



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 28 Number 10

October 2004



Editorial

When a train's late, it only gets later, as the guard mournfully observed as we sat queuing for a slot into Birmingham New Street, happy thoughts of connections, seats, welcoming relative etc. fading into distant memories. Yes, well, what applies to trains also applies to magazines, which is why this issue is not just late, but even *later*. Many apologies, all our readers!

Until very recently, the *Crier* could *not* be late (so therefore wasn't). This was because, on the last Thursday in the month, many kind volunteer villagers turned up at the Village Hall to collate and staple the magazine and although the Eds could always tell you exactly why it would be quite *impossible* to get the magazine out even remotely on time *this* month, it seems that when faced with the prospect of a horde of cross villagers, they thought better of this conclusion. May we take this opportunity to say THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all those helpers — it's the end of an era, since the *Crier* is now being automatically stapled at the Burwell Print Centre. But they will be sorely missed — especially the experts who manned the *Crier* stapler! Many tried, but few ended up with anything but bent staples, crumpled magazines, and a large debt to the **** Piggy Bank!

Village magazines send one another copies of their magazines and this month we reprint, with their kind permission, an article from the Bulbeck Beacon on the history of the Denny. Alastair Everitt, who spotted it, notes that "The Denny means a lot to footballers, cricketers, and especially hockey players and they will be interested in the early history of this idyllic village green - which might not have been if *you-know-who* had had his way!". Meanwhile, read all about the *uncosted* Ely Council Offices scandal-waiting-to-happen in *Our Reporter* — and yes, *Crier* readers *would* like pictures of serving councillors, see the brilliant snaps (many thanks, Mark Lewinski) from Playscheme 2004 and get practising for Village Variety 2004! See you Harvest Suppering.....

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *A night in the Red Lion*, Thomas Newbolt



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Wobbly Bike Path

With regard to the improved footpath/cycle way from Swaffham Prior to Swaffham Bulbeck.

This stretch is also part of the trunk cycleway from Burwell and other villages to Cambridge and is used by an ever increasing number of commuters, including our son-in-law.

The main obstacle is the stretch from Lode to Quy, where there is no footpath and the careful cyclist has to make a 2 mile detour through Bottisham.

The reason cited for the delay in providing the link, is the barn adjacent to the road in Colliers Lane, Quy.

This could easily be side stepped by a bulge/ traffic calmer alongside the barn.

The improved footpath/cycleway is adequate for the average cyclist, but not the wobbler!

Henry Brown
35 Greenhead Road

Dear Editors,

Help! — Radiologists Wanted

My name is Mike Oldham, and I am the Radiology Services Manager for East Cambs & Fenland PCT. Our X-ray services are available at Princess of Wales Hospital Ely, North Cambs hospital Wisbech, and Doddington hospital in Doddington.

Unfortunately, there is a national shortage of radiographers within the profession, which has contributed to us having a long-standing vacancy within the service. This vacancy affects the service we can offer, and ultimately increases waiting times for examinations.

In order to combat this, one option that I am keen to pursue is the possibility of attracting people back into the profession, possibly after they have been away for several years. The community hospital setting is an ideal environment to re-learn radiography, and we have had several successes in the past.

I am therefore keen to raise awareness of this possibility at a local level, and one of the best ways that I can think of doing this would be through local magazines such as your own.

Mike Oldham
Radiology services manager.
East Cambs & Fenland Primary Care Trust, North Cambs Hospital, PE13 3AB,
mike.oldham@nhs.net

You are cordially invited to the
2004 Swaffham Prior Village

HARVEST SUPPER

in

The Village Hall

at 6.00 pm on

Saturday, 9th October

Tickets (available 25th September – 5th October)

Adults: £5.00  **Children (under 12): £2.50**

from

Barbara Dennis

66 High Street

743939

Dee Noyes

1 Mill Hill

743864

(Kindly mention if vegetarian meal required)



Wine and soft drinks bar  **Entertainment**
Raffle (50/50 WaterAid/St Mary's Fabric Fund)

ALL WELCOME!

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

We have a new Chairman — John Covill. Every Prime Minister has a particular tone and style and you can just imagine what this country would be like under Gordon, or Charles, or Michael. Just think about it -I think it is about time we had another woman, sexist though this be. So it is with the PC which in time will acquire a new emphasis under the new Chairman after the lately departed Trevor Jones. Before Trevor there was of course the reformist Andrew Badcock, and before that, almost Gladstone like, Henry Hardiment. So what is this new Chairman going to bring to the office? From my very early observations he is going to have concern and responsibility. That's good. Also, there seems to be a great potential for a certain lightness and frivolity- which to me is also very good. Having said that, let's get on with the meeting.



After the preliminaries James Fitch had a good 20 minutes covering the washboard effect of the new cycle path if travelling faster than 15mph. He also mentioned the almost certain need and approval for the extra power line across the fen and explained that if the new line was attached to the current pylon then they would have to increase the height from 27 to 46 metres — which he thought would be a greater eyesore. Our new Chairman (hereinafter JC) wanted the cables underground and James explained that not only would this be considerably more expensive, maybe under water at times, but repairs would be considerably more difficult. JC was not convinced, said “they managed to put cables under the sea to France”, and let it go at that.

Our new ECDC representative Alan Alderton brought the meeting up to date on the future development of ECDC offices and said four sites were being considered, papers had been circulated, and PC members were invited to give their views.

“But there are no financial details” said JC.

“That's right”, agreed Alan, “It's quite difficult to provide any.”

He explained that they didn't want to give costs as this might prejudice a decision and the wrong one may be made. Mutter, mutter, mutter, went around the meeting. Alan assured the Meeting that “No decision will be taken lightly.” How do you respond to that? JC searched for words, and could only stumble out — “That's good to know”. Sandra Wilson had attended a recent meeting about the possible development and thought it had been well presented and quite useful — but no costs. And it really is quite complex. Minor Highways Improvements was next on the agenda and everyone expressed pleasure with the new speed warning signs, though the previous chairman will be missed as he always drove to ensure the signs were working. Since his departure several of us have chosen to help the PC by regularly testing them. So far they have never failed to light up — which is another bit of good news. Believe it or not but speeding in Heath Road is the latest problem. It seems that an increased number of lorries has coincided with an increased number of children. If this was a government survey they would have linked the two occurrences. I think it is just chance. The PC will apply for “Slow Down” signs and

perhaps the installation of passing bays (do these slow traffic) the payment for which has been volunteered by a village resident.

Many may remember that poor chestnut tree which had been vandalised in the car park. Andrew Camps will get a quote for taking the tree out, grinding down the stump, and replacing with a Silver Birch which he hoped would be safe from the attacker of the chestnut. JC wondered if it would save money if they approached the guy who made the initial attack as he seemed to be pretty efficient at demolition.

In “Any other Business” JC paid acknowledgement to the loyalty of Postman Ken (I always thought it was Mel) who after recent P0 changes is now working inside. JC thought a letter of appreciation and thanks should be sent though “whether it’s safe to send it by post is another matter.” While on the question of the Post Office I think our PC could begin to diversify. They have already shown that they can make a profit out of the cemetery water. How much would they save the country if they worked more closely with POSTCOMM which has just been granted an increase of funding from £5.94m to £10.2m because they have very few staff and need to employ a considerable number of consultants to “look at whether the price of stamps will be increased.” I think this something our PC could easily handle. Maybe Karen should write.

Towards the end of the evening Karen suggested it may be a good idea to promote the PC by giving everyone a short description for inclusion in the *Crier*. Sandra thought it possibly a good idea, Eric thought it daft and that the curious ought to come to a meeting, and others were not so sure, possibly because of modesty. I suggested the *Crier* staff could write a short piece on each member and that the *Crier* photographer would circulate the village catching all members unawares. Enthusiasm for the idea appeared to wane from that point.

Bad news about the light over the Church steps. One step forward and two steps back. Nothing is going to happen for a bit, which is just as well because if any action is taken it will expose the incorrect position of the main lights both sides of the steps. Who on the PC approved the position of the lights some years ago? Who indeed? If the Government was involved there would be a Public Enquiry which would discover that no-one was at fault — because the blame would be laid on the original position of the Church steps. Who on earth thought of putting them there!!

Alastair Everitt

Reading Group

It’s very satisfying to read a good book. The pleasure is enhanced if you can share your thoughts with somebody else who has read it. With this in mind we would like to start a Reading Group of like-minded people. If you are interested, please read Jennifer Donnelly’s “A Gathering Light”, a delightful, thought-provoking book and easy to read, and then meet at Kent House on Wednesday 3rd November at 8 o’clock ready to talk about it.

Brenda Wilson

A bit of Denny History

(Reprinted, with kind permission, from the Bulbeck Beacon)

Some amusing things come to light when you have to look through your old documents, which is what the Clerk of the Parish Council has been doing as part of checking our asset register. On 21st February 1911 an inquiry was opened in the School because the Parish Council had asked the Local Government Board for permission to borrow £550 to cover the cost of buying the “Denny Close and Plantation” for use as a Recreation Ground. The first suggestion for a recreation ground had been in Lime Kiln Close, but the Denny was agreed as the preferred site on 26th July 1909. The price was finally agreed with Colonel Hamond, the owner, at £800 for both land and plantation. To level the site for cricket and football, and to pay legal expenses needed a further £100. Council used £350 of its funds, and needed to borrow the £550, which it proposed be repaid by 1961.

The inquiry opened with the inspector asking for any who opposed the scheme. There were none. The history of the scheme was given as above, but in great detail. The inspector then invited statements from those present. The Vicar, the Revd F.W. Roberts, who had arrived late, then rose to make objections. The inspector said he was too late, but let him speak. The minutes record: “the Vicar then made the following remarkable statements that he objected to the provision of a Playground as his experience of village playgrounds were that no respectable persons would be seen in them. Secondly he considered that the funds at the disposal of the council would be better spent on the Church and churchyard...”. The inspector asked if he had attended the parish meetings that had unanimously approved the scheme - “the Vicar made the following astounding reply that as respectable persons could not be heard at the parish meetings he had absented himself”. Uproar followed and the inspector said that it was a most unwise remark. The inquiry continued with a great debate on how little had been done under the Old Vestry system, which was replaced by the Parish Council in 1895. The parish council in their 16 years had provided 2 public pumps (£40 each), a bier for £22, Cemetery and other gates and rails at £25, and still had £350 of funds, while the Old Vestry had handed over just £37 after 100 years with no public works to show how their funds had been used! Needless to say the Denny was acquired, and we still have the other items as well. The Vicars of today have a very different outlook from nearly 100 years ago.

We are retaining a second copy of these minutes so that anyone can see them. Many of the surnames are still very familiar: Butler, Fordham, Levitt, Stevens, Booth (schoolmaster), Kemp, Chiney (baker), Bennett and Blagdon (publicans), Rolph (bricklayer) with Watson, the Chairman and Selby, the Clerk of the parish council.

Loder Bevington

THE HARVEST SHOW

All that's needed for a good Harvest Show is to bring together some happy people, a few vegetables and flowers, cream scones, goodwill and a little money. We had all that a-plenty at the last Village Harvest Show.

Apart from the fun and generosity I began to notice an interesting growth of aggressive competition (probably not very PC but very helpful for achievement). Two very different people, said to me in very different ways, but which in effect came to the same thing — “Why has Eric Day a monopoly on the Dahlias? I'm going to beat him next year.” So watch out Eric. And our resident colonial Greg Cotner chastised me for the narrow unimaginative section ‘Cakes and Bread’. “I just love to make a good tart” he assured me. So, if it's agreed, next year we'll have a new class ‘Any Tart’ and possibly ‘Any Cake’, and entries from Greg. Raspberries may also be introduced because of the new later varieties.



..and afterwards, the Grand Auction

As for Class 1, ‘Mixed Vegetables’, which is the premier class of the show, the Alex Kirby/Mike Maister partnership will have to be careful as the Bowers family and Latchford clan are closing in, though without quite the right presentational style at the moment. Give them time and things

could change. And where is Eric Day? That's a challenge!! The Children's Section had more than the usual stars. In particular the ‘Vegetable or Fruit Animals’ were outstanding -- not just outstanding but quite brilliant, wonderful, and very sensitively created. The highlights were made by Charlotte Fleming, Hester Bowers, Emilia Hubbard and Alice Hubbard.

The Teas were first class and much appreciated, the contents of the Raffle the best ever, and the Fun Quiz went down well. The winner was Greg Cotner who, after saying he knew nothing, came top. But, like any star rotter, he refused to accept the prize because he had nipped out and looked up everything on the Internet. What is so impressive is that he always appeared to be in the hail, so this is a tribute to the speed of Broadband (Editor, please note this plug). The authentic winner was Margaret Stanier. There followed the Auction which was supported most generously.

Altogether we made £222 profit. Some will go towards Village Hall maintenance and some to Farm-Africa which is the current favoured VHMC charity.

Alastair Everitt

(See page 12 for show results)

The Village Variety Show

You were surprised that it went so well last year but WE were amazed and gratified and encouraged to try it again.!

Please put a note in your diary for Saturday November 13th at the Village Hall, and if you want to offer any kind of party piece (or if you know of anyone hiding their light under a bushel...) please act at once and contact us. We can help put sketches together, give you guidance on choice of piece or simply trust to luck and slot you into our already filling-up programme.

We guarantee an evening's good fun, and probably more variety than you should reasonably be asked to cope with!

Hilary Almond will fulfil any reasonable musical demands and Hilary Sage (742978) and Tim Doe (743656) will do their best to keep a grip on it all!



WI practising for this year's show?

BACH'S GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

We come from Quy fairly regularly to the concerts in St. Cyriac's Church and made a point of coming to Ian de Massini's recital on September 12th. It was a surprise to see only a circle of chairs round the piano but by the time Ian came in and began to play they had all been filled.. He played the entire variations lasting some *50 minutes without a score* and with only a brief pause halfway through. During the concert I suddenly had a vision of an eighteenth European court — a group of some 35 people as we were, listening even to Bach himself It has been a persistent rumour that the Variations were composed to be played when a certain count in Dresden was suffering from insomnia, though Ian's notes told us this was probably not true. In any event, listening to his superb interpretation kept us all awake as the sun streamed through the windows. We felt we were just as privileged as those courtiers, though in a different way.

Robin Hill



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.



Autumn Production 2004

Cold Autumn nights often mean that we want to sit in front of a cosy open fire with thoughts of Spring (and Spring cleaning)! Call in your local chimney sweep — *but do so at your peril* — who knows what he might find up the chimney!!

Our Autumn production, *Brush with a Body* by *Maurice McLoughlin* (in association with Samuel French) will make you think and make you laugh! The play involves a wily chimney sweep, a house-keeper with a large problem that needs sorting out, a Mother who knows more than she is letting on, together with her two unsuspecting daughters and her son, who, being a psychiatrist, has more than enough problems of his own!! There are, of course, other characters coming and going throughout the play, which hopefully will enhance your amusement.

How can all this make you laugh you may ask yourselves? Well the only way to is to come along and find out. We will be performing in the Bottisham Village College Main Hall Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7th, 8th and 9th October at 7.30 p.m. Ticket prices will be £6.00 with concessions at £4.00 on Thursday and £6.00 only (no concessions) on Friday and Saturday.

Behind the “cameras” this time around will be Sue Tennant, making her directorial debut, quite fitting, as this October will mark the tenth anniversary of her membership with the “Players”.

The setting will be in the form of a cabaret evening, small tables of 6-8 people, far more informal and hopefully, more fun. Therefore we would ask you to please bring your own drinks and glasses. “Nibbles” will be provided.

Tickets can be purchased personally from mid-September from 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. Please book early to avoid disappointment, as numbers will be limited.

Cookery Books

This year's Harvest Festival takes place in St Mary's Church at 11am on Sunday 10 October. Any donations of produce from this service, and from the school's Harvest Festival, will be collected by the Cambridge Foodbank which distributes food to over 70 local voluntary and charity groups, supporting 6,000 people. This year they are also appealing for donations of surplus cookery books. If you have any you can spare, please bring them to the Harvest Festival service or contact me on 743864. Many thanks.

Dee Noyes

SWAFFHAM PRIOR SUMMER PLAYSCHEME 2004

Take 85 children from 10 different schools, 60 helpers from 50 families, a handful of teenagers, a dozen pre-school children in the crèche, 81 sessions of wide-ranging activities, a week of dry weather and you have the perfect recipe for Playscheme 2004!

As we are now handing over the reins after five years, we would like to say a big **thank you** to everyone involved this year; it was the most enjoyable and least stressful week we have experienced! Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and friends who provided sessions or helped with activities; we worked out that over three-quarters of the sessions were put on by home-grown talent and only one-quarter were bought-in specialist activities. Among the “locally produced” activities were woodwork, football, sketching, kitchen chemistry, dance, drama, story-telling, farm trip, cookery (including a cooking and trampolining session combined!), brass rubbing, pony rides, scavenger hunt, basketball, crazy golf, archaeology, video-making, fishing, and the cycling adventure. Externally provided sessions included archery, gymnastics, first aid, wiggle karts and singing. In addition, in the craft room the children could try felt-making, calligraphy, mosaic tiling, leather work, candlemaking and many other crafts.

Special thanks to the “green shirts” who took on particular areas of responsibility: Liz Tabecka whose expertise in the craft room made it a very enjoyable, and surprisingly calm, week; Jenny MacMahon who ran a wonderful crèche; Mark Lewinski who took photos to record the week, oversaw registration and dealt with money matters; and Kathy Judge who tackled special needs and first

aid. But there were so many other people who willingly took on tasks behind the scenes or during the week; particular thanks to those who helped to clear away on Friday!

Thanks also to Jo Lakey and the school for providing premises and resources. The craft room worked on decorating three planters (kindly made by Dickie Doe) as a gift from Playscheme to the school and when the weather and soil conditions are





*All the fun of the Play Scheme!
Olympic Champions of the
future run through their paces.*



right we will be planting a tree in the grounds.

We have had a great time putting Playscheme together, but now it is time to hand over to a new team. We will hold a meeting in late January for anyone interested in taking this on. Please come along!

Mandy Kingsmill (742482) and Dee Noyes (743864)

Gay Bulleid Award

His award is presented every year to someone living in Swaffham Prior who has been a "good neighbour" to the village as a whole or to a resident. So if you would like to nominate someone please send their name and a reason for the nomination to Margaret Phillips, 50 Lower End, or hand it to a member of the WI Committee.

"FRIENDS OF BVC"

1ST ANNUAL HALLOWEEN FIREWORK DISPLAY

Saturday 30th of October 2004

Bottisham Village College Sports Field

Gates open 6:00pm

Display starts 7:00pm

Tickets (advance sales)

Adults £3.50,

Children (5-16) £1.50,

Family £10.00

Tickets (on the gate)

Adults £4.00,

Children (5-16) £2.00,

Family £12.00

Under 5's free!

Barbeque, Soft-Drinks & Halloween Gifts

Commissioners Wedding Cars

Chauffer driven Rolls Royce for your special day

- **Weddings**
- **Special Occasions**
- **A day at the races**
- **A night on the town**

Call John on 01638 741134

THE AUCTION

*For St. Mary's Swaffham Prior
On Friday 15th 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 742512**

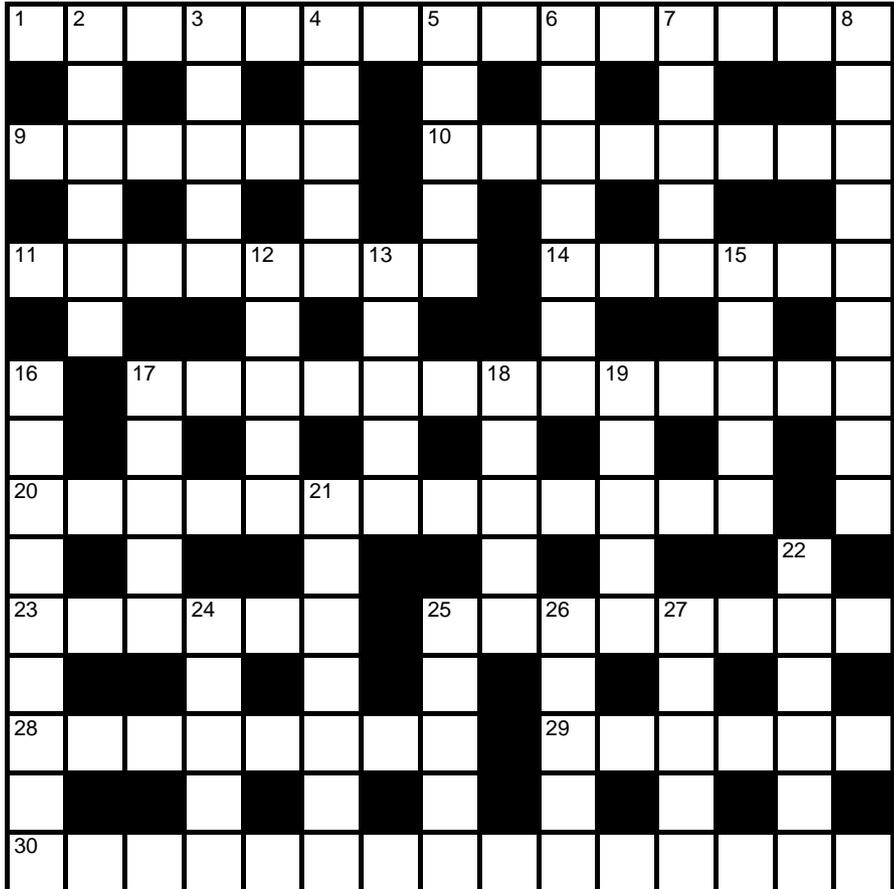
**Marcia Miller
Tel: 01638 741141**

Crossword Number 15

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
NIBOR

Why not try your hand at this month's cryptic crossword? Send your answers to the editors by 14th October 2004. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address:

.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Unbalanced components Simon disturbed (3,6,6)
- 9 Rupture caused by her national insurance arriving first (6)
- 10 Rebellion taking advantage of inner-damaging split (8)
- 11 Become aware of first woman chasing after money bag, we hear (8)
- 14 Here the French surround Cuban leader for hard water (6)
- 17 Subversive turning first (13)
- 20 A mint sauce ill disposed to be measured on a sea voyage... (8,5)
- 23 ...On a sea voyage, yes (3-3)
- 25 Strange ice store - very mysterious (8)
- 28 After a short distance, everyone in Rome will be staying awake (8)
- 29 Hairy but timid about a child's horse (6)
- 30 One led Singapore revolution although he's no spring chicken (3-3,9)

part (9)

- 12 Final stanza read in a drunken voice (5)
- 13 Pancho perhaps might have lived in one (5)
- 15 Skullcaps are produced by companies housing a single figurehead (5)
- 16 Nina roams around in this small country (3,6)
- 17 Road out? Er... back round (5)
- 18 Product of the age (5)
- 19 Use crumpled towel for small hooter (5)
- 21 Wash drugs after middlemen are found amongst tribesmen (7)
- 22 Get leg over after dance and shake it all about (6)
- 24 Buffalo halfway in. Greetings! (5)
- 25 Wipe out Egyptian leader following the times (5)
- 26 Haven is nothing as is this (5)
- 27 Muse used to orate terribly (5)

Down

- 2 Some lettings include a light meal (6)
- 3 Type of section put on one in 200 (5)
- 4 French friend follows motorway to the city (5)
- 5 Seedling of Ewell it's said (5)
- 6 Martin is inside getting a drink (7)
- 7 US immigrant from Japan is in tennis eight (5)
- 8 Head of state for example, mad in

Solution to crossword no. 14

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

We congratulate **Andy and Jo Pumfrey**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Shirley Wilkins and Robert and Julie Nunn.

Down on the Farm – Harvest

At the time of writing we have not started this year's harvest due to the weather – something farmers just have to put up with. When my grandmother was alive she always teased me when she asked how things were going by saying that I would always make excuses for a less than favourable crop; too dry, too wet, not the right kind of rain! But this has been an exceptional year for the harvest weather that we have experienced.

However, no point moaning about it, we've just got to get on with it. The weather does what it wants, whilst my operators can sit in tractor cabs, which can rival some of the best cars parked on the driveways around these villages. With seats that are adjustable in more ways than you can imagine for ultimate support, posture and wellbeing, gears and controls all at their fingertips, the radio on and air conditioning humming, the driver is kept extremely comfortable. Too much you say? Well no, a tractor, combine or any piece of machinery is only as good as the operator, and to get good people we aim to look after them and provide as good a working environment as we can.

With the extremely busy summer and autumn period upon us we require 100% commitment from everyone. When most of you go off to work in the morning tractors will already be out in the fields working, quite often still there long after you have returned home in the evening. It requires a very special type of person to work in these sorts of conditions. It can be a very solitary existence, which is not to



The new Claas combine in action (one of the days when there was no rain!)

everyone's liking. Long gone are the days when people on farms relied on muscle and being instructed at every step along the way. Most agricultural workers today have to be multiskilled and with machines costing anything up to £250,000, a certain type of person is required both to operate and maintain it, working for long hours on their own and making important decisions which could ultimately effect crop growth and yield.

Now six weeks later, 10th September, and I have just had time to finish off this article. Not quite finished harvest but all the wheat is in and the linseed has been started so the biggest worry is over. This year the yields have been reasonably pleasing, but due to all the rain in August the quality is not brilliant. The good bits of the grain that the millers like in the bread making process are just not there, so most of our wheat this year will end up as cattle food, but I optimistically await the rest of the results from the grain merchants who have taken samples from our stores, so you never know.

Time to start getting the fields ready for another farming year!!!

James Willmott

Ely Museum

Autumn 2004

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday 7th October 7.30pm

Monastic Herbs

A Talk by Christine Pownall presented by The Friends of Ely Museum.

£1.50 non-members, £1.00 members.

Events during Half Term

Tuesday 26th October- 2 - 4pm

Harvest Printmaking Workshop

Fun printmaking workshop with Jen Parker for children aged 7 - 10yrs.

Tickets £1.50 per child - pre booking essential.

Friday 29th October - 10.30am - 12.30pm

Tie Dying Workshop

Bring along your pure cotton items to Tie Dye for children aged 8 - 12 years. Tickets £2.00 per child - pre booking essential.

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th October

Ghost Tours

Recommended minimum age 7yrs. Booking from 1st October-more information available from this date.

Harvest Show Results

Classes which had no entries are not included below. In some cases a first, second or third prize was not awarded.

1. *Mixed vegetables*. 1st. A.Kirby/M.Malster. 2nd. D.Bowers. 3rd. P.Latchford
2. *4 potatoes*. 1st. Dominic Bowers. 2nd. Frances Reeks. 3rd. Paul Latchford.
3. *4 beetroot*. 1st. Dominic Bowers.
4. *4 carrots*. 1st. Dominic Bowers. 3rd. Margaret Joyce.
5. *Vegetable marrow*. 1st. Eric Day.
6. *4 courgettes*. 1st. Eric Day. 2nd. Paul Latchford.
7. *6 French beans*. 1st. Paul Latchford. 2nd. Kim Bowers. 3rd. Jane Latchford.
8. *6 runner beans*. 1st. Eric Day. 2nd. Peter Hart. 3rd. Janet Cooper.
9. *3 indoor tomatoes*. 1st. Peter Hart.
10. *3 outdoor tomatoes*. 1st. Pamela Latchford. 2. Sarah Dodge.
11. *A cucumber*. 1st. Peter Hart. 2nd. Kim Bowers. 3rd. Kim Bowers.
12. *Longest runner bean*. 1st. Peter Hart. 2nd. Janet Cooper. 3rd Eric Day.
13. *Biggest oven buster*. 1st. Eric Day.
14. *3 onions from seeds/slips*. 1st. Pamela Latchford. 2nd Paul Latchford.
15. *3 onions from sets*. 1st. Jane Latchford.
16. *5 shallots*. 1st. Jane Latchford.
17. *Uncommon fruit/veg*. 1st. Kim Bowers. 2nd and 3rd Pamela Latchford.
18. *3 pears*. 1st. Chris Lewis. 2nd. Andrew Toxer.
19. *3 dessert apples*. 1st. Chris Lewis. 2nd. Ruth Scovil. 3rd. Alastair Everitt
20. *3 cooking apples*. 1st. Ruth Scovil. 2nd. Chris Lewis. 3rd. Eric Day.
21. *3 plums*. 1st. Elisabeth Everitt. 2nd. Alastair Everitt.
23. *Dahlias 3 varieties*. 1st. Eric Day. 2nd. Eric Day. 3rd. Katie Whitely.
24. *6 pom-pom dahlias*. 1st and 2nd and 3rd. Eric Day.
27. *3 spray michaelmas daisies*. 1st M. Joyce. 2nd. A.Everitt. 3rd Jenny Brand
28. *3 roses*. 1st. Jean Moore. 2nd. Ruth Scovil. 3rd. Alastair Everitt.
30. *Vase of perennials*. 1st.Jenny Brand. 2nd. A.Everitt. 3rd Pamela Latchford
33. *Bowl of flowers arranged for magnificent effect*. 1st. Alastair Everitt.
35. *Miniature flower arrangement*. 1st. Jenny Brand.
36. *Jar, soft fruit jam* 1st. Jane Latchford. 2nd. Linda Kirby. 3rd. K. Bowers
37. *Jar, stone fruit jam*. 1st. Jutta Reeks. 2nd and 3rd. Marion Norris.
38. *Jar of Jelly*. 1st. Pamela Latchford. 2nd Jutta Reeks. 3rd Ruth Scovil
39. *Jar,marmalade*. 1st Elisabeth Everitt. 2nd R. Scovil. 3rd Dominic Bowers
40. *Jar,lemon curd*. 1st. Pamela Latchford. 2nd. Barbara Dennis.
41. *Piccalilli/ Chutney* 1st Pam Latchford. 2nd Linda Kirby 3rd PaulLatchford
43. *Victoria Sponge*.1st Ruth Scovil. 2nd Barbara Dennis.3rd Elisabeth Everitt
44. *6 flapjacks*. 1st. Kate Child. 2nd. Pamela Latchford.
45. *6 shortbread*. 1st. Pamela Latchford. 2nd. Kate Child.
47. *6 scones*. 1st. Ruth Scovil.
48. *1 wholemeal loaf*. 1st. Peter Whitely. 2nd. Ruth Scovil.
49. *1 white loaf*. 1st. Ruth Scovil.
50. *6 bread rolls*. 1st. Ruth Scovil.

51. *Tallest sunflower* 1st Gwilym Davies. 2nd Tim Davies. 3rd Emily Stuart
 52. *Largest sunflower head.* 1st. India Fleming.
 53. *Chocolate crispies.* 1st Emily Noyes 2nd David Cane 3rd Georgia Stuart
 54. *HappyFaces Biscuit* 1st Emily Stuart 2nd Georgia Stuart 3rd Ryan Noyes
 55. *Garden on plate.* 1st Katie Luton 2nd Bella Lewinski 3rd Emily Stuart
 56. *Vegetable or fruit "animal"*
 1st Charlotte Fleming 2nd Hester Bowers. Joint 3rd Emilia +Alice Hubbard
 57. *Original model* 1stTristan Latchford 2nd Ryan Noyes 3rdDaniel Fleming
 58. *Bottle red wine.* 1st Paul Latchford 2nd Simon Everitt
 59. *Bottle white wine.* 1st. Simon Everitt.

APPLE FESTIVAL 2004



East Cambridgeshire District Council is holding its fourth Apple Festival on **Saturday 16th October on Palace Green**, Ely in celebration of the great British Apple.

New for this year is the Harvest Market – a variety of apple and harvest related stalls selling a wide range of goodies and wares. The popular Apple Café is back where you can sit and relax in the Cathedral Centre and enjoy a variety of apple related refreshments. More apple delights can be tasted at the Watergull Orchards marquee where a whole range of apples, ciders and juices are on offer. Also in the marquee local chef Monica Askay will be serving some homemade apple soups.

There will be several competitions and activities running throughout the day including the ever popular longest apple peeling competition, apple and spoon races, plant your own apple seed, an apple shy to name but a few. The competitions are being manned by Ely Lions with the small entry fees being donated to local charities within the district.

Information stalls, a woodturner and bee keeper demonstration and folk music all add to the fun of the day which runs from **10.30 am until 3.30 pm.**

If you are a budding photographer I am sure you will be interested in our Apple Photo Competition sponsored by Watergull Orchards who are based in Sutton and are regulars at Ely's Farmers Market. We are asking people to send their entries either colour or black and white on an apple related theme so it could be a solitary apple, a bowl of apples, someone eating an apple, an apple tree or people enjoying a glass of apple juice or cider – let your imagination run free! We have two categories, an under 16s and an over 16s. Entries can be any size but no larger than A4 and should be sent to us unframed. All entries must be received by 1st October 2004.

If you would like an entry form or further details then please contact Jane Fletcher, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Babylon Bridge, Waterside, Ely, Cambs CB7 4AU Tel: 01353 616352 or e-mail: jane.fletcher@eastcambs.gov.uk.

For general information on the event or for a flyer please contact: Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Oliver Cromwell's House, 29 St Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HF. Tel: 01353 616377 or e-mail tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk



WI Notes

Mr Alan Maskell came to the WI in August to speak on the Life and Books of Beatrix Potter. This was a most interesting illustrated talk. Mr Maskell is a member of the Beatrix Potter Society and has been interested in her since childhood. He gave a potted history of her life and his slides showed views of where she had lived and the locations for some of her stories. He also read excerpts from her diary.

Beatrix Potter gave up writing when she married her solicitor and they went into farming. When she dies, she left her farms to the National Trust.

What an interesting visit we had in September to the BBC studios in Cambridge. First we were given a talk about what goes on there, both television and radio. Then we were taken on a tour.

We saw the control room where the television news "Look East" is put out and where the reporters bring in their stories, transfer them to computers and edit them. (*Aha!! Kent House could have a "control room" too, and then.... Wishful Thinking Ed!*). We went into the studio where the local section "Close Up" is transmitted (I actually sat in Amanda Goodman's chair!).

The we went to the adjoining building to hear about "Radio Cambridge" and the items that are transmitted during the day from alternative studios.

As we left for home, Alex Dunlop dashed up the stairs to prepare for reading the news at 10.25 pm.

Another interesting evening is promised for October when we learn about "Trading Standards".

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners were given a very interesting talk about "Autumn in the Garden". Andrew Harper Scott brought a large number of shrubs and perennials to illustrate how our Autumn can be such a very colourful season in the garden.

He also, in answer to members questions, gave us some useful tips on planting, the siting of plants, and pruning them.

October 29th will be our AGM. Wine and entertainment will follow the formal part!

Margaret Joyce

THE BURWELL SURGERY IMPORTANT NEWS

Many of you will be aware that as from April 2004 there has been a new contract of employment for General Practitioners in the UK. While most of the changes involved are at an administrative level, there will be a major change concerning “out of hours” services. From October 2004 responsibility for our patients’ medical care in the evenings, overnight and at weekends has passed from the surgery doctors to East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT.

The PCT are employing Suffolk Doctors On Call to provide the service. This is the same service we use at present and the doctors have been in lengthy discussion with both the PCT and SDOC to try to ensure that the standards of the out of hours service is maintained.

To comply with the new contract we will be altering surgery times as detailed below:-

Appointment Times	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	8.40-11.30	15.00-17.30
Tuesday	8.40-11.30	15.00-17.30
Wednesday	8.40-11.30	15.00-17.30
Thursday	8.40-11.30	15.00-17.30
Friday	8.40-11~30	15.00-17.30

Reception Opening Times	8 30-18 00
Telephone Lines	8.30-18.00
Dispensary Hours	8.30-18.00

For urgent medical advice outside of these hours, please ring the normal surgery number (01638 741234). Your call will be transferred to SDOC.

If you have any worries or concerns regarding the above, please contact the Practice Manager (Mrs Aileen Allen). She will be pleased to assist you.



Hereward Housing House Exchange

New 3 bedroom house in Burwell to exchange for 3 bedroom house in Swaffham Prior with large garden, please telephone 01638 743368



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- ✓ 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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At the beginning of September the Government released a consultation paper proposing a more graduated approach to curbing speeding drivers.

With this as background it is worth looking to see where we are in this part of Cambridgeshire regarding traffic calming, speed checks, provision of bridle and cycleways and offers of training now for motor cyclists and later for drivers.

Firstly, **traffic calming, a campaign** I have encouraged for years, increasingly supported by parish councils and individual petitions to the County. We now have, by common consent, much better driver behaviour in Swaffham Prior, Bottisham and in particular Burwell. Of course, there are idiots in a hurry or lacking consideration for others who spoil the record, for example the drivers who drive the wrong side of the traffic islands at Lode crossroads and the junction of the A1303 and Bell Road, Bottisham.

I have just returned from a Speed Awareness Course in Staffordshire (starting in Cambridgeshire in 12 months' time) and came away with several vivid impressions. Yes, speed kills; we all know that, but are you aware at all times that 95% of pedestrians are killed when hit by a vehicle at 30 mph, whereas 95% of pedestrians survive at 20 mph!

On the course, which is offered to drivers who exceed 30 mph but under 40 mph, there is a morning session of theory and discussion followed by an afternoon driving round Staffordshire with an instructor checking and discussing skills, judgment and habits and so on. My other deep impression from that drive was to practice "COAST" which translates to "**Concentration, Observation and Anticipation gives Space and Time to avoid trouble**".

Travelling home on the notorious A5 gave more than enough opportunity to carry out my hitherto rusty skills.

132 Kv Electric transmission line Burwell to Horningsea

A few days after this article goes to your editor a decision will be taken at Shire Hall about whether the County will reverse its holding objection to the proposal to duplicate the power line which runs from **Burwell** Sub-station through our fens via **Reach, Swaffhams & Lode** to the junction at **Horningsea**.

I shall speak to the meeting and tell you what happened next month. Whatever the decision, the County (and involved Districts of E.Cambs and S.Cambs) will only pass on a recommendation. The decision will be taken by the Secretary of State, so we may not know the outcome for some time.

James Fitch

Tel: 01223 811425



**EAST CAMBLESIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

I wish to use this month's newsletter to discuss East Cambs District Council's bid to find a new headquarters sight.

The Full Council took a step closer to deciding where its new HQ office accommodation should be located by shortlisting four sites as potentially suitable at its meeting on Tuesday, July 20th.

Three of the four shortlisted sites had been chosen from a long list of nine locations, which itself was earlier whittled down from an original list of 19 possible locations for the new HQ. The fourth option, a site on the Soham bypass, was added to the list at the meeting.

The selected options which will now go forward for more detailed investigation and assessment are to:

- 1: extensively re-build and re-furbish the Grange
- 2: construct a new building at Cambridgeshire Business Park on Ely's Angel Drove
- 3: a new building at Lancaster Way Business Park in Witchbrd
- 4: a new building at Soham bypass

All four potential choices were regarded as preferable because they are immediately available and also had other advantages, and the Council will be conducting a public survey during August and September to gauge the views of the district's residents on each of the shortlisted sites. This will be followed up with two public meetings, at the Council's offices in Ely on 12th October and Soham Village College on 14th October. There will also be a series of open staff meetings about the proposed move as well as a survey of the staff's opinion about each of the sites.

Chief Executive John Hill said: 'We have gone through a rigorous selection programme to arrive at the shortlist of the best possible sites for further consideration. The four chosen sites each offer different advantages and we now have to examine the fine details before making a final decision.

Uppermost in our minds are the needs and wishes of the residents of our district, as well as the views of the Council's members and staff. It is important that we have as much feedback as possible so we can make a correct, fully informed decision. This is a once-in--a-lifetime event and we want to ensure we get it tight.'

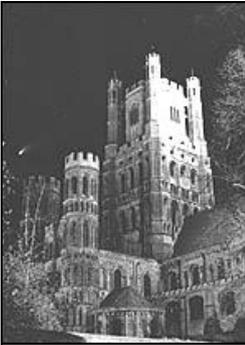
Office accommodation has been on the Council's agenda for several years, as space at The Grange has become increasingly cramped with more staff having been needed to take up the extra duties imposed by central government and to deal with the expanded operational requirements generated by the district's rapidly growing population.

With office space limited and resources stretched, the Council needs to decide whether to re-build The Grange to ante a more modern and efficient working environment, or whether to seek alternative new accommodation elsewhere.

With the Full Council having now confirmed the four shortlisted sites, further detailed and thorough assessments of each site will take place. A seminar for councillors will be held in October to hear the results of the assessments into the four sites, follows by two committee meetings to examine the details. The matter will Then go to a special meeting of the Full Council meeting on 30th November for a final decision to be made.

The public are entitled to attend the special meeting of the Full Council in November, as well as the preceding meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 29th October and the Policy and Resources committee meeting on 10th November, at which the matter will be debated.

Allen Alderson



ELY'S SWITCH ON LIGHT NIGHT

The Big Switch on is set for Friday 26th November. This year's event promises to be the most exciting yet. Organised by Ely Perspective's Marketing Group the top evening of fun includes:

The chance to ride on an open topped bus with Santa to view the spectacular lights

Try your hand on the synthetic ice rink in Market Place

Visit Santa in his grotto and put your order in for Christmas!

Lots of musical entertainment all around the City Centre

A variety of stalls providing refreshments, festive crafts and other seasonal goodies

Assemble in the Market Place for the finale with Ely's newly formed Garden Theatre Company playing a variety of Christmassy songs.

The fun starts at 4.00 pm with many of the shops staying open into the evening. So come and enjoy yourself.

For further information contact Tracey Harding on 07799 342489.

Notes from the Parish Council September Meeting

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

Minutes of last meeting: These were agreed.

CCC Report: Cllr Fitch reported to the meeting

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancies: A letter of resignation from Trevor Jones was reported to the meeting. This was noted and the Clerk was asked to write to Trevor to thank him for his contributions to the Parish Council and to wish him well in his new home. There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council. *Anyone wishing to become a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk for further information.*

Matters Arising (for information only)

a) Coopers Lane Barrier – A meeting was held on site with John Cooper and Andrew Tipple of CCC. John Cooper confirmed that he would check into the cost of a new replacement barrier and revert back to the Parish Council in the near future.

b) ECDC Office Move – Parish Forum. Sandra Wilson gave a summary of this meeting. Various options are still being considered.

Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme – 2005/06 Funding: Following discussion, it was agreed to look into possible measures to ease the growing traffic problem on Heath Road. The possibility of passing places is to be discussed with CCC Highways. Details of an application are to be agreed at the next PC meeting.

Play Area:

Additional insurance payment: An additional payment of £6-69 was agreed to cover the new play equipment recently installed.

Resurfacing works: An estimate for resurfacing works inside the entrance gate to the play area was agreed.

Village Car Park – replacement tree: Estimates are to be obtained for the felling and replacement of a damaged tree. This work was agreed with the Tree Officer of ECDC earlier in the year with a Silver Birch being considered a suitable replacement.

The Village Pound – maintenance work: Estimates are awaited for this work. To be carried over to next meeting.

Recreation Ground – Burwell Tigers Football Club: It was confirmed with the neighbours of the field that they were happy for this scheme to be progressed. One concern raised by all was the need to ensure that the site is kept secure at all times. The Parish Council agreed that security should be made a top priority in any scheme. Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to represent the PC and liaise with Burwell Tigers Football Club as this is moved forward.

Correspondence Received: This was reported.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications: (received during August/Sept)
Walcott, 5 High Street – single-storey extension to side of property forming enlarged kitchen.

Tiptree Marina, Prior Fen – Toilet & shower facilities for Marina customers
(approval received)

Bridge Field, Lower End – Steel framed building to be used as general purpose farm building (*approval received*)

Swaffham Prior Hall, 4 High – Swaffham Prior Hall, 4 High Street – conservation lake (*approval received*)

16 Fairview Grove – Kitchen/conservatory extension (*approval received*).

Any Other Business:

Water tap at the bottom of Rogers Road continues to leak. Further repairs will be put in hand.

Open Question Time: There were no questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th October 2004 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

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

<h1>KERBSIDE RECYCLING CALENDAR</h1> <h2>2004/2005 ZONE SEVEN</h2> <p>Your Collection Days in 2004/2005 are:</p> <table><tr><td>July</td><td>6, 20</td><td>August</td><td>3, 17</td></tr><tr><td>September</td><td>1, 14, 28</td><td>October</td><td>12, 26</td></tr><tr><td>November</td><td>9, 23</td><td>December</td><td>7, 21</td></tr><tr><td>January</td><td>5, 18</td><td>February</td><td>1, 15</td></tr></table> <p>PLEASE RECYCLE: NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, JUNK MAIL AND YELLOW PAGES</p> <p>AND IN SEPARATE BAGS: SHREDDED PAPER, WASHED CANS, GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS</p>	July	6, 20	August	3, 17	September	1, 14, 28	October	12, 26	November	9, 23	December	7, 21	January	5, 18	February	1, 15	<p>AT PRESENT WE DO NOT COLLECT: ANY PLASTIC, TEXTILES, WOOD OR POLYSTYRENE</p> <p>PLEASE PUT YOUR RECYCLING AND REFUSE OUT BY 07:00 HOURS ON DAY OF COLLECTION</p> <p>When Green Waste collections are introduced in your area they will take place on the dates shown above. Please include any cardboard or Yellow Pages in the Organic Waste sack.</p> <p><i>For further information call the helpline</i> (01353) 863864</p> <p>East Cambridgeshire District Council</p>  <p>CLEANAWAY</p> <p><i>Working Together</i></p>
July	6, 20	August	3, 17														
September	1, 14, 28	October	12, 26														
November	9, 23	December	7, 21														
January	5, 18	February	1, 15														

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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



Church of England Services October 2004

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 3	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11.00am	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 10	8:00am Holy Communion † 11:00am	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 24	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 31	11:00am Benefice Communion		

PASTORAL LETTER, October 2004

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am sure that with me your heart was heavy at the death, pain and suffering of so many families in Beslan in Russia as a consequence of the recent terrorist outrage there. At times like this many people find themselves asking why? They also ask: 'If there is a God why does he let such terrible things happen?'

During this Autumn season our Churches will be celebrating Harvest, and inevitably thinking about those people around the world for whom harvest is not a time for celebration but a time for tears, for lost hopes, for hunger and for despair, and we find ourselves asking why?

It was Victor Hugo who wrote in a time of black thoughts:

*O God, thy world is dark! The music of the spheres
Is made of sighs and sobs no less than songs, I think.*

So what is the answer? I think its important to recognise that God didn't make us robots programmed to live a life of luxury and without a care. Although, he did, as the first book of the Bible – Genesis – tells us, create for us a wonderful paradise

where everything was perfect, but it was sin, greed and temptation that was our undoing, and so often it is human weakness that is at the heart of human suffering. Yet we still find ourselves blaming God for our suffering.

In the '*Long Silence*' *billions of people* were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly--not with cringing shame, but with belligerence. "How can God judge us?" said one. "What does He know about suffering?" snapped a brunette. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. "We endured terror, beatings, torture, death!" In another group a black man lowered his collar. "What about this?" he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. "Lynched for no crime but being black! We have suffocated in slave ships, been wrenched from loved ones, toiled till death gave release." Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred! Indeed, what did God know about what man had been forced to endure in this world? "After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life," they said.

So each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a black, an untouchable from India, an illegitimate, a person from Hiroshima, and one from a Siberian slave camp. In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather simple: before God would be qualified to be their judge, He must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on earth--as a man!

But because He was God, they set certain safeguards to be sure He could not use His divine powers to help Himself: Let Him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted, so that none would know who is really His father. Let Him champion a cause so just, but so radical, that it brings down upon Him the hate, condemnation, and efforts of every major traditional and established religious authority to eliminate Him. Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard, or smelled--let Him try to communicate God to men. Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends. Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing. Let Him be tortured and let Him die! Let Him die the most humiliating death--with common thieves.

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throngs of people. But when the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew -- God had already served His sentence.

Christians realise that God does understand human suffering because He has experienced it at first hand. He does, therefore, suffer with us as we suffer. He wants to be with us and to share our feelings and to reach out to us, in order to bring us hope and comfort in our time of need. That is the kind of God we believe in -- a God who loves, who cares, who shares and who understands us better than we understand ourselves.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - October 2004

Thu	7	Monastic Herbs, 7.30pm, Ely Museum
Fri	8	
Sat	9	Harvest Supper, 6pm, Village Hall
Sun	10	Harvest Festival Family Service, St Mary's, 11am
Mon	11	
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	13	
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH <i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Fri	15	
Sat	16	Apple Festival, 10.30am-3.30pm, Palace Green, Ely
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI Trading Standards, 7pm, VH
Tue	19	Gardeners AGM, 8pm, VH
Tue	26	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Harvest Printmaking Workshop, 2-4pm, Ely Museum
Wed	27	
Thu	28	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	29	The Dying Workshop, 10.30am—12.30pm, Ely Museum <i>Ghost Tours</i> , Ely Museum
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 7-8.30pm, Youth Club
Wed		Cubs, Village School, 6pm-8pm. Scouts, 7.45-9.15, School
Thu		Messy Play, 2.30-3.15, Village Hall 2.30-4.30pm Teas Village Hall 7-10pm, Youth Club