

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXIX Number 12 December 2005



H appy Christmas, All our Readers
And Correspondents EVEN YOU who
Perusing through our pages spied a
Paltry gaff or two.
Y et still you sent your copy to

XIX, in which there's been, quite
arvellous contributions and
AWEB-SITE added in
S o let's sing ourselves some praises
↑ s usual, never fear! And

A s usual, never fear! And...

Let's raise a glass to Christmas and

et's see you all next year!

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas from all the *Crier* team!

James and Caroline Matheson, Ruth Stinton, Mike Phillips, Roger Connan

Cover Picture: by Lily Robinson

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Letters to the Editors



We have a special little tree
With apples large and round
But when we come to harvest them
There's ne'er one to be found
Maybe the thief who takes the bags
They leave for you and I
Is filling them with apples
And making apple pie

A Resident

Dear Editors,

The spotty sheep on the dyke I like.

Is it possible, they have the slipperiest faeces of any species?

A Dog Walker

CAROLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Please come and join us for the traditional singing of carols and Christmas songs at the Village Hall.

And enjoy as much fine mulled wine as you can drink with a few mince pies.

Again we will be singing inside the hall.



MR ANDREW NOYES
With his quite Remarkable Band
Provides the music
The Scouts and Cubs will be there
Adding a very lusty contribution
AND



We also have the services of Amazing, Masterly, Incomparable Compère Mr. James Willmot

Put a bit of tinsel in your hair and please come, It's Free.

WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER at 7.00pm

HOLLY HOLLY

After two very bountiful years the holly is likely to be quite sparse this Christmas.

It may be advisable to get your order in early.

The price remains at £2.50 a bunch sold in aid of local church and flower funds.

We shall be selling holly at Anglesey House (white gates next to the churchyard) on:

Saturday December 17th Sunday December 18th from 12.00 - 1.00

Please phone 742974 if you would like to buy holly before then or to order it to collect nearer to Christmas. **We shall do our best to help you.**

Elisabeth Everitt



HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING

IT IS COMING UP TO THAT TIME OF YEAR when we stretch out a hand of peace to our neighbours in Swaffham Bulbeck and then pass the time of day beating each other round the head with a lot of very hard

sticks.

Last year there was a bit of a mix-up because many of our newly discovered talent the year before did not turn up – whether through misunderstanding, my having to my bed in mid-December, modesty, fear, I know not.

If anyone wishes to play this year do phone me (742974) and if you don't I hope to get in touch with you.

As usual the match will take place on Boxing Day Monday, on the Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck, at 11.00am. A very good mulled wine is available at a reasonable charge and there will be a collection for Magpas.

Alastair Everitt

Come and support your local team!

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

WAIT-WATCH-US Meeting at the Village Hall

I CONFESS THERE WAS A MOMENT when I thought there might be more fun to be had next door at *Wait-Watch-Us* (or is that *Wait-Watch 'Ers?*). However, the effects of celebrating a family birthday earlier disappeared when certain matters came up and, let's face it, it is no contest. I can only look at bathroom scales for so long.

There was little local flavour to Hazel Williams' CCC report -

subsidies to improve our bus service, and plans to move Papworth Hospital to the Addenbrookes site which will be more convenient if you don't get lost there, as I do. Sometimes you just get a 'slack news month' but we got some added value later when she and Allen rehearsed their act for the Variety Show 'The (ECDC) Office', a farce.



At Last!

Allen Alderson teased us by mentioning the sale of Dencora Field 'I'll say more later', and he continued with news about the asbestos harvest (another poor year) and the planning application for the windmill site which will provide entertainment for months to come. The concept of developers contributing money for public open space on another site instead of here, if planning consent is granted, was a difficult one for some but perhaps they had been celebrating too. This cash back arrangement is not a bribing mechanism, but an established way for those who gain profit from land development to share it with the community.

An enquiry from a gentleman in Lode about a new minibus caused people to study the ceiling in silence. Little chance there, I fear.

'Anglia in Bloom' asked if we want to compete in bloomin' Anglia – same result. The Recreation Ground saga ground on with one more legal complication, but it's just another small delay. The village sign has responded well to treatment and there are high hopes that it will be up, if not running about, very soon. The Pound roof will get some attention when the necessary approvals have been successfully manoeuvred into place. (No. The Pound is not for sale). Costs have risen a little bit from the early estimate but price rises for building material next year put this into shade. Cooper's Lane barrier is now complete and it's proving to be a very good year for crossing things off the list, though the lonesome pine behind the cemetery seems to be safe, for a while at least.



The Cage in need of repairs



...and the newly repaired barrier

We have been grossly underpaying our Parish Clerk for years! I remain unconvinced by the reasons put to justify less than 100% restitution but she says she's happy. So be it. It came as a shock to some that St. Cyraic's church is not consecrated. Why else would The Cambridge Voices be allowed within a mile of it, then? As we know, St. C's is enjoying a renaissance as a social venue producing revenue to assist with high maintenance costs. Jolly good!

No-one ever takes any notice of polite requests in this publication to stop their boundary hedges from obstructing public footpaths. The PC in its infinite wisdom will therefore send polite notes through all doors in the vicinity of offenders (so that they will not feel victimised and so no-one is falsely accused)! As this has always had a nil effect I think we should bring back the stocks. If nothing else, this would provide a distraction for the youths (apparently coming from miles around) who now enjoy the play facilities at the school until late evening. They were still crashing around there at 9.30 p.m.

OK. It's now time for Dencora, and well worth the wait. When it seemed likely that a company would get it who divide agricultural land into strips for sale just wide enough for a caravan, a horse and a dog, others stepped in and bought it for about three times the asking price. I shall say no more here, but remember The Crier, June 2003?

Frank Readhead



01480 456789 Ermine Street Alconbury Cambs ADMIRAL WINDOWS

CONSERVATORIES

IT IS ONLY A SHED, BUT....

The National Art Collections Fund has just given £800,000 to Californian sculptor James Turrell to transform an 18th century shed in Yorkshire into a modern work of art by knocking a hole in the roof so that James can create another of his famous skyscapes.

Also, a shed is a major feature in the current Turner Prize exhibition. Even though it looks like a shed, and started life as a shed, we are told that it's a "celebratory statement of sculptural transformation". (See note at end for a fuller description).

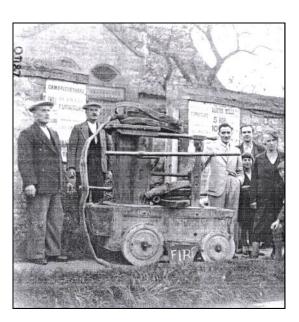


The shed portrayed by Tina Jost

SO, SHEDS ARE THE IN THING.

We are lucky to have a row of 18th century sheds in Swaffham Prior. And what are the venerable owners/trustees/guardians thinking of doing? They want to knock them down. These sheds were the privies/outhouses of four early 18th century facing Almshouses which have long been demolished. The reason given is the cost of maintenance. Possibly if the same group controlled the Cage that could also be under threat because all the Cage does is to house a useless 1791 wooden fire-engine and the building is quite expensive to maintain..

The sheds of the 18th century Almshouses do at least have a useful function in



..useless 1791 wooden fire-engine now housed in otherwise useless building quite expensive to maintain..

that they house the newspapers which are then shredded to make horse bedding. Just think, *Best Mate* may once have rested his head on your newspaper. I hope this is not dismissed as sentimentality.

The Village Hall Committee was lucky to have read in the *Crier PC Report* (where else!) about the proposal and the minutes of it's October meeting record that "Members of the Committee expressed horror at and disapproval of this suggestion because not only would it mean the loss of the Paper Shed but equally it would destroy some of our local cultural heritage."

BALONEY!!, some may say, and they may be right as we cannot always hang about in the past. If the sheds were erased and the ground levelled it would be possible to fit in two glass bottle bins (one for the coloureds and the other for the whites), a paper bin, and also a bin for plastic bottles. This could be a new asset for the Village, passers-by from Reach could use them, and the modernisers would be happy.

Is this not something for the Annual Assembly? After all this is a conservation village and a very good case could be made for putting a preservation order on the sheds. Don't forget what happened to our long lost and lamented Fountain.

Alastair Everitt

PS. The Turner Prize shed was found by sculptor Simon Starling on the banks of the River Rhine. He bought it, demolished it, converted it into a boat, put all the left over wood into the boat, paddled up the river until he reached Basel, where he turned it all back into the shed



HOW ABOUT A DIFFERENT SORT OF BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS?

REMEMBER THOSE STORIES WITH A BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END?

EIGHTEEN OF THAT SORT IN THIS JUST-PUBLISHED COLLECTION:

YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL, by Charles H.Pearson

AND THREE ARE LOCALLY BASED. ALL KINDS OF CHARACTERS, FROM A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR WHO CAN'T STOP SNEEZING AND RED INDIAN STOCK CAR RACERS, TO A RELUCTANT GHOST AND A BEETLE -COLLECTING PARSON. THROW IN SOME FOOTBALL PLAYING ALIENS (WHY NOT?) AND MONSTER INSECTS AND THERE'S ENTERTAINMENT APLENTY. CARTOONS AS WELL, ALL FOR LESS THAN A TENNER!

For a signed copy send cheque for £7.95 plus £1 postage and packing, to Charles Pearson, 6, Pound Way, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CBS ONL.

Margaret Tattman - Crier Profile Part II

In this second instalment of her riveting memoirs, Margaret tells how she got her beloved Airey House, and how Gladys Pope, her husband's adoption sister, was forcibly transported to Australia by Barnardo's

SNOWY WAS STILL IN THE NAVY when I came in '45. Other lasses used to say, in't half a nice looking lad live at Rose and Crown, so when he was home on leave we used to go and have a look at him. He was engaged, but I s'pose, in the war, all that time he were away, that didn't work out. I don't care, because I had him.

If you got into trouble you wouldn't go home. Mam's'll have'em back nowadays, won't they? But if you made your bed you'd got to lie on it, you'd got to get on with it. And we'd wanted to get married: I mean Snowy wasn't a kid, he was 26, he'd done nearly 7 years in t'Navy, and she wouldn't sign t'paper. You had to have permission if you were under 21 so - I lived at Rose and Crown with my mother in law, Florence Webb - she kept t'Crown - and we waited right till last post on Friday night before we were getting married Saturday morning, and my friend's mother forged my mother's signature. It weren't me dad – me dad was much more...no. I mean, I didn't want to be pregnant at 20. If she'd given permission - I mean, we'd nothing! We come out of Rose and Crown and we squatted – in the cottage across the road from the pub; then we waited till Elsie, this first one here (indicates her neighbour's house) and her husband moved out of the Nook to live in the farm houses at the top of t'hill - it had been requisitioned so we knew it was going...so we got that.

"For about 10 hours a day. I kept coming and watching 'em build Airey houses up the hill, and then I cried when I didn't get one!"

No, I didn't have a penny, I never earnt anything in the Land Army - equivalent to 10p a day, when they took your board out. For about 10 hours a day. I kept coming and watching 'em build Airey houses up the hill, and then I cried when I didn't get one! No, it was horrible. Joan Bradley got one - we were about a year before we got one, and it was like heaven. Where they put them two new houses in - Margaret Arksey, she was my neighbour. I mean, we still hadn't got anything – all the floors were black pitch. we'd got nothing on 'em, only a bit o'coconut matting near t'fire - but it didn't matter, we were together, that's all as mattered. That was was heaven not having to go across t'garden to fetch water, and going up t'garden to do youknow-what! Y'see, young uns, see, they're not made same. They'd had everything - even my daughter, she were ten before we had a television, we'd no money. My husband was 49 before we had a car. We were the old brigade that, if you couldn't afford it, you didn't have it. But it didn't hurt us, didn't hurt us. We made it, We were only young.

He didn't like it but the name Snowy stuck. I always called him by his proper name, but nobody else did, it was always Snow or Snowy. Philip Tattman. I've been to different places, see if I can find another Tattman. I've find a Tatman with a single T, couldn't find it with a double. He was adopted from when he was 6 weeks old, from a Catholic place in Cambridge for unmarried mothers. They adopted him but they never...I've got a some of his books from church with Philip Webb, and a lot of people knew him as Philip Webb, but he wasn't, he was Tattman. When I left Pye's I took a lump sum with a death policy, and when he went I had to alter it to next of kin. I lost it, but I eventually got through to Philips in London, and I was going to renew what I'd lost, and she gave me a number. Within a couple of seconds, she

". Out of the blue one day, two men came in a big black taxi and forcibly took her away...."

said 'I'm sorry, I've given you another Tattman's' – but I can't make enquiries because Philips is sealed until after I'm gone. I thought, what a small world, to go through Philips and find another Tattman, but there's none in the street directory or anything. They said she was a girl that worked for the well-off families. Happened a lot in them days, didn't it.

Then my mother-in-law had another little girl from Cambridge, Gladys Pope. I wasn't there then but she was so full of rickets she couldn't even walk, and my mother-in-law had her until she was 14. Well, her mother didn't want her, but she wouldn't let my mother-in-law adopt her. Out of the blue one day, two men came in a big black taxi and forcibly took her away and she was one of the unfortunate ones that was sent to Australia by Doctor Barnado's - that's why I went to Australia later, to see her. I'd never met her, but we'd written and photographs and all that. She daren't fly - she said if there'd've been a bridge she'd've walked to come back and see. Why couldn't they have left her alone? They had a terrible time, they never saw daylight. The whole six weeks they were down in the hold of the ship. Then they were put out to these farmers to be abused and whatnot. And she was lovely. She had four daughters and a son, so she got something out of her life, but there were thousands of them sent, weren't there? A bloke at Burwell'd got a school photo. The daughters in Australia thought she were took away about 4 years old, but that wasn't true, that's what Doctor Barnado's'd told – but we got proof she was at Swaffham Prior School, and I had the photo sent off to Australia for them to see, to prove that she wasn't sent when she were four year old. I mean, Sid (Prince) went to school with her - lived next door to her. And there was an old lady who lived in number 6, Mrs Andrews, she lived in the East Road district of Cambridge, which was poor area – not so poor now, but it was then – and this Gladys Pope, her mother was called Gladys too...she lived in a little street called



Compass Passage. Mrs Andrews knew somebody that wrote books about Cambridge and he came to see her - and he'd written a book about Gladys' grandmother and grandad Pope. They used to do busking outside Victoria cinema on't Market Square - so I got this book and I took it to Australia. But Gladys said if she could ever have met her mother she would have slit her throat. It was ever so sad - she had a clear plastic bag that high full of letters from my mother in law. Course, they'd all been opened and censored, in the war, and it always finished up with my mother-in-law saving 'please come home'. But of course, she never did. So sad, in't

Her husband Ned came and found us. He was on a round the world trip. 1981. Knocked on front door one night. He stayed for a few days and we went to Wicken to take photos of me mother-in-law's grave for Gladdie. That were nice. Snowy wouldn't go. He'd been sunk, had claustrophobia. He was on the Penelope out of 1400 only 400 survivors and he was one of them. I've still got the papers of where he was missing presumed dead, but he wasn't. He was picked up by the Queen Mary. They went to New York for six months, till there was another ship. They nicknamed it Pepperpot, where it'd been hit so many times and they'd plugged it, till it got sunk. On the Russian convoys. We've tried for a number of years to get the Russian convoy medal, but now it's not possible. Something come from the admiralty, and there's some clause. He should have had it when the others did. They built a new Penelope and they had it in the Pool of London, but he was too ill to go; two survivors from the Penelope, one from Jesus College, one from King's, gardeners, seen his name and address, came to see him here. I mean, at eighteen...eh? He was a volunteer, he wasn't called up.

> As told to Mark Lewinsky Continued next month ...

The Village Variety Show



NOT A RABBIT IN SIGHT but in his place a multi-themed performance. A "Two Ronnies" tribute act by Mark Lewinski and Andrew Noyes was the theme for the first act but only, they told us, for the first act ("a game of two halves, Ron"?). Running alongside this and throughout was the religious joke, appropriately for a church fund-raiser, and centrepieced by Frank Readhead



mid-way through the first act. But should Frank have started his act by noting that "protestants don't have a sense of humour, and I'm a protestant"?

The second act was to be given over to an altogether different kind of presenter, not it must be admitted unknown to the editors, who rattled things along with the occasional Paxmanesque aside: "and now for another tear-jerking song" — pause — "but that's because it's sad!". Which was true but unfortunately open to misinterpretation.

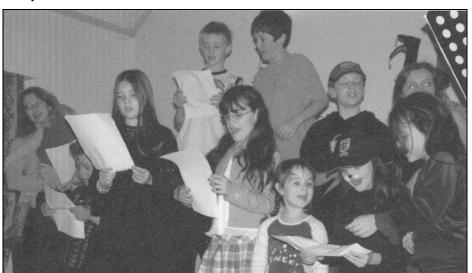


The children of the village did us proud with a variety of singing, dancing and playing of musical instruments. But, with a very few honourable exceptions, grown-ups where were you? Will you only perform when Hilary is there to organise you into doing so?

Was the raffle rehearsed? After a long run of tickets in the 500s, which prompted the Crier's editor-in-chief, an eminent statistician in her spare time, to note the statistical improbability of this sequence. But we were soon to discover that this was just the set-up for the best religious joke of the evening: the final winning number was 666. And the winner with great good humour was Betty Prime.

The finale didn't quite come off as intended. Our compère was going to introduce the Vicar at the end with a reference back to Frank's act but the Vicar (perhaps wisely?) reached the stage first. And then unexpectedly, the "Two Ronnies" returned to compensate for, as they explained, a too short second act. And finally, communal singing. The rabbit and friends never managed that.

James Matheson



Cool gifts for kids

A fantastic selection of colourful bags and toys made by Barefoot in Sri Lanka using hand-woven cotton fabric, designed by Barbara Sansoni.

Shop Online at: www.cooltoysandbags.com

The Pied Piper of Hamelin Jan 12th — 14th



Winter Production 2006

HASN'T 2005 GONE FAST? Another year has already passed Now again we are at the time For your local Pantomime.

The "Pied Piper" of Hamelin's here
The chosen Panto for this year
Performed in January 2006
Bottisham is where you will get your
kicks

Learning Scripts from page to page Smiling faces to light the stage Singing and dancing to fill the hail A magical time for one and all

Colourful costumes for us to wear Bright cheery music to fill the air So get your tickets and be prepared To have some fun and get quite scared

Mums, Dads and all the family too There's something for everyone EVEN YOU

Buy your tickets — tell all to go Come along and enjoy the show!

Support the cast (Ali White, Tom Fell, April Cook, Sarah Tennant Mark Anson, Val Quy, David Fisher, Ted Sketchley Marika Newman, Brian Watson and many more) . We will be performing in Bottisham Village College Main Hall Thursday, Friday 12th and 13 7.30p.m. and Saturday 14th January 2006 at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Ticket prices will be £7.00 with concessions at £5.00 on Thursday and Saturday Matinee only (no concessions on Friday and Saturday night).

The setting will be in the traditional format with refreshments served in the interval.

Purchase your tickets from early December from Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham, Tina's North Street Burwell and via our own telephone booking line 01223 812911 (not Lushers) or this year through a link on our web site

www.Bottisham players. org. uk

Tickets must be paid for prior to production or will be available at the door subject to availability.

The Poppies 14 Ditchfield Reach Cambs. CB5 OJA 01638 742814, Email:gnk@reach-village.co.uk

FOR SALE

Child's Car Seat, 7-22lbs, £15
Small Stroller £15
High Chair (also converts to small seat and table) £15
HARDLY USED

Contact Betty Fox, 742000

In a first ever contribution to the Crier, long-time fen-dweller Angela Nesbit defends the country-side she grew up in and writes:

IN PRAISE OF FLAT FEN COUNTRY

I AM SO OFTEN STRUCK BY NEGATIVE DESCRIPTIONS of flat fen country. OK, Ophir, (November Crier) yours was a humorous piece, about a boring bloke called Cliff – 'All Cliff had to master, then, was the *utter monotony* of the flatlands' and his favourite poet declares '*Nothing, but* flat fens there I could see.' But it's fairly common to hear some such comments for real: 'So *flat*', people say miserably.

I grew up on marshland near the sea in Norfolk. If you dug a hole 3 feet deep it filled with water. I supposed all the world was like this, a thin crust of land with water just below. At 5 years old I wondered what those things called hills might be like and drew pictures of cows standing at crazy angles on a rounded hump, there being not the slightest demonstration of this phenomenon nearby, and no TV transmitter then to show me.

At 8 years old we sailed on planks of wood down the deep ditches (we could swim), caught sticklebacks and the odd newt in our bare hands, played on the river mud at low tide, made huts in the long grass and reeds. 'Be home before sunset' was the iron



.....and messing about in boats on the Norfolk coast



A pig-tailed Angela and friend in Best Frocks pictured against 1950's fen country

rule from the protective parents, the sun setting slowly over the marshes to the west.

I was eleven when I saw my first real hills on a brief visit to the Cotswolds. For a while as an adult, hills fascinated me, the ups and downs, and the interesting rocky bits the farmers couldn't plough..... until I *lived* among them in Scotland. In summer the sun would often hide behind them half the day, in winter maybe never hit the ground. They blocked your view, got between you and that sky, stifled the fresh breeze in summer, cosseted the frost in winter.

In recent years I have reverted, as one does. No space is too big, no land too flat, too empty for me. A shack out on a shingle bank by open marshes would suit me fine, struck by the first and last rays of the sun.

Am I the only one who loves flat open land, open to sunrise and sunset, the marshes, water shining on long dykes and waterways, the quality of light and great panoramic skies? Stand up and be counted those who love these landscapes, and pity those who see only monotony there.

Angela Nisbet



The traditional pursuit of Welsh bingeing

A RETURN TO THE PAST?

THIS IS A SHORT EXTRACT from a memoir by Captain Robert Thomas which he wrote on his voyage in 1883 to San Francisco. Because his time at sea left him little time with his family he wrote his memoir especially for his eldest daughter. This section deals with December 1864 which he recalled as his sixth Christmas afloat. He tells his daughter about Christmas in his childhood.

"You must remember that in those days [about 1840s] carol singing was very popular about Christmas, for when I was a child there always was a service at Llandwrog Church on Christmas morning, and composed mainly of carol singing, but often attended with much riots, which put a stop to it. And then it was held in the evening, and this again had to be stopped on account mostly of riot, for

in those days there was no limit to time of closing public houses. Indeed it was common for people to make it a night of drinking and toffee making and only went out to attend the church at 4 a.m. Carols were not sung by whole choirs but by single individuals which very often I am ashamed to say were half drunk."

Llandwrog is in Snowdonia in North Wales.

Like many others I am a little surprised that such liberal drinking occurred in North Wales. But it seems that unlicensed drinking was allowed until the Defence of the Realm Act of 1914 prohibited the making of soldiers or sailors drunk while they were engaged in the defence of railways, docks or harbours. It soon appeared advisable to extend the restriction to some of the civilian population such as those making munitions, and by 1916 the control had extended over the whole country. The authorities in the early twentieth century appeared to think that extended hours of drinking led to excessive drinking.

Nearly one hundred years later the Department of Culture, Media and Sport has decided that **by extending the hours of drinking the amount of liquor consumed will decrease. Who is right and who is wrong?** I think that as long as they restrict the "Toffee Making" then things will not be too bad.

Alastair Everitt

<u>"Stepping out"</u>

ADULT TAP DANCING CLASSES

REACH VILLAGE HALL EVERY TUESDAY

7PM - 8PM: ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS NEW CLASS FOR JANUARY

8PM - 9PM: EXISTING CLASS AND ANYONE WHO HAS TAPPED BEFORE NEW TERM COMMENCES JANUARY 10^{TH} 2006

LEARN SOMETHING NEW - HAVE FUN - GOOD EXERCISE - FRIENDLY GROUP

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Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



Mulled Wine * Cakes * Crafts * Raffle * Gifts * Lucky Dip * Games

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"The Tragic Loss of the Le**er 'T' "

(As Wm McGonagall migh* have bewailed i*.)

Oh! Wha* has become of the le**er 'T'? Tha* has served us so well and so faithfully? I* has served us so well, and to i* we have go* endeared, Now, from everyday speech i* has all bu* disappeared. We've go* used to hearing i* a* the cen*re of words. And a* the ends too, bu* wha* is absurd's all we can hear is a gu**eral sound Tha* takes much more effor*, or so I have found. Even celebri*ies, who vou'd think would know be**er Are defaul*ing in their du*y to sound this impor*an* le**er; For though i* is small, to sound i* is vi*al, And thus to con*inue with this poignan* reci*al. Before i* goes al*ogether, and the nex* to exi* is planned, Le* us reins*a*e i*, so i*'s heard again in the land. We have bu* twen*y six le**ers in our alphabe* -Le* us no* lose any more, tha* we migh* well regret*!

Ophir.

Burwell Village Twinning Association 10th Anniversary

Are you a musical family or individual? Are you interested in foreign exchange?



Then come and join a group of like-minded people to link with similar musicians in France.

Join the band or sing in the choir! All ages welcome - any instrument or voice

We aim to produce a celebratory performance on Sunday April 30th 2006.

Instrumentalists contact Jenny Sewell 01223 811632, email:jennysewell@cooptel.net

Singers contact Celia Waterhouse 01638 604667 email: celia@waterhouse-music.co.uk

Seasons Greetings from Bottisham Royal British Legion

The festive month begins with the Savings Club share out on Saturday 3rd December, the extra cash will come in handy to buy presents and Christmas fare.

Bingo will be held on Sundays 4th and 18th December.

On Saturday 10th December you can dance with the 6 'T's 8 p.m. till late, members £3 and their guests £5, why not begin the evening with Christmas dinner in the Poppy Restaurant, open from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. £15 per adult/£7.50 per child.

The restaurant is also open on Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th December from 12.15 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. and Friday 16th December from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. prices as above. Booking is essential, phone 01223 812063, you can visit the Legion at 31 Downing Close to view our menus.

We have a Quiz Night on Saturday 17th December.

The Christmas draw will be on Monday 19th December when you will be able to sing Christmas carols with Newmarket Town Band.

Saturday 24th December is the Christmas Eve Disco.

Tuesday 27th December, Digger will be playing his music and on Saturday 31st December 'Dance Trax' will play at the New Year's Eve Dance. There will also be a buffet, the tickets are £12 for members and £15 for their guests.

New members are welcome.

Jacky Cameron.

Saturday 10th December 2005, Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham 7:30 pm Cantilena Singers, A Festival of Christmas Music Director Daniel Spreadbury

Programme:

- Lullaby my sweet little baby Byrd
- This day Christ was born Byrd
- The Twelve Days of Christmas arr. Carter
- Still, Still, Still Gant
- The Holy Boy Ireland
- O magnum mysterium Lauridsen
- There is no rose Macmillan
- In the bleak mid-winter Walker
- Canite tuba Palestrina
- Somerset Wassail Rutter
- Silent night Sargent plus - Rutter, Howells, more.

Tickets on the door.

Visit our website at www. cantilena.info or call R. Braun 01223 812115



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

"The old one page
"Occasional Licence"
(cost £10) has been
replaced by a new 20 page
'Temporary Event
Notice' (cost £21) "

Many may have heard that 50% of the Village Halls in Yorkshire are closing because of the lack of volunteers. This was linked by some to the new Licensing Act. This has certainly caused us a bit of a problem but we are now through it.

The old one page "Occasional Licence" (cost £10) for the sale of Liquor has been replaced by a new 20 page "Temporary

Event Notice" (TENs) (cost £21). At least 14 days notice has to be given and it may be longer. The new Act comes into effect on 24 November but no documentation or final details have been received at the time of writing (18 November).

Therefore we are not sure about the detailed procedure but we do know that a **TEN can only be requested if the Committee has given its permission** as we only allowed 12 TENs per annum.

Because of increased oil and electricity costs there will be some price increases from 1 January 2006. This will not affect events already booked.

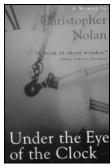
The following dates have been elected in the 2006 calendar for the following Village Hall arranged events

13 May --- The Village Feast 9 September --- The Harvest Show 13 December --- Carol Singing at the Village Hall



Village event enthusiasts will notice that we are not having a Jumble Sale this year. But there will be an extra large one in 2007. We hope everyone is happy to wait.

Alastair Everitt



The Reading Group Reads.... UNDER THE EYE OF THE CLOCK

Despite torrential rain six of us gathered at my house to discuss Under The Eye Of The Clock, by Christopher Nolan. Written when the author was 20 and first published in the 80s, this book won the Whitbread prize and created much interest.

Born with severe cerebral palsy and unable to communicate except by eye movements, the discovery that he could, after

immense effort, use a type-writer with a pointer on his forehead and with his head steadied by his mother, was an electrifying escape from dumbness by the author and he used words with an almost drunken abandon. Several of us were irritated by his strange and, apparently affected, use of words and we were agreed that his changes from "purple prose" to ordinary writing were unsettling. However, his passionate desire to open a door of communication to others, condemned by their physical condition to a life of silence, could not fail to touch us. On the whole we were glad to have read it.

Natalie Macmillan.



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 - · Spa
- · Jewellery

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We congratulate Anita Lang, the winner of last month's crossword competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Julian Lutrell, Dee Noyes and Robert & Julie Nunn.

Crossword Number 28

Sponsored by The Red Lion



Compiled by **NIBOR**

The festive season just wouldn't be the same without our bumper Christmas crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 10th December 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.

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Name:
Adress
Tel:

Across

- 1 Young Leslie follows tin drum leader to get light sticks (7)
- **4** Its charms are affected by the time of year (9)
- **9** Send back to the fourth dimension (4)
- **10** A sickly drink upsets lawn slob (8)
- 11 44 are at home near this point-to-point (5,4)
- 13 Upset after keen beginner goes to celtic church (4)
- **17** At 4 and 9, 15 may be found on it (4)
- **18** 4 types of rays accademics follow (4)
- 19 Look not thou upon the ---- when it is red (OT) (4)
- **20** Stick up a chump (3)
- 21 Fruity accompaniment to the 4 and 46 (11)
- **23** It may follow the 18 and 46 (3)
- 24 Tarzan? he was confused in Israel (8)
- **25** Gold and platinum found outside Liverpool perhaps (4)
- 28 Upset, enemies threw 27 down (5,4,3)
- **30** Instrument played by Greek character, an obnoxious leader (5)
- 31 Return old records in slog back for old books (7)
- **33** Tiptoe in as tangled plant emerges (10)
- **34** Pat goes back to find bug (3)
- **35** Funny biro with name attached seen on a 4 and 1 down perhaps (5)
- **38** Drink and eat out (3)
- 39 Shoots and leaves with 4 and 46 (7)
- **42** Set fire to short books (3)
- 44 Animal is not 26 we hear; check first (8)
- **45** 15 initially running in bother boots on new snow (7)
- **46** May be put in the 36 at 4 (6)

Down

- 1 Joker found on California highway (4)
- 2 4 play and I get six in dapper surroundings (8)
- **3** Food for many in research establishment (4)
- **5** Unrefined about big fight (3)
- **6** Get on reassessing crazy 4 message (7,9)
- 7 Reflected on 19 for seasonal drink (6,4)
- **8** Hose in which to put 4 and 25 down (9)
- 10 Three points about love may fall from the sky (4)
- **12** Meat may be high in the morning (3)
- **14** Welsh leader making music press cover for 25 down (8,5)
- 15 Medals may be seen on the 4 and 17 (11)
- **16** One of the 15, strangely hidden inside (5)
- **20** Sweet Cicely, first take my yellow Rolls Royce home (5)
- **21** Essential with 4 and 46 (and 21 and 39) (5,8)
- 22 Claret had been decanted at the Bishop's house (9)
- 25 Introduces the contents of 4 and 8 (8)
- **26** Cold stack is tacky (5)
- 27 Soldier follows mother to find 28... (4)
- 29 ...coming from this direction (4)
- **32** Corrupt nationalists have no asian cheese (7)
- **36** In which you might find the 4 and 46 (4)
- **37** A 39 40 in the 29 and led the 28 here (3)
- **39** Old Bob the sailor seen at night (4)
- **40** Sort of 19 came to life again (4)
- **41** Thin crop (4)
- **43** A type of match to try (4)

School News

Children learnt about what happened to their harvest donations when Ken Smith from Cambridge Food Bank visited assembly. Children's generosity supported Milton Hospice and the homeless. Children also learnt about the waste associated with the food industry and how the Foodbank works to redistribute food.



As usual, after half term, there was a wonderful display of vegetable carvings. This year's theme was Fairy Tales. Well done to Nick Bryan for the most grim, Chris Bridgeman for the scariest, Anya and Kasia Tabecka for the ugliest, Tim White for the sweetest and Mia Blanks for making the Snow Queen.



Just two of the entries. As usual, many children took part.

We pride ourselves on being creative school, taking opportunities to enhance the curriculum and make links between subjects. A special day for Guy Fawkes saw children experiencing drama, working in teams and writing reports linked to this historical event. Lots of children also had a special Bonfire lunch.

Members of Class 3 making a Guy.



Extract from a Class 3 Newspaper report Gunpowder! Treason! And Plot!

On Friday 4th of November Class 3 at Swaffham Prior School had a Guy Fawkes day where they learnt about when Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

They were acting out the story of the gunpowder plot. There teacher said "They had a brilliant time acting it out." Ryan acted out Robert Gatesby. He said, "I enjoyed being Robert Catesby." Matthew Hobbs played King James.

The Story of Guy Fawkes by Alexander Jost Class 1

Once upon a time there was a King. He was making some rules and some people didn't like the King. They wanted to kill the King so they had a plan. The plan was horrible. So they got some gunpowder and tried to light the gunpowder but the policeman got them just in time. They arrested them and took Guy Fawkes to the King and the King put Guy Fawkes in prison. They found some of the other men and they arrested them too. The King said "Let's have bonfire night every year on November 5th"

Please keep sending in your mobile phones, aluminium cans and used ink cartridges. This is just a small part of our work as we aim for our Bronze Eco Award.

There have been lots of visits for our 17 reception places for September 2006. Applications must be made to the school by

December 9^{th} 2005. Contact the school if you have not yet arranged a visit or received an application pack.

Joanna Lakey

Community dates

December 5th 3pm Christmas fair 3pm

December 15th 11am Church service St Mary's December 20th 1.30pm End of term assembly

Spring Tem 2006 starts Thursday 5th January

Monday 16th 8pm January FoSPS meeting 8pm





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.

Down on the Farm -

FARM THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

I'M SITTING IN A HOTEL ROOM, with my laptop in front of me, in Hanover in Germany. I'm attending the largest farm machinery show in Europe, probably the world, called Agritecnica. Fifteen hundred companies are represented here from 34 different countries. The biennial show is host to every farm machinery



manufacturer and associated company that can claim an agricultural connection.

The first thing that would strike anyone who has not attended before is the sheer size of the event and venue with at least 12 halls the size of Earls Court all full with glistening machines and in addition numerous stands located outside. The whole exhibition area covers over 21 hectares, nearly 52 acres!

Farmers from all over Europe attend this event including quite a substantial number from the UK. The best way to get to it is to buy a nice new and very expensive piece of machinery and wait for the manufacturer to throw in the trip as a bonus. Alas, I was not so lucky this year – *aaaahhhhhh* (thought we could get into panto mood seeing as this is the December issue...) and I have had to make my own way here. The blessing with this is that I will not have to go through the manufacturer's "factory tour and initiation in to all machinery and products" blurb – *hurray (more* audience participation ...) and can make my own timetable to suit me.

So, I have set my own agenda and plan to have a good general look round and then to go back to a few specialised stands as I am particularly interested on this trip at looking into ways of producing and saving our own energy on the farm, either oil or electricity.

Most of Europe is light years ahead of us whether it is producing fuel from oil seed rape or heating houses with materials such as wood chippings, straw or even waste grain. But while technology surrounds us as a nation our Government, industries, planners etc to not seem eager to invest time and money in exploring these avenues more fully and in some cases even appear to put hurdles in the way of facilitating these sorts of changes.

One hall at the exhibition has a huge number of stands which encourages and sells ways of producing power from cow muck. The muck is processed which produces a gas which drives generators thus producing electricity which is then either used directly on the farm or passed on to the Grid.

"Most of Europe is light years ahead of us whether it is producing fuel from oil seed rape or heating houses with materials such as wood chippings, straw or even waste grain."

Another large and growing interest is in solar energy. It became quickly very apparent that on the Continent it is becoming a matter of course that whenever a new building is constructed, be it a house or cattle shed, the roof is seen as a very good, and as yet on the whole unused, area to generate power from utilising the sun. The range and enthusiasm for these projects is staggering – we have so much catching up to do in our country. The solar panels on display can work independently

or in conjunction with furnaces, which can burn everything from wood chippings, straw and even wheat or barley. The poor price we get at the moment for these products makes using them as a fuel resource more and more attractive. All of these initiatives and ideas coupled with new technology seem to me as the only way the farmer can now go.

In Germany the farmer pays a lot more for tractor diesel than we do so every endeavour is being made to look for and develop alternative fuels and at refining current engines and systems to make them more efficient. These efforts range from producing bio diesel from oil seed rape to producing tractor tyres whose pressures automatically adjust on the move thus making the machine and its fuel consumption more efficient.

It is extremely disappointing to witness the very visible and distinct lack of British companies represented here. Apart from JCB there is no wholly owned British company making tractors any more. Whilst there are a lot of tractors made in Basildon (New Holland, formally Ford) and Doncaster (McCormack) these are multi-nationals, and any farmer wanting to buy a combine can only choose from a foreign make.

On our farm the only thoroughbred British tractor we own is the JCB, the only British success story amongst hordes of foreign machinery. In addition the farm sprayer and our trailers are British but all our other major machinery is sourced from European and American companies – large tractors USA, small tractor and combine Germany, ploughs Norway and France, seed drill and some of the cultivation equipment Sweden, fertiliser spreader Denmark and so on.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three days at the show in Germany, but in my small and comfortable hotel room I reflect on some of the old farming books that I have at home of my father's with all the black and white pictures of machinery when it was **all** British – what has happened over the years? It's not all down to cheap imports



Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

James Willmott

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IT WAS A VERY MISERABLE NIGHT, damp, cold and foggy, when the WI met on November 21st. However, the Rev. Canon Reindorp soon had us in fits of laughter with his talk "Millionaire or Bust".

He had traced his family back to its Russian roots (rape and pillage was mentioned but he didn't dwell on it!). When he passed round photographs, we were able to see pictures of some of his ancestors, himself as a baby, and again in the sixties with fashionable sideboards and a velvet suit. Members of the family have been Army Chaplain, Naval Chaplain and even

Canon Reindorp himself started his business career in Lloyds of London, then studied social work before deciding to become a Vicar. We heard how he met his wife: how on their honeymoon they managed to flood their hotel room by leaving the bath taps running and how they went to sea in a pedal boat and had to be rescued. They live in Cambridge, where Canon Riendorp is Vicar of St. John's, Hills Road, but in the New Year they will be moving to London when he takes up his position of Vicar in a Church in Chelsea.

Sheriff in America. Several have gone into the ministry.

I don't think he realised his ambition to become a millionaire— but there's still time!

We shall be holding our annual Christmas Party on Monday, 5th December. Member please note.

Betty Prime



STAINE HUNDRED

The Speaker at the November Meeting, appropriately, talked about War Memorials. Maggie Richardson and her husband Colin are Regional Volunteers for the War Memorials Trust. In this capacity they monitor existing war memorials, and give advice on getting grants when repairs are needed. She stressed the importance of the

protection and conservation of War Memorials which come in all manner of forms.

First she showed slides of various memorials which can be dedicated to a single person, a group of people, a regiment or to the ordinary people of the villages who lost their lives in one of the World Wars. A memorial in Park Lane London has recently been unveiled which is dedicated to the animals and birds who lost their lives through the war. Another is dedicated to the Women who died during the Wars. We saw slides of memorials in schools, memorial halls, obelisks, cenotaphs, crosses, plaques on walls but it was a pity that we weren't always told where they were.

At the end of the slide show she talked about the information packs that the War Memorials Trust are getting out for local schools who usually include the war years in their school curriculum. She had examples from Bottisham, Burwell, the Swaffhams and the Wilbrahams. In many cases these include details of the people

whose names appear on the memorials with their ages, where they died, and something about the family to try to bring them alive to the younger generations. There were several questions and comments and the speaker was thanked by the Chairman, Maureen Rogers.

The next meeting will be on December 14th at 7.30 pm in the Lecture Room which will take the form of a "Christmas celebration."

Peggy Day



From our Local County Councillor Hazel Williams

IT HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED that the Government has awarded Cambridgeshire, in partnership with Stagecoach, £2.5 million for a package of measures to improve public transport. It will be targeted at specific routes including Cambridge-Newmarket-Ely as well as many routes in the City. As well as increasing the frequency of buses it will include improving facilities at bus stops and raising kerbs to give better accessibility, real time bus information and smartcard ticketing.



117 bids were made from authorities across the UK but only 43 received funding. Cambridgeshire received the most money, more than three times the next highest award.

The County Council has recently completed a reorganisation of the jobs and titles of the senior managers. This was supposed to save money, but according to recent figures instead of saving any money this year, it has actually cost the council over half a million pounds! Lib Dems are concerned that services will now have to be cut to pay for it.

At the most recent Council meeting there was considerable debate about the

"The County Council has recently completed a reorganisation of jobs and titles of senior managers. This was supposed to save money, but cost the council over half a million pounds!"

(then) proposed relocation of Papworth to Addenbrookes. The Conservatives voted in favour of the relocation and the Liberal democrats voted against. Since then the hospital has decided that it will be moving.

Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvement Schemes. After assessment 6 have been chosen from 39 – Borough Green being the only one in the South of the District. Countywide there have been multiple cases of interactive speed signs failing so under the new Contract arrangements commencing next year improved maintenance would be put in place.

Admission numbers for next September in

reception are high in Burwell but after consultation with the head teachers from Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell they are manageable.

Hazel Williams 01638 743897



From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

More than just an office for ECDC

ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 25TH the full East Cambs District Council met at Ely to discuss, amongst other matters, the purchase of land at Angel Drove (Cambridgeshire Business Park) in order to facilitate the building of new office accommodation. However, the Council was in effect discussing far more. By the end of the debate the Independent group, supported by the Liberal Democrat group in particular, delivered a hammer blow to a vision that promised so much.



"By the end of the debate the Independent group, supported by the Liberal Democrat group in particular, delivered a hammer blow to a vision that promised so much...What a waste."

Consequent upon the purchase of the land and the building of new offices there would have opened up several inter-related strands of opportunity for the Council, Ely as a city and East Cambridgeshire as a district. And this against the now familiar backdrop of a rapidly growing region which, in some 10-15 years' time, will see some of the strongest percentage growth rates in the country.

At stake therefore were the realisation of an optimum site for a 300 plus space Park & Ride scheme for Ely (a vital plank in the plan to

ameliorate Ely's existing and future transport challenges), the release of several distributed pockets of Council-owned assets (which would have been sufficient to finance the purchase, build and occupancy of the new office accommodation) and an efficient office, fit for purpose in every way, ready to serve the current and future needs of our district.

Some grasp of the financial aspects is important here. Total project costs of £14.5m may have looked daunting at first glance. However the key to the plan lay in the swapping of certain redundant or partially redundant assets for a far greater, more productive and much more manageable asset. By providing the infrastructure at Angel Drove, ECDC, as potential owners of the full site, could have sold off the land not needed for its own development purposes (some 18 acres) in suitably sized

and timely packages and recovered something in the order of £5.4m at current values. At the same time government grants of £3.0m, offered but not yet fully confirmed, would almost certainly have been brought forward. It is also highly likely that the Council offices on site would have drawn further development that could have provided up to 1000 jobs locally, with all the attendant opportunities and advantages.

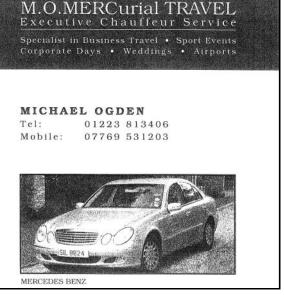
The prestigious city-centre site on which The Grange currently stands would have been saleable at some point (estimate £1.5m); further land at Willow Walk and Parade Lane, Ely would have raised an estimated £2.1m. This would have left a borrowing requirement of just £2.5m, plus the interest charges during the construction phase. In brief, by 2027 the Council would have fully owned its own flexible, efficient offices on a site of 3.5 acres at a present day value of £7.5m. The 3 acre Park and Ride site would have been a bonus. The continuing revenue benefits of £12.00 per home per year would then have been available for other council projects or services - all this without a penny extra on Council tax.

The result of the meeting, however, was a dispiriting and ultimately damaging burying of heads in the sand. There is to be no purchase of land at Angel Drove, no building of offices or other facilities, no resolution to the multi-site offices, no immediate prospect of assisting in the transport scheme, no guarantee of an efficient, manageable operation under one energy-conserving, compliant, leak-proof roof.

Instead we are left with the ageing and only partially compliant office accommodation at The Grange which will need substantial sums spent on it simply to meet its current let alone future requirements. The vision was ripped up and it has been replaced by a blank wall. There is no 'plan B'. It was simply decided, by a

majority vote, to go nowhere.

As a Council we are elected to serve the needs of the people of the district. We are also expected to show the lead on matters relating to the district as a whole. It is distressing to report that the vision, supported by 15 members of the Conservative group, died an untimely death on October 25th. We shall of course do all we can to build a new one. For now though it's a question of picking through the rubble. What a waste.



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Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public.

CCC Report: Councillor Williams reported to the meeting. **ECDC Report:** Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting. **Correspondence Received:** This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – *for information only*

- a) Coopers Lane barrier: New barrier now fully installed.
- b) *Recreation Ground:* Lease agreement between BTFC and Mr Hurrell with Solicitors. It was hoped a final lease document could be agreed in the near future.
- c) Village Sign: The repair & renovation work was nearing completion and would soon be reinstated.

Removal of Tree on Allotments: The costs involved to remove this tree were considered by all involved to be too high and as such it was agreed that the tree would remain. It was suggested that some cutting back of branches might be carried out.

Play Area: An insurance claim is to be submitted for the replacement of the damaged climbing frame net.

The Pound – *renovation works*: An application is to be submitted to ECDC for a grant towards the cost of the renovation works needed.

Rogers Road – *cutting of highway verges*: A request was received for extra cuts for the verges on both sides of Rogers Road from the 30mph speed sign up to the 'top road'. This area is currently cut as part of CCC's own cutting programme but it was felt that these cuts were not sufficient. An estimate of the cost for extra cuts will be obtained from K H Services.

Confirmation of Budget/Precept 2006/07: An estimated Precept figure of £13,750 was agreed.

Planning Application: (considered at Parish Council Planning Meeting – 27/10/05)

Land at Mill Hill – outline permission for residential development including associated landscaping.

This application was discussed at length and objections were recorded with ECDC as below:

One of the main concerns was the increased volume of traffic onto an already very busy and dangerous road, the B1102. In the report submitted with the application it noted that there would be sufficient visibility splays for cars leaving the development. The meeting did not agree with this noting the brow of the hill coming into the village from Burwell and the speed of the traffic despite the 40mph interactive warning signs.

Any alteration to the access would mean the removal of the lay-by at the front of the site. This would cause problems for local residents who have no other parking facility. The school bus for Bottisham Village College picks up children opposite the lay-by in the morning and uses the lay-by each afternoon as a drop off point. This already presents a serious hazard for children and other pedestrians crossing the

road. It was agreed that a road widening scheme with a pedestrian island would be needed, as well as a speed reduction to 30mph.

Any such development during its construction would cause extensive disruption to the road traffic particularly with only one access/egress point.

Any houses would seriously overlook surrounding properties particularly with this being such a high site. The physical impact would not be in keeping with the surrounding properties. Any proposed streetlighting would also have an impact.

Neighbouring properties have chalk embankments on their boundary with the site. Concerns were expressed about the stability of the site noting that it was on the edge of a chalk pit.

There followed a good deal of discussion with reference to the Local Plan. In the Local Plan Swaffham Prior is noted as an infill village. It was considered that such a development would not be in keeping with this. Concerns were raised about the number of houses that might be built on the site and although opposed to any development on this site, the meeting felt that 5No units should be the maximum considered.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed. **Any Other Business:**

It was noted that overhanging hedgerows were still a problem on parts of the footpath running from Coopers Green through to The Beeches. It was suggested that perhaps the Probation Service could help with cutting these back.

"Passing place" signs: CCC Highways are to be chased about replacement signs.

Repair to footpath on Rogers Road: Again, CCC to be chased.

Open Question Time:

No questions

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th December 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.



Hedged in!

Participants needed

to perform "readability testing" of patient information leaflets

We will provide you with a patient information leaflet for a particular medicine and we will ask you a few questions about the content. We want to know which parts are difficult to understand and how easy it is to find the information in the leaflet.

The test will take 30-45 minutes and a fee will be paid to each participant.

If you are interested or need further information, please contact: Jane Garner on 01638 743 396 or jane@smgarner.com



Zion Baptist Chapel

...Now broadcasting from Lode! Prior Baptists will be pleased to note that even though they have lost their own chapel, normal service is now resuming from Lode. Welcome to Simon Goddard, Lode's new minister.....

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30 with Sunday School.
For more information please contact:
Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388
Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB5 9EW.

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk
Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Services for Christmas 2005

Sun 27 Nov	10.30am	Advent 1.
Sun 4 Dec	10.30am	Advent 2 Family Service.
Sun 11 Dec	10.30am	Advent 3.
Sun 18 Dec	10.30am	Advent 4.
	6.00pm	Lode Chapel Carol Service
Sat 24 Dec	11.30pm	Joint Service of Welcoming-in
	Christr	nas at St. James Church
Sun 25 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship

ARE YOU GOOD AT CHOOSING GREAT GIFTS?

AS December all too quickly comes upon us, our minds naturally turn towards Christmas. Many of us, I guess, start feeling a bit anxious as we think of all of the presents that we need to buy. What do you get people when you know they already have everything they need? Perhaps this is the year for you to surprise your friends and family with something a little bit different! In the year when everyone from Gordon Brown to Bob Geldof has been seeking to 'Make Poverty History', a visit to the website www.greatgifts.org (or a call to 0845 600 6446) might be just the answer to your Christmas prayers.

The cheapest gift available on the site is the Screen Saver for £5 – but this gift isn't for somebody's computer! The Screen Saver is, in fact, a mosquito net which will help stop a child being one of the two million people killed every year by malaria. When you order a gift – ranging from £5 to £5,000 – it is actually somebody living in poverty who will benefit, whilst your friend or family member is



Lode Chapel

sent a personalised card which lets them know how somebody is better off as a result of a donation made in their name. They can breath a sigh of relief that they didn't get another pair of novelty socks and you can both feel that you have made a real difference to somebody's life.

Of course, this is a radical alternative, but you may be pleasantly surprised at how your friends react to you doing something a little bit different this Christmas! A less radical, but equally ethical choice, is to buy something that

has been fairly traded. A local business <u>www.one-world-is-enough.net</u> (tel: 01223 413322) offer a wide range of interesting and useful gifts from around the world as do <u>www.tearcraft.org</u> and <u>www.traidcraft.org</u>.

Did you know that Mary and Joseph were homeless when Jesus was about to be born, and that the whole family were refugees for the next couple of years? It somehow seems appropriate, therefore, that as we focus on the birth of Jesus, those less fortunate than ourselves should also be in our minds at this time of year. We look forward to seeing you at Lode Chapel this advent, and being able to personally wish you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Simon Goddard

Advance Notice

A ladies Bible study will be running over 10 Thursday evenings between January and July 2006. The study is based around a book by Beth Moore entitiled 'To Live is Christ', and a video which is shown during each session. A fee of £5-£7 will be payable to cover the cost of the book. Anyone interested should leave their details on the Chapel Answerphone (01223 811524) and Denise Wells, who is facilitating the study, will call you back. All women are welcome.



Travelling Nativity (Posada)

DURING ADVENT, an old Mexican custom uses the idea of people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelling around the villages, knocking at doors to see who will give them hospitality.

In our version of the Mexican celebration, knitted Mary and Joseph figures travel through the villages

of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach. They will stay with a different family each night throughout December until they reach their destination on December 24th They will then be added to the crib at Swaffham Prior church during the crib service on Christmas Eve.

If you would like Mary and Joseph to stay with your family in December, please contact Mandy Kingsmill (01638 742482).

Christmas Services



THE LIGHT OF LOVE CHRISTINGLE

Join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ, the light of the world, whose love shines in the darkest depths. Each child is given a traditional Christingle.

Sunday 4th December

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	9.30am
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham:	4.00pm

Sunday 11th December

St. Mary's Church, Quy	9.30am
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior	11.00am
St. James Church, Lode	4.00pm

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, with readers from throughout the village.

Sunday 18th December

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior:	6.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	6.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham:	6.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Quy	3.00pm
St. James Church, Lode	3.00pm





CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

A celebration of Christmas in words and Carols for all the Family

4.00pm on Christmas Eve in

St. James', Lode 3pm St. Mary's, Quy 3pm

St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior3pmHoly Trinity, Bottisham4.30pmSt. Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck4.30pm

24 December, 11.30pm - MIDNIGHT COMMUNION 25 December, 10am - CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

Work off that Christmas excess

Due to a small flurry of interest, the Reach exercise class (whose imminent demise was reported in the last issue of the Crier) will now reopen in January. If we can get enough participants joining at the first few sessions in the New Year, the class will continue to run.

Based in Reach Village Hall, the class is small and friendly, and very unthreatening for newcomers. The exercise is mostly low impact, with a lot of stretching and strengthening exercises thrown in. The pace of the class is ideal for those new to exercise or returning to it after a break, as well as anyone wanting to maintain a general level of fitness.

So come along and work off that Christmas excess. It's so convenient just down the road in Reach - you've got no excuse for putting it off!

Classes run from 7.30-8.30pm on Thursdays and restatt after the Christmas holidays on 5 January 2006. Why not join us for one session to see if you like it? Just come along to a class, or phone Sue on 01638 742884 for more information.

CHILLI - HUT

INDIAN TAKE-AWAY ALL-IN-ONE

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY (on orders over £10.00)
OPENING HOURS 12:00 am to 14.00
Evening 16.00 TO 22.00

Now Opening Sundays **01223 812500**

3J High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck



Church of England Services December 2005

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 4	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Christingle Service	11:00am Holy Communion 4:00m Christingle Service
Sun 11	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Christingle Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 18	11:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight	9:30am Holy Communion 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight	11:00am Family Service 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight
Sat 24	3:00pm Carols around the crib 11:30pm Midnight Communion	4:30pm Carols around the crib 11:30pm Midnight Communion	4:30pm Carols around the crib 11:30pm Midnight Communion
Sun 25	11:00am Benefice Communion		

December 2005, Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

It was the first day back to school after Christmas vacation, and the teacher used a good bit of the morning by going around the room and asking each child to tell how they spent Christmas. The first boy said, "Well, we are Catholics and we went to midnight mass and came home and went right to bed. The next morning we had a big breakfast and sat around the Christmas tree and opened all our presents." The second child then told her experience. "We are Methodists but we did about the same thing. We went to the Christmas Eve candlelight service and came home and went to bed. We had a big Christmas breakfast and then opened all our presents." The third child then said, "Well we aren't Christians. But we did have a big breakfast and opened presents around the tree. Then we all got into the car and went into town to my dad's department store. He showed us all the empty shelves. He showed us all the

money that had come into the tills. Then we made a circle around a till, joined hands, and sang, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'"

Well, the shops are all hoping for a bumper Christmas again this year. All this frenzied present giving goes back to Saint Nicholas who was born of wealthy parents in A.D. 280 in a small town called Patara in Asia Minor. He lost his parents early by an epidemic but not before they had instilled in him the gift of faith. Then little Nicholas went to Myra and lived there a life full of sacrifice and love and the spirit of Jesus. Nicholas became so Christ-like that when the town needed a bishop he was elected. He was imprisoned for his faith by Emperor Diocletian and released later by Emperor Constantine. There have been many stories of his generosity and compassion: how he begged for food for the poor, and how he would give girls money so that they would have a dowry to get a husband. The story most often repeated was about how he would don a disguise and go out and give gifts to poor children. He gave away everything he had. And in the year 314, he died. His body was later moved to Italy where his remains are to this day.

But the story of Nicholas has spread around the world. There are more churches in the world named after St. Nicholas than any other person in all the history of the church. But people have done strange things to him. The poet, Clement Moore, gave him a red nose and eight tiny reindeer. Thomas Nast, the illustrator, made him big and fat and gave him a red suit trimmed by fur. Others have given him the name Santa Claus. But what's important about him is that he had the mind of Christ. Because of his gentle selfless love, he touched the whole world.

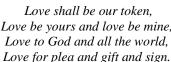
This surely is the true meaning of Christmas, as the lovely poem by Christina Rossetti tells us:

> Love came down at Christmas. Love all lovely. Love divine: Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels give the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine; Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token. Love be yours and love be mine. Love to God and all the world, Love for plea and gift and sign.





Love did indeed come down at Christmas in the form of a tiny defenceless baby who came to bring God's forgiving loves into our lives. So, let us recapture the true spirit of Christmas this year. :Let's give love rather than meaningless material gifts, and let us welcome the Christ-child into our hearts and 'Worship we our Jesus'.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

David

Dates for Your Diary - December 2005

Mon	5	School Christmas Fair, School Hall, 3pm—4.30pm WI Christmas Party, 7pm, VH
Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Sat	10	Cantilena Singers, 7.30pm, Hoy Trinity, Bottisham Bottisham British Legion Dance, 8pm
Sun	11	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	14	VH Carols, 7pm Staine Hundred Christmas Party, 7.30pm, BVC Lecture Room
Thu	15	School Christmas Service, St Mary's, 11am
Fri	16	
Sat	17	Holy Sale, Anglesey House, 12.00—1pm
Sun	18	Holy Sale, Anglesey House, 12.00—1pm
Mon	19	
Tue	20	1.30, End of Term Assembly, School Hall Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	24	Crib Service, 3pm St Mary's Midnight Communion, 11.30pm, St Mary's
Sun	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Mon	26	Boxing Day Hockey, Bulbeck Denny, 11am

And last, but not least.....



Letters to the Editors Continued



Dear Editors,

It was a good pie, though.

A Thief