



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 4

April 2005



Editorial

Apologies in advance this month for any errors, omissions, etc but it's the organ grinder's monkey in charge - on his own! Caroline has been away quite a lot recently as her father, Hugh, has been ill and died a few days ago.

Among his many talents, Hugh had over the years done the occasional guest piece for the Crier, for example his review of the Bulbeck production of "The Grand Duke" in the July 2003 edition.

That was the year we won the Cambridge Building Society award for Best Small Village Magazine, last year we were runners-up and this year down to Highly Commended. Next year ...?

As well as getting the magazine together, checked and on time, another thing which has suffered from Caroline being away is the on-line version of the Crier. We're very nearly there, so rather than keep Simon Andrews' magnificent work waiting, we'll probably launch it in the next few days with the main contents and build on it in situ. The missing bits are mainly to give a bit of

extra context for people from outside the village.

At this point a plug for the Reach and Swaffham Prior Community Network (advert page 8) seems appropriate as without that making it easy to set up a server, we probably wouldn't have got round to putting the Crier on line. If you're thinking about getting broadband it's a good option in terms of what you get for £20/month, including local help rather than an anonymous call centre.

Finally a couple of pictures from our Picture Editor this month tell their own story. One of work at last completed and the other reminding me of work that looks like never being done: replacement of one of my pet hates, the horribly ugly street lights along most of the High Street!

James Matheson

CONTENTS

<i>Letters</i>	2
Village Assembly	3
Moveable Feast	3
<i>Our Reporter</i>	4
Quiz Night	5
Old Organ	6
Awards Ceremony	7
Church conservation	9
After You Claud	10
Village Hall	11
Ladies Evening	12
Oxfam Walk	12
Cricket	13
Ely's Eel Day	13
Crossword	16
G&S	18
Street lights	18
Tinners Rabbits	19
Ophir	19
<i>Down on the Farm</i>	20
<i>Village Gardeners</i>	22
<i>Clubs Noticeboard</i>	22
<i>Cllr Alderson</i>	25
<i>Cllr Fitch</i>	26
<i>PC Notes</i>	28
<i>Church Services</i>	30
<i>Pastoral Letter</i>	31
<i>Diary</i>	32
<i>Whitepage Ads</i>	14,23,24

The Crier on-line: www.swaffham-crier.co.uk

Cover Picture: *The Worm Searcher* by Class 3



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Crier Delivery

I appreciated your kind remarks in February's edition about me and my loyal band of helpers who deliver the 'Crier' each month.

Without this group who give up their time and some use their cars, we would have a problem. They are Pam Waters, Fleur Routley, Ruth Dalton, Lynne Rand, Valerie Limb, Peter Taylor, Jutta Reeks, Sheila Smith, Clifton Fletcher, Henry Hardiment, Debbie Coles, Frank Readhead, Ruth Scovil, Gwen Verlander, Ron & Betty Prime and the postman. Not forgetting the Everitts who fill in from time to time plus other people who I badger into helping if necessary.

I think between us we cover all the village (including the fen and Heath Road) but if you know of anyone who does not get a copy regularly, please do let me know.

Ruth Stinton

Dear Editors,

Churchyard Tidy-Up

I feel a note of thanks and congratulations are due to the ECDC team who recently tidied up the churchyard. For several years now the foliage has grown quickly and had become very untidy and unsuitable for a graveyard.

This morning, in the bright sunlight the view, for you can now see across and around the place, is splendid and complements the two old churches. The advent of "chippers" to deal with the surplus timber is a great help and the resultant mulch will help to remove the nettles which were beginning to take over.

The cemetery too has received another up-grade by the Probation Service. Here the ground is already showing sign of the many primroses which will soon be in flower.

All in all a very pleasant corner of our lovely village.

John Norris

Noisy Bike

About midday on Saturday 19 March I went into Dencora field to get some firewood. It seemed as if the entire universe was vibrating to a very **NOISY** motorbike racing around the field. As I walked up the line of trees by the bungalows, the bike came **ROARING up the slippery track** behind me, passing almost at arms length. Had I been elderly, infirm, or easily intimidated, this would have meant a nasty shock. Another lad there said that though his bike is not working, it now has an effective silencer. Well done! Apparently not very keen to stay for a chat, the **NOISY bike and rider** had by then sped away up the muddy track, past the place where small kids play, to disappear on the top road. It won't be long before we hear the **doo-dah** of an emergency ambulance around here.

Frank Readhead

Dear Editors

Byker Grove

Is there any truth to the rumour sweeping the back bar of the Red Lion that Fairview Grove is to be renamed "Byker Grove" ?

Steve Kent-Phillips

Dear Editors

No Humour

Congratulations to Betty Prime who in a mere three and a half lines created so much discussion. Her claim that the piece by the Deputy PM was a waste of space can only be taken as a withering comment on the Editors, the person who commissioned it, the writer, and all those Prior people who thought it was great and very funny. It is also a withering comment on the Editor of the *Bulbeck Beacon* (who also published the hockey report) and the many in Bulbeck who enjoyed it.. Max Wall always dreaded having an audience which did not laugh. I don't think he would have wanted Betty in his audience.

Here is a challenge. Many of us would like Betty to list out the articles in the *Crier* (apart from the excellent editorials) which are "of interest to all". We await her answer.

Alastair Everitt

Eds note: We commented briefly on Betty's letter last month but we at least aren't feeling too withered!

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MAY 2005
SHOULD ANYONE WISH TO HAVE AN ITEM INCLUDED ON
THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK**

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council
Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king5@btopenworld.com

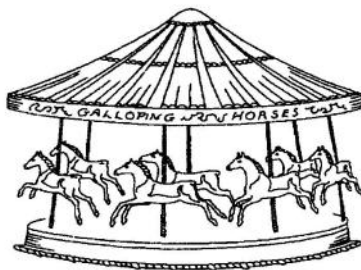
Moveable Feast - Moved!

I have had several enquiries about the date of the moveable feast which was planned and advertised for 16th July. The Garden Club have arranged an outing on the same day so, to avoid an overlap, the date has now been changed to the previous Saturday: 9th July.

I realise the school have a function starting at 2pm that day but maybe some parents will welcome an evening out with a sumptuous meal prepared for them. Watch this space for further details.

Kate Child

Reach Fair



**Bank Holiday Monday
2nd May 2005 - 12 noon**

**Grand opening by the Mayor of Cambridge
Traditional Fairground Rides**

Medieval Knights / Music and Dancing / Country Crafts

Stalls / Arts and Crafts / Children's Entertainment

Hog Roast / BBQ / Bar.....Plus lots more

Free Admission

Programmes for Sale with Grand Prize Draw

Registered Charity: 280601

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting March: Novelties, Mutterings and Sticking-points

The meeting of the Parish Council on 10th March was the first I had attended for several months; so I was not surprised to see faces unfamiliar to me. The Council has fairly recently acquired the services of Mr. Hart and Mr. Kent-Phillips. But on this occasion we welcomed yet another newcomer: Mrs. Sandra Gynn was present and officially welcomed by the chairman. Mrs. Gynn comes from a background related to schools, teaching and education-committees. Though the Parish Council has no responsibility for schooling, it is always pleased and gratified to hear news and particularly successes of our local schools: primary in the village, and also Bottisham Village College. Mrs. Gynn will be able to make well-informed comment on such matters.



I was seated near the chairman and secretary, hoping that as by convention speakers Address the Chair, they would all turn their heads, when speaking, towards that end of the table, so there was a good chance that I would hear them—with the help of Loop and hearing-aid. But alas, none of them did. turn their heads. Instead,

they muttered at their Agenda-Papers. I hope that the defects of this report will be charitably put down to the inaudibility of Mutterings-to-Agenda-papers. Early in the meeting, a lengthy muttered conversation took place between Mr Alderton of the ECDC and Mr. Glennon. I think it was about car-parking, where? and what did it cost? and long-term and short-term parking? It seemed to be about parking in Ely and Newmarket. So why it was the proper concern of Swaffham Prior Parish? I could not guess. But the Chairman must have thought it was, as he let it go on for a long time...

An important Date was announced early in the Meeting. On *Tuesday May 18th*, there will be the **Annual Assembly** of the village. Put the date in your diary now. It is your one chance this year of letting off steam, about the village hall drive-way, the dirty seats in the playground, the long grass in the churchyard, and any other of your favourite village horrors [Street lights? Eds.].

We got stuck for long time over estimates for renovation work on the Pound. There were two estimates, one of which was for (say) 'Two coats of paint to the brickwork and repair for one course of bricks' and the other for (say) 'Two coats of paint to the brickwork and repair for base of shed'. After a *long* time, it struck the Council that they were being asked to compare chalk and cheese - impossible. So they postponed a decision and asked for another estimate; and perhaps they will specify, this time, precisely what they want - this, and no more.

It does not matter that we get held up for ages over one small item, because lots of other items go through on the nod. We dealt with Correspondence, Recreation Ground, Accounts and Planning Applications all in about 30 seconds. So although the Agenda looked a long one, we cleared it in only just over two hours. I wonder whether the Clerk and the Chairman look at the Agenda beforehand.

And ask themselves: "What will be the sticking-points THIS time?"

Margaret Stanier

Quiz Night

Everyone agreed it was one of the best ever. It all went without a hitch and a very good time was had by all; at the same time we managed to make just over £300 which will be donated to St Mary's Church. All the helpers behind the scenes are now well practised and diligently get on with their particular task. Special mention must go to Germaine who stood at the sink and with quiet determination did ALL the washing-up - a marathon effort.

Requests have been made for another Quiz Night before next year. Jenny Brand and Lynne Rand have agreed to organise one on **Saturday 24th September 2005** - same time, same place (make a note now in your diary).

Help with some of the food preparation would be appreciated such as baking some of the potatoes, making chilli con carne, coleslaw, etc. Please give me a call if you can offer your services in any way, it would then save you having to cross over to the other side of the road when you see me coming!

Kate Child (743983)

An Elegy for an Old Organ

I HEAR that the electronic organ in St. Mary's church has been taken away. In its later years, this idiosyncratic box of wires and diodes was a nightmare to coax into action: indeed, it occasionally coaxed itself into action quite spontaneously, and often during the prayers, with sudden loud crackles, or penetrating buzzings like that of a trapped bumble-bee, or even by tuning into the odd passing taxi-driver, or local radio station, no less!

Nevertheless, during my tenure as organist there several years ago, I spent many enjoyable hours practising and performing on that organ, for two main reasons.

First, the electronic organ had two keyboards. This meant that the vast majority of the classical organ repertoire was playable on it. As many of you are aware, the principle difference between an organ and a piano is the presence of more than one keyboard in the former and, as a result, all the greatest organ-composers (Bach, Franck, Tournemire, Vierne, Widor, Alain, Duruflé, Messiaen) exploited this facility. With only one keyboard (as on the two non-electronic organs still present in St. Mary's) one's repertoire is severely limited.

And the presence of a second keyboard gave the liturgical-organist another major advantage: with it the player was able to "solo out" a melody, so enabling the congregation to hear, very clearly, the melody of a hymn or psalm-chant being played over before they sang it. This was particularly useful when the clergy would choose less-than-familiar hymns and chants, God forbid!

Secondly, the electronic organ also possessed an astonishing tonal palette: the number, and variety, of "stops" on



both keyboard and the pedal department gave the organist wonderful opportunities for varying the sound of the organ, both in terms of colour and in volume, and this could greatly enhance hymn-singing and psalm-chanting, matching the sound of the music to the meaning of the texts. For the interpretation of organ music, the electronic organ was amazingly gifted at producing all the apposite colours necessary for even the most esoteric of pieces by Messiaen, much to the annoyance of much of the congregation, alas!

Together, these properties of the electronic organ enabled me to compose all of my commissioned works for solo

organ on this instrument from 1993 to 1999; works that went on to be premiered and recorded at Festivals around Britain, France and Switzerland.

But the St. Mary's electronic organ did have its down-side. Heaven help the organist who was down to play on Sunday morning after a cleaner, or flower-arranger, or exuberant young person rushing around, or vicar's dog, had accidentally knocked, and moved, the organ console during the Saturday. Then, no amount of flicking the on-and-off switch would coax those tired old electrons into action! Instead, there would be an angry volley of gunfire from the loud-speakers (appropriately draped in black) sprawled across the jube, followed by complete silence.

Only after many patient and seductive hours of therapeutic nursing from our village electronic expert, Sidney Hewitt (who lives very close to the church, though he was occasionally beginning to regret this fact), with his screws, and nudges, and winks, and soothing oils, and manipulative fingers, was he able to persuade the old girl to rouse herself and sing her heart out once more for us.

But, alas, she is no more. Her "schwannengesang" has finally been sung, and now her speakers are rusting, mould gathers round her foundations, and rain seeps into her bourdons. But, perhaps she will still hear us, maybe, as we pass her by, in a taxi!

Ian de Massini

Ruth receives a Highly Commended award on behalf of the Crier at this year's village magazines awards ceremony.



REACH & SWAFFHAM PRIOR COMMUNITY NETWORK



Thinking of broadband?

Before you sign up with BT or Trilogy why not speak to us first.

We are a community based non profit making organisation.

(All money we make is fed back in, to improve the network).

We charge less than BT and Trilogy for an equivalent service.

We do have a small installation fee to cover the cost of the equipment installed.

E-mail addresses are:-Whatever you want@Swaffham-Prior.co.uk. (Very local).

For the technical amongst you a fixed IP address is given to each member.

You want more than one computer on the network – No Problem.

Charges £20 per month.

Installation £150.00

Contact

Dave Summers in Reach 01638742884

Robert Hollingsworth in Swaffham Prior 01638 741613

Paul Catling in Swaffham Prior 01638 743714

St. Mary's Church. Swaffham Bulbeck.

Having a Springclean?

Please don't forget the

BULBECK AUCTION

14th May 2005

Downing Farm

Swaffham Bulbeck

Friday 13th May -- Goods received between 5pm - 9pm
Saturday 14th May - Viewing from 9am. Selling starts at 10am.

Commission Fee 25%

Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772



The Church's Conservation Trust

HELLO everybody! My name is Verity Stroud and I'm the Churches Conservation Trust's Community Development Worker for your area. In case you are unfamiliar with our work, we are a body which was set up in 1969 to care for churches of historic, architectural and archaeological interest which are no longer required for worship.

I'm lucky enough to have the lovely St Cyriac and St Julitta as one of my churches. It is my job to make sure that the church is well cared for and that it is available to everyone as an understandable and enjoyable building. It is also my aim to bring even more life to St Cyriac's, increasing its already well-established and varied use by the community as a venue for local activities and events.

As you know, your charming church offers an original combination of Tudor and Georgian architecture and gives us a wonderful insight into early nineteenth-century perceptions of the 'medieval'. Its excellent acoustics also enhance its great potential. I would very much like to be able to work with the village, helping you to make the most of this fantastic space...

With this in mind I have created a short questionnaire which I am distributing to members of the community involved with local organisations and societies. I hope the responses I receive will give me a greater understanding of how the community views the church and what it wants from it as both a local heritage site and community resource.

If you are not a member of a local organisation or society and would like to express your opinion by completing a questionnaire, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am very happy to send you a copy of the questionnaire together with an s.a.e for your convenience. I can be contacted via email on the following address: verity53@hotmail.com.

Once your wishes have been made known to me and the responses analysed, the next step will be a public meeting at which we can discuss the things you would like doing and, most excitingly, how we are going to start getting them done! I will keep you posted.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all the help and support I have received so far from members of the village. Particular thanks must go to Alastair Everitt who has been an invaluable source of advice and local information.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope to meet some of you in the near future.

"...your charming church offers an original combination of Tudor and Georgian architecture ..."



Verity Stroud.

After you Claud

NO, after you, Cecil..... There was some uncertainty in the Village Hall on Saturday evening as to the origin of the phrase (since resolved by the Penguin Dictionary of Quotations - a catchphrase from Itma – and Claud is spelled ‘Claude’) but everyone was happy to associate it with Good Manners, being the theme of the evening’s entertainment.

For the benefit of St Mary’s Church, Hilary Sage & Co. (Swaffham Prior Entertainments inc.) had enrolled Rex Freeman, known to many as the leading light of Pied Pipers, and Geoff Hales, to present a review on the subject.

With no props except two chairs and an interestingly-contrived lectern, these gentlemen proceeded to enchant a sizeable audience with a well-prepared double act (reminding me of Bird and Fortune, without the cynicism) of readings, recitations and the occasional song, all illuminating some aspect of etiquette and manners.

Most (all?) of the material, like most of the audience, was not exactly in the first flush of youth. The golden age of manners seems to have stretched from early Gilbert and Sullivan to the late Edwardian, but has provided some memorable moments. Two sources in particular, ‘A Pattern of Islands’ by Arthur Grimble, and ‘Period Piece’ by Gwen Raverat have long been favourites of mine, and contain many more treasures than the excerpts given – maybe future prospects for the reading club?

Much of the real enjoyment, however, was just to listen to skilled performers who could have made the Yellow Pages interesting. We seem to have little opportunity to appreciate at first hand the art of the raconteur and the power of the well-spoken word. To do so in the company of friends and acquaintances which I also seem to have too little opportunity to appreciate at first hand made it a particularly pleasant evening.



John Chalmers

Lode Church and Community Fete 11th June 2005

St James Church Lode with Longmeadow is holding its Church and Community Fete on Saturday 11th June at the Broughton Hall in Lode. In addition to our fundraising stalls we are inviting people to have a craft stall. **If you would be interested in having a stall** at our Fete or need some more information please phone Julie Sale Tel: 01223 811222.



Village Hall Fundraising

THE JUMBLE SALE TAKINGS

The donors were great and the people behind the stalls were a wonderful sight as even more female glamour and masculine muscle had been introduced. This is the one village hall event when we rely on people from outside the village to be the main customers. But the crowds were thin on the ground. The standard hard core were there but there was no sign of the usual groups from Cambridge, Ely or even the scattering of American visitors.

Many blamed the weather while several others seriously suggested that Tony Blair had raised the standard of living too much. I'm not sure about this and at the time of writing could not consult my dear friend the Deputy PM who was getting into trouble in Cannes. The Village Hall Committee will be considering how to improve the numbers.

The practice today is to talk in percentages so that you never really know the actual figures involved. I offer the following. The attendance was 25% lower than in 2004 and 50% lower than in 2003. The income this year was 25% less than in 2004 but only 27% less than in 2003. So there has been a significant improvement in that the staff extracted more per person in 2005 than in 2003, representing a 72% increase in sales efficiency. Does that help? We took £307.65p

Alastair Everitt

The Village Hall Waste Paper Collection

This is a reminder to those who have forgotten and an appeal to new-comers to the Village. We are able to sell old newspapers to a local firm which recycles them as horse bedding. The proceeds go to the Village Hall.

Every year in February and March the kind people who donate papers have an irritating time as the shed fills up and it becomes more difficult to use. It is at this time that we begin to ask for the shed to be cleared and it always appears to be towards the end of March that this happens. This year it is a little earlier. We are grateful to those people who tidy up the shed throughout the year.

There are four sheds opposite the swings on Town Close and papers should be left in the one designated. You can't miss it. Newspapers should be tied in bundles if possible and stacked neatly,

PLEASE do not put heavy, glossy magazines (such as *Country Life*) or telephone directories in the shed. It just means that we have to clear these away because the newspaper collectors leave them behind. Even supplement-type glossy magazines are best avoided.

The papers generate a real income for the benefit of the community, and the horses love them. Thank you all.

The Village Hall Management Committee

Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting

The Village Hall AGM is to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th April at 8:00pm. It is appreciated that this may not be at the top of people's social calendar, apart from Committee Members of course, but if anyone does have a comment, suggestion, request they would like raised they could either phone me (741326) or drop a note into 41 High Street.

Janet Cooper, Secretary VHMC

Ladies' Indulgence Evening

Following the success of last year's event, the Friends of Swaffham Prior School are holding another Ladies' Indulgence Evening on Friday 22 April from 7.00-10.00pm. This year's event will be in the larger venue of the Village Hall so we will have space for even more pampering sessions, including head massage, reflexology, manicures, aromatherapy, facials, make-up makeovers and more.

While you are waiting for your session you can enjoy a drink from the bar and browse through the selection of stalls selling indulgent treats such as jewellery, aloe vera health products, designer scarves, cosmetics and bath products.

Like last year, there will be ample space for sitting and chatting too - why not bring a friend for a fun and relaxing evening out?

Tickets are just £8.00, which covers the entrance fee, free drink from the bar and your choice from the available pampering sessions. Last year's event was very popular and ticket numbers are strictly limited; so we expect tickets to sell out quickly. To reserve your ticket now, contact Clare Freeman on 01638 741316.

OXFAM WALK 2005

THE Oxfam Sponsored Walk is taking place on 15 May 2005 starting and finishing at Wimpole Hall. Walkers are being offered for the first time, a marathon walk (26 miles) a half marathon walk (13 miles) and a mini-marathon walk (4 miles) with routes of 22 and 9 miles also available.

Please join us on an enjoyable day of marathon walking and help make this a bumper fundraising event. This year, we aim to raise £50,000 for Oxfam's Emergencies Fund helping communities affected by natural and manmade disasters. For an entry form (available in March), please phone 01223 502798 or email oxfamwalk@btoopenworld.com or visit our website www.oxfam.org.uk/walk Pay in your sponsorship money by 31 July 2005 and you will receive a complimentary two-day pass from Greens Health & Fitness

If you would like to volunteer to marshal or steward please contact Carrie on 01223 891921 or email carolinetravers@amherst3hl.fsnet.co.uk Marshals and stewards also receive a free Greens Health & Fitness two day pass.

CRICKET

BULBECK versus PRIOR

Important Notice

Through a very enthusiastic and quite overwhelmingly flattering unanimous vote

I have been chosen to be in charge of
TEAM SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT

*So please phone me (742974) and
don't bother with anyone else.*

*It will be a limited over match so
you won't be exhausted.*

**If you played/play cricket at school,
college or anywhere else please
get your foot in the door soon.**

(A half bottle of whisky could secure you a place)

Alastair Everitt

ELY'S EEL DAY

EELS, eels and more eels will be the flavour of the day on Saturday 30th April for Ely's Annual Eel Day. Starting at 11.30 am on Cross Green (adjacent to the Cathedral) Ely's very own 'Ellie the Eel' will be heading the procession along part of the Eel Trail Heritage Walk. A Samba band along with local dancers will add sound to the colourful eel costumes as the anticipated hundreds follow the trail around the streets of Ely. Everyone is welcome to join in.

The procession will end in Jubilee Gardens by the riverside where a whole host of eel related activities will be held. Along with a programme of musical performances throughout the afternoon, we have two themed theatre show performances for the young ones and a chance to have a go at the potter's wheel and

make a pinch pot, just like the ones excavated in the gardens during the Time Team dig. Ely Museum and the University of Cambridge Archaeology Department will be on hand to tell you all about the finds from this televised dig and the importance of eels to Ely in the olden days.

Experience life in years gone past with a living encampment showing the trades and wares of the time. Children have the chance to try on period costumes and play period games. Free samples of smoked and jellied eels will be on offer with other more conventional forms of food on sale including a hog roast washed down with Eel Catcher's local brew!

For further information about the day, contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or email tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk.

BABY & TODDLER SALE

**A LARGE SELECTION OF NEW & NEARLY NEW BOOKS,
TOYS, GAMES, CLOTHES, MATERNITY WEAR, VIDEOS,
BABY/NURSERY EQUIPMENT**

and lots more

ON

SATURDAY 9th APRIL

FROM

12 -2pm

AT

BOTTISHAM

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

(NEXT TO CHURCH ON HIGH STREET)



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.

THE AUCTION

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

We can collect items in good condition eg:

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

Please contact:

Penny Walkinshaw or Marcia Miller
Tel: 01638 742542 Tel: 01638 41141

**All items must be received (or collected)
by Sunday 8th May**

**THE SALE WILL TAKE PLACE IN
ST. CYRIAC'S CHURCH**

On 13th May 2005

**Items for sale will be on view in from 5pm, wine and
canapés will be served from 6pm.**

The Auction will commence at 7pm.

At the sale please note that cash or cheques **ONLY** will be accepted

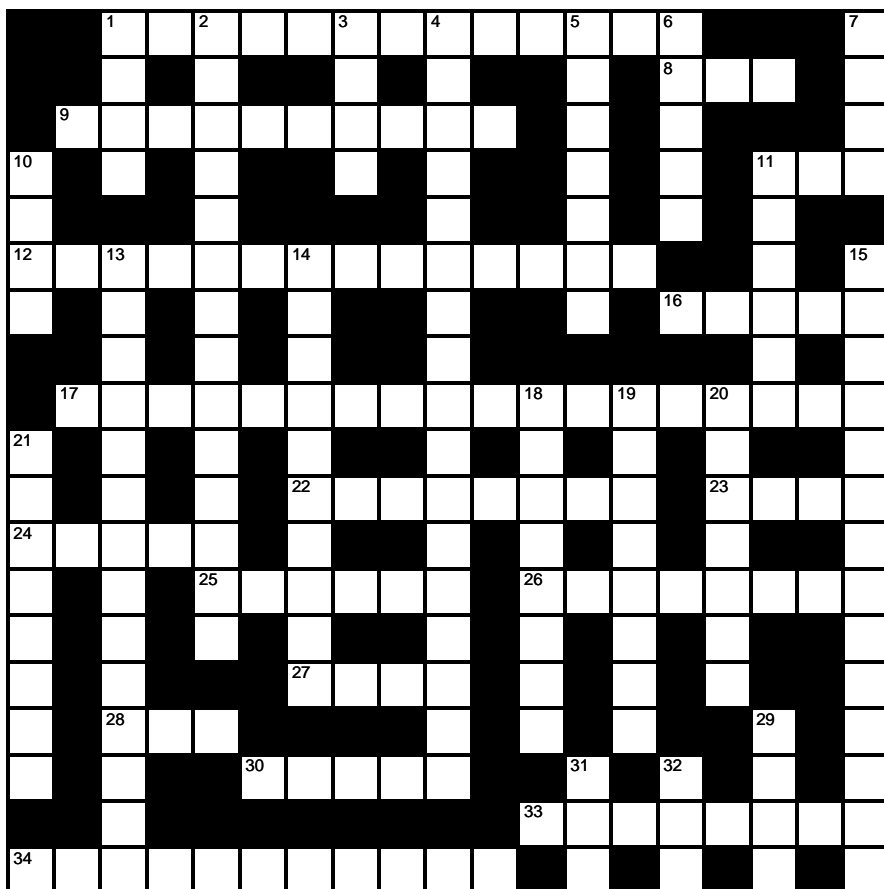
Crossword Number 21

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

NIBOR

I have heard it said that solving crosswords can help you live longer and make you irresistible to the opposite sex. I don't know if this is true but why take the risk of missing out? This month's crossword is nice and easy and is themed on *films and film stars* (so if you get stuck just ask the children!). Send your answers to the crossword editor by 14th April 2005. 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 Dates young women who reveal all (8,5)
- 8 Cruise cat maybe (3)
- 9 Office worker heard at the end of the roof (5,5)
- 11 Does he beam when playing his part? (3)
- 12 Conflict took place in Wells (3,2,3,6)
- 16 Wierdo sees underground movie (5)
- 17 Each ornamental herb was arranged for her (6,6,6)
- 22 Picador I disguised as *The Aviator* perhaps (8)
- 23 Young child thinks British capital is Lincoln (4)
- 24 Jailbird and an awful barbarian (5)
- 25 Dance movie with country sound (6)
- 26 Cortex is rebuilt by sorcerer (8)
- 27 Desert feature discovered first by one in France (4)
- 28 Awful, awful part of the rules (3)
- 30 He has one hundred and fifty one books (5)
- 33 Gangster has drink wearing his hat inside (2,6)
- 34 She gets involved in sweet talk (4,7)

Down

- 1 Type of mountain pass seen by a large number (4)

We congratulate **Shirley Wilkins**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the crossword editor. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Martyn Clark, Julian Lutrell, Robert & Julie Nunn, June Readhead and Hilary Sage.

- 2 Ron sold freight assembled for boxing master (4,2,3,5)
- 3 Extinct sort of Poets Society maybe (4)
- 4 How to propose to your loved one (5,2,10)
- 5 Fight back and pelt with leather (7)
- 6 He gets first lady on the street (5)
- 7 Lady of no rank in untidy junk-yard (4)
- 10 Chats to Janet and William Snodgrass first (4)
- 11 This man puts clothing on rudest extremities (6)
- 13 Cigar suitable for lovers (5,3,6)
- 14 'D' has drowned at sea (7,3)
- 15 Red Rum back after a tense thriller (1,7,6)
- 18 Musical comedy I heard as an ensemble (8)
- 19 Gossip about cool arrangement for French beverage (8)
- 20 First receiver of bribes or corrupter of politicians may be caught by him (7)
- 21 Avoid broth or a piece of cake (4,4)
- 29 System of weights used in the city (4)
- 31 Type of blue eyes found amongst school dinner ladies (3)
- 32 Max might have lived 1005 years ago (3)

Solution to crossword no. 20

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

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre presents
Utopia Limited
by Gilbert & Sullivan

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present Utopia Limited by Gilbert and Sullivan. This rarely performed light opera set on a South Sea island is not to be missed!

This will be an evening to remember! A theatre has been built inside a 19th century barn at the edge of the fens, creating a unique setting. A programme and a light interval snack are included in the cost of your ticket. There is a licensed bar. Toilet facilities (including disabled) are available.

Performances will take place in Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck on 9th, 10th, 11th June at 7.30pm. Matinee (as well as evening performance) on Sat 11th June at 2.30pm.

For tickets or further information, please contact Rosemary Upton on 01638 612173 or email: upton1@ntlworld.com or visit our website at www.sbstgands.co.uk

**From our lighting
correspondent.**

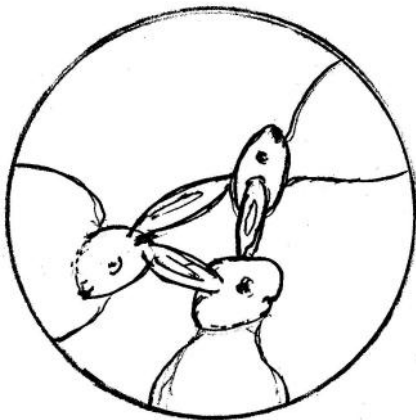
After years of effort we are rewarded with a new lamp at St. Mary's church steps. Should we have a commemorative sign?

Frank Readhead



TINNERS' RABBITS

The drawing of a March hare on the cover of last month's 'Crier' reminded me of a drawing of three hares (or perhaps rabbits) running in a tail-chasing circle. Each hare has two ears, one of which is shared with the animal behind him, and the other with the animal in front. So there only three ears visible in the group, and these form a central triangle. In the Middle Ages tin-mining and smelting was a flourishing industry in the west country, and at this period many new churches were being built in Devon and Cornwall. The local carpenters frequently carved into the roof-bosses of the church the triangular design of rabbits' ears. Tanners adopted the motif, as they too, dug in the earth like rabbits; and the trio of rabbits became known as "tanners' rabbits".



I found this same motif in a stained-glass window in Long Melford Church, in Suffolk, south of Bury St. Edmund's, a long way away from the west-country origin, and from mining of any kind.

Margaret Stanier

Nonpareil

Once, I thought, I had erred;
But it didn't take me long
To realise the concept was absurd;
And just the thought, was wrong.

So, away with doubt
Be firm, be strong.
Misgivings are out
They don't belong.

Now, grasp the nettle;
And lead the throng;
Show your mettle -
Right or (most unlikely) wrong.

Ophir

Personal Assistant

required to help run disabled household. 16 hours per week in total, ideally divided between 3-4 people. Work may be tailored to suit particular skills. Hours of work 9.30 am - 12.30 pm weekdays and occasional afternoons. Pay £10.00 gross per hour.

Occasional Helpers

also welcome, as are people with DIY skills.

For more information
phone: 01223 812363

Down on the Farm

Fifty years is a long time and I have just reached this significant birthday and it made me think of how the farming industry has changed over half a century.

When I was born my father was farming in Norfolk. The main enterprise was a dairy herd. He made a good living on the land in the 50's although the farm at that time was only 120 acres in size and supported three families. Nowadays, a dairy farm in Norfolk is a very unusual thing, as most of the farming is very large arable enterprises or intensive livestock production such as Bernard Matthews. Also, having three families making a living off a farm that size nowadays would be almost impossible. Today a farm generally equates to one man per thousand acres of combinable crops. More intensive crops such as sugar beet needs more intensive labour. Needless to say, the farm in Norfolk was swallowed up by a much larger unit and my father, who then wished to pursue a more academic career, took a position at Cambridge University.

Today we also take for granted all the mod cons that go with modern living. Back in 1955 my mother only had electricity in the farmhouse when the cows were being milked because this was when the generator was running in the milking parlour, so a 20 year old first time mother with twins, who came from a town background, found life quite hard to start with.

The farm that I now manage has approximately 3,400 acres as well as the beef herd and there are only five full time employees, whereas 50 years ago, even if there had been a farm of this size, there would probably have been in excess of 50 people employed.

The decline in the number of people working on the land has been in contrast to the increase in the size of each holding. This, in my opinion, is due to a number of different reasons. Mainly, in recent history, and it continues to be, hard to find people to work on the land. In years gone by the farm worker was always epitomised as someone who fell into the category of, "well, if he cannot do anything else he can always work on the land". Today with Global Positioning Satellite technology, onboard computers, detailed record keeping and equipment costing in excess of £200,000, the calibre of farm employee far exceeds this simple statement. In the past we had a much more rural community and often the only jobs were on the land. Today, sadly this sort of work does not seem to appeal to the younger generation. The average age on this farm is just over 50 years of age. Historically pay was not good but this has been addressed more recently. However, we still struggle to attract home grown workers and find ourselves sourcing our labour from other parts of the world such as Eastern Europe and countries from the southern

MORTGAGE

Loans

FOR ALL FARM PURPOSES

Learn up to
two-thirds of the
agricultural value
of properties at
3 1/2%
interest

Do you require

- ASSISTANCE TO BUY A FARM
- MONEY TO REPAIR EXISTING BUILDINGS AT A FIXED INTEREST RATE
- NEW OUTLETS
- NEW FARM BUILDINGS
- REFUND TO FARMERS ON OUTLETS
- REPAIRS OF YOUR LAND
- NEW BUILDINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS
- HOME LOANS

OR IMPROVEMENT TO YOUR PROPERTY.

ANNUAL PAYMENT is made INTEREST ONLY, with PRINCIPAL at the annual term rate per cent of loan.

50 years	24.0.0 per cent.
40 years	24.5.0 per cent.
30 years	25.0.0 per cent.
20 years	25.5.0 per cent.
10 years	26.0.0 per cent.

(Figures last year)

A deposit of 10% is required at the time of loan and is repaid in the second year.

Advert taken from a book in the 50's owned by my father

hemisphere.

Secondly, with the prices farmers get for their products, they cannot afford to overstaff, so when someone leaves or retires they are often not replaced. We buy a larger tractor or try to cover the void in other ways – the farmer will look at trying to maintain the same level of output without taking on another fulltime employee.

The pricing structure we receive for our crops has changed in a huge way over the last fifty years. The prices that farmers are paid for their products have decreased in real terms over the years. This has resulted in small family run farms and enterprises finding it very difficult to make a living or even to stay in business. This is very sad in my opinion.

However, as I write, the sun is out, the land is drying well and it seems that every man and his tractor is out doing land work. We are no exception. Today, 14th March, we have started to drill Linseed. This has been done into nearly perfect seedbeds, due to good forward planning and good seedbed preparation, up at Caddenham. We prepared the land back in January so as to take advantage of any winter rain as cultivations now can lead to quite serious moisture deficits, so the least amount of soil movement at this time of year the better. Once the land has been drilled it will be rolled so as to save the moisture and help an even germination of the crop.

We have also been preparing sugar beet seed beds at Stretham because the land is in the right condition as it has been dry and sunny which produces a fine tilth to allow a good germination. Rolling of the wheats that were drilled late has taken place as they were sown in less than ideal conditions, as the ground was very wet, following the sugar beet. A good slow roll helps the crop and soil conditions in this situation.

The cattle are starting to calve keeping us on our toes, six this last weekend. All are doing well – we are expecting 89 in total!!

Lastly, I would like to say a big thank you to all the readers who have said such polite and encouraging comments about the farming articles. If there are any questions or concerns about what we are doing or something on the farm that you would like to know about, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07775 911167 and I will do my best to respond.

James Willmott

Apologies

We got our pictures and captions muddled in “Down on the Farm” last month. Here’s what the Wilmotts sent and what you should have seen!

Eds.



Skylark



Chiffchaff



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Although he did not refer to it as such, our speaker this month gave the gardeners a mission. Speaking on the subject of unusual vegetables, Mike Day (NIAB, Cambridge) showed us how uninspired our use of the vegetable plot has become. (Hasn't a TV chef recently been heard making a not dissimilar complaint?).

The talk opened with a colourful picture taken in a Malaysian market where Mr Day estimated that there might be as many as 200 vegetable varieties on offer. He then invited comparison with the shelves of our favourite supermarket where he thought the total might often be no more than a dozen.

Illustrating the talk with photographs, Mr Day took us first through the commonly used vegetables, reminding us of the great range of contrasting varieties available and of the different qualities associated with the different types of potatoes, peas, carrots and others. He then went on to illustrate the minor vegetables which though seldom found on the supermarket shelves, are easily grown in the garden; things such as seakale, salsify, scorzonera and artichokes. Finally he turned to the many oriental vegetables, particularly the greens, which are often used so much more imaginatively in China and Japan.

Although his audience was somewhat depleted by illness, I'll wager there will be gardens in Swaffham Prior this year reflecting a new adventurous spirit invoked by Mike Day's talk

The next talk will be on 19th April when Alison Davies will speak about the national plant collections held in East Anglia.

Our visit to Wisley Gardens, scheduled for Saturday 16th July will be open to any interested people. The price, to cover coach and admission, will be £16 to £27 depending on the numbers, with a premium of £3 to non members. Contact Margaret Joyce or Roger Connan.

Roger Connan

Crier Village Clubs' Notice Board

There are not yet enough updates to republish the complete Notice Board this month but, if you run a village club or society and you were not on the Notice Board published last month, please get in touch with **Chris Carrington (741659)**, the Crier's Club Editor, as soon as possible.

The Notice Board will appear regularly in the *Crier*. Since finding details has not been as easy as clubs might imagine, we hope that inclusion on the Notice Board will make clubs more visible and easier to contact and will add to village support for them.



From our building correspondent.

After years of effort we are rewarded with repairs to the old wall at The Beeches.
Should we have a commemorative sign?
Frank Readhead

“The most thorough Carpet Cleaning You’ve Ever seen. Or it’s Free!” *You have my guarantee.*

That’s right, the most thorough cleaning ever. If you’re not 100% absolutely delighted with any aspect of my carpet & upholstery cleaning service, I’ll quickly return and give you a free re-clean.

If I still can’t make you happy – for whatever reason – **I’ll refund your money 100% - What could be fairer?**

You don’t have to spend a fortune to keep your carpets and upholstery clean. I’ll give you the ***best value for your investment!***

I’ve invested in the best cleaning systems possible. My powerful machines give a deep-down clean leaving a fantastic result on carpets and upholstery every time!
I’ll clean, deodorise and condition your items leaving them clean, fresh, fluffy and dry to the touch when I’ve finished!

You’ll find my prices reasonable and my services EXTRAORDINARY. I guarantee it!

Mark Scott Owner/operator

Call Me Now On 0800 695 3171



01638 743173

**ABBEYVALE
CLEANING**

**53 Parsonage Lane
Burwell**

Cambridge CB5 0EN

**Please ask about
our other services**

0800 6953171

Green Man Inn

London Road, Six Mile Bottom

01638 570373

info@greenman6mb.com



www.greenman6mb.com

A la carte Thai & English menu available too!!

*Open for food & Drink Monday ~ Saturday
(specials on Monday & Tuesday)*

12~2pm & 6.30 ~ 9.30pm (last orders)

Sunday 12~2pm (last Orders) Traditional Sunday Lunch

*Takeaway available hours as above
Excluding Sunday*





The Council's budget for 2005/06 has now been agreed. There will only be an extra 2½% levied by East Cambs. As well as funding increases in cost resulting from inflation and the growth in our population we have been able to find almost £250,000 extra to increase the amount of domestic refuse we recycle each year. This will fund an additional green waste collection round and provide more plastics recycling banks over the next two years. We have also provided funding to maintain higher standards of street sweeping in the urban areas. In addition the council will provide an additional £100,000 of funding for grants to help the elderly and disabled to remain living at home.



After a marathon 3½ hour session the full council selected Angel Drove as the location for the new offices. Voting was 25 for and 13 against. Our decision was based on various considerations. The provision of modern, efficient office accommodation for ECDC is only one aspect of the driving forces behind the development at Angel Drove, Ely. Certainly the Council and its staff require offices that meet the latest health and safety requirements along with proper and convenient access for both disabled staff and visitors. Those of you who know the current building know what a rabbit warren it really is.

More importantly, we have to recognise what else can be achieved for the benefit of our community. Perhaps, the greatest problem for Ely as a local market town is its severe lack of parking for shoppers from the surrounding area, commuters and visitors. Parking times are very restricted and too many people park in long stay spaces for the entire day thus blocking access to those who wish to come and spend their money here. Population has grown dramatically in recent years and is set to grow by a further 30% in the next 12-15 years.

The move enables the Council to save considerable sums of money on bringing all services together on one site; these savings exceed the additional costs, including interest, and allow for the capital purchase of the land and buildings to be fully paid off within approximately 30 years. There should be no need to increase council tax as savings in existing budgets cover the costs. This equation included the land and access to it for a 3.5 acre site for eventually up to 600 spaces for a Park & Ride service. The net receipts from car parking charges will be used to pay for the layout of this site, subsidies for two buses and other improvements for access to the town. This is a totally affordable project.

The benefits do not stop there; our community also gains an industrial development site at Littleport, access to 21 acres of commercial development land at Angel Drove, and the release of a significant site in the centre of Ely to facilitate

further improvements in shopping, commercial and residential services.

It is certainly true that a development area at Lancaster Way would have been significantly cheaper in capital terms but when viewed in conjunction with a Park & Ride service which would have cost more to run the revenue savings would have been less advantageous. Nevertheless, if it had not been for Angel drove being within walking distance of the station and therefore more available to support local residents who are commuters either option was financially affordable as the savings would pay off the capital within 30 years. There should be no impact on Council Tax, It can be financed within existing budgets.

Finally, the residents of Reach, Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck all receive the Bury St Edmunds area BT phone book. Many people have told me that the Cambridge area book would be more appropriate as it would contain the listings that they are more likely to use. I have been in contact with BT on the issue. They will be reviewing the postcode allocations for our area next year but it may be two years before we receive the Cambridge edition. In the interim period they have agreed that all BT customers in the Swaffhams ward can have a Cambridge area BT phone book free of charge.

To receive your copy ring 0800 833 400, option 1. Monday to Friday between 8:30am to 5pm. If there is any problem you should say that 'It is part of a press release and that you're entitled to a free copy'.



From our Local County Councillor James Fitch

My last words on the **County Budget** just confirm what I forecast last month. At the full County Council meeting in mid February we voted a Budget of £511M for 2005/6. The Council Tax details are available from your District Councillors as the District Council is responsible for collection. Four percent increase for the County is moderate by recent standards.

As a member of the Opposition we fought hard for some concessions and changes. I would claim the restitution of £100,000 for the Heritage Service to be a particularly gratifying last minute acknowledgement of a vital need. Round here the best-known and deserving beneficiary may well be **Burwell Museum** whose grant aid from other sources depends on a prime grant from Cambridgeshire.

The other cause for personal satisfaction is the agreement by the ruling party that **sprinklers** for schools or other establishments where people sleep overnight is essential and value for money. I hope we shall now never see **Burwell** or **Swaffham Bulbeck** fire engines racing to **Burwell House** to rescue children from a smoke-filled building.

Given ultimate limits on the County's wish to fully fund every service, we shall not be able to completely attend to the faults vividly revealed by OFSTED regarding



the provision of Youth Services. We could only finance half of what was described as “unsatisfactory service ... poor value for money”. The Lib Dems fought, unsuccessfully, for more money. Had it been accepted it might have cost you a few pounds per year on Council Tax. It’s all about choices and priorities - the main job of a county councillor is to make just those decisions.

I hope you will support possible action against cuts to some of the County’s **rural Bus Services**. We know of no imminent threat locally, but the recent budget meant a cut of subsidy amounting to £50,000. Be vigilant!

My final comment is to draw your attention to a few simple statistics. School fires attended by Cambs. Fire Service 1999/2000 and 2003/2004:

Cambs	73	
Compare with Suffolk	49	
And Essex	94	
National Shire total	6369	(Hansard 2.3.05)

If you spot a young arsonist at work **REPORT HIM** (or **HER**)!

**H O L Y
C H U R C H**



HOLY TRINITY
BOTTISHAM

**T R I N I T Y
BOTTISHAM**

800th

ANNIVERSARY

21st/22nd MAY 2005

**FLOWER FESTIVAL
GRAND FETE IN THE VICARAGE GARDEN
TUG OF WAR COMPETITION
GRAND DRAW**

Further information from Rev'd David Lewis 01223 812367

Notes from the Parish Council February/March Meetings

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 6 members and 2 members of the public.

CCC Report: Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancies: The two vacancies have now been filled. Mr Peter Hart joined the P.C. at the February meeting and Mrs Sandra Gynn at the March meeting.

Matters Arising – for information only

- a) **Coopers Lane – barrier:** A contractor has been appointed but despite several chase-ups, this work is still outstanding. It was noted that the condition of the lane is deteriorating and that the installation of the barrier is badly needed to stop vehicular access from the cemetery end.
- b) **The Beeches – repairs to wall.** It was reported that some demolition works have been carried out. The original plan before Christmas was that the contractors Haymills, Hereward Housing and a representative of the P.C. would meet on site to discuss the work needed – this did not happen and the Clerk is to look into this.
- c) **Enhancement Scheme.** Copies of letters to contractors and emails received from Cambridge Landscape Architects confirmed that the lantern is to be delivered direct to Rowley Engineering for installation as soon as possible. Following this, Ringway will construct a feeder pillar and wire up. It is hoped this work might be complete by the end of March. The redundant lamp post will then be removed in due course.

Meeting Dates/Date for Annual Assembly: Meeting dates for 2005/06 were confirmed. The date for the Annual Village Assembly was set as Wednesday, 18th May 2005.

CALC – renewal of annual subscription: This was agreed at £184-70.

Play Area

Estimates received for new seat: A further two estimates had been obtained by the Clerk. Following discussion, it was agreed that further details on materials, etc., were needed before a decision could be made. Carried over until the April meeting.

Annual inspection: Notification was received from RoSPA that this inspection would be carried out sometime during April. Report to follow in due course.

Outstanding rent payments to SPUC: The Clerk was asked at the February meeting to check on outstanding rental payments for the Play Area. It was confirmed at the March meeting that 2 payments were outstanding at £30/annum. The payment of £60 was agreed.

The Pound – renovation works: Following receipt of estimates from two contractors to carry out the works needed, a meeting was held on site with ECDC's Conservation Officer, Rosie Burton. She generally agreed the works. She was asked about the possibility of an ECDC grant towards the costs involved and confirmed that a 30% grant would be available upon suitable application. It was agreed that this should be included on the agenda for the Annual Village Assembly.

Recreation Ground – use by Burwell Tigers F.C: Plans for the scheme are progressing well. Following a meeting with BTFC, it was agreed that they would put together a planning application and the P.C. would submit this application to ECDC on BTFC's behalf. Any charges will be refunded by BTFC. Although it was previously thought that the ground might be used for training before the full scheme was in place, Richard Freeman of BTFC confirmed that they were not now planning to use the ground until the 2006 season.

CCC Highways confirmed to the Clerk that funding would not be available to reinstate the footpath down to the Recreation Ground and suggested that BTFC be asked to include this in their applications for funding. BTFC agreed to do this.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Planning Applications:

(February meeting) Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street (revised application).

Proposed new one and a half storey extension to existing dwelling with single storey link, associated minor internal alterations and repair to existing house and landscaping. Removal of existing single storey kitchen extension.

There were no objections to the above application.

Planning Permissions:

(March meeting) The Gables, 28 Lower End

Rose Cottage, 42 High Street

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Streetslighting – faults on Cage Hill, Green Head Road and Mill Hill were reported and repaired.

Road signs – Andrew Camps met with Andrew Tipple of CCC Highways and agreed the position of the replacement “Swaffham Prior” sign. Directional signs for Upware were also discussed. Andrew Camps asked whether the sign to be fixed to the lamp post opposite the top of Station Road could include “Lords Ground Drove” as well as “Upware” to help direct lorries. Andrew Tipple is to look into this. Directional signs for Upware will also be placed at the top and bottom of Cage Hill.

Maintenance: At the same meeting, Andrew Camps asked that the leaves, etc., be cleared from under the trees on Lower End. Also, the possibility of repair works to the footpath on Rogers Road from the speed sign to the main road. Andrew Tipple confirmed that funds were not available for resurfacing this footpath but that hopefully funds could be found for some form of “dressing”.

Village Hall driveway: Repair/reinstatement works are needed to this driveway. This will be included on the April meeting agenda for further discussion.

Open Question Time: *There were no questions.*

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th April 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

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



Church of England Services

April 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 3	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 10	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 17	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

[†] Book of Common Prayer

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dear Friends,

I am writing this thought just after preparing my Passion Sunday Sermon based on the shortest verse in the Bible – John chapter 11 verse 35 *‘Jesus wept.’* It comes, of course, from the story of the raising of Lazarus, when Jesus was moved to tears by the tears of his great friends Mary and Martha at the death of their brother Lazarus, as they all stood together outside the dead man’s tomb.

The fact that he was moved to tears is remarkable, especially as he knew that he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, and this demonstrates just how much Jesus, the Son of God, is touched by our pain and suffering.

Jesus tears that day affirm the depth of his love and concern for people. A love and concern that is later expressed by the way that he took the burden of our sins upon himself on the cross as the sacrificial lamb; by the way that he forgave his tormentors *“because they knew not what they were doing”*; by the way that he made sure that his mother was cared for by his brother, even though he was at the very moment suffering so terribly on the cross; by the way that he bore even the terrible torment of separation from his beloved Father, in order to achieve our forgiveness, as he cried out: *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”*; by the way that he spoke so gently and lovingly to Mary Magdalene *“Mary”*, as he emerged free and triumphant from the tomb; by the way that he later on said *“Peace be with you”*, as he appeared amongst his frightened and bewildered disciples, and by the way that he forgave and reinstated the guilt ridden Peter.

In all those ways, and in many other ways, Jesus demonstrated the sacrificial love and compassion of God – a God whose greatest desire is that we should open the door of our hearts to let him, in and let him share himself with us in love and fellowship.

That sacrificial love of God that is most powerfully demonstrated by a true story from Auschwitz told by Eliezer Weisel, a Hungarian Jew, in his book *‘Night’*. One day the thousands of prisoners were forced to watch the guards torture and hang a young boy *‘a child with a refined and beautiful face’*. It took the boy a full half hour to die, and, as they stood watching, Eliezer heard an anguished voice whisper behind him *“Where is God? Where is he?”* Then the prisoners had to all march right pass the gallows and look the dead boy full in the face. Behind him in the line Eliezer heard the same voice ask *“Where is God now?”* At that moment Eliezer heard a voice within him answer: *“Where is he? Here he is hanging here on the gallows”*

Jesus’ weeping for his friends reminds us that God weeps for all his children who suffer. He wept for the victims of the tsunami disaster as they ran screaming from the terrifying waves; he wept for the victims of the twin towers atrocity in New York; he weeps for the bereaved, the frightened, the starving, the homeless, the orphaned and the sick – he weeps for you and me when we are in trouble and in need. But he does more than weep – just as the risen Lord brought peace and hope to his frightened and demoralised disciples on that first Easter Day - he brings strength, comfort and hope to those in need. A strength and comfort that comes from the knowledge that he is with us, and wants so much to guide and strengthen us to face the difficulties and challenges that life brings. Above all he wants to restore us by giving us the hope we need to rebuild our lives and to carry on – a hope that asks *‘Do you love me?’* and then shows just how much he loves us.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - April 2005

Fri	1	
Sat	2	
Sun	3	
Mon	4	
Tue	5	
Wed	6	
Thu	7	
Fri	8	
Sat	9	Baby and Toddler Sale, Bottisham Community Centre, Noon-2pm
Sun	10	
Mon	11	
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	13	
Thu	14	Crier Copy Deadline PC, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	15	
Sat	16	
Sun	17	
Mon	18	
Tue	19	Village Gardeners, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	20	VHMC AGM, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Thu	21	
Fri	22	Ladies' Indulgence Evening, Village Hall, 7:00pm
Sat	23	
Sun	24	
Mon	25	
Tue	26	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	27	
Thu	28	
Fri	29	
Sat	30	Ely's Eel Day, starts 11:30am on Cross Green