



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 8
August/September 2005



Editorial

THE VERY LAST *Crier* before the Summer break, and because it's so very late, bringing you all the very latest news, of course.

IF YOU HADN'T HEARD, this relates to the currently unused recreation field, and specifically, to the travelling *Walker Family*, who walked in on it just as the PC had come up with a cunning plan to avoid extortionate legal costs threatened by the impending transfer to the Tigers Football Club.

More extortionate legal costs! But unlike certain Little Donwhamites, whose lynch-mob threats to torch traveller dwellings have reached the ears of *Crier* Eds, Priorites play fair. Read all about the extraordinary meeting, where even long-time sparring partners *Crier* reporter A. Everrit and one-time CC G. Woollard agreed to agree. Apparently.

Meanwhile, avid followers of the bonfire debate in the Red Lion snug will be delighted to see that Mark Lewinski continues to advise on behalf of the smoke-free

lobby, but Howard (17 Rogers Rd) would like it to be known that *his* bonfires "only disturb the dead"—he waits until the wind blows in the direction of Devil's Dyke (are then any dead in the Dyke?).

Welcome to our new CC Hazel Williams who writes for the first time in this edition, but we may need a glossary. Who or what are "portfolio holders"? Surely not us? It was "stakes" we were all holing before.

Read a fascinating account of the history of tractors on this month's *Down on the Farm*, learn about Eric Bristowe's August 12 visit to the Bottisham British Legion and note that certain *absconding cats* feature in this month's issue, including one of the Eds (black, white bib—*extremely* friendly) so do get in touch if seen.

Don't forget St Cyriac's 22 September. Happy holidays everyone!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *A Pastoral* by Thomas Newbolt



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday, 30th September 2005

So far we have raised over £4,000 in 11 years at our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. It would be very good to get it to the £4,500 mark this year.

As usual we shall be having the raffle and, in addition, I would appreciate it if people could contribute to the 'Bring and Buy' sale of sweet or savoury goodies. Home-made cakes, buns, biscuits, quiches, cheese scones, to name but a few, always raise lots of money. So please do try to bring something home-made – it will be so much tastier than anything shop-bought!

All the money we raise is used by our local branch of Macmillan for the benefit of local people.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you all – regulars and newcomers, young and old – on Friday, 30th September from 10.30 am at my house.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

BLACK BIN BAG PILFERING

ANYONE WHO APPRECIATES Flanders and Swann will know about the Brass Bedstead Men who used to tramp through the lanes in the middle of the night placing brass bedsteads in the middle of ponds. That's when brass bedsteads and ponds were two a penny.

Alas this is no longer so. But Black Bin Bags are now two a penny and this has led to a new sport in Swaffham Prior – BLACK BIN BAG PILFERING.

This doesn't take place in the middle of the night. Oh no, there is nothing furtive about this. It occurs shortly after Cleanaway have completed their rounds and delivered new bin bags to everyone. Out the pilferers emerge, a big canvas bag over the shoulder and into it they thrust all the black bin bags they can find. They enter driveways for them, they pick them out of gardens, they remove them from letter boxes. They appear to have an insatiable appetite for bin bags.

Some people are furious; others say it is a harmless pleasure; and some at present are unaware. If you are curious and wish to make enquiries pay a visit to the middle of Greenhead Road. Just knock on almost any door and you will be told. There are now two sports on Thursday – first the search for bin bags, and second the search for the searchers.

A Well-Wisher

*BUT anyone making off with the "CLEAN-AWAY" black bags that habitually festoon the Editors' lavender, drive-way, chimneys etc is **most welcome to them!***
Eds

Dear Editors,

Children's Recreation Area (Prior)

Exploring some highlights of the village with a friend's two boys (seven and twelve) they led me to the playground for the first time and declared it a Children's' Rest Area, Prior. (At least, I think that's what their four letter word meant).

A hole in the back fence explains how the hippos get in at night, and there was bird poo on every swing seat. (Fortunately, hippos can't climb). A sensitively designed notice provided some light entertainment — beneath 'THE ENCLOSED PLAY EQUIPMENT ARE TO BE USED BY CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE ONLY' information about the location of the nearest the public telephone is shown in small print for those with poor eyesight.

Frank Readhead.

PS I am prepared to trade a solution to the swing seat poo problem for a glass of fine ale at the Pink Panther.



Dear Editors,

The Joys of June and July

What did I enjoy most – locally?

- 1) The Broad Beans from Snake Hall Farm.
- 2) The wonderfully aromatic bonfires around the High Street.

Both were very special.

Alastair Everitt

MISSING: MUCH LOVED BUT GREEDY CAT

£25 reward for information of his whereabouts

LARGE TABBY CAT (12 years old) answers to the name of Max or will answer to anything if there is food available. For people with some interest he may have some pedigree in him along the lines of the American short ear cat which has a muscular body with short legs and round head. He has the same markings as well.

Last time he went missing last year was for 6 weeks. This time two months have gone so far (16-7-05). Lap cat and has unusual habit of laying flat out on you in spread-eagle fashion and sleeps like that. You would know if you have him with that information. Are you feeding him? Has he moved in with you? Or worse, have you run him over?

Neil Lynn

32 Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior, Tel 743667.e-mail nalynn@btinternet.com

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Notes of one more (thankfully rare) marathon PC meeting, held on 14 July 2005.

LITTLE DID I KNOW what to expect as I trudged to the Village Hall last night, careful to avoid the evidence now common on footpath, verge and carriageway that the dogs ‘exercised’ along Lower End are getting larger, more numerous, and less controlled.

Brian Hickson ECDC Traveller Liaison Officer started the meeting, and it also ended on the subject of travellers with local visitors much engaged, at about 10.30. Our village has always taken a ‘liberal’ attitude to our traveller neighbours, but it is becoming a stance more difficult to sustain in the light of some aggressive anti social behaviour, and the inexcusable failure in their duty of care by CCC to its ratepayers and electors. ‘The situation is now intolerable and farcical’. ECDC are doing everything possible to manage the situation sensibly, but getting no support from the County. Where a nuisance exists the land owner must take action, and the road verges are owned by the County. They are taking no action on that, and the invisible (County) Police are reluctant to get involved. Experience shows that the best way to stop an escalation of abuses is to tackle any abuse immediately and effectively, so why have our elected



“Our village has always taken a ‘liberal’ attitude to our traveller neighbours....”

representatives at CCC abrogated their responsibilities?

What are nuisances down on the fen? In a current court case it was argued that the travellers were not trespassing on the roadside. Verges should not be ploughed up to keep vehicles off, but some have been driven to it. You will remember the (expensive) battle of the recreation ground – an ‘orse with an infectiously

sick foal were there only recently. Few of the 50 trees planted by volunteers on fen verges have survived the attentions of grazing ‘orses on long chains, that obstruct the byways and bridle ways. Foals are left loose on the droves. ‘Orse riders, walkers and cyclists all complain that they are not happy to pass ‘orses and encampments where obstructions are deliberately put on the carriageway and kids leap out into the paths of approaching motor vehicles! A car was allegedly turned back by the use of a ‘stinger’ across the road, and other threats have been made. We are denied freedom of movement, and that’s not on. One comment: ‘If we do that, the police would not be invisible. They’d be round like a shot’.

The recent tragedy in London highlighted the fact that we are now a multi racial, multi cultural and multi faith society, and this leads one to ask why any single ethnic minority should be treated any differently in law from all the other minorities who can also plead a ‘special case’ to be made for them. Indeed, some of my invading ancestors probably took the torch and the sword to this land only a few centuries ago, before settling down to farming or accountancy like any other peasant. Aren’t

The Swaffham Prior Annual Harvest Show Saturday 10th September From 3.00pm

Special Attractions Include:

- * Cream Teas *
- * Children's Refreshments *
- * Fun Competition *

GRAND AUCTION OF PRODUCE 4.00pm

Classes for the Children include:

- * Happy Faces Biscuits *
- * A Vegetable or Fruit Animal *
- * An Original Lego/Knex (or similar) Model *

See page 12 for Full Entry Details



we an ethnic minority too?

Someone needs a kick up the 'orse. The PC will write to the leader of CCC Mrs Susan Normington. Cllr. Allen Alderson will talk to our MP Jim Paice and Cllr Hazel Williams is doing what she can at CCC. The Acting Chief Constable would like to hear about this, I'm sure. This piece will be circulated. What will you do? Are ASPO's* the answer?

There were other matters. The trees causing drain problems in Station Road opposite the school will be removed when school's out all summer. S. Bulbeck has a plastic bottle recycling centre (but we don't). There followed a lot of accounting practice matters and columns of figures, relieved only by some good news about overdue pay for the hard working clerk. We then looked at several planning applications within the Conservation Area, mostly drawn by competent technicians (if not by competent designers). Eric Day asked when were our rights to view The Forge last exercised? Make a cup of tea now, then come back and sit down again.

Yes. It's the recreation ground again. The owner has pointed out that by effectively sub-letting to The Tigers as proposed, we could have problems with the lease. If this cannot be sorted out, finance will be denied, and then the deal's off. Moves continue in attempts to circumvent the situation, while still avoiding large legal bills. Talking of which, should these moves fail, what should happen to a facility that has been unused for 12 years, over which time it has cost the PC about £15,000? Only a peppercorn rent is payable, but cutting grass and evicting trespassers, cleaning up and erecting effective barriers do not come cheap. I repeat - £15,00 for what? Rugger ball!

To finish on a lighter note, with absolutely no relevance to the foregoing – During the recent Open Gardens, visitors from Lode commented that, of course, by comparison, their village is so very flat. I felt obliged to deny that we have a Mountain Rescue team. It's a rum old world but, as mother used to say, 'There's more to haute cuisine than just making porridge'.

Frank the Readhead (no relation to Eric the Red).

* Anti Swaffam Prior Orders.



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.

WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

With The Crier Reporter Attending

The Parish Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 1st August to consider the Travellers' recent occupation of the Recreation Ground. The invasion happened in the murky twilight hours about a week earlier when a local resident witnessed a white van, the shadowy outlines of four big blokes, and the clink and clang of metal as they cut through the barrier. Did this warrant a 'Citizen's Arrest'? Was this not the perfect opportunity to test whether this option is an effective way of keeping law and order? Within seconds our witness made a lightning decision, rejected the idea, and went home to phone the police. In half an hour the caravans had all arrived.

Well, not just caravans as Steve Kent-Phillips gave a pretty extensive inventory of the contents of the field :- 5 caravans, 6 vehicles, 1 Quad Bike, 1 Motorbike, 1 horsebox, about 10 children, 2 greyhounds, 3 horses and a number of other items. Sounds colourful doesn't it! But what this invasion has done is to mess up the Burwell Tigers' plans for the development of additional football facilities for scores of youngsters in the area. Many people locally and nationally have spent hundreds of hours preparing what will be a tremendous boost for sport for the young only to have it threatened by a few.

All the great and the good were at the meeting in the Public Gallery (well, some) – Tom Robson, Geoffrey Woollard, Clive Riggs, Rosemary Riggs, Caroline Matheson, Linda Kirby, Alex Kirby, Francis Reeks, and me. Many readers will now regret they were not there at the barricades, to be named and to be remembered.

Brian Hicks, Traveller Liaison Officer from ECDC has worked with travellers for 12 years. He recommended that the PC should apply for Civil Procedure Part 55 which will be heard in the County Court with every possibility that the travellers will be off in an amazingly short time.

We will have to wait and see. The cost for solicitor and bailiff could be up to £1,500.

This was very sensible advice but before any final decision and formal proposal a number of heartfelt observations were made from the floor. One idea was that a huge trench should be dug so that the travellers couldn't get out until they surrendered. The use of ripe fertiliser was also mentioned. Such thoughts are quite natural, are not uncommon, but the PC decided there could only be a spiralling downside to any such actions.

Geoffrey Woollard was at his best and he harangued the Cambridge County Council (to be fair he often did this when he was a county councillor) and in a rising crescendo shouted that the CCC had been "TOO SOFT". It must be ten years or so since I last heard that reckless fearless emotional commitment to what he sees as the only truth. He wants the law changed so that travellers can be thrown off any land illegally camped upon. Would this do any good I wondered? What about the law banning the use of hand held mobile phones while driving? People still do it. Even the most law abiding people do it. Why are the police frightened to enforce this law.

Why do normally decent citizens show such contempt for the law. Why should Travellers obey the law or be subjected to a new law when we, the good, often ignore the law. Why indeed?

To return to the problem with the CCC and CCC land such as the droves, Brian Hicks expanded on the difficulties. At one time ECDC would receive complaints about travellers, the traveller officer would evaluate, and if he decided the complaint was justified would ask the CCC to move the travellers on and this was done. No longer does this happen it seems. Whether this is because John Prescott has asked county councils to be gentler and more understanding or whether a few soft traveller sympathisers have got control of this area in CCC is not known. Many thought that John Prescott would benefit from having travellers pitching camp near his house rather than sending a long string of extensive guide lines on how to be kind to travellers. The chairman thought people ought to write and complain and apply pressure and Geoffrey suggested the recipient should be the Chairperson of the CCC, Mrs Susan Normington

Tom Robson introduced a breath of fresh air when he asked “Has anyone talked to these people to ask how long they are staying?” He thought this could be useful before taking expensive legal action. There was a silence, a rather stunned silence and then Brian Hicks (12 years of talking) and Alan Alderson (12 months of talking) answered as best they could and said that talking in the current circumstances this time was not the answer. They explained that the assurance “We’ll be gone by next week, sir” means “a year if you’re lucky”. Tom claimed he’d had some experience of these people and had spent £10,000 on security fencing and another £15,000 on a security system, and he wondered how Burwell Tigers would be able to afford an effective security system to safeguard the ground. Steve said there was an FA grant of one and a half million. (Did I hear correctly?) It’ll need all of that said Tom.

Those living near the recreation ground were obviously concerned and really wanted the whole field ploughed up so there would only be corn – no football, no kite-flying, no nothing. They also wanted a guarantee that travellers would never invade the field again. The PC could not guarantee this but Steve said he would ensure that Burwell Tigers strengthened their security plans. He would also want security fencing all along the side of the field facing the road and proposed taking out all the hedging so that everyone could see what goes on. Whether grubbing out established hedges is allowed or even desirable is another matter especially if replaced with six feet high wire mesh.

Extra points from the meeting. For the first time ever, and much to our astonishment, Mr Geoffrey Woollard and I agreed on a couple of points. Is the adverse effect of age? There are about 4,000 travellers and they have to live somewhere. They are good travellers and bad ones. There are strong rumours that farmer Billy Barton (whoever he is) is selling 5.5 acres to people that our PC and maybe the ECDC would prefer not to be owners. No-one knows for sure, but the worst is suspected, and Billy refuses to consider selling to others even when approached. Are our real problems about to begin?

Alastair Everitt

News Flash from Bottisham British Legion



EVERY THURSDAY we have Salsa Classes for beginners 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at £3.00 per lesson. A busy month is in store for August starting with Darts Legend Eric Bristow playing Darts on Friday 12th August at 7.30 until 11.00 p.m. Tickets are available from the Steward behind the bar at the club.

Saturday 20th August we are holding our popular Quiz Night commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Ouse Valley Jazz Band are playing at the BBQ on Saturday 27th August from 8.00 until 11.00 p.m.

Coming up in September we have on Saturday 17th a Disco to be held from 8.00 p.m. until late £3.00 for members and £5.00 for members' guests.

On Saturday 24th September a Country and Western evening with Cardy and Coke will start at 8.00 p.m. and finish late. Once again £3.00 for members and £5.00 for members' guests.

We look forward to seeing you.



*180!! See Eric Bristowe
play on August 12.*

Vicki Cameron
01223 811092



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Summer Fete

Ness Court

Baker Drive

Burwell

Saturday 3rd

September 11am- 4pm

Bar-B-Q, Tombola, Bouncy Castle, Cakes, Teas, and more.

Table top sale - £5.00 per pitch bookable in advance

Raffle tickets and quiz sheets available in advance

To be opened by James Fitch, a great day out

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in aid of

Macmillan
cancer relief

Come and join us for coffee and friendly chat
in aid of a very good cause at

Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court
Lower End, Swaffham Prior

Friday
30th September
10.30 am – 12.00 noon

THE HARVEST SHOW

HARVEST TIME IS IN SEPTEMBER
ON SATURDAY THE 10TH

There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you like, and you do not have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's class) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly, yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**.

All you have to do is to bring your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 9.00am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards take place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea and then join the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction Starting at 4.00pm**.

We are offering new classes this year including "Any kind of cake", "Any kind of tart", and "Raspberries".

It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

With no September *Crier* the list and entry forms are not included in the magazine. Nearer the time we will give a list to all those who entered last year and to others we think may be interested. If you think you have been overlooked, forgotten or ignored please contact:-

Janet Cooper (741326) Jo Pumfrey (741376) Alastair Everitt (742974)

PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER IN YOUR DIARY



01480 456789

Ermine Street Alconbury Cambs

ADMIRAL WINDOWS

• • • • • & • • • • •

CONSERVATORIES

We would like to invite you to join us at the annual Harvest Supper

on Saturday 8 October, starting at 6pm
in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Food and Entertainment included in ticket price

£5 per adult; £2.50 children under 12

Bar; Raffle

Last year we sold out of tickets for the Harvest Supper, so put the date in your diary now! With prices held at last year's very reasonable rate the organising team has planned a delicious repast and laid on entertainment suitable for all the family, courtesy of the popular singer, Richard Morris. All ages are welcome; an early start time has been set with families in mind. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale and a raffle with superior prizes will take place. Vegetarians gladly catered for. Tickets are available from:

**Barbara Dennis - 743939 or Dee Noyes – 743864
from Monday 12 September 2005.**

Don't miss the village social event of the year.

The organisers would be very glad to hear from anyone able to donate a dessert for the Harvest Supper. We also wondered whether anyone with a bread-maker would like to contribute a loaf of bread to go with the meal, perhaps using flour from Swaffham Prior Mill? Please be in touch with Mandy Kingsmill – 742482; Barb Mitchell - 742492; Dee Noyes – 743864 or Janet Willmott - 743472. Many thanks.

THE RECREATION FIELD – WHAT NEXT ?

The Parish Council have come to a critical stage regarding the Recreation Field and need your help to decide what to do next. Steve Kent-Philips gives us some history....

MR. HENRY HURRELL leased the Recreation Field to the Parish Council in 1988 for the princely sum of one pound a year provided that the Parish Council kept the field mown and adhered to certain other conditions such as not building on the field and not sub-letting it.

For some twelve years now, no Swaffham Prior sporting side has regularly used the Recreation Field. Sure, there have been Scout events and private people flying kites and walking dogs on there, but no regular use. In the past three years, there has been virtually no use at all. Indeed, it is now unsuitable for use as either a cricket pitch or as a football pitch due to lack of use and lack of facilities. Nevertheless, the Parish Council (i.e. you) spent money every year dutifully mowing it – that came to £1650 last year alone.

Almost exactly a year ago, what seemed a godsend arrived. Mr. Richard Freeman of the Burwell Tigers junior football club approached the Parish Council with a view to us leasing them the field twice a week for some under 12, U13, U14 games – whatever. Not only that, but they were looking to base a section of their club there and enter an agreement guaranteeing usage of the field for 25 years at least. Naturally, the Parish Council jumped at the idea, and I was assigned the liaison person.

At the first joint meeting, we agreed ground rules, the need for improved

security and the need for the Tigers to erect (entirely at their own expense) three portacabins as facilities. Crucially, residents of Swaffham Prior were to have full access to the improved facilities when the Tigers did not need

“ It appears that it would cost maybe up to £2,000 to get the solicitors to redraw the lease..... ”

them, and the Tigers were to mow the field themselves in lieu of rent, saving the Parish (i.e. you) tens of thousands of pounds over the years.

It has taken until now to get the legalities sorted out – do we need planning, who is applying for it, who is paying for it, getting the drawings done, dealing with the solicitors etc. This is where we hit the snag. It appears that it would cost maybe up to £2,000 to get the solicitors to redraw the lease agreement with Mr. Hurrell to allow the Tigers to use the field – and remember, the entire lease is for just one pound a year. There are many reasons, but basically the original lease as drawn up in 1988 prohibits us from sub-letting the ground, putting buildings on there without permission and allowing someone from outside Swaffham Prior parish to use the ground. It needs to be torn up and redrawn.

For a while it seemed that Mr. Hurrell was OK with us breaking the



Tigers in the early days — spot the Prior boys!

covenants on the lease anyway and we were proceeding on that basis, but now, however, it appears that we absolutely must have the lease redrawn to proceed any further. As our entire budget this year is just £11,000, it is obviously unreasonable for the Parish Council to spend 18% of your yearly money on something that is not of direct benefit to the Parish and not in our budget. It is not even an option to have the Tigers pay for the solicitors because CALC (our local controlling body) advise us that we do not have the power to instruct solicitors to proceed in favour of someone not within the parish.

Which all leads me to our dilemma. As we stand now there are three options.

Option 1. Call off the whole deal and revert to mowing an empty field for the next fifty years or so at a cost of at least £1650 a year. This will increase with inflation over the years.

Option 2. Voluntarily give up the lease and return it to Mr. Hurrell to do with the field as he likes.

Option 3. Voluntarily give up the lease and invite Burwell Tigers FC to

take it on.

Mr. Hurrell has informed us verbally that he does not want option 2, but we could do it anyway if that is what the village wishes. Mr. Hurrell has also indicated that he would be happy to talk to the Tigers on option 3, and we are very hopeful that he is amenable to the change of name on the lease. The benefits/downsides are :

Option 1 benefit. We keep the field just in case someone in the Parish at some time in the

future wants to use it.

Option 1 downside. We have to pay at least £1650 a year to do so. Burwell Tigers lose the use of the field. We always have the threat of having to deal with traveller invasions in the future.

Option 2 benefit. We save at least £1650 a year. If we have another traveller invasion, we wouldn't have to pay for evictions and clean-up.

Option 2 downside. We lose a gift to the village. We lose the use of the field if anyone wants to use it in the future. Burwell Tigers lose the use of the field.

Option 3 benefit. We save at least £1650 a year. Burwell Tigers get a new base. We have no fears about having to deal with traveller invasions.

Option 3 downside. We lose a gift to the village. We lose the exclusive use of the field should someone want to use it in the future, although we get usage of the field and vastly improved facilities when the Tigers are not there.

Now, it is such an important decision that the Parish Council opted to consult the Parish via the Crier before

deciding. We still have time as the Tigers do not intend to play Junior football until September 2006, however they need to get the planning and funding applications moving as soon as is reasonably possible. Please send any comments (including any other options you can think of) to Karen King, Parish Clerk, at 10 Mill Hill or ring her on 742358 so that she can collate all your opinions and advise the Parish Council on what the Parish as a whole would like us to do next.

Steve Kent-Phillips



From our religious affairs and music reporters...

The van controlling a recording session in St Cyriac's by The Collegium Regale (Choral scholars from King's College) on 22 July 2005.

Of Mog and Smog

Mark Lewinski says a sad goodbye to Mog and gets in the last word about some recent **Crier** issues

IT WAS INDEED I who censored the **Crier** Profile of the Reverend Laurence Fisher, he of the church windows, multifarious hats, cricket - and nefarious personal interests, the consequences of which might still be felt by some living relatives of those involved. Hence the omission of some names given in the original Radio 4 broadcast. Words spoken on the airwaves to be lost to the winds is one thing – print has a permanence – of sorts.

Will historians be trawling these archives in centuries to come to discover how we lived? Possibly. History is no longer the preserve of kings and queens – it is the lives of the folk at street or field level, that makes up some 98% of a country's real history. Mr Everitt tells me the Reverend Fisher was also a significant influence in the introduction of street lighting in this village – truly a man of...of parts, as the interviewer said. However – on other pages, last month's **Crier** inadvertently omitted the second half of my letter entitled 'smokescreens'.

Below is the unexpurgated second half, with a little coda from last month's letter at the start to warm things up. I have made a minor edit in the reference to Kevin, the cat from next door, as the result of a major change to my own family in the last day or so. I had included a mention of my own ancient mog as being too old to bother with chasing small furry things, having just turned twenty. Mog departed this world suddenly - and before the appointment I'd made with the vet to pop round, too. Mog now has its own special spot at the end of my garden. Tempted as I am to make further links to the subject matter

“ ...the Reverend Fisher was also a significant influence in the introduction of street lighting in this village—truly a man of parts ”

discussed below, I suspect I won't be very popular with the rest of my family. I will just say thank you to my non-cat-owning neighbours for their forbearance over the years in matters of garden organic material.

...Those with large gardens should have no problem finding a far corner for composting.

Sharp intakes of breath. Horrors! It's unsightly! Untidy! And it's an extra job in the garden!

Indeed. Of course it takes a bit of extra effort compared to piling it up and setting fire to it. ...to start with. Once it's going, nothing to it. You chop & pile stuff in, it decomposes. Turn it once in a while. It's a lot less trouble than, say, feeding the cat. You can neglect it for months on end. So: be practical - screen it off. A bit of trellis fence will do. And

**“ Get a shredder,
Caroline...and if it's in
industrial volumes, hire
one. Pile the logs up in a
corner till they are dry
enough to burn.... ”**
Some corner! Caroline.

be imaginative - grow a clematis or a honeysuckle round it. I know that's not difficult, because I can do it, and a lot of plants would sooner die than do what I want them to. And it's proper gardening. It will be the most fertile corner of your garden, after all. Do you know you're launching your garden's incinerated nutrients into the atmosphere when you have a bonfire of greenstuff?

Basic school Biology –

Your greenery = seed/plant + water
+ atmospheric gases + organic soil & minerals

Burning it = ash + water + same gases + whatever toxic residue can be made airborne.

Get a shredder, Caroline, or borrow one. (I know there are some in this village). And if it's industrial volumes, hire one. Pile the logs up in a corner till they are dry enough to burn – in a woodburner, if Leylandii pine's to spitty for the fire. There are people here with woodburners. I see people lob bags of weeds and cuttings in the tip at Newmarket who then go off down to Homebase for a bag of compost, not realising they've just thrown part of their garden away then bought much the same stuff, matured, to replace it with.

Greenery helps clean the atmosphere. Burning it worsens global air pollution. Composting adds nothing nasty to the air, and creates healthy organic nutrients to

return to the ground.

Do you realise too, that your far corners of logpiles and garden material are havens for the small wildlife that keep the birds, hedgehogs et al fed? What are the owls, and kestrels - we all want them to thrive - supposed to live on if our gardens are like green living rooms, tidy into the corners, ornaments – oh, and with a fireplace too! - with nowhere for voles, shrews, and mice? To say nothing of insect life. Woodpiles are ideal. Oh, and hedgehogs. I got dragged round Anglesey Abbey again last week. Woodland walk; hedgehog homes – piles of wood. Honest. I saw them. Keeps the cats occupied, too. Kevin, the ginger thing from next door, is never happier than when he's pursuing something small and furry round the lawn. If there's somewhere to hide, at least it has a sporting chance of being lunch some other day and of keeping the food chain going.

The bottom line is, if it's green you don't need to burn it, and if you have a big garden, you have some responsibility not to.

Organically yours

Mark Lewinski

PS and look what happened with Asthma, anyway. When I was a kid there was one person in the school with it. She didn't do PE because this mysterious ailment meant she didn't breathe like the rest of us. Now I'm used to finding there's usually more than one in each class, inhalers etc. Nobody can say why the huge increase, but bonfires aren't likely to be on the upside of the equation, are they?

PPS Just recalled an ancient joke: when Beethoven's coffin is opened, they find him crossing notes off a score. What are you doing, they ask. Decomposing, he replies...

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
7.30 pm ♣ Saturday

24th SEPTEMBER 2005

Tickets: £5 each ♣ To book a table contact

Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ♣ Raffle

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Crossword Number 25

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
OUNCE

You should have no problems with this month’s crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th September 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.

1		2		3			4		5		6		7	8		9
									10			11				
12											13					
14						15										
			16		17						18		19			
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25		26		27								28				
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30											31					
32					33		34									
				35												
36							37									

Name:.....

Adress.....

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

Across

- 1 Cannot cut a strange controller of finance (10)
- 7 Where ordinary male babies grow initially (4)
- 10 Send out signal in Arnhem, Italy? (4)
- 12 A fib Carrot broadcast? Liar! (10)
- 13 Solvent found in den of Foxy Len Elliott (6)
- 14 Mad duo to exceed (5)
- 15 Unshockable Bond admired mayhem (5-6)
- 16 Show frustration as heathen son gets enraged (5,4,5)
- 20 Theologian devours small instrument with honour in noble domain (7)
- 21 Carrion feeder found last month in very ancient city, note (7)
- 25 Phin quotes poet incorrectly to propose (3,3,8)
- 30 Lethal weapon that is not old, we hear, right in weight; Bob holds a large number (7,4)
- 31 Mad Ken met learner at junction; adopted praying posture (5)
- 32 Middle sized shirt sent back after part of face cloth (6)
- 34 Play about nodular ark (4,6)
- 35 Gunk 33 sends back to sweetheart (4)
- 36 Hello, hello, a toy (2-2)
- 37 Decent lady crazed to act this way? (10)

Down

- 1 Insulted miserable, Fat Fred? No (9)
- 2 Young one meets old Bob after tea, we hear, to give ancient measures (6)
- 3 Gent abandons incongruent legendary creature (7)

We congratulate **Julian Lutrell**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Martyn & Debby Clark, Anita Lang, Dee Noyes and Bob & Julie Nunn.

- 4 Political system found where model lies between a bend, another bend and day's end (8)
- 5 Arrest in various grounds (8)
- 6 Numbers amalgamate (3)
- 8 Overeducated cadet left as late (7)
- 9 Ford follows loaf, his head, for extent of knowledge (7)
- 11 Pool person revealed in pretty pistachio dress (6)
- 16 Visitor orally estimated (5)
- 17 Sailor needs poem for home (5)
- 18 Dinosaur Ron removed from Arab (5)
- 19 Unbeaten bun removed and consumed (5)
- 22 Ten quoted fifty in English yard emotionally (9)
- 23 Battered blue queen bid and objected pettily (8)
- 24 Come sir, I make compound in two forms (8)
- 25 Terrified when pink cay demolished (7)
- 26 Shortage when Father goes to university town (7)
- 27 Nothing after ether irritated legal adverb (6)
- 28 Roe Kate disguised as large plant (3,4)
- 29 Just in time Mint escaped crazy member of religious order (6)
- 33 Zero weight returns for home of Tennessee's glass collection? (3)

Solution to crossword no. 24

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

Down on the Farm–

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRACTORS: PART I

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

AS WE ALL KNOW, when there is a war situation, machinery and associated technology often make tremendous strides forward in development; aircraft, ships, weaponry and even the humble farm tractor to name but a few. The first three seem obvious as priorities, but the tractor?

There had been a few “mechanical horses” before the First World War and there was also quite widespread use of the traction engine, but the onset of the war changed this dramatically.

The prime mover in 1914 was the horse. It was used on farms, in towns, for everyday life. However, the war effort needed horses by the thousand and the obvious way to source them was to take them from the farms. This presented the farming community with a huge problem as to how to replace this loss.

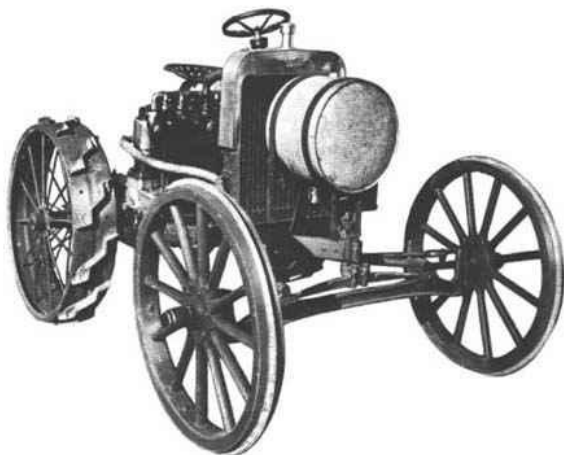


Horse and plough

Most of the mechanical horses had previously been imported from the USA, but with war thrust upon the country the necessity for the development of the tractor to pick up speed was realised and achieved.

Without naming “makes” of tractor the general layout and construction was broadly similar. It consisted on an engine, which would run on either petrol or paraffin, or in some cases both; a gearbox of some description was bolted on which drove two large steel wheels and a seat, also made of steel,

was bolted on to the back for the driver to sit on.



An early Ford tractor

In those early days there was no protection from any of the tractor's moving parts or the weather, but it must have been easier than walking behind a horse all day! All the implements used behind tractors in those days were simply pulled, advanced developments were yet to come.

As tractors became more powerful and developed technically in the period leading up to the Second World War, steel wheels gave way to rubber tyres and the general operation of the machine became more "user-friendly".

Implements used with the tractors also developed. Ploughs became more complex, which allowed fewer men to achieve more and helped increase crop yields to feed a growing population. Other important developments were to follow in the years to come, which you can read about in Part Two.

Many of these old tractors can still be seen most weekend over the winter months at ploughing matches, where the vintage classes often outnumber the those with the more modern machines. There will be a good chance to see them up close locally on the 9th and 10th October as the National Ploughing Championship is being held at Soham this year.

Here on the farm, at the time of writing, harvest is about to start any day, so I'm hoping for a good run with the machinery and the weather. So please, if you get stuck behind a tractor and trailer on its way to or from the grain store, or have to wait for a combine harvester as it is moved from one field to another, do be patient (thank you) – a very important part of the farming year is happening in front of you!!

Ely Museum Events

Summer & Autumn 2005

Saturday 27th August - 3rd September - Happy Holiday Hunt

Family Trail around the Museum. £1.00 per child, no need to book.

Thursday 1st September - Prickwillow - 7.30pm

The Friends of Ely Museum present a talk by Chris Jakes on Prickwillow. Held in the Vernon Cross Room at the Museum (entry at the rear via the Car Park) £1.50 non-members, £1.00 members.

Sunday 11th September 1-5pm Heritage Open Day

Ely Museum will be open free of charge as part of the Heritage Open Days Scheme. Telephone 01353 666655 for further details

Saturday 24th September - Ancient Egypt - 2pm

A fascinating talk on Ancient Egypt by Will Schenck. £2.00 & £1.50 for friends of Ely Museum.

Saturday 24th September - Mid November War Time Memories from King's School Ely

An exhibition of Second World War time memories of Ely and the King's School - not to be missed.

Norma admission charges.

Thursday 6th October - Ely Cemetery - 7.30pm

The Friends of Ely Museum present a talk by Tony Fulford on Ely Cemetery. Held in the Vernon Cross Room at the Museum (entry at the rear via the Car Park) £1.50 non-members, £1.00 members.

Saturday 22nd October - Ask the Archaeologist - 10.30am - 4pm

Bring along your ancient finds for County Archaeologist Chris Montague to identify.

Thursday 27th October 'Wave in the Nave' 10.30-11.30am,& 1.30-2.30pm, finale in Ely Cathedral 3pm.

Arty activities at Ely Museum, The Stained Glass Museum, Oliver Cromwell House & Ely Cathedral. £2.00 per child for each activity, maximum of 2 activities per child- contact Jan Munt 01353 659668 to book your place and for further details.

Friday 28th October - Ghost Tours - 6pm & 8pm.

With Blue Badge Guide Margaret Haynes and Tame Spook's! Recommended minimum age 7 yrs. Pre-booking essential for these extremely popular tours.

Booking from 1st October - booking details and more information available from this date.

Ely Museum, The Old Gaol, Market Street, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4LS

Tel 01353 666655. Email: elymuseum@freeuk.com.

www.elymuseum.org.uk

Ely Museum is a Registered Charity and a Registered Museum.

Swaffham Prior Village



CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday, 19th November



2.00 pm – 5.00 pm

in the Village Hall



Gifts ☺ Produce ☺ Tombola ☺ Cards ☺ Calendars
Raffle ☺ Children's Clothes ☺ Fancy Dress
Jewellery ☺ Books ☺ Refreshments

Admission: 50p ☺ Children under 12: free

Proceeds to St Mary's Church



School News

END OF TERM activities included a dance day for Year 5. This was organised by Circle Schools, all local schools who feed into Bottisham VC. Workshops on jiving, the Salsa, Samba, Flamenco, Egyptian and African dance as well as Cirobonese (Javan) were on offer to the children. It was a brilliant day and on their return to school, children remained enthusiastic as they shared their new skills with others

Year 3 also had their own Circle Schools' event – an African day. This was based at the College and included printing, necklace making, mask making and working with clay.

Year 2s had their own multi sports day, also hosted at the College. This was quickly followed by our own sports day in which our "octathletes" competed against each other in four teams; the biggest challenge was beating the rain.



Team Building at Aylmerton: passing through the spider's web without touching the elastic!

As we have come to the end of another academic year, we have said goodbye and wished good luck to the 17 children who will be moving on to secondary school in September. As they reflected on their time at primary school, here are some of their comments about the school, “It is small and cosy (at SP) and I know everyone’s name off by heart”, “It has fun lessons”, “The smart board has helped me learn”. Children said they were looking forward to the challenges of Y7, more sport (including cross country) and doing experiments!

As is the cyclical nature of school life, we welcome in our new reception children. The children have already had five visits, one of which included a mini beast picnic, and so when September 5th comes round, they will be helped to feel ready for their first day at big school.

Once again, a big thank you to all members of the community who passed on their supermarket tokens. In total two digital cameras, two movie makers and a host of playground equipment has been “bought” with the tokens.

Last month I mentioned Class 4’s residential trip and now enclose a photo of one of their activities.

Joanna Lakey
Head teacher

Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Term Dates 2005-2006

Autumn Term 2005

Monday 5th September to Tuesday 20th December 2005

Half Term from 24th October to 28th October 2005

Spring Term 2006

Thursday 5th January to 31st March 2006

Half Term from 13th February to 17th February 2006

Closure Day Monday 20th February 2006

Summer Term 2006

Tuesday 18th April to Friday 21st July 2006

May Day 1st May

Y6 SATS week: w/c 8th May

Half Term from 29th May to 2nd June 2006

Closure Day Monday 5th June



WI Notes

LIS AND CHRIS LEWIS must have held their breath when the rain came down at about 6pm on Monday 18th July. Fortunately it was only a short sharp shower and the W. I. were able to enjoy their summer party in the Old School House and 'watch the trains go by'. Chris has a model railway running round a large part of the garden which provided a great form of interest and entertainment especially for the men.

As usual the food provided by the W.I. members was delicious and a good time was had by all. Lis and Chris were presented with a rose bush as a 'thank you' for their hospitality.

On 14th August, a Sunday, we are having a trip to Elton Hall house and gardens in Northamptonshire but in September it will be back to the Village Hall on the 3rd Monday, 19th at 7.30pm, to hear Paul Shakeshaft talk about Kings college Chapel.



Elton Hall, Northamptonshire

Betty Prime

A Moveable Feast

IT SOUNDS A STRANGE THING to do - having a meal in different peoples' houses; starters in one, main course at two venues and then puddings all together in another, - but that is what Swaffham Prior's Moveable Feast does. And I have to say it makes for a fascinating evening on several levels. I've never taken part before – always heard about it afterwards - and I did think I might have put a jinx on it as people were slow to sign up this year and cancellation was a possibility, BUT NO -the organisers have another success under their belt, and all credit to them.

The evening began with excellent starters in the garden at Adventurer's Farm giving people a chance to chat en masse (even those who arrived in a rush - everything in Swaffham Prior seems to start at least half an hour before I think it does - shame on me!) And then we drove to our separate venues for mains - chicken with peppers and tomatoes - time for more intimate chatting round beautifully set tables. Then a short walk to the final setting for puds and coffee. And what a setting; elegance and beauty inside and out, with puddings to complement, and a lovely summer evening. Time to sit back, renew old friendships, catch up on gossip and revel in the pleasant surroundings. What more could one ask? Even for a birthday!

Brenda Wilson

Grateful Honorary Villager



The Reading Group Reads..... The Sea The Sea by Iris Murdoch



ON 6 JULY nine of us met at my house to discuss *The Sea The Sea* which, in 1978, won the Booker Prize for its author Iris Murdoch, and is acclaimed as some of her best writing.

In the book, the egotistical Charles Arrowby, a retired theatre director, retires to a desolate house by a wild and rocky coast where he proceeds to write his memoirs - these evolve into a diary which relates the immediate and extraordinary events of his life, in particular his total obsession with regaining his 'first love' who he unexpectedly finds living in the same village.

Varying images of the ever-present sea run throughout this intricate novel which is overflowing with extraordinary characters, surreal visions, dreams, happenings and surprises. A few of us classed this book as

'brilliant', most at least enjoyed it and one or two were less enthusiastic, but everyone agreed that it had become compulsive reading and most were keen to read more books by this significant modern English novelist.

Our forthcoming meetings all begin at 8pm and will be: 3 August when we will discuss *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell, at the Hollingsworths, Yule House, 41 Lower End. On 7 September we will discuss *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, at the Mathesons, Kent House, 9 High Street, where we will meet again on 5 October to talk about *Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell. New Readers are always welcome.

Mary Hart

THURLOW FAYRE 2005

THURLOW RECREATION GROUND

Sunday 4 Sept

from 1 pm

Samba Band,
Dog Agility, Archery,
Puppet Theatre,
Fun Dog Show,
Morris Men,
Go-karts, Tractor
Rides, Bouncy Army
Assault Course,
Tug-of-war, Circus
Skills, Beat-the-
Goalie, BBQ,
Produce Show,
Maypole Dancing,
Village Corner
and much more!

Car Boot 11 til 4
(pre-booking essential)

Fun for all the family

www.thurlowfayre.org.uk

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01638 570373

info@greenman6mb.com



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A la carte Thai & English menu available too!!

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(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*



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**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

ONCE AGAIN the holiday season is upon us but Council business carries on as usual. In Swaffham Bulbeck the road markings for the safer route to school scheme are in place, we now await the wig-wag flashing signs.

Also after much pressure we now have the plastic bottle recycling point in the car park behind Vicarage Close. I have been encouraged by the number of people using this facility.

In Swaffham Prior I have managed to have Heath Road included in the council black box/paper bag recycling scheme. This is due to start on August 2m1.

I have also been contacted by residents of Rogers Road who are concerned that it is being used as a rat run by speeding motorists. We will have to see if this issue can be addressed. An increasing amount of my time is being taken up with the problem of travellers in our area.

When the travellers camp on edge of the drove ways it becomes a County Council issue as they are the land owners. We would like stronger legislation put in place by Central Government, thus making it easier for local authorities to evict travellers from illegal encampments. East Cambs traveller's liaison Officer and myself are working hard to move those travellers that are causing a problem in our area.

We have to work with the County Council, who we consider are not moving fast enough in resolving this problem.



Our lively young Airedale terrier, Ella, is seeking a

DOG WALKER

(At lunchtimes for approx. 1 hour, 2-3 days per week term-time only)

from September 2005.

The new county council has now met for the first time after the recent boundary changes and consists of 69 members: 42 Conservative, 23 Liberal Democrat and 4 Labour. It is not only new members like myself who have been involved in training. The reorganisation of the council into new policy areas, which more closely reflect the work it now does, has meant changes for everyone.

The main Cabinet positions now are:

Leader: Keith Walters

Cabinet member for Corporate Services: John Powley

Cabinet member for Children and Young Peoples Services: Shona Johnstone

Cabinet member for Environment and Community Services: John Reynolds
plus six other cabinet members.

Service Development Groups act as a sounding board and source of advice to the relevant portfolio holder and Scrutiny Committees review decisions made as well as monitoring services and reviews

I am a member of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee and the Staff Appeals Committee. I am also a member, as was your previous councillor James Fitch, of the Fire Authority. We have two retained fire stations at Burwell and

“Service Development Groups act as a sounding board and source of advice to the relevant portfolio holder and Scrutiny Committees review decisions as well as monitoring reviews....”

Money well spent then! Eds.

Swaffham Bulbeck who play a vital role in keeping communities safe. Across the county there is a continuing difficulty of recruiting retained fire fighters because of the changes in lifestyle of the population. It is also a time of considerable change and modernisation for the fire service.

In our area, the building of the new Burwell Library is underway and will provide an expanded service and valuable resource for the village and those nearby. By the time you read this the Fordham By-pass will be in use and the traffic hold-ups will be a thing of the past I hope.

My thanks go to all who voted for me in the election. Those who know me also know that I work for hard for the communities I represent, regardless of politics, and that will not change. I see being a Councillor at Parish, District and County Council as complementary to each other and I am happy to help wherever I can with queries.

Hazel.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk



Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Notes from the July Parish Council Meeting

J Covill Chaired the meeting with 8 members and 4 members of the Public.

Brian Hicks, Traveller Liaison Officer for ECDC, attended the meeting to discuss the problem of travellers in The Fen.

CCC Report: There was no report this month.

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising:

a) *Coopers Lane – barrier:* The work to complete this barrier is still outstanding. The Clerk has again chased this with John Cooper & Andrew Tipple of CCC.

b) *Enhancement Scheme – completion of works:* A site meeting was held between Cambridge Landscape Architects, Ringway & John Henry's. In order for EDF to complete the necessary connection works, they require a Wayleave Agreement for access to private property. The Clerk has received the paperwork and will pass on to PCC for their attention.

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements – 2006/07 Bidding Round. This was considered and it was agreed that an application would not be submitted this year.

Recreation Ground – use by Burwell Tigers Football Club. Steve Kent-Phillips explained to the meeting the difficulties being faced with reference to the potential legal costs involved. It was agreed that the Village should be asked for their views on the future of any scheme and the recreation ground itself. *Please see additional article in Crier.*

Play Area – signage: A Disclaimer Notice for the play area was agreed. This was a requirement of the annual inspection by RoSPA.

Accounting Matters:

a) *Financial Risk Assessment:* This was agreed and will be submitted as part of the Parish Council's Annual Audit return as required.

b) *Minor Amendment to Accounts for 2004/05:* This was agreed.

c) *Approval of Annual Audit Return:* The Annual Audit Return was agreed and will be given to the Internal Auditor for completion of his report before being submitted to the External Auditor.

Purchase of Replacement Parish Office Equipment: A contribution towards the Clerk's replacement computer was agreed.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications:

a) The Cottage, 67 High Street – *construction of two storey rear extension and detached garage and store to rear (following demolition of existing single storey rear extension)* – no objections.

b) Dove House Cottage, 84 High Street – *proposed new one and a half storey extension to existing dwelling with glazed link, associated minor internal alterations*

and repair to existing house and landscaping. Removal of existing single storey kitchen extension. – no objections.

c) The Old School House, 69 High Street – *proposed erection of a two storey gable end extension* – no objections.

d) The Old Forge, 27 High Street – *replace 5 bar gate with framed, ledged and braced gate*. The PC objected to this application.

e) 2 Fairview Grove – *outline permission for 1 dwelling*. Concerns were raised about access and egress and the removal of trees.

Any Other Business:

Andrew Tipple of CCC confirmed to the Clerk that:

- the “Upware” signs will be installed by the “end of next week” (22nd).
- the footpath running from the main road down Rogers Road was in a bad state of repair and although funding was not available to resurface, the footpath would be “sided”.
- the work to remove the trees on Station Road (opposite School gates) will be carried out towards the end of the month.

The Clerk was asked to chase CCC for replacement “passing place” signs on Whiteway Drive.

Andrew Camps confirmed that new watering cans have been purchased for the Cemetery.

There will be no August Parish Council meeting unless called. The next Parish Council meeting will be on the 8th September 2005.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 01638 742358.

Email: karen.king5@bt

CALENDARS AND COASTERS

Have you seen the Swaffham Prior Calendars? It may seem a bit early to think about 2006 but **if** you want to send abroad you have to start early. These calendars are very attractive with 6 photographs of the village, one for every two months, with space to write notes, and very reasonably priced at £4.99

There are also coasters in packets of 6, two each of three different pictures for £7.99p. These are great as gifts for any time of the year.

To purchase please contact Kate Child on 743983 or Betty Prime on 741221.

**THANK GOD FOR YOUR
PETS**



**PET SERVICE
St. MARY'S CHURCH
SWAFFHAM PRIOR
SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER
11.00am**

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition

THANK YOU to all who came and supported the event, in spite of the heat. I have never spent two whole days in a church before. On the occasion it was bliss, a really cool place to be. We are so fortunate to have St Cyriac's — the space and light were much appreciated. The one big problem was no loo or water, so the stewards had to make trips to my cottage. We also experienced difficulty in getting a wheel-chair bound person in, owing to no disabled access. I know of others who had to abandon the idea altogether.

Do come to the meeting on 22nd September to meet Verity Stroud and hear about plans for the future.

*After expenses (ie hire charges for St Cyriac's etc) the proceeds of **£740** was given to St Mary's Church towards upkeep.*

Kate Child



Church of England Services

August 2005

Sun 7	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 14	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 21	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 28	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service



Church of England Services

September 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 4	11:00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 11	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion
Sun 18	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 25	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Harvest Festival

PASTORAL LETTER, August 2005

The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

All of us have been deeply upset by the dreadful events of the London bombings on the 7th July. I am sure that you have joined with me in remembering and praying for those who have died and have been injured, and for their families at this time. But I ask you also to spare a thought for the families of those young men who committed the outrages, and for the peaceful communities in which they have lived. I have found it so sad to read the statements issued by those families expressing their shock, perplexity and horror at what their young men have perpetrated. Just imagine the sense of guilt and responsibility that they are feeling at this time.

There has been much written about the possible reasons why such seemingly ordinary, normal and law abiding young men could be driven to perpetrate such unspeakable atrocities against their fellow human citizens. Inevitably I guess we can start to see that the difference between good and evil can often be very small, and immense evil can often spring from activities which, on the face of it, were fully intended to be for the common good. Much attention has been drawn to the fact that

the majority of the young men in question were regular members of a youth facility in Leeds that was set up specifically for the good of young men in that community. So how can it be that such evil can indeed spring from something that was intended to be good?

The answer to that question surely must lie in the human nature, and its inherent weaknesses. Within each of us is a great capacity to do wonderfully good things, but also to do very bad things. One only has to look at children playing in a school playground to see the potential that is within even the young for both good and evil. As Samuel Taylor Coleridge once wrote: *'As there is much beast and some devil in man, so is there some angel and some God in him. The beast and the devil may be conquered, but in this life never destroyed.'*

Jesus summed up this conundrum in the parable of the weeds. He pointed out that in every field of Wheat there lurks Darnell, which in the early stages of growth is totally indistinguishable from the Wheat. It only reveals itself when both plants have grown to maturity; but by then, when in Jesus' time there were no chemicals available to kill the weeds, it would be impossible to remove the Darnell without irrevocably damaging the Wheat. The problem is that Darnell seeds are poisonous, and need to be removed in some way before the Wheat seeds can be ground up for flour.

Jesus' point is that evil within mankind is akin to the Darnell. It exists as a matter of course, sown by the Devil, and it's very existence poisons society. Jesus then goes on to point out that there will be a day of reckoning, when the Darnell seeds are finally destroyed, and on that day each one of us will be called to account for the evil we have perpetrated. But, here we must remember that Jesus died on the cross to win a victory over evil, and we can stand tall and innocent on that day of judgement if we can claim Jesus Christ as our saviour. Remember also that Jesus was the greatest moral and ethical teacher that the world has ever seen, and by following his teaching we can avoid the cancerous effects of evil in our lives. As John Bunyan so eloquently puts it: *'God has set a Saviour against sin, a heaven against a hell, light against darkness, good against evil, and the breadth and length and depth and height of grace that is in himself for my good, against all the power and strength and subtlety of every enemy.'*

So what is the conclusion? Well, I think Dorothy L Sayers sums it up best of all. She makes the point that: *'It would no doubt have been well if the world had altogether refrained from evil; yet, the evil having occurred, the opportunity appears to make out of that evil a still more noble good'*. We have seen many wonderful acts of unselfish goodness in London on 7th July 2005 in direct response to the impact of the atrocities. Therefore, our task as human beings must always be to try our very level best to follow that path of noble goodness as laid down for us by our Lord Jesus Christ; to show real love and concern for our fellow citizens and thereby to help make this world a better place.

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary - August/September 2005

August		
Sun	14	<i>WI Trip to Elton Hall House</i>
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Tues	30	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

September		
Sat	3	Summer Fete, Ness Court, Burwell, 11am-4pm
Wed	7	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 8pm VH
Mon	5	SP School Term Start
Sun	11	Per Service, St Mary's 11am
Mon	19	WI, 7.30, VH
Thu	22	Village Meeting, St Cyriac's, 7pm
Sat	24	Quiz Night 7.30 VH
Fri	30	Macmillan Coffee, 10.30—12 noon, The Oaks, Lower End
October	5	Reading Group, 8pm
	8	Harvest Supper 6pm VH
November	12	Village Variety 6pm VH
	19	Village Christmas Market, 2-5pm VH
	27	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm

Oh, Really?

I remember, I remember,
When 'really' was so
strong.
It didn't need a hyphen -
And wasn't two words
long.

But recently its strength
has waned
It has to be voiced twice,
And sometimes that's not
quite enough —
I've even heard it thrice.

This reiteration's so
absurd,
The more times it's
repeated,
The less effect it's bound
to have,
And its emphasis defeated.

Ophir

First line borrowed from Thomas hood. 1799-1S45