



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 7

July 2004



Editorial

Correspondents, *please!!!* Has no-one got a name anymore? We like your letters, and we do print them if you sign them. Like other newspapers, we might withhold a name, provided we know what it is, by special request and according to the Ed's *discretion*. *Indiscretion* might be a better description lately though! However innocent the communication, it inevitably causes trouble and strife. Not surprising really, when you think about it. Nobody *likes* being complained about, and how much worse if said complaint is anonymous. One suspects *everyone*, not to mention heartily resents those extremely riling — we're sure unintended but nevertheless quite inescapable — *innuendos* conveyed by "From A Resident": that the resident in question is somehow representative, and is obliged to avoid giving a name because otherwise *THEY* will almost certainly come round and duff one up!

Don't miss James Wilmott's (ably assisted by Janet) *Down on the Farm* in this month's *Crier*: it's the first of a regular column, and extremely interesting. Also Eric Day's (at 90, our oldest correspondent? Or could you do better?!) History of the Village Allotments in *Letters*. Meanwhile a sad goodbye to Trevor Jones whose greatly appreciated contributions as Chair of the Parish Council and in the refurbishment and running of the Village Hall will be much missed, and we wish him all the best for the future.

Ring our new PC, PC236 Tony Payne, on 07710 *Jazz Play at the Red Lion* 994972 (tony.payne@police.cambs.uk) to get police advice, and **REMEMBER:** *there's no September Crier* — September events need to reach us by next copy date. And...**Open Gardens** will take place, (well, *Garden!*) on 1 July, 36 Lower End, 2-5pm.. All welcome. See you there.

Caroline Matheson



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Cover Picture: *Summer Flowers*, by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Don Flack's Grave

On a recent visit to my father's grave (Don Flack) it was noticed that the cross at the bottom of his grave has disappeared. My son took time and trouble to make this and engraved dad's name on it also.

Has anyone any idea where it has gone? Is someone making a habit of taking crosses off graves for some reason or another? What use would it be to them? If you know of anyone who likes to spend their time in the churchyard taking items off people's graves then I would like to know! Surely there are better things to do with their time in the village!!

If they are reading this then could they please return it either to my address or put it back on my father's grave.

Thank you.

Sandra Butcher and family
7 Rogers Road

Dear Editors,

The History of the Village Allotment Lands

At 90 years of age and having spent my life in Swaffham Prior I feel that I am in a position to shed some light on the history of our village.

The allotment lands are part of our history. They were awarded to various houses in the village under the Enclosure Act of 1814. Approach from the Burwell Road in S.E. direction towards the old Smock Mill. In lieu of grazing rights, the enclosure awards and the associate maps show that in:

1814 Map no Windmill or House

1887 Map House and Windmill present

1902 Map The Road not allocated to any individual. Cambridgeshire Sheet XL17 Second Edition, Eastern or Newmarket Division. The Map of 1902 shows all the land owners by colours. Anything that is white is not owned by anyone, this included Mill Lane, called a road. Coopers Lane is marked in the same way.

Copies of award QRDZF Swaffham Prior 359, page 373, Road S.E. direction between divers small allotments to an allotment belonging to E. Anderson Stephens Esq. Set out and available for the use of all the owners and occupiers of lands and tenants in Swaffham Prior aforesaid having occasion to use the same. Access to land should be uninterrupted access.

Land Value Book 1909/10 Act 1910 Book 470/015 - 787 Parcel of Land shown to belong to Burt Day. There is also mention of the up keep of the road. This should be divided up according to the amount of land owned by an individual, not in equal parts.

Unless anyone has any other more recent information than this I think we must assume that Mill Lane is a private road with uninterrupted access for the use of all

owners and tenants. For obvious reasons there is no mention of vehicular access. Cars have taken the place of the horse and cart, which I can remember well.

The original allotments were quite extensive. Owners and tenants have changed many times over the years. One plot awarded to the School Master is still in existence, at the far end of the road. It is known locally as the School Masters Garden, and is administered by the School Trustees, The Chairman being the Vicar.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. F. Day
The Well House,
50, High Street,

NEW PERFORMANCE IN ST CYRIAC'S ON FRIDAY JULY 2nd



in situ:'s new performance, **MIRABILIS**, will be taking place in the beautiful and atmospheric St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church in Swaffham Prior. It is an exciting multi-media piece, based on the extraordinary life of a Twelfth Century mystic: Saint Christina the Astonishing.

In partnership with the Churches' Conservation Trust, and Arts Council England, *in situ* has chosen 11 of the

most beautiful churches in the Eastern Region as sites for what promises to be a fascinating and memorable performance.

If you want to book for **MIRABILIS**, please ring: 01223 511511, or just wander down to St Cyriac's on Friday July 2nd. The performance starts at 7.30pm, and tickets will be on sale on the door from 7pm.



Swaffham Prior School SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 10 July 2004, 12.00 - 4.00pm
at Swaffham Prior School



Barbecue * Bouncy castles * Pony rides
Bar * Live music * Maypole dancing * Games
Ice creams * Face painting * Craft corner * Stalls

There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the
Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Setting off for the VH on a beautiful evening, I could hear noisy motors on Dencora Field annoying the elderly residents of The Beeches yet again, while little kids on small bikes criss-crossed Lower End. Then, a group of immature androids crouched over scooters raced together down the centre of the High Street, around the bend towards the play area – and Lower End. How many of our young people will reach adulthood unscathed?



During the meeting, it was very enjoyable to see many well-informed neighbours trooping in to cast their votes for our future in Europe. (There may also have been others). That's a BIG issue. Item no. 1 on the agenda for next month's PC meeting will be the election of a new chairman of the PC to replace Trevor Jones. That's a BIG issue too.

Cllr James Fitch was understandably busy elsewhere on election night. Cllr Allen Alderson had to leave early for similar reasons, but not before telling us that ECDC has fared well in satisfaction surveys. The ECDC offices location question was now being sensibly discussed in an adult fashion by all political persuasions, as it should have been from the start. The criteria upon which to judge between 3 or 4 options are being thrashed out now, to enable a decision to be made this year. ECDC, with Trilogy Telecom Ltd., expect to have a BroadBand facility via BT landlines enabled in the Burwell telephone exchange by September 2004. That means BB for all who want it, and the possibility of low cost telephone calls too.

The present vacancy on the PC remains open. Next month there will be two vacancies so, in a sense, productivity is up. The new climbing frame was also up, waiting only for safety surface installation and a ROSPA inspection before it can be used. ROSPA claim to have inspected the play area again, and submitted a bill for doing so. Curiously, their report looked suspiciously like last year's, including some items that were sorted out long ago. They must return for the climbing frame, check again properly, and only then get paid. The damaged chestnut tree in the VH car park can now be replaced, though the services of a professional tree surgeon were recommended for its removal. Mr E. Day said he owned a chain saw, and possessed a doctorate in advanced tree surgery. The budget summary for 2004/2005 was examined minutely, though approval of the past years accounts was deferred until a few missing pennies could be found - a computer glitch, no doubt. A 33% saving over last year's insurance costs was achieved by shopping around. Advice from ECDC on funding is needed for necessary roof repairs at the Village Pound.

Much discussion devoted to the new village award proposed at the Annual Assembly centred around how it was to be managed, and by whom. The feeling was that the PC represented a cross section of villagers, so who better to do it? but how to do this? and how to do that? It was clear that more thought is needed. Announcement (s) of awards, if any, should sensibly come at the Annual Assembly in May.

On Coopers Lane, tyre tracks on the grass and a broken rail (recently re-fixed) suggest that someone is unhappy about it being just a footpath between the cemetery

gates and the bend at the top of the High Street end. CCC will be asked to effect repairs. Vandal action is also apparent on the footpath between Coopers Green and Cage Hill, where fly tipping includes asbestos rubbish. The culprits are not known (yet).

Richard Freeman from the Burwell Tigers Junior Football Club addressed the PC with proposals to use the playing field, with a start theoretically possible in September 2006. This was all good and welcome news, but details, including security arrangements, must wait until the owners of the land have been consulted. The Sports & Social Club supports the idea too.

(A site for village tennis courts is also needed. Think about it).

The Swaffham Prior Village Assembly. 28 May 2004.

A goodly number of neighbours enjoyed a useful, informative, and often amusing, gathering of the clans this year. Not all may have been there solely to wish Trevor Jones 'God Speed' on one of his last public duties before leaving us, but he and his efforts will be sorely missed. His masterful handling of this unruly crowd would recommend him for a career as an international football referee, and we fairly galloped through the business. Trevor's final report to the Assembly as chairman included the happy news that a new climbing frame will soon be a reality. Financial demands arising from our travelling friends' illegal occupation of our fine recreation field had delayed this until now. The nuisance and danger of speeding traffic continues to annoy, and measures to discourage such anti-social and dangerous behaviour continue to be explored. The enormous cost of getting Police Community Support Officers simply made it a non-starter. Trevor's departure coincides with the loss of one other Parish Councillor, so it is time to think 'not what your Parish can do for you, but what you can do for your Parish'. Stand up, and step forward now. Your hour has come.

Our new PC, Tony Payne, impressed us with his command of our needs. Happily for us, though he will often walk (on foot) through the village, our problems pale into insignificance compared to those of other communities. Even so, PC Payne will be there to address our concerns. While they may sometimes appear inconsequential, they may clarify a bigger picture, or be more significant than we realise, so don't hold back if something worries you. His contact details will appear in The Crier, and he can be reached via the main Cambridge Police switchboard too. Most interesting is Tony's little radar gun. He promised to use it here!

Cllr. James Fitch skipped a load of CCC information that each household has already on paper, but he mentioned the possibility of losing retained fire stations in the villages if no young (part time) volunteers soon step forward. He also reviewed environmental concerns such as the effect of global warming on sea levels, 2 metres higher in the lifetime of many of us. The County is running out of landfill sites for rubbish disposal; so if you have any bright ideas, please let him have them. Road traffic has increased in the County by 30% in 10 years, and by 40% on the A14. Is your journey really necessary? (Some able bodied villagers actually drove by car to

the Village Hall on a beautiful evening!) Good news included BVC applying for Foundation Status in some subjects. The Fordham Bypass is starting very, very soon now, really. And, CCC Council Tax is 4th from the bottom of all 33 shires in England (so Trevor Jones is probably in for a shock at his new home). This is in the fastest growing county nationally, and we find ourselves in the fastest growing District Council within it.

Our new ECDC Cllr, Allen Alderson promised to serve us in a local capacity, on call at all reasonable times. He apologised for making no report, having only just achieved office, and having taken a few days off after a hectic electoral campaign to allow himself and his wife to get re-acquainted. Now, once more on an even keel, and on first name terms with the management, he is raring to go. Good luck, Allen. Some people around here can be rather demanding.

Doug Malins, development manager for the Flagship Housing Association, gave an overview of the affordable housing situation locally, with special reference to the project for 8 new units in Rogers Road on Dencora Field. Flagship own 18,500 units in the region, and build 600 new units every year to meet the rising demand for homes. Although our project came too late for inclusion in the current 2 year funding programme, the situation can change in unforeseen circumstances, so it could start earlier (subject to Planning Approval). Several questions arose, including plans for off-road car parking. National guidelines stipulate 2 spaces per unit, and that's what's proposed. We do hope that will be enough.

Mr A Everitt of fixed abode proposed a 'Swaffham Prior Award of Merit' for services beyond the call of duty to the Parish. This attracted wide support, with the proviso that this should not necessarily be a fixed annual event, because any obligation to do so could lead to a devaluation of the award. Clearly, there remains scope for consideration of the terms and organisation, etc. but means of conferring recognition by the whole community was welcomed.

Frank Readhead

Ely's Summer of Music 2004

For the fourth year music will play an important part to your visit to Ely this summer. Whether you are in the town centre or down by the riverside in Jubilee Gardens we have music to suit all ages. All the Saturdays throughout July and August will



bring a different flavour of music from Flamenco to Jazz, from Rock and Pop to Folk. We have the usual mixture of local talent including some youth bands. We are very pleased to welcome to the programme this year one of the region's best loved Pop bands: Freestyle. A four-piece, high-tech outfit playing anything from Stones to Tina Turner, Celine Dion to Sinatra. The band is fronted by Sue Marchant from BBC's Radio Cambridgeshire's *Nightshift*.

For the first year Jubilee Gardens is hosting their first free Musical

evening when a group of drama enthusiasts from the area will perform Godspell. Headed by Andy Bailey the cast is a mixture of dedicated and highly talented actors, singers, dancers and musicians who will be present in the fully staged show starting at 7.45 pm on Saturday 7th August.

With a stunning score that includes the soaring aspiration of 'Day by Day' the emotion of absolute innocence in 'All Good Gifts' and the pulsating frantic pleading of 'We Beseech Thee' to name but a few, Godspell mixes a great deal of humour with pure joy and intense emotion.

Bring a picnic to the Gardens and make this a fun, family evening out.

For a leaflet detailing all the acts contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or e-mail tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk.



Ely Programme 2004

Join us in the Town Centre and Jubilee Gardens for Music and Entertainment throughout the Summer

Saturday 3rd July – FOLK BLUES: The Lorebreakers
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 10th July – FOLK: Ely Folk Club
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday 17th July – JAZZ: 5 to 2
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 24th July – KEYBOARDS: The Witchford Keys
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday 31st July – CAMARGUE FLAMENCO: Los Gitanos
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

***Saturday 7th August – ROCK/POP: B4s**
Jubilee Gardens – 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm

***Free Open Air Musical Godspell starts at 7.45 pm**

Saturday 14th August – POP: A4TEEN
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday 21st August – PAN-PIPES: Inkray
Town Centre – 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

Saturday 28th August – POP: Freestyle
Jubilee Gardens – 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm



DOWN ON THE FARM

I have been asked to contribute a regular article about current happenings on the farm. Just to introduce the farm, we are part of a large business based south of Cambridge farming for ourselves and other people, I will just talk about the Swaffham farm. This report is slightly longer than will regularly appear — just to set the scene!

Our main crop is wheat of which there is three main types: milling, soft and feed. We grow the milling for bread making: this will be sold to the highest bidder and usually ends up in R.H.M. in Manchester. The soft wheat generally goes to Wheatabix and the feed either goes to Icklingham, where the gluten is taken out then on to H.P.sauces, or it sold as straight cattle feed.

At the time of writing all of the inputs are finished and we are waiting for harvest. The last few weeks have been especially busy on the crop.. there has been an outbreak of Orange Blossom Midge.... what is this you all ask? A very small midge which appears only once every 5-10 years, it comes out in the evenings such as we have been having these first weeks in June, or good Barbequing weather. If not controlled the midge will wipe out 30—50% of the crop so we had to spray. We also added a fungicide to protect the wheat ear from any late fungal diseases; this helps protects the grain so when it is milled there is a quality and colour to keep the most discerning cook happy.

Sixty five hectares of wheat (160 acres) we have got is being grown for seed. Extra money and time have to be invested in the crop—to meet the standards of the seed house. This will all be processed in early autumn for this year's planting in September/October. We will employ people to walk through the crop pulling out any weed which should not be there so when the seed inspectors turn up the crop should pass and become someone's seed for next year.

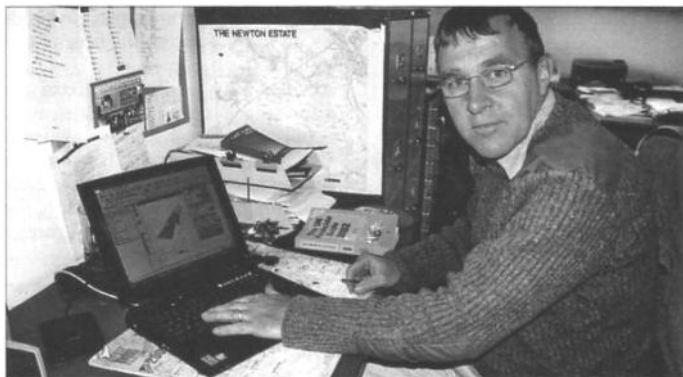
I have been busy this spring working with a French company looking at a way of applying nitrogen fertiliser using satellites. Basically a photo is taken of the crops when they are still green and the colour is then analysed to determine the area “leaf index” — this measures the crop density. The nitrogen is then applied using this data putting on only what is needed in the particular part of the field so not wasting the product or polluting the ground unnecessarily.

If you have ventured down Station Road in mornings during the last month a very delicate colour of blue would have greeted you. This crop is linseed. We had not planned this in our rotation but due to the very dry and hot autumn of last year the oilseed rape which was drilled all failed, so an alternative crop had to be put in.

As most of you know sugar beet is an important crop in this area, we grow our fair share of it. Again at this stage of the year most of the work has been done on the crop, work always starts in the autumn when fertiliser is applied to the beet ground. Ploughing takes place before Christmas so to allow any frost to work the ground. This is so much better than a tractor and cultivator plus there is no cost!

Once we have a fine seedbed the seed is drilled by a precision drill placing the

seeds a 7" spacing in 20" rows. On one field next to Black drove we have left gaps in the drillings so to encourage Sky Larks and other birds to flourish. This is being monitored by the RSPB so at the end of the season we will know what birds we have had visit us on that field.



Once the beet is in we have to control the weeds as small beet is very susceptible to competition. Sometimes when we are controlling the weeds a trace element such as Manganese and/or salts are added to the mix. The beet will continue to grow right through to when they are harvested in the autumn and winter.

Set-aside has always been an emotive issue. We have to put 10% of our combinable acreage aside each year to keep the Men in Brussels happy. During the year all this is going to change and it may result in a lot more unfarmed lands but more of this in a later news letter!

The non cropping job on the farm at this time of the year is cleaning out grain stores, which is a job every one to avoid, but it is one of *the* most important tasks of the year. As I say to people, we have wheat going directly from our store to Wheatabix, it must be of a sound quality and cleanliness to be made straight into your next weeks breakfast cereal. Holidays are also an important part at this time, because once harvest starts in mid July we do not stop until October or when the work is done.

James Willmott

Just taking a dip ...

More from the Village Feast by

David Boughey



Terry Chalmers FMAAT
Book-keeping & Accountancy Service

70 North Street
Burwell
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CB5 0BB

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SPECIAL OFFER UNTIL SEPT 2004 £75 to design 1 room or £125 for 2

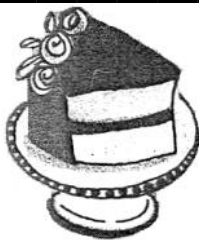
House Doctor - I will advise on how to revamp your home, using as much or as little of your own furniture and fabrics. Investing in this service could significantly increase the value of your home. Prices from £150

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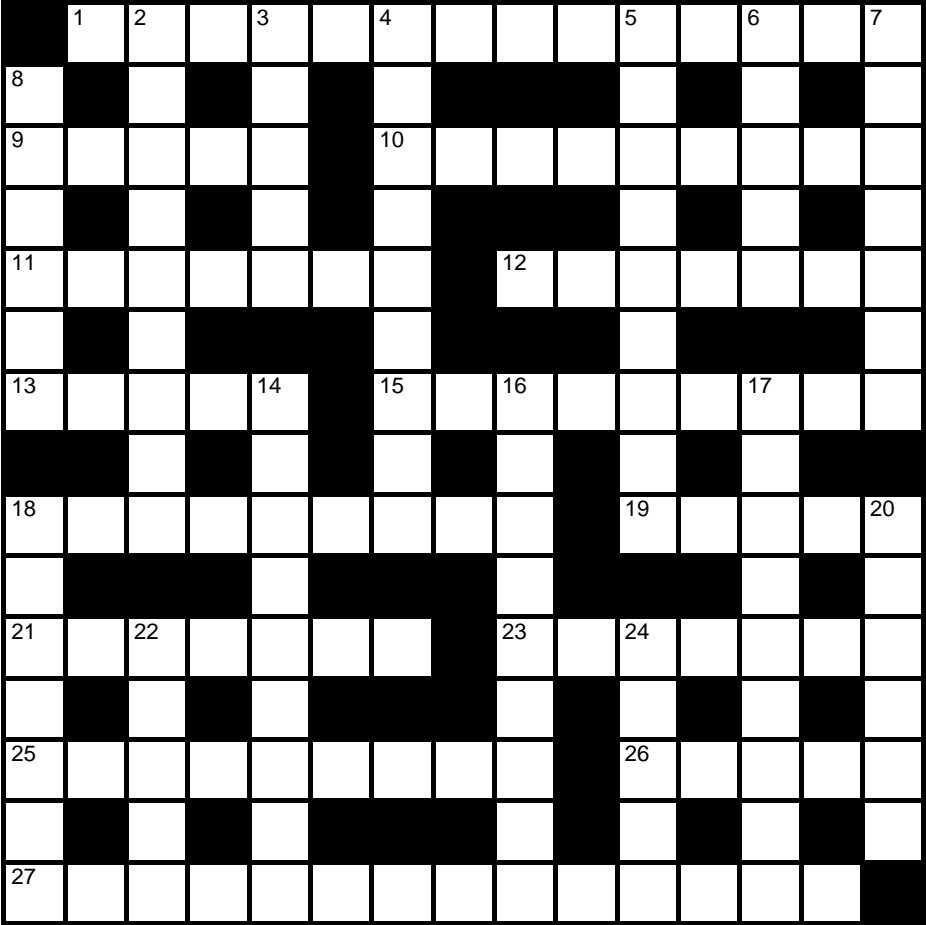
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Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

All the clues are anagrams or hidden clues, but there are no words to indicate which is which. Send your answers to the editors by 20th July 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 My Rhodesia slum for seasonal breaks. (6,8)
- 9 Yellow bream (5)
- 10 A Socratic Republic. (5,4)
- 11 Penrose used for bottles or tins. (7)
- 12 "Pasta Air", Vol I. (7)
- 13 Prison camp for the Nazgul a gnome disliked. (5)
- 15 Leon can do an arcade. (9)
- 18 She tosses out female innkeepers. (9)
- 19 Andrea gleeful as score is two 2 under par. (5)
- 21 "Noel, ban state and..." (7)
- 23 "...nab Ali a country." (7)
- 25 Sam dreamt a city. (9)
- 26 Sticky bun I only give to employees' organisation. (5)
- 27 Pirates sand his confections. (6,8)

Down

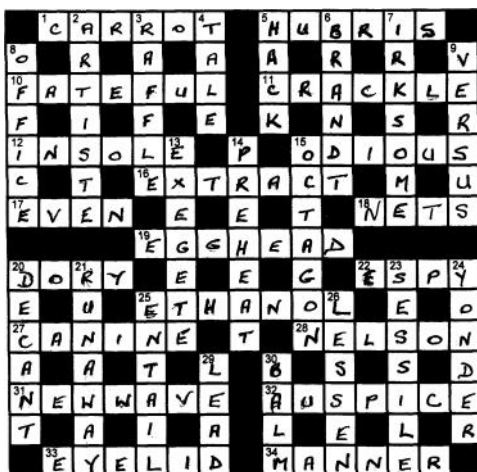
- 2 Male blurs portable shelters. (9)
- 3 Picture framer gets to blend together. (5)
- 4 Driver of large truck sacks owner of hikers' essential kit. (9)
- 5 Can invade beforehand. (2,7)
- 6 Am I going to meet a foreign friend? (5)
- 7 Resort disease. (7)
- 8 Rags? No, beachwear. (6)
- 14 Guy sneers at island sweaters. (9)

- 16 A small spa in the Canaries. (3,6)
- 17 Entering a S. American region. (9)
- 18 Alcohol landed gentry like in country? (7)
- 20 Ian Lee, a girl's name? (6)
- 22 Ali Baba sins in this geographical area. (5)
- 24 Ruble is more colourful. (5)

Solution to crossword no. 12

Courtesy of Shirley Wilkins

(Last month's setter on holiday!)



Congratulations to runners-up Shirley Wilkins, Martyn and Debbie Clark, Yasmine Sultan and Chris Carrington, all of whose solutions were impeccable, but the invincible, first-out-of-the-hat winners were **again: Bob and Julie Nunn!**

The *Crier Hat* is, to our knowledge, absolutely straight and above-board! Anyone holding a regular event towards end-of-month who'd be prepared to hold a Public Draw for us, please contact the Eds.

BOTTISHAM OPEN GARDENS DAY

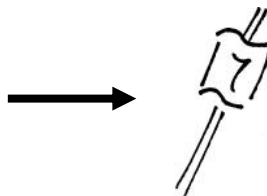
(IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS)

SUNDAY 11th JULY 2004

11.00 am until 6.00pm

£2.50 per person which covers all of the gardens open
(children under 12 free admission)

LOOK OUT for the **YELLOW** garden numbers outside each garden open and call at the first one you choose to visit and pay for the day.



FREE PARKING AT BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE (library end).
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT YOUTH CENTRE (next to the church)

THE FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

CRAFT FAYRE **NOVEMBER 28TH 2004**

**The Friends of Bottisham Village College will be
holding their annual Craft Fayre at the College
on Sunday November 28th 2004.**

**Application forms to reserve a pitch from
SANDIE WILSON on 01638 507542**



CHILDMINDER VACANCIES

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

Please contact Sandra on 742091 for more details.



Bottisham Library Press Release

June 04

What a year we've had! The Bottisham Community Library Association had its AGM on the 8th June. We've now been running the public access to Bottisham Library, on a voluntary basis, for almost a year now. When the library closed in June last year it was very sad. But the re-opening in July last year was a triumph for all concerned and for the village too. We had our official opening party in September last year, we've had storytellings and childrens' art clubs, plus book sales, cake stalls... we've been busy! A big thank you to everyone who has

supported us.

We're having our first birthday party at the library on Saturday 17th July, 10.30-11.45am. Please come and celebrate with us. There will be refreshments.

If you've not been to the library for a while, do come and look at our stock - we have a wide range of up-to-date fiction, and it's free to borrow books from the library. If there are any books (or audio cassettes, or other items) you would like to see in the library, please let us know - we have some money earmarked to spend on new stock and we want to get things that people want.

The mobile library service on alternate Friday evenings is currently under threat - not many people are using it. Please, if you're passing the mobile library, do drop in - the staff would be pleased to see you and it could help the village to retain this service.

Did you know? If you are one of those people who sometimes returns books late to the library and has to pay fines (don't be embarrassed, it happens to the best of us) the fines on Bottisham library books go directly to the Bottisham Community Library Association - so your overdue books are helping to run the library.

Catherine Wightwick

catherine@wightwick.co.uk

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

News from
Swaffham Prior
Church of England
Primary School



After a long wait and gathering of funds the development of our outdoor area is set for the summer holidays. The bike shed, sand pit and oil tank will be relocated, opening up the area for it to be resurfaced with a variety of paving and safer surfacing. A gazebo will provide a sheltered area so that children can be outdoors throughout the year.

This term there are lots of events planned for the classes. At the start of term Class 3 and 4 went to Duxford Air Museum.

This is a report from Duncan and Ben from Class 3.

We went on a double decker bus; Class 4 were on the top deck and Class 3 were on the bottom. I was sitting at the front and we had a little table. The journey was about forty five minutes. When we arrived we went in a big hall and there were lots of experiments to do.

My favourite activity was the hover craft.

1. Get two polystyrene chip trays and cut them in half
2. Make a hole in the middle
3. Push the engine into the hole
4. Tape it in and put the propeller on
5. Attach the wire to a battery

It hovered off the ground because the propeller spins around and the air moves, pushing the tray up.

We had to make a marble run with straight runs, sharp turns, tunnels and bridges. It was made out of coloured card. We had to use a ruler to fold the sides so that the marble didn't fall out. Abbie made a stair case and we succeeded because the marble travelled down.

All the experiments were fun. We were in groups of 3 and each group did 2 experiments. We brought some of the experiments back to school.

Sporting Events

Well done to our hockey team who came third in the area final and the kwik cricket team who got through to the final.

Our annual open evening is being held on Thursday 15th July between 5pm-7pm. All are welcome to celebrate end of year achievements.

Good luck to all our Year 6 children moving to their secondary schools in September.

Joanna Lakey

Term starts Thursday 2 nd September
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STAINED HUNDRED

The weather was perfect for the Stained Hundred Outing on Thursday, June 10th and, apart from a hold-up on the A14 before Huntingdon, everything went very smoothly. Coffee with delicious shortbread was enjoyed at the George in Stamford, an ancient hostelry that once belonged to the Abbots of Crowland and then to the Abbot of Peterborough in 947 AD. Although it is steeped in history, it has an air of luxury, and was well worth a visit.

From there the coach proceeded along the A1 to Grantham where Belton House was reached at noon. Built in 1085, and a family home for 300 years before being taken over by the National Trust 20 years ago, the house had much of interest with a collection of pictures, fine furniture, wall mirrors and tapestries, and a collection of 15,000 leather bound books. The house is surrounded by a landscaped park of 36 acres where sheep graze, a lake, formal gardens near the house, including a sunken Italian garden which leads to an Orangery, filled with plants and cool after the heat outside. Nearby is the village church, filled with family memorials to the Brownlow family. Services are held here twice a month. There is also a private chapel in the House.

The journey home was accomplished in 1½ hours - leaving everyone time to go and vote! Thanks were given by the chairman, Maureen Rogers, to Stewart Bell for organizing the outing, and to Peter Arnold for looking after the money side.

The next Stained Hundred Meeting will be on Wednesday, 8th September, when Bill Wittering will be the speaker.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

This month twenty five village gardeners and friends “went down to Kew at Lilac time”. It was a wonderful sunny day, with no traffic jams *en route*, a bit of a chilly breeze blowing down the Thames, but we all had several lovely hours wandering round the peaceful green acres. We missed the bluebells, the azelias were a blaze of colour and of course the lilacs were blooming.

One the evening of Tuesday 25th June we are going to Clare College Gardens for a visit guided by the Head Gardener. Anyone wishing to come with us, please contact Roger Connan on 742182, or Margaret Joyce on 744390.

During the last month all six parishes within my present County Division had their annual Parish Meetings. In each case I summarised what had happened over the previous twelve months and looked forward to the next year. Unfortunately, apart from parish councillors fewer than one percent of the 8400 electors bothered to attend. So what follows is an adapted version of what I said.

The first topic of interest to most people is **tax and spending**. The County Council agreed a budget of £466 million in February, half going to the county's schools and a quarter to Social Services. The rest covers a wide range of services such as libraries, roads and transport, trading standards, environmental and waste disposal - all increasing because of population growth.

The resulting **Council Tax increase** over 2003/4 was 6.9 % (equivalent to just over a pound a week for a Band D payer). Apart from Council Tax, Government grant and business rates cover the rest of the County Council's needs. The County's share of Council Tax is three quarters of your total bill; the remainder is shared by District, Police, Fire & Rescue, and parish councils.

All of the above was set out in the explanatory leaflet that accompanied the tax demand. The County administration's Leader was hoping for 6 % this year but had to agree 6.9 %. The hope for next year is that it will be significantly lower but nobody wants to hazard a guess further than that.

Because of the rapid **growth of population** in Cambridgeshire, not only do we have to respond to the demand for new schools, roads, day care and so on, but supervise where the main areas of new housing should go. Hence **Cambourne** and, in the near future, **Northstow** (between Oakington and Longstanton) should go a long way to meet the great pressure for more **affordable homes**. On a smaller scale there is significant building in **Ely, Littleport, Burwell** and even **Swaffham Bulbeck** to supplement the main areas of growth.

In spite of shortages of money **Education** within the County continued to produce excellent results at all levels. **Bottisham Village College** had another good year, and with your help has bid for specialist status in humanities. If successful a government grant will come to help pay for the resulting enhanced status.

Although **Bottisham Community Library** was one of ten closed throughout the County to help fund the rest, the community responded by creating an equally good voluntary replacement. I am assured by county officers that Bottisham is at the top of the league for the service it offers.

The main change in **Social Services** is the hiving off of the old people's sector to join with the Primary Care Trusts to form a combined (cheaper and more efficient?!) response to the ever-growing needs of older people who now live to a much greater age than only a few decades ago.

James Fitch



East Cambs District Council are to be congratulated on two counts.

Firstly, the Council has received the draft CPA score from the Audit Commission, the Council was assessed as 'Good'. This rightly reflects the quality of the local services to our community. The members and staff are to be congratulated on this significant achievement.



Secondly, the results of the latest satisfaction of the Council's Benefits applicants have recorded an excellent 87% of respondents satisfied with the services overall. The survey is conducted every three years under the Best Value legislation.

Everyone makes noise, sometimes with no consideration of the effect on their neighbours. But how much noise is too much? In order to promote awareness of noise the Council's Environment Services Team had a Noise Action Day on Thursday May 27th. I am pleased to report that Oliver Cromwell's House had had a terrific start to the new financial year.

Souvenir sales are up by 79% on last year, a real reflection on the quality of goods they stock. Admissions are also on the increase, up 36% on the same period.

With regard to the green waste collection, Cleanaway will deliver three paper sacks per household per week for collection. Extra sacks can be purchased at Swaffham Bulbeck stores at 50 pence each.

This collection is presently only operating within the thirty mile speed limit areas of Swaffham Prior, but the intention is include households in the surrounding areas in the future.

If anyone has a problem that cannot be resolved by Cleanaway, they should contact Gerald Tickner of Environmental Services at East Cambs District Council.

Allen Alderson

Rose Cottage, 30 Great Lane, Reach, CB5 0JF, Tel: 741744

Notes from the Parish Council June Meeting

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

Minutes of last meeting: These were agreed.

CCC Report: There was no report this month.

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancy: No-one has come forward to fill this vacancy.

Matters Arising – for information only:

a. *Installation of New Play Equipment:* This work had been started and once

complete, an inspection by RoSPA would be requested.

- b. *Damaged Horse Chestnut – Village Car Park:* The ECDC Tree Officer agreed that this tree could be completely removed and replaced with a Silver Birch. This work is to be put in hand.
- c. *Budget Summary 2004/05:* Copies of this was circulated for information. It was noted that the Lottery Grant towards the new play equipment has been received.

Accounts for 2003/04: Approval of the accounts was held-over until the July meeting.

Review of Insurance Policy: Due to a large increase in the premium from Allianz Cornhill for this year's insurance, a further quotation was requested from ACRE Insurance Services. This estimate proved to be much lower and was agreed.

New Village Award: This will be given further consideration over the next month or two. Should anyone have any suggestions as to the form of the Award or the way in which it is administered, please contact the Clerk.

Play Area – RoSPA Inspection Report: Items needing attention were noted.

Damage/Repairs to Barrier – Coopers Lane: Damage to this barrier was reported to the Clerk. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact CCC and ask that they provide a stronger barrier.

Use of Recreation Ground - Request from Burwell Tigers Football Club: Richard Freeman, The Chairman of BTFC, attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of using the Recreation Ground as a football pitch for teams from the football club. He explained that the Club was expanding at a great pace and that extra facilities and pitches were urgently needed. The scheme would involve the installation of portakabin type units and the connection of utilities with some form of car parking area. He also confirmed that any scheme/facility would be fully available for people from the village when not in use for football matches/training. After a good deal of discussion, the Parish Council agreed that this would be of great benefit to the village but noted that any scheme would have to be agreed with Swaffham Prior Estates, the owners of the field. Richard agreed to draw up an outline plan of what they propose so that this could be forwarded to Swaffham Prior Estates for their comments. Steve Kent-Phillips, as the P.C. representative, confirmed the Sports & Recreation Committee support for this.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: There were no applications this month.

Planning Approvals:

The Manor House, 37 Lower End

4 Cage Hill

9 Cage Hill

New Gant Farm, S.P. Fen.

Any Other Business:

It was reported that there had been some fly-tipping on the footpath running behind the houses on Greenhead Road from Coopers Green. The Clerk will contact ECDC/Cleanaway to get this cleared away.

The road edge opposite the School gates on Station Road has again been reported to Andrew Tipple of CCC as a hazard.

The condition of the Pound and suggested maintenance was reported to the meeting. This will be an agenda item for the July meeting.

Open Question Time: There were no questions.

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

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 742358.

Email: karen.king5@btopenworld.com

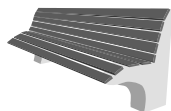
FOR SALE

Beko 4 star Fridge/Freezer combination – as good as new! £100 ono



Rover Quantum XTS 50 Petrol lawnmower – only 2 years old £200 ono

High quality gas barbecue - £50 ono



Wooden garden beer bench - £40 ono

Sharp microwave in excellent condition - £50 ono

Interested? Please contact 01638 743447



Church of England Services July 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
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



Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dear Friends,

July is the time when people start to look forward to their summer holidays. It is good for us all to have a break, to recharge our batteries and to explore new territory. We all need to take time for refreshment and renewal, and very often those times on holiday help us to see ourselves in a new light and to be filled with new hope and purpose.

I am reminded of a story from the seaside. It is early morning. On the beach is an elderly man. He walks with a cane, carefully surveying the beach that the receding tide has left exposed. Every now and then he bends to pick something up and toss it into the ocean. Another early morning stroller watches with fascination as the old man carefully scans the beach before him. It is then that the watcher realizes that the elderly man is looking for starfish. Every time he sees one lying helpless in the sand, unable to get back to the ocean on his own, he lovingly picks it up and tosses it gently back into the sea.

Curious as to why the elderly man is doing this, the other man approaches him, and strikes up a conversation with him. Soon the conversation gets round to why the elderly man is throwing the starfish back into the sea. The elderly man explains, "The starfish are left behind after the tide goes out. If they don't get back into the ocean they will dry up and die beneath the hot summer sun."

"But there are endless miles of beach and there must be millions of starfish," the other man says. "Surely you don't think you can save them all. What difference can your efforts possibly make?" Slowly the old man bends over and picks up another starfish. As he tosses it into ocean he looks at the other man and says, "It makes a difference to that one."

That deeply touching story, reminds us of a profound truth, that, just as each and every one of those starfish were precious to that old man, each and every one of us is precious to God. He values and cares for each one of his 'children' and knows that his love and concern for each individual will 'make a difference' to that person's life. He scans the "beaches" of human life and makes a difference to "that one" and "that one" and "that one", through his Son Jesus Christ.

As Jesus reminds us *'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'* (John 3:16)

Why not, then, take time this summer to reflect on God's love for you. Consider those words of Jesus. Consider just how precious you are to God and remember something else that Jesus said: *'Listen! I am standing at the door knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'* (Revelation 3:20)

I hope that you will take time to 'open the door' to Christ this Summer.

May God bless you all.

David Lewis

Dates for Your Diary - July 2004

Fri	2	7.30pm Mirabilis, St Cyriac's
Sat	3	11.30am-1.30pm, Folk Blues, Ely Town Centre
Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	8	7.30pm, PC Meeting
Sat	10	12noon-4pm School Summer Fair 2pm-4pm, Folk, Jubilee Gardens, Ely
Sun	11	11am-6pm, Bottisham Open Gardens
Wed	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	15	5-7pm School Open Evening
Sat	17	10.30-11.45: First Birthday Party, Bottisham Community Library 11.30am-1.30pm, Jazz, Ely Town Centre
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	22	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Sat	24	2-4pm, Keyboards, Jubilee Gardens, Ely
Sat	31	11.30am-1.30pm Camargue Flamenco, Ely Town Centre

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 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 7-10pm, Youth Club