



# The Swaffham Crier

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May 2004



## Editorial

Vote, vote, vote for.....?! Well, actually, read our Election Special for in-depth Crier advice on how to cast your vote to good effect in the forthcoming May 6 District Council Elections. Many apologies from the Eds, one of whom completely failed to spot the bomb-shell final paragraph of Charlotte Cane's report last month — Charlotte was going! Charlotte's getting a well-deserved promotion, and the *Crier* would like to say how much her unstinting service on the DC council has been appreciated by all of us, and she's inevitably going to be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new job — she's going to be a very hard act to follow.

But followed she will be, and this year we welcome *three* candidates to the hustings, Although all representing national parties, they say they won't be *apparatchiks* if elected, and it certainly seems that personal qualities play at least as great a role as party-political affiliations in local politics. But with a pay-scale (um...stipend) considerably below that of your average Thetford bond-slave immigrant labourer, and a job-description that (we're told!) *some* voters think should embrace Canute-like turn-back-the-flood-water skills, not to mention sort-out-my-noisy-neighbour requests at 3am in the morning, DC councillor is not too desirable an occupation! Best of luck, all our candidates. After all, you might not win!

Meanwhile, welcome to the merry month of May, drama packed with many forthcoming official productions (Bulbeck's Gilbert & Sullivan *Gondoliers* and Bottisham Players' *Round the World in 120 minutes*, to name but two), Reach Fair and the Big-Digger special (your help needed!), not to mention SP's self-made dramatic efforts in the form of the **Village Feast** and, of course, the **Annual Village Assembly**. Don't just *mean* to come this year! Do come — these events are great fun.

Lastly, Music in Holy Week was brilliant — read our reviews, and remember, don't miss it next year!

*Caroline Matheson*

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**Cover Picture: Two Pheasants by Clive Riggs**

# The Village Feast 2003

Saturday 15 May

at

2.00 pm

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of fun and games including

\*Maypole Dancing\* \*Bouncy Castle\* \*Can Shy\*

\*Bowls\* \*Children's Play Area\* \*Lucky Dip\*

\*Egg Throwing\* \*Raffle\*

\*Teas & Home-made Cakes\* \*Ice Creams\* \*Beer Tent\*

\*\*Stalls Galore\*\*

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants  
Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

**Admission 30p. Children Free**

## Your help is needed....

As usual we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

**Books, Books, Books** - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give Alastair Everitt (742974) a ring, and they will be happy to receive or collect. But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Elisabeth Everitt (742974).

We shall also be collecting for the **Bottle Stall**, and will be calling during the early part of May for anything you can offer.

**Thanking you for your usual generous support**

## **ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY**

This will take place on  
**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 7.30pm**  
in the Village Hall.

If anyone has a topic they would like included on the Agenda, please contact Karen King on 01638 742358 or email: [karen.king5@btopenworld.com](mailto:karen.king5@btopenworld.com)

### **Digger World - Raffle at Reach Fair**

You will have read last month's editorial and gathered that, to raise much needed money for the church, a raffle is to be held, the first prize being a family ticket to **DIGGER WORLD**. Evidently there are diggers of various sizes for all ages to drive - dads and grand-pa's can at last realise their ambition!!

Martin Mead is arranging for a digger to be driven to Reach where we have been allotted a corner of a field, so please look out for it and come and buy your ticket.

We need some children (accompanied by an adult) to wear Bob the Builder hats to help to publicise the event. Also please let me know if you can spare an hour to sell the raffle tickets anytime from noon till 5:00pm when the vicar will draw the winning ticket.

*Kate 743983*

### **Forthcoming events**

19<sup>th</sup> June - Jazz Evening at the Red Lion

25<sup>th</sup> Aug to 5<sup>th</sup> Sept - Godspell in St Mary's

(Unfortunately there has been a poor response to our request for gardens to be open in July. We shall therefore have to abandon the event for this year - but beware - we shall be after volunteers again next year!)

### **Telemarketing Vacancy**

We have a position available for a telemarketing officer at our office in Swaffham Bulbeck. Experience preferred but not essential as training will be provided. A professional telephone manner and strong communication skills are required. You will be conducting Business 2 Business telemarketing for existing and new clients. The position has flexible hours between 9 – 5pm.

Please call Tania Verdonk on 01638 741130  
for more information on the position and how to apply.

# From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

## Report of March PC Meeting

James Fitch of the County Council started, as usual, the business of the meeting. He gave us some financial information, by way of impressing on us that the County on the whole spent our (rates) money wisely. He also told us that although we (like everyone else in the nation,) might complain about local government rates, our rate was in fact the fourth-from-the-lowest, in the whole country. Mr. Fitch gave us some snippets of information: a bridle-way-circuit has just been completed by the addition of a bridle way from somewhere near the bottom of Heath Road Swaffham Prior towards Bottisham; the repair of subsidence damage to roadways around Upware has been completed, with no net gap on the Road Budget; also there is good news that Bottisham Village College is likely to obtain 'Foundation' status, perhaps not on its first application but eventually.



No ECDC representative was present, as Charlotte Cane has now resigned. During the meeting the hope was expressed that her successor, whoever he/she may be, will attend our meetings regularly, as we feel the importance of keeping in touch with our ECDC.

A couple of small matters arose from the Minutes of the last meeting which had been circulated. On the 'Enhancement Scheme', it was noted that difficulty had been experienced in obtaining the right kind of lantern, to fill the light-space in the arch over the church steps. The Charities fund had promised £100 towards the cost of play-equipment in the Playground.

There was much discussion about the bridge (the road-bridge over the long-ago-demolished railway) on the Reach Road. The idea is to make an alternative for walkers, cyclists and perhaps horse-riders, so that such road-users would not have to encounter vehicles on the road-bridge where there is no pavement beside the roadway at a dangerous corner. It was noted that there is now more traffic than heretofore, on this Reach-to-Swaffham-Prior road. It was noted too that any new pathway in the bridge area could not be routed *under* the bridge; all this area is badly overgrown by bushes at present, and much clearance will be required before anything can be done. Mr. Fitch told us that action on this matter should be taken now, while cycleway circuits around Cambridge are under consideration; and that we should get together with Reach P.C. to discuss it.

Plans had been circulated showing a scheme being put forward by a Housing Association called 'Flagship', for the building of 'affordable housing' on a small strip of the famous 'Dencora Field' land in Lower End. The land concerned runs parallel with Rogers Road, across the Road from the existing houses there. There was considerable discussion about the conditions of ownership and tenancy of such houses: we were told that such houses could be only part-owned: the owner or occupant could own 50%, the other 50% continuing to be owned by the Housing Association. If renting, the tenant must be a person connected in some way with the

village. There was discussion about the arrangements to be made when a part-owner wished to leave or sell: The Housing Association must always own at least 20% of the value of the house.

There was a brief discussion about the agenda for the forthcoming Village Assembly. The ECDC had suggested that their Planning department should send a member of their staff, to explain the new regulations about obtaining Planning permission; and this suggestion was accepted. It is over Planning matters that members of the public would normally have dealings with the ECDC.

There was in fact considerable discussion about one of the planning applications currently on the table, connected with the extension of some buildings in Heath Road. It was feared that the consequent increase in traffic, including heavy industrial and agricultural machinery, would cause problems along Heath Road: and that we should suggest additional laybys on the road near the building concerned, to enable the passing of the 'normal' road traffic.

Under the item 'Any Other Business' the Chairman told us that he had tested the interactive traffic-sign on the approach to the village from Burwell, which is meant to flash-up the number '40' when a vehicle exceeding this speed approaches it. The Chairman said he was driving at 50 up there recently and nothing happened; next day he drove at 44, and it came on perfectly. Another PC member said 'When I did 49 one day..' Somebody else said 'I was just doing 35 once... when..' It was obvious that every car driver on the Parish Council had had a go at testing this amenity, and reckoned that it is unreliable and inconsistent. It was thought that this may be because it is placed just after bend in the road, so it cannot 'see' cars approaching it for some distance. We like it though and there were no suggestions about removing or altering it. And at the end of all this, the Chairman congratulated himself; and us, on being able to close the meeting a 9.16 p.m.

After this meeting I went home thinking that all-in-all our Parish Council takes its duties seriously; items are not allowed to go through 'on the nod'. Subjects get a good airing, usually well-informed discussion, consequences foreseen, looked-at from several viewpoints. Grass-routes-democracy flourishes at Swaffham Prior!

*Margaret Stanier*

**St. Mary's Church. Swaffham Bulbeck.**

**Having a Springclean? Please don't forget the  
BULBECK AUCTION**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

**Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May - Goods received between 5pm - 9pm**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May - Viewing from 9am. Selling starts at 10am.**

Commission Fee 25%

Further information from 01223 811722/811772

**When?** 26-30 July, 9.30am – 12 noon  
**Where?** Swaffham Prior School and Village Hall  
**Who?** All primary school aged children currently attending, or who have attended, Swaffham Prior School, or resident in Swaffham Prior or Reach  
**How much?** £2.50 per child/morning; £6.00 for a family/morning; subsidised places available  
**What?** Craft, sport, music, drama, dance, trips, visitors, cookery etc  
**How?** Playscheme is organised entirely by volunteers. We need YOUR help. The next planning meeting will take place in the Red Lion on **19 May, at 8.15**. Please come along. The more ideas we have, the better Playscheme will be for your children.

**Note** 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.

**We are hoping to do some knitting at this year's Playscheme and would appreciate donations of wool or needles. We would also like to hear from patient knitters able to help beginners. Please call.**

**Please be in touch if you are a prospective teenage helper, or if you are able to come in for an hour in the middle of the morning to help with refreshments. Thank you.**

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

With the Parents and Friends of Bottisham Village College  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2004, 7pm until midnight**

**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



## Spring Production

### May 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Spring is the time to travel so they say. Thoughts of sun and excitement. We can help you decide where to go from the comfort of your chair if you join us in a trip “**Round the world in 120 minutes**”. We are planning an exciting and colourful **Revue of song, dance, monologues and sketches** from Scotland to Brazil.

Come and sing with us come and laugh at jokes and situations old and new. Watch the world pass before your eyes in an evening of fun.

The show is being directed by David Fisher with a new musical director and there are at least 30 people in the cast.

Dates for your travel log are Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May inclusive at 8.00 p.m. Prices are £7.00 and £5.00 on Thursday night and £7.00 on Friday and Saturday.

Take off and land via Bottisham Village College Main Hall. Please bring your own drink and glasses. “Nibbles” will be provided.

Tickets can be purchased from the end of April from Burwell Fireplace Shop, Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham and via our own telephone booking line 01223 812779 (not Lushers).

Tickets must be paid for prior to production. Tickets will be available at the door subject to availability. You should book early as numbers will be limited.



**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**

## Music for Holy Week

Once again the performance by Cambridge Voices was of the highest order. Their programme on Good Friday was apposite, performed with great dignity.

The Miserere by Allegri allowed many of the choir members to perform as soloists, we knew their combined efforts are excellent and this work allowed their skills as individuals to flourish. The history of the works' performances over the years and the translation from the Latin gave added poignancy to the work.

Stainer's Crucifixion is concerned with the events of Good Friday. The depth of passion is too profound to be easily understood and the music written about the events in Gethsemane and at Golgotha is not often performed. This year, the version arranged by Ian de Massini was truly a moving experience. Some pieces, to me unknown, while others such as the Chorus "God so loved the World" were very familiar. It was a very emotional 18 minutes helped by Ian's comments.

After an interval, the company assembled in St Cyriac's for works concerning the next two days of Easter and a meditation upon Mary, mother of Christ. These four works, together with the translations, formed a memorable conclusion. We are indeed very fortunate to have such talent performing in our small village.

On Easter Saturday, Ian did his solo piece in St Mary's, playing the first 12 preludes and fugues from Bach's Well Tempered Clavier, Book 1. Here again Ian's descriptions of the works, this time verbally, added so much to our understanding. I have tried to master some of the preludes - but can only annoy myself with my inadequacies. Our solo performer gave exemplary performances of them all - it looked so easy - sounded so appropriate and left most of the audience amazed at the dexterity and panache and the speed at which some of these pieces need to be played to sound their best - no stumbling over the difficult bits.

Please come again - both choir and pianist!

*John Norris*

### Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Telephone: (01638) 741529

email: [office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk)

[www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk)

#### **Midday Supervisor: Term Time Position**

Do you like working with children; do you want to work during term time only? We have vacancies for relief midday supervisors to care for our children during their lunchtime. For information regarding duties and pay, please contact the school. This post is ideal for those wanting to gain some work experience with primary aged children or for those wanting to work in a local community setting.

## 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**

## Moveable Feast

Several years have passed since I last attended a Moveable Feast so, paying my £15, I was ready to wine and dine in some of the best residences in Swaffham Prior.

I can confirm that the quality of Swaffham Prior cooks is as good as ever. For the first course at the Scovils, even the napkins had witty cartoons. Main courses were next door with Judy Tozer, at Betty Prime's and at the Everitts at the other end of the village - a long trek in "night out" as opposed to "dog walking" shoes. However, it sharpened the appetite. The dining room was as I remembered it with "bookroom red" walls setting off the candlelight to perfection.



"No computer until you finish your carrots."

"Closing time" was enforced like drinking up time in a pub so that the hosts as well as guests could hot foot to the final venue, the Whiteleys. Katie was lagging behind (no running shoes tonight) but there were plenty of helpers to lay out the superb selection of don't-count-the-calories puddings. Second helpings all round in the resplendently refurbished kitchen/conservatory/dining room.

And the Company - amazing. In this village, I learnt that we have the Editor of a journal on sundials, that Swaffham Prior grows more beetroot than anywhere else in the Country and that you can get a bus direct from Swaffham Prior to Switzerland for a ski-ing holiday!

Thanks to the cooks and hosts, the feast (for 30) made a total of £375 for St Mary's. When is the next one, please?

*Joan Rest*

**Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre presents**  
**The Gondoliers**  
**By Gilbert & Sullivan**

Don't miss Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre's unforgettable performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers', one of their most best loved operas. Popular songs include 'Take a pair of Sparkling Eyes' and lively dances such as the Cachucha is sure to keep everyone on their toes.

The satire is sharp with babies switched at birth, a King promised in infancy to a Duke's daughter, and two Gondoliers striving to create a state of social equality. Who is the Duke's daughter married to? Is Luiz all he appears to be? Will the two Gondoliers ever achieve their dream of a Republican state? And who is the sinister Don Alhambra del Bolero? All is revealed in the end but you'll have to come and see it to find out the answers!

Performances will take place in Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm. Matinee (as well as evening performance) on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £6.50 for all evening performances and £3 for the matinee.

For tickets, please contact Rosemary Upton on 01638 612173 or email [upton1@ntlworld.com](mailto:upton1@ntlworld.com) or Swaffham Bulbeck Village Store on 01223 811354

## **Music for Holy Week - Cambridge Voices**

Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices unfailingly surprise, sometimes startle and always satisfy with their musical offerings. Nothing is ever quite the same again - as those who attended the Good Friday concert discovered.

It began with yet another magical rendering of Allegri's *Miserere mei, Deus*; before the main item in the first half - Sir John Stainer's *Crucifixion*. The programme notes regretted that "Cambridge Voices had somehow managed to overlook **this Victorian masterpiece!**" (my emphasis). Hold on Ian, I thought, this isn't your usual cup of tea. I subsequently learned that Stainer had once confessed to that great musicologist E.H.Fellowes that he thought his own works were "rubbish" and after the performance who could disagree with the composer. Ian had helped the work. He had abridged it; also because Stainer had avoided the female solo voice, Ian, with such lovely lady singers, needed to offer a number of parts to them. It was a wonderful performance by the Choir, but the work was not very good. The accompaniments especially left one wondering - was it Victorian music hail, silent film music, a bit of light operetta with a touch of Gilbert and Sullivan? Whatever it was I am sure it left a lot of people bemused and thinking - which is no bad thing.

The second half in St. Cyriac's was traditional Cambridge Voices and included in the same programme works by Sir John Tavener (b. 1944) and John Tavener (c. 1490-1545). Some like me have often mixed them up, but during the concert all

became clear and the Taverner piece influenced by the Orthodox liturgy was especially moving. After works by the two Tave(r)ners and by Josquin des Pres the concert concluded with Ian's new edition of Scarlatti's amazing *Stabat Mater*. Of this we must hear more.

*Alastair Everitt*

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# Ely Museum

## Summer 2004

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Saturday 6th June**

**10.30am - 4pm**

***Venta Icenorum***

Join in the fun activities of wool spinning, pinch pot making-try on Roman Costume and a Celt warrior's kit. Fun for all the family. Normal admission charges apply-accompanied children free. Telephone 01353 666655 for more information.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**7.30pm**

***Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Ely***

A talk by Quinton Carroll presented by the Friends of Ely Museum  
Admission £1.50 non-members, £1.00 members.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**2.00 - 3.30pm**

***Archaeology Pot Sort***

Learn how to identify different types of pottery and how archaeologists would write up their finds at this fun interactive afternoon. Suitable for children aged 11-13 years. Tickets cost £1.50 per child. Pre-booking essential. Tel: 01353 666655.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

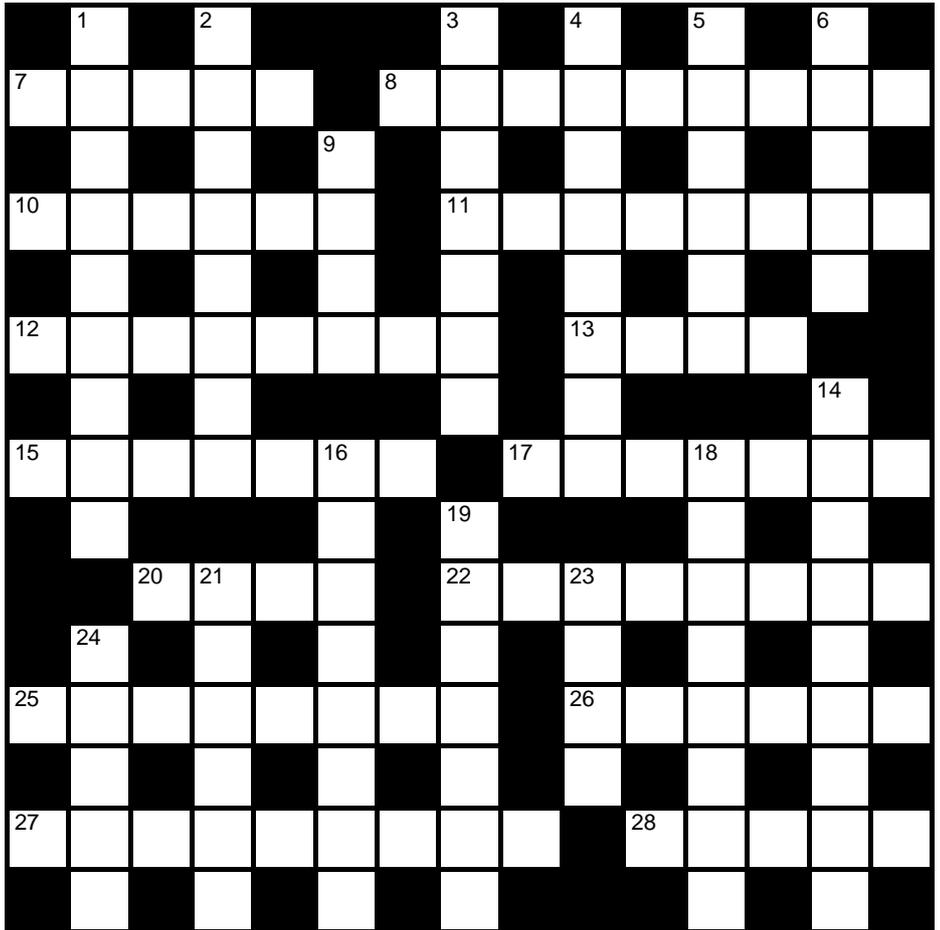
**2.00 - 3pm**

***'17th Century Visit to Ely'***

A Talk by Pam Blakeman. Admission £1.50 non members, £1.00 members. Telephone 01353 666655 for more Information.

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

This month's puzzle is a straightforward cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th May 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**

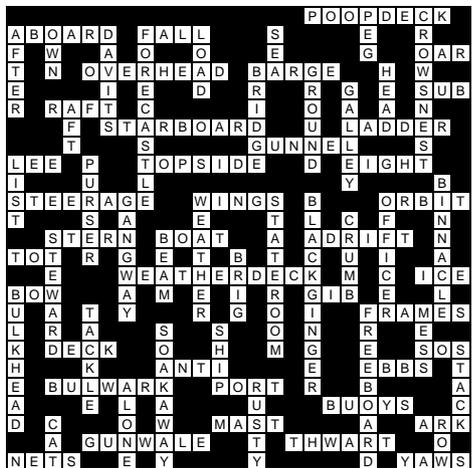
- 7 Cliffs, car, direction, gravity... crash! (5)
- 8 15 Fathers' transport one of 10 this month (9)
- 10, 20, 27 Flowers from flat land, or unstable mud flats' primrose mat? (6,4,9)
- 11 Lubricates relatives' water proofs (8)
- 12 Boatman I disguised in Canada (8)
- 13 Coral and yellow sand initially make low-lying islands (4)
- 15 One using 8 for voyage (7)
- 17 Aunts I'm mad about? Disaster, naturally (7)
- 20 See 10
- 22 Following Commons' leader, a member has view, we hear, of lots of tents (8)
- 25 Cat Maori confused is pungent (8)
- 26 Season for 8 and 10 (6)
- 27 See 10
- 28 Black and green make red (5)

**Down**

- 1 5 and crossword for famous compiler, tree (9)
- 2 Double gin and it cocktail, exploding (8)
- 3 Father, as deity, enters ornamental buildings (7)
- 4 Distresses a very loud student with weird tics (8)
- 5 Short day crucial for primate (6)
- 6 Dye plant found in kitchen napkin (5)
- 9 Mixed loos in capital city (4)
- 14 Vacuum created by head after strange, quiet time (9)
- 16 I'm grown up! No, I'm not (8)

- 18 Tipsy Ron lists breathing holes (8)
- 19 Current account one 'as for the trees (7)
- 21 Far-flung meteor scattered (6)
- 23 Reflect on feline calls we hear (4)
- 24 Transport costs a penny. Use Shanks's pony (5)

**Solution to crossword number 10**



We congratulate **Bob and Julie Nunn**, winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to the Carrington and Matheson families.

## News from Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



Our recent book week followed on from World Book Day and featured a sponsored "Readathon", which raised £338.15 for the Roald Dahl Foundation and Sargent Cancer Care For Children. During the week children had a chance to read to each other, have stories read to them by other adults, design book tokens and jackets, as well as dress up as book characters and buy books from the book fair. Thanks to Mrs Hanke who organised the week and all who took part.

This week was quickly followed by science day, where again children had a chance to work together, explaining their work to each other. Themes included magnetism, night and day, insulators, conductors, and electricity. The day was very practical with the emphasis on investigation and explanations.



This year FoSPS have funded 5 new curriculum computers and the School Trustees' donation has funded 3 new coloured printers. We are collecting Tesco computer vouchers – 4000 are needed to "purchase" music software.

Our web site is now live at [www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk).

### Looking Ahead

Next term is immensely busy with sporting events, trips, secondary school liaison and reception induction; as a start to the term's events, our older children will be dancing around the Maypole at Reach Fair and at the Swaffham Prior Feast.



Does any one know **exactly** when the school on this site opened its doors to children? The logbook does not appear to reveal this and the pictures of the laying of the foundation stone in September 1928 show an unfinished building.

*Joanna Lakey*

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## Bellringing at St. Cyriac's Church

In the evening of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, a group of bellringers from Cambridge will attempt to ring a peal on the Swaffham Prior bells. This will be between 6pm and 9pm. On the afternoon of Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May, a group of ringers from the Norwich Diocese, making a weekend visit to our area, will ring at Swaffham Prior for half-an-hour, about 4 pm.

*Margaret Stanier*



## WI Notes

When you visit Newmarket do you do the same as us? We usually park the car, walk through the Rookery and back along the High Street visiting the necessary shops, then back to the car park.

Last night, for their April meeting the W. I. had a very different experience. In the car park near All Saints Church we were met by a Guide who began by giving us a potted history of Newmarket. He then took us for a walk through narrow streets and lanes to places the ordinary shopper never sees. We saw the restored Palace House, built originally for Charles II, with its oriel window added by the Rothschild family. Opposite the Palace are the stables, said to be the oldest training establishment in the world. Still in the same road we passed Nell Gwynn's cottage. There are many attractive houses, some Georgian, some little cottages, and still more stables tucked away behind the High Street.

Back in the High Street we were able to stand back and view the buildings above the shops: Jane's that was once the Town Hall and later a cinema, and is reported to have had a cockpit in its basement; an attractive doorway that is the entrance to "Kitchens and Things"; the Rutland Arms which once had an entrance for coaches & horses in the High Street. Opposite was Rutland House, home of the Duke of Rutland, where Woolworth's now stands and next to it Primrose House, once home of Lord Roseberry. We looked at the clock tower built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee and which takes 147 (?) turns to wind it (soon I believe to be converted to electricity). Our tour ended at the Jockey Club, originally built as a coffee house for the King and his court. The present Jockey Club was built around the coffee house which still stands in its centre in its entirety.

In the car park once more we thanked our Guide for a most interesting evening.

On 17<sup>th</sup> May we shall be discussing the resolutions being put forward at the W.I. National Assembly in June, and will then be entertained by Hilary Sage and her comic monologues. Do come if you'd like, you'll be made most welcome. 7.30pm. Village Hall. £2 for visitors.

*Betty Prime*

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## VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had a beautiful illustrated talk from prize-winning gardener, Janet Hall, of Reach. The topic was "Spring Bulbs". Actually she cheated a bit and extended her presentation to rhizomes and corms, much to her audience's pleasure.

Janet had done a "grand tour" to take photographs for this talk, which were a magnificent multitude of colours and species - in all their aspects, from forest floor to humble garden pot. Many, of course, were familiar but many were new to us and hopefully will be added to our spring collections.

*Margaret Joyce*

## District Council Election

### *The Crier* Advises!

Since none of the candidates lives in the village and few of us are therefore likely to know to them, we thought it might be helpful to have a bit more information about them and how they would tackle the hard act of following Charlotte Cane. We asked each candidate (at rather short notice as usual!) to provide a manifesto of between half a page and a page, optionally with a photograph of themselves. Their manifestos follow in alphabetical order.

Readers of the *Crier* at the time of the last District Council election will recall that we supported Charlotte's re-election because of her track record of taking an interest in local issues, like Dencora Field, and tirelessly representing her constituents' views. She was also one of our most reliable contributors (I cannot remember a single late article or one which didn't fit just-so on a page). So perhaps our choice will be of the candidate who seems most likely to carry on this tradition.

Advice on how to vote? As ever avoiding controversy, our advice is: at the Village Hall, on May 6<sup>th</sup> by making a single cross on the ballot paper. The serious bit of that being, do vote!



### **A Message from Allen Alderson your Conservative Candidate**

Rose Cottage  
30 Great Lane  
Reach  
Cambs CB5 0JF  
Tel: 01638 741744

For the last sixteen years I have lived in the Swaffhams Ward, at Reach. I have been married to Rachael for forty-one years, and we have three children.

For many years I have run my own small construction business. If elected, I will use this business experience in Council for the benefit of the people of the Swaffhams, to ensure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely.

I was a School Governor for eight years, and past Chairman of the Parent Teachers Association for Swaffham Prior Junior School.

Being a resident of the Ward, I readily understand its needs and aspirations. The Post Office, Village Halls and public transport are all important amenities for the Swaffhams, we must ensure that they continue to meet the needs of our villages.

Crime, and the fear of crime, is uppermost in many peoples' minds. I want to see

how East Cambridgeshire District Council can help in ensuring that our villages remain the safe places in which we all want to live.

If elected, I pledge to work with the three Parish Councils of Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Reach to help maintain the rural character of our communities.

For all of the above I respectfully ask for your vote on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Allen Alderson*



## **Francesca Marlow Liberal Democrats**

18 Newmarket Road  
Burwell

Having worked with Charlotte Cane and James Fitch over the past four years I was under no illusion as to how important the job of representing Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach on the District Council is. Like Charlotte before me I felt that it is important to find out exactly what issues concern you, the residents of Swaffham Prior, and that is why I have undertaken my recent survey of village issues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for meeting me and discussing with me many of the concerns you have.

The District Council is responsible for providing many of the front-line services that we need to continue to enjoy living in this part of East Cambridgeshire. As a Project Manager I am used to making hard decisions about budgets and resources, and have a professional interest in ensuring that necessary tasks are undertaken efficiently and giving good value for money. On a personal level, I have never been afraid to take hard decisions about projects or to ensure that planning is undertaken thoroughly. Much has been made of the recent percentage rises in Council Tax over the last five years – however a balanced budget is essential in any open and honest business project – and along with my colleagues I shall continue to work to achieve this. A 0% budget was proposed by the Conservatives on East Cambs and was rejected by Liberal Democrat and Independent Councillors alike (including a former Conservative Councillor!!!) as not being honest or balanced. Next year over £300,000 worth of cuts would have been necessary under such a scheme. However no ideas were presented as to where the cuts would come from. Cuts of £259,000 would lose all of the Sports and Recreation Services in East Cambs. Add to this £43,000 of cuts and we would lose all Community Grants! The question must be was this responsible action by the Liberal Democrats or tabloid tactics from a desperate Conservative group? Either way I remain fundamentally opposed to the unfair Council Tax. I shall continue to support the Liberal Democrat campaign to Axe this Tax and introduce a fairer Local Income Tax.

As your District Councillor I am committed to seeking your views and to keeping you informed through regular newsletters and surgeries. On 6<sup>th</sup> May I ask

that you give me the opportunity to continue in the excellent tradition of James Fitch and Charlotte Cane. I would be honoured to represent you.

If you have any queries or would like a lift to the Polling Station please do not hesitate to call me on 741954.

*Francesca Marlow*

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## **Steven O'Dell**

### **Labour**

23 Downing Close  
Bottisham

#### **Personal information:**

I have been a Bottisham parish councillor for the past five years and I have helped formulate an anti-social behaviour policy in Bottisham.

#### **Ward surgeries:**

I will hold ward surgeries so that every body would have the opportunity to air their case to me personally.

#### **Citizens panels:**

A citizens panel will be set up giving the right to everybody to have an influence over what they want to see in their ward.

#### **East Cambs anti-social behaviour policy:**

I would like to see a district wide anti-social behaviour policy being set up to create a best practice in tackling this problem that affects us all.

#### **More accessible recycling facilities:**

Getting more accessible recycling facility's in the ward so not to have to rely on the once a fortnight collection

#### **More support for local post offices:**

A better support structure to halt the only post office from having to close and to encourage new ones to open.

#### **Promote social housing:**

To halt the ever increasing number of young people leaving our ward I would try and encourage the district council to allow more affordable homes to be built.

#### **Supporting youth facilities:**

In having an anti-social behaviour policy I would get the council to make available information on encouraging existing facility's to make grant applications so investing in better youth facility's.

*Steven O'Dell*



## COUNCIL TAX

Since my last article you will have received your bill for Council Tax 2004/5. After the dispute with the Government, the County increase amounted to 6.9% or £52.78 for a Band D property. This final result allowed us to fund, but only just, the schools budget which was the subject of the dispute in the first place. The County bill at £813.24 (Band D) is the 4<sup>th</sup> LOWEST among Shire Counties (but some Counties still retain Fire responsibility).

What upsets most people is the **percentage increase** of all local government authorities. The problem here is that people compare Council Tax increases with the Resale Price Index (R.P.I.). They overlook the fact that local government spends most of its money in paying people - teachers, social workers, police and fire fighters and their salaries in general go up more than the RPI. The situation is made worse by the need to buy its goods and services that have risen out of proportion, e.g. road mending and construction materials.

Nevertheless, in my opinion, the last two governments did not expect the growth of the Council Tax to become such a burden so soon. At the time of its invention, the view seems to have been “get rid of the Poll Tax quickly, anything will be better”. That assumption is not proving to be correct.

It is time to abolish the Council Tax and come up with something fairer. I favour a **local income tax** incorporating an element of recognition of property ownership.

More time spent on trying for a better tax will be well spent provided governments recognise that you cannot have local administrations on the cheap. A fairer government contribution is where it all starts.

## Local Projects

Turning away from the gloom of raising tax to the more cheerful subject of spending it on deserving local projects, there are several improvements coming. Firstly, a small group of horse riders met council colleagues to celebrate the opening of a new **bridleway** between the **A1303 at Whitelands Farm** and Heath Road, **Swaffham Bulbeck**.

Secondly, we can anticipate that the footpath between the **Swaffhams** will be upgraded to **cycle/footpath** standard within the year. Thirdly, discussions are taking place with the parish council of **Bottisham** and **Burwell** regarding **traffic calming** measures. Once the detail is agreed we can expect road marking, interactive and warning signs and a couple of new streetlights adjacent to St. Peter's Field, Bottisham. I am also hopeful of another interactive sign on the Lower End entrance to **Swaffham Prior**.

*James Fitch*

# Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

Mr Trevor Jones chaired the meeting with 4 members and 3 members of the Public.

**Minutes of last meeting:** These were agreed.

**Reports:** Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

## **Matters Arising:**

**a) *Enhancement Scheme – update:*** Sarah Clayton of Cambridge Landscape Architects is hopeful of having found a lantern supplier for the “throw” over the Church steps. A further site visit will be made in the near future to confirm that the lantern meets with CCC’s specification and can be used without any changes to the framework. She also confirmed that she would chase up the outstanding work to reposition the streetlight by the Chapel.

**b) *Play Area – update:*** It is hoped that a decision on the PC’s application to The Lottery Fund will be received shortly. Verbal confirmation of a contribution of up to £1,000 was received from The Charities. A bench seat is to be supplied and installed by ECDC.

**c) *Access dispute, Mill – update:*** As reported in the February notes, a letter was sent to the owners of Stocks Mill expressing the PC’s concerns but to date no reply has been received.

***Reach Bridge – possible re-routing for cyclists/walkers:*** Following concerns raised about the safety of cyclists on this bridge especially now that this route is part of the “Route 51” cycleway, it was agreed to again bring to the forefront the possibility of a diversion route alongside the bridge for cyclists, pedestrians and horse-riders. The Clerk will contact Reach Parish Council and representatives from Sustrans and CCC Highways to arrange a meeting at the bridge to discuss the possibilities.

***Proposed Affordable Housing, Lower End:*** An indicative layout plan for affordable housing proposed for this site was received from Flagship Housing Group. Some site investigation works have been carried out. Following discussion and concerns raised about the allocation of this housing, it was agreed to invite a representative from Flagship to the Annual Village Assembly to explain the proposals further and answer any questions raised.

***Barrier at Coopers Lane:*** It has further been confirmed with CCC that this lane should not have access for vehicles and as such the barrier arm will be fixed with pedestrian access only.

***Agenda for Annual Village Assembly:*** Items include; possibility of “New Village Award”, Affordable Housing-as reported above, The Recreation Ground & its future. The Village’s new Community Beat Officer, Tony Pane, is to be invited to meet residents. A Planning Officer from ECDC is to be invited to discuss planning procedures in light of forthcoming new regulations. Also reports from Cllr Fitch and

the elected new councillor for ECDC.

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported to the meeting.

**Accounts for payment:** These were agreed.

**Planning Applications:**

**4 Cage Hill – extension to the existing cottage to form new single storey study/work room.** There were no objections to this application.

**Liberty Barns, Heath Road – extension of existing builder’s yard and erection of plant and vehicle repair workshop (repositioned from previous consent).** There were no objections to this application but concerns were raised about the growing amount of traffic on Heath Road. The Clerk is to contact CCC Highways to discuss the possibility of “passing places” to ease the problem.

**Any Other Business:**

**New interactive sign – Lower End.** Prices for power supply/installation are currently being sought by CCC and then hopefully work will begin.

**Moles – recreation ground.** This work is now complete.

**Open Question Time:** There were no questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Karen King**, Clerk of the Parish Council  
Tel: 01638 742358. Email: [karen.king5@btopenworld.com](mailto:karen.king5@btopenworld.com)

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## St Mary’s PCC Report

The Annual Vestry Meeting, followed by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, was held on 30 March in the School Hall. Thank you to all who attended.

A full copy of the minutes of both meetings plus a copies of the Annual Reports are displayed on the notice board inside the church.

If you have any questions, problems or requests please contact one of us:

**Priest-in-charge**  
**Church Wardens**

**Rev’d David Lewis**  
**Carolyn Cazenove**  
**Francis Reeks**

**Sacristan & Verger**  
**Secretary**

**Andrew Camps**  
**Tricia Harrison**

An open meeting will be held in the church on Thursday 3 June between 6.30pm and 9.30pm. Hopefully this will encourage people to call in and share their views, suggestions, questions, queries about services, what the church means to them, etc. We very much hope the members of the village will take this opportunity to provide their input to the future planning of the church in our community. David Lewis will be present throughout the session.

**Tricia Harrison**



## Church of England Services May 2004

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 2</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 9</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>12:00noon</b> Rogation Service (Adventurers' Farm)	<b>11:15am</b> Rogation Service (The Abbey)	<b>9:45am</b> Rogation Service (Bottisham Hall)
<b>Thu 20</b>	Ascension Day Service at 7.30pm at St. Mary's, Quy.		
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 30</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion

### 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,

May is always an optimistic and happy month of the year for me. Everything in the countryside seems to be growing and flourishing. During May the Church celebrates Rogation Sunday. This year it falls on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. Rogation time in the Church has always been regarded as a time of prayer and fasting for a good Harvest, and the Anglesey benefice will be marking Rogation Sunday by taking its worship out to the farms, as an acknowledgement that agriculture and the countryside are very vital indeed to the lives of everyone who lives and works in our lovely villages.

Farming has never been easy, and it is no less easy in these times of mounting EEC regulation and the cutthroat competition amongst the supermarkets. We need, therefore, more than ever to support and encourage our farmers – not only in their difficult task of bringing in the harvest whilst making ends meet – but also in taking care of our wonderful countryside.

Ultimately stewarding the land is all about fruitfulness – making the very best of the resources that God blesses us with. There is a wonderful example of fruitfulness in the Great Vine that grows in its huge conservatory in Hampton Court Palace. It was planted by Capability Brown in 1768 – so it is very nearly 250 years old! When Pauline and I visited the Palace a few years ago I was amazed to see that the stem of the vine was over half a metre thick and there were literally masses of bunches of grapes hanging from its branches trailing across the roof of the conservatory, some of which are over 60 metres long. Apparently it produces between 500-700 pounds of grapes each year. Outside the conservatory is a patch of carefully tilled soil where the gardeners dig in all the nutrients that the Great Vine needs in order to be so fruitful. Man and nature working together in harmony to produce a wonderful harvest. Ultimately, that is what we shall be praying for on Rogation Sunday.

Another aspect of Rogation Sunday is that it is the final Sunday before Ascension Day, when the Church celebrates our Lord Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. We believe that since that day 2000 years ago Christ reigns supreme in heaven, having achieved all that he set out to do on earth, and subsequently interceding with his Father on our behalf. As he left his disciples he encouraged them to be fruitful in their lives, and he left behind his Spirit to help them in that great task. He described himself as the vine and his followers as the branches, and he called all who follow him to be fruitful in their lives, and his greatest commandment is for us to love each other as he has loved us. I believe if we start to live our lives according to that great commandment we shall truly be fruitful in many wonderful ways, and make this world a much better place.

May God bless you all.

*David*

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

Sat	1	Ask the Archaeologist, Ely Museum, 1pm-4pm
Sun	2	
Mon	3	Reach Fair, Noon onwards
Thu	6	District Council Election, Village Hall
Fri	7	
Sat	8	Bulbeck Auction, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, 9:00am
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	12	
Thu	13	PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm Bottisham Players, BVC, 8:00pm - and Friday & Saturday
Fri	14	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Sat	15	Village Feast, Village Hall, 2:00pm Cantilena concert, St Mary's Burwell, 7:00pm
Mon	17	WI, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	18	
Wed	19	Playscheme 2004 planning meeting, Red Lion, 8:15pm
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	26	
Thu	27	<b><i>Crier</i></b> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm Annual Village Assembly, Village Hall, 7:30pm

### **Weekly Events**

Sun		11am, Boules, Village Hall Car park
Tue		2.30-4pm Baby & Toddler Group, Village Hall Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mths), 11-11.45 (18-38mths), 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