



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 1

February 2004



Editorial

“...a community information website called UK Villages is helping to transform a local community of about 1,000 people. “We were getting fewer and fewer people coming to our fete each year, but when we advertised it on UK Villages, we had a 50% increase in attendance”...

Fifty percent!! Well, well, well.... The thing is, to test it out — so the Ed has very carefully placed an advert for our very own Grand Jumble Sale on the site. Now, some people in this village keep very careful statistics (see last 50 years of Hockey results in this issue!) so we are the ideal candidates for a controlled test, and we will soon see.

Preparations have *already* started to get the **Crier** on the Web. Last month's editorial asked for Web maestros, and.....they came! Going to be difficult though, but if all goes well, we'll be asking for a lot of volunteers to help transfer the old paper Criers. Computer versions only go back to 1997, and the Crier is now *29 years old*. This is really quite exciting (oh alright, *some* people might alternatively think it's *very boring!*) but it means we'll have a Web Archive which could then be linked to our village site (what happened to this?). Hence the importance of photos — more **Crier** photographers still needed!

Village Clubs, please get in touch with our Club Editor Chris Carrington (see left) with details of contact numbers — we want to publish these regularly in Crier.

Meanwhile, Cleo, healthy, friendly, pretty tabby female CAT **urgently seeks home**. Ring Maggie on 743891.

See you quizzing!

Caroline Matheson



UKVillages.co.uk

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Cover Picture: *Lonesome Pine* by June Readhead



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Christmas Holly

I would just like to say thank you very much to Elisabeth and Alastair Everitt for once again organising the advertising, cutting and sale of the Christmas holly in aid of the Church Flower Fund and the church. Each year they do all this, cheerfully and willingly, and those of us involved with the Church flowers, as well as all the happy customers, are very grateful.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

WANTED! Arthur Rank Hospice Volunteers

The Arthur Rank Hospice in Mill Road has about 200 volunteers who have a huge variety of jobs which include cake making, flower arranging, driving patients to appointments, shopping, helping on the tea bar, taking drinks around to the patients and helping out with clerical work or fund raising. I know I have missed out numerous services they provide! Some people are able to offer an hour a week, some a couple of hours a month. At the moment Chris Mulvey, the Voluntary Services Co-ordinator, is in urgent need of more drivers and flower arrangers. I am one of the flower arrangers and it simply involves taking in some fresh flowers and arranging them in vases in the public areas and then freshening-up the patients' flowers. If you have ever been unwell and had lots of flowers given to you I am sure you can appreciate how nice it is for the dead flowers to be removed and remaining flowers generally tidied up!

If this sort of voluntary work appeals to you and you have a little time to give please call Chris Mulvey on 01223 723145/6. If you would like to know more from me before you ring her, call me on 743720.

We do hope you can help this worthwhile cause; they are such a friendly group of people.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Bike on Dyke

On Sunday 2nd January we saw fresh tyre tracks on the Devils Dyke footpath, then a lad with a yellow helmet on a yellow motorbike displaying no registration plates and no road fund licence. He went along the Reach road towards Lower End. In the event of any large claim for damage or injury against a juvenile without insurance, those responsible for him/her could lose a lot, maybe their home. That would be an expensive bit of fun.

Frank Readhead

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
7.30 pm ❖ Saturday

26th FEBRUARY 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

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

RAMBLINGS OCCASIONED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 13TH JANUARY 2005.

WALKING through the village can be a source of great pleasure to those who enjoy collecting waste. It can be litter-pickin' good so, at the start of a new year, let us thank those selfless souls who rise briefly from primeval sludge to scatter their waste on footpaths and verges (some falls on stony ground) for the benefit of others.

OK, so litter was not on the agenda last night, but on the walk to the Village Hall there's enough of it to make one think along these lines. Signs at the VH entrance are a reminder too, that we have not won a best-kept village award for a year or two. Maybe the awards don't exist anymore. Maybe no village comes up to scratch. Mindless vandalism did come up for discussion though – the regular exhibition of physical aggression against the telephone call box and public signs. How one feels for those who can find no better entertainment. What sad and empty lives.

Cambridgeshire education is no longer good. That's official. It got better; now it's excellent. Well done, teachers! All your suffering was worthwhile. James Fitch also announced the failed bid for refuges from F1 drivers on Heath Road, but there will be road 'improvements' at Cemetery Corner in S Bulbeck and at the Lode/Bottisham crossroads. There may be a few weeks when you must rise earlier to get to work on time, but it will be worthwhile in the end.

Allen Alderson spoke of his concern about membership of the Licensing Committee now that this duty had been

removed from responsible people like magistrates to – well, er, ECDC councillors. He is unsure how to wear two hats. My advice is to wear one hat while staying in a pub for an illegal lock-in session. A quick look in the mirror will then show two hats. It really is that simple.

We can have a recycling place for plastic bottles here if we can agree a location. Now, put down your hands, and form an orderly queue. Everyone will get a say, but not everyone will get a recycling station next to their home, so some of you will be disappointed. That's life. Complaints have been received that cardboard is not being removed with waste collection. Of course not, you fools! Cardboard is for composting, and it is collected (if folded neatly) fortnightly together with the glass bottles. Ways of managing rubbish for recycling will be on the agenda at the Village Assembly, so that won't be time wasted. There are rogue traders about offering to tarmac your drive, guaranteed for 24 hours. That gives them long enough to get over the border before it all falls apart. Don't waste any time with them. Only ever use someone who can give references.



The favourite stories about Spanish lorry drivers negotiating High Street chicanes formed by ill-considered car parking were retold again, reminding some of the double yellow lines at the Burwell Co-op. But they don't understand. These lines show where those weak of limb *can* park, and also the feeble of mind, of course, but there is no sign to make this clear. We would like the new cycle route signs to be rationalised with all the other road signs and, maybe, some could also point out the way to Upware and to Lordship Farm (la Granja del Grandee?). Why don't the drivers just telephone the farm when they get to the village? 'I 'ave arrived 'ere. Come an' show me the way'. Hacienda the problem.

'Enhancement' here means waiting just a little bit longer for a new lantern over the church gate. When it's ready, it will be fixed. (Then one more little problem will come up to stop it working). Anyone in favour of candles? Coopers Lane's status has been clarified once more, yet again, finally. Vehicular access is legal only for the residential properties off High Street, and then only from the High Street end. Even Spanish lorries cannot go there now. Repair work to the Beeches wall may commence (an unnecessarily long word, but the man involved is a Mr Startup) soon.

A body campaigning to protect wildlife habitats from new development planned to cover 25 square miles in 3

counties over the next 20 years seeks donations. Now, Cambridgeshire is 1,175 square miles in total. If 3 counties together are 3,500 square miles, that's 0.71%, or 0.045 % lost every year. Wow! That's overwhelming! Donate!

Congratulations Steve! Efforts to bring in the Tigers seem to bearing fruit. A plan of the recreation field has been produced, and the word 'lawyers' was used more than once, so now it's serious. There appears to be no flaw in

“Complaints have been received that cardboard is not being removed with waste collection. Of course not, you fools! Cardboard is for composting, and it is collected (if folded neatly) fortnightly.”

this cunning get-rich-slow plan, and the field will be in use at last. This matter brought up the sorry state of the footpath along Station Road, soon to be pounded by herds of eager young sportspersons. Nature has destroyed the hard surface and encouraged hedges to spread, just as they have in many parts of the village. Where hedges are a nuisance or where

they cause obstruction, owners will be invited to put things right. Those slow off the mark will pay for the work to be done by others. Take a look at your own hedges. Some have been steadily encroaching on footpaths for several years, but recent gales have played havoc with many others.

May we wish a very happy new year to both our readers.

Frank Readhead

SOME EXPERIENCES OF A DEPUTY PM

“Two-Jags” John Prescott (aka Tony Bowers) takes his Christmas break in Cambridgeshire and relates his experiences at the Boxing Day Hockey match between Prior and Bulbeck.

WEDGY BENN keeps a diary. Has done for years and he’s a proper Socialist. So why not me? Betty says it will come in handy when they give me the push. “You can hold it over their heads like a Sword of Daffodils,” she said. “Threaten to publish, then sell the rights to the Mail anyway.” Sounds like blackmail to me. Here goes!

Pauline’s got a pension for big hats and funny friends. “We’re going to spend Christmas with Frank and Dorothea, in Cambridgeshire.”

“What’s wrong with Yorkshire?”

“Full of Yorkshire men.”

“Well what’s Cambridgeshire full of? Sugar beet and a few fox hunting farmers, Tories to a man. Oh yes, and snooty academics,” I said.

Still, at least it’s not Cherie and Tony’s magna carta. Cambridge reckons to have a ‘radical tradition’ (whatever that is). Just so long as it’s not all bloody New Labour!

Right! Let’s put a foot in the lion’s mouth then.

Turned out to be one of those posh, old houses that should have been pulled down years ago; the sort with two sets of stairs so you don’t meet the servants on the way to bed; and stables that still have horses in them. Fact is, there was only room for his Roller and her Range Rover. The Jags had to stand outside, covered in frost.

The husband, Frank, Sir Frank, sells machines at a £100,000 a throw to bankrupt farmers. Lady Dorothea, Pauline’s friend, is a Professor of Mandolin Chinese. I said she’d be right useful down our local take-away. Got it in the neck later from Pauline.

Had pheasant for Christmas dinner. Not much to them is there? Give me turkey any day. Frank shot them his self. “Hope you like them well-hung.” This to P. She didn’t half give him an old-fashioned look.

“Best enjoy them while you can,” I said. “Now we’ve put our shoulders to the plough and got fox hunting by the tail, it’ll be the bird in the bush next.”

No one seemed to have an answer to that.

“A hockey match. My God! Murderous middle-class girls, I thought, egged on by Volvo loads of middle-class mams and dads.”

Listened respectfully to Liz Windsor (didn't let on that's Cherie's nick name for HMQ, come the Republic). Don't remember much about the evening. Sir Frank's port went down a bit too well. Still, Pauline said I made as much sense as usual, so that's all right.

Boxing Day, I managed to slide out of going to church. Not keen on the God stuff. Get enough of it at work. What with Tony banging on about G.W's direct line to the Almighty, and Cherie's spiritual experiences while burning essential oils in her navel. And now there's this new Kelly woman. Scary or what?

Pauline loves church though. Great opportunity to wear a big hat.

Afterwards they all said I couldn't miss one of the highlights of the year – the Boxing Day battle of the Swaffhams. A hockey match. My God! Murderous middle-class girls, I thought, egged on by Volvo loads of middle-class mams and dads.

"Time to meet your public," said Frank. "More like meet my Maker," thought I. "I'm on holiday. I prefer to stay synonymous." It was a bit difficult, but they got the message in the end and dressed me up in a tweed cap, duffle-coat and green wellies. I looked just like one of the locals. Hate to think what they would have made of it in Hull.

Turned out to be a rum do all round. For a start, the teams weren't lasses at all. There was the odd girl among the men. Bit like Tony's token women in the cabinet if you ask me. Then there was the pitch. Didn't reckon much to that either. More mud than grass and even I could see it was a football field. I said so to Frank. Apparently there isn't a hockey pitch in the villages. "So why do they play hockey?"

I



The winning side, with Guardian Angel Goalie Tim Doe

said. "Why not football like they do in Ashbourne on Pancake Day and kick the ball from one village to another?" Dorothea thought that football was flea bitten (I think that's what she said) and anyway how lots of Swaffham people had played hockey at school or college, and how there were even one or two blues on the field. Must remember to ask Betty what all that meant.

As for the game, couldn't make head or tail of it. The players all seemed to be running around like a bunch of Tories looking for a leader. Frank said I should shout for Bulbeck as I was staying in the village. "Better if I stay dumb," I told him. Seemed amused by that. Anyway, I don't like being on the losing side. Had enough of that under Neil. Bulbeck went a goal down inside five minutes and, trust me, or rather, to be honest. Oh, hell! What I mean is they never looked like winning and finished up losing 3 nil. Funny thing, most of the danger came from the right wing. Seemed so familiar, I wondered if Mandy,

the Man of Mystery, was over from Brussels and playing for Prior. Plenty of rough and tumble. Peter would have loved that.

"Bulbeck tried hard enough. I'll say that for them. Trouble is they kept falling over and leaving the ball behind. Bit like some ministerial colleagues of mine!"

Bulbeck tried hard enough. I'll say that for them. Trouble is they kept falling over and leaving the ball behind. Bit like some ministerial colleagues of mine! Prior had a couple of likely lads at the back, so their goalie had a bit of a chilly time of it. He was wearing a pair of wings and what looked like a halo. Pauline thought he might be a Christmas fairy, but I said he was a guardian angel. Pity there wasn't a gentleman of the press on hand to depreciate my wit. Our goalie did a pretty good job in the circumstances. Kept kicking the ball though. Dorothea said the goal keepers were allowed to do that. Seemed daft to me. He was dressed all in blue and fighting a lost cause. Must have been a Tory.

Noticed the teams kept stopping to suck oranges and change players. Dorothea said most of them only played once a year and needed frequent rests. (Keep selling off the playing fields, Kelly). Every time they stopped we had a plastic cup of mulled wine fortified from Frank's hip flask. By the end of the game I was ready to sing the Red Flag. Wonder how that would have gone down?

Went to the pub afterwards, in enemy territory. More people there than watching the game. Ale was good, I'll say that. Plenty of chat about bell ringing, test scores, free-range turkeys, as well as post mortems on the match. Not a mention of politics. Frank thought I'd be pleased. Dorothea said people sometimes resorted to politics "when all else failed." Just what I've been telling TB for years. We need more bottoms up initiatives not top down targets. Heard some muttering about eligibility

of players. Thought to myself, “No need to worry. Old Charlie Jug Ears (I don’t mean HRH) and his ID cards will sort out that sort of thing”. Knew they’d come in handy somehow.

In the end I was glad to get back in the Jag and head for the M11. Told Pauline I couldn’t wait to see all that boring country densely covered in nice, tidy, little, heavily mortgaged dwelling units filled with Our People (as Tony cosily calls them). Not a hockey player in sight. In fact I think I’ll tell Tessa about that damned football field. Make a grand place for a super casino. Only snag is, chaps like Sir Frank stand to make a ruddy fortune out of land sales. Unless ‘Golden rule Gordon’, everybody’s flexible friend at Number 11, can come up with something novel in the tax line – which I doubt not. Dourly devilish and devilishly dour is our wee Scots bean counter. Who says my command of English isn’t consummated?

Pauline enjoyed her visit. Said she thought it would be a shame to lose all that English eccentricity. “Think we’ll try cheese rolling next year.” I sometimes wonder if she’s not a, what do you call it, a convent Tory?

POSTSCRIPT

In case you missed it in the above report the final score was 3-0 to Swaffham Prior. **£82.10p** was raised and donated to Magpas.

Here is a little bit of sporting history for those who have recently arrived in Swaffham Prior. The very first hockey match was on Boxing Day 1988. Bulbeck fielded an excellent team while we turned out the usual miscellaneous rabble you associate with mixed hockey. We did very well only to lose 2-4. The same make up of teams met in 1989 and it became very war-like. We managed to draw 0-0 but it was not good news. The longest anyone had to be off work was two months and there was such bitterness the match was abandoned until 1993. In the meantime Prior had regrouped, adopted a new approach and signed on new players. Below is a complete list of the results with Prior appearing in bold when winning, draws are in italics and Bulbeck get the rest.

1988 (2-4)	1989 (0-0)	1993 (2-0)	1994 (3-0)
1995 (3-0)	1996 (4-2)	1997 (0-2)	1998 (0-2)
	<i>(after this second defeat, the captain was sacked!!)</i>		
1999 (3-0)	2000 (3-0)	2001 (5-1)	2002 (2-1)
2003 (0-0)	2004 (3-0)		

A.E.

Stop Junk Mail and Unwanted Calls

Junk Mail: ring 0207291 3310 (Mailing Preference Service)

Compost for Cambridgeshire!



The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is looking for new recruits!

The Programme is run by HDRA Consultants in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council and all the District Councils. Now in its fourth year, the Programme aims to promote home and community composting by training volunteers to work as Master Composters, who provide local, friendly advice and support to people whom already compost and those who want to start. We currently have 150 volunteers who have contributed over 3000 hours in promoting composting across the county, and are looking for more.

If you have an interest in environmental issues, enjoy encouraging other people and have a little time to spare, why not join our friendly network of volunteers in promoting home composting?

Becoming a Master Composter is a great way to meet new people, learn valuable skills and benefit from being part of a team that makes a difference. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a Master Composter; you **don't** need to be an expert composter (or be composting at all) or have any volunteer or community group experience.

As a volunteer you will receive training in home composting and related environmental issues (provided by HDRA – the organic organisation), a Master Composter resource pack and several training trips; including visits to a composting site and one of HDRA's organic gardens. All training expenses will be paid for; you only need to provide your time.

Once the training has been completed, you will be expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting. These activities will be tailored to your individual skills and could be anything from giving a demonstration to your next-door neighbours to giving a presentation to a class of school children or helping promote further compost bin sales. Upon completion of the training and 30 volunteer hours you will be awarded the title Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Composter please contact:

Penny Holmes

HDRA Consultants

Ryton Organic Gardens

Coventry

CV8 3LG

email: pholmes@hdra.org.uk

tel: 024 7630 8202

fax 024 7630 8225.

Green Man Inn

London Road, Six Mile Bottom

01638 570373

info@greenman6mb.com



www.greenman6mb.com

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*



Down on the Farm – Winter Work

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

AT one time on the farm the winter months were when the pressure came off and all the other non-urgent “other jobs” got done. However, as things stand at the moment we are continuing at the same pace as we were before Christmas!

All our cattle are in for the winter which obviously creates a lot of extra work. They have been split into three different groups: cows, young bulls and heifers. The cows are the main group in number and are due to calf now (mid January at the time of writing). We know when each cow is due to calf as on the Monday before Christmas they were all scanned, the results of which told us to within a few days when each cow was due and of course which cows were not in calf at all. I’m quite happy to be at the non working end when the scanning takes place, as our chap, who is an airline pilot the rest of the time!!!, will have his arm up to his armpit up the cow’s rectum so as his hand can be placed over the womb to press it into place so the scanner can pick up the results externally.

Whilst this job is being done an official from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) wanted to check all the identification tags, a legal requirement, that the cows have in their ears. This process, as well as being slow, is a very paperwork orientated exercise, as each cow’s tag must correspond exactly to all the official paperwork. Most of the time

this is not a problem, but when we do get an animal where the tag is missing it seems to take forever to convince ministry personnel that it is the cow we say it is – they can lose a tag just by being outside in the summer.

This was all followed just two days later with the whole herd being put through again for a blood test to check for TB. Any cow testing positive will have to be put down. Our results are not back yet but I remain optimistic that all ours will be fine.

The rest of the cattle, which as mentioned above are divided into two groups, are in a pen for bulls and a pen for heifers (young cows). They are being fed ready for the beef market and their diet consists of barley straw and a feed concentrate which is high in protein. This year, chopped sugar beet has been included in the diet as there is so much of it about it is therefore a relatively cheap feed.

On the 11th January we put all the cows through the crush again so their tails and back ends could be clipped. This will assist us when calving starts and it is easier to keep them clean.

Whilst working on the cattle we also weighed the bulls and heifers to check



Hedgecutter attached to tractor maintaining ditches.
*We only do this once every three years to preserve the
 wildlife in its natural habitat.*

will not do the job they are intended for; secondly, a p p l i c a t i o n recommendations are always made with the environment in mind and to exceed any dose would be wholly inappropriate; and thirdly, legislation is a v e r y i m p o r t a n t consideration which cannot under any circumstances be ignored.

Under the 1986 Food and Environment Protection Act we have to abide by certain rules; these are all aimed at protecting our environment, the public and the end user of all farm products, such as wheat

how much they are growing. Most of the young stock has been putting on nearly two kilos A DAY over the last two months. When they are ready to sell they will go up to the cattle market in Newark, which is the closest market now for us to obtain a reasonable price.

When it's not livestock there is plenty of machinery maintenance to keep us busy. When we start field work again the in the spring I always like everything to be in perfect condition so that we are not delayed by unnecessary breakdowns. In addition, good machinery maintenance is essential because with everything costing so much it has to last much longer than it has ever done in the past. Similarly, when a sprayer or fertiliser spreader is applying products they must be 100% accurate as firstly the products are so expensive that if they are over or under applied it is a waste of money and they

going to the mill for flour production. (Look for link coming up)

At the moment, we are sending a lot of wheat to mills mainly up north (spotted it?). This is due to the very wet harvest last year and the lack of good quality wheat in that part of the world. The poor weather reduced their wheat to animal feed specification and they are looking to buy our milling grade wheat but this does not mean that we get a better price for it and in fact prices are down approximately £20.00/ton on this time last year. Needless to say production prices have not reduced and have in fact increased due to the rise in the cost of oil.

Other work at this time of the year includes hedging, ditching and tree maintenance. Never a dull moment!



GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 5th March at 2.00PM

We require jumble, nearly new items, toys,
clothes, bric-a-brac, books - in fact, anything saleable

Items can be collected by or left with:

Elaine Malster, 28 Fairview Grove (743894)

Janet Cooper, 39 High Street (741326)

Alastair Everitt, Anglesey House, 59 High Street (742974)

Alternatively items can be delivered to the Village Hall
on Saturday 5th March 10.00am-12.00 Noon

We would very much appreciate your help

Cantilena Singers Lenten Concert

Saturday 19th March 2005 7:30 pm

Church of St. Cyriac

Swaffham Prior

Director: Daniel Spreadbury

Tickets: On the door – £6.00 (including interval drink)

Proceeds to St. Mary's and St. Cyriac's

includes:	Lamentations	–	Thomas Tallis	Programme
	Crucifixus	–	Antonio Lotti	
	Five Lenten Motets	–	Antonín Dvořák	

GIVE TO THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS - NOT TO BOGUS APPEALS

THE Charity Commission is warning that misleading leaflets claiming to collect for the Tsunami earthquake victims are being distributed by clothing collectors asking for clothing and cash. Areas so far targeted include London, Lincolnshire, East Anglia, Leicestershire and Essex but previous similar scams show that other areas tend to follow.

The Commission is advising local people to be extremely cautious about donating to such misleading appeals. Many of these collections are not registered charities - although they often give fictitious or limited company numbers - and there is no guarantee at all that donations will reach victims of the earthquake.

The Charity Commission's Chief Executive, Andrew Hind said,

"It's incomprehensible that some people want to take from survivors of a disaster left with absolutely nothing. I'd urge the generous public to take their clothes to a genuine charity shop and to make their cash donations to an established appeal fund such as the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Help the victims - don't let bogus collectors help themselves"

The main appeal fund is being co-ordinated by the Disasters Emergency Committee (<http://www.dec.org.uk>) and donations can be made via most high street banks and building societies as well as on-line.

Gift Aiding donations allows charities to claim back an additional 28% on most donations.



The Bottisham Ball

Saturday, 2nd July 2005 7.00 pm – midnight

At the Village College

Black tie

3 Course Dinner and Live Music

Book your tickets now at last year's prices

only £ 35 per person till 1st of May

And look forward to a great night!

Tickets (Non-refundable) available from:

Jenny: 01638 741138

Lesley: 01223 813034

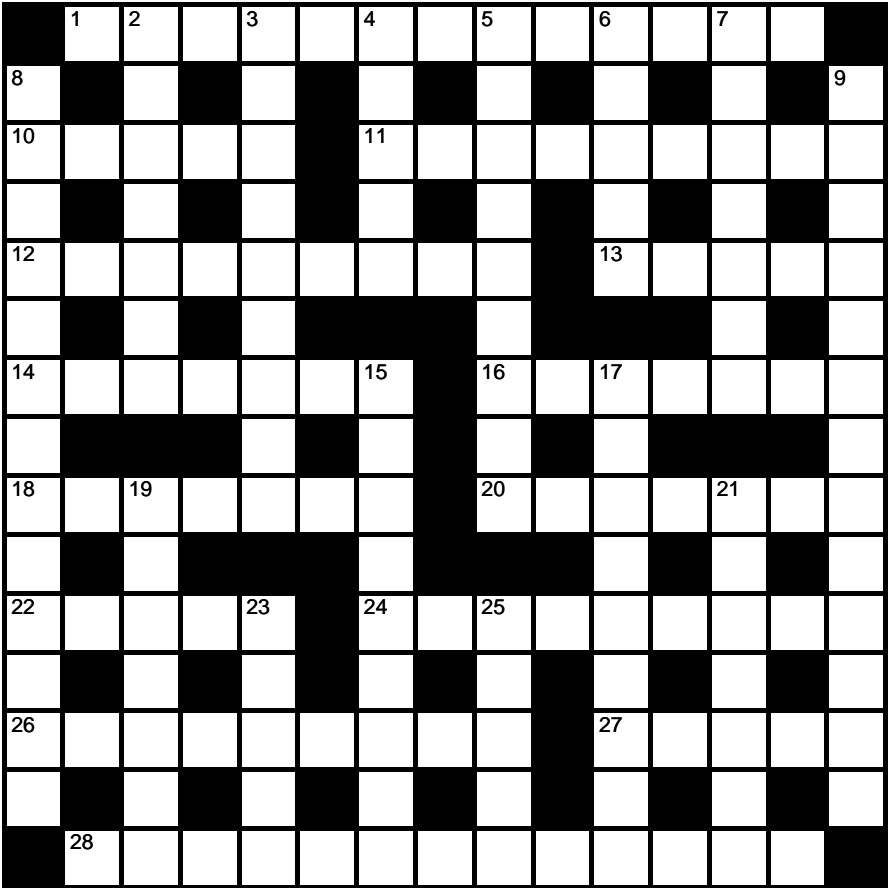
Crossword Number 19

Sponsored by ~~The Red Lion~~

Compiled by

NIBOR

You should have no problems with this month’s crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th February 2005. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....		
Adress.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Frank's following after a time to get mail charges (7,6)
- 10 Supplement had donkey parts in it (3-2)
- 11 Maintain confusion to end of June then become lifeless (9)
- 12 Private conversation midway between four notes (4-1-4)
- 13 Smooth kind of shirt happening (5)
- 14 Pelmet made from carbon and gold - lovely (7)
- 16 Instalment so deep I get upset (7)
- 18 Weakest shellfish contains sulphur (7)
- 20 Snapped and became entangled (7)
- 22 Do wrong again, by gum (5)
- 24 Diligent fool and I lead couple to America (9)
- 26 Neutralise assembled Israelites but no middle class (9)
- 27 To take cheese with Belgian filling is corrupt (5)
- 28 A very cold place for hilltop frost in French setting (6-7)

Down

- 2 Pensioner let rods go astray (7)
- 3 Tease with cat-o'-nine-tails possibly but remove icon first (9)
- 4 We hear men make an appearance (5)
- 5 She lapses into confusion without form (9)

- 6 A bride has no right to stay (5)
- 7 Inert medication found initially in places like Aberdeen, Cambridge, Exeter, Bristol, Oxford (7)
- 8 Be specific as picture rail is tampered with (13)
- 9 Hereafter dust settles, so clean up with this (7-6)
- 15 Repatriate old jazz type; one with time and energy (9)
- 17 Silent, posh princess found in popular, healthy surroundings (9)
- 19 He may rub and smear us all over (7)
- 21 Number by the French orchestra leader might sound like a big cat (7)
- 23 Diana was disturbed by water nymph (5)
- 25 Cut back and listen to skinhead (5)

Solution to crossword no. 18

A	U	L	D	L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E		V
N		A			I		O		E		C		I
T	I	T	L	E	D		R		S	U	R	R	E
E		I				E	X	A	C	T		U	
L		T			D		N		E				N
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We congratulate **Bob and Julie Nunn**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Julian Luttrell and Shirley Wilkins.

Advent by Candlelight

Review, by Thomas Newbolt

‘Tis the yeares midnight, and it is the dayes....’

The light was fading as we approached St Mary’s at four, and by the time the second section of the programme started with “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”, it was completely dark outside. But soon we were introduced to a place which was not light or dark — in Denise Levertaf’s ‘Oblique Prayer’:

‘Not the profound dark
night of the soul
and not the austere desert
to scorch the heart at noon,
grip the mind
in teeth of ice at evening
but gray, a place
without clear outlines....’

Life can be grey, unrelievably grey for many of us and after work we may go to concerts or clubs, or read books or attend services to be reminded of clarity, colour and harmonious sounds. The music we heard that afternoon, beautifully sung by Cambridge Voices under Ian de Massini (who also researched the readings) was the highlight, as always, bringing us new pleasures like *Det Är En Ros Utsprungnen* by Michael Praetorius, which Harriet Fitch told me she remembers singing as a child in Sweden, *Ecce Beatam Lucem* by Alessandro Striggio (both these recent re-arrangements) and *Christus Est Stella* by Will Todd.

In the words of many of the sung pieces and the readings, shortage of light was compared to lack of spiritual awareness or grace, and light, abundance of light, to understanding — even revelation. Generally the symbolism was straightforward throughout the four sections: The Evening, The Night, The Morning and The Daytime, but there were glimpses of more complicated imagery from D. H. Lawrence and Sylvia Plath who both compared candles to fingers and from Emily Dickinson whose poem started:

‘The Finger of the Light
Tapped softly upon the Town
With I am great and cannot wait
So therefore let me in.’

Later, talking over mulled wine and mince pies in St. Mary’s, it was apparent that although some of us who had sat through a long sequence of poems and choral music had struggled with their exact meaning, the event had brought so many of us together in seasonal harmony. In from the grey, we shared this experience in the dark since this

‘Both the yeares, and the dayes midnight is’.



School News

OUR Spring Term has started off well. Miss Simpson has joined Class 3, taking on the Deputy Head teacher's post. On the January gym based training day (yes, that's what teachers get up to on closure days), she impressed all teachers with her headstand and will be starting our very first gym club after half term. This will add to the existing sporting clubs of basket ball, football, and tag rugby.

The recent skipping workshop saw 12 children improve their skills dramatically in 2 hours of training. After their impressive display, there was a general workshop open to all children after school. It's great to see so many children skipping during playtimes; with more training on playground games happening when Class 3 join in the playground partnership project after half term, we hope to bring back an enthusiasm for many more traditional activities and games. If you would like to contact the school with your favourite memories of playground games, write to Class 3 or email the office on office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk.

With the weather beginning to perk up (we hope), environment club will be planting and tending to potatoes. Children hope to grow the largest potato for a National competition.

Later in the term we have our science day on recycling. This focus starts the school off on our quest to be awarded with an eco schools bronze flag. Mrs Johnstone, our science co-ordinator, will be organising the recycling of mobile phones, so please drop any unwanted phones in w/c 14th March. Further details will be published in the next edition of The Crier.

Wishing You All A Happy New Year

Joanna Lakey, Head Teacher

Community Based Dates For March

Tues 1 st , 8pm, mobile	Friends of Swaffham Prior School meeting
Friday 18 th , 6pm	Easter Egg Bingo
Wednesday 23 rd , 2pm	Easter Service
Thursday 24 th , 1.45 pm	End of term assembly



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.



WI Notes

OUR good friend Geoff Evans was with the WI on the 17th January to talk about his holiday in Alaska.

This was no ordinary sight-seeing holiday as the wonderful slides showed, The scenery was beautiful but the main interest of the holiday was to see bears, brown cuddly ones. Geoff and his wife visited a National Park where they were not allowed to take any food or drink except water into their chalet or out on walks. Apparently bears have a very strong sense of smell, and it does not do to let them come too close. In another area they were allowed to take a picnic but were accompanied by a guide with a gun. Fortunately he didn't have to use it.

The bears catch salmon for their food and some of the slides showed the bears standing at the top and bottom of falls waiting for the salmon to leap. Geoff was able to get to within 25 yards of them for some of his photographs.

Geoff makes no charge but asks for a donation to the charity 'Riding for the Disabled' and he ended his slide show with pictures of some of the children who benefit and who so much enjoy having a ride.

Do you know anything about the Air Ambulance Service? If you would like to know more about this important organisation please come and join us on Monday 21 St February, 7.30pm Village Hall. The meeting is open to all, Ladies and Gentlemen alike. See you there.



Don't ask these cuddly bears for lunch — they might misunderstand!

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

DR TWIGGS WAY, an archaeologist turned garden historian, gave us a truly fascinating talk this month on the history of women in the garden entitled ***Virgins, Weeders and Queens*** (she is soon to publish a book under this title).

Eve, of course, started it, and the catastrophe that ensued, Dr Way felt, was the reason that women for centuries were practically banned from orchards!

In early medieval times, "ladies" sat in their walled gardens protected from the men: quiet, demure, virginal — chatting and contemplating as women do. In both Christian and Islamic countries, women were employed as weeders and are depicted as such in pictures.

In the 16th century, famous male apothecaries employed women to collect plants

and herbs. It was never noted who these women were for fear of their being accused of witchcraft.

Elizabeth I loved gardens — not the quiet courtyard type — but having very little money, asked all her courtiers to design and make gardens in her honour. The symbolism of flowers and gardens was very important at court, and many Lords of the Manor completely re-landscaped their acres to please the queen when she visited.

In the 17th century, the first gardening book for ladies appeared and by the early 18th century ladies with fortunes, such as Mary, Duchess of Beaufort, were collecting plants and often making wonderful botanical drawings of them.

Kew Gardens in its early years grew from the amalgamation of the Royal Estates of Richmond and Kew. Several queens during this period were fanatical about garden design and helped form the development of the site.

In the mid 19th century, “Gardening for Ladies” was written by Jane Loudon — “It must be confessed that digging appears at first sight a very laborious employment and one peculiarly unfitted to small and delicately formed hands and feet; but by a little attention to the principles of mechanics and the laws of motion, the labour may be much simplified and rendered comparatively easy”.

By the early 20th century, gardening was slowly becoming of interest to the newly emerging middle class with their suburban gardens. At last women started to be trained as gardeners — both privately, and by the R.H.S. at Kew, suitably attired of course!

London Kewriosity

*They gathered in bloomers, the newspaper said,
So to Kew without warning, all Londoners sped,
From the roofs of the buses they had a fine to view,
Of the ladies in bloomers who gardened at Kew*

*The orchids were slighted, the lilies were scorned,
The dahlias flouted till botanists mourned
But the Londoners shouted “What ho, there go to;
Who wants to see blooms when you’ve bloomers at Kew!”*

[Fun Magazine, 1900]

“The only way to learn is to do the actual work” said Beatrix Havergal in 1939 — and women certainly had to during the war years when men were away.

Dr Way ended her talk by briefly mentioning the two women whose influence on gardens and gardening was incomparable: Gertrude Jekyll and Rita Sackville-West, who in 1958 assured a gentleman reader who thought her an “armchair” gardener that “for the last 40 years of my life, I have broken my back, my finger nails and sometimes my heart in the practical pursuit of my favourite occupation”.

Many thanks to Ron Prime for his role as the evening projectionist.

Margaret Joyce

VILLAGE GARDENERS

Programme 2005

Tue 15 th Feb	Margaret Lynch	“You should have been here last week”; a light hearted look at the pitfalls of gardening.
Tue 15 th Mar	Mike Day	“Unusual vegetables”
Tue 19 th Apr	Alison Davies	“The four National Collections of plants held in East Anglia”
Tue 24 th May	Mrs Boston	Evening visit to Hemingford Grey House
Sun 19 th Jun		Open Gardens in Swaffham Prior
Tue 28 th Jun	Tony Arnold	Evening visit to Newnham College Gardens
Sat 16 th Jul		All day visit to Wisley Gardens
Tue 20 th Sep	Brian Waygood	“Chelsea since 1947”
Tue 18 th Oct		AGM and entertainment

Indoor meetings, 8.00pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of outdoor visits will be confirmed later

Family Membership: £12

Visitors always welcome: £3 per evening

Contact Numbers

Chairman: Roger Connan 01638 742182

Secretary: Margaret Joyce 01638 744390

Treasurer: Mike Phillips 01638 741495



CORRECTION!

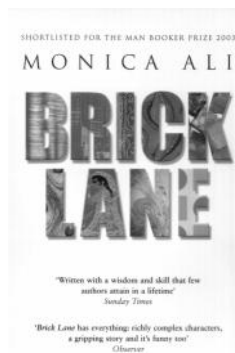
As was swiftly spotted by eagle-eyed readers, last month's March 19th Church and Social Event "Talus Lamentation (Cantetena)" *should* have been:

TALLIS LAMENTATIONS — A Lenten Concert by the Cantilena Singers

Many apologies from the Editors!

The Reading Group Reads — BRICK LANE

THE opinions of the group varied considerably, on our January book of the month—Monica Ali's *Brick Lane*, the story of an immigrant Bengali family living in a concrete London estate. Some of us found it a very good read—compassionate, funny, tender, beautifully written and observed, whilst others found it turgid and could barely get through the first few chapters. A real reflection of our diverse literary tastes which lead to a lively discussion!



The story is about Nazneen, an 18 year old bride who arrives in London, after an arranged marriage to Chanu, a much older man. It unfolds, as she hesitantly changes from a shy, lonely, submissive young woman, over the years, to an independent, confident mother. Laced with tragedy and comedy, the fatalistic Nazneen and verbose, overweight Chanu, struggle with life in an alien culture, surrounded by wonderful characters—the interfering, money lending, Benylin-swilling Mrs Islam; the tragic and proud Dr Allam, Chanu's "best friend"; the brave and outrageous Razia in her Union Jack tee shirt and young, confused, militant Karim who so wants the world to know that the Muslim faith is about peace.

Cleverly interleaved through the book, in the form of letters, is the concurrent life of the unhappy and unfulfilled Hasina, Nazneen's sister, who still lives in Dhaka. "This is England" says Razia on the last page, "you can do whatever you like," but you could just be left wondering if arranged marriages are ultimately less happy than love matches. Read it and see!

Margaret Joyce.

In February, Wed. 2nd, we'll be discussing Trollope's *He knew he was right* - Venue Kent House, at 8pm, and on Wed March 2nd, we'll be discussing *To kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee at the Hollingsworths, 41, Lower End. Ring Brenda Wilson on 743937 for further information.

On Offer

14 foot by 8 foot aluminium greenhouse with all glass and a child's climbing frame free to anyone to take away.

Contact James Parry on 741544

STAINED HUNDRED

The January Meeting was well attended when Tony Kirby talked about “Railways of Cambridgeshire 1845-2005” His talk was based entirely on slides of Southern Cambridgeshire and he spoke fluently with no notes.



In the early stages, GER ran most train services in East Anglia but complaints of dirty and late trains gave it a bad reputation so in 1862 it was taken over and became the GNER and things were much improved.

Freight was more important than passengers and commercial buildings soon grew up around the stations at Audley End, Great Shelford, Newmarket and many others.

Our slide tour started at Audley End where the station has an enormous portico suitable for Lord Braybrookes guests. The railway followed the valley to that point but to continue would have taken it close to the front of Audley End House, so it was diverted through two tunnels and back to the Cam Valley at Chesterford.

In the neighbourhood of Shelford Station, there are many late Victorian houses as some university families lived in Cambridge during the winter months and then moved out to Shelford for the summer where it became easy to commute into Cambridge.

Cement works sprung up at Shepreth

and Barrington, and the railway was very important to them. Barrington is the only place left which still uses diesel trains for work inside the quarries instead of conveyor belts.

The University forced Cambridge Station to be built on the outskirts of the town and made regulations such as that no trains were to arrive or depart during the time of divine service.

Later houses in Station Road Cambridge were mostly for the middle class and were on a 99 year lease from Jesus College. The end of this lease has seen many of them turned into commercial offices over the last 30 years. Railway houses, intended for the superior officers

such as station masters and inspectors, were built in MW Road where at that time was a level crossing, and it was only after the Bridge was built that Romsey Town was developed for the ordinary railway workers.

We then travelled along the railway into Newmarket which was used by the Norman Cement Works at Cherryhinton until 1970 as they had a contract to supply the cement for runways. Cherryhinton had a station when the line

“The University forced Cambridge Station to be built on the outskirts of the town and made regulations such as that no trains were to arrive or depart during the time of divine service.”

opened but it was closed after three years though the building still stands. At Dullingham the corn mill stood until the 1970s as they had a contract to sent malting barley to Belgium. The last shunter's horse, Charlie, worked at Newmarket where at various times there were four stations, Warren Hill being used by the racehorses until 1938. The Mildenhall line was probably the most unprofitable line ever built. It was hoped to continue it to Thetford and Norwich as there had been trouble with flooding on the lines over the Fen, but it never went beyond Mildenhall, He spoke too of lines which ran down to the brickworks at Burwell but he had no

photos. Finally we looked at the present state of the St yes line and wondered if ever a guided bus would run along fts rout&

In the February Meeting, Chloe Cockerell will tie paying a welcome return visit to the Staine Hundred and will be speaking about heraldry "The Lion & the Unicorn — Royal Arms & Attachments."

The Staine Hundred Outing will be on June 14th when a trip will be made on the North Norfolk Railway from Holt to Sheringham, followed by a visit to Felbrigg Hall. Further details later.

Peggy Day

Coffee Morning - 18th January

A lovely crisp sunny morning. We all enjoyed the experience of actually being inside the Fencock conservatory and kitchen, with the sun streaming through, having watched progress from the outside! The event was well attended and we all had a very pleasant morning, a rare village occasion to meet friends old and new.

A sincere thank-you to Catey Whiteley for her hospitality and for inviting us to invade her home, also to the helpers and those who gave items and then spent money buying the wonderful bargains. We raised **£315** for St Mary's Fabric Fund!

Now we look forward to the next event - Quiz Night on 26th February - always popular so book your tables without delay. Full details are in *The Crier* (p3); posters will be displayed on the village telegraph poles nearer the date. If you would like to donate a raffle prize, please give me a call on 743983.

Kate Child

Rogue Traders

WE have received several reports of men offering to tarmac driveways within Cambridgeshire in the last couple of days. As usual, where someone has agreed to work being carried out, the price charged is higher than the price quoted originally. The men involved are very pushy and persistent. Please can you advise your neighbours as soon as possible about these incidents and ask that if affected they pass the information on to the Police.

If reporting an incident after the event the number to dial is 0845 456 456 4.

Kate Kent - Community Contact Officer

Ely Sector, 01353 656643

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R renewals or ordering available on 0845 455225 or www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library/mobile.htm

Book Club members welcomed.

<i>Future dates</i>	<i>Former Post Office</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
<i>1 February</i>	<i>2.40 - 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 - 4.00pm</i>
<i>15 February</i>	<i>2.40 - 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 - 4.00pm</i>
<i>1 March</i>	<i>2.40 - 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 - 4.00</i>



We received encouraging news last month of the County Financial Settlement. We now have the **“excellent” rating awarded by the Government’s public sector** watchdog the Audit Commission to Cambridgeshire for the services it provides.

This is a step forward on last year when the County was given a “good” rating. Since last year the County staff have performed even more effectively and their reward is the improved rating. “Excellent” status relieves the Council of some of the audit costs

Council Tax payers have to meet, as well as making it more likely that the Council will qualify for discretionary Government funding for new initiatives.

Hence, apart from the natural pride that goes with being among the best (only eight other county councils have the same status) there should be a small financial benefit for tax payers.

The third major piece of recent good news is that teachers and pupils have been praised following a further **improvement in exam results** last summer. Provisional figures show that results have risen at all 3 Key Stages, GCSE and A-levels, and continue to be better than the national picture. Those of us with children or grandchildren already know that our local schools and the two village colleges are above Cambridgeshire’s average. No wonder people with education in mind want to move into our Bottisham/Burwell area.

Icy roads

Drivers in Cambridgeshire have, as usual, cause to be grateful to the public-spirited men who take out the 35 gritters to spray salt slurry on the main roads to protect them from ice. On every full outing, after a frost warning, the gritters cover 40% of the county’s roads, around 1.100 miles at a time. spreading 250 tonnes of rock salt slurry at a cost of around £20.000.. However, bear in mind the lower the freezing temperature the less effective the salt, especially in extreme sub-zero levels. Driving with caution is obviously sensible particularly recently qualified people.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council January Meeting

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

CCC Report: Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancies: The Clerk had been contacted about the two vacancies. Hopefully more news on this at the February meeting.

Matters Arising – *for information only*

a) **Enhancement Scheme:** The supplier of the lantern has been chased and it is

hoped that there will be more positive news next month.

b) **Coopers Lane – barrier:** The contractor is waiting for an order from CCC to carry out this work. This has been chased.

c) **Repairs to wall at the Beeches:** A meeting to discuss the repair works is to be arranged.

The Wildlife Trust – request for donation: A donation of £20 was agreed.

National Cycling Network – directional signs: The Millennium Commission, who funded much of the initial development of the Network, had offered to give additional funds for a decorative sign to be installed at a prominent position in villages on route. The suggested location for Swaffham Prior was at the bottom of Cage Hill on the ‘green’. It was agreed that there were already enough directional signs in this location and that another one would just clutter up the area. Following the suggestion to CCC that the new sign be added to the posts of the signs already installed, CCC confirmed that this was not possible but that the current directional signs could be added to the new sign mounting. The meeting felt it was unclear how this would work and agreed that CCC should be asked for exact location and type before any decision could be made.

Play Area – quotation received for new seat: The estimate received was considered to be high and the Clerk was asked to obtain further quotes.

Recreation Ground – use by Burwell Tigers Football Club: A draft plan for consideration was received from BTFC. Concerns were raised about the turning area for parked cars once on the ground. This will be discussed further. BTFC will be asked that a cross-section detail of the gate area be included in their Planning Application. Changes to the current lease agreement between PC & Mr Hurrell, the owner, will be put in hand through solicitors.

Also, due to difficulties covering all the playing/training requirements for the coming season, BTFC had asked if, subject to discussions and approval from the FA, they could use the ground from March. The meeting agreed to this.

Following on from the above, it was agreed that CCC Highways should again be asked to repair/reinstate the pathway to the Recreation Ground.

Grasscutting Season 2005 – tenders received: Two invitations to tender for this service were issued and ECDC approached to see if they could carry out the work needed. Only one tender price was returned, that of K H Services. Discussions were held with ECDC but they confirmed that although they would be able to carry out the grasscutting, they did not take away the cuttings. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the estimate on a 3-year contract on a unit price from K H Services.

Annual Return 2003/2004 – amendment: This was agreed.

Final Confirmation of Precept for 2005-06: The Precept of £11,000 was confirmed. The Clerk will confirm this with ECDC as required.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Planning Applications:

Rose Cottage, 42 High Street – part-demolish and rebuild two storey link, increasing height by 1.8m to create bedroom and w.c. Convert brick outbuildings and extend to

accommodate new kitchen, utility and bathroom. Extend garage. Replace windows. *The Gables, 28 Lower End* – erection of a single storey dwelling
Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street – Proposed new one and a half storey extension to existing dwelling with single storey link, associated minor internal alterations and repair to existing house and landscaping. Removal of existing single storey kitchen extension.

There were no objections to the above applications.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Streetlighting – faults on Cage Hill, Fairview Grove and High Street had been reported. For information, once a fault is reported, Ringway have 7 working days to repair.

It was noted that some plants at the front of the Village Hall were straying over onto the footpath. Mr Readhead undertook to tidy this.

Overhanging hedges on the footpath running at the back of the houses on Greenhead Road and on Lower End were reported. The Clerk will write to residents asking them to cut these back.

Open Question Time:

Mr Limb informed the meeting that concrete blocks had been placed at the bottom of Heath Road asking if anyone knew why this had been done.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 10th February 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHYARD

Surely something quite blessed must have happened in our Churchyard over the last two winters. After one or two years when the crop was fairly lacklustre and spiritless the holly in Winter 2003 was quite unbelievable. Never to be repeated again we thought. Wrong!! The 2004 winter holly was twice as good and not even the blackbirds complained during the cutting. Whatever the reason things look good in the Churchyard and £172.50 was raised for the Church.

E.E. & A.E.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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



Church of England Services

February 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 6	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Ash Wed			11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 13	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 20	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 27	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Family Service

PASTORAL LETTER, February 2005

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I mentioned in my January letter that I was very much looking forward to 2005 because two major events were planned for this year – The Alpha Course – and the 800th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham.

I would like to take this opportunity of giving you some more information about both those important events.

Firstly – The Alpha Course – It has been said that more than two thirds of the adult population of this country have heard something about the Alpha Course. A remarkable achievement by anyone's yardstick. So what is it? And why is it so successful?

Well, the Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian

faith in a relaxed non-threatening manner over 10 thought-provoking weekly sessions. Its low-key, friendly and fun and it is supported by all the main Christian denominations. To date more than 2 million people worldwide have found the course worthwhile, attending it in Churches, in homes, in schools, in universities and even in prisons. It is aimed at everyone,



'What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings - that, and its astonishing success'

The Times

especially those who are interested in finding out more about the Christian faith, or who want to brush up on the basics of their faith.

Each session starts with food, which gives everybody a chance to wind down, relax and get to know each other. Then the main talk takes place, followed by everyone breaking up into small groups for discussion. Here people can listen, learn and ask questions in a supportive, relaxed atmosphere. People are encouraged to ask those questions that have always bugged them without fear of judgement or derision.

You can find more about the individual session titles by logging on to www.alphacourse.org. Our course begins with an introductory session on Tuesday 1st February, and the course proper begins on Thursday 10th February. If you would like to register

please e-mail me on revdavidhlewis@aol.com or telephone me on 01223 812367.

Secondly, the 800th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church. This will take place on the weekend of 21/22nd May (Trinity weekend). The events will include:

A unique and major flower festival in Holy Trinity Church throughout the weekend, which promises to be a site to behold, and will be accompanied by delightful background music.

*A fete in the Vicarage Garden on the Saturday, which will be accompanied by a schedule of events such as Morris dancing, Brass band playing and most exciting of all a **Holy Trinity 800th centenary Tug-of-war competition** in which we will be inviting organisations and streets throughout the Benefice to enter a team. So start work now if you think you might like to organise a team!*

An 800th Centenary Communion Service on the Sunday to be presided over by the Bishop of Ely

The organisers of the Flower festival are inviting donations towards, or sponsorship of, the flower displays, perhaps in memory of a special person, memory or event. If you would like to find out more about this please contact me.

This coming year promises to be a vintage one. I very much look forward to sharing it with you, and I hope and that it will be a time of renewal in our Churches and a time of great flowering of the Christian faith in our villages.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - February 2005

Tue	1	Alpha Supper, 7.15 for 7.30, VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	2	Reading Group, Kent House 8pm
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Sun	13	Family Service, 11am, St Marys
Mon	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, 8pm VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Mon	21	WI, VH 7.30pm
Thu	24	Crier Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Sat	26	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm
Tues	1	March, FOSPS Meeting, 8pm, School Mobile
Wed	2	March, Reading Group, 41 Lower End, 8pm
Sat	5	March, Grand Jumble Sale, 2VH, 2.00pm

Weekly Events

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



Who's making off with the Village Organ? Find out in next month's Crier!