



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 1

January 2004



Editorial

As we all know, Christmas is that wonderful festive season we so look forward to, when, surrounded by our loving families, we gather round the piano to dash off the odd tri-part carol, faces a-glow from the blazing log fire, gifts a-giving, trees a-twinkling, turkeys basting, chestnuts sizzling.... it was just like that in our house, of course. Unsurprisingly, we hear that our modern Christmas was all an invention of the Industrial Revolution, probably, if you ask us, a single-handed invention by one Charles Dickens who kicked his wife out of house and home so he could better enjoy the festive good-will trimmings without her getting in the way. But here's some really good tidings for next yearthe Eds hear that if you catch a flight from Heathrow on Christmas Eve, you can reach San Francisco on the same day, re-fuel, head off to New Zealand and cross the date-line just in time to *completely miss Christmas day*.

Meanwhile, it's 2004, and our Correspondence pages are already brimming with controversy. Yes, there's clearly been things brewing without us noticing, so closely have we been glued to the Christmas treadmill — sorry — gladsome preparations. Many thanks to Margaret Stanier (and the WI) for telling us about a fascinating local Tiffany connection and a belated welcome to the old new Vicarage's enthusiastic new *Ground Force* Team, Pat and Toby Stocks, who may not quite have finished for Christmas! Our new advertisers have all taken their places, welcome to them and we hope their advertisements are all in order. If you didn't know, the Crier is funded almost entirely by advertising — many thanks to them. And many thanks also for a recent and very kind donation — we need these too!

Congratulations to John Norris, this year's deserving winner of the Gay Bullied Award. Few people are aware of the great debt that Swaffham Prior owes and continues to owe to the Norris family particularly in the area of the restoration and upkeep of our two churches.

Happy 2004, everybody!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Happy New Year* by Hugh Thomson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Dencora Field

I refer to the recent letter from your correspondent, Mark Lewinski, concerning the plot of land colloquially known as Dencora Field.

Firstly, let me put the record straight. ECDC are extremely short of affordable houses for rent in their district based on both present needs and the forecasted requirements in the foreseeable future, and consequently at the beginning of the year they contacted all known landowners asking if they had any land which could be made available for this purpose. Dencora replied to this request.

Under the ECDC structure plans, affordable housing can be built on areas outside the normal development envelope in what is known as exceptional sites. Before any progress can be made the Parish Council concerned has to give their consent.

With this in mind the topic was fully explained and discussed at the Annual Village Assembly held on May 15th. This was followed up by a lengthy discussion at a specially convened Extraordinary Council Meeting on June 26th. At this meeting the Council took into account the comments made at both the Village Assembly and at this special Council Meeting and passed a resolution that the Council

“in principle agreed to the building of up to 8 dwellings of affordable housing on the site in question provided the reasons for non-development set out by the Planning Authority and reinforced by subsequent Planning Inspectors, is not affected so as to prevent any additional Open Market housing development at any time.”

If this small development goes ahead, and as yet no response has been received, the houses would not be owned by Dencora but by one of the Housing Associations such as Hereward.

Finally I should like to point out that the agendas for the Annual Village Assembly, at which any resident may speak, and for the Extraordinary Council Meeting were put on public display on the Village Notice Boards in line with the statutory requirement, as is the case with all Council Meetings. Council meetings are open to the public and always have an item during which members of the public may raise any question relevant to the agenda.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Jones

Dear Editors

Mark Lewinski's Dilemma

I was delighted to note that not only does Mr Lewinski share my doubts about the guy who wrote the plays of Shakespeare but that, like me, he also hoards old copies of the *Crier*. His letter in the December *Crier* mentions his concern that he may have missed something regarding the possible development on the Dencora field. So let me illustrate that all the information he needs has been available in the

Crier. Because of space I can only give the briefest references. No doubt Mark will apply his usual scholarly approach and if in any further doubt will be responding.

1) *Crier* May 2003. Page 9. Advert about the Annual Village Assembly. “**Everyone welcome!**” Early May: the village is widely bill posted about the above event with the topic **DENCORA** featured in huge letters. 15th May the Village Assembly is held with 23 villagers attending.

2) *Crier* June 2003. Pages 6, 7 and 8.

3) *Crier* July 2003. Page 4.

4) *Crier* August/September 2003, pages 5-6: an objective and extremely informative summary of the discussion at an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting. All living in the Dencora area should read it. On page 2 appeared an excellent and perhaps a less than objective letter from a concerned resident.

5) *Crier* October 2003. Page 2. Mark’s first letter claiming he has tried “to maintain an informed awareness about Dencora.”

But in the light of the information provided above — has he?

I hope this helps. Maybe a future crossword can be devised around this most contentious issue.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editor,

Tiffany again

I was interested to read Betty Prime’s short item in the December *Crier*, (reporting a WI talk) about the artist/craftsman Tiffany. Residents in Cambridgeshire may like to know that they may inspect an example of Tiffany’s workmanship even closer than the V & A. One of the stained-glass windows in the parish church of Kimbolton (a village about 10 miles west of Huntingdon) was designed and made by Tiffany. The window commemorates two young girls, (the daughters of the donors of the window) who died in childhood. The picture in the window shows the incident in the gospel story in which children are brought to Christ to be blessed. Two of the children standing close to the Christ figure and waiting for the blessing have the faces of the young girls who died. Kimbolton is proud of its Tiffany window: a street near the church is named ‘Tiffany Lane’.

Tiffany is not noted for his windows. Small ornamental glass objects (vases, lamps and so on) are commonly associated with his name. However I saw in USA a whole church full of Tiffany windows, in Fredericksburg, Virginia: about 10 or 12 windows showing scenes from the gospel story of Christ’s life. The only picture I now recall is of Christ joining two disciples on the road to Emmaus. All the pictures were made in subdued colours - browns and grays. There was a wealth of detail and realistic background. One had the impression that Tiffany was irked by the restrictions imposed by the medium; and would have preferred to be painting a series of large oils to show the gospel story.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Stanier

Dear Editors,

The “Old” New Vicarage

We have been in Swaffham Prior now for four months; we are enjoying the peacefulness of living in a village after being “city” people for thirty odd years. We had never really wanted to live in the city but we had our four children there and they soon became ensconced in city life, schools societies etc but we always knew that we would eventually live in a village; it just never seemed to be the right time until our youngest had finished his GCSEs.

We bought this house in July if this year it sits at the back of the churches and is indeed the “old” new vicarage. For those of you that had perhaps had meetings here or had visited you will know it was (and still is) in a pretty awful state. We have already begun work on the house and it will soon begin to feel like home. At present we are ripping out the bathrooms. They were in dreadful need of attention the floor boards needed replacing, doors needed to be replaced and moved and the sanitary wear removed to accommodate more modern showers. At the moment we are living in a building site.

We would like to tell anyone who is worried or disturbed by our renovations that we are seeking advice from a local architect and that nothing has been or will be done without the proper permissions being obtained. To the person or people who felt it necessary to inform the council of our work we would like to invite you to our home to have a look for yourselves, there is nothing happening that we would not wish you to see. We would welcome any visitors.

We had a wonderful evening at the variety performance, and were sorry we could only stay for half of the evening; our eldest son (who we also brought to the evening) had just announced his engagement half an hour before and we wanted to celebrate as a family at home.

Pat and Tony Stocks

Dear Editors

Horses and 'Planes

I have no particular view on horses, but if Mr Everitt says in his Parish notes they are harmless and wants to encourage them just five lines after providing a specific example of damage done by them, methinks I spy mischief ahoof. Or if it's his own, perhaps I mean afoot. And since at least one of my daughters is exhibiting the early symptoms of a possible future dependency upon the services of one of these four-legged lawnmowers, I will say that I happen to know that horses are capable of inflicting lasting injury to one's bank account.

Aircraft, however, are a different kettle of fish. Or possibly fowl. I am inclined to ally myself with Mr Everitt here - which will probably a) surprise him b) be a relief to some and c) be a disappointment to others. Such fragile, transient, expensive, ozone-depleting and mostly unnecessary creatures as pass over here should be allowed to fly free. If one lived within ten miles of Luton Airport where I grew up, it would probably be a not uncommon if secret dream that Santa brings you a large supply of ground-to-air missiles, the sky being lit up like a Christmas tree with

twinkling but far from silent lights for most nights of the year; the days the same except you have to read the phone number of Easyjet every few minutes as a large flying advert goes over.

Here, it is different - the US military provide that little bit of excitement and remind us that our little island has its uses for the world's only superpower as they cruise past gently in pairs in their little grey pointy F15s and F16s - a brace equates to many millions of extravagant dollars, I learned, after they flew a couple from round here into a mountain in Scotland; slowing now after some several thousand miles - generally they don't wake the children as they tend to do the macho we-are-the-greatest throttle stuff only in daylight. The proximity of the US bases keeps a lot of the downmarket commercial riffraff away, but the ones that drift gently in to be serviced in Cambridge are delightfully quiet and slow because they are always empty - they have to be, the runway being so short, or there wouldn't be much left of Sainsbury's.

The occasional twirly practice ones from Duxford are fun to watch, and the vintage flypasts of wartime aircraft are a free show and won't be there to watch forever. I know there are those high in the Imperial War Museum's administration who don't think they should be allowed to fly at all just because they are old. If so, chop 'em up for firewood, say I. Like musical instruments that exist as instruments only if played, an aircraft is an instrument to be flown. The ones that sit on the ground at Duxford are mere shells of what they once were.

As for the jockeys and the well-heeled investors in the upmarket versions of those prancing lawnmowers, flitting in and out of Newmarket from one race meeting to another, they can hardly be expected to suffer the indignities of the A14 with us hoi polloi, can they? They'd never keep up with their lifestyle and in any case, do we want our roads cluttered with the rich and famous? Prince Charles recently turned up in Reach in a solitary helicopter; but his ground-bound departure necessitated a cavalcade of motorcycles, a Jaguar, a sinister-looking dark minivan, another motorcycle and a load of flashing lights. I for one find my quiet driving thoughts seriously disturbed by blue Police lights coming up suddenly in my rear view mirror. Keep those who can afford it off the road, I say.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

Those Dear Horses

Well, actually, there is only one now, as the chestnut has been removed. But worry not, it is hoped that the remaining Dobbin will soon have a little companion.

As Margaret Stanier and I were clearing the coagulated clay and leaves left on the pavement after the burst water main near Kate Child had been repaired - as we were doing this, I spied someone with riding boots, and rushed over to speak to her so that Dr Stanier could finish off the job without me - WHICH SHE DID!

I asked the horse lady whether she was aware that her horses were the subject of village debate. Nope, she was just a friend of the horse owner. Even so she was concerned and obviously worked closely with the owner.

She knew they had to make a contribution to the Church for the water but did not know to whom to pay it. As the cost including water used and the standing charge is about £65 per annum I think they would be more than happy to make a contribution to whomsoever deserves it. As for removing the barrier, they had to do this once because the landowner stipulated that, before they put the horses in the field, the hedge running down the side of Coopers Lane had to be cut. The machinery was too high to pass the trees along the usual way to the field. Previously the PC had paid for the hedge to be cut, so this was a major saving for the village. And now, with the wonderful grasscutting of Kelley Harrington, Coopers Lane is a truly rural wonder to walk along.

As many have asked me about the fate of the horses I hope this reassures everyone that, with a bit of luck and tolerance, they will be remaining.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

The Three Policemen

On the day that Prince Charles visited Reach, three police motorcyclists came along the road together. Funny isn't it? You don't see one for ages, then - - - - .

Sincerely,

Frank Readhead.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT THE PARISH COUNCIL. 11 December 2003

After the meeting, the Christmas Fairy produced a bottle of wine and mince pies from her magic basket, the sort of reward for good attendance that's really appreciated. The conduct of the meeting beforehand had also reflected the warmth of the season, with some humour, much of it funny - especially when a jovial Santa figure refused to countenance your reporter as the 'referee' for a lottery fund application. *'No. Not him - it says here they must be a person of good standing. Ho. Ho.'* The general hilarity provoked by this thinly veiled attack on the press was not unique. Others found themselves the butt of jokes too, and I'm sure that Henry will soon get over it, as I have, really.



A piece from 'The News Quiz' on BBC R4 - a very short account of a 19th century PC meeting: *'The subject matter was unimportant, of no general interest'*. Oh, that it were so simple.

To business: Charlotte Cane sent copies of letters from the owner of Dencora Field to four housing associations saying, in effect, *'Do you want 8 houses?'*, so something may happen there. The Police Authority announce that we are no longer with Histon, but now with Ely Policing Area. Our Beat Officer will also have six more villages in his patch so he will have to work more than his present 24/7. Santa

got quite cross about all this. 'Why bother at all?' and, some J. Wilkinson influence here, 'Kick it into touch'. Luckily, though we managed seven incidents in the last reporting period, Burwell had about seven million. So we should worry?

New playground equipment could be in place by Easter, if we hurry, we hope. Trees in the Village Hall car park will be cut down, as recommended by the ECDC tree person, making more space - for cars, or for boules?. No one knew what ACRE stood for, so it was looked up – Action for Communities In Rural England – and we subscribe to it. That's nice, but what does it do? There's not much action around here for £25. A planning permission at Cage Hill could mean the sad loss of a major feature of the Conservation Area in pink and eau de nil. Have they no sensitivity, or appreciation of tradition?

The subject of horses returned again this month, and it's so educational. How big should a horse shelter be? Apparently, it depends on how many hands its got, (yet another very silly joke struggled to get out here, but the temptation was successfully resisted). And there's waste to be disposed of too; we don't like the smell of it, we don't like flies and, anyway, horses like to eat clean grass. It got quite rural then, so perhaps ACRE is relevant.

Much time was devoted to Coopers' Lane. Is it a footpath, a bridleway, or what? The PC owns the hard surfaced part from Greenhead Road to the cemetery gates. Who owns the rest? What do dotted lines on the plan at the High Street end actually mean? (*They record a carriageway with verges. Four dwelling units enjoy vehicular access via the lane from the High Street*). Although County Highways describe The Old School House as having no vehicular access, dotted lines on the OS map extend from the High Street to The School House and there is historical evidence to contradict the CCC view. Laying new stone over this carriageway has been proposed.

The character and the appearance of Coopers' Lane change around the corner at the top. Here a green carpet is rolled out to the cemetery between hedges, gardens and open fields. Ignore the traffic noise and enjoy a taste of bucolic paradise. *The simple, appropriate timber post and rail* barrier between the cemetery and the churchyard just looks so right, but it was suggested that the old barrier should go; a lockable, barred gate would be better, with just a gap for prams. I felt quite weak at the knees, faint, and in urgent need of stimulating refreshment. Fortunately, - - - - - (return to top of page).

Frank Readhead.

PS There was no mention this time of traffic calming for the village though, in my opinion, there always should be, so I cannot refer to 'those fast ladies from Reach'. Pity.

POSTERS!

It seems that someone has been removing posters from telegraph poles before the event they advertise has taken place. It is very kind of people to take them down, but please, PLEASE could you wait till AFTER the event. Thank you.

GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

on 6th of March 2004

Full details in the next Crier

Don't throw it away - save it for the jumble sale



Village Hall Events and Changes In 2004

Our fees to hire the Village Hall have remained the same since March 2000, but from 1st January 2004 there will be an increase: details are available from the Booking Secretary, Jo Pumfrey, on 741376, or from officers of the Committee.

The Village Hall stage manages four major events each year. In 2004 the dates are as follows:

6 March: Grand Jumble and Nearly New Sale

15 May: The Village Feast (Please note this is one week later than usual)

11 September: The Harvest Show

15 December: Carol Singing around the Village Hall Tree

Janet Cooper
Secretary, VHMC



Pantomime January 2004

This year our Pantomime is "Dick Whittington and his Wondercat" a family musical play written by David Wood, as usual this is in association with Samuel French.

David Wood tells the story of Dick Whittington by starting the story from the point when Dick is to become the Lord Mayor of London. A small boy in the crowd not knowing what the fuss is about asks a member of the crowd to explain. The tale unfolds going back to where Dick comes to London to find his fortune and the adventure that he finds himself involved in.

Come and follow the adventure and be entertained, come and laugh and join in all the fun of a show that has all the traditional elements of

Pantomime, the usual songs and dancing together with audience participation and a very clever cat. Everything that can be enjoyed by “children” young and old on your very own doorstep. The cast includes familiar Bottisham Players and one or two new faces, not forgetting the team of rats, some of whom will be invading from other villages.

The production is being directed by Brian Watson who will say he is a “semi-professional” writer, amateur director and underappreciated actor. Brian has a long history of association with drama and was the founding editor of the “Combinations” local drama newsletter. He has taught drama at the Lane Academy performing arts school in Ely and was a founder trustee of ADEC (Arts development in East Cambridgeshire). He was for two years the drama critic for Radio Cambridgeshire’s afternoon programme (Steve Somers and Richard Spendlove) and he co-edited and produced the second series of Fen Market with Steve Somers. In 2000 Brian presented a “21st Century Music Hall” for the Angles Theatre in Wisbeach where he has often performed and staged a wide variety of shows.

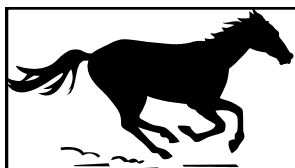
He says of this production “I am particularly pleased to be directing Bottisham Players again this time with a terrific script to which I was introduced when I played Buckle (one of the pirates) for Sutton players 15 years ago. We have adapted it for a new cast and venue and the show will provide a good night for all ages. I am a big fan of traditional pantomime and have done everything possible to include all the expected elements while taking advantage of technical innovations”

Brian is currently working on a script on the lives of The Brothers Grimm and always has a number of other projects in “pre-production”. Brian can be heard caterwalling at the hootenanny sing-songs that are held in the pubs in Sutton and Mepal.

Dates for your diary are Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd at 7.30.p.m. and Saturday 24th January 2003 at 2.30.p.m. and 7.30 p.m. in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

Buy your tickets from beginning of January either direct from Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham, or the Burwell Fireplace Shop North Street Burwell, or through our direct telephone booking line (not Lushers or the Fireplace shop) on 01223 812779 price £6.00 for adults and £4.00 concessionaires (not Saturday night).

Any reserved tickets must be paid for before the date of the performance. Tickets will be available on the door at each performance subject to availability.



**Paddock with shelter for one or two horses.
Please contact Mrs Wood on 01638 742020
if interested.**

Note for Advertisers

Full (A5), half and one third page advertisements are normally accepted on an annual basis for the eleven issues from January to December (the magazine is not published in August). Copy and changes to existing advertisements should reach the Business Manager by 20 November. New advertisements will also be accepted for the June issue onwards and copy should be received by 20 April.

The format for the submission of advertisements in order of preference is i) email with a Microsoft Publisher version as attachment, ii) email with a Microsoft Word version as attachment, iii) CD with Microsoft Publisher or Word version, iv) Floppy disk as iii. In each case the size needs to be correct and standard (ie. Windows) fonts used. v) Printed original, preferably a large image, printed squarely on the paper, in high resolution print and without folds in the paper.

Advertisers will be invoiced in advance in November or in June once the advertisement has been accepted for publication.

Roger Connan
Business Manager

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

BOXING DAY HOCKEY MATCH

Come and support your local team against the Bulbeckians at 11.00 on Boxing Day morning at Swaffham Bulbeck. If you enjoyed the Pink Rabbit in the Village Variety Show then you will get even more pleasure from his ludicrous antics in the Swaffham Prior goal. Unless other players volunteer only the Pink Rabbit can save SP from the most infamous and humiliating defeat.

Mulled wine will be available.

There will also be a collection for Magpas whose services are often required before, during and after the match.

Alastair Everitt

CUBS AND SCOUTS

IN SWAFFHAM PRIOR

CUBS - FOR 8 - 10 1/2 YEAR OLDS
SCHOOL HALL, WEDNESDAYS 6-7.30pm
CONTACT JEMIMA ON 07816 984457

SCOUTS - FOR 10 1/2 - 14 YEAR OLDS
SCHOOL HALL, WEDNESDAYS 7.45 - 9.15pm
CONTACT TIM DOE ON 01638 743656

Geoff Rank

MOWER SERVICES


QUALITY WOLF TOOLS AND MOWERS

GINGE HAND MOWERS

Repairs and Spares

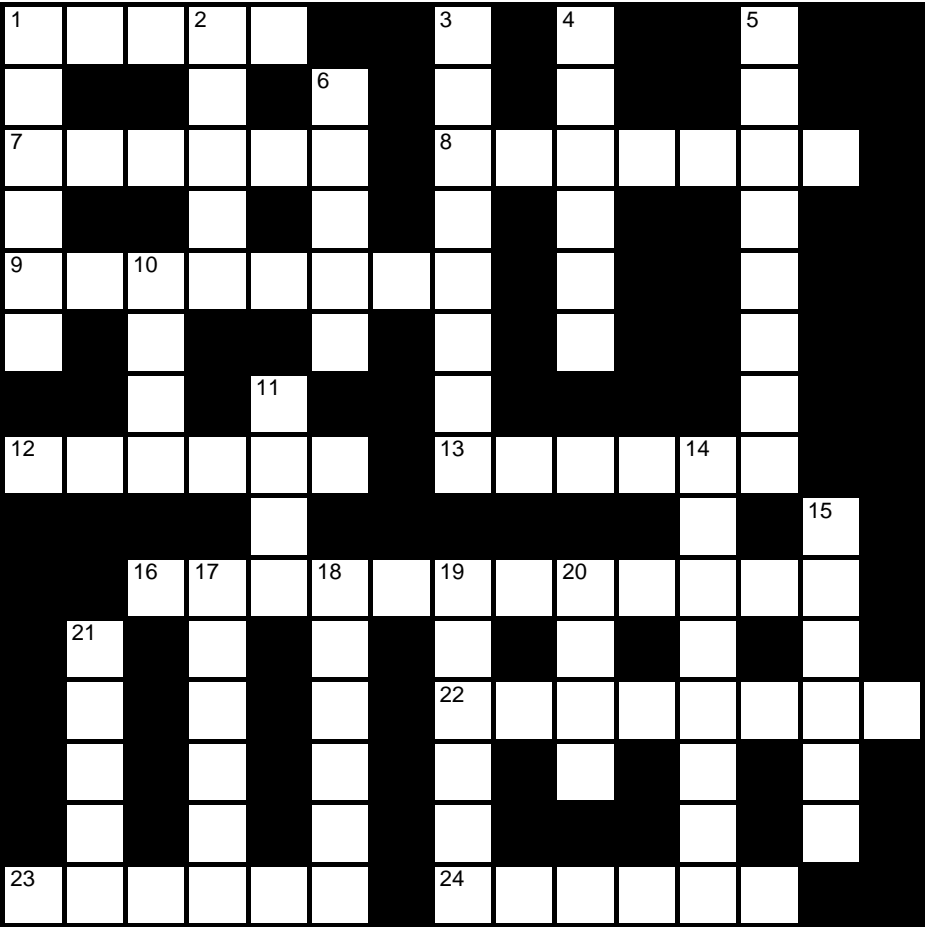
Reconditioned machines available

High Street · Bottisham · Cambridge · CB5 9DA

 Cambridge (01223) 812088

(Behind Rank Bros. Garage)

All the answers to this month's puzzle are names of national capital cities (some better known than others!). The clues are semi-cryptic; that is they contain half the usual cryptic elements, since the other half will always be the name of the city to which the clue refers. Send your answers to the editors by 14th January 2004. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See



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

Across

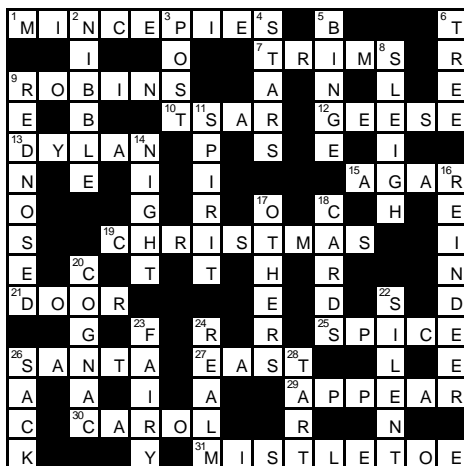
- 1** In which tarmac automatically sets (5)
7 A sulk a disorganised person displays (6)
8 Glare is unusual here (7)
9 Is swelling a nuisance? (8)
12 I am in the flipping money (6)
13 Servant a postgraduate needs (6)
16 It's no good man, adjustment is necessary (5,7)
22 Sound cleaner an essential (8)
23 Returning, I fall behind one weekend (6)
24 It is found in bananas, sausages, etc. (6)

- 15** Common acorns are found therein (6)
17 Drink up after article appears (6)
18 Secure wages reportedly (6)
19 Having made no score, my friend turned back (6)
20 Take a drink after May 1st (4)
21 Elizabethan oil-paintings reveal it (5)

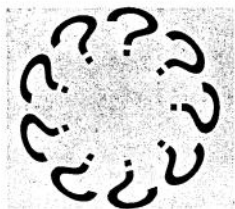
Down

- 1** Old communist leader surrounds research centre (6)
2 Three articles appear about head of government (5)
3 Where motor vehicle is buried, we hear (8)
4 Feathers obtained within (6)
5 Trouble with top rival (4,4)
6 The answers are in, yes? No... (5)
10 ...days or hours away initially (4)
11 Rubber naturally contains it (4)
14 Deranged Romanov I included (8)

Solution to crossword number 6



TWO DAYS THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE!



You've thought about starting your own business
but haven't yet come up with the right idea?

HOW TO COME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR A BUSINESS

Enjoyable FREE 2-day course to help YOU come up with
that profitable business idea !

Course Leader : Barrie Hawkins

author of the *Sunday Times* book HOW TO GENERATE GREAT IDEAS

Held at Littleport over 22nd and 23rd January 2004
(9.30 - 5.00 each day)

TEL: Sally Bonnett, Regeneration Officer,
East Cambs District Council, on 01353 616381
to enrol or for a course leaflet with full details

Places are limited and must be pre-booked



Christmas Market

(held on the day of THE rugger match, a very cold wet Saturday afternoon)

THANK YOU to all who helped in so many different ways whether it was preparing several weeks before, on the actual day, or after the event, and also to those who came and supported by spending.

I am not going to mention a single name, you know who you are. We managed to hit the target by raising just over £1,000 which will go towards church expense.

Kate Child

Bottisham Community Library News

Christmas Decorations

If you've been in the library recently you will have noticed our splendid Christmas tree. Many thanks to Will Newman for kindly donating it to the library. It was decorated by local children who made decorations at the Saturday morning craft session on December 6th. while they listened to Christmas stories read by Pam Daish. The craft session was run for us by Sarah Shaw, the daughter of one of our volunteer librarians. The children all enjoyed the morning and the tree looked very lively by the end, so thanks to all concerned.

Arts and Crafts

Art and craft sessions for children will become a regular Saturday morning feature from late January onwards. If you are interested, please contact Julie Bristow on 813429 as numbers are limited. You will need to make a contribution of £5 a term to cover the cost of materials.

Suggestions, Comments - talk to us!

Please let us know what you would like to see in the library - or perhaps tell us why you do not use it. You can drop suggestions or comments in the suggestions box in the library, or phone Gerry Lockett on 811236, or e-mail her at g.lockett@ntlworld.com

If you haven't been in recently, here is a good opportunity to come along, have a look and be entertained: **The Cambridge Storytellers present** - an evening of **adult entertainment** - Canterbury Tales on Tuesday January 13th at 7.30 in Bottisham Library. Suitable for age 16 and over. Admission £1 at the door, refreshments will be available. It is not necessary to book but it would be helpful if you could telephone 811236 in advance to reserve a seat so that we have some idea of numbers (and how many refreshment to provide).

Do come early and have a look at the new additions to the library stock. The library will be open from 6pm.

Catherine Wightwick

Diary of Events 2004

Here are a few dates for your new diary. I know some people like to plan ahead and be in the village when certain events take place. You will notice that there are many of the usual fixtures with a few different additions, hopefully there is something which will appeal to different age groups and interests. Every effort will be made to stick to these dates but sometimes through circumstances beyond our control they may have to be altered. It is not easy for people to make a commitment over a year in advance.

21 st February	Quiz Night
4 th March	Bulb Walk / Coffee Morning
3 rd April	Moveable Feast
3 rd May	Reach Fair
19 th June	Jazz Evening
11 th July	Open Gardens / Strawberry Teas
15 th -29 th August	Godspell
9 th October	Harvest Supper
13 th November	Village Variety
28 th November	Advent by Candlelight

2005

Spring	Grand Auction
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Watch this space for details of each event nearer the actual date.

Kate Child



J A M S I N G



Music Sessions for babies and Toddlers

JAMSING music sessions run on Tuesday mornings during term time at Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Each session provides a range of musical activities suited to the age of your child, including nursery and finger rhymes, action songs, percussion instruments for small hands and puppets to bring the songs to life. The emphasis is to encourage everyone to join in, focus on the children and make it as much fun as possible for them.

Your baby is never too young to benefit – early years practitioners recognise the importance of music in almost all areas of child development. So if you have a pre-school child and are looking for a friendly local group to attend, please come along. There is no need to book – each session costs just £2.50 per family.

9.30 am	1 to 2½ years
10.20 am	birth to ~1 year (pre walking)
11.00 am	2½ to 3½ years

Keep Warm, Keep Well this winter

To keep well during winter, it's essential to keep warm. As the weather gets colder, we are all more likely to catch colds or flu, and if your body temperature drops then the risks of a heart attack, stroke or breathing difficulties increase. This is especially true for older people, or if you have a chronic disease, or are vulnerable due to a physical disability.

The best way to combat winter is to keep warm and follow as healthy a lifestyle as possible. What you eat and drink, and the exercise you take, can make a big difference and it's vital to keep your home warm and keep yourself warm when you go out. We'd also like to remind local people that they can call NHS Direct on 0845 4647 for advice and information on health matters anytime. The helpline is open 24 hours a day and you can speak in confidence to a qualified nurse. You don't need to be ill to use the service, it's there to help you keep healthy as well

At home, wear several thin layers of clothes rather than one thick layer - the warmth from your body will get trapped between the layers. Choose clothes made with wool, cotton, or fleecy synthetic fibres. Outdoors, wear several thinner layers of clothes under your coat and wear something on your head or you'll get cold very quickly. Wear warm, dry, flat, non-slip shoes or boots especially in frosty weather.

If you have any questions about keeping warm and well, call the national winter warmth advice line on 0800 085 7000 (or textphone 0800 085 7857). The advice line is open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and your call is free of charge. You can get a free copy of a 'Keep Warm Keep Well' winter guide from the advice line as well as information on how you can get help with winter heating costs, benefits, and home improvement grants including for insulation costs. The guide is also available from the Department of Health website at www.doh.gov.uk/kwkw

SEASONED LOGS

FULL or HALF LOADS SUPPLIED

DELIVERED LOCALLY

TREE SURGERY & HEDGE CUTTING

01223 812625



WI Notes

The 8th December was the night of the W.I. Christmas party. We all assembled in the Village Hall for sherry in our party gear, the committee wearing head-dresses as befitted the occasion. The competition for a Christmas table decoration was judged and this year the cup was won by Germaine Pritchard. Then followed a sumptuous meal with wine flowing (those driving were careful how much they drank, I can't speak for the others!).

While we were still relaxed, we listened to a recording of items by Richard Stilgoe and Peter Skellern including the song about the W.I. Calendar which had us all laughing away, and the evening finished with games. We then wished everyone a happy Christmas and wended our way home.

Our very grateful thanks to Sheila Smith who did all the washing-up for us, a mammoth task.

The next meeting is on Monday 19th January when Geoff Evans will give us an illustrated talk on his holidays in Scotland.

Betty Prime



STAINED HUNDRED

Fortunately the fog cleared before the Christmas Party though this was not quite as well attended as the usual meetings. The room was attractively set out with people sitting round four tables which formed the teams for the quizzes of 20 questions about the Staine Hundred set by Peggy Day and Gill's Rushworth's intriguing set of old photographs which had to be identified. The quizzes were enjoyed by all but the same team won both quizzes.

The evening also included readings by Sybil Dobbin and Maureen Rogers, a talk about the tombs in Bottisham Church by Hugh Rogers, and inspection of some unusual old items, ranging from a box for eels to an exquisite needle case shaped like an umbrella. There was plenty of time over the interval to chat and enjoy the generous selection of nibbles and wine. A raffle helped to defray expenses. Robert Hill thanked the committee for all their work they had put into making the evening such a success.

South Cambridgeshire 
Primary Care Trust

Taking forward integration of health and social services

Older Peoples services: Feedback from a range of events held to listen to what local people have to say about proposals to integrate services for older people have

been incorporated into a report to be considered by local PCTs and the County Council in the New Year. A major programme of work is underway to prepare for the transfer of relevant social services staff to PCTs from 1 April 2004. For further information contact Karen Mason, Director of Corporate Services on 01223 885717 or karen.mason@southcambs-pct.nhs.uk

Children's Services: Feedback from the five stakeholder events held across the county are being fed into an outline proposal for the way forward for children's services to be produced in the New Year. For further information contact Charlotte Black, Director of Partnerships, South Cambs PCT on 01223 885799 or charlotte.black@southcambs-pct.nhs.uk



EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor

Happy New Year. I hope you and your families had a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday.

One of my New Year Resolutions is to try to get fit. East Cambs has joined with SportsDeC to provide an online sports club directory. The site, at www.sportsdec.org.uk, provides a comprehensive list of local sports clubs and information on the range and whereabouts of the sporting opportunities in or around East Cambs. The new user friendly website has been created by the Council's Leisure and Tourism Services department to ensure as many people as possible have access to information about sporting opportunities within the district. The secondary aim of developing this site is to start working towards the governments' objective of ensuring that 70% of the population is reasonably active by the year 2020.

The Government issued its provisional Revenue Support Grant (RSG) projections for 2004/05 in November. From the information supplied it seemed East Cambs would get almost £300,000 less to fund our services than we had budgeted for (equal to about 12% on East Cambs' share of your Council tax). But in December the Chancellor used his interim budget statement to announce a further £340 million for Local Government. East Cambs will get £143,000 of this. But we are still short of what we were budgeting for. And it is short of what the Government agrees they should be giving us, by £311,000. This is because although they agree that we need more money, they will not increase the total given to all local authorities. If we were to get everything we need straight away other authorities would have to have a cut in their grant. So our increase is to be phased in over an unspecified time. In the meantime we have to struggle to balance our budget. During January we will be consulting on the options, and we will decide our budget, and therefore the district's share of your Council Tax in February.

Last year we ran a course called "How to Come up With an Idea for a Business".

It was so popular that we will run some more on the 22nd and 23rd January, 1st and 2nd April and 8th and 9th July. Several of the people who went on the course have joined together to form a Business Start-Up Club to provide members with the opportunity to keep in contact with others who share an interest in starting a business and to give each other encouragement and mutual support. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, or joining the Business Start-Up Club, please contact Darren Hill on 01353 616387.

Charlotte Cane



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor

I make no apologies to you for reverting to a topic I introduced in my last article, namely Council Tax (CT). I warned then that the County Council Leader was standing by his six percent increase forecast but was likely to have to rethink when the level of central grant was revealed.

I now have to tell you that, as I feared, the level of Government assistance is likely to be low, indeed, much worse than expected. Although Cambridgeshire will get some more grant, we are caught again by the artificial Government imposed “ceiling” (set at 6.2% for Cambs), which means we lose £12½ M cash grant 2004 /5. This is the second year in succession that we have suffered a cut to what we should have had. Inevitably, this will have an impact on the level of CT and the County Council’s ability to meet the cost of providing services — primarily Education, Social Services and Transport / Roads. £12½ M in itself would add an 8% rise in CT which ought to be added to the 6% increase already forecast earlier this year. That said, the Cabinet is reviewing its proposed spending plans to see what economies can be made...

You should note that Cambridgeshire’s CT was the third lowest of all County Councils in 2003/4. However it has increased around 9% per year over the last five years. The CT Band D for 2003/4 would go up £7.60 per one percent of increase. The other bands would move in line with this as appropriate.

An unusual change this coming year is that the Cambs. Fire & Rescue Service (CF&RS) will become its own precepting body (similar to Police) from next April. This will mean that the County part of CT will reduce and the Fire & Rescue Service will start with the same sum but adjusted for any inflationary or other increase needed to keep it up to standard in the coming year. Next year the CF&RS will come directly to you to ask for a similar sum (plus any inflation / cost increases). I will come back to this later after the next meeting of the CF&RS to give you the proposals. As a generalisation I believe we receive a wonderfully economic return for the modest sums needed to cope with fires and to rescue anyone in need, particularly after road accidents.

Harriet and I send our best wishes to you for a good and happy New Year, in spite of the gloomy tone of this newsletter.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council December Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 5 members and 1 members of the Public.

Reports:

There was no CCC report this month.

There was no ECDC report this month.

Vehicular access - Coopers: A request had been received for limited access for vehicles from the Green Head Road end of Coopers Lane beyond the staggered barrier currently in place. This was discussed and the Clerk is to contact CCC Highways to confirm the access status of the lane and report to the next meeting.

Pruning/Felling of Trees at Village Car Park: Four estimates were received. It was agreed to instruct Eastern Tree Surgery to carry out the work.

New Play Equipment: The position and type of new equipment was agreed. An application is to be completed and submitted for Lottery funding. This application will cover part of the funding needed. The Parish Council and other groups in the village will also contribute to the costs. The new equipment for the play area will consist of a climbing frame with associated safety surfacing. This will be installed where the seat is at present. This seat will be reposition and a new one added.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications:

St Mary's Vicarage, Green Head Road – *single storey extension, conservatory, garages, 2 new dormer windows, minor internal & external alterations.*

Allotment Plot, Mill Hill – *Application to graze pony and to provide wooden shelter for winter (3m long x 2m high x 2m wide).*

There were no objections to the above.

Planning Approvals:

The Gables, 28 Lower End.

Any Other Business:

The noticeboard in the bus stop has been repaired.

The bus timetable has been moved nearer to the bus stop and up-to-date timetables displayed on both boards.

Open Question Time: There were no questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 8th January 2004 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



The Parish Council would *like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



Church of England Services

January 2004

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 4	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 11	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Epiphany Carol Service
Sun 18	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 25	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service

[†] Book of Common Prayer

PCC NEWS

It was lovely to have a full church on St Andrew's Day for the Cambridge Voices Advent Concert. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evocative mixture of readings and music and we are privileged to have Ian de Massini in our midst. Ian and his fellow Voices are extremely generous with their time. Almost £700 was raised for Emmaus, a really worthwhile charity.

By now every household in the village will have received a card from the vicar and his wife giving the times of our services. Please come, you will be made very welcome.

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Tricia Harrison
PCC Secretary

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you at the beginning of a new year. As we look forward to 2004 doesn't look as if it is going to be a much better year one way or another. There is the continuing unrest in Iraq, with our servicemen and women at daily risk of death or maiming. There is the continuing threat of terrorism, and there is the worry of an economic slowdown. All in all, there is a great deal to worry about, and much to be pessimistic about.

Yet, as we gaze forward, in our hand is placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price marker stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing. Yet, it is given to beggar and prince alike. The giver asks only that it be used wisely and well.

This jewel, rare and unique, is not displayed in any shop window. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. No other treasure holds the possibilities this gift offers - none can surpass its golden splendour.

Of all gifts, this is one of the most precious. It has been offered many times before. It will be left to you to find the golden thread running through it. Only with great care will the jewel retain its lustre. Carelessness, ingratitude and selfishness will tarnish the brilliance, break the unspoiled thread, mar the perfection.

Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from your hand. Look often at its faultless beauty. Accept it as it is offered, from the heart of the giver. Consider it is the most treasured of possessions, for it is priceless. It is the gift of the New Year.

So in this New Year, don't be discouraged. Remember that you are precious to God. Take these his words into your heart: *"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour."* (Isaiah 43:1b-3a)

So let us not face to this coming year with anxiety and dread. Let us instead take heart from those words from God, and let us approach life in the way that Saint Francis of Sales entreats us to: *'Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He is your Keeper. He has kept you hitherto. Hold fast to his dear hand, and he will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, he will bear you in his arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. Our Father will either shield you from suffering, or he will give you strength to bear it'*.

I wish you all a blessed and happy new year.

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 - January 2004

Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	7	
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	9	
Sat	10	
Sun	11	
Mon	12	
Tue	13	Cambridge Storyteller, Bottisham Library, 7:30pm
Wed	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	15	
Fri	16	
Sat	17	
Sun	18	
Mon	19	WI, Village Hall
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	21	
Thu	22	Dick Whittington, 2.30 & 7.30pm BVC Main Hall Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	23	Dick Whittington, 2.30 & 7.30pm BVC Main Hall
Sat	24	Dick Whittington, 2.30 & 7.30pm BVC Main Hall

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