



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 8/9
August/September 2004



Editorial

Holiday time is here, the schools have broken up, it's the Crier's last edition before its summer break and the Editor-in-chief is already on her travels - which is why I get to write this! Yesterday it didn't seem too bad a deal, lovely and sunny here, absolutely tipping it down up in Scotland where she's off walking. Today though, sunny there and drizzling here - hey, ho!

Quite a lot of this issue has a distinctly autumnal rather than a summer holiday feel to it with traditional September events like the Harvest Show (early warning to get those fruit and veg ripening!) and the "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" for Macmillan cancer relief - a very worthy and deservedly well supported cause.

On a more summery theme, there's a reminder, thanks to our excellent photographers, of a couple of events earlier this summer: the Jazz evening at the **Red Lion** and the Village School's Fête. We'd welcome more photographs to illustrate articles in the Crier or, as here, just to tell a story of their own. We'd also welcome contributions from local artists for the front cover. Our cover editor, Alastair Everitt, will twist arms but it's not always that easy and he's had to go outside the village for this month's artist. He's also been looking rather further back, to the 24th June 1604 to be precise, with an article commemorating the 400th anniversary of someone's death - now I wonder who that might be (hint: the Harvest Show and Coffee Morning aren't the only topics making a reappearance).

But August, this year and here, isn't completely forgotten. There's an evening at the **Red Lion** right in the middle of the month celebrating the history of Foster's Mill and its millers (some familiar family names there?) following on from the Open Day on Sunday 15th August. There will also, I suspect, be the continuing road works and traffic lights on the road to Bulbeck. Am I alone in reacting in a grumpy old man fashion to these? A new cycle path might be an excellent idea but is widening the footpath by a about a foot really worth the effort and expense? Especially when there's no safety zone between the path and the road to protect young and inexperienced cyclists? Happy holidays!

James Matheson

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Cover Picture: *The Country Dance* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Cubs Helper

We are looking for a mature adult to assist the Cub pack that meets at 6 pm every Wednesday at school. Jemima South is the leader, ably assisted by a rota of parents and her boyfriend Jamie, but we need an adult to fill a role similar to that of Francis Reeks with Scouts and Tim Doe.

Is anyone in the village willing to give up 1 1/2 hours a week to do this, please? Please contact me on 74386 for a chat or come to the next mtg. after the holidays on Wednesday 8th September

Thanks,

Andrew Noyes

Chair of the Scouts and Cubs Exec for SP

Dear Editors,

Fairview Grove Hedge

I think the hedge by the turning circle in Fairview Grove looks lovely and has done all year. I can't think why anyone would complain about it.

Mark Lewinski

The Swaffham Prior Harvest Show

Harvest Time is in September

THE HARVEST SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER.

There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you like, **nor** do you have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's classes) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly, yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**. All you have to do is to bring your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 9.00am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards take place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea and then join in the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction starting at 4.00pm**. It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

With no September *Crier* the list of classes and entry forms are not being distributed in the usual way this year. We intend to give a copy to all those who entered last year, and to many others. But if you think you may be forgotten or have been ignored please contact:-

Janet Cooper (741326) Jo Pumfrey (741376) Alastair Everitt (742974)

PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER INTO YOUR DIARY

Janet Cooper



The Swaffham Prior
HARVEST SHOW

SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 3.00 PM

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

CREAM TEAS * *CHILDRENS REFRESHMENTS
FUN COMPETITION

GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE

4.00PM

And Classes for the Children Include:

HAPPY FACES BISCUITS* *A VEGETABLE OR FRUIT ANIMAL
AN ORIGINAL LEGO/KNEX (OR SIMILAR) MODEL

*See page oppo-
Entry Details*

site for Full



For Sale

Hotpoint TD54P Tumble Dryer Polar White sensor drying
8 months old as new still in warranty. £150 I can deliver it, locally.
Best price available new £199 delivered
Phone Gregg 01638 743891

Corby Trouser Press mahogany finish unused gift
£50 Phone 741876

Cat Found

Found: a large male black and white cat with collar. Phone 741876

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

8 July 2004

Trevor Jones has resigned the Chairmanship of the P.C. on account of his imminent departure from the village. So the meeting's first act was to elect a new Chairman. Mr. John Covill was elected as chairman; so Trevor vacated the chair and John Covill moved to the end of table and presided; and Trevor took his place at the side of the table. Trevor thanked the members of the P.C. for their help and support over the years, and hoped that John would enjoy the same support from the group.



A matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting was a Housing Association's plan for 'Affordable Housing in Lower End'. The proposed sale of land by Dencora to the Housing Association for this development had fallen through, to the disappointment of the Housing Association and of all concerned.

An item for discussion was 'Public Lighting Maintenance agreement', with the company Alfred McAlpine. The contractor's charge is to be increased and will become £500 p.a. plus VAT. This caused people to ask, 'What do they DO? Replace dead light bulbs?' Karen promised to look in to the job, and when we had a proper job-description, we would find out whether there is any other company willing and able to take on the task. We felt sure that there was someone out there who would be prepared to change a street-lighting bulb for less than £500 per year.

We discussed the Village pound which is said to need some TLC. The County Council's Conservation Officer has left, and his successor Rosie Burton is not yet in office; but in the meantime somebody is going to discover exactly what needs to be done to the place.

The Burwell Tigers Football club is hoping to use our recreation ground as their football field, and with the help of the land-agent Bidwells had come up with an outline proposal. It involved a car-parking area and a pavilion. These were discussed, mainly in relation to the nearby sewage works.

Coopers Lane and the Barrier, now broken, were discussed at length. Mr. Redhead, who was present, undertook to make a temporary repair to the barrier. It was agreed that Cooper's Lane was available for vehicles ONLY as far as the barrier, which is close to the cemetery gate. The rest of Cooper's Lane is a County Council footpath. Karen is pressing the C.C. over maintenance and repair of the barrier but they are dithering.

There was much more. For instance we elected Mrs. Kent-Phillips as the Village Representative to the School's Governing Body. At times, Trevor muttered into his beard and Mr. Hardiment murmured wordlessly at the table. And after a few moments of silence, the Chairman would say; 'Now let us turn to Item 8'. From this, I deduced that the mutters and murmurs had produced a decision, and had determined what we were doing about Item 7. But I had not the least idea about *what* we had decided or *what* we would do. When the Chairman is really on top of the job, and has run himself in, he will be able to insist that speakers will face the Chair and address it at all times.



PASSION!

On Monday 30 August at 7.30 pm the concert **"PASSION!"** will be performed in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral. It will be an exploration of *The Passion of Christ in Music & Paintings*.

Featuring **Cambridge Voices** and **The Orchestra of the Age of Reason**, the programme includes highlights from **Handel's Messiah**, **Sir John Taverner's Song of Athene**, and the world premiere of *Passion*. This piece has been specifically created for this concert by

Ian de Massini, inspired by the four large-scale paintings hanging in the Lady Chapel by the internationally acclaimed artist **Thomas Newbolt**. The bold imagery and profusion of colour of the paintings, framed by the luminous stonework of the Lady Chapel, bring to life the ancient legends and the vivid symbolism of the Early Church.

Why don't you indulge in a passionate evening of ancient and modern choral music, rich in undertones, suffused with the mysticism of incense and plainsong.

Last year's concert was a sell-out so please book in advance to ensure your seats. £10/£8 (concessions).

Advance tickets from: ADeC Box Office, Babylon Gallery, Waterside, Ely (01353 616991, www.adec.org.uk) or from Ely Cathedral.

Leisure? Skip it!

What is this life if, losing grip
You haven't time to till your skip?
No time to see, when strangers pass
How sneakily they throw in glass?
No time at all to stand and stare
As someone heaves in a large armchair?
No time to see, in broad daylight
A sideboard go in, - by Hepplewhite?
No time to feign you cannot see
Your neighbours deposit an old settee?
No time to wait, and watch a man
Transfer the contents of his van?
No time to wake, look out and find
Your clearout plan was undermined?
A poor life this, if, losing grip
You have no space left in your skip!

Ophir.

After W.H.Davies.

Jazz On a Summer's Evening (Sat 12 June)



The orchestra plays ...



... as the audience listen attentively in *The Red Lion* garden, disturbed only by the occasional passing drink. And a great time is had by all.

RAFFLE

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Macmillan
cancer relief

Come and join us for coffee and friendly chat
in aid of a very good cause at

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The Oaks, Manor Farm Court
Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Friday
24th September
10.30 am – 12.00 noon



Swaffham Prior's own Restoration Secret Fosters Mill



Concert

A big thank you to all those who supported our Sail Restoration Appeal launch on the 26th June. We certainly raised the roof in St Cyriac's with over 45 singers and 30 orchestra members making music singing Mozart's Requiem. We raised over £500.00 for the appeal on the night with further donations pledged. We would particularly like to thank the members of the Ladies Circle who provided the choir with much needed refreshments in the Baptist Chapel. With £29,000.00 to go, we need all the help we can get. If you would like to find out how you can help, please do not hesitate to contact us. There will be further events over the coming year, so watch this space!

Past Millers of Swaffham Prior

At The Red Lion, Sunday 15th August from 7.30pm. Do you remember people with the following names? Foster, Frisby, Howard, Galley, Stanton-Miles, Sheldrick, Lee, Danby? The estate of the Foster family who owned the mill from 1896 to 1970 have recently gifted Deed documents dating from 1720 to 1895. Many Swaffham Prior families are mentioned. By kind permission of Dave and Lorraine, these documents will be on display in the Red Lion along with old photos of the mill dating back to around 1895 on the above date. If you are interested in local history, why not come along? If you have similar historic documents - why not bring them along too?

Mill Open

The mill will be open on Sunday 15th August from 2pm to 5.30pm.

Jonathan Cook
01638 741009

FROM A POND NEAR YOU

SITINGS HAVE BEEN SEEN BY THE 9 YEAR OLD SAFFRA MONTEIRO AND THE WITNESS CLAIRE CROSS FIELD. THEY HAVE SEEN A STRANGE SITING OF A LONG WATER SNAKE SLITHERING OVER THE LILY PADS AND THEN DOWN TO THE DEEP! SAFFRA TOLD US THAT SHE SAW A LONG SLIMY THING WITH A BIG HEAD AND SHARP TEETH. THEN SHE FOUND OUT FROM HER FATHER THAT IT WAS A POND SNAKE. SAFFRA TELLS US IT LOOKED LIKE A MINI VERSION OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER. THE MONTEIRO FAMILY ARE TRYING TO CATCH THIS THING - WELL, THAT'S HOW I PUT IT !!!

BY SAFFRA MONTEIRO, GREENHEAD ROAD.

The Village School Summer Fête (or a Day at the Races)



Who appears the most
times?



Joanna Debenham BA(hons)

Soprano

Teacher of Singing, Music Theory and Piano

A graduate of the University of Huddersfield's excellent music department, Joanna specialised in singing and teaches it to all levels. Classically trained, she is equally at home with Musical Theatre and Classical techniques and pays particular attention to sound vocal production.

Singing at weddings also a speciality.

Telephone 01638 603142

Down on the Farm

When I was a lot younger, the coming of the Midsummer Fair to Cambridge was always a time of wonder and excitement with all the lights, candyfloss and the rides, but now I view the whole event totally differently.

Down the Fen road, where the fields are looking their best whether from the blue of the linseed or just the one of many shades of green, the scene has been totally defaced by the arrival, in advance of the Fair, of white transit vans, caravans, piles of rubbish and other items discarded by our travelling community.

On their arrival I always pay a visit and politely inquire as to how long they intend to stop and to request that they do not leave any mess. In the vast majority of cases I am wasting my breath. When will ratepayers demand that the council make the perpetrators of these acts pay for the clearing up operations after they have gone? We suffer the eyesore and inconvenience to (and sometimes safety of) our horse riders, cyclists and walkers; don't hurt our pockets as well.

Enough moaning, farming continues with the crops looking promising thanks to the rain we have had in the last week or so. I try not to make predictions about good or bad harvests, but this year I will be able to see precisely how each field has done because my new combine harvester, a Claas 580, will tell me, with the assistance of those clever satellites in the sky!

The combine knows where it is in the field down to the nearest five meters and with this information and onboard scales it will give a yield map of the field. If one part of the field is then vastly different from another part, we can look for reasons and try to address them. Causes can be due to a number of factors, such as compaction, weed pressure or nutrient variation, the latter of which would hopefully be overcome using the technology I described in last month's issue with variable fertiliser applications.

As most of you who are keen gardeners will have noticed, there is a tremendous amount of insect life about this year. Some of this is beneficial to our farming methods, such as the bumblebee and the ladybird, but others, like the orange blossom midge and aphid are not. Flies however, do not affect the crops we grow, but they have been giving the cattle a lot of stress.

A plan of action was needed and with all the farm staff assembled we decided what to do. With the cattle in two batches, cows with their calves and a field of maiden heifers (young cows), we needed to round up each group separately. We started with the cows and calves; four of us, one on a quad bike, and achieved the task in a



*Happy farm cows after being fly sprayed
(and all in the right place!)*

reasonable time. Once they were in the corral we needed to move them into a race so one of us could pour on the fly repellent, that will hopefully last them for the rest of the summer. All was going well until disaster one struck, well a cow struck me to be more precise, flattening me on the concrete!

Not to be discouraged, we carried on with the job, which was completed in due course. After a quick cuppa we moved to the field of heifers. Ed, the stockman went with one of the other men to get the cattle to move towards the corral area and yes, not our day, disaster two; heifers in a hurry charged, instead of towards the corral, to the far boundary, a river, and swam to our neighbour's field to join his cattle.

We raced round the three mile track to reach the other field to separate the cattle and retrieve ours, only to find a locked gate. An apologetic phone call was made to our neighbour with assurances that we would sort it out the following day. With the gate now open we made a temporary corral with gates and trailers so as we could round them up, load them up and take them home, unfortunately they didn't seem to share our master plan and ran us ragged. Much cursing and yet another plan was hatched – bribery with cattle cake!

After ten days of eating cake, Ed managed to “get them” all bar three. At the time of writing there are still three in the wrong field, I have a plaster cast on my left arm for the fractured wrist incurred from the impact of being flattened by a cow and the grain stores are still not clean. Ho hum!

James Willmott

BACH'S GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

On Sunday 12 September St. Cyriac's Church will take part in the Heritage Open Days celebration which has been organised by The Civic Trust and English Heritage to illustrate the range of the nation's historic buildings.

Starting at 5.30 pm and ending exactly one hour later **Ian de Massini** will play the complete Goldberg Variations in St. Cyriac's Church..

These Variations constitute one of the great masterpieces of Baroque music and represent the summit of Bach's keyboard writing. In the view of Michael Ignatieff, the music's “deep inner serenity is impossible to describe and will be felt by every listener differently. It is the calm of a music utterly sure of itself, at home within the heart of musical invention, certain that this source of beauty will never run dry.”

In the perfect acoustic setting and serene atmosphere of St. Cyriac's and with the masterly Ian de Massini on the keys the evening will be a musical treat not to be missed.

Tickets are £3.00 at the door

Those aged sixteen and under are free

***GIVE IT A TRY - FOR JUST ONE HOUR
RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP***

Ely Museum

August & September 2004

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 7th August 10.30am - 4pm

'Roman Life in Britain' with Venta Icenorum

Become a Roman for the day and see what they ate, how they slept and what they wore in battle! A fun day for all the family.

Normal Admission charges apply.

Bank Holiday Weekend Sat 28th, Sun 29th, Mon 30th Aug 10.30am - 5pm
Sizzling Summer Trail

See if you can find the objects around the Museum in this summer sun trail - suitable for children of all ages. Normal admission charges apply.

Saturday 11th September

Heritage Open Day

Come along for a **Free** guided tour of the Museum in its fantastic 13th century building, Free admission to Museum.

Telephone 01353 666655 for further details and booking.

Saturday 18th September 10.30am - 4pm

Ask the Archaeologist

Bring your objects along for Chris Montague, County Finds Liaison Officer to identify.

Saturday 25th September 2-3pm

Pickwick's Ely Scrapbook Talk by Mike Petty.

A most entertaining look at the hardships of life in the Ely area in the 1830's as described by Samuel Pickwick in his "Fenland Scrapbook" from 1838.

Admission £1.50-non-members £1.00 members.

THURLOW FAYRE

Sunday 5th September from 1pm onwards
at Thurlow Sportsground, Great Thurlow, near Haverhill

Includes Car Boot from 11am

Surf to www.thurlowfayre.org.uk for more details

Adults £1.50; OAPs and under-16s 50p; under-5s free; free car parking

A family-focused village fayre with a strong countryside theme.
Fun for the whole family

Burwell History Society

Our programme for 2004-5 begins on Wednesday 15 September, at 7.30 p.m. at Burwell Village College. Bill Wittering will speak on 'King's Cross to Cambridge' - be assured that it's not just for railway anoraks!

Meetings of the Society are held monthly. Membership is £12 per annum; visitors are welcome to attend at £2 per meeting. Please let me know if you would like a programme in advance.

Jane Bulleid (tel. 743517)

THE FAMILY LINK SERVICE NEEDS MORE CARERS



Cambridgeshire
County Council

As you may know, the Family Link Service offers family-based respite care to disabled children. All the children live at home with their parents, but sometimes the parents need a break so we are looking for people who could welcome a child into their home for one weekend a month, or a few hours a week.

We have many more children waiting for Link care than we have carers to provide this service. We are hoping that, through the *Crier*, you may be able to help us to get the message across to as many people as possible.

Staff members would be very happy to come to speak to village groups about the Family Link Service in the hope of further raising public awareness of this valuable service. If you need any more information, please telephone 01223 718433 and ask for the Family Link Service. Thanking you in anticipation of your help.

Jane Taylor

Link Social Worker



The Friends of Burwell Museum

Barn Dance

Saturday 2 October 2004

7.30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell

Dancing to live Ceilidh band!

Entry by ticket only: £10, to include ploughman's meal.

Bring your own drinks.

Tickets from Burwell Post Office or
phone Jane on 01638 611515



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- *Do you put off those necessary jobs because you are afraid of the costs?*

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perhaps...

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- If you are disabled and/or over 60 you are eligible
- The Handy Person Service is NOT run for profit.
- We will charge £5.00 per hour for labour
- You can supply the materials or we can order them from our suppliers on your behalf and charge them to you.

- The jobs should be small, as a guide, no more than half a day's work
- We may prioritise more urgent jobs if demand is high
- If in doubt please ring and enquire



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- ✓ Lock fitting/replacement
- ✓ Fit loose/dangerous/squeaky floor boards
- ✓ Fitting grab rails and stair rails

Plumbing

- ✓ Replace tap washers
- ✓ Seal baths and sinks
- ✓ Adjust/replace ball cock
- ✓ Add lever taps to modern taps

Building

- ✓ Minor repointing/plastering
- ✓ Gutter repairs (stepladder height only)
- ✓ Repairs to steps
- ✓ Replace window pane/door glass

Minor Electrical

- ✓ Fitting/refitting plugs
- ✓ Replacing fuses
- ✓ Changing light bulbs

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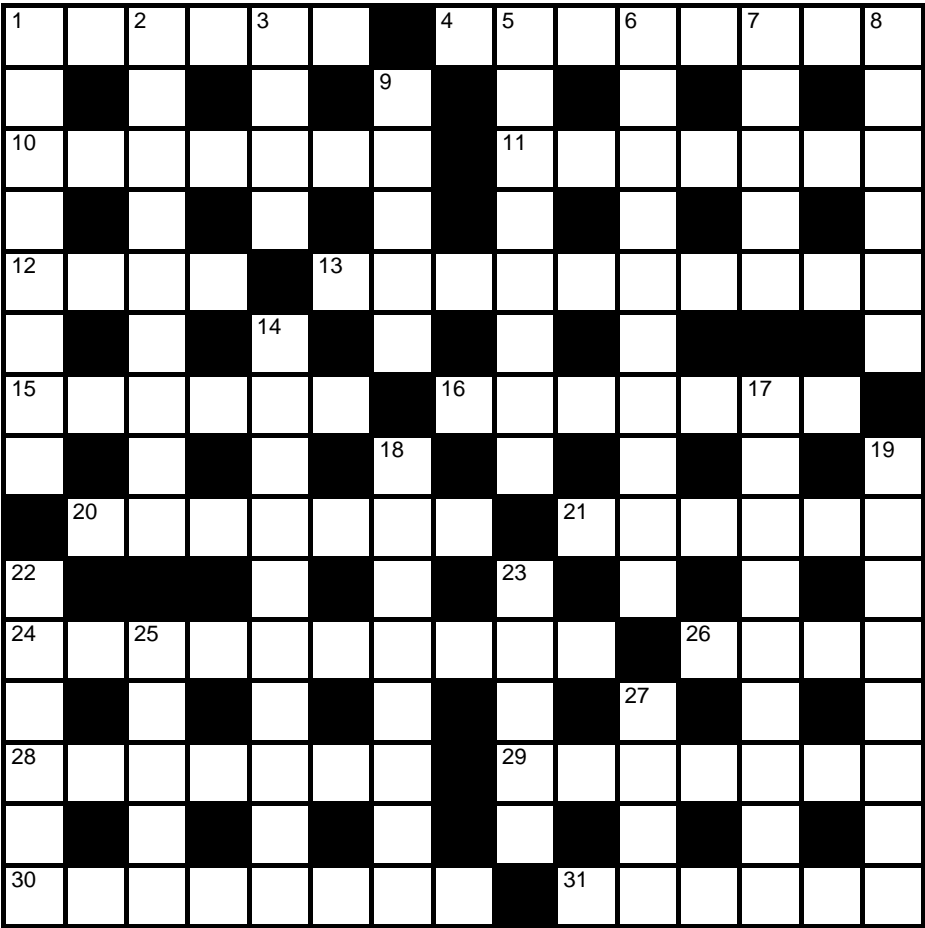
North Street, Burwell, CAMBS, CB5 0BB

Crossword Number 14

Sponsored by ~~The~~ Red Lion

Compiled by
NIBOR

You should have no problems with this month’s crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th September 2004. 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.



Name:.....
Address.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Stagger from vehicle even after midwives leave (6)
- 4 Stronghold constructed at speed (8)
- 10 Shopping mart decoration reveals artistic style (3,4)
- 11 Soldier, John Wayne perhaps, obtains nuclear device (7)
- 12 Can point produce prong? (4)
- 13 See lead cat become confused and weaken (2-8)
- 15 Tremble to think where the bees go in the extremes of summer (6)
- 16 Too young an age to play with the lions maybe (7)
- 20 Abdominal opening ring leader Capone made (7)
- 21 Sterilise bovine uterus contents (6)
- 24 Distressed barn weasel is accountable (10)
- 26 Stitch up of American lawyer by English sailors (4)
- 28 Desire for large gin sling (7)
- 29 Bestial movements? No, just a motionless statue (7)
- 30 Diana's flower catastrophe (8)
- 31 Stroke nurses up to a point (6)

Down

- 1 Rebuke if one's in pure surroundings (8)
- 2 Remembering vet in tree fiasco (9)
- 3 Level with the first lady going to the North Pole (4)
- 5 Confusing Socratic symmetric composition (8)
- 6 Social occasions for eccentric milliners? (3-7)
- 7 Bit part actor displays old art form (5)

- 8 Nullify instruction to put roundabout in thoroughfare (6)
- 9 Wandering negro is doomed (5)
- 14 Tea chest is adapted for a study of beauty (10)
- 17 Throw out old jazz style; middlemen follow it (9)
- 18 Lecture earnestly but hear a gun go off (8)
- 19 Royalty at home to Conservative leader when the media are about (8)
- 22 Sent the French girl around (6)
- 23 Luxurious and hard headed (5)
- 25 Sun is returning to passageway (5)
- 27 Father, father, father! (4)

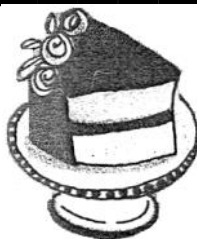
Solution to crossword no. 13

	S																		
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We congratulate **Yasmin Sultan**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Tansy Budd, Marlene Harris, J. Harrison, Dee Noyes, Robert and Julie Nunn, Jo and Andy Pumfrey, June Readhead, Hilary Sage and Shirley Wilkins.

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A VERY GOOD TIME TO CELEBRATE

What do the following people have in common? -- Charlie Chaplain, Orson Welles, John Gielgud, Enoch Powell, Frank Harris, Sigmund Freud, Derek Jacobi, Mark Rylance, Mark Twain, Henry James, Daphne du Maurier, Lord Palmerston, John Bright, John Galsworthy, Vladimir Nabokov, John Greenleaf Whittier, Walt Whitman and John Buchan. What is it that links such a mixed collection of people?

Do I hear a groan? Do you think they all doubt whether the Stratford Shakespeare wrote the plays? Well, you're right. They do.

The only reason for mentioning this is that recently there have been many modest meetings and celebrations throughout the world commemorating the 400th anniversary of the death on 24th June 1604 of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford. This is the person some people maintain is the most probable person to have written Shakespeare's plays. *The Independent* reported the event and for balance asked the views of a Stratfordian. They selected the eminent Shakespearian critic and scholar, Professor Anne Barton, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. She was quite forthright - "I think it is absolute rubbish. There are all kinds of problems with this. We do have poems that are authenticated as his [De Vere's] and they are **not very good**."

The Professor had spoken and this ought to have been the end of the matter. And yet, Oxford's contemporaries had very different views. Therefore it would not be fair to allow the Professor to close down any discussion in such a rash way.

For a start try the following:

1) In 1578 Gabriel Harvey (also a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge and therefore worth listening to) addressed Oxford, in the presence of the Queen, "*English poetical measures have been sung by thee long enough... how greatly thou does excel in letters. I have seen many Latin verses of thine, yea, even more English verses are extant. . .*" etc.

Yet the Professor says that Oxford is "not very good".

2) In 1589, in *The Arte of English Poesie*, George Puttenham wrote: "***I know many noble gentlemen in the Court have written commendably, and suppressed it again, or else suffered it to be published without their names to it... of which number is first that noble gentleman Edward Earl of Oxford.***"

Yet the Professor says that Oxford is "not very good".

3) In 1622 Henry Peacham wrote a book on Education and in the chapter on Poetry he calls the reign of Queen Elisabeth "*a golden age, for such a world of refined wits and excellent spirits it produced whose like are hardly to be hoped for in any succeeding age*". He then lists those "*who honoured poesie with their pen and practice*"; **putting "Edward Earl of Oxford" in first place.**

Yet the Professor says that Oxford is "not very good". No doubt she also considers Peacham a buffoon because he fails to mention Shakespeare at all (just one year before publication of the First Folio). Mind you no-one mentioned or mourned Shakespeare's death in 1616.

Later in the interview we discover from whence the Professor is coming. She says "*It's like the attempt to attribute Shakespeare's plays to Francis Bacon. Like that one, this is a product of snobbery [is this really a scholar's comment?], that a*

Stratford grammar school boy could not have written the plays, and I'm thoroughly fed up with it." [probably accompanied by a small stamp of the foot]. Is it true that she thinks that all those creative and eminent people listed above are just snobs? Surely this ought not to be. But it is not only the non-believers who find difficulty with the apparent blinkered viewpoint of the Eng. Lit. Oxbridge. Michael Wood, author of the four part TV series *In Search of Shakespeare*, has his own criticism. In a lecture at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington last year he maintained that the Bard we know is essentially a product of the "British Literary Establishment" with the "persistent feature of keeping the biographical account separate from the history of the time." He quoted Peter Brooke who insists "biography does not matter"... "history simply does not matter." Wood also quoted Germaine Greer who said "history is irrelevant in view of the Bard's universality." He was amazed at this "persistent avoidance of history or historical facts."

I am amazed that Wood (who is a Stratfordian) is amazed, because as soon as any authorship questions become too pressing the Stratfordians revert to "the play's the thing", "authorship doesn't matter", and a final thrust might be that the less we know about the writer the better we can appreciate the plays!

But there is a twist in the tail. At the same lecture Michael Wood (a mediaeval historian from Oxford University) revealed that the famous historian Simon Schama, hearing that Wood's next film project was a biography of Shakespeare, said **"I would not touch that. There is no evidence you know."** Wood was aware of this and decided to take what he described as a "Gothic approach". I have no idea what he means by this. But he did proceed to make up an awful lot to fill out the programmes.

One final comment. Not only did the world not notice Shakespeare's death but his alleged gravestone in the chancel of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford does not even have a name. We cannot even be sure that it's him down there. Go and have a look. Stratfordians are completely unconcerned about this and just say it doesn't matter.

Alastair Everitt



VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had two very enjoyable evenings out in June and July. One was to Clare College gardens, which turned out to be a "do it yourself" tour, as our guide had seemingly mixed up his diary dates. We were all surprised at what treasures are hidden away behind the college, between the Cam and Queens Road.

Dr Peter Grubb, following our earlier talk, took us along the Devil's Dyke amongst the profusion of plants and flowers that are there in July. I think we all came away knowing more about the how, why, where and what of plants on this chalk grassland. However it still seems that amongst the groups interested in the Dyke, botanists, archaeologists and conservationists, the sheep are still the happiest!

Our next meeting is in September when we shall be thinking about autumn in the garden.

Margaret Joyce



WI Notes

Unfortunately Rev. D. Reindorp was unable to come and talk to the W.I. in June. However Anne Bullman very kindly stepped in at short notice and gave us a very interesting talk on 'Crafts'.

Anne holds craft workshops for the W.I. and has attended courses at Denman College. She brought along many examples of her work, which included covered boxes, parchment craft, ribbon craft, machine heirloom sewing, decorative cards and a patchwork quilt. There was a beautiful cushion cover made entirely of ribbons and a picture of flowers, all of these also made of ribbons. The heirloom was a lovely white tablecloth with lace insertions. Some of us felt we'd like to 'have a go', some of us felt inadequate and some of us felt downright lazy!

The July coach trip to Colchester was most enjoyable. Some of us saw the castle and gardens, some did the museums and some of us didn't get further than the shops. However a good time was had by all and even the rain kept off till it was time to go home. Thank you Betty Fox once again for a most successful day.

By the time you read this we shall have been 'Junketing at Jean's' for our summer party and hopefully enjoying our usual fine warm weather.

On 16th August Alan Maskell will be talking on the 'Life and books of Beatrix Potter', and on 20th September we shall be off again to visit the BBC in Cambridge, so we've plenty to look forward to. Our President Pat Airy, 742728, or Secretary Margaret Phillips, 741495, will be pleased to give you more information if you'd like to join us.

Betty Prime

The Open Garden - 11th July

In spite of unseasonable weather, nearly 30 people turned up to see Frank and June Readhead's garden. We were all surprised to see the difference from last year when it was in the planning stage. The growth in one year was incredible, tall bamboos, trees and flowering shrubs.

Thanks to June and Frank, the proceeds of £45 will be donated to St Mary's Fabric Fund. Next year Village Open Gardens may be a month earlier (before holiday time!), the tentative date being 19th June, so please make a note now, we would welcome gardens of **all** sizes.

Kate Child



CHILDMINDER VACANCIES

Swaffham Prior based childminder has vacancies for all ages from July. OFSTED inspected and qualified.

Please contact Sandra on 742091 for more details.

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 members and 3 members of the Public.

Following receipt of Mr Trevor Jones' resignation as Chairman, Mr J Covill was proposed and elected as the new Chairman of the Parish Council. Mr Jones will continue as a Parish Councillor.

Minutes of last meeting: These were agreed.

CCC Report: There was no report this month.

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancy: This vacancy still remains. *Anyone considering becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk for further information.*

Matters Arising (for information only)

Affordable Housing, Lower End: A letter was received from Flagship Housing informing the P.C. that the landowners of the Lower End field had pulled out of the sale of the land at "the eleventh hour" and the building of the 8 proposed units could not now go ahead.

Accounts for 2003/2004 for approval: These were agreed subject to audit.

Public Lighting Maintenance Agreement (Alfred McAlpine) – increased charges. The increase in charges due from October 2004 was considered excessive and the Clerk will look into alternative companies to provide this service.

Village Representative for School Governing Body: Mrs Anita Lang of Tothill Road was put forward as the representative for the village.

The Village Pound – maintenance: It was reported to the P.C. at the June meeting that repairs are needed to the Pound. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain two quotes for the work needed and then seek further advice from the ECDC Conservation Officer with reference to possible grant aid.

Play Area – inspection of new play equipment: The cost to inspect the new equipment was considered too high at just below £200. The Clerk confirmed verbally with the installers of the equipment that the work was carried out to all the relevant British & European standards. The meeting asked that the Clerk request written confirmation of this.

Play Area – annual inspection report: Recommendations made in this report were considered further. The area inside the gate is to be resurfaced.

Recreation Ground – outline proposal from Burwell Tigers Football Club:

Rough outline sketches were shown to the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk sent the details/sketches to Mr H Hurrell for his comments and/or approval of the scheme. Mr Hurrell's agents replied on his behalf confirming his support for the scheme with some provisos which were discussed and will be actioned in the coming weeks.

Coopers Lane – barrier: Following the reported damage to the barrier at the June meeting, the Clerk contacted John Cooper of CCC to request that a stronger replacement be installed. John Cooper is looking into this and is hopeful that the work can be agreed upon.

Correspondence Received: This was reported.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: There were no applications this month.

Any Other Business:

New interactive sign – Lower End: This should now be in place.

Speed Watch Scheme: The completed questionnaires for the scheme had been returned to CCC for consideration. The speed boxes will again be put up in the village to collect post-scheme data.

Fly-tipping, Green Head Road: This has been dealt with by ECDC/Cleanaway.

Open Question Time:

Mr Frank Readhead further clarified the works needed to repair The Pound. He also noted the condition of the Fire Engine asking if renovation could be considered.

It was reported that the wall at The Beeches continues to be in a poor state.

Hereward Housing will again be asked to deal with this as a matter of urgency.

Overhanging vegetation on footpaths was reported. *Please could everyone who has a footpath running alongside their property boundary ensure that all vegetation is kept cut back.*

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 01638 742358. Email: karen.king5@btopenworld.com



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor

In last month's article I summarized part of the 2003/4 Report which I gave to your Annual Parish Meeting. For reasons of space I left over the last part which was mainly about Environment, Transport, Fire and Rescue and smaller matters.

I'll now complete that record, starting with **Environmental matters**. The good news is that river water and air quality have been checked and found to be "good". Let's hope that continues to improve as more and more effort is put into reducing carbon dioxide emissions which have risen throughout the country in three out of the last four years.

For the last six months I have been serving on a small group of councillors looking into the effects of **climate change**. Our report is due out soon and I will tell you about some of our findings in future magazine articles. At this stage all that needs to be said is that our world climate is changing far faster than anyone foresaw just a few years ago.

Still on environmental matters, the county is facing long term problems related to

where to put **rubbish** collected by the District Councils. Holes in the ground are rapidly filling despite heroic efforts to find new ones acceptable to those living nearby, and a great and successful effort to expand **recycling**. Cambridgeshire's record on recycling is good, and we are aiming to reach Government imposed severe targets. Locally, our big challenge is what to do when **Milton landfill** is finished.

Last year's progress on **roads** cleared the way for the changes you will have noticed lately. The **Fordham by-pass** is now being constructed (finished next summer) and at last the missing **cycleway link** between the Swaffhams is nearing completion. I wish more cyclists would use our cycle paths and at the same time wear protective/reflective clothing.

Other changes completed last year or in view include the resurfacing of the "washboard" **fen road from Swaffham Prior to Upware** (caused by last year's hot summer weather). The **Longmeadow to Swaffham Bulbeck** road re-alignment, the new **junction of Bell Road, Bottisham with the A1303**, the new **traffic calming** measures on all three of Burwell's main roads should all help to reduce speed and hence accidents.

Road problems still unsolved include **Reach/Prior railway bridge**, the missing **cycleway link** from Anglesea Abbey to Quv roundabout and **speeding** along internal Burwell village roads of North Street and Toyse Lane. **Park and Ride** at Newmarket Road continues to flourish and has, along with the other circle of sites, reduced car congestion in Cambridge central area.

Lastly, our **Fire and Rescue (CFR)** service continues to protect us from fire and to pick up the pieces after road accidents. We get their services for a very small expense, as you will have noticed from the combined **Council Tax demand** where the CFR has now split away from the County and is independent like the Police. Big changes, consequent on the coming redevelopment plans at Huntingdon HQ and Cambridge Parkside do not seem to threaten our two **local fire stations** at Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell. I hope they will be left alone for the present.

James Fitch

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Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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



Church of England Services August 2004

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 1	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 8	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 15	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 22	11:00am Matins [†]	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 29	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

[†] Book of Common Prayer

For September see over ...

September 2004

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 5	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 12	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 19	11:00am Holy Communion 6:00pm Sung Evensong	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 26	11:00am Matins [†]	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Harvest Festival

St. Mary's P.C.C.

We are hoping to compile a "Village Information" leaflet letting newcomers become aware of organisations and details of many aspects of village life. To this end, I am hoping for volunteers from strategic points in the village to alert us to newcomers, visiting needs and so on. Could you kindly let Brenda Wilson know of details you would like to see included in the leaflet? And myself, if you would be happy to alert us to newcomers in your patch? (742850) Thank you.

Our Harvest Supper will be held on October 9. Do come. At least, put it in your diary. Harvest Thanksgiving service will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday October 10. You would be very welcome.

Church Opening Rota

Can I thank everyone involved, who kindly make time to open and shut our two Churches. There are ten people, so not too time consuming, but very appreciated. If anyone would like to join the rota, they would be really welcome. We each take a week and with the number of people involved, reorganizing your slot is quite easy. Perhaps you could telephone me if interested, 742850.

Tricia Harrison

Dear Friends,

Just at the moment I seem to be talking about little else but harvest, as the five parishes of the Anglesey Group of parishes start to lay plans for their Harvest Festival celebrations. During August the farmers will be labouring hard to gather the harvest safely in, and, despite all the modernising and building that is taking place in our countryside, it seems to me that farming still dominates the lovely landscape in which we live. I have made it very clear to all my five Parochial Church Councils that I would very much like to see all my parishes regard Harvest Festival as being a truly village occasion, designed to include as wide a cross-section of the people of each village as possible.

Frank Topping has written a marvellous prayer about Harvest which looks at the its meaning from a slightly different perspective from that with which we usually approach the festival:

Lord, your harvest is the harvest of love;
love sown in the hearts of people;
love that spreads out
like the branches of a great tree
covering all who shelter;
love that inspires and recreates;
love that is planted in the weak and weary,
the sick and the dying.
The harvest of your love is the life that reaches
through the weeds of sin and death
to the sunlight of resurrection.
Lord, nurture my days with your love,
water my soul with the dew of forgiveness,
that the harvest of my life may be your joy.

That wonderful prayer speaks of the true meaning of a Christian community, a community where all are united under a common bond of fellowship, love and care for our neighbour. I have always felt that traditional village Harvest Festivals express that true meaning in the happiness and togetherness of a shared harvest meal and a Church celebration.

We had a very happy and pleasurable time praying for the harvest in our Rogation Sunday services on the farms, so let us now all make a resolution to take time this September/October to join together to celebrate and to thank God for the harvest, and as we do so, to share together in love and fellowship.

Look out for details of your Church's Harvest celebration in this magazine.

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary - August 2004

Sun	1	
Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sun	15	Foster's Mill Open Day, 2:30-5:00pm and at the Red Lion, 7:30pm
Mon	16	WI, 'Life and Books of Beatrix Potter', Alan Maskell
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Mon	30	Passion!, Cambridge Voices concert at Ely Cathedral, 7:30pm
Tues	31	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

September 2004

Wed	1	
Thu	2	Village School Term starts
Sun	5	Thurlow Fayre, Great Thurlow, 1pm onwards
Wed	8	Staine Hundred, BVC
Sat	11	Harvest Show, Village Hall, 3:00pm (setting up 9:00-11:30am)
Sun	12	Bach's Goldberg Variations, St Cyriac's, 5:30pm
Tue	14	Crier Copy Deadline Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	15	Burwell History Society, Burwell Village College, 7:30pm
Mon	20	WI visit to BBC Cambridge
Tue	21	Village Gardeners, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Fri	24	Coffee Morning, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, 10:30am
Tues	28	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	30	