



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 2

February 2004



Editorial

The *Crier* needs a photographer! Or more to the point, a *photographic editor* — someone who will make sure that official village events (and not-so-official as maybe!) are covered by a photographer because *we now have the technology*, if not the management skills. Yes, the *Crier* Eds have long since acknowledged their limitations in the latter department and are increasingly supported by so-far unacknowledged sub-editors (front-cover, crossword). Now we are actively seeking another so please let us know if you would be interested..

If you have sat through interminable episodes of things you'd normally rather die than watch (ie. *Eastenders*) only to see a quarter of a second of a flying foot that definitely belongs to your child, then you will know all about *Whizz Kids*. Reported before in this magazine, *Whizz Kids* is a success story born of our own village. Expertly managed by ex-SP teacher Chrissie Davies and manned by many an SP junior, it recruits and supplies child-extras to an increasing number of film and television productions as well as launching its own productions on the Edinburgh and London stage. In February, it will producing *Guys and Dolls* (see p. 10) at the Mumford Theatre and if their previous Merchant of Venice definitely-best-Portia-ever production (not mentioning the *S* word, of course! No, the *Letters* page has done that) is anything to go by, will be well worth the trip to town.

Meanwhile there is our own local *Godspell* to contend with, now recruiting for an August production (**NB. Change of Date**) — get applying now — and if you'd rather your dramatic talents and narrative after-dinner-speech prowess were confined to a more select audience, there's the forthcoming Moveable Feast to sign up to.

Many interesting articles in this month's magazine, including some Dark Powers Hockey from Tony Bowers and a moving tribute to Aggie Warren from Sandra Butcher. Many thanks to Ivy Jackson and Anon for their recent donations, and remember THE JUMBLE SALE *now* and not too late like the Eds, who always acquire yet more jumble and get rid of absolutely none. See you Quizzing!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: The Hockey Match by Honoré Daumier

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Dencora Field etc

Thank you to Mr Jones for clarifying the situation regarding Dencora Field and to Mr Everitt for his zeal in providing a handy reference guide to discussions re Dencora Field in 2003 for those who feel the need to hoard and re-read old *Criers* on dark winter nights. I will also put Mr Everitt's advertisement about Boxing Day in my new calendar. It's too early to say what I'll be doing, as December is a bit of a way off yet.

I wonder if it is helpful to say that the posting of an agenda on a village notice-board does not necessarily mean we are all fully informed of what is going on? Getting there is not always easy for everyone - 23 attenders on 15 May does not sound to me like everyone in the village who would want to have some say. Both that date and June 26 last year were up against key exam board deadline dates for me and prevented my being there; for some, work or family in any case often takes up evenings; some have less leisure to circulate in the village and talk to others about and comprehend the significance of the issues on the agenda; we as parents of small children certainly cannot always easily get a babysitter so, much as we would like to, attendance at a local meeting can not be guaranteed. The notes in the subsequent *Criers* did not fully explain the situation, but Mr Jones has now kindly cleared up one point at least.

I note that in any case the village notice board is also not deemed entirely adequate to keep people informed of what is coming up, as there is a practice by some of posting notices on telegraph poles. There appears to be a practice also by others of removing them as the rather fraught repeat black-bordered exclamation-marked notice in the last *Crier* bewailed again. This reminded me of the law of Physics that states that for each action there is an equal and opposite reaction, but I suspect Physics is not the primary cause in this case. I'm just wondering, but — where I used to live, we always avoided putting notices on telegraph poles as they were BT property and notices would be removed by the company. Er... could it just be that BT is asserting its rights here and the *Crier* notices are quite in vain?

I note lastly that either Mr Everitt is up to mischief again or his memory lets him down and he must go through his back copies of the *Crier* one more time. The entire premise of our extended dialogue some time ago re Shakespeare was: if I had any doubts who wrote those plays - which I don't much, as things stand - I do not share his doubts. Mine if I had them would be quite different.

I think that about sums it up. I will beware the Ides of the March *Crier*, but if the ghost of this one attempts to walk again, it can take a hike.

Mark Lewlnski

PS Since he has suggested it, could a project be set up whereby Mr Everitt could be set to work to scan all his old *Criers* into a computer, put them on line then compile crosswords from them?

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
7.30 pm ❖ Saturday

21st FEBRUARY 2004

Tickets: £5 each ❖ To book a table contact

Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ❖ Raffle
Bring your own drinks

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

The Moveable Feast on Saturday 3rd April, 2004

The Moveable Feast is a thoroughly enjoyable evening. If you have not been to one before you may wonder what it is so I will explain. There are about 30 of us altogether and each course happens in a different house. As it is not often possible to accommodate 30 sitting down in one room we have tended to split the second course. The first and last course can usually be enjoyed perched on chairs or stairs or even standing! However, it is rather more comfortable to sit at the table for the main course. If you have the space to seat eight people or more and would like to host this course please do get in touch with me. If you cannot host a course but would like to come there will be more details in next month's Crier but in the meantime make sure you put the date in your diary!

Ruth Scovil
(Tel. no. 743720)

SOS - Treasure Hunt

Is there anyone out there who would enjoy helping to organise a car treasure hunt around Swaffham Prior? It is proposed to hold this event sometime at the end of May, beginning of June, to help to raise money for St Mary's Church. Previous experience is not essential, I have some guidelines. It could be fun!

Kate Child
743983

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting **MONEY!**

Likewise, Finance! Budget! All these boring but necessary words reverberated around the Village Hall on the evening of 8th January., the first PC meeting of the year 2004. A visitor from another country or another planet, who sat in on this meeting, would surmise that local government at all levels in Britain was running straight into bankruptcy. If the parish asked for money from the District, or the District from the County —or (doubtless) the County from the Government, the answer would come back: 'They haven't got as much money as we haven't got.' But the questions were not only: *please may we have a larger grant?* though this was one complaint *'If you want us to do this additional job, we must have more money to do it with.'* Sometimes the question was: 'What about that additional grant you promised us last August?' Or 'How can we draw up a budget for the 2003-04 financial year when we don't know how much money we are to get until half-way through the year?' It is odd how everybody else makes a muddle, or causes delay, but never US. Life's like that.



When it came to a purely internal parish-pump matter, grass-cutting, the questions were not so much job-related: 'Is it being done well? Where is it to be

done? How many cuts per year? Will the same contractor do it?' By then, we were all so finance orientated that we asked: 'How much did we budget for this last year? How much have we already paid-out? Is there any more left in the kitty for this year?' But on the subject of grass, it was noted that the recreation-ground/playing-field has been cut, and now we want people to go and play on it. (Perhaps we should put up goal posts, to show the world what the field it is meant-for).

When it came to Real Money, we were quite generous and open-handed. Clerk's salary-and-expenses went through without delay. So did a donation of £50 to Bottisham Village College, which needs local-interest-financial-support as backing for its request to become a special-status-school for the Humanities. The minimal discussion on this point made me long to ask what exactly the Humanities *are*, besides geography and citizenship. Another minor financial matter was a grant from a horse-owning individual who has given us a small donation in respect of the use of the cemetery tap-and-hosepipe for her horse-trough. When Trevor was asked how this little payment should be recorded he said firmly 'On the INCOME side of he balance-sheet'. Good to know that money moves in as well as out.

It was noted that a forestry contractor is about to attend to the cutting or pruning or trimming of some trees overhanging the Village Hall car park. Andrew was asked to supervise the work if possible when the tree cutter comes, to make sure that the right one is felled; Andrew would be sure to know his whitebeam from his beech.

Roads featured during the meeting to a small extent. Though the Fordham by-pass is due to be started within the next half year, the existing road, the A142 between Newmarket and Ely is so badly worn that major road-works will be undertaken during 2004. So portions will be coned-off, with single-lane working and consequent delays for most of the current year: allow an extra half-hour, if driving that way to Ely.

Margaret Stanier

St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham
Saturday 6th March 7.30pm

Music in Lent

Joanna Debenham (soprano) **Simon Clulow** (alto)
David Warham (organ)

Organised by St Peter's with the support of the FoSPF

Unreserved Tickets **£5** [Concessions **£4**] from:

Artists' Corner, Ely * Soham Books
Discus Music, Newmarket * D N Jenkins, Fordham

MRS AGNES WARREN

As many of you will know Mrs Warren my next door neighbour passed away on 27th December. For the past 20 odd years since she lost her husband I have looked after her and for the first time ever I spent Christmas away from home and returned to hear the sad news. She was 95 years old and had lived in Rogers Road almost all her married life. I feel very sad I was not here to say goodbye to her so this is just a little tribute to a very special little lady. She was a quiet, shy person who loved her garden and spent every day she possibly could tending to her flower beds etc. As time went by she obviously could not cope with her garden and I know she would get very upset that she was not able to do this.

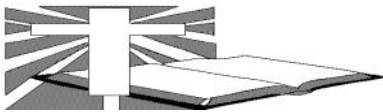
I remember as a child when 1st May arrived, many of us girls in the village would dress our dolls up in shoe boxes and decorate them with flowers to take around the village. (This was a May Day Tradition for many years). I also knew where I could get my flowers from and each year I would visit Aggie and she would let me pick as many flowers as I wanted to make my doll look extra special. That is one of the many memories I will have of her.

When she lost her beloved husband Wally I became more of a friend than a neighbour and although she had a daughter Norma, son-in-law and grandchildren (who all lived in Cambridge) I think she felt rather safe having me next door to check on her. Sadly she lost Norma two years ago and this gave me more reason to take care of her.

I knew she was taken into hospital just before Christmas but having had a holiday planned in the USA I was hoping that I would be able to visit her on my return.

Sadly I never got to see her and that is something I wish I could change, but that is not possible. So Aggie may you rest in peace now and I know you will be busy looking after the flower beds in heaven.

Sandra Butcher



Zion Baptist Chapel

There are still no definite developments regarding the future of the Chapel. It is a very difficult time for the members, some who have been worshipping there all their lives and we hope you will understand that we have to make the right decisions.

Meanwhile, even though there are no regular services, the building is still a place of worship and is available for funerals, weddings, meetings, etc. and we apologise if this has not been made clear. Enquiries should be made to me on 742641.

We will let you know as soon as there are any developments.

Ruth Stinton
Chapel Secretary



GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

**IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 6th March at 2.30PM**

We require jumble, nearly new items, toys,
clothes, bric-a-brac, books - in fact, anything saleable

Items can be collected by or left with:

Elaine Malster, 28 Fairview Grove (743894)

Trevor Jones, Sheldrick's Cottage, Lower End (741197)

Alastair Everitt, Anglesey House, 59 High Street (742974)

Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall
on Saturday 6th March 10.00am-12.00 Noon

We would very much appreciate your help

Enjoy singing?

Want to do something different - and not have to travel miles to do it?

Come and Sing 'Stainer's Crucifixion'

Bottisham Church is holding a choral workshop at the church on Saturday, 27th March 2004 from 10.00am until the performance at 7.30pm (with plenty of refreshment breaks in between).

We shall be singing Stainer's 'Crucifixion' as a preparation for Easter but it is fun to sing and, under the expert tuition of Roger Bond we shall be ready to perform it before an audience that evening. An enthusiasm for singing is the basic requirement but we hope that more experienced singers will join us also for a truly wonderful sound.

Don't be shy, come and surprise yourself. We need to engage an organist and soloists, so don't delay. It will be useful to have some idea of potential numbers. Please give me a call on 01223 812432 and I will be delighted to send you an application form and give you further information. To cover our expenses and, hopefully, raise some money for the Church Fabric Fund a charge of £8.00 per person will be required (concessions will be available).

Looking forward to seeing you there ...

Lynda Ibbitt
01223 812432

HOCKEY NOTES



Christmas Eve, only six hockey players, and I'm trying not to panic. Drop in to The Red Lion to try to scoop up some unsuspecting innocent. Lorraine and Dave were there and saved the day. "We'll play" they both said, "and we'll get you others." On the morning of the match Lorraine arrived with a car load of hunky flesh, announced she was not playing herself but had brought along three big blokes who she reckoned were just about equal to one of her. Another trooper was Catie Whiteley who carelessly asked how many players I had. "Not many" I told her and asked if she'd like to play. "My goodness" she chuckled, "you must be really desperate, but if it helps I will."

The spectators were great and the collection for Magpas made £68.40, to which was added the £62 from The Red Lion Swear Box. A generous gesture. No-one will tell me whether the £62 came from swearing during one day, one week or one month. Just to underline the need for Magpas, the Doctor's son was knocked out in the last quarter. Everyone was terribly worried until that unfailing cure was offered - mouth to mouth resuscitation. At its first mention David Towriss jumped to his feet. The final score was an honourable 0-0 draw just in case no-one reports this small detail.

Alastair Everitt

GLAD HOBBITS DIE HARD

If eating cheese before retiring can lead to nightmares, maybe Christmas pudding with brandy sauce produces hallucinations? How else to explain the apparent transformation of a harmless, Boxing Day hockey match into a veritable phantasmagoria? However hard I strived to cling to reality illusions remained.

Could this muddled stretch of tussocky grass be part of Middle Earth? Surely not, and yet it might at least be called the Middle Ground between two communities prepared for conflict this raw, December morning: a neutral arena marked by militant flags which fluttered in the near-freezing air. As for the folk, were these the hobbits of the Prior, short of stature, bravely apprehensive and teamed perhaps with elves and dwarfs against Ah yes, against whom or what? Might it be the host of Bulbeck, certainly a name to conjure up visions of the Dark Powers of Mordor or the garrison of Isengard. Who could say, in the midst of all this unreality, which among such a motley was the orc-ward squad?

Soon the teams were drawn up in line of battle, and walking between them, a figure of indisputable gravitas, a man with flowing locks, and, what would one say, the miasma of a magician. It must be Gandalf, the Gray, though he seemed to have exchanged his staff for a wizard's whistle to control the threatening hordes. Each man from the smallest to the tallest was armed, and all now swung their mattocks in anticipation against an imagined foe. Then, upon closer examination, I saw not all were men. Here and there among the hollow-cheeked males and stripling boys, were sprinkled elfin maids and dames of more doubtful origin; all as eager for the fray as

the menfolk.

We heard the whistle shrill a thin, piercing, ghostly note; and then, just as a warrior from either side came to face each other in the space between the hostile ranks, Gandalf suddenly threw down an object which excited great and immediate interest among the waiting protagonists. It resembled a stone, a small and perfect sphere, stark white on the dark earth. Was this a palantir? Was it perhaps the Ithil-stone itself, or the stone of Orthanc with the power to see backwards and forwards into the past and the future? If so, no wonder these creatures had been brought together, and not just from the Swaffhams but other parts of Middle Earth. Now indeed I could discern the strangers, though whether volunteers or mercenaries who could tell?

Before there was further time to ponder whether the insignificant ball was indeed one of the Seven Stones, a furious fight over it was underway, and as the struggle surged back and forth, the mystery deepened. There were Men among these Elves, Dwarfs and Hobbits: which then was Aragorn or Boromir? (no, surely Boromir was already slain for my fantasy post-dated *The Two Towers*). And which of several desperate characters was the Dark Lord of Mordor, and who, perhaps, Saruman of Isengard? Could that be Aragorn, shorn of his locks, at the heart of the Priors' defence; and yes, it was possible, was it not, that the man in black, prominent in the ranks of Bulbeck, was the Dark Lord, unless indeed each and every hero and villain was disguised? Who, for example, was the fellow in the cloth helmet, long coat and strange leggings forever kicking away the stone: and, among the Priors, an even stranger figure, a fantastical creature of pink fur who wore leggings like his Bulbeck counterpart and, like him, kicked at the stone, defending his flags with careless, unrelenting zeal?

I was faced by another, even greater, conundrum. No one can doubt the power of the palantir (no one that is who has read the books, seen the video, worn the T shirt). Why then this paradox? Every hobbit, orc, elf, man, woman on the field was seemingly hell bent, or should I say Mount Doom bent, on laying hold of the wretched ball, but only so as to be able to hit it, as quickly as possible, either to a comrade or else deep into enemy territory. Either way, more often than not, there developed such a melee, it was miraculous that every lower limb on the field was not broken or worse. Perhaps the power of the stone was so awesome no created thing could bear even to be near it for more than a few moments.

The battle for the ball went on for what seemed like the better part of the morning without any discernible result and, it must be said, little diminution in determination or expense of energy. The Bulbeckian troops occasionally launched a dangerous foray into Prior ground, more than once almost causing pink fur to fly; but for the most part the Priors held the advantage. Time and again it seemed the defences must be breached, but at every attempt either the coup de grace was never delivered, the strike was wild or the strange be-capped, bespectacled figure stuck out a stick or a leg to save the day. How they lacked the deadly aim of Aragorn. Perhaps he was absent after all; or perhaps he was double-visioned from the previous day's carouse.

Throughout the strenuous stalemate, Gandalf (was it indeed he?) could be seen to wander about, at times waving his arms for some incomprehensible reason, at others blowing a plaintive note on his magic whistle. This sound, for the most part only recognised by some of the contestants and sundry dogs, brought the conflict to an occasional halt whereupon the ball, if it were not the palantir after all, was given, arbitrarily it seemed, to one or other side to strike at will. At other times, the whistle seemed to signal a rest when both little armies huddled among themselves, discussing the progress of the battle, planning tactics, bringing on reluctant reserves, or sucking oranges. Eventually, Gandalf's wizard's whistle blew its final, grateful blast.

As the fantasy began to fade, and reality returned over a pint or two of real ale, I wondered where was the Ring Bearer in all this? Where was Frodo? Had he stayed at home warm and snug in his hobbit house; or had the crafty little fellow been watching proceedings all the time while wearing the ring and so been invisible? I looked around the pub at familiar faces, hockey players, just hockey players, and yet, was that not Gandalf holding court at the bar? I shook my head in disbelief. Surfeit of turkey, surfeit of Tolkien!

Tony Bowers

Whizz Kids Theatre Company present

Guys and Dolls

a musical fable of Broadway based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon
music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

Wednesday 18th - Saturday 21st February, 7.30pm

Matinées Friday & Saturday, 2.30pm

At the Mumford Theatre, APU, off East Road, Cambridge

<http://www.apu.ac.uk/mumfordtheatre/>

One of the world's favourite musicals, groundbreaking in its time, Guys and Dolls is given an exciting and radical new lease of life by Whizz Kids Theatre Company. Populated by a motley crew of eccentrics, non-conformists, salvationists, gamblers, night-club entertainers, and various categories of "jerks", this fable of Broadway is musical comedy at its best.

Set on Broadway in the 40s this stylistically animated re-working combines a kaleidoscope of dance styles: hot latin, high camp chorus line, aggressive urban and breakdancing with athletic physical theatre and the very best of music in a whirlwind of love, gambling and salvation.

Adelaide's Lament, I've Never Been in Love Before and Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat have become some of Broadway's funniest, most romantic and best-known show tunes.

Tickets: £10.00 (£8.00 concessions)

GODSPELL - New Dates

At last we have definite, definite dates for our children's summer project. We start rehearsing on Monday August 23rd and our last performance will be on Sunday September 5th.

Jenny Webb and Hilary Sage realise that there will be a one day school overlap but we will work round this and can only apologise if the previously-announced dates made you alter your holiday dates. You know what actors' lives are like when it comes to working commitments a long time in advance, but these dates are definite and we do hope that anyone between 8 and 18 who is interested in this exciting and potentially life-changing project will leave these two weeks free for us.

More news soon or ring me on 01638 742978.

Hilary Sage

Ely Museum

Spring 2004

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 14th February

10.30am-12.30am & 2pm-4pm

Valentines day Children's Event

Make Valentines gifts for family and friends.

For children aged 7-11 years. Tickets £1.00 Prior booking essential.

Booking contact 01353 666655.

Friday 20th February

9.45am - 1pm

Ely Mardi Gras

Come and join the Carnival activities at Ely Museum, Ely Cathedral and the Stained Glass Museum.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets £3.00 per child Prior booking essential.

Booking-contact 01353 659668

Saturday 13th March

Living in the 1070's

Experience Anglo Saxons, Vikings and Normans from the time of Hereward the Wake with **Grantanbrycg Living History group**.

Normal admission charges apply

**Find Ely Museum on the corner
of Market Street and Lynn Road
in the centre of Ely.**

Ely Museum, The Old Gaol, Market Street, ELY Tel:01353 666655

SEASONED LOGS

FULL or HALF LOADS SUPPLIED

DELIVERED LOCALLY

TREE SURGERY & HEDGE CUTTING

01223 812625



Christmas Holly

Once again we are indebted to Elisabeth and Alastair Everitt for organising, cutting and selling the Christmas Holly in aid of the Church Flower Fund. It really was a bumper year for berries and the grand total raised was £148 which will be shared between the Flower Fund and St. Mary's Church.

Many thanks to Elisabeth and Alastair for all their hard work and to you, the customers, for purchasing the holly.

Ruth Scovil

Girl to sleep-over or 'au pair' wanted

81 year old lady who is having a bit of trouble with her memory needs a sensible non-smoking girl to help her cook supper and breakfast and to work the washing machine. Could be one night, a few days at a time, or permanent. Main duties are from dusk or 6pm (whichever is earlier) to 9pm, 5 nights a week, and an hour in the morning between 7am and 9am. Own room, all meals and at least £15 per day paid.

Phone John Bryant on 01223 515759. If no reply after ringing 3 times between 9-10am or 7-9pm, then try 01638 741440 and ask for John.

Crier Corrections

Microsoft's ever so helpful spelling corrector seems to have taken an unwelcome interest in a mention of the Gay Bulleid award and corrected Bulleid to Bullied. Apologies!



Reach & Swaffham Prior Community Network

The community broadband project serving the village now has its own Web pages describing what's available, what it costs, and so on. For further details, see www.rasp.org.uk

CAMTAD



Cambridge Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness

Registered Charity
No. 278155

FREE VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSE

A six-week training course for volunteers to help the hearing impaired starts on Monday 22nd March 2004. It will run one morning a week on various mornings.

CAMTAD, Cambridge Campaign for tackling acquired deafness, runs hearing help sessions where volunteers clean, check and re-tube NHS hearing aids and advise on regular maintenance and best listening conditions. They also loan out equipment. They can help with hearing doorbells, telephone, television and household alarms. Training courses cover such subjects as the ear, types and causes of deafness, NHS hearing aids, procedures for assessment, communication methods and so on. If you are interested in the training course or would like to discuss it further please phone or fax Sue Hempstead on 01223 416141 or write to her at 8A Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH. We welcome hearing impaired volunteers on the course and a loop system is provided.

Training is compulsory for our volunteers but there is no obligation to volunteer at the end of the course. Most of our volunteers help at monthly sessions but many help in other ways.

We are most grateful for your co-operation. We are a small charity with limited means and depend on our volunteers to exist.

HEARING HELP SESSIONS FOR THE YEAR 2004

BURWELL DAY CENTRE

ASHGROVE, PARSONAGE CLOSE

Sessions are held in Burwell on the third Tuesday of every month from 9.15am to 11.45am, ie 20 Jan, 17 Feb, 16 Mar, 20 Apr, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 Aug, 21 Sept, 19 Oct, 16 Nov, 14 Dec (2nd Tues). We do not do hearing tests but batteries for hearing aids issued from Addenbrooke's Hospital are now available at the sessions.

. No appointments are necessary

Music in the Church

A programme of twelve concerts at St James' Church, Lode

Friday 5 March 2004, 7.30p.m.	David Bass: String quartet
Friday 2 April 2004, 7.30p.m.	Peter Britton and Margaret Copestock: Piano duet
Friday 7 May 2004, 7.30p.m.	Amadeus Boldwicket Red Hot Peppers Jazz Band
Friday 4 June 2004, 7.30p.m.	Helen-Louise Baker: Flute and guitar
Friday 2 July 2004, 7.30p.m.	Jane Hawking & Jonathan Hellyer Jones: Soprano and organ
Friday 6 August 2004, 7.30p.m.	Organ recital
Friday 3 September 2004, 7.30p.m.	Cambridge Camerata Wind Quintet
Friday 1 October 2004, 7.30p.m.	musicians from Cambridge University
Friday 5 November 2004, 7.30p.m.	Jack Henson Pop Group
Friday 3 December 2004, 7.30p.m.	musicians from Cambridge University
Friday 7 January 2005, 7.30p.m.	Baroque Group
Friday 4 February 2005, 7.30p.m.	Magdalen College Choir

Tickets:

£8 for one concert

£50 season ticket for the 12 concerts

Tickets from:

Post Office, Lode

**The Barn, Station Court, Lode
or telephone 813070**

Special event: Jazz in the Farm

Saturday 26 June 2004, 7.30p.m.

Amadeus Boldwicket Red Hot Peppers Jazz Band
at Station Farm, Lode



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

East Cambridgeshire and Fenland **NHS**
Primary Care Trust



**'Heart Beat' health walks
Information Evening
at the
Cathedral Centre, Ely
Thursday 22nd January
7-9pm**

(Tea and coffee will be provided)

The 'Heart Beat' health walks are short
(30-40minutes) brisk walks in and around
your local area to improve your health.

The walks are led by trained volunteers and the
information evening is an invitation to anyone who
would like to register as a leader or walker.

**The first led walk in Ely will be
Tuesday 24th February 2pm**

**Healthy Lifestyle Team
01353 654219/ 654208**



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.

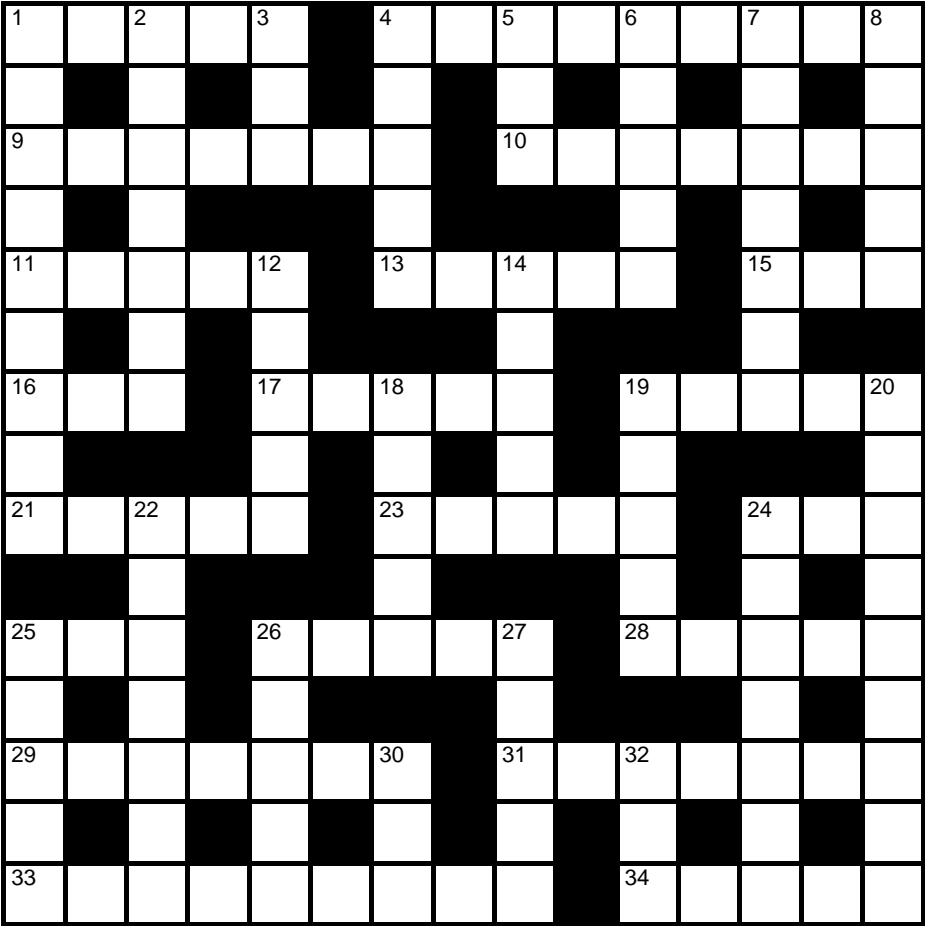
Singing at weddings also a speciality.

Telephone 01638 603142

Crossword Number 8
Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
NIBOR

We have a straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month so no problems there then. Send your answers to the editors by 14th February 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 Carriages bring some back to head of state (5)

4 EEC lasses are confused but constant (9)

9 Begin before the French cause alarm (7)

10 Radio wave from warship (7)

11 Eats cold chops (5)

13 Reptile is in the drink around mid-morning (5)

15 Secure a draw (3)

16 Miss Irene includes a man (3)

17 Picture that is about small publication (5)

19 Herb is a credit to oriental saints (5)

21 First of September can mean dark fur appears (5)

23 One step from street music (5)

24 Mad ape needs food (3)

25 Solicit bishop for example (3)

26 Part of the act was witnessed, we hear (5)

28 Coarser gentlemen hold this material (5)

29 What a good sailor has becomes ageless (3-4)

31 Manage small picture in the undergrowth (7)

33 Divide broken Easter egg (9)

34 Incentive to get on in public transport (5)

Down

1 Legal action may result from boxes of exam papers (4,5)

2 A friend stands before old city just for fun (7)

3 Hard to find dramatic location (3)

4 Old rebel joins ship but it's only a game (5)

5 Bend causes car crash (3)

6 Strange nest is reported (5)

7 Initially, every person in Scotland tries learning every letter (7)

8 Rush forward to hear 28 speaking (5)

12 Polish part of leg bearing (5)

14 A near disaster in the stadium (5)

18 Part of church? I'll say! (5)

19 Sound centre might be diplomatic (5)

20 Lacking form, she lapses terribly (9)

22 Beginning with an enormous hit (3,4)

24 Section of coastal town I get on (7)

25 Foundation for degree obtained by senior nurse (5)

26 First person for instance enters south eastern blockade (5)

27 Host of letters spelt out (5)

30 Well within Regent's Park (3)

32 Local radioactive element encased in lead (3)



Congratulations to Chris Carrington, **the winner of last month's crossword (and only contestant to get it right!)** who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Hilary Sage, the Nunns and J. Harrison. Apologies and belated congratulations to Dee and Andrew Noyes, **the winners of December's** crossword, and to Hilary Sage and Bob and Julie Nunn, the runners up for that month. The editors regret the strange disappearance of their names from the pages of last month's magazine.



The Swaffham Prior toddlers and babies enjoying their Christmas Party. The group meets in the village hall on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm - 4pm, everyone is welcome so please come along and join in.

Catherine Gould

News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



The last half term of the Autumn term was immensely busy. Amongst other things, children took part in Newmarket Rotary's Youth Speaks competition, played in the area tag rugby competition and learnt lots about local Winter traditions from the Tollhouse theatre visit - do you know who Turkey Smart was?

One of the highlights of the term was Prince Charles visiting Reach and all of the school going to greet him on the Green. Class Four had collectively made three scrolls detailing the history of the fair and these were presented to HRH. The Prince had a friendly manner with the children and although he may not have fitted some of their stereotyped images of a prince, it will be an occasion to remember. Our thanks to A and P travel for shuttling us all there.

Children in Need day raised over £200. Children dressed “Ready for bed or a party instead” and donated money to do so. There was also face painting at lunch time- our thanks to Brenda Wilson, a cake stall and in the evening FoSPS organised their annual beetle drive.

The end of term play was one written and produced by Jane Bower. “A Home For Christmas.” managed to incorporate all the children in parts both small and large and in addition there was a behind the scene prop and scenery club. This really was a team effort and the video provided by Mr Luttrell acts as a lovely reminder.

Thanks to members of the community who have donated PCs and printers to the school, given their time to support reading and to the WI for putting together one of the first of Story Sacks.

After saying a sad farewell to Mrs Harris and Mrs Tidman, we welcome Mrs Johnstone into Class 3. Mrs Johnstone previously taught at Cheveley School and as well as her teaching expertise, brings a background of environmental work to the school.

Joanna Lakey

Bottisham Community Library Association news

This month we have some appeals - if you can help with any of them, please phone Gerry Lockett on 811236.

First, we're looking for another committee member for the BCLA . The ideal person would be able to take over publicity for us for our fundraising and other events.

Secondly, we'd be very grateful if anyone with expertise in looking after photocopiers could volunteer to have a look at our old donated one and tell us whether we can get it to work properly without spending much money on it.

Thirdly, if anyone has any unwanted videos (perhaps ones your children have outgrown?) or books on tape that they no longer require we would be pleased to add them to the library collection if possible. Please either drop them at the library, or phone 811236 if you would like them to be collected.

And fourthly, we also have a brand new initiative: Magazines for Bottisham Community Library! Do you have a subscription to a periodical? Would others be interested in reading it? Would you be willing to donate each issue to the Library as you have finished it?

We are hoping to make a selection of magazines available for reading in the Library. These could be on gardening, cars, computers, the arts, politics, science, crafts etc. etc. If you are able to provide a regular supply of a magazine for this project then please contact: Clare Enright (01223 812248), CEnright2@aol.com.

Please note that we do not have the space or resources to receive collections of back-dated magazines.

Catherine Wightwick



WI Notes

Lat time Geoff Evans came to Swaffham Prior W.I., his subject was the life of a race-horse.

This time was completely different. He spends most of his holidays climbing mountains in Scotland with his wife, who is Scottish. They very often leave their house in the early hours of the morning, drive for an hour or so, park the car and then walk.

Some days they spend the eight to ten hours climbing the highest peaks and back to the car, and this they do in summer and winter.

Geoff always takes his caravan with him so we were able to enjoy the breath-taking scenery, snow covered mountains in winter, waterfalls in spring and summer, and magnificent sunrises and sunsets.

Our talk next month, on February 16th, will be on Alternative Medicine, given by Dr Koenig.

Betty Prime



STAINED HUNDRED

The January Meeting of the Staine Hundred was very well attended to hear John Durrant speak about his slides of Old and New Cambridge Part II. He dealt mainly with the Regent Street, Hills Road, Mill Road, East Road areas and much interest was evident as he compared the same scene from the turn of the 19th

Century up to the present time, some of the buildings being demolished more than once in the course of the century. Many of us looked nostalgically at shops, cinemas, and underground toilets which have long since disappeared!

The evening had its share of unintentional humour as John dropped one magazine of slides on the floor before he started, then his own recently purchased projector refused to function and slides had to be changed back to the Staine Hundred projector which in turn unexpectedly threw a magazine of slides on to the floor when it reached the end! When this happened for a second time at 9.20pm, it was decided to call it a day and ask John back to give Cambridge Old and New Part 3. Nevertheless everyone had an enjoyable evening and learned some new facts about the history of 20th Century Cambridge.

For Sale MIRROR SAILING DINGHY M37558

Fair condition, suit starter (individual or family). Complete with wooden hull, metal mast, spars, sails, oars, launching wheels and car-top Mirror rack.

£200 ono

01638 742560



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The subject of our January meeting, given by Richard Todd, Head Gardener at Anglesea Abbey for the last 30 years, was 'The Pleasures of the Winter Garden'. He took us on a splendid "photo" walk through the garden, which was developed to commemorate the centenary of the birth of the present Lord Fairhaven's father, who bought the Abbey along with its 98 acres, in the 1930s.

It is now in its sixth season (measuring 450 metres by 30/40 metres long it ranks as one of the largest winter gardens in the country) and is maintained by six full-time gardeners and 18 volunteers (more needed!). Six years ago, as Richard Todd said, it was a 'blank canvas'. Alongside the lovely serpentine path was laid 100 tons of well rotted leaves in which were planted between three and four thousand plants.

He was very proud of the fact that the Abbey now recycle 90% of their green waste, which helps to provide the 3-4,000 tons of mulch that is put on the garden annually. The results of this amazing hard work are there now of course in all their glory: fabulous colour combinations and perfumes that should not be missed; a surprise around every bend in the path - Dogwoods, Acers, Birches, Hazels, Honeysuckles, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops (140 varieties), cyclamen and hellebores to mention just a few.

I thought it might be of interest to readers to see our programme up until October 2004. We think the variety of talks and visits will be stimulating and enjoyable.

Tuesday 17 th February	Flora of the Devil's Ditch	Peter Grubb
Tuesday 16 th March	Three Ottoman gardens of Istanbul	John Drake
Tuesday 20 th April	Spring Bulbs	Janet Hall
Saturday 22 nd May	Visit to KEW GARDENS	
Tuesday 29 th June	Visit to Clare College Gardens	Steve Elstrub
Tuesday 13 th July	Walk on the Devil's Ditch	Peter Grubb
Tuesday 21 st September	Autumn in the garden	Andrew Harper Scott
Tuesday October 19 th	AGM and Entertainment!	

All indoor meetings start at 8.00pm at the Village Hall

Details of summer visits to be published later.

Specially note the visit to Kew, to which we hope as many of you as possible will be able to come. Please contact Roger Connan on 742182, or myself on 744390, if you are interested in coming or about any other dates.

"OPEN GARDENS" in the village is also on our agenda this year. It will be on Sunday July 11th (Wimbledon being well and truly over!) If there is anyone in the village who'd like to volunteer to have their garden open, we'd be very pleased to hear from them. Gardens large or small, wild or formal, mature or in the early planning stage, will all add variety to what is always a great day. We of course also have on the list---cream teas, a large plant stall and sunshine!

Margaret Joyce

New Online Sports Club Directory Launched!

SportsDec is a comprehensive site bringing you a wide variety of leisure and recreational opportunities in East Cambridgeshire. East Cambs District Council in partnership with SportsDeC have launched the latest addition to the site - an online sports directory.

The directory is available via a link from the homepage on their website at **www.sportsdec.org.uk** and provides a comprehensive database of local sports clubs for residents in and around East Cambs.

Information about The Phoenix Project - an exercise referral scheme involving GP's and health professionals - can also be accessed from the homepage on the SportsDeC website.

For further information about the sports club directory of The Phoenix Project, please contact Chris Fennell on 01353 616382.

Reach Fair - Parking and Access Arrangements

This year's Reach Fair will be held on 5th May. As the fair continues to be well attended, the Fair Committee has decided to repeat the park and ride system operated over the last two years, with parking provided on the large field in Rogers Road owned by Stockbourne Management Ltd. The arrangements continue to be supported by the Police Authority and seem to have significantly reduced traffic congestion in both Burwell and Swaffham Prior and the approach roads to Reach, despite the increased number of visitors.

The Fair Committee has applied to Cambridgeshire County Council for a temporary road closure order between 11.00am and 6.00pm on 5th May. The closed sections of road are detailed below. Alternative diversion routes will be sign posted from the B1102 through Swaffham Prior to Upware and on Swaffham Prior Fen through Swaffham Prior to Burwell. Stewards will control the road closure points during the closure period.

Schedule of Proposed Road Closure 11.00hrs to 18.00hrs

- 4) Fair Green, Reach along its entire length (but allowing access between Great Lane, Reach and Chapel Lane, Reach).
- 5) Burwell Road, Reach from its junction with Fair Green, Reach to its junction with Weirs Drove, Burwell
- 6) Swaffham Road, Reach from its junction with Fair Green, Reach to its junction with Rogers Road, Swaffham Prior

If you have any questions about the closure order please contact any member of the Fair Committee or come along to one of the meetings on 9th and 16th April. We still need volunteers to act as stewards and help sell programmes in the car park so you will be very welcome. We hope you enjoy the Fair.

Andrew Hall
Reach Fair Treasurer



Would you like to cut your fuel bills and keep warmer, as well as help the environment? If so, you will find our 'Stay Warm Surgeries' useful. For people who live in private accommodation, whether you own your home or rent it, we can help you find discounts on insulation materials and in some cases help you get grants towards the costs of insulating your home. Anyone can come to the surgeries and you will be given a free energy efficient light bulb (which can save you up to £10 on your annual electricity bill) and asked to fill out a home energy check about the insulation in your home. Our Home Energy Conservation Officer will then use this home energy check to help you find ways to save on your fuel bills and to keep warm. Unfortunately, these grants and discounts are not available to Housing Association tenants.

I shall be joining Ian Bowers, our Home Energy Conservation Officer, at the Stay Warm Surgery in Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Wednesday 11th February from 3.00-6.00pm. Care & Repair will also be there to discuss whether they can help with low cost installation of heating in your home. For young families, there will be a competition for primary school children with an energy saving prize for their home. If you can't come then, but would like energy saving advice, please ring Ian Bowers on 01353 616251.

Healthy Living East Cambridgeshire has launched a dedicated Stop Smoking Service. Experience of people who have given up smoking is that you are four times more likely to succeed if you are helped by a Stop Smoking Service. If you want to give up smoking contact your local Surgery or ring 0800 018 4304 and you will get help to quit. After just 24 hours of not smoking your body will be free of carbon monoxide and your lungs will start to clear the debris caused by smoking. After 5 years you will have halved the risk of heart attack compared to a smoker. If you want to find out what else Healthy Living East Cambridgeshire can do for you visit their stand at Ely Market on Thursday 19th February.

The Government is transferring responsibility for licensing pubs and clubs to sell alcohol from Magistrates Courts to district councils. We are supposed to take on this responsibility from July this year. In deciding whether or not to issue a license we will have to consider the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. We are still waiting for guidance from the Government. Once we have this guidance, we will consult locally and draft our Licensing Policy Statement.

Charlotte Cane



With little going on at Shire Hall over the last month, we remain in limbo regarding Council Tax. It seems that the Government could not make up its mind over how much grant to give to local councils, Since my last newsletter Grant has been increased, in our case, by £1–2M which will help to keep down the Tax or save a service cut.

Anyway, you all have a chance to take part in public consultations to query the County's intention to spend around £450M on its services - primarily schools, transport network and caring for elderly and vulnerable children.

As I have warned you before, the Leader and Cabinet still want to peg the County's increase to 6% (88p / week for average households). However, there will still have to be cuts to many services to match funds arising from Government, business rates and the Council Tax proposal mentioned above.

The public consultation will also allow you to air your views on alternative Council Tax of 8% and 10%. If a clear majority of opinion chose one of these two higher figures in order to save some of the services cuts, then the Cabinet has "pledged" to listen and amend its plans.

So, the options are:

- CT increase of 6% (88p. / week average household). Result schools in Cambs £2m short of what is needed and £3m cuts to other services.
- CT increase 8% (£1.17 / week average household). This would raise additional £3m all of which would go to schools.
- CT increase 10% (£1.46 / week average household). This would raise a further £3m, half of which would go to schools and the other towards improving levels of care and highway maintenance. Some other cuts would still be necessary.

A leaflet explaining all these matters has been sent to your parish council clerk as well as other community groups (e.g. Hereward Housing) and schools. A telephone survey of about 700 individuals will be carried out.

The Council leaders will attend as follows:

13 Jan. public at Shire Hall 7.30pm

17 Jan. public at Cambridge Central Library 2- 4 pm

22 Jan. public at Ely Library 5.30 – 7pm

I shall mention all this to parish Councils during this month when I attend their meetings.

James Fitch

CAR PARKING AT VILLAGE HALL

The car park will be closed all day on Friday 13th February to allow for 2 trees to be removed and others pruned; this will enable cars to be parked closer to them.

Andrew Camps

Notes from the Parish Council January Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 4 members and 2 members of the Public.

Reports:

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

BVC – request for donation: A letter was received from the Warden of Bottisham Village College asking for a donation towards the costs incurred in becoming a “Specialist School” with a focus on humanities. The College needs to raise £50,000 in order to attract Government funding of £500,000. A donation of £50 was agreed.

Use of Recreation Ground: The problem of mole hills was reported to the meeting. Advice is to be sought on how to deal with this.

Grasscutting 2005/05 – tenders received: These were discussed and it was agreed to investigate further before any decision is made.

Final Confirmation of Precept for 2004/05: It was agreed to defer to February’s meeting any decision until the above item is decided.

Vehicular Access – Coopers Lane: The Clerk wrote to CCC Highways to ask for clarification of this lane. A reply was received noting that this was a matter for John Cooper of the Countryside Services Team and as such had been referred to him. A response from John Cooper is awaited. The Clerk will chase.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: No applications were received this month.

Planning Approvals:

Allotment Plot, Mill Hill – *erection of wooden shelter.*

St Mary’s Vicarage, Green Head Road – *single storey extension, conservatory, garages, two new dormer windows, minor internal and external alterations. New wall, demolition of walls, replacement window.*

Any Other Business:

The work to cut back the trees, etc., in the village car park will be carried out on the 13th February 2004.

The cemetery lawnmower is now fully repaired and is currently being stored by the Clerk.

Open Question Time: There were no questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th February 2004 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



Church of England Services

February 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
Ash Wed 22	7:30pm Holy Communion		
Sun 29	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

PASTORAL LETTER, February 2004

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

*"There is no time
Like spring
When life's alive
In everything."*

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

One of the joys of moving to a new party of England is to discover the particular joys that Mother Nature has in store for us in a new area. In this part of the country it is Snowdrops, and I love them. Snowdrops herald the first hint of Spring, and they

are a sign of hope; hope of better things to come in these dark, damp and cold days. As Thomas Hornblower Gill puts it in his lovely poem:-

*"The glory of the spring how sweet!
The newborn life how glad!
What joy the happy earth to greet,
In new, bright raiment clad!
Divine Redeemer, thee I bless;
I greet thy going forth;
I love thee in the loveliness
Of thy renewed earth."*

We all need signs of hope – hope of better days to come – especially in times of anxiety, sadness, illness and depression. As John Greenleaf Whittier puts it:

*"Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,
Through showers the sunbeams fall;
For God, who loveth all his works
Has left his hope with all!"*

Several years ago a teacher assigned to visit children in a large city hospital received a routine call requesting that she visit a particular child. She took the boy's name and room number and was told by the teacher on the other end of the line, "We're studying nouns and adverbs in his class now. I'd be grateful if you could help him with his homework so he doesn't fall behind the others."

It wasn't until the visiting teacher got outside the boy's room that she realized it was located in the hospital's burns unit. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. She felt that she couldn't just turn and walk out, so she awkwardly stammered, "I'm the hospital teacher, and your teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs."

The next morning a nurse on the burn unit asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" Before she could finish a profusion of apologies, the nurse interrupted her: "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him, but ever since you were here yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back, responding to treatment. It's as though he's decided to live."

The boy later explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw that teacher. It all changed when he came to a simple realization. With joyful tears he expressed it this way: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a dying boy, would they?"

We all need hope in our lives, and God understands that. He is always ready to send signs of hope when we need them to give us the strength and the will to carry on. May God bless you with hope when you need it – hope of better times to come.

May God bless you all,

David

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

***Dates for Your Diary* - February 2004**

Sun	1	
Mon	2	
Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	4	
Thu	5	
Fri	6	
Sat	7	
Sun	8	
Mon	9	
Tue	10	
Wed	11	
Thu	12	
Fri	13	
Sat	14	<i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI, Village Hall 7.30pm
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Village Gardeners, Village Hall, 8pm
Wed	18	
Thu	19	
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	
Mon	23	
Tue	24	
Wed	25	
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	27	
Sat	28	

Weekly Events		
Sun		11am, Boules, Village Hall Car park