



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 27 Number 11

November 2003



Editorial

A word for the Kingdom of Reach: regular **Crier** readers will know we always like to be nice about Reach, and this month's issue is no exception. Reach is having a bit of a rocky ride at the minute because of (a) the recent Church of England *divorce from Prior*: not good — well, *we* don't think so, anyway — Reach and Prior have always gone together, the children go to school together, yes, we *miss* Reach, we want them back! (b) *their* Parish Council has made a fat donation to found the new Community Broadband — all the Internet beamed from Reach! — but *ours* hasn't, even though plenty of Prior residents are beaming in at a nifty £20 a month (with the demise of *Invisible Networks* — see Broadband News — there'll be even more) and (c) Dave Summers, Editor Supreme of *Out of Reach* for the last *seven* years (we can't compete!) is finally hanging up his mouse and they will have a find a New Editor. *Crier* Eds are full of admiration for Dave and we hope he finds a worthy successor.

A plea for Tennis in this month's issue, wholly supported by those well-known tennis aces, the Eds! Why can't Prior have a tennis court? We can afford it can't we? Is the Sports and Social Club *ever* going to spend its loot?

And as most of us are aware, the infamous stretch of the M1102 between Burwell and Prior has been a menace this month (see *Letters*), and we're very glad everyone hurt is on the mend. Residents would be well-advised to remember Motorway Guidelines before joining the Cage Hill slip-road! Don't forget our wonderfully atmospheric *Advent by Candlelight* needs Mince Pies as well (*please!*), and our Christmas Market needs donations — get those cupboards clear of last year's unwanted presents while you have the chance. And also, don't forget the **Crier's** new *email address* is: **the.crier@swaffham-prior.co.uk**—it's those dots and hyphens that mess you up!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: "Hare-Cut" by Clive Riggs



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Thank you

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness of so many village friends. The flowers, cards and food have made our changed lives more tolerable and are thankfully received.

I will still need your prayers and help until this battle is won.

Yours very sincerely,

Marion Norris

Dear Editors,

The Robson Children

Karen and I would like to thank everyone concerned for their kind thoughts, cards and gifts to our children after the accident just outside the village last month.

Sadly accidents do happen. This one was terrible for all concerned. Before I continue I want to thank Chris, our son, for insisting that his sister ALWAYS wear a seatbelt. Had he not insisted, as we have taught him, that they **BOTH WORE SEATBELTS**, there is no doubt as to the difference it would have made. That simple thing, together with the angle of impact, saved their lives.

Both of them are doing unbelievably well, and by the time this reaches the printer, Laura will be already back at school. Chris has longer term injuries, which he is managing with enormous strength and determination. Karen and I are proud of both of them, for their determination to get back to normal, quickly.

Whatever your beliefs, we know that these children were blessed, both at the time of the accident and afterwards during recovery. We all know *too well* that it could have had a very different outcome. If we gained anything from the long ordeal of waiting to see our daughter regain consciousness, it was a strengthening of our beliefs and a wonder at the miracle we witnessed as she came around after 4 days, and quickly proved that she was a fighter.

We all wish to send the other parties involved our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery. 3 cars were involved and our thoughts are with those other two families, and our thanks to the excellent and quick response by the Magpas doctor who, essentially, provided the instant support they needed, together with the Firemen from Burwell, two wonderful ladies who were on the road at the time and the ambulance paramedic team. There is no doubt that their efforts changed the outcome.

We both thank God for their safe return to us, and thank the numerous people within the villages, friends and even strangers, who have prayed and sent their thoughts and wishes to the children. Particularly the school, the children and staff, who not only sent cards, but also wrote the most beautiful of prayers for them. I am sure that they all know, by now, that it was their names and those of her friends, that we kept reading to Laura, and it was the mention that she was "late for school and had to wake up", that made her first open her eyes.

Tom & Karen Robson

Dear Editors,

Double Yellow Lines

Oh Dear! John Norris has put me right once again. In the October *Crier* he has explained that Double Yellow Lines are only valid when accompanied by those new “No Parking” signs to which I objected. If he is right, and that those rather striking Double Yellow Lines are invalid or may even be overlooked without an 8x4 inch notice attached nearby, then I withdraw my objection to the expense and to the disfigurement of our rather nice new lampposts. But I doubt this.

I do not endorse anarchy but I see no reason why people from this Top End of the village should not park on the occasional Double Yellow Line. Contrary to what John says no accidents have been caused through this. And Double Yellow Lines can be most therapeutic. If you’ve had a row with your spouse, get it out of your system by using Double Yellow Lines. If you don’t like Tony Blair, do the same - some do this regularly. If you disapprove of IDS, do the same - as people do. The worst that can happen is that you are towed away and pay a whopping big reclaim fee.

On the other hand many may sympathise with John. They also may see parking on Double Yellow Lines as a heedless, nay, wanton, disregard of the rules. As the transgression is for the most part by local people, perhaps John should, as he himself often proposes, “have a word in their ear.” Problem solved?

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors

Bonfires

A few weeks back, basking in the acrid bonfire haze that so characterises a Sunday morning in Swaffham Prior, I was wondering whether to join the Great Bonfire debate or to have the good sense to keep out of it. Unusually for me, I decided not to inflame an already incendiary situation: I would stay out. A bonfire isn’t just a bonfire to some people.

Later, making my way to the top of the Field, I could see the smoke was not from Swaffham Prior: it had in fact drifted all the way from someone’s fire in Burwell. Even more reason to keep out, I mused. Once ignited, intercommunal strife is not always easy to extinguish.

Reading the *Crier* this week though, I did think it only fair in the light of this experience to say that Mrs Suttle may underestimate slightly the possible range of her bonfire smoke. Given the best conditions - mild, overcast, almost still air, relatively low pressure - you can reach most of your neighbours within a quarter mile radius, and the smoke doesn’t lift but just hangs about. A little light wind, and you can make people sit up and take notice miles away.

The other point she makes is that, being country folk in possession of a large garden, she has no choice but to burn things. These days, of course, a large garden means room for a compost heap; but I know what she means, having been brought up in the country myself. As children, we would make pyres of garden things, then burn them. No reason; we just did. I remember well the dark looks of a particular

neighbour as she unpegged her washing. I admit being a bit sorry I'd made her take it in, but it hadn't occurred to us that we were a nuisance. Nowadays parents have the good sense to keep children like we were from getting hold of matches.

I wondered then why it was that country folk kindle a smouldering, nameless urge to set things on fire, which has died down with time. Was it the embers of a memory of the parish beadle? His duties included a blazing beating to parishioners who strayed out of the Bounds without permission, and perhaps he also inspected their gardens: should his eye light upon a heap that looked suspiciously like it could turn to compost he might order them to torch it, so as to stifle wildlife such as birds and hedgehogs and things. There was so much wildlife around then that to encourage it would be to stoke up a bit of a nuisance.

For centuries, Guy Fawkes Night has been the high point in the year for bonfires. Since 1605, fired by an almost civic duty, we have built and burnt the largest bonfires we can, in memory of an act of unsurpassable cruelty - he tried to blow up parliament and failed, so he was given the slowest, most hideous execution they could devise. It doesn't matter somehow that they didn't snuff him out by burning him - it's a good ol' traditional way to remember him anyway. (It still astonishes me that I was taught in Primary school the lurid details of his death. With gusto). Nowadays too, the weathermen fret after a Bonfire Night when the air is still, about all the pollution hanging around in the air next day. But heck, what do they know?

Pyromaniacally yours with a box of Swan Vestas (gloriously self-igniting - just stamp on it),

Mark Lewinsky

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

'Rocks Ahead', and 'Learning Letters'

How confusing it must be, for Trevor (Chairman) and Karen (Secretary) to be quite unaware, beforehand, of which particular items on the Agenda are going to cause the hold-ups. (If you know which of those patches of rough water in your sight represent Rocks Ahead, you can steer a course to avoid them). Who could have foreseen that 'Policing' would hold us up for half an hour, and a routine planning application would take us 20 minutes? The delays usually lie with 'Travellers', 'Whiteway Drove' and 'Playground equipment'; but this time the Drove and the equipment were barely mentioned, and the Travellers did not feature until after the closure of the meeting.

Some good news was given to us early on the Agenda list: the long-awaited road signs for UPWARE are even now being made, so those Spanish/Portuguese/French lorry-drivers will get some help. A name-board-sign for Swaffham Prior village is also being made, and will incorporate a 'slow-down' sign. (To be placed where? Nobody had a very clear idea).



The lengthy 'Policing' item was mainly concerned with PCSO's. And if you don't know what they are, well, nor did I. It was never actually mentioned. But I gathered that they were slightly down-graded policemen¹: grander than Special Constables, but not as grand as Real Policemen. If we wanted to see more police on the beat in our village, we could have a PCSO, if we paid £23,000 p.a. for him ourselves; or perhaps we could join with two or three other villages, so that each village would paid a part of the cost, so the PCSO would spend (say) Mondays at Swaffham Prior, Tuesdays at Burwell, Wednesdays at Bulbeck-and-Lode.... And so on. People asked - If it is going to cost all that much, why can't we get more Real Policemen, employed by the county? Charlotte Cane said: the County Police Force has to be distributed around the County according to need, and East Cambs is a low-risk low-crime area, so police are thin on the ground. So if you feel you want more police, you must pay for them. The PCSO's will stay with you, or with whoever is prepared to pay. So it went on. Fascinating stuff.

There was an item which was designed to nudge us into the 21st century: Trevor told us that the Government wanted all Councils (County, District and Parish) to be On Line by the year 2005. Does that mean, - we must all have a web-site? Yes, we think so. How do we go about it? Who will become our web-master? Is there some computer-whiz-kid in our midst, who could take on the job? The pages are all there ready waiting for us to fill them, said Trevor. We could put 'Web site under construction', said Karen. We decided to inspect other villages' web-sites to see the kind of thing; or perhaps how *not* to do it.

It is observable that more and more of the Parish Council's business is conducted by means of initials, acronyms, and abbreviations. This is becoming a code, or private language; and for occasionals such as myself, present only at every third meeting, there is time to forget between visits the Letters Learnt last time. In addition to the unexplained PCSO's we had CALC's²; and during Fitch/Cane financial discourse, we had RPI³. Karen might consider handing out a Glossary or Vocabulary to members of the public at the start of each meeting.

Margaret Stanier

¹Police Community Support Officer. ²Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils

³Retail Price Index



Greg Sage

Thank you to all of you who have signed for tickets for the Music Hall in Greg's memory on Friday, 12th December at 7.30pm at Wimpole Hall.

We are now sold out!

Hurrah for you and many thanks again. All money raised will go to the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge.

Hilary Sage



Village Variety Show
Village Hall,
Saturday 15th November
7:00-10:00pm



Everyone involved in this family evening is convinced that this will be an unforgettable experience for the whole village. Don't say that you haven't been warned!

But, if you are not put off by the prospect of giant rabbits, under-rehearsed chorus-lines and a dancing elephant - as well as more professional displays of local talent - please hurry and book your tickets from

Hilary on 742978

Or

Tim on 743656

£5.00 for adults and £3.00 for children still at school.

There will be a beer and wine bar for adults and a bar with soft drinks and crisps for children.

THE FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

Invite you to their

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

AT

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2003 11am-4pm

£1.50 Adults £1.00 Concessions

Accompanied children free

Tombola and lots more

Refreshments served all day

Visit Santa in his Grotto

Christmas is Coming

and you could solve some of your present problems
at

The Village Christmas Market

in the Village Hall on

November 22nd 2.00-5.00pm

There will be cushions, hand-painted china,
patchwork, produce, cakes, scarves,
handbags, jewellery, wrapping paper, gifts,
good-as-new books, toys, children's corner
and much more

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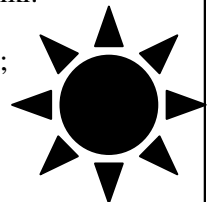
April's Alternative Therapies

(For that laid back, scrape me off the floor feeling!)

Offering a range of therapies to businesses or in the comfort of your own
home:

Reflexology; Indian Head Massage; Back Massage; Reiki.

To treat various ailments, for example: stress; migraine;
insomnia; hormone imbalance; circulation; back problems;
depression.



Telephone April Cook IHHHT; ICHT; FHT.
01638 743371

Travelling Nativity (Posada)

In our version of the Mexican celebration, knitted Mary and Joseph figures travel through the villages of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach. They will stay with a different family each night throughout December until they reach their destination on December 24th. They will then be added to the crib at Swaffham Bulbeck church during the crib service on Christmas Eve.

Mary and Joseph are accompanied on their journey by a flock of sheep. Each family taking part in the Posada may keep a sheep to remind them of their visitors.

If you would like Mary and Joseph to stay with your family in December, please contact Mandy Kingsmill (01638 742482).



CHRISTMAS FAIR

8th DECEMBER 2003

3.00pm - 4.30pm

SWAFFHAM PRIOR SCHOOL HALL

Stalls

Refreshments

Raffle

Gifts

Lucky Dip

and more



EVERYONE WELCOME !

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30th

- St. Andrew's Day -

**4.00pm: The two churches
of SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

**7.00pm: St. Columba's Church,
Downing Street, CAMBRIDGE**

Cambridge Voices

**Music by Palestrina & Victoria
in honour of St. Andrew,**

**Scottish choral music
by James Macmillan**

**& commissioned works for choir,
audience, bagpipes and organ!
by De Massini & Pitts**

**£6 Admission (children free)
in aid of EMMAUS**

**A
D
V
E
N
T**

by

Candlelight

And afterwards...

Yes, it will soon be mince-pie time again. The tradition of serving mulled wine and mince-pies at the conclusion will be followed. Mince-pies (home made or bought) provided by the villagers will be welcomed. Please let me know how many you are able to offer, not later than Friday 28th November. We usually serve at least 250.

Thank you in anticipation

Kate Child (743983)



St Mary's Church



Swaffham Prior is rightly proud of our church. It enjoys a very special place in the identity of the village. It is very beautiful, has fascinating stained glass, interesting brasses and much of historical value both inside and out. It also gives a very special interest to our village in that it has another church within its own boundary and while this is not unique it is very unusual. Not as many of us actually worship there as used to but we still have willing volunteers who look after it, keep it clean and tidy and prepare it for services and other community use. In the days when the pews were full we were a rich parish with money to pay our bills, meet all our local commitments as well as our obligations to the wider parish, and still have some to spare. However, pews at services today are not as full as they were and weekly offerings don't produce what they once did. Unfortunately our costs have not diminished with the congregation: we still need to pay our bills; we still need to make our contribution to the diocese. We do still have a small army of dedicated people who fundraise throughout the year in order to make ends meet. The community benefits from their efforts. We recently had a very successful Village Festival which raised a substantial amount of money for the coffers. We have also just had Gift Day when the whole village was asked to contribute to the Church. About thirty householders did so. The amount raised, together with the Festival money, covers approximately one sixth of our annual responsibilities. And those were our major fundraising events of the year!

The church is an important part of our village. We all like to think it will be there for us when we need it – even if that is only to be hatched, matched or dispatched. No one surely wants it to disintegrate. There may well be a case for setting up a “Friends of Swaffham Prior Church” to look after the fabric of the place separately from what goes on inside. If every householder gave just £1 per week, (a fiver a month!), we could cover most of our obligations.

Please think about what the church (or its absence) means for you and make a contribution if you can. (All the better if it can be gift-aided as that means we can get a tax bonus from the government of 28p for every pound given.)

B. Wilson

TENNIS PLAYERS

Dear residents of Swaffham Prior,

We are a keen tennis family and would like to know if anyone in the village is interested in playing tennis locally. Our dream is to have a court in the village and I am sure this has crossed other peoples minds too. Apparently any locally raised money will be matched centrally to build courts. In the meantime if anyone who owns a court is interested in meeting/hosting play please reply through the *Crier* or ring us directly,

Mrs Parry (741154)

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

for sale at the Christmas Market?

If so, please contact the following people

Books (*in good/new condition*) Mark Lewinski 744062

Jewellery (*necklaces, brooches etc*) Elisabeth Everitt 742974

Gifts (*unwanted presents and gifts*) Kate Child 743983

Toys and children's clothing (*any in good condition*)

Tricia Harrison 742850

There will also be a

Home Produce Stall (*preserves, jam, chutney, Christmas food*)

Ruth Scovil 743720

All proceeds will go towards the running costs of St. Mary's Church.

If you are able to help in any way either before the event or on the actual day, Kate Child would be delighted to hear from you (743983).

DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH CHILDREN?

Interested in doing some voluntary work?



'Good Night' is a voluntary organisation offering a sitting service for children with a disability.

Parents in most families enjoy an occasional evening out on their own and obtaining a sitter to enable them to do so poses no great problem. However, when a child has special needs, making arrangements is not always quite so straight-forward. Parents of a disabled child might be worried about asking someone to take responsibility and feel that sitters might not be able to cope with their child's particular requirements.

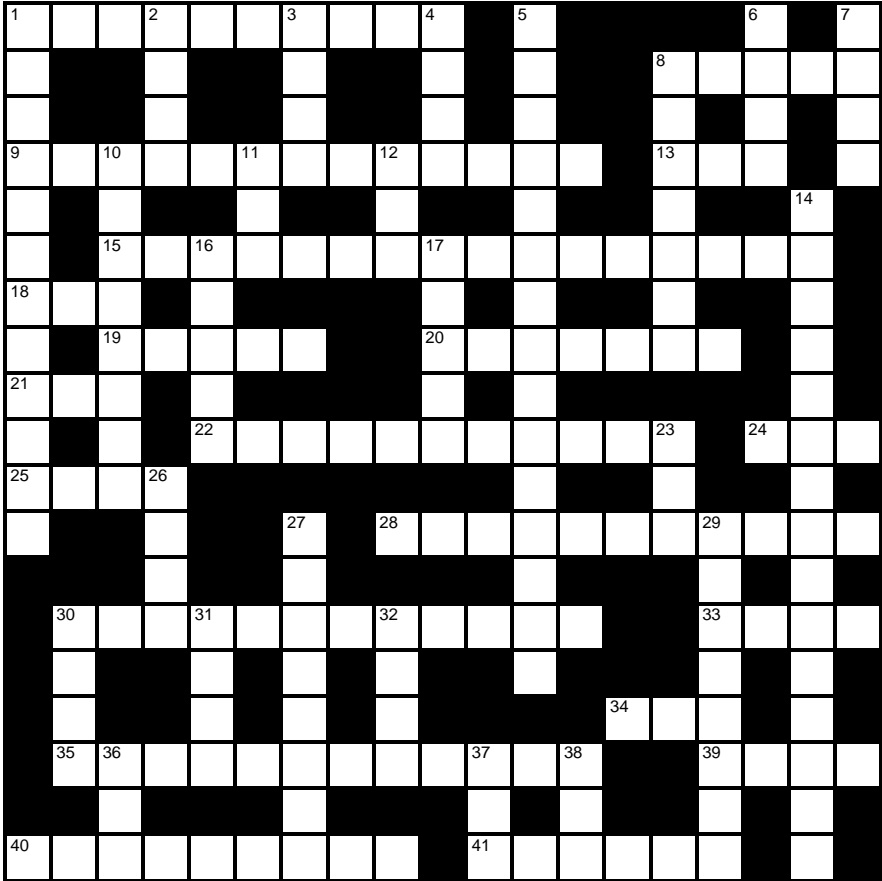
It is our wish to make this service available to any parents of a child with a learning and/or physical disability aged 0 to 19 years in the city and the rural areas around Cambridge and Ely - parents who would like a night out and be able to relax in the knowledge that their child is being well cared for at home.

Anyone over sixteen can apply to become a sitter. Their suitability will be assessed and references taken up. After appropriate preparation they are carefully matched with a family in their own vicinity. On-going support and training is available to volunteers and expenses are reimbursed.

If you feel that you can offer at least one evening a month and commit to building up a trusting relationship we would be delighted to hear from you. Please telephone the office on 01223 519220 or email office@goodnight.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1056263

Some (but not all) of the clues for this cryptic crossword relate to the month of November. Send your answers to the editors by 14th November 2003. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Congratulations to **Bob and Julie Nunn** (yes, *them* again!), winners of last month's crossword, who should collect their *Prize Certificate* (Ho Yes!) from the editors. Commiserations to other successful entrants who lost out in the draw.

Across

1 Nothing points to every large room on this sacred day (10)

8 A rasher breadwinner might bring it home (5)

9 A classic deity disturbed this good person's remembrance (2,8,3)

13 Bread for Grandma (3)

15 A day when men thrive off Beth in distress (8,3,5)

18 New one (3)

19 Stone to strike back (5)

20 Port with bridges and trees (7)

21 Expanse to be crossed to reach a timeless place of rest (3)

22 Misplaced manor light may be seen on 15 (5,6)

24 Consumed chaotic meal (3)

25 Grey remains? Yes (4)

28 All lousy ads get rewritten at this time (3,5,3)

30 Nasty Edward's upset when Scottish people celebrate (2,7,3)

33 Weapons a herald might approve of (4)

34 Can you remember where you were when he died? (1,1,1)

35 People after ancient jar might enter this

competition (3,5,4)

39 The same love (4)

40 Conspirator discovered underground on 15 (3,6)

41 Culinary delight may be found on 15 (or 35) (6)

Down

1 A day after 1 across (3,6,3)

2 Present for a goddess (4)

3 Pause - it's Lulu Lloyd inside (4)

4 Drinks raised on board ship (4)

5 Chastised, yet ran about on this saintly occasion (2,10,3)

6 Picture that I study (4)

7 One identifies a military group (4)

8 Burning issue on 15 (7)

10 Not cheap and disorganised this monument (8)

11 Diamond cubes perhaps (3)

12 Single wizard (3)

14 Seasonal fair in the village this month (9,6)

16 Spiv I personally included in the ophidian category (5)

17 Old priest in the Catholic Church left over

from the past (5)

23 East ender says he'll get a slippery one (3)

26 Goya production includes lotus perhaps (4)

27 41 maybe seen on 15 (8)

29 Type of 27 diamond (8)

30 Unaccompanied in Oslo disturbance (4)

31 Point on curved line for a lawman (4)

32 Eye movement by woman in a thousand (4)

36 It may be sung but not by the clergy (3)

37 Vestment found in a strange lab (3)

38 Age in which one becomes disoriented (3)

Solution to crossword no. 4

M	O	U	N	T		M	O	N	T	B	L	A	N	C
I		N		W		A		U		E		R		O
N	E	W	M	O	O	N		N	I	G	H	T	L	Y
U		E			I			E		D		P		
S	P	A	S	M		A	S	S	E	T		E	M	U
S		V		U				T				C		
I	R	E		G	I	S	M	O		P	R	O	U	D
G			G		E		N		A					E
N	O	D	D	Y		P	R	E	E	N		P	A	S
		E			I				I		R		T	
A	R	C		E	X	A	C	T		C	H	O	I	R
S		I		Q			A			L				O
K	I	B	B	U	T	Z			B	A	L	C	O	N
E		E		I		I		O		E		N		E
W	A	L	L	P	A	P	E	R		T	I	G	E	R

How much do we know about Rats and Mice and how to treat them?

As we all know the winter will soon be here and the Rats and Mice will soon be homing in for some warm lodgings and some tasty food. As a registered and qualified Pest Controller, I think some of us who probably didn't know much about these Pests should get to know more about them.

Well the true name for Rats and Mice are (*Rattus Norvegicus* and *Rattus Rattus* for the rats & *Mus Domesticus* for the house mouse. *Rattus Norvegicus* is the Common rat, Brown rat and Sewer rat. These are the ones you will see the most and are the largest. *Rattus Rattus* is the Ship rat and the Black rat, these you will see little of and are Smaller.

Rattus Norvegicus is a Burrower and lives under buildings, in refuse heaps, in holes and in sewers. *Rattus Rattus* is seldom a burrower and lives above ground, in buildings, especially food stores. The common rat will burrow up to 70cm and can jump to that height too.

Mice can get through holes of 5mm and Rats 8mm so proofing is always a must! In the rat world they are always in three groups, these are the Alphas, the Betas and the Omegas. They do not have pack leaders, the Alphas are always the ones closest to the food area as are their holes, they are the hunters for food and the fighters too. The Betas are the middle ones who live nearby but feed as

and when they get the chance, but like to keep out of the way of the Alphas. Then we have the Omegas, well they are the lowest of all, they have to live on less and what the other rats may not want, they also live further away and will be eaten by the Alphas should their food become short, this is why we sometimes see rats in the day time as they are trying to compete against the Alphas for food and most rats are Nocturnal. Rats need free water to live plus the food, so keep these from them and they may go, but as for mice, well they only need 15% moisture and that can come from the food they eat.

Did we know that a rats Jaw bites 5 times per second and has a 25lb per sq in of pressure when it bites. Did we all know how the Bubonic Plague got here? Well it was the Ship rat, they carried the tropical rat flea here. Both rats carry diseases e.g. Weils Disease, Rat bite fever, Trichinosis (Spread by roundworm - rat to pig to human). And these diseases can be deadly if not treated quickly by your GP or hospital. Once the rats & mice have found their new home in your garden, sheds, buildings etc they are very hard to get rid of unless they are dealt with very quickly, this process can take up to and beyond 4 weeks to bring to a reasonable level or be eradicated.

1st Call

**Rapid Raid**
Pest Control

For All Pest & Vermin Solutions

Private/Commercial Property -
Construction Sites -
Agricultural Work - Contracts - Account Work -
Rats - Mice - Wasps - Ants - Bees
Cockroaches - Fleas - Squirrel & Bird Proofing
Rabbits - Moles
Insect-o-cutors

01638 741335
Mob 07879 847392

Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge

Once they have found their nest, their progeny is approx 6-11 per litter and they litter 4-6 times per year and they are sexually mature in 8-12 weeks, so that's a lot of young rats in a small area & more to deal with, so it is important to get on top ASAP! Dealing with rats can be a very long process and that is why professional pest controllers sort the problem quickly, this can be expensive, that's why we train to the highest standards. To control rats & mice you need to know how they feed, how they live, when they feed, what they feed on.

We all know people get poisons from a friends/neighbours, someone they may work with or whoever, they may even get them to put the poisons out for them, but this is not the way to do things. Even if you haven't put the poison down you are still at risk of fumes, but would you know what the active ingredient is? What would it will do if eaten or inhaled? How can a doctor treat people if you can't tell him what is in it if you don't have the right safety data sheet? These are problems that are happening and will arise, but do you know if the poisons you have brought or the ones your friend has put down for you really work? Most of all, are they legal to use? How old are these poisons?. These are facts you should know! If you have a problem call the professional and let us take control and deal with the pests and vermin for you. Most pest controllers should have certificates or be registered, if in doubt try one of these numbers, they may be able to help you. Call DATAS (01354 659061), or NPTA.BPCA (in back of Yellow Pages) can sometimes help.

It's best to be safe and let the people trained do the work professionally.

I am also finding out that people are, or can be, embarrassed that they have rats or mice in their gardens or building, as they may think that others around them think they have dirty gardens or don't care. This should not be the case, rats can be dangerous and carry diseases, there is nothing to be embarrassed about, we all have rats around our gardens etc, it's just some of us don't see them! Some people think it's nice to see them, but let's think about other people, they may not like them and will feel for the safety of their children, pets and themselves. If you like them, why not get one as a pet, and let's control the wild ones! Rats and Mice also damage buildings and other property, they cause fires and destroy other items.

Pest control services are no longer from the local authorities and everyone has to pay for it, some larger companies charge more than the smaller one man companies and you may have to wait a few days or longer, so please don't expect to get pests dealt with free of charge as you will get a nasty shock.

I am local and I am only a phone call away. I will give advice free and will visit you to locate the problem. I can deal with most pests & vermin that we are allowed to within the law. You may have seen a rat or mouse in your garden but it could be living in your neighbour's property, but is always best to be safe. We are all responsible by law to treat for pests under **The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949** and if you fail you may get a letter and a visit from the Environmental Health Department who can put a enforcement order for you to treat them. If you fail, they will do it for you and you will receive a large bill for it, so please don't get caught that way. LETS GET IT RIGHT FIRST TIME!

Paul Ward

News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



Tuesday 7th October was pumpkin day. Last summer, pumpkins had been grown from seed and on that day children had a cross curricular day based around the end results. The outline of the day was a series of activities, with an emphasis on the skills on prediction, estimation and planning, all based within science, maths and art. Four pumpkin pies were baked and consumed. Many adults helped out that day and without them it would not have been possible. Thank you!

Children produced high quality work which included sketching, wool winding and data handling. Here are some of their comments -

Emma: When Mrs Jan came to class 2 we did lots of activities. My best thing was measuring the volume of the pumpkins.

Stephanie: I liked doing the cooking and I liked stirring the mixture. The pumpkin pie tasted nice and I thought I didn't like it but I did.

Eleanor: I liked doing wool winding. I used reds and light yellow and soft yellow and white.

Harry: I liked cooking the pumpkin pie and measuring around the pumpkin. It was 71 cm.

Ayshea: I liked drawing a picture of the inside of pumpkin. I saw seeds and the web. It looked really sticky and slimy. It was like a flower shape.

Ryan: When we stuck the pumpkin the water, we were trying to measure its volume.

Helping the school ... and beyond

Thank you to Newmarket Woolworths who have collected nearly £900 from their summer fundraising. This money will be put towards the swimming pool development which was last year's major fund raising focus.

As part of this year's fundraising, computers are high on the school agenda. Computers are now an every day part of children's learning and are used in most lessons and at our after school computer club. If you are upgrading your home computer and are wondering what to do with your old pc than we are more than happy to provide a home for it.

We had many donations to the harvest festival, thanks to all the families who gave donations of food to support Cambridge Food Bank.

Once again, the school is supporting the Samaritans Purse Christmas shoe box appeal. This has been has great success and families are putting together shoes boxes filled with both basics and goodies such as a small soft toy, pens and pencils, tooth brushes and toothpaste. More details are available from the school.

Joanna Lakey, Headteacher

Swaffham Prior School - Community Dates

Jigsaw library alternate Fridays from 10th October

Class 3 assembly 10am 5th November

Class 2 assembly 10am 12th November

Class 1 assembly 10am 19th November

Beetle drive 21st November 6pm

Christmas Fair 8th December 3pm



At the FoSPS meeting on 15th September, the programme of events for the forthcoming year was agreed upon. Dates are:

24.10.03 Jack o'Lantern display in school

21.11.03 Beetle Drive

8.12.03 Christmas Fair (see separate notice)

6.2.03 Disco

2.4.03 Easter Egg Bingo

3.5.03 Barrow of Booze at Reach Fair

There are other events "in the pipeline" with dates to confirmed that includes: Ladies Indulgence Evening, Summer Fair, 75th Anniversary celebration, Fashion Show.

Also at the meeting FoSPS asked Jo Lakey (Headteacher) to consult with the teachers of the school and devise a "wish list". At the next FoSPS meeting on 10.11.03, the members will be deciding which items on this list that FoSPS can help the school to buy. In addition to this, the Swimming Pool project is continuing during this year.



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday 29th September 2003 Janet Jeacock came to talk to the Ladies Circle about 'Old Fashioned Remedies'.

It was very interesting to hear about superstitions of years ago and it was amazing to see that many are still upheld today. Many of the members remembered their mothers telling them about these when they were small - it was quite surprising, specially as many of them seemed to work!

It was a most enjoyable evening which ended with refreshments.

Sandra Butcher



WI Notes

The Swaffham Prior Village Hall was full to overflowing at the Group Meeting on Thursday, 16th October when members from Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode, Bottisham, Quy and Burwell joined us to hear a talk by Dr. Mary Archer.

Dr. Archer told us about her home at the Old Vicarage, Grantchester, and the various people who'd lived there. One of them was the poet Rupert Brooke who rented rooms in the house for 2 years before the First World War.

Illustrated with slides, Dr. Archer's talk then covered the life of Rupert Brooke and his famous poem entitled "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester" finishing with those immortal lines

'Stands the Church clock at ten to three?

'And is there honey still for tea?'

At our monthly meeting on October 20th Ann Hawkins gave us a brief profile of 'Weekenders' and then chose 5 of our members to model clothes from the autumn wardrobe. She chose well for the clothes suited the models perfectly. Several members decided to hold 'at home's where friends could try on and order any clothes they fancied. This proved to be a very popular evening.

Next month, on 17th November, J.A. Powys is coming to talk to us on 'Tiffany Glass'.

Betty Prime.



STAINED HUNDRED

The October meeting began with a short AGM. Maureen Rogers, the new Chairman, welcomed members and visitors. Robert Hill, who had been chairman for the last 9 years, gave a report on last year's activities. Peter Arnold, Treasurer, presented the accounts which showed a loss over the year, partly because the Annual Outing had made a loss instead of the usual gain, more money had been spent in getting good speakers, and other costs had risen. He felt the rise to £10 membership fee was justified, and a member pointed out that for nine meetings, this was good value. Janet Marsh is now Secretary and Gillian Rushworth continues to organize the programme.

Speaker for the evening was Gill Shapland, who works in the County Record Office and lives in the Parish of St Andrew the Less, commonly known as Barnwell, about which she was speaking. Her title referred to it as "the other side of Cambridge" by which she meant the place where "real" people lived as compared to the University. The early Parish covered a vast area on the eastern side of Cambridge and originally included Newmarket Road, East Road, New Town, Hills Road, Mill Road and Cherryhinton Road. The Abbey Church fell into disrepair in the 18th Century and the new larger Christchurch was built in the early 19th Century. Soon

after, this too was not large enough so St Paul's Church was built in the 1840s and St Phillips was built in the early 20th century, so the present parish of St Andrew the Less is smaller in area. The University had strict regulations on what could be built on their land so both the Theatre and the Railway Station were built outside the town in Barnwell, the station being surrounded by open countryside for the first thirty years of its existence. The existing Cambridge cemetery had become so full that the level of the ground was way above the paths and bodies were buried very shallowly over existing graves. Mill Road Cemetery was therefore opened, with a chapel (now gone), and each parish in the town had its own section and entered the burials in their own church registers. There was a flourishing University Anatomy School in Cambridge which was continually wanting bodies for teaching purposes - particularly young ones. Local Authorities had the right to sell the bodies of people who died in the Asylums or Workhouses, and most of these were obtained from places as far away as Hull, but records show little evidence that Cambridgeshire people were used. These bodies were then buried at night in St Benet's Cemetery, often with little regard as to whether the right body parts were buried together.

After Enclosure, Barnwell grew rapidly: 252 inhabitants in 1801; 9,486 by 1841; and 27,840 by 1901. Brickmaking took place on a large scale along Newmarket Road and this was followed for nearly 50 years by the Coprolite Works. The Gasworks were built on an old brickwork site. The workers in these industries were ill paid and housing conditions were poor, leading to slums and criminal activities. Today, it is claimed that the homeless come from all over England because Cambridge is a soft touch. A page from the 1901 Census Return of the Workhouse showed a similar distribution of birth places!

The talk was well illustrated with drawings of buildings made in the 19th Century.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 12th at 7.30 pm, when Mrs Chloe Cockerill will be talking about "1000 years of English Churches".

Peggy Day



R&SP Community Network

We learned on 3rd October that Invisible Networks who had been providing a commercial broadband service in the village had ceased trading. A R&SP Community Network committee meeting was held in the Red Lion a couple of days later to discuss what we could do to help those, both in the village and surrounding villages, who as a result had been left without a network connection.

It was agreed that the R&SP Community Network should remain Reach and Swaffham Prior only as a lax system would be very hard to run on a volunteer basis. We decided to offer ex Invisible Networks customers in the village special connection rates to the R&SP network if they are able to continue to use the

equipment supplied by Invisible, since this is compatible with our network, or standard connection rates otherwise. We are also in discussion with the other local villages affected (eg Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck) to see if there is any way we can help without actually joining forces to produce one large network, eg by sharing connections to the rest of the Internet.

The opportunity was also taken at this meeting to review our high usage charges and increase the standard monthly allowance from 5Gb to 30Gb, a limit well above any normal domestic level.

James Matheson



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Village Gardeners, held on 21st October, 2003 in the Village Hall, the minutes of the previous AGM were approved, the Accounts for the year were received and approved, and an Auditor for the coming year was appointed.

The Chairman reported that there had been a successful programme of talks and visits in the past year, and thanked Glenna Turner for her efforts in compiling that programme, but he referred to the falling numbers of members and requested suggestions for ideas to increase the membership.

The following members were elected to the Committee for the coming year:

Roger Connan (Chairman)
Mike Phillips (Treasurer)
Margaret Joyce (Secretary)
Janet Cooper (Assistant Secretary)
Roz Wood
Ann Attridge

Following the conclusion of the formal business, a “social” was held, when wine and refreshments were served and members competed in a series of quizzes. “Prizes” of chocolate Christmas trees and Christmas puddings were awarded, but these were not thought to prejudice any dieting efforts!

A programme of talks for the coming year was received and will shortly be distributed to households in the village. The Committee would be pleased to welcome any new members (membership £12). If anyone would like to come to a meeting but has a transport problem, the Committee members would be pleased to arrange transport (please ring Margaret Joyce (744390) or Janet Cooper (741326)).

ADVANCE NOTICE

We are planning a trip to Kew Gardens on **22nd May, 2004**, which will be open to non-members. Costs will depend on numbers but we hope you would consider joining us. Further details will be forthcoming nearer the time but if you might be interested please let our Secretary know (744390).

Janet Cooper

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Karen King (742358)

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Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

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

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising (reports for information only):

Village/Highway Signs:

The directional signs for Upware are on order.

The missing sign on the B1102 will be replaced in due course. Andrew Tipple of CCC Highways told the Clerk that the stealing of such signs was becoming a serious problem and in turn causing a back-log in the manufacture/erection of replacements. During the storms last year, Ringway picked up the fallen Swaffham Prior sign – this cannot now be traced. A new sign can be supplied but will not be the “decorative” type as previously. It was agreed that a suitable alternative should be erected. The leaning 30mph sign on Lower End will be repaired by CCC’s newly formed “small works gang”.

The damaged “Give Way” sign at the top of Station Road will also be repaired in due course.

Enhancement Scheme: 24Seven have agreed to carry out the work to complete this scheme. It is now a matter of confirming timescale.

Travellers – Whiteway Drove: The travellers have now left the site. A lot of damage to new trees was caused by the travellers’ horses. Andrew Camps is to meet with CCC Countryside Group to inspect the trees and discuss replanting if necessary.

Interactive Signs – Mill Hill: The signs continue to be very erratic. One suggestion put to the meeting was that if it was the actual trigger mechanism that was causing

the problems then this could be dismantled and the flashing 40mph limit used as a continuous warning to all vehicles.

Report on Police Community Support Officers: An “event” was held at Cottenham Village College to discuss the recruiting of these officers. This was organised by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Trevor Jones, Andrew Camps and Eric Day represented the P.C. at this meeting. At the time of the meeting there were 6 of these officers in operation with 56 under training and coming into service. These officers were funded by the Police and Government but future recruitment will have to be part funded by CCC, ECDC & the P.C. This is to be further discussed at the ECDC Parish Forum.

Budget Summary: This was circulated to all for information. A meeting was arranged to agree the Budget and set the Precept for 2004/05.

Cutting back of Vegetation, etc: With reference to the cutting back of vegetation by the Anglian Water Treatment works, the Clerk is to contact CCC and ask for their assistance.

Vegetation to the Village Hall driveway will be cut back. It was also noted that the trees in the Car Park were in need of cutting back. As these trees stand within the Conservation Area, the Tree Officer for ECDC will be consulted before any work is carried out.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications:

New Gant Farm, Swaffham Prior Fen – “Potential Departure” Lifting of agricultural occupancy condition from the residential bungalow. There were no objections to this application.

Land adjoining 5 Cage Hill – erection of new dwelling. Concerns were raised on this application and referred to ECDC Planning.

Planning Approval: 7 Heath Road – extension works.

Any Other Business:

It was reported that the noticeboard in the bus stop had again been damaged and was in need of repair/replacement. Graffiti was removed from the ceiling to the bus stop by Andrew Camps.

The Clerk is to contact Stagecoach with a view to having the timetable frames tidied and up-to-date timetables displayed.

Open Question Time:

The meeting was asked about the repair works needed to the footpath on Rogers Road from the speed sign to the B1102. The Clerk will follow this up.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13th November 2003 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



I was sorry to hear that Mrs. Margaret Cook, who was our District Councillor for many years, passed away on the 1st October. I moved here just months before she stood down as our Councillor, so did not know her well. But I soon found that she was well respected as a hard working local councillor and had taken an active interest in the wider District. She was so well respected by other members of the Council that she was elected by them to serve as Chairman of the Council. I know she will be missed by many people in this community.

The Comprehensive Performance Assessment for the Council has begun with our self assessment. The next stage is the 'Peer Review' which starts on 10th November 2003. The Peer Review team will be led by Philip Burton, Chief Executive of North Norfolk District Council who will be assisted by colleagues from the Improvement and Development Agency and Bedfordshire County Council. It will start a long process, which will finish with our full inspection by the Audit Commission in March 2004.

The Boundary Commission for England has published its proposals for the review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It proposes that South East Cambridgeshire, which covers most of our District and some of South Cambs District, and this entire ward, will be renamed East Cambridgeshire Constituency. And it would only cover wards within East Cambridgeshire to reflect the growing population in East Cambridgeshire District. Detailed maps are available for inspection at East Cambs in the Electoral Services office.

In response to research published recently, reporting that East Cambridgeshire has a low business start-up rate, East Cambridgeshire District Council and Business Link ran a 2-day course recently at E-Space North, Littleport, entitled "How to come up with an idea for a business". The course, which is aimed at people who want to start their own business but have not come up with the right idea for one, proved so popular that it was held again in October.

You can now view lists of planning applications online at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/planonline.asp. You can look at the weekly lists of planning applications registered and decisions made. You can see summary information and comment online. You can search on a specific application or by ward. You can't yet see the full application details, for that you will still need to go to the Council offices in Ely or your Parish Clerk. But we are still developing the site and hope soon to be able to show full details.

Charlotte Cane



“Food glorious food” should be the County’s slogan just now. The County Catering & Cleaning Services (C.C.S.) has become only the fourth **school meals** operator at County level to reach an internationally recognised standard of excellence. That sounds like good news for parents and pupils alike. C.C.S. provides over 23 thousand meals daily to Cambridgeshire schools. There are only three other county rivals - Nottinghamshire, Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

I was particularly interested to see Somerset in the same top bracket. I spent nine years at school in Somerset during and after the war. In those days we were always hungry and looked forward to such treats as “bubble & squeak”, tinned salmon patties, herring roes on toast and “bread and scrape” with marmite or peanut butter. Meat was scarce, chicken a once a month luxury and no bananas. On the bright side, the scarcity of sweets (rationed - 2oz/week) and fried foods meant slim youngsters with good teeth!

Last month I wrote about **environmental** matters including air quality. I can now add that the quality of our river water is generally good. In Cambridgeshire all our river water is rated “good or fair”. This compares well with England as a whole, where only two thirds of the country’s water reaches that standard. Apart from humans this must be good for fish and wildlife, locally.

Turning to **noise**, the story is less satisfactory. The number of complaints about noise over the last ten years has been rising in the County. Recent surveys show that noise from road traffic is twice as irritating as the next worst source which comes from overflying aircraft. People in Bottisham and the Swaffhams are particularly affected by air flights to and from Marshalls. In the long term this is expected to reduce greatly if and when Marshalls moves away from Cambridge Airport.

Over the years I have persistently asked for more protection from **road traffic noise**, particularly along the raised section of the A14 from Quy to Nine Mile Hill cutting. More trees, possibly earth bunding and quieter road surfaces are three things that should help. The County officers are sympathetic but hamstrung by limited funds and other greater priorities. Nevertheless, I’ll continue to chip away at this.

James Fitch

St Mary’s PCC

After a hugely successful festival weekend, we look forward to the Variety Show on November 15th, and to the *amazing* Christmas market on November 22nd at the Village Hall. Do come and make it a success. All funds will go towards the work of the church.

Should you wish to contact the Vicar, David H. Lewis, do telephone on 01223 812367, or email RevDavidHLewis@aol.com.

P.A.B. Harrison, PCC Secretary



Church of England Services

November 2003

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 2	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 9	8:00am Holy Communion 10:50am British Legion Service of Remembrance	11:00am British Legion Service of Remembrance	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 16	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 23	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service
Sun 30	11:00am Holy Communion 4:00pm Advent Carols	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

[†] Book of Common Prayer

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).

Dear Friends,

November is a time of remembering. November 5th, Remembrance Day on 11th November, and our Services of Remembrance in the Churches of our Benefice on Sunday 9th November for loved ones who have died.

Americans also celebrate Thanksgiving Day in November as an annual day of thanksgiving for the blessings of the past year, observed on the fourth Thursday in November in each of the states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It is a time of remembering the Pilgrim Fathers who struggled to build a new community in America, as well as a national, and religious holiday.

After the survival of their first colony through the bitter winter, and the gathering of the harvest, Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth Colony issued the following thanksgiving proclamation: "*Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.*

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings."

The Pilgrims had suffered dreadfully in the two years leading up to that thanksgiving proclamation, with many lives lost, and they could have been forgiven for being full of remorse and sorrow for the failures of the past; but they weren't. They saw it as a time of thanksgiving because they could see how God had guided them through the troubles and difficulties and blessed them mightily with a good harvest.

We can choose two ways to remember the past – either we can be full of regrets, or we can be full of thanksgiving. We only have to pick up our newspapers or view the newscasts on our Televisions to know that our world is full of tragedies. It is also true that the relatives of those who have died suffer a great deal afterwards from the regrets and remorse that keep attacking the soul. Yet remembering need not be a negative and destructive thing. It can be a positive thing, as we give thanks for the lives of our loved ones, for all that they achieved in their lives, and for the wonderful memories of their companionship and love, which will stay with us for ever.

So let us remember this November, not with pain and sadness, but with love and thanksgiving, following the example of the Pilgrim Fathers; and let us give thanks to God, and let us live in the light of those wonderful words of the twenty third Psalm:

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary - November 2003

Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	12	Staine Hundred - "English Friends", BVC, 7:30pm
Thu	13	PC, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Sat	15	Village Variety Show, Village Hall, 7:00pm
Sun	16	
Mon	17	WI - "Tiffany Glass", Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	18	Village Gardeners - "Wildlife Garden", Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	19	
Thu	20	
Fri	21	
Sat	22	Village Christmas Market, Village Hall, 2:00-5:00pm Handel Messiah, Fordham Church, 7:30pm
Sun	23	
Mon	24	
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	26	
Thu	27	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Sun	30	Christmas Craft Fayre, BVC, 11:00am Advent Carols, St Cyriac's and St Mary's, 4:00pm

Weekly Events		
Sun		11am, Boules, Village Hall Car park
Tue		2.30-4pm Baby & Toddler Group, Village Hall Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mths), 11-11.45 (18-38mths), Village Hall Water Colour For Beginners, 1- 4pm Village Hall 7-8.30pm, Youth Club
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6pm-8pm. Scouts, 7.45-9.15, School
Thu		Messy Play, 2.30-3.15, Village Hall 2.30-4.30pm Teas Village Hall 7-8.30pm Karate, Village Hall 7-10pm, Youth Club