



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 6  
June 2004



## Editorial

*Lonely Hearts Column: Demure brown lady Peahen desperately sought by courtly, gentleman Peacock. Dining out and conversation a speciality.* Yes, it's *Clarence*, of course! (oh alright, what do you call him?) — the bird-about-town who appeared from nowhere on Tuesday last. Clarence, who always tries to look skinny and forlorn when attempting to join Priorites for breakfast, is actually a rather sleek, if not to say, somewhat portly bird with a very flashy tale, and whose dulcet tones would shame the foghorn on an ocean-liner. Who needs a chiming clock with Clarence around! But his snap does not do him justice, because, of course, it was *not* taken by the official and clearly quite brilliant.....

*Crier Photographer!* See the Village Feast through his eyes, especially noting, perhaps, the sharp contrast between the graceful Maypole circumnavigations of Mrs Barbara Doe and the *bumbling activities* of a certain person in the background — *who could that be?* Welcome Frank Readhead to the *Crier* team — this magazine won't ever be the same again!

Welcome also to our new ECDC councillor Allen Alderson and congratulations to him on last month's by-election victory. We hope he'll represent us well.

But who is the mysterious *paper-pilferer* of Greenhead Road? We don't want a confession, but we do think he should buy his own newspaper, rather than pinching other people's out of their letter boxes! Meanwhile, we'll take this opportunity to remind you that there's a great number of *unmissable Prior events* this June: Chris Pemberton's Art Exhibition — a big event, very popular in the village when last held, and with people attending from all over the country, Jazz on a Summer's Evening, the School Fair, the WI Trip, Sing for the Windmill, the Great Parachute Jump and many, many more. See you there!

*Caroline Matheson*

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Cover Picture: *Cuculus Canorus* by Brenda Wilson



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor,

### Reach Fair Parking

Whilst I appreciate Reach Fair is a very important occasion (and I am sorry the weather was so atrocious) but I do wonder the mentality of some motorists!

On Sunday afternoon it was pleasing to see the police very carefully placing parking cones either side of Rogers Road to warn motorists not to park there - the field opposite being used for parking that day.

But alas no! I was on the understanding that bollards placed along the kerb meant NO PARKING! How wrong I was! Motorists still parked either side of Rogers Road in-between the cones - one in particular right outside our house (half way across our driveway as well!) and when we wanted to get out we actually had to sound our horn so that the driver could reverse a little! Just as well he was still in his car! It seemed their attitude was 'park where we can - don't worry if we are blocking anyone in'. It's bad enough trying to drive up or down Rogers Road on Reach Fair day as it is and for once this year I thought the problem had been solved - how wrong I was!

I was just so angry that people do not take any notice of police signs - I understand that the field was probably bogged down with all the rain but that gives no reason why police cones should be ignored. It's a pity the police were still not on duty - they could have booked a few of these ignorant/uncaring motorists.

*An unhappy resident of Rogers Road*

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## BY-ELECTION RESULT

The Swaffhams By-Election for East Cambridgeshire District Council, held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May was won by Allen Alderson, the Conservative Party candidate. With a turn-out of 50.3%, the voting was:

Allen Alderson, Conservative Party	389
Francesca Marlow, Liberal Democrat	344
Steven O'Dell, Labour Party	39

Following the count the result was declared at 10.05pm. The vacancy on the Council had come about following the resignation in March of Charlotte Cane, a Liberal Democrat councillor. The composition of the Council is now:

Liberal-Democrats	17
Conservatives	15
Independents	7

*Press & and PR Office*  
East Cambridgeshire District Council



**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**

**7.00 – 10.00 pm**



**JAZZ ON A**



**SUMMER'S EVENING**



with

**The Kemp Brothers**

featuring Ruth Applin

at

**The Red Lion**

(in the garden, weather permitting)

**No tickets ♪ No admission charge**

(Collection for the band)

**BAR-B-Q ♪ DRINKS ♪ FAMILIES WELCOME**

Raffle and sweet stall in aid of St Mary's Church Fabric Fund



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Yet another twelve months have passed and the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman came up for re-election. But it turned out to be a time of many changes.

The Chairman is leaving town within a month or two but he was persuaded to stay as chairman for the interim to “give us a good start”. Andrew Camps wasn’t there so it was easy to vote him in again as Vice-Chairman. “Will he accept?” “Doesn’t matter, he’s got to.” Such is democracy. A member offered to be Chairman if required, another member resigned because he had just been ordained, and we have a new ECDC representative. So, having just achieved a full house of nine, the PC is down to eight, and will soon be down to seven. **IS THIS, OR IS IT NOT, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME GOOD CITIZENS?**



Alan Alderton, our new ECDC representative, elected on the previous Thursday, said he had yet to attend any ECDC meeting but he would like to report on the major concerns of the people to whom he had spoken. 1) Speeding was a major concern, especially in Heath Road. 2) Some people are having serious problems with new Green Waste collection and resented they were unable to discuss them with ECDC (to whom they pay their rates!!) but were referred to the contractors Cleanaway. 3) Some (I wonder who) have complained about the huge lorries which travelled down the High Street from the Cage Hill direction. Alan certainly appears to have his finger on the pulse of the community.

Every PC meeting ought to have, and usually has, a high point of the evening. This time it was “The Cutting back of the Horse Chestnut Tree in the VH car park”. How this poor tree has suffered. It looked like one of the entries in last year’s Turner Prize except that no one had strung apples onto it so that we could watch them rot and thereby enhance our consciousness by observing life, decay and death. The PC was incensed and reported this act of “vandalism” to the police. Eventually the search for the criminal had to be called off when the villain was discovered to be a worthy village citizen who had actually asked and received permission. It seems he had asked the Chairman if he could prune a tree, the Chairman thinking it was in his garden said “yes”, and that’s how it happened. As the tree could take years to recover the PC will ask permission to remove it and replace with another more suitable for the site.



From ECDC came the annual reminder that there should be a declaration of all interests (except being a Freemason of course) and that all gifts and hospitality worth more than £25 must be declared if the gifts are of “personal interest”. The PC was rightly puzzled by this and the rather contorted

The art of the  
amateur tree-pruner

explanatory letter appeared to enjoy the joke because it ended “hoping this is all clear, and do not hesitate etc etc.” I suppose that “of personal interest” means if you give golf clubs to a tennis player, the gift does not have to be declared?

Our two horticultural experts (Mike Malster and Alex Kirby) are at it again. Apart from erecting a polytunnel on their allotments they also want to rent the land on the other side of the bypass. The PC was impressed with the will, knowledge and resource of this pair and gave them their full support. Their only concern was the difficulty in ploughing up the large field. On this they need have no worries. The Malster/Kirby partnership is very very fortunate to own a “Merry Tiller”, which if maintained correctly, almost does the work by itself. I can’t wait to see them both, whistling and singing, as they happily walk behind the jolly machine.

Any Other Business. Steve Kent-Phillips raised some points which some of his constituents had raised with him. I have seen this before and it is almost like an initiation ceremony. Firstly it seems there is a hedge at the bottom of Fairview Grove which is overgrown and blocks the pavement. I’m not quoting any house number as I once got into trouble over that. But we all know that hedge and we all know that you don’t cut it while a breeding pair of Peregrine Falcons (or is it Ospreys) are there. I know the owner of the hedge is taking his responsibilities very seriously because I overheard him discussing it with the foremost bird specialist in the village. Steve also reported a complaint about the delayed completion of “Underhill” in Greenhead Road and wanted to know if the PC knew when it would be finished. The PC thought the only people to know would be the builders and they were likely to be untrustworthy. It seems that someone wished to push a pram along the blocked pavement and is irritated about having to cross the road. Henry remembered that the pathway had always been overgrown and said that when the work is finished it will be the first time for years that the pavement is usable. Another Titbit. Our PC has given up any idea of trying to be a “Quality Parish Council”. The reasons are fairly obvious but there is no room here, or possibly any need, to spell them out.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **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**

<b>When?</b>	<b>26-30 July, 9.30am – 12 noon</b>
<b>Where?</b>	<b>Swaffham Prior School and Village Hall</b>
<b>Who?</b>	<b>All primary school aged children currently attending, or who have attended, Swaffham Prior School, or resident in Swaffham Prior or Reach</b>
<b>How much?</b>	<b>£2.50 per child/morning; £6.00 per family/morning; subsidised places available</b>
<b>What?</b>	<b>Too much to list here! Archery; archaeology; basketball; fishing; pony rides; wiggle karts; cycle trip; art gallery tour; calligraphy; cake modelling; cookery; drama; country dancing....</b>
<b>Note</b>	<b>We hope to have application forms out in the week starting 7 June. If you will not automatically receive one through Swaffham Prior School, please contact Dee on 743864. Forms should be returned by 18 June. Please note that we have been oversubscribed in previous years and have to allocate places on a first come, first served basis.</b>



## £3,000 for 3,000 feet

On 26 June, Reach resident Jenny McMahon will be jumping out of an aeroplane at between 2,000 and 3,000 feet above Chatteris – with a parachute! This will be Jenny’s first solo parachute jump and she is hoping to raise £3,000 for local good causes.

Jenny admits to being ‘slightly nervous’ but is keen to make the jump to help Swaffham Prior School, where she works and where her youngest son attends school, and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

‘The children really need some new playground equipment’, says Jenny. ‘The existing equipment is very old now and not sufficient for the number of children at the school, or for the other children in the village who use the playground out of school hours. And I feel that we should all support the Air Ambulance, particularly since it has recently played such an important role for some of the families at the school.’

Jenny plans to raise the money through sponsorship, collections at local events and donations from local businesses. If you would like to help Jenny reach her target, please contact Clare Freeman (01638 741316) to request a sponsorship form or to make a donation.

***Clare Freeman***

Secretary, Friends of Swaffham Prior School  
(Registered Charity: 1101188)





## Sing for the Sails!



On the 26<sup>th</sup> June at St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior at 7.30pm we are holding a 'Come and Sing' performance of Mozart's Requiem to launch a £30,000 appeal to raise money to replace the sails of the windmill. The mill will be 150 years old in 2008 and it is hoped that with the sails replaced and other smaller works completed, the mill will be set fair for the next 150 years.

Jonathan Cook (miller and musician) will be conducting a performance with full orchestra and soloists. Those who enjoy singing are invited to join the choir, those who like listening are encouraged to join the audience! During the interval there will be a short presentation about the history of the mill and information about how the money raised will be spent.

Some of you gave generously three years ago when we were forced to undertake emergency works to replace two of the sails which became dangerous due to wet rot infestation. This allowed us to fit two second hand sails to the mill which are giving good service but have a limited life span. The time has now come to replace the two remaining sails and the temporary sails fitted in 1991 to allow the mill to work to its optimum.

We really need your help. The mill is a landmark seen from around the whole area and one we are determined to keep in working order, serving the community just as it has done for the last 150 years. With your support by making a donation to the fund, either coming to the concert or dropping by the mill when we are open, you can do your bit to secure its future for future generations. We are extending our 'Sponsor a Sail' plan whereby for a small donation, you can sponsor a sail shutter.

If you would like to sing, please contact Jo Stinton on 01223 290772 to book a place. Tickets for the concert (£5.00 each) will be available on the door or from Jonathan Cook on 01638 741009 from whom you can also get further information on mill opening times, flour orders etc..

*Jonathan Cook*



### 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!

## THE 2004 VILLAGE FEAST

Hoorah! A true triumph, with several financial records being broken. Not that the event is just about money. More important is that the people who came enjoyed themselves, met lots of friends and other people, and had a jolly good time.

It was our highest gate ever with the total receipts being £1167.14. A number of individual records were also broken - the Bottle Stall (thanks to all who donated), the Bookstall, and the Lucky Dip. The Bar leapt from £94.13 last year to £177.70 this year. All the other stalls did brilliantly but not quite enough to break a record.

What was it held for, people asked. Apart from the fun, all the money goes to the Village Hall which, without the revenue from the Feast, the Jumble Sale and the Harvest Show would make a thumping great loss even if we did hugely increase the hiring charges. This year, under the prudent and watchful eye of our Treasurer Trevor Jones (known as the Gordon Brown of the Fens), we ended with a surplus of £284. £182 of this was contributed by those who left their newspapers in the Newspaper Shed. Thank you. Those who love horses will be pleased to know that our newspapers (not glossy magazines please) are made into the most delicious bedding for horses.

Returning to the good services of our Treasurer, most people will be aware that Trevor is leaving us



The School's top class show their skills



as the band plays on



gardeners are made an offer  
they can't refuse





biscuits are eaten



and eggs are thrown .... and dropped!



Photos by Frank Readhead

within the next month or two. He is happy (this may not be the right word) to continue for a bit but **WE URGENTLY NEED A NEW TREASURER.** It is very urgent that someone does come forward, perhaps thinking “what can I give rather than take from the village”. So please phone me (742974) if you would like to know more.

*Alastair Everitt*

Chairman,  
Village Hall Management  
Committee



## Coach Trip to Colchester

Fancy a day out in Colchester? There's a coach leaving the Village Hall at 10am on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June and returning from Colchester at 4.30pm. Cost £11 per head. I understand there's plenty to see - museums, art galleries, shops, gardens and plenty of places to eat. Should be an interesting day. If you would like to book a seat please phone Margaret Phillips on 741495.

## **Godspell 2004**

We are so very sorry to have to tell you that Godspell will not be happening this summer after all. The project has been beset with numerous problems and we decided this week that it would be better to postpone it until 2005 rather than to continue with it under such difficult circumstances. We apologise unreservedly to those who had already committed themselves wholeheartedly to the production and assure them that there will be a meeting in the autumn at which we'll be able to give such an important project our undivided attention.

Godspell *will* happen! It's just that we — and we're sure you — couldn't bear to see such a good thing skimped and done half-heartedly with limited resources.

So please accept our apologies and WATCH THIS SPACE ...

*Hilary Sage and Jeremy Webb*

*THE FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE*

### **CAR BOOT SALE**

*AT*

**BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE**

*ON*

**SUNDAY JUNE 13th 2004 9am - 12noon**

**£6 per pitch**

**(Pay on the day)**

**SET UP FROM 8am**

**Refreshments available**

### **Cantilena Singers Summer Concert 2004**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2004 7:30 pm**

**St. Johns Church**

**Little Wilbraham**

**Tickets on the door or contact Ray Tilbrook 01223 811036**

**Refreshments included in Ticket price**

**Proceeds to the Church**

**Director Daniel Spreadbury**

**Programme will include a selection of secular and religious music appropriate for the season**



# NORDIC-WALKING HOLIDAYS

Come **NORDIC-WALKING** and discover a unique, unspoiled landscape of green pastures and volcanic-formed mountains of **MONTS DU CANTAL**. Accommodation at a local hotel in the heart of the Auvergne Volcanic Park.

Phone 01638 742003 or visit [www.nordic-walkingholidays.co.uk](http://www.nordic-walkingholidays.co.uk)

## \*\*\*\*\* THE BOTTISHAM BALL \*\*\*\*\*

With the Parents and Friends of Bottisham Village College

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2004, 7pm until midnight**

**Black Tie**

**Tickets cost £35 per person** And include:

- . Complimentary champagne on Warden's lawn
- . Raffle Ticket
- . Buffet Dinner

The **Band**, live from London is **BOOGIE WONDERLAND**

Tickets are available from: BerylRing (01638) 730864

Janet Blair (01638) 662270



**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 7.00 pm**

Beechurst Hall, Soham Village College

## CHINOOK

Four Clarinettists - Six Clarinets — and a programme of light, accessible music

First Performance: *Shore Villages of Cambridgeshire* by Patrick Brandon

Contribution from **Soham Village College Musicians** (Year 10) directed by Liza Field

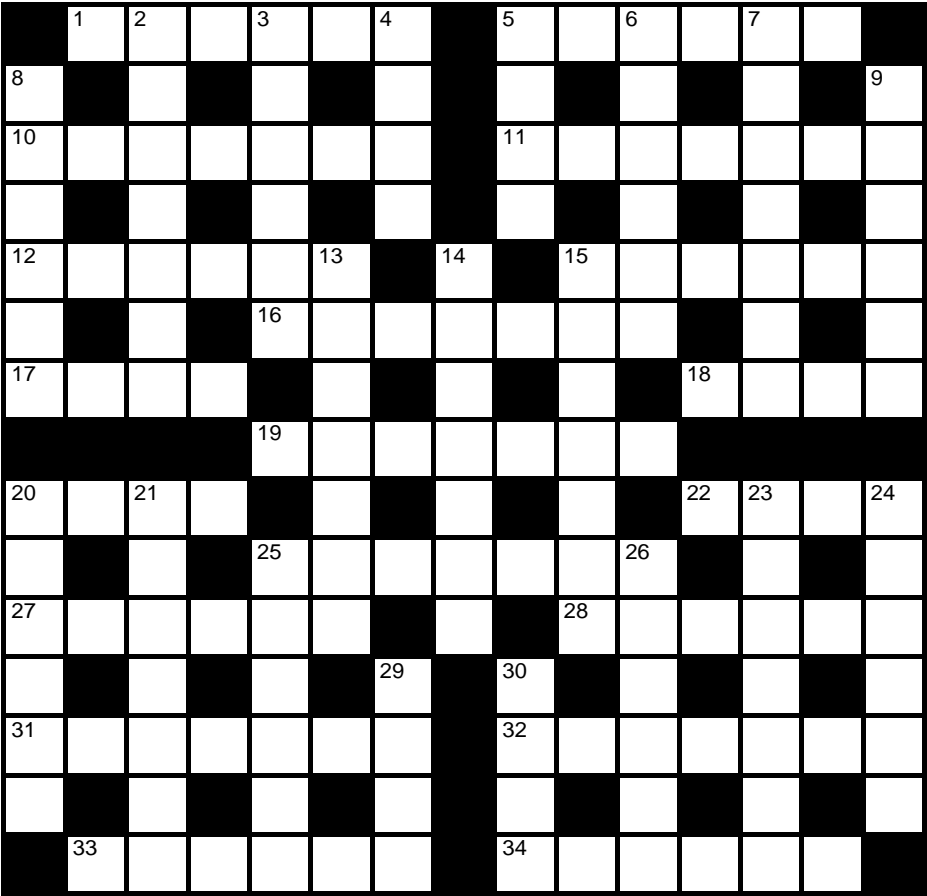
Tickets **£7** (Concessions - if bought in advance - **£5**) from:

**Discus Music, Newmarket \* D N Jenkins, Fordham \* Soham Books**

**Artists' Corner, Ely \* or Ring 01638 720328**

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

We have a straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 14th June 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 Hill driving organisation returns for food (6)
- 5 Arrogance I brush off (6)
- 10 Disastrous sheriff ate full meal inside (7)
- 11 Shrill laughter about never-ending static (7)
- 12 Lesion adapted for shoe lining (6)
- 15 Hateful daughter with debts is after love (6)
- 16 Pull out old pamphlet (7)
- 17 Flush first lady has a point (4)
- 18 Makes profits from gun returns (4)
- 19 Intellectual type he gaged wrongly (7)
- 20 Small boat used to get fish (4)
- 22 Spot psychic talent has happy ending (4)
- 25 Alcohol served up owing to an hotel error (7)
- 27 Thrash about in a doglike manner (6)
- 28 This sailor had no lens problem (6)
- 31 Avant-garde novel gesture (3,4)
- 32 Omen of gold and ginger maybe (7)
- 33 We can't see when it closes (6)
- 34 The way mother points to the queen (6)

## Down

- 2 Inside handcart is terrific performer (7)
- 3 Artist very soft on the French may get to draw (6)
- 4 Porter has time for a story (4)
- 5 Jaded reporter gets a cut (4)
- 6 Old German statesman had supporter and no doubt tried initially (6)
- 7 Tedious part after one redhead meets keen beginner (7)

- 8 Agency positioned next to the skating rink (6)
- 9 Against poetry we hear (6)
- 13 Religious expert on river to get sweetheart (7)
- 14 Warm the oven first then chop up the pear (7)
- 15 Figure can go to ruin (7)
- 20 Pour out pious platitudes of the French coming first (6)
- 21 Fugitive might manage on a path (7)
- 23 Not vagile but promises silence within (7)
- 24 Beginners, you only need do everything right over there (6)
- 25 Involve end quarters first (6)
- 26 Reduce oral instruction (6)
- 29 Heavy metal star (4)
- 30 Ointment obtained from herbal medicine (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 11



We congratulate **Bob and Julie Nunn**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Runners up were Shirley Wilkins (with the quickest ever entry) and Dee Noyes and Mandy Kingsmill.

CHRISTOPHER  
**PEMBERTON**  
drawings & paintings



at the drawing room  
**11 am - 5 pm**

saturday 5th june (with the artist present) -  
sunday 6th june

saturday 12th june -  
sunday 13th june

the drawing room  
47 lower end  
swaffham prior  
cambridge  
cb5 0ht

info@clarenewbolt.com  
01638 742905

## **BOTTISHAM OPEN GARDENS DAY**

(IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS)

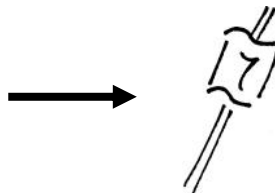
**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2004**

11.00 am until 6.00pm

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

FREE PARKING AT BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE (library end)

**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.



**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT YOUTH CENTRE**  
(next to the church)

## ***For the First time in Ely!***

### **a French Market is coming to town**

A very special event is about to happen in Ely on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. If you feel like travelling to France for your next holidays, but don't know when this is going to happen, then, here is a way of enjoying a touch of France right at your doorstep. Oui: the French are coming to you!

Marché de France, team of French market traders, is a professional team, with a real team spirit, that has been touring around England and Wales for 5 years now. French markets are usually quite popular as they bring liveliness to a town centre, **something different and festive**, feeling like a week end holidays. That's what this team aims to bring when they come to us: a touch of France. Together with a musical and lovely atmosphere for all the locals to remember.

This market will be offering 26 genuine traders from Normandy and Brittany. Lots of delicious food such as famous French bread (country bread, croissants, etc...), cheeses from all regions of France, wines, charcuterie, olives, garlic, honey, and much, much more... Craft stalls will be there as well, and the market will be open for trade all day from 9am to 5pm on Friday and Saturday, and from 10am to 4pm on the Sunday. On the Market square on Friday Sunday, the French traders will be joining the traditional market on Saturday, so they will set up their stalls along High Street, which should create a great ambience all over the Town Centre

So come and browse, and get a chance to taste lovely French products, as well as practise your French. Traders will be happy to chat in French with you if you feel like trying. Don't miss out and enjoy the fun.

For more info, contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377.

***Tracey Harding***

## **GP Out of Hours Services**

From 1st April 2004, practices will be contracted to provide services for nationally agreed core hours (8 am - 6:30 pm Monday to Friday). Whilst the contract came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April, the PCT has until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 to take over responsibility for providing out of hours cover for practices. We have agreed locally that our target date for taking over responsibility for Out of Hours services will be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004.

**How are out of hours services provided currently?** At the moment, GPs are responsible for ensuring the provision of out of hours GP services, as well as for providing that service. Locally, GPs work together in a co-operative to cover each other's out-of-hours calls. In the majority of cases locally this is via Cambridge Doctors on Call (CAMDOC), although some practices such as the Linton practice are members of Suffolk Doctors on Call (SuffDOC).

**So what's changing?** From the patient's perspective, there is little change. CAMDOC and SuffDOC will continue to provide the same service that they currently provide. Individual practices may make some changes to Saturday morning services over the next few months. A practice may decide to continue holding Saturday morning surgeries, but will not be commissioned by the PCT to do so.

We are currently in discussions about commissioning CAMDOC and SuffDOC to continue to provide a service after 1<sup>st</sup> September during the following times:

Weekdays: 18:30 to 08:00 the following day

Weekends: 18:30 on Friday to 08:00 on the following Monday

Public Holidays: All national public holidays including Christmas and the New Year (18:30 the evening prior to the holiday period through to 08:00 the morning after the end of the holiday period)

In the meantime, patients will continue to access services by calling their own surgery number where they will be redirected to CAMDOC or SuffDOC depending on which co-operative their practice belongs to.

## **Patient Choice.**

This national initiative is focussing initially on two main priorities:

**Choice @ 6 Months:** By the summer of 2004, all patients who have waited six months for surgery and who do not have a firm date for their operation before seven months will be offered the choice of moving to another hospital or provider.

**Choice @ Referral:** From December 2005, all patients who need planned (elective surgery) will be offered the choice of four or five hospitals (or other appropriate providers) at referral.

You can visit the Department of Health website for the latest information on Choice at [www.doh.gov.uk/choiceconsultation](http://www.doh.gov.uk/choiceconsultation)





## WI Notes

The W.I. meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May began with a discussion on the Resolutions to be voted on at the W.I. National Assembly in June. They were on G.M. Crops, Human Trafficking of Women and Children, and the Funding of Air Ambulances. The vote was unanimous against the first two but we were divided on the third.

It will be interesting to learn what the majority vote is on all these matters after the Assembly and whether the Government will take any action.

The rest of the evening was passed in a much lighter vein, when Hilary Sage entertained us with readings and monologues. Her subjects were some of the deadly sins, Lust, Greed, Pride and Envy. Hilary is a delight and we all thoroughly enjoyed her visit.

The Rev. D. Reindorp will be visiting us on 21<sup>st</sup> June when the title of his talk is “Millionaire or Bust”.

*Betty Prime*

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## STAINE HUNDRED

Mrs Donna Martin gave an enthusiastic talk about her research in to the history of “Soham and its Abbey” at the April meeting of the Staine Hundred Local History Society. Beginning with prehistoric times, she said that by Roman times it was an important trading station along the Colchester/Lincoln route, at a crossroads with a causeway from Barway giving a safe route from Cambridge to Ely across the treacherous fens.

St Felix, a French monk from Canterbury set up an Abbey in 634 with a large centre of education so that in those days it was more important than Ely or Cambridge. In fact she claimed that it was the second largest centre of Christianity in England at that time. St Felix was buried at Soham which therefore became a centre of pilgrimage. The Danes were able to sail from the North Sea up to Soham where they knocked down and burnt the Abbey but it was built up again later. It is known that there were Bishops of Soham and some of their gravestones have been found face down near the existing church, which is believed to be on or close to the Abbey Church site.

The relics of St Felix were removed by boat but disappeared whilst on their way to Ramsey Abbey. Mrs Martin felt there has been a conspiracy to deny the Soham Abbey its rightful place in history, especially after the building of the monastic buildings at Ely. There is no existing entry for Soham in the Domesday Book. The church was remodelled in 1405 and the new tower was built from material from other remains of monastic buildings. She spoke of underground tunnels from the church. She is still working on her theories but recent archaeological evidence do support them.

She was thanked by the Chairman, Maureen Rogers.

**Terry Chalmers** FMAAT  
Book-keeping & Accountancy Service

70 North Street  
Burwell  
Cambridge  
CB5 0BB

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Swaffham Prior who, together with the electors of Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck, have elected me Councillor for the Swaffham Ward.

It is an honour that you have chosen me to represent you, and I will strive to repay the trust that you have placed in me.

The voting figures were: Allen Alderson 389, Francesca Marlow 344, Steven O'Dell 29.

During the by-election campaign, I was able to meet many of you and discuss your problems, including housing, fly tipping, speeding, and teething problems with the green-waste collection. I will now be pursuing these on your behalf.

There will be many challenges ahead, both locally and in East Cambridgeshire. Not least the projected 30% population increase in the county by the year 2016. This will bring many pressures, both in housing and in the infrastructure required for such an increase.

It will be my task to ensure that any changes are in keeping with the three villages.

I have been asked to serve on the Licensing and the Appeals and Complaints Committees. Also to serve on the Joint Area Committee for Environment and Transport.

All Conservative councillors in East Cambridgeshire are free to think and act independently in the best interests of the ward they represent. This means that the needs of Swaffham Prior, Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck can and will come first.

I look forward to working with and for you in the period ahead.

***Allen Alderson***

Rose Cottages, 30 Great Lane, Reach, Cambs, CB5 0JF. Tel: 01638 741744



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**Contact 741197**

The season of Annual Meetings is upon us again. I expect to attend them all and give a brief County report on what happened in year 2003/4, and some of the things we can expect this year 2004/5. With the Chairman's permission I will deal with any questions on County matters.

Looking back on last year it is surprising that as much as £42M has been invested locally in improving **highway and public transport**. The Audit Commission inspectors complimented our efforts to increase bus use (including Park & Ride), reducing road casualties, more street lighting and repair and re-surfacing of our roads. In my opinion our area has done well. There is more improvement to come in the summer and autumn, particularly the "soft" safety measures

Relating to **Burwell** and **Bottisham** I ought to explain that "soft" in this context means advisory, warning or encouraging measures aimed at drivers of all sorts from HGV to cars. An example of a "soft" warning are the interactive 40mph signs on Mill Hill, **Saffham Prior** with attendant strips and road paintwork.

Should there be a disappointing response, then we might be forced to think of "hard" alternatives, for example the priority arrangement on the Causeway, **Burwell**, or some Cambridge street "pinch" points.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April there are changes in the way **Social Services and Health Care** are provided to **Older People**, Cambs Social Services will transfer its £70M annual budget and 900 staff to the County's four **NHS Primary Care Trusts**. The County will continue to have statutory accountability for social services for older people, but the new system will give a single assessment of need and one joint team providing. The **PCT's** main role to commission primary care will continue as before to all people.

*James Fitch*

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## **Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting**

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

### **Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman**

Trevor Jones was elected as Chairman and Andrew Camps as Vice-Chairman.

### **Parish Council Vacancy due to Resignation**

Christopher Wilson has resigned following his Ordination as a Unitarian Minister.  
*Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.*

### **Confirmation of Representatives for Other Bodies**

**Sports & Recreation Committee** - Steven Kent-Phillips will represent the Parish Council

**The Charities** - Henry Hardiment, Trevor Jones & Eric Day will represent the Parish Council

**Village Hall Committee** - Andrew Camps will represent the Parish Council

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** These were agreed

## **Reports**

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting

Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting

## **Matters Arising**

**Railway Bridge, Reach Road:** an update was given

**Agenda for Annual Assembly:** This was amended to include the cubs and scouts, as well as the recreation ground and agreed.

**Insurance Policy - renewal/amendments 2004/05:** This was discussed and will be brought to the June meeting for payment.

**Play Area - Installation of New Equipment:** Follow receipt of the lottery funding the equipment has been ordered and should be in place in the next few weeks.

**Play Area - RoSPA Inspection - Report:** This has not yet been received.

**Cutting back of Horse Chestnut Tree in Village Car Park:** Tree officer to be asked if a more suitable tree could be place in the Village Car Park in view of the time and effort required to restore the tree to an appropriate state.

## **Correspondence Received:**

**CCC:** Letter re status of Parish Council nominated School Governors.

**ECDC:** Declaration of Interests, new forms need to be collated.

**General:** Query regarding allotment land and placing of a poly tunnel.

**Accounts for Payment:** These were agreed

## **Planning Applications:**

**The Manor House, 37 Lower End** - repair of wind damaged outbuildings. Part demolition

**New Gant Farm Swaffham Prior Fen** - Proposed new dwelling

**9 Cage Hill** - Demolition of outbuilding and erection of two storey rear extension.

## **Any Other Business:**

**Traffic Calming at Lower End** - Interactive box to be installed

**Fairview Grove** - Grit bin to be moved and overhanging shrubbery near turning circle becoming a problem.

**Recreation Ground** - Moles now removed.

**Heath Road** - Possibility of passing places being required was discussed.

**The Beeches** - Overgrown shrubbery encroaching on path - the wall issue still not resolved, to be discussed at the next meeting.

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at 7.30pm**

**Sandra Wilson**  
(Temporary minute taker!)



## Church of England Services

### June 2004

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 6</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 20</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Pet Service



### Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that 12 months have elapsed since my licensing to the Anglesey Group of parishes on June 10<sup>th</sup> last year.

The time has simply shot by as Pauline and I have worked hard to settle in to the job and to get to know the people in the villages, to get involved with the residential homes and the schools, and to get to understand how each of the five Churches work. It has been a demanding year, but also a year of great joy and fulfilment as we have come to know folk and to make many new friends.

Now that our first year is coming to an end I feel it is time to take stock; time to assess how effective each Church is in sharing the light and love of Christ, and how central each Church is within the life of its community.

Some years ago a lady attended 18 different churches on successive Sundays to rate their friendliness. She sat near the front of the Church each time and walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front using another aisle. On each occasion she was dressed neatly, and with a smile asked at least one person to direct her to the Church hall or office.

She used the following scale to rate her reception:

10 -- for a smile from a worshiper

10 -- for a greeting from someone nearby

100 -- for an exchange of names

200 -- for an invitation to a house group

1000 -- for an introduction to another worshiper

2000 -- for an invitation to meet the Vicar

Each of the eighteen churches earned less than 100 points. The researcher concluded: "The preaching may be biblical, the singing inspirational and the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor finds no one who cares whether or not he/she is there, he/she is not likely to come back."

So, the question in my mind is how would each of the five Churches in the Anglesey group rate?

I would value your views. Some of the Churches are conducting a survey, others are planning to hold open meetings to gather your views. The point is we want to do better. Of course, we can't do everything at once, but we can concentrate on those things that seem to be the top priority, and we want to take into account the things that you regard as being important.

I look forward to hearing from you.

May God bless you all.

*David*

Tel: 01223 812367

e-mail: RevDavidHLewis@aol.com

## ***Dates for Your Diary - June 2004***

Thu	3	Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Ely, Ely Museum, 7:30pm
Fri	4	
Sat	5	Christopher Pemberton exhibition, 47 Lower End, 11am-5pm & Sun
Tue	8	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	9	
Thu	10	Parish Council, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	11	
Sat	12	Christopher Pemberton exhibition, 47 Lower End, 11am-5pm & Sun Jazz on a Summer's Evening, Red Lion, 7:00-10:00pm
Sun	13	Bottisham Village College Car Boot Sale, 9:00am
Mon	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Fri	18	French Market at Ely, 9:00am-5:00pm, & Sat & Sun Deadline for returning Playscheme 2004 forms
Sat	19	Coach Trip to Colchester, leave Village Hall at 10:00am
Mon	21	WI, 'Millionaire or Bust', Village Hall
Tue	22	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	24	<b>Crier</b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Sat	26	'Sing for the Sails', St Cyriac's, 7:30pm Cantilena Singers, St John's Church, Lt Wilbraham, 7:30pm
Wed	30	Chinook Concert, Soham Village College, 7:00pm

<b>Weekly Events</b>		
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