



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 7

July 2005



## Editorial

THIS MUST BE the most apolitical *Crier* in the history of its publication. ALL our heavy-weight political reporters are disabled this month: Karen because of computer disaster, Allen because of illness in the family and Hazel because she is *new* and does not yet know what happens to *Crier* correspondents who do not send their copy without a *very convincing excuse*. Ho yes!

However, it is a most entertaining *Crier*, as the Eds hope you will agree. *Too* entertaining, in some respects, as readers will note when they turn to our, alas CENSORED, *Crier* Profile.

The mystery of the eternal rabbit threesome first introduced by Margaret Stanier returns in force with simultaneous contributions from Skye and Devon (where don't these rabbits get to), WE WON THE CRICKET, at least *four* SP residents have made their mark on the national scene this month, and James Willmott gives

us the low down on all those pesticides and questicides that lurk down in the Fen.

Alert readers might also notice this issue of the *Crier* is a tad late. This is due to unavoidable circumstances, namely, the Eds being glued to Wimbledon as opposed to concentrating on editing. Little does Venus know how much her success was entirely due to *Crier* Eds who only put five quid on her ultimate victory. Yes, we *always* win five quid stakes and are guaranteed *doomed* with a penny more.

Lastly, remember, remember, we don't do September! Copy for September, please, by next c o p y - d a t e , and **SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**! See Verity Stroud's letter—this is the date we can make up for forgetting about the Village Assembly. and all

## CONTENTS

Letters	2
Wedding Dresses	4
Our Reporter	5
A Joy to play for England	6
Diamond Wedding	7
Donations	7
Chasing Hares	8
HOW WAS THAT!!	9
Harvest Supper	10
Moveable Feast	11
Crier Profile	12
CROSSWORD	16
Down on the farm	18
Ophir	20
Burwell New Library	21
Reading Group	22
School News	23
WI	24
Gardeners	24
Staine Hundred	25
MISSING CAT	28
Cantilena Singers	28
RC Services	28
Burwell Surgery News	29
Church Services	q30
Unwanted Calls	30
David Lewis	31
Diary	32
White Page Ads	26-27, 29

turn out to GET THAT LOO in St Cyriac's. Happy Holiday Plans....

*Caroline Matheson*

### THE CHILLI HUT

*Indian Home Cooking*

31 High St, Swaffham  
Bulbeck  
Mon-Sat 12-2pm, 4pm-  
10pm

**01223 812500**

Cover Picture: *Summer Days*. Brenda Wilson



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### War Memorial Windows

It was interesting to be reminded in the June issue of the Crier of the programme about these windows. I am sure most of you know that there are some postcards available depicting some of the scenes from the windows. However, there may be some of you who have not yet purchased any and would like to have some copies. They can be bought from The Red Lion, Elisabeth and Alastair Everitt at Anglesey House or from me at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court and only cost 25p each. Several people use them as compliment slips and others just enjoy sending them to friends.

I look forward to seeing the postcard sales shooting up!

*Ruth Scovil*

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Dear Editors,

### Those Rabbits Again

The illustration is from Skye Batiks, Portree, and their advertisement in the Island's Arts and Crafts leaflet prompted me to call in for a larger version.

Could this conceivably be a committee of Cornish tin miners, inextricably caught up in a circle dance at a Celtic Ceillidh Convention?

*Ophir Catling*

*And there's more! See Karole Webster's Chasing Hares on page 8. .Eds*



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Dear Editors,

### Smokescreens

Let's get this smoke thing clear, then. There are two types of people with something to say: those who can be offhand about it – it doesn't matter much, after all, does it? – And those of us who have to put up with it.

But there's more to it than that. It may be the unfortunate combination of trees, position on the hill, usual airflow, and atmospheric pressure, but the bottom of Fairview Grove and the Beeches is sometimes a funnel for bonfire smoke that doesn't go anywhere. From time to time, bonfires from the large gardens towards the centre of the village fill this area with smoke. It's not a bit of smoke: it's a lot of smoke. It lasts for hours. It is extremely unpleasant.

The smogs of London in the 1950s – living memory for many - were caused

when atmospheric conditions meant everyday domestic and industrial smoke in a particular large dip, in which London sits, did not clear as usual - it just stayed. People died and Acts of Parliament ensured it did not happen again. Yes, there's a difference of scale here – but just because no-one's dead doesn't mean it's not a problem. Anyone with chest problems or asthma won't be okay while it's going on. It shouldn't take a death to make things change.

Smoke is unpredictable stuff. In theatre, a smoke machine - not smoke at all, but a harmless chemical cloud - depending on air pressure, humidity, temperature and its own bloodymindedness will, at times, not do what it is supposed to. Until you set it going in a rehearsal on the day you can't be sure whether smoke will stay on the stage, drift about above the audience or, on one memorable occasion, roll off the stage and make its way towards the exits at the back, causing the audience to do a mexican cough as it passed in a wave over them. Stage technicians mutter darkly about the audience coughing when this happens.

It doesn't hurt them, they say. No it doesn't – but it's an unpleasant irritant if you don't work with it. Your lungs are sensitive things.

But this is why I asked that those lighting them should stay with their bonfire, and go downwind and see what's happening. Unless there's a strong breeze, or it's dead still and you can see it going straight up, you don't know what your smoke has decided to do when it disappears through your neighbours' bushes and trees. Round here, sometimes it just doesn't rise. If you didn't see where it went, when someone complains later you think it wasn't really a problem. The smoke went away, didn't it? It's just some old moaner again.

The earlier correspondent who suggested **lighting fires in the evening** might have meant well, Ed, but down here **that's often the worst possible time. Summer** evenings are when the air is often stillest; (it's when you are most likely to see hot air balloons, which only function when there's little breeze) it's when we are all at home and would like to enjoy our garden; and it's when the smoke is most likely not to go anywhere – other than here, that is.

It happens to us, even if it doesn't happen to you. It usually takes 'happening to you' to shift people out of the offhand attitude.

And why is it some, like our illustrious other Ed, feel that because she's got to cut down something in her garden, she has to burn it? I only listen to *Gardener's Question Time* with half an ear, as they are talking a strange garden language much of the time - but every programme, without fail, they talk compost. If *Gardener's Question Time* people believe in it then, Swaffham Prior Gardeners, it's virtuous. Those with large gardens should have no problem finding a far corner for composting.

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

**Mark Lewinski**

*60 foot Leylandiii on the **compost heap**? Some compost heap! Eds*

Dear Editors,

## St Cyriac's Project Update

It has been a few months now since I first introduced the Churches Conservation Trust's aspirations for St Cyriac's church and I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of this project.

As you are no doubt aware, a questionnaire was circulated around the village in March and I am pleased to say that it received a good response, with 59% of responses being returned.

From analysing these results (which are currently on display in the church) it is clear that St Cyriac's is a much-loved building, with the wide range of events it hosts being strongly supported. Nevertheless, the general feeling appears to be that the church's great potential remains unfulfilled: the building would be used much more by the community if its user facilities were enhanced. Interestingly toilets, disabled access and better heating were highlighted as the most needed improvements.

With this in mind, I would now like to consider how we could go about making these changes happen. In particular, we could think of these improvements in terms of a long-term project, with much-needed financial resources built up over time. Grant applications, made by the community itself and fully supported by the Trust, would play a key part in this.

To this end, I would like to set up a small 'Friends' group made up of local people who care about St Cyriac's and would like to see it used more by the village.

A public meeting will take place in the church on **September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7pm onwards**, at which, it is hoped, a group will be formed. If you are interested in coming along or would like to discuss any other issues raised in this letter, please do get in touch on 01279 771478 or [verity53@hotmail.com](mailto:verity53@hotmail.com).

*Verity Stroud*

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## Those Wedding Dresses

A BIG THANK-YOU to Ruth, Kate and others for the evocative display of wedding-dresses. The flowers were charming and all that hard work resulted in over £300 for church funds. The electrics are archaic and will be replaced soon. Only one of the major jobs need urgent attentions so all sums raised are gratefully gathered in to preserve part of our landscape and heritage.

*Tricia Harrison*

*Right is a very elegant gown originally worn by Ruth Scovil.*



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

### Swaffham Prior, count your blessings: two, this month!

It was noted that groups of Travellers are again encamped down Whiteway Drove on the fen. They, and their horses, often cause problems. A particular family of Travellers, now served with an eviction-order, is permanently excluded; it may not return to any place within the Parish. A foal of a Traveller's mare is suffering from Strangles: a disease which is highly infectious and disabling, but not fatal. All villages of east Cambridgeshire have to take horses and their diseases seriously, because of the proximity of Newmarket bloodstock and stud farms



It was noted that the CCC has placed an order for the Cooper's Lane Barrier work with a contractor and it is hoped that the work will be carried out shortly. This item has been on our Agenda for months. [What a triumph when we are able to write beside CLB 'Completion of Works'].

A problem has arisen with over-long grass, on the road-corners at the top of Rogers Road: visibility for drivers coming up the hill and turning into the main road at the top; traffic along the main road is invisible. However, this is not a matter for the P.C.: this area is outside the sphere of reference of the grass-cutters whom we employ on contract. This is a matter for the CCC, and Councillor Williams is taking up the matter.

It happens that several speakers on the P.C. have rather quiet voices—notably the ECDC representative: almost inaudible to those seated more than 2 places away. I found that during much of the meeting there was a continuous background murmur, with now and then something (usually the name of a sum of money) coming out loud and clear, but of course without any context. For me, the meeting sounded like “mutter-murmur,— whisper,— mutter-mutter THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO POUNDS murmur-mutter-mutter. . . .” And I was left wondering whether £342 was the sum that the Parish council was going to have to pay, for the removal of the tree on the allotments; or the sum that somebody-else would be providing for the erection of a pavilion portacabin on the recreation ground. Baffling.

One notably pleasing item was the good report given to our children's playground by the Annual Inspectors for RoSPA. However there have been complaints that the seats of the swings are dirty. Sandra Glynn has kindly undertaken to clean the swings

One pleasing item is that the Burwell Tigers, who are about to make use of our recreation-ground, are organising standard portacabins to be placed there, for changing rooms and so on; and have agreed that they will be responsible for their upkeep. Thus we get an improvement of our village's amenities at no cost to ourselves, and can only say 'Thank you Very Much', to the Burwell Tigers.

Another highly satisfactory item came up, when our patient and efficient Clerk told us that the job had become too much for her, because she had to do the accounts—money-matters—balance-sheet, as well as the secretarial business of the

Parish. If somebody would take the money matters off her hands, she was prepared to do all the rest of the work. Mr. S. Kent-Phillips to everyone's delight agreed to take on the money matters/accounts; so danger of loosing our excellent Clerk, owing to overwork, was averted.

It was noted (during AOB) that part of Station Road, a low-lying area, often develops a flood during heavy rain: the pipe taking surface water away becomes blocked. The pipe involved has been 'jetted-out', but encroaching tree-roots are adding to the problem; some trees are to be removed.

Then, what about the tree on the allotments, anyway? The job of removing it is going out to tender.

So life in Swaffham Prior is not all bad. Progress is being made because (a) we will soon have a changing-room-pavilion; and (b) we do now have a Treasurer as well as a Clerk. Two cheers.

*Margaret Stanier*

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## **A JOY TO PLAY FOR ENGLAND!**



VILLAGE RESIDENT RACHEL JOY (18) of Fairview Grove, a full-time Prepping Clerk at Addenbrookes Hospital, has been given the chance to represent England in the European Ladies Roller Hockey Championships in Portugal next month.

Rachel has been playing Roller Hockey for three years starting at a low level of competition within the region working her way up to play for England.

Rachel's local club at present is Ely Roller Hockey Club. In this club she plays for the Schoolboy's team and Division Three.

This is Rachel's fourth time of representing England, she played in the Under 20's tournament where England came third out of nine teams, In the World Championships where England came ninth out of Fifteen teams, and has just come back from a Tournament in Portugal where England came FIRST.

The position that Rachel will be playing is the Goalkeeper, however the team also consists of 4 outfield players and 5 substitutes.

Roller Hockey is a fast and exciting non contact sport, which is mostly played in Sports halls. Vital equipment is needed in order to play Roller Hockey for example a flat wooden stick, a hard soiled ball, Roller Skates and for the Goalkeepers specialized equipment.

'I am really looking forward to the tournament; it will be another great experience and will hopefully bring the unknown sport into the sport of the future'.

Local clubs around the area are Cambridge, Ely and Bury. Various information can be found on their website [www.ecrha.com](http://www.ecrha.com).

# Diamond Wedding Anniversary

## Ron and Betty Prime

RON AND BETTY PRIME of 1 Adam's Road celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

They received a congratulatory card from the Queen on the day and on Saturday 11 June attended a surprise party at the home of one of their daughters in Hertfordshire where they spent an enjoyable day with family members.

Ron and Betty have three daughters, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren, most of whom attended the party, along with Betty's sister Joan who was a bridesmaid at their wedding in London 60 years ago, and two nieces who travelled up from Tunbridge Wells for the day. They received a great number of greetings cards including many from friends who were guests at their wedding and one from a grand-daughter now living in New Zealand.

Former editors of the *Crier*, Ron and Betty now run the Music Circle in Burwell and have always been unstinting supporters of local community life. Ron's "Village



*Before and...*



*...after.*

Life" films are renowned and, as a previous president of Swaffham Prior's Women's Institute, Betty continues her active support and it is a rare village event of any kind that does not find her ably assisting in some way or other.

Despite their many achievements, Ron and Betty's ever good-humoured and unassuming approach is quite remarkable. The *Crier* team would like to offer them all their congratulations on this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and is just trying work out how Betty could possibly look so *grown-up* in that first photo which must surely have been taken before her fifth birthday.

## ***Donations!***

*Many thanks to the Ludmilla Trapp-Reynolds of 3 Adams Rd for her very kind donation to the **Crier** this month.*

## Chasing Hares

LAST summer, whilst staying with my brother in Devon, we visited the picturesque village of North Bovey. After lunch at the old 'Ring o' Bells' pub, we strolled across to the ancient church.. Wandering round the chancel I looked up and noticed a very unusual roof boss. Drawing my brother's attention to it, I asked if he'd seen one like it before and could he throw any light on it? He gazed up at the circle depicting three hares/rabbits each joined by an ear (see Margaret Stanier's illustration in the April 'Crier') and agreed it was unusual but couldn't supply any more information. Neither could we find anything, other than a mention, in the church guide. I left intrigued.



What is the meaning of this strange image of hares chasing each other, often found in country churches?

Some weeks later I went to stay with a friend in Cumbria. On an outing to the cinema one evening, we stopped off to pick up a friend of hers. Barbara, the friend, wasn't quite ready and was in quite an excited state. She apologized, saying she'd been engrossed in a regional television news programme - in which symbols depicting three hares joined at the ears and contained in a circle had been found all around the world - even as far afield as China! When she learned that I had actually seen one, we started up an animated conversation - much to the bemusement of the others present! She then further informed me that the programme presenter was planning a research project on the subject and she'd keep me posted.

However, in November, I noticed a programme advertised on Radio 4. It was called 'Chasing Hares' and the blurb read:

The simple symbol of three hares chasing each other in an everlasting circle, the side view of their ears forming a triangle in the centre, can be found carved in old church roofs across the country. But the meaning behind this

symbol is anything but simple.' It goes on to say how an art historian, a photographer and an archaeologist would be getting together with the programme presenter 'to try to discover the elusive meaning' in a 'detective adventure that takes them to Europe, to China, to Iran, and back to the U.K. again, establishing en route that the three hares are used in Pagan, Christian, Buddhist and Islamic contexts, as part of belief systems the animals always connected with images of goodness, femininity and eternity.'

I planned to listen to this programme but other events overtook and I forgot. So I phoned a friend. He downloaded the programme and then kindly presented me with the CD.

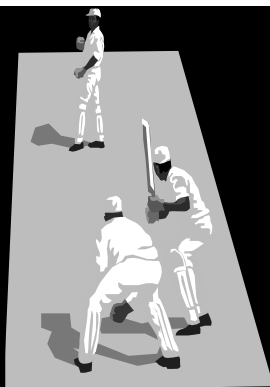
This was the last I heard of it until I read Margaret's article, followed by Ophir Catling's letter on the subject - it just keeps popping up!

So if anyone else is interested, and would like to hear the programme then do feel free to contact me. You can borrow and listen to my C.D. - and make your own copy if you wish.

**Karole Webster** (742855)



# !! HOW WAS THAT !!



AS IT HAPPENED IT WAS PRETTY GOOD. The first inter-village 20-over non-league cricket match took place on Sunday 26 June — exactly six months after Prior and Bulbeck met for their annual boxing day hockey match — which Prior won — yet again.

To avenge the apparent endless hockey defeats Bulbeck put everything they had into winning this cricket match. And Prior were nervous. It was magnificent weather, not too hot, with a gentle breeze, a good pitch had been prepared, the whites had been well-ironed, the ball was new, and the choice crowd settled down in expectation of a grand game with, by chance, the two goalkeepers in the hockey match being the two wicket keepers.



*The Winning Team*

Bulbeck batted first and began to look quite dangerous especially when the Prior bowling policy seemed to allow 2 overs to each player no matter how well they bowled. So there was an interesting variety of bowling some of which Bulbeck milked. Dominic Bowers bowled a wide and then got his only wicket with a ball which appeared to drop vertically out of the sky onto the stumps. Bob

Matheson took three wickets and just missed his hat trick, Anthony Osborne also took three, but what really stumped Bulbeck were the two maiden overs of Micky Brooks together with the return of the Prior opening bowlers. Bulbeck in their twentieth over were bowled out for 77. This may not appear a lot but recently Australia were bowled out for 75 — so Bulbeck did better than that. Cricket is not just a matter of ability —it's also a question of nouse. If Geoff Boycott or Freddie

Trueman had reported this match they would have pointed this out. Both felt that because they didn't come from the area and spoke funny that they might not be welcome. Anyway, nouse is what it is all about. Clive Riggs, Prior captain, reckoned that some volunteers ought to go in as sacrificial lambs to the Bulbeck spearhead bowling. He suggested this to one player who in very strong vernacular thought he should look elsewhere.

So in they went, over the top, and down they went — Clive Riggs 2, Dominic Bowers 0. Paul Latchford 0, Anthony Osborne 0- and Prior were reeling at 17 for 4 in the 3rd over with only Josh Willmott holding out until that demon bowler David Towriss had completed his allowed maximum 4 overs.

What leadership, and what captaincy, because now the “belters” came in. (*Explanation: in 20 over cricket a batsman has to retire once he has hit 20 runs, though he is able to bat again if all his side are bowled out*). Richard Mead (a last minute replacement) hit 20 runs (retired), Mike Carrington played a stylish 6 as foil to Tim Doe 20 runs (retired) and the winning run was struck by Micky Brooks (another last minute replacement) who was also man of the match because of his brilliant fielding and strategically important bowling. Swaffham Prior scored 78 for 5 with 5 overs to spare

‘Twas a great day, a wonderful atmosphere, an event to be repeated and special thanks to the groundsman, the umpire Steve Kent-Phillips, the scorers, the tea ladies, and to the Bulbeck captain John Trapp and his sporting team.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER**

**Saturday 8th October 2005**

**Starts at 6.00pm**

**Village Hall Swaffham Prior**

**Tickets available from mid September**

**(contacts for purchase tickets in next month's Crier)**

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

**Supper and entertainment included**

**Prices held from last year!**

**Bar and Raffle**



Swaffham Prior

# MOVEABLE FEAST

9th July 2005  7.00 pm



**TICKETS**

**£15.00**

**(to include 3 course meal & wine)**

**available from**

**Ruth Scovil  (01638) 743720**



*Proceeds to St Mary's Church*

## **Crier Profile Continued: Though A Glass Darkly – From a BBC Radio Programme, Part II**

I've got the impression he was not a popular man, says the BBC presenter here, with Reverend Fisher's scrapbook to hand. There's a lot of press cuttings here, his press cuttings: there are stories that villagers would even kick his dog, and it's obvious he was very disliked!

Comments from villagers here:

*"Thank God it's not like that now. There was a lot of controversy about the war memorial being put in the church..."*

"Fisher was very anti-Non-Conformist. Non-Conformists have always been powerful in this part of the country...this is Cromwell country, and I think this goes back...they were stronger than Church of England in a lot of our Fenland villages...I think the Eastern Counties were pretty solid for Cromwell apart from places like Colchester..."

Peter Cormack of the William Morris gallery again:

We have scrapbooks from Charles Allix, and records on permanent loan from the parish church at Swaffham Prior...surviving Churchwardens' minutes, local parish history...Allix compiled his scrapbooks over his life. They seem to be full of machines: he seems to have been obsessed by aeronautics, records of airships making long-distance flights, people in Cambridgeshire making their own flying machines, he lovingly cut them out and stuck them into his scrapbook. There are cuttings from the *Morning Post* and one from the *Daily sketch* called 'The Tank Text', which are about the Swaffham Prior windows:

"Many sins against good taste have been committed in the name of war memorials, but few perhaps are more flagrant than that which has occurred at Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, which has taken the phrase 'war memorials' literally...there is one hope: the windows are painted, not stained glass, which here and there already show signs that they will not last many centuries."

In fact the writer is quite wrong, Peter Cormack adds: the windows were painted as medieval windows were, and will indeed last, although they will fade.

There seem to be three main players in the story of these windows. The squire, who commissioned them and paid for at least two out of the three; there is the Vicar, presiding over a fairly High Church service, and there is the village. Memories of Allix remain:

*The squire, if he was in the village, men were expected to tip their hats: and ladies were expected to curtsy a little bit...*

*He was a spendthrift: he spent an enormous amount of money converting the*

*grounds around the big house to look like the Lake District, with lakes, and raised mounds and trees planted, and water running, because his wife liked the Lake District...*

I think my grandfather must have worn a frock coat on occasions because I can remember when he sat down he pulled the tails out each side, so as not to sit on them and crush them...I suppose in a way he didn't have enough to do...in those days, managing your estate didn't take up all your time, and I suppose that's why he was so interested in the church and doing the windows...

*He used to wear a little skull cap; he was very thin, he was a tall man, but there wasn't much of him. His wife, she used to come to church as well. The old fellow used to read the lesson. Very soft-spoken. He died in 1921...*

Many people who come here say how many trees there are. Well, many of those are due to Charles Peter Allix who was there in Victorian times...

Another voice explains the long-standing grudges over land in this area:

There's a Californian Redwood tree in there he brought back from California when he went on a trip there. They were a Huguenot family, and they had French ideas. His ancestor came from Normandy, from Alencon, in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to take up a position in the church in Ely: he was driven out of France when the Huguenots were persecuted. Swaffham Prior was a possession of Ely, and I think that's how he came by his land. A farmer a Bottisham tells me his family were farming there in the time of the Enclosure in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The way the church men took land at the time of the Enclosure and got it in great lumps, the best land, away from the smaller owners, was shocking: it antagonised people and made them Non-Conformist, they were so disgusted with the church men, who somehow acquired the principal Manor and the land at the time of Enclosure.

The presenter picks up here: So, with the Allixes comfortably ensconced at Swaffham Prior House, the whole family intent on their creation of stained glass windows:

The billiard room table was covered in cuttings from newspapers or magazines or anything he thought would fit into his scheme of what he'd got into his mind's eye...and I think people from the village came up and were asked if they had any ideas on the subject: certainly the family were asked and they had little snippets, and they spent mealtimes with the bible looking up texts and things that would be



*Spot the deliberate mistake.....*

suitable for these windows...

According to the written reminiscences of his daughter Isabella M Young the great work of squire Allix's life was the restoration of St Mary's church, abandoned since it was struck by lightning in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Worried by the decline of the Church of England in the village, and the rising Non-Conformism, he bought the medieval ruin and started on the restoration in the 1870s. Allix was resisted by the incumbent vicar, Thomas Preston, a popular, Low Church man who was quite content with the modern church of St Cyriac's next door. Allix apparently could not bear a Low Church service raised funds to restore the Chancel of St Mary's and fitted furnishings that Thomas Preston is said to have stigmatised as "Roman Catholic". Indeed, Parson Preston made himself so unpleasant that the furnishings had to be removed. When he died in 1897 Allix was careful to bring in a successor, Reverend Laurence Fisher, who shared his High Church views; and to whom he would eventually give the restored church of St Mary's. Fisher was still there 20 years later to dedicate the memorial windows. But Allix's daughter remarked that he was of a difficult disposition also, though in a different manner than Preston. I wonder what the villagers made of him?

A well-spoken lady recalls: *Well, I believe he was nearly a six-footer: I think he made six feet; he weighed a good sixteen or seventeen stone...He was a fine man...he baptised me: I was baptised at Reach Church by the Reverend Laurence Fisher, in October 1899.*

Bob Sheldrick: *He was a big round-faced man, bald-headed, but with the*

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**"And you don't remember him as a kind man?"**

**"What?"**

**"The Reverend"**

**"The Reverend?"**

**There is a pause.....**

*hair round his head -dark hair: he used to wear a different hat for every occasion, in his garden he would wear a little hat like a schoolboy's hat with a button on the top, peaked: when he used to go to Sunday school- he was our Sunday school master, he used to wear a mortar board; when he used to go to church he would wear one of these type cardinal hats, and when he went to meet the Bishop he would wear a top hat.*

The presenter asks: And you don't remember him as a kind man?

*What?*

The Reverend.

*The Reverend.* Bob Sheldrick seems taken by surprise at the question.

There is a pause. *He had his...pets. And I er, think that's what upset a lot of people in the village. He used to entertain a lot of boys down there; some of them used to bath him...*

Another voice: *He was homosexual, heterosexual, and all rolled up in one! When the men were out at work he used to see if he could get their wives, the boys of the choir, and so on. On the other hand, he played the part of the village patriarch. Everything was organised by Fisher, and so on.*

And another: *My father had nothing to do with him. My father, and a man named Charles Cook, who was the NSPCC inspector at Cambridge said*

*that if he hadn't died when he did, they were bringing out a summons against him, for his activity, whatever he got up to with youngsters in this village.*

*He was a member of the cricket team. He made nets for the practice.*

*I didn't realise about the...I realised about the maid...and his son says the lady's voice (there is a discussion here about who Fisher left his bed and his bicycle to, and the school he paid for the son to go to; and to the physique which was indicative of Fisher's progeny: all which, as a non-libel lawyer, this writer is hesitant to put to paper!)*

*Fisher was an enormous man. And he also had a gateway put through there to get Mrs \*\*\*\*\* - she was a victim.*

The presenter senses the discussion is becoming too hot for radio! He interjects hurriedly:

So Fisher was, was obviously a man, a man of, of *parts* in those days, he was somebody who did what he wanted.

*Well, yes and no (laughs). There was a lot of opposition to him. I mean, people in the village didn't lie down under his autocratic rule. You probably know that there's a Fore Street and a High Street and a back path, and he was seen coming along the back way path one day in a very dishevelled state and I think with a black eye, and he'd been to see a certain widow in the village and the sons had given a good hiding! (On the tape at this point suppressed mirth is just audible from the other participants in the discussion here) Grandfather had put up in the garden of Ivy Farm, it was a walled garden, in the corner, he put a cross up, with an old fish hanging on it, and the caption 'The Lord loveth truth and justice'.*

So, behind the stained glass, we've found all is not as it seems. We have a

classically patriarchal squire of Huguenot descent who has rebuilt the church himself and now wants to crown his achievement with some memorial windows. We have a scandalously remembered vicar, who appears to have exploited his weaker parishioners but who is also remembered as a good cricketer, and something of a benefactor too; and a village on whom these two seem to impose their intentions, good or otherwise, is a largely Non-Conformist place whose twenty-three dead are remembered not on the village green but in this privately restored High Anglican church.

Let's go back to the third window. It seems to be a representation of the promised land, biblical references, figures bringing back the pole with the grapes, is the end of the Exodus, the children coming out of their torment...but you see all the agriculture, these horse-drawn carts: something out of Swaffham Prior, 1902. This isn't just something out of Heaven: this is the last of England. The returning heroes would find a land fit for them, and that land was not much different from the idyllic notion of Britain before the war. This is how England would be: a land that was fruitful, harmonious, and above all, full of people. A working landscape where people would have a place.

**Mark Lewinski**

PS A bottle of reasonable plonk to the person who can tell me why the screen in the Church, (and therefore the position of the pews & aisle carpet also) is several inches off centre, both to the stone arch and the parquet floor. It's niggled every time I've set eyes on it for approaching nine years. To see it, look at the balance of the panels at the top, also at the straight lines of parquet on the floor which define the aisle.

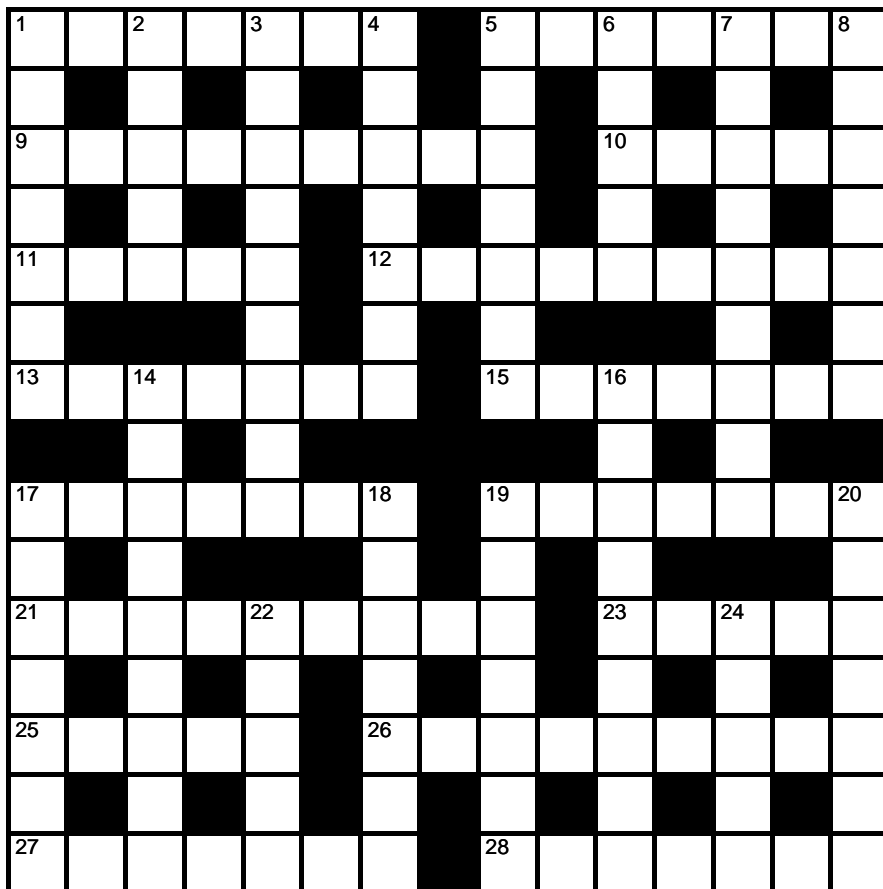
# Crossword Number 24

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

**NIBOR**

We have a straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 20th July 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:.....

A d d r e s s : .....

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



## Across

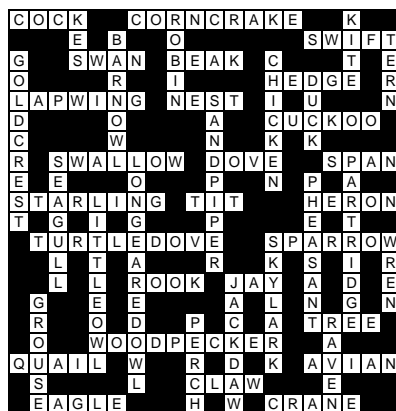
- 1 Vessel fit for drinking (7)
- 5 Hide in Morocco perhaps (7)
- 9 Accessory for an assistant (9)
- 10 Not out, not on ricochet (2-3)
- 11 Commander in veto of English philosopher (5)
- 12 Prig Simon upset by swearing (9)
- 13 Signal that sounds like joke by the river (7)
- 15 Scoundrel in near disaster so to speak (7)
- 17 Seasonal fuel that you will hear and record (4,3)
- 19 Child posed and looked after young ones (4-3)
- 21 Pink ice around pole for Nazi leader (9)
- 23 Direction in which minor theatre is going (5)
- 25 Drink in silver container is maturing (5)
- 26 Bored emir is excited and in stitches (9)
- 27 Old artifacts - the holiest sort (7)
- 28 Former scholars are now men (3,4)

## Down

- 1 Boat capsized in secure quagmire (4-3)
- 2 To have ten in charge is dangerous (5)
- 3 Doubly fluent, I gain bull conversion (9)
- 4 An illustration was enough (7)
- 5 Excite lady now or leave until mature (3,4)
- 6 I bail out - that's my excuse (5)
- 7 Ruffians we hear who signal trouble (9)
- 8 shelter oriental exile (7)
- 14 Young lady after jumble perhaps sees vendor (9)
- 16 Outlaw might steal with face covered (5,4)
- 17 Cart back over time and distance (7)
- 18 Blokes reportedly let off steam (7)
- 19 Bogieman gives insect a cry of disapproval (7)
- 20 Thirsts in order to get garments (1-6)
- 22 Darkness is a dreadful thing (5)
- 24 Set these days in a big city (5)

We congratulate **Martyn and Debby Clark**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Dee Noyes, June Readhead, Hilary Sage and Shirley Wilkins.

## Solution to crossword no. 23



# Down on the Farm –

---

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

---

Harvest and all Autumn workings are always our busiest times of the year, but April/May is perhaps the most important time due to all the different crop management decisions that have to be taken and put into practice.

As most of you will have seen during the late Spring plant growth had really taken off. It is managing this growth and taking care of the health of the crops that will play a large part in how good the final yield and quality will be.

Wheat, when planted in the Autumn, needs constant checking for disease, pests and competition from weeds, as it grows throughout the year. This starts with making sure that we have the best seed we can either bought in or grown by ourselves. If it is home grown a sample is sent away to be tested for any disease and for a germination count. This will partly determine how much seed we put in the ground at sowing time.

The seed rate is based on the germination, the date of sowing and how heavy a thousand grains of seed are. If we start drilling at the end of September the seed rate is a lot lower than if wheat goes in after sugar beet in December. For example, wheat drilled in September will probably go in at about 80kg per hectare (a hectare = two and a half acres approximately the size of 2 1/2 football pitches) rising to 160kg+ later on in the year after beet. This is mainly due to the germination early on in the year, which will be much better than later on when the soil is much colder and



Bateman Sprayer in action

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**“ Black grass is the biggest problem weed most farmers have to deal with. It is getting harder to control as there is a resistance to some of the herbicides we use....”**

days are much shorter. The seed is covered with a dressing that will protect it from some pests and some early diseases.

Once the crop is planted and is growing it has to be looked after. The first problem we have to contend with is weed control. This is done on a field by field basis walking with our agronomist, whatever the weather, and only the weeds that are there or we know from past experience will germinate later in the year will be targeted. The main targets are the broad leaf weeds such as chickweed, field pansies or speedwells. These have to be controlled as they will compete with

the wheat and overwhelm the young plant if allowed to get too large. Weed grasses are also a problem, so we use a different type of spray for them.

When we spray any crop these days the amount of pesticide used is the minimum to the job required. Five main types of pesticide are used: herbicides tackle all weeds; fungicides control disease; insecticides control bugs while trace elements improve the lack of essential minerals such as manganese. The fifth group of pesticides are the adjuvants that will help dilute some of the above products to allow for more efficient use. The main supplier of adjuvants to the whole country is Newman's on Quarry Lane in Swaffham Bulbeck.

All crops need continuous monitoring. As wheat is our main crop I will outline the crop management sequence for this.

Once the drilling has taken place we may, on some fields, have to do a pre-emergence spray to control mainly black grass. This is the biggest problem weed most farmers have to deal with. It is getting harder to control as there is a resistance to some of the herbicides we use so different methods of control are used in sequence to combat the problem. Also, in the Autumn we control most of the broad leaf weeds. At the moment this is still relatively easy as we use different products to target different weeds.

At this point a base fertiliser has been, or is just about to be, applied to the fields. This is used for the health of the plant rather than to make it grow (a bit like the human vitamin supplements we take). Soil tests are carried out every five years to determine the soil indices that will tell us the nutrient health of the soil. On all of our farms we apply manure when it is available in the form of straight farmyard manure or as a processed sludge from a local sewage works. This is beneficial in terms of both the soil structure and soil nutrients and the best bit about it is that it is free!

The crops will grow slowly or will remain dormant throughout the Winter. In the Spring nitrogen fertiliser is applied to make the crop grow and again we only put on what is needed for the type of crop. This is usually split into three applications to use the product more efficiently. The type of wheat we grow determines the amount of nitrogen fertiliser used. Milling wheat used in flour production requires

more nitrogen as the miller requires a high protein level and nitrogen is the best way of achieving this. Other wheat will require less as determined by their end use.

Another important control is disease in crops and this is done by the use of fungicides. We spray at three different times at predetermined growth stages of the plant. This allows us again to use minimum amounts of spray but to maximise its use for the plant at the right time. These products will protect the plant so as not to allow any disease in and this is much more efficient than trying to control disease once it has taken hold. The control of insects is also an important factor and while most insects are beneficial to the crop there are some that are troublemakers. We are able to control these with specific products that will target the “bad boys” such as aphids but will not harm the “good guys” such as ladybirds. A good insect population will also help the wild birds, which rely on them as a food source.

The last thing we have to be aware of is a lack of trace elements such as manganese, sulphur, copper etc. We apply these by spray when needed, more on the fen land than up on the chalk, as the fen is more prone to these deficiencies.

With all this management and control, together with good sun and rain at the right times, we may get a respectable crop of wheat at harvest. All we then have to do is pray for a half decent price at point of sale.

*James Willmott*

## Cherry-over-Ripe?

There was a garden in her face,  
Where roses and white lilies grew.

A heavenly paradise was that place,  
Until there came a fashion new.  
Now what I see is metal ware;  
Such ornaments I cannot bear.

And cherries fairly did enclose  
Of Orient pearls a double row,  
But now, when her lovely laughter  
shows,

I see a place where 'diamonds' grow.  
Yet all these things she had to buy;  
I cannot help but wonder why.

Her eyes like angels watch me still;  
Her brows with dumbbells proud do  
stand,

Threatening with piercé frowns, to  
kill

All my attempts with eye or hand  
The sacred cherries to come nigh;  
Enough to make me want to cry.

*Ophir.*

Thanks to THOMAS CAMPION  
1567-1620, who would be as  
bewildered as I am.

## A New Library for Burwell

MANY of you will know that there will be a new public library for Burwell in the near future. Plans for the new building are now well advanced and construction will start this summer, with the opening scheduled for January 2006.

The new building will stand just inside the gate of the Burwell Village College grounds, near the Phoenix Room. It will be built to a much higher standard than the existing premises and will include a customer toilet. New shelves and furnishings will be fitted to provide a welcoming and modern library for customers from both the village and school.

The current building will shut its doors to the public for the last time on **July 19th** but this doesn't mean that Burwell will be without a library - a mobile library vehicle will be moved onto the Village College site and services will be provided from here until the new library is ready. Normal travelling mobile services will continue as usual on Tuesdays for Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior.

The library van at Burwell will be permanently parked at the school throughout the summer and autumn and will open for exactly the same hours as normal (see below). There will be a complete range of books for children and adults, although it will be impossible to provide as many books as usual in this limited space. Unfortunately, although staff will still have IT access for dealing with your loans and requests, the public computers will not be available on the van. The nearest access points for public computer use will be Soham Library, Bottisham Library Access Point, and Reach Community Access Point.

Don't forget that you are always entitled to use any of our Cambridgeshire libraries and that many services are available online — for full details see:

**[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)**

### **Burwell library opening times**

<b>Day</b>	<b>AM</b>	<b>PM</b>
Monday		2.30-5.00 6.00-8.00
Tuesday	10.00-12.30	2.30-5.00
Wednesday	<b>closed</b>	
Thursday		2.30-5.00 6.00-8.00
Friday	10.00-12.30	2.30-5.00
Saturday	10.00-12.30	

***Marjorie Smith***

Cambridgeshire Libraries and Information Service



## The Reading Group Reads..... The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

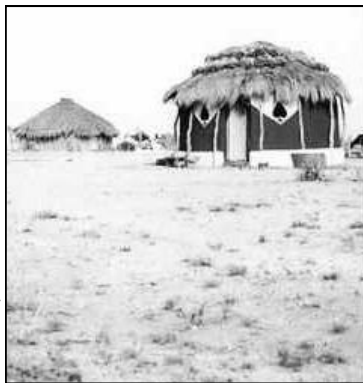
There was some confusion in the Crier regarding the date of June's meeting of the Reading Group, but most of the 'regulars' stuck by the first-Wednesday-in-month rule and turned up at Kent House on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

Alexander McCall Smith was born in Zimbabwe, and is now a professor of Medical Law in Edinburgh, and visits friends in Botswana often. He has written many books, including books on law as well as fiction. "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency", is the first in a series of six books (so far) about Precious Ramotswe, the owner of the first detective agency to be opened in Botswana. There was an almost unprecedented lack of controversy in our discussion of this book, as everyone seemed to have enjoyed reading it. The main discussion revolved around why we liked it (or them) so much, which is quite difficult to describe.

In fact, is easier to say what these books are not, than to pin down their appeal directly. They are not classic detective fiction – though there are puzzles and cases to be solved, but what the 'Ladies' do with the information they obtain is almost never what the reader expects. They are not "great literature"; there are no long-winded descriptive passages full of purple prose, but McCall Smith's deceptively simple choice of words is wonderfully evocative. Clear pictures of the country and the people are presented and are a definite part of the charm of these books. The

heroine, Mma Ramotswe is no Miss Marple. Agatha Christie's lady detective is deeply cynical about human nature and trusts no one. The "traditionally built" Mma Ramotswe sees the good in (almost) everyone, and tries to look at the positive aspect of every situation. On the other hand, she is definitely not Pollyanna. Mma Ramotswe recognises the realities of life in Africa: corruption, crime, deep poverty, and AIDS ("the sickness"), and does what she can to deal with these issues on a practical basis. Many of the stories are told with humour, often involving the small human frailties of the characters in the books, such as Mma Makutsi, the secretary who achieved 97 per cent in her exam at the Botswana Secretarial College, and will never get over it.

As usual, the evening's talk started with the topic of the 'book of the month' but ranged far and wide: this time from Africa and snakes, to bonfires and speeding tickets. Next month's book is "The Sea, The Sea, by Iris Murdoch" and the group will meet on 6<sup>th</sup> July at Mary Hart's, 15 Mill Hill, and the one after that "Cloud Atlas" by David Mitchell.



*Chris Carrington*

## School News



Well done to the Maypole dancers who helped to open the Reach Fair and the local Feast. Mrs Wilson helped to teach the children the three dances: The Barber's Pole, Double Plait and the Spider's Web. Although Class 4 is rather short of boys this year, the dancing went well. Thanks to Mr Noyes and his band for supporting with their music.

Summer trips are round the corner, with Class 3 visiting Peterborough Cathedral for a Tudor based trip and Class 1 and 2 visiting the Butterfly Farm as part of their work on living and growing. Class 4's residential trip to North Norfolk took place shortly after half term with beach walks, team building exercises, orienteering and a coastal town study. Classes have lots of visitors this term from tadpoles to caterpillars, stick insects and lady birds. The chickens hatched in Class 1 keep, making return visits to let the children check on their progress.

A themed sports' week for classes 3 and 4 was held before the half term. As well as participating in new sports such as bowls, boule, tri golf and orienteering, children linked their work to writing a newspaper and making information posters. Class 4 were wired up to ECGs to check their heart rate during exercise. Many thanks to the members of the school and village community who supported our week, giving up their time and sharing their expertise.

At the end of the half term, all children enjoyed the Menagerie Theatre's production of Tales From The Crow's Nest; this performance cleverly entwined folk tales and songs around a tale about a mismatched sea -faring pair.

The next phase of trim trail installation will be starting shortly. FoSPS have raised enough money for three additional pieces of equipment. The money raised at the Summer Fair will support phase three of the trim trail as well as the purchase of more laptops.

The supermarket token collection exceeded its target. We will be able to purchase a digital camera using Tesco's tokens and lots of playground equipment such as juggling balls and diabolos using Sainsbury's tokens. Thank you for giving us your tokens.

### Community Dates

Summer Fair July 9th at 12.30pm

Open evening July 14<sup>th</sup> at 5.30pm – all welcome to look around the school and enjoy our music and singing.

*Joanna Lakey*



## WI Notes



Have you ever driven into Cambridge of an evening between 6.30 and 7, and have you ever wondered why men were sitting on the steps of the Zion Baptist Chapel in East Road?

This is the venue of Jimmy's Night Shelter for the homeless. It was started ten years ago by Richard Howlett who discovered Jimmy living amongst a group of trees at junction 13 on the M11. Richard and his wife Joan were able to raise sufficient funds to set up the shelter in the basement of the old building. It was renovated, and bedrooms, a large lounge, diner-kitchen, quiet room and all the necessary facilities were built.

It caters for 25 men and 6 women a night and over the past 10 years 3,000 guests have been catered for. Some stay only one night, some stay for months. The shelter opens at 7p.m., a three course dinner is provided, and next morning a full English breakfast before it closes at 9.30a.m. And it is all free. There are 14 members of staff and 200 volunteers. Funding comes from various grants and voluntary contributions.

Richard and Joan are truly dedicated people who look after all their guests' needs and give them as much help as they can to get back into a mainstream way of life.

On 18<sup>th</sup> July we shall enjoy our usual summer party, this year Lis Lewis's Late Late Lunch at the Old School House, Mutton Lane.

*Betty Prime*



## OPEN GARDENERS

It was a sun baked afternoon and the village was full of cool quilters and gasping gardeners.

Judging by the comments, everyone that came, thoroughly appreciated the very hard work that had gone into making it such a success.

A very special thank-you to those that opened their gardens-Lynne and Peter Rand, Jonathan Cook at Fosters Mill, Peter and Mary Hart, Jean and Roger Connan, Charles and Fiona Terrington, Ruth and Robin Scovil, Frank and June Redhead and Mike and Elizabeth Tissier.

High on the appreciation list too, were the teas at the village hall, where most visitors rehydrated themselves. Thanks very much to all that brewed and baked wonderful cakes- my grandson thought his pink cake was the best he had ever tasted in the whole of his thirty months( at least, that is what the look on his face implied!)

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**“ Everyone should know that Lynne Rand has friends in high places....they told the whole of East Anglia on Friday tea time to come to Swaffham Prior ...”**



Everyone should know that Lynne Rand has friends in high places—at the weather desk of Anglia T.V. They predicted sunshine and they told the whole of East Anglia on Friday tea time to come to Swaffham Prior on Sunday for a great Father's Day out. I think a lot of them did!

*Margaret Joyce*



## STAINE HUNDRED

### The Outing

A coachload of members of the Staine Hundred Local History Society and their friends paid a visit to Norfolk on Tuesday 14 June. After a stop for coffee at Weasenham, the party proceeded to Holt Station where they boarded the train, pulled by a steam engine, for a ride to Sheringham through pleasant rural countryside though the rhododendrons were past their best.

Boarding the coach again at Sheringham, the next stop was at Felbrigg Hall where members enjoyed lunch before making a tour of the house Hall which was built about 1620, added to in 1680 and substantially altered during the 1850s. For many years it was the home of the Windham family, until one of them married a profligate prostitute who ran through his money so it had to be sold. The last owner left the Hall, 500 acres of park, and the entire estate to the National Trust on condition that it was kept exactly as it was, so it still contains much of its 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture and many fine paintings. It has an outstanding library which is the entire book collection of three different people and contains books which belonged to Dr Johnson. The walled garden has been restored, but the flower beds have not yet fully established themselves. The greenhouses were also restored - the heated one providing a warm spot for the bantam hen and cockerel escaping from the cool wind! There is also a working dovecote within the walled garden.



Felbrigg Hall

Maureen Hughes, Chairman, thanked Stewart Bell for organizing another enjoyable outing, with the help of Peter Arnold, Treasurer.

*Peggy Day*

# *Green Man Inn*

*London Road, Six Mile Bottom*

**01638 570373**

[info@greenman6mb.com](mailto:info@greenman6mb.com)



[www.greenman6mb.com](http://www.greenman6mb.com)

*New Lunch Menu  
New a la carte Menu*

*Along with menu changes we have also introduced a new no smoking policy which now includes the front bar as well as the restaurant.*

*The garden is now open - just hoping for good weather!  
Don't forget, families welcome at all times- children's menu /  
half portions available.*

# Madmix



We are your local supplier of Minimix ready mixed concrete.

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## **Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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



**MISSING**

FROM VICARAGE FARMHOUSE  
8 HEATH ROAD  
SWAFFHAM PRIOR

**TOBY**

ELDERLY BIRMAN CAT WITH ONE EYE ONLY  
(FLUFFY WHITE WITH DARK BROWN TIPS)

ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CALL JACKIE  
O'GORMAN 01638 745180

## **CANTILENA SINGERS**

**Music for a Summer evening**

**Saturday 2nd July 2005**

**Emmanuel United Reformed Church Trumpington St. Cambridge**

**7:30 pm**

*Programme includes*

**World premiere of 4 River Songs by Roderick Elmer**

**Pieces by Britten, Rutter, Stanford, selection of Folk Songs**

**Director Daniel Spreadbury**

**Cello Interludes by Phillipa Jones**

**Adagio by Marcello arr J.S. Bach**

**The Prayer by Bloch**

*Interval refreshments;*

*Tickets £8; concessions £5 - available on the door*

*Further information contact:*

# BURWELL SURGERY NEWSLETTER

## Appointments

In order to make booking appointments more convenient for patients, Burwell surgery now provides a secure internet booking service which can be used to book routine appointments with a doctor. It is possible to view a range of available appointments up to three weeks ahead and book appointments, view appointments you have already made or cancel them if necessary. It is not, however, possible to book appointments with nurses.

For more information or if you would like to register to use the internet service, please ask one of the receptionists. If you wish to have an emergency appointment or a home visit, please try to ring the surgery between 8.30 am and 11.00 am as the doctors prefer to arrange these appointments between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm. Doctors prefer to see patients at the surgery rather than a home visit where possible, as they can usually see three patients at the surgery in the time it takes to do one visit. Help can usually be arranged for transport – please ask for details from the receptionists. Doctors are, of course, very happy to visit those patients who are unable to get to the surgery.

**Janet Parker**

Practice Administrator

online | [www.admiralconservatories.com](http://www.admiralconservatories.com)



**01480 456789**

Ermine Street Alconbury Cambs

**ADMIRAL WINDOWS**

• • • & • • •  
**CONSERVATORIES**



## 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.*



## Church of England Services

### July 2005

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 3</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 10</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 17</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 24</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 31</b>			<b>10:00am</b> Holy Communion

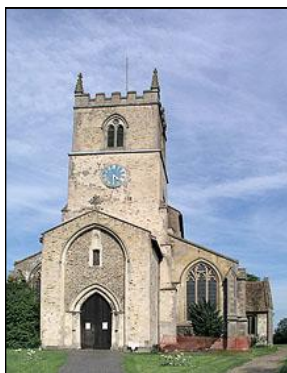
**Stop Junk Mail and Unwanted  
Calls**

## PASTORAL LETTER, July 2005

## Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who contributed towards and supported the Holy Trinity 800<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. It was a wonderful weekend, and despite the weather doing its best to dampen our spirits it was a superb community occasion. The Church looked wonderful, and we were so pleased that so many people made the effort to visit the Church and the fete, and we were delighted that the weekend raised nearly £4,000 towards the Church restoration fund. Many thanks to you all.



800 years and counting...

One of the great pleasures of walking my dog Henry at this time of the year is hearing the Skylarks singing so joyfully high up in the sky. They seem so exuberant and carefree.

I once heard the story of a young skylark who discovered one day a man who would give him worms for a feather. He made a deal -- one feather for two worms. The next day the lark was flying high in the sky with his father. The older bird said, "You know, son, we skylarks should be the happiest of all birds. See our brave wings! They lift us high in the air, nearer and nearer to God."

But the young bird did not hear, for all he saw was an old man with worms. Down he flew, plucked two feathers from his wings and had a feast. Day after day this went on. Autumn came and it was time to fly south. But the young skylark couldn't do it. He had exchanged the power of his young wings for worms.

I think the story of that skylark is a moral tale that is very appropriate for today's society. Pick up a tabloid paper and analyse its message. It speaks of our greed, our preoccupation with material possessions, the way that we so often worship our bodies, the way that we worship so called 'personalities', and the way that we worship the wonderful gift of procreation. We seem to worship everything else other than the God who made us, loves us, sustains us and wants so much to have a loving relationship with us.

St Paul speaking of the society he knew 2000 years ago could just as easily be speaking of our society today when he wrote: *'For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.'* (Romans 1:21)

During July we have decided to pray for the G8 Summit, that the leaders of the eight richest nations might have their hearts and minds guided to show real compassion and concern for the plight of the deprived nations of the Third World. I think that initiative is one important step in the right direction. Perhaps we all ought to rethink our priorities in life, and start to think about the needs of others rather than ourselves, and, like the older and wiser skylark, rise higher and nearer to God.

My God bless you all.

*David*

## ***Dates for Your Diary - July 2005***

Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	6	Reading Group, 15 Mill Hill, 8pm
Thu	7	
Fri	8	
Sat	9	7pm Moveable Feast
Sun	10	
Mon	11	
Tue	12	
Wed	13	
Thu	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Fri	15	
Sat	16	
Sun	17	
Mon	18	WI Summer Party, Old School House, Mutton Lane
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

NOT A LOT HAPPENING THIS MONTH!



Support  
St Cyriac's!  
**SEPTEMBER 22**  
Village  
Meeting