



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 11
November 2004



Editorial

Saturday Night at the Eds' House:

Ed: (*doing Crier*) **&\$\$*\$\$@ @!!!

Visiting Teenager: Do you get paid for that?

Ed: No, it's not like that. You see (*waxing noble*). ...

Visiting Teenager: (*hastily*) Ah yes, but it must make you very popular in the village.

Ed: Um...

Home Teenager: As in *unpopular* maybe (*snicker, snicker*)...

Ed: BE QUIET!! And anyway, why don't you go and help on the Quiz Team? They need more people quick.

Chorus: Do-we-get-paid-for-that?

This year, both the Church and Foster's Mill have hit on a brilliant money-making scheme whereby *we* can pay *them* without *us* shelling out any more than we usually do: they've made their own Christmas Cards, and we include (black & white) samples in this month's issue. Very nice they are too, Jonathan Cook actually managing to snap the Mill on the *one day in the year it snowed!*

Meanwhile, the new Ely Offices are still cruising ahead money-no-object (see *Reports*). The **Crier** has asked our District Councillor how much this thing we are being "consulted" on will actually cost, but *we still don't know*. Whereas, presumably, the reason why we are getting *yet another* line of monster pylons is because somebody has pronounced it far too expensive to shove the whole lot underground. But we don't *know* that either. We would appreciate being better informed!

In this issue, we re-instate a much-enjoyed column from previous days: the **Crier Profile**. Reported by Mark Lewinski and introducing the land-girl Joan Bradley, it is riveting reading. Also in this issue, you will find an excellent account of our local Broadband (RASP) in which Joan Rest explains to the uninitiated that it might actually be a good thing! Congratulations, Kate, on a brilliant Harvest Supper — Kate's now going to be enjoying a well-earned retirement. See you at the Variety Show, and, of course, *Advent by Candlelight*.

Caroline Matheson

PS. The Quiz Team in fact did remarkably well *despite* it's tiny size!

Cover Picture: Foster's Mill, *Jonathan Cook*

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Motor bikes

Are the people driving motorbikes around the Primary school the same ones as those in Dencora Field?

Mark Lewinski
Fairview Grove

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning

Thank you very much to everybody who contributed in any way to Swaffham Prior's part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. You were so generous with donations, home-made cakes and raffle prizes that we raised £560.53p. It was a tremendous effort and I am very grateful to you all for your support. All the money that we raise at the Coffee Mornings goes to local Macmillan services. In the 11 years that I have been hosting the coffee mornings we have all raised over £4,000 which I think is a wonderful achievement for a small village! The date for the coffee morning next year is Friday 30th September. I look forward to seeing you all again then!

Ruth Scovil
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court

Dear Editors,

Parochial Charities Grant

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual, the majority of these applications will come from our pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the basic state pension, but if you are in particular need, or know of anybody who may be in difficulty, but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

S.G. Hewitt.
Clerk to the Trustees, 63 High St, Tel: 741337

Eds Note: Correspondents — please remember we can't publish letters if we don't know who they're from! We appreciate some older residents have an antipathy for the limelight and if you don't want us to publish your name, just put "Please don't print my name" underneath your signature and contact number. In this case, we can't guarantee to publish your letter, but at least we can tell you why not! If this month's Resident of SP will contact us, we'll print their letter next month.

Another wonderful annual

VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW

How much fun and laughter can you stand?

Come along and see on

Saturday, 13th November

at 7.00 pm

in the

Village Hall

A
family
evening

BAR FOR
ADULTS &
CHILDREN

Singing ☺ Dancing ☺ Sketches ☺ Music ☺ Magic ☺ Lots more!

Tickets

Adults: £5.00 School children: £2.50

from Hilary Sage: (01638) 742978

or Dee Noyes: (01638) 743864

Book early to avoid disappointment

- we were sold out last year!

RAFFLE

Star Studded Cast

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

No mention of photographs of serving councillors at this meeting, but the Editors seem fairly determined about this (*Absolutely. Eds*). One step at a time.....

Allen Alderson reported that ECDC staff would prefer new offices in Ely Business Park where there would be enough car parking; the site selection process goes on. ECDC is too small for *hot desking* – and his explanation of the term was less interesting than you might think. There are bad hare days in Swaffham Bulbeck as the coursers return. Should the yellow signs display the crossed scissors and comb? A rash of Travellers has broken out again. Nothing new there, then.



James Finch explained why CCC withdrew objection to the new cross-Fen power line - for single masts to carry both existing and proposed lines, they would have to be about 20 metres high. To give you some idea, that's nearly as tall as the sign posts along the new cycle paths (my comparison, not James'). A pedestrian crossing will soon be made opposite the Burwell PO, for young mothers with prams and other very brave people. Bottisham VC came through their Ofsted inspection with merit. Just part of the Soham By-pass will open in March 2005. So, quite a long tailback before the remainder is complete?

The missing village sign at the south end on the B1102 will be replaced by a plastic variety with no scrap value. Personally, I don't care what material they use for a new sign on Station Road to indicate the direction of Upware. Just do it! There are non-English speaking lorry drivers wandering around lost in local lanes all the time. A silver birch (*betula pendula*, or *jaquemontii*?) will replace the pollarded chestnut in the VH car park, which my gardening consultant thinks would recover, if just left in peace. The SP Award for Merit should be awarded at the Village Assembly, where everyone can celebrate our heroes' glory. Please just drink the champagne. Don't spray it over anyone dressed in colourful toddler suits and baseball caps. Talking of which - there are unconfirmed rumours that the World Land Speed Record has been broken on Heath Road. With further attempts continuing here, as elsewhere in the village, it is deemed prudent to construct passing places.

The Zion Baptist Chapel still faces an uncertain future. Is it on the open market? If not, why not? Are trustees required to obtain the best price? The PC were informed of developments involving a charity whose proposed uses for the chapel stop just short of pop festivals. Neighbours allege that the charity has been economical with the truth about access and car parking in their fund-raising literature. The assertion by someone that charities do not need permission for a change of use is certainly new to me. Clearly, this ain't going to happen, so let's encourage a more sensible option, like a wine bar, or something. Conversion to housing would be nice, but formal notices must precede PC comment.

Uncertain futures are all the rage, and another proposal from the (ever changing) owners of Dencora Field was met with outraged indignation. The usual proposal with some modifications did not fool our stalwart guardians. This time, the owners

offer us the top half for a forest, if they can build an ill-defined mixture of social and private housing on the rest, with access from Rogers Road, and a heavily screened Lower End frontage. I don't think they will like the reply.

Even more uncertainty at The Old Forge, where it is proposed to screen the yard from public view behind a new wall as high as a cycle path sign. Some thought that a perpetual covenant exists permitting public access to the forge, once repaired partly by public subscription. It seems that there may also be vehicular access problems as proposed – possibly reversing blind into the path of a bus travelling along High Street at only slightly more than 30mph. Clearly, this ain't going to happen either. Oh, I don't know. Watch this space.

The usual two unfilled vacancies remain.

Frank Readhead

SOHAM COMRADES BAND in Concert

St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham

Saturday, November 13th 2004 7.30 pm

A popular Biennial visit from our outstanding local
Premiership Band

Unreserved Tickets £6.00 Concessions £5.00
from

Cloisters Antiques, 1 Lynn Road, Ely
Soham Books * D N Jenkins, Fordham
Discus Music, The Rookery, Newmarket
Or Ring 01638 720328



November Reading Group

Reminder

Read Jennifer Donnelly's "A Gathering Light", and then meet at Kent House on Wednesday 3rd November at 8 o'clock ready to talk about it.

Brenda Wilson

Swaffham Prior School Christmas Fair



29 November 2004
3.00pm - 4.30pm
Swaffham Prior
School Hall



Mulled Wine * Crafts * Raffle * Gifts * Lucky Dip * and more...

Everyone welcome



Fosters Mill 150th Anniversary Appeal

We are delighted to announce two major steps forward in our 125th Anniversary Appeal. Firstly, a large donation has been received from the Foster family who owned the mill from 1896 to 1970 for which we are extremely grateful. Secondly, we have produced a lovely Christmas Card or Greetings Card (same picture, blank inside) which is now available.

The cards are available from the mill or from the Red Lion pub (by kind permission of Dave & Lorraine during opening hours). There are two standard sizes of pack (including envelopes) - 40 cards for £20.00, or 12 cards for £7.50. If you would like a different number of cards, please call the Windmill on the number below to order and arrange collection.

The Mill will be open on the 14th November and the 12th December from 1.30pm and at other times by prior arrangement.

The 10th October saw another milestone in the mill's history when we completed the restoration of the remaining set of millstones and had both sets of stones working at the same time, the first time since 1946. It is certainly quite a sight seeing both sets working and doubles the work for the miller as we double our output!

If you would like flour ordering for those getting round to baking their Christmas Cakes or getting enthusiastic about bread making now that winter is here, please call, however small the order.



*The Mill Christmas Card—
See cover.*

Jonathan Cook

The Windmill, 01638 741009



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

4.00pm Sunday November 28th

Starting in St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, moving to St Cyriac & St Julitta's halfway through and then returning to St Mary's for minced pies and mulled wine. This year's theme: The Light of the World. As in previous years, the music for this year's "Advent by Candlelight" will be led by Cambridge Voices, and all the readings will be presented by residents of the parish. If you're willing to read, please let Hilary Sage know as soon as possible (tel. 01638 742978) and she can let you know what the choices are so that you can select something that you would enjoy reading.

This year the readings includes such authors as John Donne, Auden, Dylan Thomas, as well as from the Bible, of course. Indeed, if any of you has a favourite reading (prose or poetry) upon the theme of light - or, indeed, the absence of light - please forward them to Hilary (Stocks Farm West, 7 Lower End, Swaffham Prior) so that it can be included. It's much more exciting when the selection of words and music includes input from members of the village.

As for the music, we will be presenting the World Première of a magnificent piece by the Italian Renaissance composer Alessandro Striggo - *Ecce beatam lucem* - originally set for 40 voices (in fact, the very first motet, ever, to have been written for 40 voices), here it will be scored for just 16 solo voices within 2 choirs, arranged especially for Cambridge Voices for this year's "Advent by Candlelight".

Other music will be by TALLIS (pre-empting the half-millennial commemorations of his birth next year); Robert WHITE (Tallis's wonderful contemporary, though sadly neglected nowadays); Harold DARKE (the composer of "In the bleak midwinter"); an extraordinarily modern-sounding motet for 10 voices on the subject of "The beauties of light" by LASSUS; a poignant excerpt from Herbert HOWELLS's "Hymnus Paradisi" in memory of our former organist, Andrew Armour); the explosive manifestation of light from HAYDN's "Creation", a beguiling anthem to Mary by Sweden's leading contemporary composer, SANDSTRÖM; my own setting of the beautiful 2nd Collect from the Anglican service of Evensong ("Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord"); plus another invitation to the real, live bagpiper who, if you remember, should have played at last year's celebration of St Andrew but his chanter broke in two during the afternoon rehearsal and he was unable to dry the fixing-glue in time for the evening performance!

There will also be hymns for everyone to sing, bathed in beauty-enhancing candlelight!

Admission is by programme at the door: £6 for all grown-ups (free for children) and all profits go towards the work of EMMAUS.

If you're not free in the daytime of the concert you might like to know that the concert will be repeated at 7.00pm in St Columba's Church, Downing Street, Cambridge.

Ian de Massini (Director of Cambridge Voices)
iandemassini@argonet.co.uk

Crier Profile: Joan Bradley

Since this recorded conversation in 2001 about her experiences as a wartime Land Girl, Joan Bradley has sadly died. She lived with husband Walter in Cage Hill.

We were nearly all from Yorkshire and Lancashire to start with. I remember a few of us at Manchester exchange station – that had been bombed. Manchester had been bombed a lot. I'd been a nurse, which I'd enjoyed, but we'd had air raids, and I couldn't stand the suffering of the children. Where I'd lived was a cotton mill and coal mining town, Leigh in Lancashire.

We didn't know, but when we got to Cambridge we had to get on a little branch line to Swaffham Prior – we'd all lived in towns, we'd no idea where we were coming to, it was terrible! - a little branch line, with this little train, it was puffing along. We got on this lorry and came down to into the village and into the hostel. That big house where Michael Marshall lives, that was our hostel. Our drivers, they were Conscientious Objectors. They worked with us, they were in huts down station road. The big farmhouse opposite where the school is, behind there, that's where the huts were. They were nice fellows, and one of them was our foreman. We nearly all worked down in Swaffham Fen and Burwell Fen. We were in two gangs. We were the War Ag - War Agricultural Committee - cultivating the Fens, because they were all overgrown, for food. They'd just started to cultivate them. We had dungarees, and in summer we cut them off and made them into shorts. We had greatcoats, and we wore smocks, and wellington boots. If we were going somewhere posh we had green jerseys, and hats.

The roads down the fens had just been built, concrete. We did everything. Planting, harvesting, stacking, sugar beet, potatoes, putting up corn stacks: it was all done by hand. We had Italian prisoners and German prisoners – the Germans had a lot of guards, because they wanted to escape, but the Italians wouldn't dream of trying to escape – they used to come and talk to us – three of the girls married Italian prisoners. They had lovely voices – they used to sing a lot. They were very clever – if you gave them half a crown, they could make you a ring out of it.

We started off at half past seven. We had a docky, a little tin with sandwiches in – not all that much in, you know what the war was like – we had grated carrot in our sandwiches, and dripping. And spam – that wasn't too bad. They had an urn in the hayloft which was supposed to keep warm all day but by ten o'clock it was cold. We had a sweet ration – us girls from the Land army used to bike over to Burwell to get our sweet ration from the sweet shop there...he was ever so nice, the old chap, he was sorry for us so he let us have a bit more than he should.

There were planes, too – over the other side of Devil's Dyke, at the far end...I think they were New Zealand airmen. Well, we were in the hostel, and we heard this terrific bang, and flames – and there was a plane taking off from the other side of Devils's Dyke, a bomber – it was loaded, and couldn't get over and it hit the Dyke.

There were four pubs in the village then – the vet's, that was the Rose and Crown; on the corner opposite, that was the Cock; the Red Lion that's still there, and right down station Road, the Allix Arms. They were all full up, because there were army camps all round here, and they all used to come because they knew there were about fifty land girls here. The village was packed here every night. I'd never been in a pub

in my life - my mother and father were chapel people, and his father had started the Baptist chapel in Leigh. So we didn't come to the Rose & Crown for quite a long time, we had gramophone records, then we decided (three of us, Irene, Mary and myself - we'd all met on Manchester station. We all married local boys). We didn't know what to do but we went in, and we had one shandy between the three of us - and then the landlady next door, somebody told her I could play the piano so she got all the music out and got me playing piano in the pub. I'd only played in Sunday school before - (laughs) it didn't matter really because I'd just sit down and play and they all used to gather round and sing, some were local songs. You couldn't hear me play so it didn't matter if I made any mistakes! That was good - after that I used to spend quite a lot of time in the pub but till then I didn't— well, as far as I knew, girls didn't—well, we didn't like to go in go in pubs then. That's where a lot of the girls met local boys, in the pub. I met Walter my husband there, in the Rose and Crown, and I didn't dare tell my parents that either! They were all right after, but I didn't dare tell them for a long time. We had all the soldiers and the airmen in the pubs, then the Yanks came and joined the war. They came from Lakenheath and round there, but they discovered there were all those land girls in the village and they were queuing up down the lane to the hostel, with the nylons ...(Laughs). They were quite nice, you know...Some of our girls married Americans, and went to live there.

It was hard work. It wasn't easy, by any means. They had rows - they used to divide the field, after the tractor and spinner had gone round, and put them in sacks - the tractor would come round and pick up the sacks, or it might be a horse and cart, as often. We worked when it was raining, snowing... I remember picking potatoes and we had icicles hanging from our noses, it was so cold and wet and horrible.

The first day back after I got married, we were potato picking. All you could get in those days for wedding rings were nine-carat gold. You couldn't get anything better, but I didn't want one of those. So he bought me a platinum one. First day back with my platinum wedding ring on I was potato picking. When I got to the end of the row we were doing, the girl I was working with - it was Mary, who lives up in the Beeches - I said 'have you seen my wedding ring?' and it was gone. It had come off when we were picking - I told the ganger, Tom, who was a Conscientious Objector - he stopped the tractor and got all the girls together and we went all up and down my stretch, looking - Fen soil, you know what it's like, it's black and very fine, like sand. But they couldn't find it, nobody could find it. I was heartbroken. Anyway, the girls all clubbed together with their threepenny bits and sixpences, to go buy a wedding ring. It was ever so good of them, because they didn't have much money. I went to Cambridge to the jeweller's. There was one there opposite the market place, and said I wanted a wedding ring, and of course, they'd just got these nine-carat gold ones. That's it, then, that's the nine-carat gold....and I said I wanted one and I tried it on and I said 'all right then, that'll do.' And she got the little box out and I said 'that's all right, I'll keep it on.' And she gave me such a look. I'll never forget that woman's face. I didn't tell her - I just wanted to get it on my finger and get out of the shop! It was just over a pound, I think. I kept it on, and I've still got it. I wrote to Walter - he was on the high seas by then so he didn't get it for a

long time, but he wrote back and said don't worry, I'll get you another one, when I get home. We couldn't afford one, not for a long, long time. Ten years later, I got this one, this is the twenty-two carat gold. It's still there, so I haven't lost that one!

I stayed in the land Army for about a year after we were married. Walter was in India. I went home to my parents. He wrote to me a lot. I didn't see him for three years. He came back in forty-seven. When I came back, first of all we lived with his parents - this is their house. Then we had one in Fairview Grove, one of those, an Airey house, that have brick on most now.

The Land Army were there till the war finished, and they disbanded. There were quite a lot of Land Army camps dotted around...there was one at Quay, but they left before we did. We used to go all over the place...we used to get invited to dances, in Bottisham, and here in the village too. We were paid eighteen shillings. We were well looked after, really.

It's a different world altogether. It's not like it used to be. We never wished we were doing anything else – we enjoyed ourselves, we really did.

Mark Lewinski

From an interview with Joan Bradley

Down on the Farm – Another Farming Year

The farming year always finishes when the harvest is all gathered in, and as you know from my rather short article last time this was completed two weeks later than normal, but at least it is all in the shed.

As soon as the combine is through the field we go in with a cultivator to try and achieve a stale seedbed. This is where we try and get a germination of all the unwanted weeds and other seed so we can kill them, either by ploughing or spraying, so that when we come to plant the autumn crop some of the weed control has already been done.

Both ploughing and spraying have their advantages and disadvantages. Since the straw burning ban came in to force about ten years ago we have had to dispose of the straw left in the fields by other methods. This has not turned out to be the problem that many of us thought it would be at the time the ban started due to a number of reasons.

Firstly, the increased efficiency of the straw choppers on the combines has made a big difference, and this has been assisted secondly by the way in which the plant breeders have managed to reduce the length of the straw. Thirdly, the way in which we do our cultivations has also helped.

Ploughing has been, and always will be, the best method of soil conditioning, but comes at a price. More horsepower is required to pull the plough and it is always slower than other methods. A seedbed has to be made afterwards with one or two, or sometimes even three, passes with a cultivator. This will use a lot of energy in the form of diesel, and therefore as a consequence, pollution with fumes from the tractor exhaust as well as many man hours and hour on the tractor[†].

Minimal cultivations are the more modern approach to this problem. We go in

with a huge great cultivator, which will cultivate the soil, condition and roll all at once. It is wider than the plough and therefore we can get over the ground much quicker, thus using less fuel, and in a dry year the bonus is we will not lose as much soil moisture.

This method, although good in some years, is not appropriate all the time, because as will all minimal till cultivations the straw and rubbish is not buried in the way the plough would do it. This leads to what is called in the industry as a “green bridge”. This will allow any residues from the previous crop, such as weeds or more importantly disease, to carry on from one year’s cropping to the next. We can however, control these problems with sprays; herbicides for the weeds and fungicides for the disease, and sometimes insecticides to cover any aphids that are carrying viruses.

It may sound controversial, but a jolly good burn would not only get rid of the straw but all the diseased weed seeds and other “nasties” which we otherwise have to control with sprays and cultivations. However, it was always a bit dodgy with factors such as the wind and smoke problems, but not least of all wildlife considerations. I am personally pleased to see the end of burning for this reason alone.

With all the straw being worked into the soil the bonus on the heavy soil has been that it is slowly but surely becoming easier to work due to all the organic material, which is being returned in to it.

One other method for straw disposal in this area is to have a contract with the power station at Mepal, which relies only on straw as its source of energy. Although we do not send our straw there, growing energy crops is something that the farming industry is looking at more closely, and with a lot more help from the Government things will hopefully take off in the next few years. Most of our straw is currently either chopped or the barley straw goes back to Newton to our cattle yards where it is used as feed and bedding for the cows.



[†]*Tractors do not record miles but engine hours. Doing a thousand hours a year in a tractor is probably the minimum we need to do to justify the cost of a new machine. A lot of machines do a lot more and some do a lot less. We probably average 1100 hours a year on ours. A combine also measures hours, but we cost them per acre, but as you can imagine, there are only six to eight weeks to work a combine in and not that many hours – but lots of acres!*

School News

We now welcome visits from parents interested in reception places for September 2005. Please telephone to arrange to look around the school and receive a prospectus. The final date for applications is 24th March 2005.



This term the children have all been on trips to support and enhance the curriculum. The hands on Roman day for Class 3 kicked off their topic, whilst the Class 4 trip to the Fitzwilliam museum and museum of classical archaeology added to their knowledge of the Ancient Greeks. Class 1 and 2 also visited the Fitzwilliam Museum to add a cross curricular dimension to a harvest theme, looking particularly at paintings with windmills before a follow up visit to the local windmill.

Mrs Newbolt supported our art day; all children worked with acyclic paint, mixing it carefully and then working with scale to create their own interpretation of Degas' Beach Scene. The contribution of Mrs Newbolt's expertise and parent helpers really made this day a success. Mrs Hanke, our art co-ordinator, is arranging to have the picture mounted and framed.

Thanks to the parent and teacher volunteers as well as Reach resident and ex parent Janet Hall who planted up our new outdoor area and quiet play zone. Janet also kindly gave up her time to plan the areas and purchase the plants. The areas are now complete, adding attractive facilities for the children. Our grant from the EDF Energy award was used to complete both projects.

The Life Education Centre also visited our school; this mobile education centre with its many interactive features supported the personal social and health (PSHE) curriculum.

Congratulations go to Mrs Richards who has been successful in her move to a larger Deputy Headship at Swavesey Primary School. From January, we welcome Miss Simpson who will be joining our school as the new Deputy Head Teacher. Miss Simpson is currently teaching in Stroud where she is part of the senior management team. She will teach Class 3.

Many of you supported Jenny McMahon in her recent parachute jump. A magnificent £1,200.76 was raised with £400.25 being presented to the East Anglian Air Ambulance (the visit by the helicopter caused quite a stir – thankfully the horses in the neighbouring field were far less excited than children). The remaining money is going to buy three pieces of trim trail equipment for the front playground; these will be fitted before Christmas.

Joanna Lakey

www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk tel. 741529



**Come to our Christmas Fair
3 pm Monday 29th November**





**Swaffham Prior C of E Primary needs
someone who can juggle to come and
give a demonstration of their skills.
Can you spare half an hour to show the
children so that they can practise at playtime?
Contact Joanna Lakey on 01638 741 529**



FOSPS News

The Friends of Swaffham Prior School have had a very successful fundraising year enabling us to purchase four new computers, a multimedia projector and books for the school, as well as providing a Christmas entertainer for the children and funding various running costs for the swimming pool. Many thanks to the many people in the village who have supported our fundraising events, especially the sponsored Parachute Jump by Jenny McMahon (which raised £1,052.76), the Summer Fair (£1,131.00), the Barrow of Booze (£634.70) and the Ladies' Indulgence Evening (£433.00).

One third of the money raised by the Parachute Jump has been donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance - you may have spotted their helicopter at the start of October when they visited the school to receive their cheque. The remainder of the money from the Parachute Jump – and the focus for our fundraising for the rest of the year – is to purchase new outdoor play equipment for the playground in front of the school. An order has already been placed for the first items of 'trim trail' equipment.

Our next fundraising event is the Christmas Fair which will take place at 3.00pm in the School Hall on 29 November. There will be mulled wine and mince pies and the opportunity to pick up cards and gifts for Christmas. Everyone is welcome – we hope to see you there!

Clare Freeman, Secretary





Reach And Swaffham Prior Community Network

On 29th September, RASP Community Broadband held its second AGM in Reach Village Hall. As a user of the service, I am a member although, unlike the courageous founders, I have not had to put in my own money to launch the service.

The Broadband service now has 48 home and 11 business members generating an annual income of £15,300. This success is due to the hard work of the founders. However, more members are needed to continue to provide the excellent broadband internet access and further the interests of its members in all aspects of Wireless Local area networks and associated activities. Discussion developed on the choices of how to develop further and it was voted to decrease installation fees. With a few more user members, the group could also reduce monthly fees, increase the speed and quality of the service and offer extra services such as central backup.

Much time was spent discussing the “threat” of BT broadband. Some of the discussion (and the advertising leaflet) were technical and incomprehensible to me. However, in layperson’s English, I can say what the service does and some of the reasons why more villagers should sign up:

What does broadband mean to the user?

Broadband means access to the internet or email separate from your telephone. It means not having to dial up every time. It means you can talk to a phone helpline (e.g. to work through a technical hitch) and simultaneously work through the suggestions on screen. It means fast access so you can download improvements in software such as service pack 2 for Windows XP.

What is special about the RASP system?

The speed of all internet viewing systems is dependent on the design of websites, the variable speed of the internet and the number of users at the time. For the RASP wireless system, the number of users is much lower for the bandwidth available than for the “big” systems such as BT so it is faster. Similarly, the quality is better because it is not affected by the number of joins in the telephone line.

RASP “symmetrical” broadband has a similar uploading to downloading system so, for example, you can send photographs of printable quality, not just poor quality thumbnails. “Asymmetric” broadband (ASDL) as offered by BT etc. does not allow rapid uploading and it is slower than the RASP wireless system.

The RASP system has “firewall” protection from viruses and worms which damage computers and a “spam” filter to remove those ads for viagra - and worse. The team at RASP also advise you about your own firewall and anti-viral software - and supply top quality ones at minimal cost. BT give you no advice and no discounts.

Fitting of the system is minimal disruption and can be done at a time to suit

you. The friendly technos are also in the village if you have a problem - and the RASP website can be accessed for routine information and help.

The system is non-profit making. Any surplus funds are put back into the Community system, not into Corporate profits and Director salaries.

I thought East Cambridgeshire DC was subsidising broadband

East Cambs DC has refused to give small grants for local initiatives such as ours. It has given a large grant to a single company to upgrade all the telephone exchanges in East Cambs (except Upware). However, this is unlikely to benefit this village as the quality of service depends on the number of joins in the cable between your telephone and the exchange. Wireless, as used by RASP, is not affected in this way. Paradoxically, East Cambs DC has asked RASP to supply Upware with broadband. Maybe a grant is in order for this extra community service!

Who will benefit from broadband? - a few examples

Any family with children should have broadband. Internet familiarity and use is mainstream 21st century education.

Anyone who wishes to keep in contact without the hassle and expense of envelopes and stamps.

Anyone wishing to find train times and fares, wardrobe doors, if a sale item is still in stock, local history etc.

Anyone wishing to bank or shop on-line - reducing charges and costs.

Anyone wishing to move house - you can trawl through Estate Agent websites and view details and maps, look at photographs, book viewings etc.

Anyone who is frustrated by the “you can find further information on our website at ...”. If you can’t beat them—join them.

My monthly fee pays for itself by reductions in my phone and car costs alone.

Joan Rest
741989

Commissioners Wedding Cars

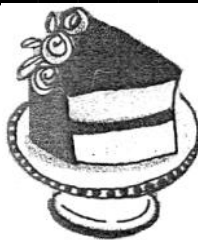
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Fax : (01223) **810031**

Saturday Surgery: Many of our patients will have had occasion to use the Out of Hours Medical Service offered by CAMDOC (Cambridge Doctors On Call), when the surgery is closed in the evenings, weekends and bank holidays. All of our Doctors work out-of-hours shifts for CAMDOC as do many other doctors in the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire area. As part of a NHS initiative to restructure GP hours, doctors will no longer be required to offer a surgery on a Saturday morning. South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust has commissioned CAMDOC to extend its out-of-hours service to include Saturday morning. This means that from 1st September 2004 we will no longer open on a Saturday morning.

We realise that this may be a disappointment and an inconvenience for those people wishing to contact the surgery. It is not the intention of the GP's to reduce the overall time that the Practice is available for patient contact, therefore from the 1st September the surgery will be open throughout the lunchtime Monday – Friday. Receptionists will be available to take telephone calls and to deal with patients in person. Also, the dispensary will be open throughout the day for prescription collection.

SURGERY TIMETABLE – OCTOBER 2004

Morning

Monday	Dr's Towriss, Croucher, Higham, Hunter, Gillard
Tuesday	Dr's Higham, Croucher, Elliott, Hunter
Wednesday	Dr's Towriss, Higham, Hunter, Gillard
Thursday	Dr's Croucher, Hunter, Gillard
Friday	Dr's Towriss, Higham, Elliott, Hunter

Afternoon/Evening

Monday	Dr's Towriss, Croucher, Higham, Hunter,
Tuesday	Dr's Towriss, Elliott, Hunter
Wednesday	Dr's Towriss, Higham
Thursday	Dr's Croucher, Elliott
Friday	Dr's Towriss, Higham, Hunter



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Fax: 01353 723778

11b Churchgate Street, Soham, Ely CB7 5DS
www.careandrepair-ecambs.co.uk

- *Do you wonder who to turn to, to get those small repair jobs done in your home?*
- *Do you worry about who you can trust to carry out the work reliably*
- *Do you put off those necessary jobs because you are afraid of the costs?*

IF SO

perhaps...

WE CAN HELP

- If you are disabled and/or over 60 you are eligible
- The Handy Person Service is NOT run for profit.
- We will charge £5.00 per hour for labour
- You can supply the materials or we can order them from our suppliers on your behalf and charge them to you.

- The jobs should be small, as a guide, no more than half a day's work
- We may prioritise more urgent jobs if demand is high
- If in doubt please ring and enquire



TYPE OF JOBS WE CAN DO

Joinery

- ✓ Shelves
- ✓ Repairing wooden windows/doors
- ✓ Repairs to wooden fences & gates
- ✓ Lock fitting/replacement
- ✓ Fit loose/dangerous/squeaky floor boards
- ✓ Fitting grab rails and stair rails

Plumbing

- ✓ Replace tap washers
- ✓ Seal baths and sinks
- ✓ Adjust/replace ball cock
- ✓ Add lever taps to modern taps

Building

- ✓ Minor repointing/plastering
- ✓ Gutter repairs (stepladder height only)
- ✓ Repairs to steps
- ✓ Replace window pane/door glass

Minor Electrical

- ✓ Fitting/refitting plugs
- ✓ Replacing fuses
- ✓ Changing light bulbs

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FUND**
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North Street, Burwell, CAMBS, CB5 0BB



WI Notes

Mr Bass from the Trading Standards Office came to speak to the WI in October.

The Trading Standards Service aims to ensure a fair deal for consumers and businesses by fairly enforcing trade laws, dealing with complaints about unfair practices and offering face to face advice. The areas it covers are Weights and Measures, Food, Safety and Licensing, Fair Trading and Loading of Good Vehicles.

Mr Bass advised us of all the things we should be wary of, such as letters telling us we have won vast amounts of money, phone calls persuading us to have a new kitchen etc. (we've just done some in your area!) people selling things at the door, or having "just enough tarmac left over from another job to repair your drive" etc. etc.

Some of us thought the talk would be boring, but we couldn't have been more wrong. Mr Bass made it very interesting and amusing.

On 15th November, Sarah Warmer will be talking on Gift Wrapping, so if you want to find out various ways of wrapping your Christmas presents, come along and join us, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Just a reminder about the Gay Bullied Award: nominations should be in by the end of November.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The AGM was held on October 19th. It was an enjoyable meeting followed by wine and entertainment. Next year's programme is very interesting and everyone is welcome. Please contact Roger Connan (742182) or Margaret Joyce (744390) if you would like further details.

Village Gardeners Programme 2004-2005 -So far!

November 16th	Introduction to Auriculas
January 18th	<i>Virgins, Weeders and Queens</i> —a history of women in the garden.
February 15th	<i>You should have been here last week</i> —a light hearted look at the trials and pitfalls of gardening.
March 15th	<i>Unusual Vegetables.</i>
April 19th	The four National Collections of plants held in East Anglia.
May June July	Outings—dates and venues yet to be decided.
September 20th	<i>Chelsea since 1947</i>

THE AUCTION

For St. Mary's Swaffham Prior
13th May 2005

**Are you moving, or clearing out
your:**

**House, Attics,
Cupboards or Sheds?**

**We can collect items in good
condition:**

Furniture(small!)	Decorative china
Glass	Oil/Watercolours
Silverware	Linen
Oriental rugs	Leather-bound books
Jewellery	Paperweights
Garden statuary	Leather suitcases
Sporting equipment	

**DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR
ANTIQUES OR COLLECTABLES**

Donate them to St. Mary's!

Please contact:

Penny Walkinshaw
Tel: 01638 742542

Marcia Miller
Tel: 01638 741141

Harvest Supper — from the Organiser

Celebrated by about 85 of us in the Village Hall

THANK YOU to all those people who helped make this years supper one of the best. Normally I do not mention people by name, but I do feel special mention must be made to



*Preparation — “Shhh!!
They’ll never know...”*



The Entertainment...



The Mastermind

the people who provided the main course for about 73 people, Ruth Scovil, Penny Walkinshaw and Marcie Miller and Hilary Sage for the children's food.

Also a big THANK YOU to those who helped in a variety of ways including buying and serving the wine, providing sumptuous puddings, raffle prizes, serving, washing up, laying tables, putting notes through doors, putting tables away etc. and also those who came and supported the evening.

For me personally, the highlight was the enthralled children's faces whilst watching the entertainment, I do hope the *Crier* photographer managed to snap them. I think Swaffham Prior parents should be congratulated on the children's behaviour throughout the evening, a few hours for under-fives was no mean feat.

I have enjoyed organising the supper over the past six or seven years, but I feel it only fair that someone-else is given a chance, so volunteers please! I will be very happy to initiate anyone.

Kate Child



The Audience...

....And from participants...

What a wonderful evening the Harvest Supper turned out to be. The Village Hall was convenient and companionable and everyone seemed to be having a good time., including the children.



The Helping Hands....

There were many helpers, all of whom have been thanked. We would like to send special thanks to Kate Child. Kate organised it all and was at the helm to see that everything ran smoothly. She manages to persuade (or inveigle) everyone to do just as she wants! What would the Church do without her? Thank you Kate for a lovely evening.

Betty and Ron Prime



The Diners...



The Alcohol Concern Inaugural Meeting...



...And see you all next year!

Climate Change...What Can You Do?

The scientific evidence is growing that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are having a noticeable effect on the earth's climate. Globally, seven of the ten warmest years on record were in the 1990's. In the future, the earth's climate could warm by as much as 3°C over the next 100 years. The social, environmental and economic costs associated with this could be huge.' (Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Climate Change.)

Scary stuff, made all the more real by the recent floods at home and in Europe.

You may ask yourself what we can do on a local level to alleviate this very real problem.

One area where we can all make a difference is by reducing the amount of energy we use to heat and power our own homes. Did you know that domestic dwellings produce approximately 25% of U.K. CO₂ (one of the main greenhouse gases) emissions, and that the average home produces more CO₂ per year than the average car? (Source: Energy Saving Trust)

That's enough to fill 6 hot air balloons 10 metres in diameter!

It has also been calculated that we waste around **£200.00 per household per** year by heating and powering our homes inefficiently, and that a regular house loses over 40% of its heat through loft spaces and walls!

There has never been a better time to insulate your home.

Depending on the type of fuel you use and the size of your home, cavity wall insulation and ten inches of loft insulation can be professionally installed from as little as £50 per measure.

If you are in receipt of certain income related benefits these measures can even be installed for free!

Want to know more?

Contact the HEAT Cambridgeshire scheme on 0800 0930450 to arrange a no obligation survey of your home.

Alternatively, call your Energy Conservation Officer Ian Bowers at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616251

Teenie Tots Tokens Wanted!

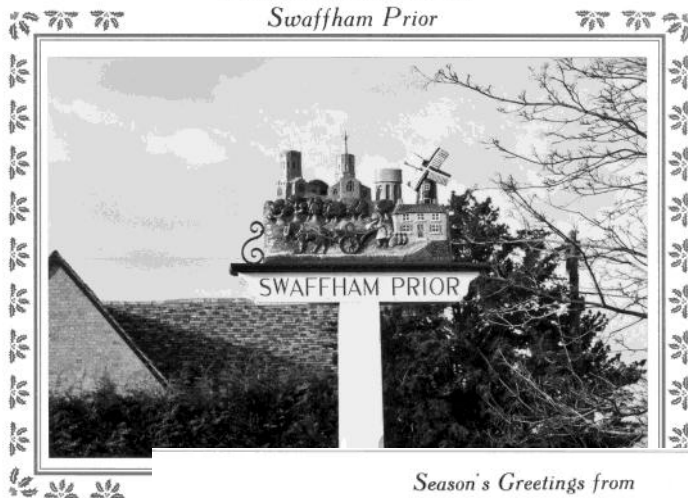
Do you get the Cambridge Evening News? We would be very grateful if you could collect the TEENIE TOTS TOKENS for our Little Windmills Playgroup in Reach. We need as many tokens as possible to be in with a chance of winning some toys for the group.

The tokens started being printed on Monday 4/10/04 and go on until Saturday 6/11/04. You can either post them through Jo Pumfrey's door or ring me on 743366 and I will collect them.

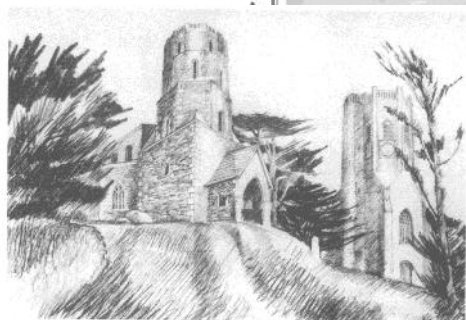
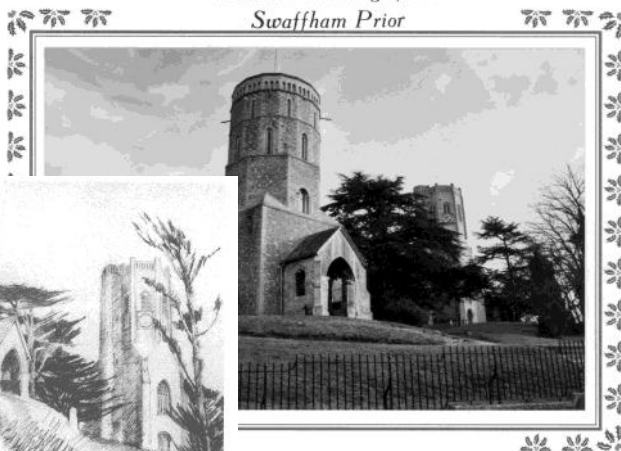
Thank you for your support.

Clare Smith

*Season's Greetings from
Swaffham Prior*



*Season's Greetings from
Swaffham Prior*



Cards For Sale

In aid of church funds, Christmas Cards are £1.50 each and plain cards (artist Keith Gentle) are 60p, or 6 for £5 (*Que?? Eds*). You can order them from Barabara Dennis (66 High St, 743939) or Kate Child (73 High St, 743983). Money with orders, please!

Kate Child



At a Glance Information for Library Users

Cambridgeshire County Council's Libraries have produced a series of "at a glance" packs to give people information on how well their local library is performing and to outline future plans for service improvements.

The profiles were produced for each of the 31 static Libraries in Cambridgeshire and are intended to provide a rounded view of each library, its level of use — number of visitors and items loaned annually — and membership, as well as its range of services, facilities and activities such as Internet/computer terminals, children's story times, baby and toddler sessions.

Copies of the individual profiles have been placed in the appropriate Library.

For instance, the profile for Ely Library shows that during 2003/04, 189,865 visits were made — an average of 96 people every hour - to the Library in the Cloisters and 184,227 items were borrowed and an average of 164 new members joined each month. The Library holds more than 21,000 adult books, 9,400 books for youngsters and over 3,000 reference volumes.

County Council Head of Libraries and Information Service, Lesley Noblett, said: "We are used to publishing information about the overall performance of the library service, but have come to realise that people are most interested about their own library. The profiles bring together all the information about how well an individual library is doing and the range of services it provides and we hope they will be a very useful information source for both Library and Information Service staff and Library users in local areas."

In addition, Library Development meetings are planned which will provide users with direct access to senior Library and Information Service staff, and enable them to put forward ideas for improved or expanded service provision, information which will be used to influence future service planning.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

COUNTY COUNCIL STRUCTURE

By the time you read these notes we are almost certain to have a new way of tackling County administration and services. Subject to Cabinet and Council agreement, the Chief Executive will be supported by three Directors and 23 Chief Officers, producing a saving of two Directors and a dozen senior officers. The savings will, we are assured (!), be ploughed back into the departments concerned. On your behalf I shall be watching to see how this is achieved.

The other main County change will be a redrawing of the elected members' seats. Because of the large increase in population in Cambridgeshire over the last

twenty years, there will be ten extra councillors at 69 (compared with 59 now). The result is that nearly all boundaries will be altered. Round here, **Bottisham** and **Lode** will be cut away from the rest of the present Divisions, leaving **Burwell**, **Swaffhams** and **Reach** in its own group, while Bottisham and Lode will be merged with all the other villages south Newmarket within East Cambs. That means that Bottisham and Lode will tie up with Burrough Green, Westley, Brinkley, Dullingham, Stetchworth, Cheveley, Woodditton, Ashley, Kirtling and all their attached hamlets like Upend and Saxon Street! This arrangement may look sensible on a map, but I cannot see a lot of common interest. The main criterion for these rearrangements is to ensure that all County Divisions will have, as far as possible, a similar population. However, the new Burwell Division is expected to have an electorate of 6050 in 2007 compared with 7350 for the other Division to be known as Woodditton — hardly comparable in my view.

The difference is emphasised by the fact that Burwell Division will have one County and *four* District Councillors, compared with *five* District and one County Councillor for Woodditton Division. I am told that the final decision on boundaries will be made a little later on this winter after the Boundary Commission has finally put its recommendations to the Government. It is now unlikely that any further changes will be accepted.

POWERLINE ACROSS THE FEN

Last month I wrote that the County Development Committee would hold its final debate on the route of a second 132kv power line across the fen from **Burwell** via **Swaffhams**, **Reach** and **Lode** to **Horningsea** and thereonwards to provide much needed supplementary power in Cambridge, the Science Park and developments in the close-by villages.

After the best part of two years debate between ADF and largely hostile villages (including ours) and the County and District Councils concerned, the route was finally accepted last month as the best solution, following an agreement over a substantial landscaping plan. The route is nearly parallel with the existing line, although the towers will be staggered rather than next to those already existing. I spoke to the committee as local member, pointing out my original anxieties on landscaping, wildlife and archaeological grounds were now calmed after I had seen the detailed new landscaping proposals at the recent Burwell exhibition. I was also reassured on the protection of wildlife and archaeological grounds. The final decision lies with the Environment Minister.

James Fitch



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.

PCC News

Thank you for everyone who provided such delicious food for the Harvest Supper. The highlight was watching the children utterly captivated by a fascinating display of musical toys. Mechanical sound in this fast, immediate access computerized age proved riveting.

Especial thanks to Kate for master-minding such a successful event.

The Village leaflet designed to welcome newcomers and orientate them to fixtures and events etc. in the village is nearly ready for publication. Please let us know of newcomers near you. Thank you.

Tricia Harris



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor

East Cambs District Council is now 30 years old. This is to be celebrated with a Chairman's reception at the Ely Maltings on Friday October 22nd. Alan White has been a Councillor throughout, together with our longest serving officer Alan Stevens.



The two public meetings on the office accommodation which were held at Ely and Soham were marred by public demonstrations concerned with a planning decision for Little Downham. Although the time for presentations and discussion was curtailed, a number of relevant points were raised and will be considered by members in the final decision.

Continuing on the theme of consultation, the results of the Parish Survey are now available. 113 completed surveys were returned representing a 35% response from parish Councils and individual Parish Councillors.

The first preferences for a preferred site location were as follows: Ely Business Park, Angel Drove (42%) the Grange (25%), Soham Bypass (13%), Lancaster Way Business Park (11%).

On another note, the number of domestic properties on the East Cambs council tax register has reached 32,000. The Office for National Statistics has confirmed that our district is the fastest growing area in England. From June 2002 to June 2003 they have estimated that our resident population has grown from 72,400 to almost 78,000, a staggering 4.8% increase.

While this should be good news in terms of additional resources there is concern that the government may not use the figures for Revenue Support Grant purposes until the 2006/7 financial year.

With regard to the EDF Energy proposed 132K electricity line from Burwell to Horningsea. Amended plans regarding the landscaping for this project have now

been received by East Cambs Council. As an affected authority we can only submit comments. The matter will finally be determined by the Secretary of State.

The proposal is for a second electrical power-line to run parallel with the existing line. The new pylons would be at the same height as the present ones. The new line is needed for the increased demand for electricity from the Cambridge area.

Allen Alderson

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 members and 2 members of the Public.

CCC Report: Cllr Fitch reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancies: Two vacancies still remain.

Matters Arising – *for information only:*

a) **Footpaths/Highways.** Andrew Tipple of CCC Highways contacted the Clerk confirming the following:

Skirting/siding works carried out to the Rogers Road footpath

“Passing place” signs will be replaced and straightened as necessary on Whiteway Drove/Station Road.

The missing speed limit sign on Station Road is to be replaced.

The missing Swaffham Prior name plate is to be replaced.

b) **Enhancement Scheme** - *progress:* Cambridge Landscape Architects confirmed to the Clerk that a small St Giles lantern is to be fitted by a local steel fabricator once an order number has been received from the new ECDC Conservation Officer. Once the lantern is in place, the existing lamp post will be removed and a new feeder box installed behind the wall to service the throw lantern once costs have been approved by ECDC.

c) **CCC-Public Lighting Maintenance Agreement.** *The Clerk received confirmation of agreement details.*

d) **Recreation Ground – Burwell Tigers Football Club:** A subcommittee has been set up by BTFC and a meeting is to be held on the 20th October. Steve Kent-Phillips will represent the P.C. at this meeting.

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements – 2005/06 Bidding Round: Due to concerns raised about the speed and volume of vehicles using Heath Road, an application is to be submitted for consideration under this scheme. Suggestions put forward included the provision of speed signs/markings, the extending of the 40mph speed limit and passing places where the road narrows.

Date for Budget/Precept Meeting: This will take place on the 4th November 2004.

ACRE Insurance Services – *annual renewal:* This was agreed at £601-04.

Village Car Park – *estimates received for removal/replacement of damaged tree:* Two estimates were received from J V Waugh & Eastern Tree Surgery. After consideration it was agreed to instruct Eastern Tree Surgery to carry out the work subject to the confirmation of a suitable replacement tree.

The Zion Chapel – correspondence received It was brought to the P.C's attention that a local Charity is trying to raise funds to purchase the Zion Chapel to use as an Arts Centre for adults with disabilities. This prompted concerns about the proposed parking arrangements and would mean the use of a private road to gain access to the back of the Chapel. The meeting noted the concerns and agreed that this should be kept under review noting that such a use with increased traffic would not be in keeping with the building or the High Street.

"Dencora" Land, Lower End – *meeting with Stockbourne Management Ltd.* Stockbourne (the now owners of the land) sought the Parish Council's views on any future plans for this land. It was suggested by Stockbourne that half of the site fronting Burwell Road should be transferred to the PC for the benefit of the community for all time with the remainder of the site fronting Lower End being released over time in phases for a mix of affordable housing and housing for sale. The meeting agreed that these proposals would not be appropriate for this site.

Planning Applications:

The Gables, 20 Lower End - *erection of a single storey dwelling. No objections.*

15 Lower End – *alteration to existing planning with the addition of velux windows. No objections.*

The Forge, High Street – *Move driveway to other side of the house; Build a wall to enclose the garden; Build an open covered walkway and erect a pantiled roof between the house and existing garden room. Concerns were raised about this application noting that the proposed changes would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the High Street.*

Planning Approvals: Tiptree Marina, Prior Fen, Walcott, 34 High Street.

Any Other Business: Station Road – hedges, paths generally untidy.

It was reported that the age limit sign on the swings in the play area needed replacing.

The bench seat installed by ECDC has not been positioned correctly.

Open Question Time: Mr Limb asked when the directional sign for Upware at the top of Station Road was to be reinstated. This will be checked with CCC Highways. Mr Limb also noted the edging works carried out to the footpath on Rogers Road but asked that the PC continue to press CCC for resurfacing of the footpath.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 11th November 2004 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king5@bopenworld.com

Ely Museum

Autumn & Winter 2004/5

Thursday 4th November 7.30pm - Musical Nostalgia

A talk by Bill Morris Presented by The Friends of Ely Museum.

Admission £1.50 non-members £1.00 members.

27th November - 31st January 2005 - King Arthur Exhibition

Come along to this fascinating exhibition of Darrell Warner's costume drawings which were recently used in the making of the Disney

Blockbuster **King Arthur** - not to be missed!

Normal admission charges apply.

Mon - Sat 10.30am - 4pm, Sun 1pm-4pm, Tuesdays closed.

Saturdays 4th & 11th December —Christmas in the Courtyard

10.30 am—4pm Come and visit Santa in his Grotto. Other activities include Story telling, Face Painting, Paper Chain making, Raffle & Refreshments. **Cost £2.00 per child includes free entry to Museum.**

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



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Any occasion catered for.

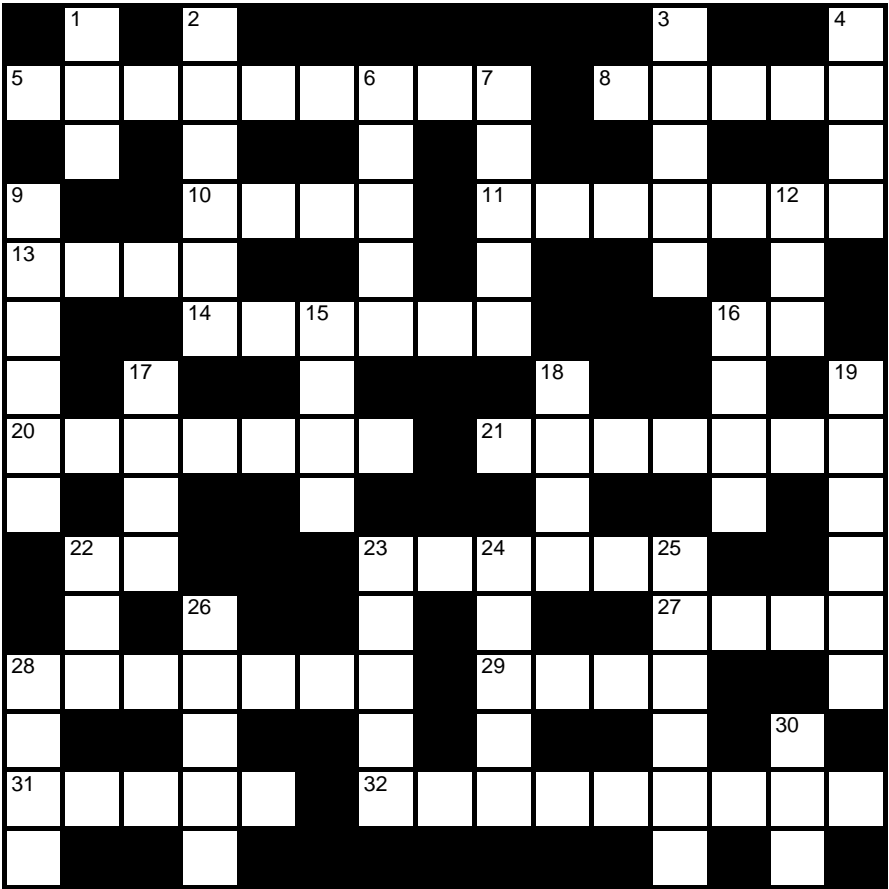
Crossword Number 16

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

OUNCE

This month’s crossword is semi-themed; which is to say that all the clues containing the word ‘one’ have solutions which are part of the theme. Send your answers to the editors by 14th November 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

- 5 Sadly Rene almost verges on non-32 across one (9)
- 8 Not a pretty one we hear (5)
- 10 Lo, 500 fruit (4)
- 11 Oddly, fir cone comes from this one (7)
- 13 Yearn for this one (4)
- 14 Writer leaves strawberries ruined by swords (6)
- 16 Short morning (2)
- 20 This one sounds like an island (7)
- 21 Hate Ben violently below (7)
- 22 Location of my 'ead cover? (2)
- 23 See 28
- 27 Take care possibly, this one is related to 31 across (4)
- 28/23 For this one now, we wipe Gill strangely (7,6)
- 29 Sooth with article and by soothing song (4)
- 31 This one found when funny place mats cast away (5)
- 32 This one, 31 across is an example, is a short month of the French in debts (9)

Down

- 1 5 across girl, clings to one (3)
- 2 I get up bearing flags (6)
- 3 The King lives. Gyrrating? (5)
- 4 This one sounds like two (4)

- 6 The Spanish or the German for this one? Both (5)
- 7 Kisses above the shoulders? (5)
- 9 A neat one (6)
- 12 East - 50 miles for this one (3)
- 15 Green president? (4)
- 16 Boy from Alaska, land of the North (4)
- 17 See mark (4)
- 18 Terrible hill (4)
- 19 Pink one (6)
- 22 Use this to 18 down one (3)
- 23 Engaged in war with wit, Edward (5)
- 24 Purple 15 down (5)
- 25 Little Walter joins union for this one (6)
- 26 Take off cap please, to reveal this one (5)
- 28 Organ woman meets doctor around the beginning of October (4)
- 30 Up this one? Mug! (3)

Solution to crossword no. 15

N	O	N	C	O	M	P	O	S	M	E	N	T	I	S
M	O	I	V	A	I	E								
H	E	R	N	I	A	U	P	R	I	S	I	N	G	
L	I	M	L	T	E	M								
P	E	R	C	E	I	V	E	I	C	I	C	L	E	
T		N	I								O	N		
S	R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	I	S	T	
A	O	O	L	I	W	F	A							
N	A	U	T	I	C	A	L	M	I	L	E	S	L	
M	T		L		E	E					J			
A	Y	E	A	Y	E	E	S	O	T	E	R	I	O	
R	L	A	R	A	R	G								
I	N	S	O	M	N	I	A	S	H	A	G	G	Y	
N	H	S	S	I	T	L								
O	L	D	A	G	E	P	E	N	S	I	O	N	E	R

We congratulate **Yasmin Fulton**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Dee Noyes and Shirley Wilkins. (Julie and Bob on holiday!)



Church of England Services

November 2004

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 7	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 14	10:50am Remembrance Service (Family Service)	10:50am Remembrance Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 21	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 28	11:00am Matins 4:00pm Advent Carol Concert	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2004

The Vicarage, Bottisham

Dear Friends,

Remember, remember the fifth of November; gunpowder, treason and plot. The key figure in the infamous 5th November 1605 plot was Guy Fawkes, who was born in York in 1570, a Protestant. His mother remarried a Recusant (The name given to Catholics at the time) who were dreadfully persecuted during the Elizabethan era, building up deep resentments amongst them. Having converted to Catholicism at some point unknown, Fawkes enlisted as an adult in the Spanish army, which was occupying the Netherlands (then in Spanish hands), allowing him freedom to practise his religion openly.

When King James 1st came to the throne, Fawkes' assessment, along with that of several would-be conspirators, was that given the opportunity, Catholics in England would rise up and depose the new King. This was quite false, and out of step with the new optimism amongst Catholics that King James was a tolerant and liberal ruler. Nevertheless, Fawkes and his fellow conspirators were determined to proceed and secretly stashed a huge quantity of gunpowder in a cellar under the Houses of Parliament, with a view to exploding it on the occasion of the state opening. But on 26th October, Montegale, had been handed an anonymous letter, which advised him

to stay away from the opening of Parliament. The letter was shown to the King, who ordered caution and searching of the buildings of Parliament with discretion.

The conspirators met the night before the opening of Parliament (3rd Nov) in London and the next day, the King's men observed an unusual amount of firewood near the offending cellar. When the owner of the house revealed who the tenant was, alarm bells sounded and a party conducted by Sir Thomas Knevet returned about midnight on Nov 4th where a "John Johnson" (Guy Fawkes) was arrested. Far from denying what he was doing, Fawkes said openly that he wanted to destroy the King and Parliament. They searched his pocket and found fuses and kindling. A search was made for others, but the conspirators fled out of London. One by one they were caught and they were executed in the following January.

The plot resulted in further dreadful persecution of Catholics in this country. Such persecutions continued in the following years, deepening the chasm between Protestants and Catholics. In recent years we have seen similar religious bigotry and hatred in Northern Ireland. But now the focus is shifting towards religious conflict with Muslims. Inevitably, the events of 9/11/01, and subsequent terrorist atrocities, have heightened the level of religious bigotry, and, following the pain and suffering in Iraq, we seem to be hurtling towards a new era of religious conflict.

So much suffering and pain in the name of religion! Yet it is not necessary. Jesus taught peace and reconciliation – he told us to turn the other cheek. True Muslims also believe in peace and reconciliation.

I worry that religious conflict is seriously undermining whatever sympathy the current generation might have had towards religion. So what is the answer? Well, perhaps it is important to divorce 'religion' and 'faith'. Jesus himself condemned narrow and bigoted religious intolerance in the Pharisees, and we should denounce religious intolerance too. Strange as it may seem to some, for me being a Christian is not to be 'religious' but to love and follow Christ, and that means 'loving my neighbour as myself'.

I believe that Christians should seek to make a difference to the world, not be seeking to persecute other faiths, but by prayer, by showing love and concern, and by living out Christ's teaching in our lives. Then, maybe this world will eventually become a better and safer place to live in.

May God bless you all.

David

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

Dates for Your Diary - November 2004

Wed	3	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House
Tue	9	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH.
Sat	13	Village Variety Show, 7pm VH Soham Comrades' Band, St Peter & St Mary, Fordham, 7.30pm
Sun	14	Crier Copy Deadline Remembrance Day Family Service
Mon	15	WI Gift Wrapping, 7.30pm VH
Tue	16	Village Gardeners Introduction to Auriculas, 8pm VH
Tue	23	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sun	28	Advent by Candlelight, St Mary's & St Cyriac's, 4pm
Mon	29	Christmas Fair, 3pm SP School Hall

Weekly Events		
Sun		11am, Boules, Village Hall Car park
Tue		2.30-4pm Baby & Toddler Group, Village Hall Jamsing, 10-10.45 (0-18mnths), 11-11.45 (18-38mnths), Village Hall 7-8.30pm, Youth Club
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6pm-8pm. Scouts, 7.45-9.15, School
Thu		Messy Play, 2.00-2.35, Village Hall 2.30-4.30pm Teas Village Hall 7-10pm, Youth Club