there either. However, things may be different where there is demonstrable need, say 500 houses worth? Not all of them here, of course.

Another issue causing considerable public concern was the 'obtrusive' noise of motor bikes on the same field. It was even suggested by a local victim that perhaps new housing over all of the field would be worthwhile to stop the nuisance. Things got quite heated, and various methods of approach, some of them legal, were proposed to achieve a solution. However, some progress was made by negotiation in a local hostelry later that evening ('much later' says the wife). We hope that

common sense and consideration for others will prevail.

Frank Readhead (Again. Punishment for missing the PC meeting. Can't they forgive and forget?) 16.05.03.



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)

cordē

Renaissance music | *sung with heart*

The drama of Christ's life

Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta, Swaffham Prior
Saturday 7th June 2003 at 8.00 pm

This new, Cambridge-based, eight-voice singing group aims to show how dramatic and passionate much of the sacred Renaissance repertoire is: they inject life, blood and drama into sublimely lovely music.

This concert portrays narrative, dramatic scenes from the life of Christ. Some of the music - edited from the original sources by Francis Steele has, astonishingly, not been performed for hundreds of years.

The singers are coached by Francis Steele of the Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen and the Gabrieli Consort. Though Francis still provides the bass sound for these world-famous groups, his enthusiasm is for working democratically with small groups of excellent singers to encourage probing interpretations of text as well as beautiful performances of the music.

The singers have come together from other vocal groups including Cambridge Voices, The Cambridge Taverner Choir, the Monteverdi Choir, Jesus College Chapel and the Orlandos.

Music by Guerrero, De Monte, Navarro, Gombert, Wert, Handl, Morales, Lassus, Victoria and Don Fernando de las Infantas.

Tickets: £7 at the door

Members of Duxford Saturday Workshop's Chamber Orchestra
invite you to a

Tea-time Concert in St Mary's Church, Burwell

from 4pm on Sunday 22nd June

The programme will include a Haydn symphony,
music for Wind ensemble,
and the Mozart violin concerto no 5 in A Major

Tea and refreshments will be served in the interval.
Local musicians will be joined by Sakari Tepponen (violin) and Mark Smith
(French horn) both of the Esbjerg Ensemble.

Retiring collection in aid of St Mary's Church

SWAFFHAM BULBECK 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

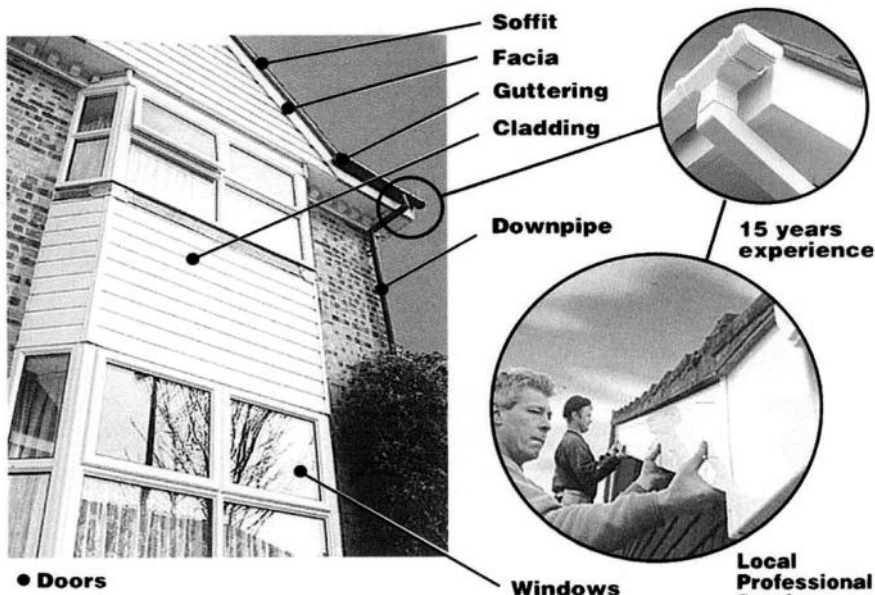
Paints, seeds & gardening 'things'

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

including Sunday papers!

SPECIAL ORDERS Phone or fax 01223 811354

NO MORE PAINTING



• Doors

Windows

"Are you tired of having to paint your windows, doors and roofline products year after year? "

"Why not replace them once and for all with Guaranteed Plastic Products? "

Available in WHITE, BLACK, MAHOGANY and LIGHT OAK

Local Professional Service

Ten year colour fastness guarantee on all systems

CALL NOW FOR OUR UNBEATABLE PRICES!



**WHITEHALL
PLASTICS**



Freephone: 0800 0749 653 Tel: 01353 723799

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

The Grand Duke by Gilbert & Sullivan

Don't miss Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre's unforgettable performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's, 'The Grand Duke'. Geoff Reed, our director, has fine-tuned the libretto and the show races from one situation to the next. Gilbert wrote the most complex plot of his life in this, the last operetta by the celebrated pair. As a result the show was rarely performed until recent times, despite Sullivan's music being some of his best and most lively.

Ludwig, the leading comedian of a touring theatrical company, gets himself four wives in the space of one day. He still manages to find time to statutorily kill off his manager and the Grand Duke to take control of an insignificant mid-European state. A lot hangs on the conspicuous consumption of sausage-rolls and a pack of playing cards. All is resolved by the eventual arrival on the scene of roulette entrepreneur, the Prince of Monte Carlo and his daughter, together with the resurrection of the undead.

Make this an evening to remember! A theatre has been built inside a 19th century barn at the edge of the fens, creating a unique setting. A programme, and a light interval snack are included in the cost of your ticket. There is a licensed bar. Toilet facilities (including disabled) are available.

*The performances will take place in
Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck*

on

5th, 6th and 7th June at 7.30pm

Matinee (as well as evening performance) on Sat, 7th June at 2.30pm

Tickets cost £5.50 Thurs, £6.50 Fri and Sat and £3.00 Sat matinee

*Tickets available (from 2 May onwards) from Swaffham Bulbeck shop or
phone Rosemary Upton on 01638 612173 or email: upton1@ntlworld.com*

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



Broadband

The Parish Council's Position

With regard to the Editor's comments on the Parish Council's lack of support for broadband. This is not the correct interpretation of the council's view on the matter. We fully support the provision of a broadband service to all of the parishioners. Also the use of broadband in schools and universities is obviously a great step forward, as well as its business use.

The point that we were trying to make however was that to provide broadband to socially excluded groups as defined by Charlotte Cane at the April meeting was not best use of the tax payer's money as individual children did not need such a fast system for personal educational use.

Broadband is most useful for the downloading of large files such as those used in business and by groups, or for downloading film clips, music or playing interactive games. Generally individuals do not have this need for educational purposes, as should they need to download a very large file they have other work to do while waiting for it to finish.

As stated in Mr. Matheson's letter broadband also opens computers up to hacking and viruses that then require further expense to guard against. It was therefore felt that using any money available to provide a greater number of needy people with the necessary hardware and a basic connection would be more positive.

Kevin Glennon and John Covill.

Reply

It was not so much what Universities are doing internally that I had in mind as the use that they, and in due course schools, will make of the Internet for providing educational and recruitment material to the wider community. Cambridge University is already developing internet video as part of its drive to attract applicants from a wider variety of backgrounds and, while this is initially intended for viewing in schools, those with high speed internet access will also access it from home. There is already interactive educational material which requires video speeds.

People living in urban areas have easy and relatively cheap access to high speed network connections, those like us in rural areas risk not doing so unless we put some of our own effort into it to make up for potential suppliers' lower profit margins.

The threat from hackers is greater with broadband than dial-up connections but recent versions of operating systems like Windows include firewall software which can reduce this threat to well below the level of an un-firewalled dial-up connection at no extra cost other than the time needed to set it up. This reflects broadband becoming a mainstream rather than a luxury technology.

Broadband is coming?

We hope! Last month the supplier's web site said "target service date is in May",

it now says “Target service date is by the end of May, subject to finding sufficient node hosts in the village” but it’s getting very close to the end of the month! Watch this space - or does a watched network never connect?

James Matheson

**A NOSTALGIC SUMMER AFTERNOON
SATURDAY 7th JUNE
2-4pm
AT ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL**

Come and spend a nostalgic hour or two over a cup of tea to look at the display of old photographs and memorabilia of people who have had connections with the Chapel over the last 141 years.

Maybe you came to Sunday School and remember the Sunday School Treats or you belonged to the Seekers. We have pictures old and new. If you have never been in the Chapel, do come and have a look.

If you have anything which could be added to the display or if you would like transport or more information, do give Ruth (742641), Sandra (742585), or Eileen (743006) a call.

A FEAST OF FUN

“A Feast of Fun”. That’s what the national (well, local) press said. And so it was, as £978.60 passed through the tills.

The School Maypole Dancers were as good as we’ve seen and as good as the best. Dominic’s Bowls had the usual keen following with the



Mark Towriss and James Wilmott



The Band

ladies being overwhelmingly better in the adult’s part with Lorraine of the Red Lion winning the bottle of whisky in an exciting play off. A tall dark stranger won the ‘Bun on a String’ competition and left the experienced Prior players rather open mouthed. As the stranger strode away into the sunset one heard the other competitors

muttering “Who was that man?” Everything went very well - book selling, can throwing, lucky dipping, beer tenting etc, and if you ventured into the Tea Room it was filled with people of all ages enjoying what is universally accepted as the “Best Cream Tea” in East Anglia.

Amongst all the other activities the Egg Throwing Competition (thanks Martin) produced the usual number of ‘oohs’,

and ‘aahs’ and squeals and claps as people caught, missed, or had egg splattered all over the face. An Australian (of course it would be!) said that “In Australia we use bricks”. I’m not sure we are up to this but next year we might experiment with half bricks as these will be much easier for the twelve year olds to catch.

Should the Feast immediately follow on the Reach Fair? That’s the current debate. I reckon that **if** this were put to the vote, and **if** every person turned out to vote, the result would be 49.5% one way and 50.5% the other. We shall see.

Meantime thanks to everyone for their help, including our new live band, and not forgetting Steve Lang who uncomplainingly and with great efficiency puts up the roadside signs for this and other events.

Alastair Everitt

Our thanks to the **Newmarket Journal** for their kind permission to use the photograph of the bun-eating competition and to the **Bougheys** for those of the band and the maypole



The Maypole Dancers

About Miss Delia ...



We’ve been looking after this lovely cat whilst her elderly owner was in hospital. Unfortunately she has now had to be transferred to full-time residential care and cannot take her with her.

Delia is eight years old and was with her owner from a kitten. She has been dearly loved, and lovingly handled, so she’s trusting and affectionate, though bewildered by the change in her circumstances.

She has green eyes, is mainly white with ginger and black patches, and is in excellent health. She’s shown little interest in going outside, being a warm, purry lap-cat by inclination.

A home with a single person, or a couple, would probably suit her best. She likes our dog but isn’t thrilled by the presence of our own four cats.

If you’d like to see Delia, please call Gregg or Maggie Cotner on 743891.

Bottisham Community Library Association

During summer 2003 management of Bottisham Library will transfer from Cambridgeshire Library Service to Bottisham Community Library Association. It will probably be necessary for there to be a brief closure period while the stock provided by Cambridgeshire Library Service is removed and replaced with a reduced book-stock from them and the donated books we have collected - please keep them coming!

The inaugural meeting of Bottisham Community Library Association will be held on: Thursday 19th June 2003, 7.30pm at Bottisham Village College.

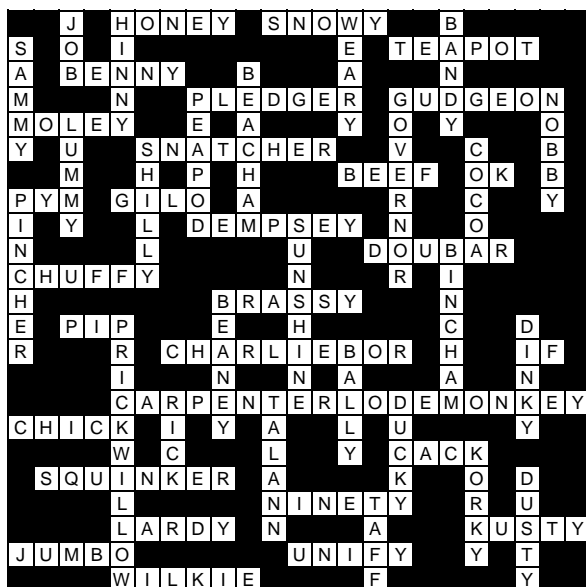
Following the closure we hope to maintain the present opening times; one session will be covered by the Mobile Library which will be the best source of Large Print books, spoken word cassettes and videos.

Please make all offers of help in the Library, with fund-raising or of book donations to:

Gerry Lockett, Tel: 811236, email: g.lockett@ntlworld.com

Holders of CAMBOOK borrowers cards will continue to be able to borrow books without charge. To support your local library, influence future developments and for a vote at the Annual General Meeting please join Bottisham Community Library Association. Minimum subscription £1. Please send name and address (+email and telephone) to **Library or Margret Coles, The Anchor, High St., Bottisham.** Please make cheques payable to Bottisham Community Library Association.

Answers to Crier Crossword No. 3



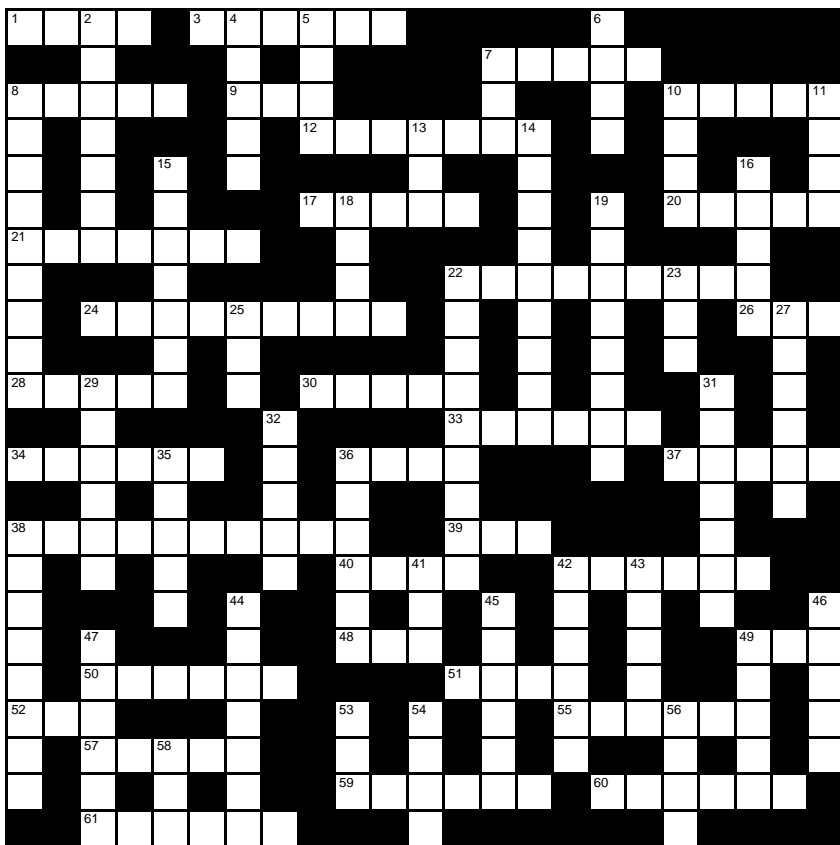
Yes, you thought Cornelia's *Siren Sylphs* were psychedelic, but not half as psychedelic as the answers! CARPENTER LOD MONKEY!!!!!! If we'd run this crossword 30 years ago, there'd have been no problems, because this, and all the other answers were, of course, *nicknames* of well known Priorites (and associated hangers-on from Lode!) published in the January and March *Crier* by kind contribution of Graham Gillson and John Clarke. **Moral: do not bin Criers!!**

Crier Crossword No. 3

By Ounce

Sponsored by the Red Lion

Clues are cryptic with meanings related to 4D, 51A and/or to 44D, 20A (which Priorites *ought* to know about!); **except** for those indicated by an asterisk (*). These clues also include a definition. Winning solution to the Eds by 20th wins *free meal at the Lion*.



Across

- 1 * Fishy Private. ("Stupid Boy!") (4)
 3 See 15 Down
 7 Mother and soldier receive
 hundred. (5)
 8 * Midas mingles on Cambridge
 Causeway. (5)
 9 * Shakespearean trouble about
 nothing in the meadow. (3)

10 See 25 Down

12 See 59

17 See 5 Down

20 See 44 Down

21/42D Socrates' usual mess. (7,6)

22 In favour of weight. (9)

24/29 Curt cop mixed in rickshaw
 accident. (9,6)

26 See 13 Down

28/53 Puck idly chewed. (5,3)

30 Do away with Bridge opponents.
(5)

33 See 38 Down

34/7D Knight returns after doctor,
right? And before setter reaches Pole.
(6,3)

36/11 Wager laid about Queen.
Amount? (4,4)

37/48 Deny desk overturned. (5,3)

38 Turn about circle, then close prayer
before tea we hear. (10)

39/19 For example, good puzzling.
(3,8)

40 Leg-puller loses direction. (4)

42 See 60

48 See 37

49 * Spoil short month. (3)

50 Famous thief casts off son. (6)

51 See 4 Down

52/47 Crime case unravelled. (3,6)

55 Ship with Lofty aboard. (6)

57 Beware, nasty surprise within. (5)

59/12 Before 100 enter with gravity,
buff up little Daniel. (6,7)

60/42 Rubber rook? (6,6)

61 * Ada leaves esplanade to get
organ. (6)

Down

2 See 8

4/51 Attain blonde. (5,4)

5/41/17 Frank did do no wrong. (4,3,5)

6 * High spot for Damon or Graham?
(4)

7 See 34 Across

8/2 Media lead: He's taking 55 -

madness! (9,7)

10 * Shelter found in Cairo office. (4)

11 See 36 Across

13/26 Hidden among toucans, hyenas
and gorillas. (3,3)

14/27 Gross Anglophile battered. (9,6)

15/3 For instance, China boats. (7,6)

16 Gas me horribly. (5)

18 * Lion's call painful to the ear. (4)

19 See 39 Across

22 Quiet books. (9)

23 * Permissive month. (3)

25/10A Befuddled Goth's oar. (3,5)

27 See 14

29 See 24 Across

31 Might propel a raft or punt. (7)

32 Alfred's burnt offering? (5)

35 * 500 lost at start of meal inside. (5)

36 Courage needed for this stall? (6)

38/33 Argentine tonic stirred. (8,6)

41 See 5

42 See 21 Across

43 * Ray is ill-used in Eastern country.
(5)

44/20 Adjusted A-levels a gift. (7,5)

45 Eliot is after map. (6)

46 * Midnight downpour produces
crop. (5)

47 See 52 Across

49 Sounds like cat being ill? (5)

53 See 28 Across

54 * Unwelcome in china shop? (4)

56 * Part of water-buffalo udder is
vulgar. (4)

58 * Slimy denizen of local cathedral
city? (3)

Crier Crossword No 2

And the winners were..... **Julie and Bob Nunn**

Again!!!! No, there hasn't been any cheating (yes, we know they live next door). they're just good at Crosswords.... *and* they have friends who don't throw out old **Criers**! Just like the Eds, in fact, but since they can never *find* anything either, not altogether sure that much point to this retentionist stance.....

Staff at Bottisham Village College were delighted to hear this week that the College has once again been granted the prestigious Sports Mark Award. This award is in recognition of sports teaching of the highest quality, an excellent programme of extracurricular activity and the outstanding facilities at Bottisham, which are open to members of the local community.

We are really proud of the recognition from Sport England that we provide a wonderful opportunity at Bottisham for young people and for the whole of our community to enjoy sport and to lead a healthy life.

Bottisham has excellent facilities for sport, including a large sports hall, fitness suite, floodlit astro-turf, 38 acres of playing fields and access to a heated swimming pool. All of the pupils at the college enjoy a wide range of sports activities and there are many clubs that take place at lunchtime and after school. School teams play fixtures against other schools during every week of the school year and the college has been successful in winning a number of District Championships, including the Cross-Country Championship and the Jubilee Cup Athletics Competition for Cambridge and District Schools. The school is also very proud of the fact that all pupil who wish to take part in competitive sport are able to do so through inter-form competitions and in school teams.

Teaching and learning is of the highest quality and the subject is very popular indeed as a GCSE examination. The college has very good relationships with local sports clubs and many pupils go on to become members of clubs which play at the college and in the local area.

At a time when school sport is often criticised, it is good that sporting excellence receives this national recognition.

Peter Hains, Warden

News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



As we near completion of the academic year, this term is one of the school's busiest, a time for looking ahead and moving on for some and a time when we begin to welcome new children into the school.

As I am new myself, I am still being introduced to many traditions, the loveliest so far being the Maypole dancing. Year five and six did incredibly well at their opening of the Reach Fair, accompanied by Cocky Fruit Tail and the Bad Bad Shepherds (thank you Mr Noyes and Co., but I'm sure you will regret that name).

The following week, the performance was repeated by a slightly different make

up of children at the Swaffham Feast. The Maypole will also be featuring at our Summer Fair, where perhaps the adults will get to have a go.

We have just had a pond tidy so that the children will be able to pond dip and investigate the surrounding wild habitats. We have other areas to spruce up, so if any one has any plants or cuttings which they could donate to the school please bring them along at any time.

We are making the most of the better weather with sketching and games club, football and cricket, as well as starting the swimming season.

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 6.00p.m.

Joanna Lakey

FRIENDS of



SWAFFHAM PRIOR
SCHOOL

Friends of Swaffham Prior School held a meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2003, where a number of points were discussed.

Our ongoing fundraising for the Pool area refurbishment and development of areas around the playground, had a huge boost following the Barrow of Booze Raffle, at Reach Fair on 5th May where the princely sum of £865 was made! Many thanks to all of the villagers that bought tickets and/or donated a bottle. This event has become a staple part of our annual fundraising programme and proves very popular with visitors to the Fair.

Planting around the pool area has now been completed and it would appear that the hedging has all rooted and is growing well. We are in the process of obtaining quotations for the ground works and hopefully work will commence in the autumn.

Our next event is the Summer Fair, this year on July 5th at 3pm (see separate notice). We are relying on support from the villagers to what should be a fun afternoon with something for everyone. (Yes, Boules will be making a welcome comeback!) Put the date on your calendar now. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Jane Blanks, Secretary.



Window Cleaning

Andy Wells would like to thank all of his customers who have remained with him through the recent difficult months.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Trip to Cambridge Botanic Gardens

Suitably clad in Macs and clutching large umbrellas, a group of us were taken on a very interesting and informative tour of the gardens by one of their volunteer guides. She concentrated on the 19th century garden (Trumpington Street end) - part of the 40 acre site, where, as she said, things, especially the trees, were at their best.

It was early for a lot of flowers but of their nine national collections, the saxifrages and geraniums were looking very attractive. We finished our tour in the warmth of the tropical house where our special treat was to see the spectacular Jade Vine in full flower.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th June when we are going on a visit to Wicken Fen. Please let Roger Cannon (Tel 742182) know by 1st June if you would like to come. We shall meet at the Village Hall at 6.15pm.

Margaret Joyce



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday evening 28th April the Ladies Circle met for their monthly meeting. Our speaker this month was Mr Coppock from Cambridge who came to tell us about the history of the Letter Post. He brought along many samples of letters and postcards many dating back to the 1800's.

The Japanese first introduced the letter when they used to write on clay. This was followed by the Egyptians who used the papyrus plant, followed by parchment. Finally the Chinese who used the bark from the Mulberry Tree invented paper.

Royalty were the only people who had their post delivered free — hence the name Royal Mail and people in high positions were also allowed to use the 'Free Frank' stamp so their post also went free of charge.

A man called Roland Hill introduced the first cheap rate of postage. Before this post was delivered by stagecoach with the recipient paying on receipt of any letters. I am sure we would not be happy with this arrangement these days.

On 6th May 1840 the first penny black was introduced and the 2p blue for heavier letters. In 1841 the penny red (with a blue mark through to stop forgery) came along. In time more people were learning to write and hence more letters were being sent and in June 1918 the letter rate was put up to 3 ha' pence. Now the franking machine has been introduced and stamps are being used less and less.

It was a very interesting topic learning about our post and of course it made us realise just how much easier it is these days to write a letter, stamp it and pop it in the post box leaving the rest to the Royal Mail hoping it would arrive on the recipient's doorstep the next day!!

The evening ended with tea and coffee and a bring and buy stall.

Sandra Butcher



WI Notes

Several of us attended the W.I. Group meeting in Swaffham Bulbeck when the Institute competition was a tableau consisting of a May Queen and her attendants. Thanks to Betty Fox's idea of making our entry a bit different we had our oldest member, lovely Rhoda Goddard (Ruth Scovil's Mum) as our May Queen. She was dressed in a flowery frock and a velvet cloak with a tiara.

Her two attendants, Pat Airey and Gwen Verlander, were in pretty kaftans with - wait for it - wellington boots, and golfing umbrellas held aloft prepared for the British weather. And we won the cup! Thanks to all of you — it's a few years since we last won.

At our meeting on 19th May our President, Pat Airey, told us about her unusual holiday in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. I say unusual, because Pat and Keith don't go on the usual tourist holidays, they back pack and visit out-of-the-way places.

Pat showed us slides of beautiful temples and palaces and statues covered in gold, really magnificent. They travelled on a back-pack overnight sleeper train from Thailand to Laos, then in small boats (each taking no more than four people) for 100 miles up the Mekong river. Sometimes they were too hot, sometimes freezing cold and soaking wet. Nevertheless Pat assured us it was a fantastic holiday and it made us realise how 'stuck in the mud' some of us are.

Next month on 23rd June - a week later than usual, we shall be visiting the Gifford's Hall Vineyard (hic!) to see, among other things, their wonderful sweetpea collection. Members please meet at the village hall at 6pm.

Betty Prime



STAINE HUNDRED

About 25 members of the Staine Hundred went to the Shire Hall for their May Meeting to learn what kinds of documents were kept there. Philip Saunders, County Archivist, took them to the Kriess Vierssen Room where he had a number of documents relating to the various villages in the Staine Hundred displayed. After talking about them, members had the chance to peruse the maps, account books, enclosure awards, a rare 1801 census return for Wilbraham, and various other items of interest. The group then went into the Record Office where Mr Saunders explained how the various records were catalogued and the workings of the Cambridgeshire Archives Service. He was thanked by the Chairman, Robert Hill for giving up his time to talk to us at the end of a long working day.

The Annual Staine Hundred Outing will be held on Thursday, 12th June when there will be a visit to the magnificent 12th century Southwell Minster and then to a 19th century workhouse. There are still a few seats available. £23 for non-National Trust members - £20 for National Trust members. Contact Peter Arnold, 811596.

Carpets supplied and fitted
RP CARPETS



City & Guilds qualified

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



 **01353 721205 · Mobile 0802 636469**

**Tony's Gardening
& Domestic Services**



OFFICE · CARPET · WINDOW CLEANING

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

Tel: 01223 890533
Mobile: 07813 783 040



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



DRIVEWAYS PATIOS DRAINAGE FOUNDATIONS
DEMOLITION FENCING



FREE ESTIMATES GIVEN



Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 7 members and 1 member of the Public.

Acceptance of Office forms were signed and witnessed and elected members took their seats at the meeting. The Parish Council now has 8 members – Trevor Jones, Andrew Camps, Eric Day, Henry Hardiment, John Covill, Kevin Glennon, Sandra Wilson and the meeting welcomed a new member, Christopher Wilson. One vacancy remains. *Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.*

Election of Chairman/Vice-Chairman

Trevor Jones was elected as Chairman and Andrew Camps as Vice-Chairman.

Confirmation of Representatives for Other Bodies

Sports & Recreation Committee – Henry Hardiment will continue to represent the Parish Council.

The Charities – Henry Hardiment, Trevor Jones & Eric Day will represent the Parish Council.

Village Hall Management Committee – Andrew Camps will represent the Parish Council.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were agreed.

Reports

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Cane.

Matters Arising

Speed Watch Campaign: Kevin Glennon circulated a brief report to members. A second meeting had been held to discuss the findings of questionnaires circulated in the village. Following this, speed measuring units were installed at different points around the village by CCC. The outcome of this exercise will be analysed by CCC and discussed further at the next meeting on the 29th May 2003 at the Village Hall.

Agenda for Village Assembly: This was agreed.

Quality Status for Parish Councils: The Parish Council will register its interest in acquiring Quality Status and investigate further.

New Play Equipment for Play Area:

Following receipt of up-to-date quotes & estimates, it was agreed that this should be further discussed at the Village Assembly.

Correspondence Received:

CCC: Periodic Electoral Review of CCC – Draft County Council Proposal.

ECDC: Letter from Forward Planning Officer re Affordable Housing on Lower End field.

General:

School newsletters.

Histon Sector Newsletter & Crime Figures.

Countryside Agency – “Parish Plans – guidance for town & parish councils”.

Cambridgeshire ACRE – Training & Events Programme.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Approval:

Commissioners Farm, Swaffham Prior Fen – extensions & alterations forming bedroom, en-suite, kitchen, garage, etc.

Any Other Business:

Traffic Calming Measures – Mill Hill: Interactive signs installed. Will be operational towards the middle of May.

Direction Signs for Upware. CCC Highways have agreed to these signs, just a matter of type and position.

Station Road Footpath: Unfortunately a bid by CCC Highways for finance to repair this footpath was unsuccessful on a point system.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th June, 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor

ANNUAL REPORT

Since I was first elected I have given a summary County report to all six annual parish meetings (APMs). I try to review the County's affairs over the preceding twelve months, particularly relating to our villages of Burwell, The Swaffhams, Reach, Bottisham and Lode. Because so few members of the public attend these meetings, it seems sensible to give a condensed review to your village magazines, all of which go to every house in your parish. In addition to the annual report I keep in touch by a regular County article monthly or bimonthly depending on publication frequency.

This year at the APM's I first gave a general overview which included the appointment of the new County **Chief Executive**, Ian Stewart, achievement of national "Beacon" status, given in recognition of Cambs' and E.Cambs' leadership on ICT; and a "Good" assessment of the County's general performances judged by the Audit Commission.

I spoke briefly on the recent **Council Tax** increases which continue at more than the UK rate of inflation. The 9.2% County increase would have been less, had the Government given us the full amount at once, instead of spreading £10M of grant over the next two years. In theory this should mean a lower tax demand next year — we shall see!

The County consulted widely on whether the County share of Council Tax should be 12% with no cuts to services or 6% involving severe cuts. Public opinion was strongly in favour of 12% so the decision was taken to go for 9.2% and make up

the difference by withdrawing from reserves. Even then there were some cuts, e.g. Bottisham Community Library

Every year as the Council Tax rises I am more and more convinced that it is a thoroughly bad tax, only marginally better than the infamous “Poll Tax” which it replaced. Depending on the property you live in you may pay the same amount as a wealthy neighbour, whose income continues to grow, yet you are possibly stuck on a low pension or other fixed small income.

An increasing number of councillors are seriously wanting Council Tax replaced by a fairer means of paying for our local services, such as a **local income tax**. Maybe the time for that change is coming sooner, I hope, than later.

Turning to specific services, much the largest is **EDUCATION**. Here media exaggeration about generous Government grants was subsequently brought down to earth with a bump when it was realised that Cambs secondary schools had been short changed to the tune of several million pounds. Some schools are threatened with a deficit Budget but not **Bottisham**. Nevertheless, standstill is the best we can hope for in 2003/4.

From other aspects Bottisham Village College has had another successful year. The best exam results appeared at the Key Stage 3 but the older children still did better on GCSE than the County average. With Beacon School Status (only 4 in Cambs) the College has much to be proud of in its high standards.

The school and community suffered a major blow in the decision by the County cabinet to save a modest amount of money by closing ten of the smaller **community libraries** in the County, including Bottisham. In spite of a vigorous campaign to save it, the Cabinet was impervious to contrary views and confirmed the decision. Not to be beaten we locals, supporting the library, are replacing it with a similar service but run by villagers from Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck and other nearby interested parties. We hope it will succeed and be well supported by nearby library users. The school side of the library is not affected by the County’s decision.

SOCIAL SERVICES have improved over last year but at a cost. We seem to be stuck in a perpetual financial deficit only solved by transfers of money from other activities. Unforeseen costs of out of county placements and the ever-increasing cost of elderly care are large contributors to the shortfall. It is of course undeniable that we are, on average, living longer. The cost of care for the over 85’s rises dramatically year by year.

On the **ENVIRONMENT** the County Structure Plan rumbles along at a steady pace with some of its more controversial proposals becoming clear. Round here I hope we have seen off the idea of a new town at Six Mile Bottom which received universal criticism. The new settlement is more likely to be confirmed at Oakington / Longstanton. For all that, pressure to build many more houses in the Cambridge area increases.

Turning to **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION** there were several changes in the last year. The success of Park & Ride around Cambridge is now accepted and is likely to be expanded. The **A14** is to be widened from Fen Ditton to Conington and a new road built therefrom to the A1.

The **Fordham by-pass** has now completed its planning stage and will start to be built as soon as possible. Traffic calming along **Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior** is now completed with the arrival of the interactive speed signs. The B1102 will also be made safer between **Swaffham Bulbeck** and **Longmeadow**. I am pushing the completion of the national cycleway (R 51) between the **Swaffhams** and a route designated in **Burwell**. Pedestrian crossings are also scheduled for **Burwell Ness Road** and **Swaffham Bulbeck**.

Lastly, the **CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE** continues to put out fires and rescue car drivers and passengers at a tiny cost of 57 pence per week each. The sad national dispute with the full-time firefighters has still not been resolved in spite of many months negotiations. Locally, our two stations at **Swaffham Bulbeck** and **Burwell** worked normally as they are manned by Retained part-timers. We owe them a debt of gratitude for all their efforts.

James Fitch



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

Thank you for re-electing me as your District Councillor. The turnout in The Swaffhams ward was 41.5%, which was higher than the District average of 31.5%, but lower than Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Councils where the turnout was 47.8% and 47.6% respectively. The results across the District were that the Council has 18 Liberal Democrats, 15 Conservatives and 6 Independents. No single party therefore has a majority. This will make it harder for the members to set a clear strategic framework for the Council. Nevertheless, I hope we will be able to continue to deliver good services.

One issue which the Council will be considering soon is whether or not to help fund Police Community Support Officers. These officers will be uniformed but will have fewer powers than regular officers. Their main role will be to work with the Community Safety Partnership and the local community to tackle low level crime, such as anti-social behaviour. Unlike regular officers they will not be pulled off their duties to attend incidents, except in the event of a major incident, so they remain in the community. The Home Office provides half of the funding and the rest of the funds have to be found locally. For the year to March 2004 the Police are finding the matching funds for 8 Community Support Officers. For future years they will only contribute half of the matching funds, leaving £48,000 to be found by the Community. The suggestion is that the District Council and Parish Councils who want the officers in their Parish should find this money. For the District Council a new cost of £48,000 would mean either cutting another service or raising the council Tax for a Band D property by about £1.50 per year (a 1.4% rise). I would be interested to hear your views on whether or not we should help to fund these Police Community Support Officers – please e-mail your views to ccane@cix.co.uk, or

'phone me on 01638 742509, or write to me at 34 Swaffham Road, Reach, CB5 0HZ.

Jubilee Gardens in Ely will now be fun for all the family. The Bandstand was formally opened in May along with a water feature and a childrens' play area.

The Council's web-site has been awarded "content +" status in the latest government survey of all local authority web-sites. This is the 2nd highest award within the survey and only 10 authorities out of the total 508 surveyed were awarded the higher ranking of "fully transactional". Because of this, the Council was given a grant of £200,000 for 2003/04 to help us to meet e-government targets.

Charlotte Cane

THE FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

CAR BOOT SALE

AT

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON

SUNDAY JUNE 22nd 2003

9am-12 noon

£6 per pitch

(Pay on the day)

SET UP FROM 8am

Refreshments available

ART THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

A SPECIAL 5 WEEK COURSE

AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL

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

PLUS OPTIONAL VISIT TO NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON

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

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



St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Services June 2003

Sun 1st	11:00am Parish Communion
Sun 8th	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 15th	11:00am Parish Communion
Sun 22nd	11:00am Matins
Sun 29th	11:00am Parish Communion

Notes From The Churchwardens

Remembering to bring the missing vestry key, we were all delighted to see Pastor Jan Petersen during his fleeting visit to the village in mid May. Many of his friends, young and old, were able to join us for the Bring and Share Lunch and to hear from him news of his first year in Ockholm: the excitement of the arrival of Finja, a sister for Malte, and the “delights” he and Gabi have experienced in moving house no less than three times in one year.

To those he missed seeing during his visit, he sends his warm greetings. Jan wishes us all God speed under the guidance of our new vicar, Rev David Lewis, who takes up his position on June 10th with his formal licensing at Bottisham. We look forward to seeing him regularly in Swaffham Prior thereafter.

Finally we want to place on record our sincere thanks to John Norris, the retiring churchwarden, for all his hard work in maintaining the services through the interregnum and in his care of St Mary's church over so many years. We are truly grateful to him.

Carolyn Cazenove
Francis Reeks

Reverend David Lewis

The new vicar of the Angelsey Group is the Reverend David Lewis. His licensing will be taking place on Tuesday June 10th at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham. All parishioners are welcome to attend this service which will be led by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Doctor Anthony Russell.

David Lewis joins us from Southway, Plymouth , where he has been the Rural Dean as well as chaplain to the Mayor. He comes together with his wife Pauline, and their two dogs but leave behind their adult sons who both work in the city.

A keen walker and cyclist David expects to be seen through all the parishes of the new group on his cycle as he takes up the challenge of covering the five parishes.

Prior to his time in Plymouth , David had been serving as a curate in Rutland and parish priest in Surrey since his ordination 13 years ago. Previously he had been working for a computer company as their marketing director and consultant.

Francis Reeks

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Our recent meeting focused on forthcoming events.

Our new vicar, of the Anglesey Group, the Revd D.H.Lewis, will be inducted on June 10th, at 7.30. p.m, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Bottisham. All will be welcome. Please let one of the P.C.C. members know if you would like help with transport.

Funds from the Jazz evening at the Red Lion on June 20th, will be allocated towards the sound system. However the biggest project will be the provision of a lavatory.

Gift Day will be held on October 12th to coincide with the Harvest Lunch. Do come; it would be lovely to have a full church for thanksgiving of the harvest.

The September festival of Art and Music will be mentioned elsewhere. It will be a weekend of events for the family.

Please let the church wardens know, if you would like prayers said for family and/or friends.

P.Harrison (sec. 742850)

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 - June 2003

Wed	4	Art that Shook the World, 10-12am
Thu	5	Gilbert & Sullivan's Grand Duke, 7.30pm Mitchell Lodge Barn, SB
Fri	6	G & S
Sat	7	A Nostalgic Summer Afternoon, Zion Chapel, 2-4pm Cordé Renaissance Music, 8pm, St Cyriac's G & S + Matinee, 2.30pm
Tue	10	Induction of David Lewis, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity, Bottisham Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	12	Staine Hundred Visit to Southwell Minster PC Meeting 7.30 pm, VH
Sat	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	17	VG Trip to Wicken Fen, Meet 6.15pm, VH
Thu	19	Inaugural BVC Community Library Meeting, 7.30pm, BVC
Fri	20	Jazz on a Summer's Evening, 7-10pm, Red Lion
Sun	22	Teatime Concert, St Mary's Church, Burwell, 4pm
Mon	23	WI visit to Gifford's Hall Vineyard. Meet 6pm, VH.
Tue	24	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	26	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
July	5	School Summer Fair (3pm - school) + Disco(6-8pm, VH)
	26	Lode Anniversary Weekend
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, Youth Club Hut
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6.00 - 7:30pm. 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, Youth Club Hut