



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 6
June 2005



Editorial

It seems to have fallen to me to do the Editorial again, since the Editor-in-Chief is too busy writing letters to herself about fireworks and monstrous trees - apparently - but really bonfires (see *Letters* if you want proof and maybe the explanation).

And it's a bumper edition this month. Lots has happened: the Village Feast (well attended); our Village Assembly (not so well attended, alas including Eds who only remembered too late); various elections (we



welcome a new County Councillor, Hazel Williams, but there's otherwise no change); the increasingly popular *Ladies-only Indulgence* evenings; and an invitation for a further land-girl re-union stemming from last month's much enjoyed *Crier Profile*.

The coming month is even fuller of events, so numerous the *Contents* panel only just fits. *Down on the Farm*, marking Peter Taylor's retirement, brings more memories of times past in the village, and this month's *Profile* delves into the stories behind our apparently "appallingly bad taste" church windows.

We've also, through our Web site, established contact with Paul Chambers who is researching village history (see our Web site for a link to his) and who promises us future articles on topics such as: the effect of the black death; Swaffham Prior's royal connections; and the meteorite of 1630.

And finally, reluctantly, back to our ever-popular *Letters* pages staple: *bonfires*. Perhaps a bit less *eye for an eye* and a bit more *love thy neighbour* from all?

James Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Picnic Time* by O. Thomas



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Land-girls Reunited

We were pleased to read the fascinating article on Sid Prince and to see the copy of the Land Army Reunion photograph. This was taken on the drive in front of Swaffham Prior House on 29th June 1985 when we invited back as many as could be contacted of the young girls who were billeted in Swaffham Prior House during World War Two. They had been conscripted to work on the land as part of the war effort. Some came from Liverpool and London. It was a very happy Saturday afternoon tea party gathering, and 'the girls' explored the rooms in which they had slept and told many tales of the mischief they had got up to and of the tough regime to which they were subjected! As many as possible got into our old tractor and trailer for the photograph. We repeated this some years later, but numbers were already reducing through old age!! If anyone is still in touch with the surviving members and would like to organise a further reunion to celebrate 60 years since the end of the War, please contact us and we'll be delighted to see them again.

Michael & Sibyl Marshall

Dear Editors,

Ladies Indulgence Evening

On behalf of The Friends of Swaffham Prior School, I would like to thank the many villagers who so generously supported two of our events recently.

At the Ladies Indulgence Evening on May 22nd the village hall was completely transformed by metres of silk, soft lights, candles and flowers which provided an atmosphere of luxury that everyone enjoyed.

The Evening was a wonderful opportunity to relax with friends over a glass of wine, enjoy a massage and partake of a little retail therapy and we raised the fantastic sum of £660.

Many of you also supported the Barrow of Booze Prize Draw which took place at Reach Fair. Tickets sold during the week before, and also at the fair resulted in a total of £991 being raised.

These amounts put us well on track to be able to provide the second phase of the Trim Trail for the playground.

Many thanks to you all,

Jane Blanks, Chairman, FoSPS.

Dear Editors,

Flak, not flack

Before getting more flak (Yes. Flak, not flack) I must confess that the name of a well-known political party in my piece last month was quite wrong.

This should, of course, have read DemLib.

Frank Readhead

Dear Editors,

Bonfires

It was a beautiful May Bank Holiday. It was quarter to nine in the evening, and the first star hung in a cloudless sky. I'd've liked to have sat out in my garden to enjoy it, but it was not cloudless down here. Instead, a pall of heavy smoke hung over the bottom of Fairview Grove and the whole of the Beeches. We had to close the windows, take the washing in, and our neighbours couldn't put theirs out.

When I located the source, I was gobsmacked. The most enormous bonfire - several square metres of unattended burning damp greenstuff, bigger than I have ever lit in my life, next to a footpath in the corner of a very big garden behind Fairview Grove, pouring smoke horizontally and downhill across to our homes. Way beyond, where there was no smoke, the light of its owner's tv flickered distantly in their windows.

'Holiday' once meant Holy Day - a special day in the year. Not tonight it wasn't.

This has been discussed before so we know rational debate won't convince them. Could we therefore request of the bonfire people to undertake this simple action? Once you've lit it, just go downwind and see what it's like. If you don't enjoy the experience, you can be certain people who live there won't be happy either. Worse for them, they don't have the option of putting a hosepipe to it or to go upwind to a smoke-free home. Therefore it is unreasonable to let it continue. It's not a lot to ask.

And if you enjoy your bonfire enough to light it, keep it company. Please don't walk off and leave it to smoke over the rest of us for hours.

Mark Lewinski

*WELL!! Surely last month's correspondent asked "if only bonfires could be set **in the evening**, when our washing is taken in..." Anyhow, by one of those strange coincidences, just as I finished writing this note, I found the following in the Crier in -tray...*

Ed

Dear Editor,

Fireworks and Monstrous Trees

The other night I retired to bed unaccountably early only to be awoken by the most humungous bangs and whoops of **FIREWORKS** from a nearby large garden not our own. *Worse*, the junior department round here could not be persuaded to flicker an eyelid, and so missed this spectacular display.

I would not mind, were it not for the fact that during the day I am further beset by a sunlight-snaffling monster row of 60 foot Leylandii in another nearby garden, well *ours*, as it happens. Meaning *we'll* have to cut them down and burn them, on an *extremely big bonfire*, but then what? Monstrous sacks full of *complaining* letters, that's what!

What *is* this village coming to?

Ed

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

MAURICE CHEVALIER may have been grateful for some little things but I thank heaven for Swaffham Prior Parish Council. After the emotional trauma of the previous four or five weeks – the Pope (especially after reading *In God's Name*), the joyful union of Charles and Camilla, the General Election, and the betrayal of Manchester United – after all this I could only wallow in the atmosphere which surrounds our ever cheerful and totally reliable representative body.



To illustrate my point it is so reassuring to be told again that the Coopers Lane Barrier may yet be erected *sometime* and that Ringway has been instructed to remove the old lamp standard at the church steps and to fire up the lantern *as soon as possible*. One is two years overdue and the other a mere nine months. This is not a criticism of the PC or of any of the other bodies involved but an acknowledgement that sudden rash changes can sometimes take time in this part of the world.

We had first sight of our new CCC representative, Hazel Williams. She rattled through all her current interests and positions – 21 years on Burwell PC, ECDC councillor 9 years, 5 children by the age of 20 or was it 5 children with the youngest being 20, charity work, church work, etc. Very impressive. She herself raised the question which many must ask – will her having so



Hazel Williams,
our new CCC rep.

many positions be a disadvantage. She saw it as a possible advantage to have someone with a foot in several camps as some matters spread across several councils. I think it all depends on the energy and effectiveness of the person and Hazel

“ [Hazel] rattled through all her current interests and positions – 21 years on Burwell PC, ECDC councillor 9 years, 5 children by the age of 20 or was it 5 children with the youngest being 20....”

appears to have an abundance of both. We shall see.

The legal fees for drawing up the lease for Burwell Tigers seem to be spiralling out of control and Steve Kent-Phillips expressed real concern. I don't know who the lawyers are but a picture of Dickens' Dodson and Fogg did come to mind. The proof of a good representative is not just to moan and lament but to come up with a solution and this Steve did with the help of the ubiquitous problem-solving pint of beer. Over one of these his lawyer friend proposed a solution which will probably cost hundreds rather than thousands and Hazel Williams said it was exactly the same arrangement that Burwell PC had with the Tigers. The new proposal will be explored further.

A report on our Playground by ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) had arrived but because it was not on the agenda it appears it could not be

discussed – though many did informally. Somehow I came out with a copy and it illustrates that there will be no end to some small minded smart alec pointing out that an accident can always happen. We all know this but we also know that accidents cannot always be blamed on someone else, much as the ambulance chasing lawyers try to persuade otherwise.

On 1st January 1999 the standards for play equipment changed with the publication of EN 1176. Fortunately the new Standard “is not mandatory or retrospective”. Oh! Earlier in its report ROSPA had said “There are a number of areas where existing equipment may fail the standard. *This does not mean that equipment has suddenly become dangerous or that remedial action is required* (my italics).” But we are also told that “Low risk items should be monitored and if accidents occur, remedial action will be required.” This means that if any equipment or pathway has been used for years without an accident then it is deemed safe. But should one of those legendary two-left foot accident-prone individuals have a spill then a change would need to be made.

ROSPA goes on to say “There is no such thing as NO risk.” Exactly! And I appreciate the cleft stick in which ROSPA finds itself. It knows genuine accidents will happen but it can’t say that’s just part of life. It has to make a recommendation such as that a protective surface should be considered for items in a playground which have a fall in excess of 600mm – that’s two feet. And it is this careful approach which is likely to endanger our slide which naturally fails to meet EN 1176 in four respects – all of which are apparent to any parent and grand parent as they heart-in-mouth monitor a three year old making its first attempt. Children also appreciate the possible danger which is what they enjoy. Ours is a great slide, a challenging slide, but now it might only require one mishap to mean its replacement with a feeble one like that at

Bulbeck. I say let’s keep our SANITY and our SLIDE.

Alastair Everitt

PS. A few days after the meeting I heard that Home Farm at Wimpole Hall had followed the advice of the Health Protection Agency and had stopped children from collecting chickens’ eggs because it is deemed hazardous. Are you thinking what I’m thinking?

CRICKET STOP PRESS

The Captain of the Bulbeck team may be one of the strong and the brave but there is nothing better than four pints of ale to bring him down to earth and for him to pass to me a copy of the insidious rubbish he is to publish in the *Bulbeck Beacon*.

I quote only the acceptable part of his diatribe:-

“Prior are taking it seriously; they have appointed coaches of various hues –

**a left arm wrist spinner coach,
a right arm finger spinner coach,
an attacking field coach,
a defensive field coach,
an opening bat coach,
a middle-order collapse batting coach,
a nine-ten-jack batting coach,
a tea-drinking coach,
a striding out to the wicket coach,
a toss-calling coach;
in fact they have more coaches than players,
but that is their way.”**

**SEE YOU ON SUNDAY
26 JUNE AT 2.00PM**



9th July 2005 🍷 7.00 pm



TICKETS

£15.00

(to include 3 course meal & wine)

available from

Ruth Scovil ☎ (01638) 743720

(not later than 2nd July please)

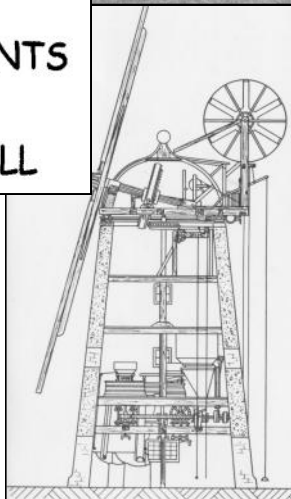
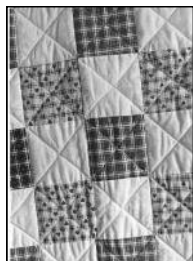


Proceeds to St Mary's Church

A NEW LETTINGS SECRETARY FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

After many years Jo Pumfrey has decided to give up as Lettings Secretary of the Village Hall. Everyone who has dealt with Jo knows just how efficient, caring and reliable she has been. But the time has come when we must say out with old and in with the new. Barbara Dennis has agreed to take over from Jo and this will happen in the middle of June. A big hand of appreciation for Jo and of welcome for Barbara (743939).

Alastair Everitt



**SWAFFHAM PRIOR
OPEN GARDENS &
FOSTERS MILL**

**SUNDAY 19th JUNE
2-6pm**

ENTRANCE £2.50

Also

**QUILTING EXHIBITION
At ST CYRIACS CHURCH
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th
10am-5pm Admission £2.00**

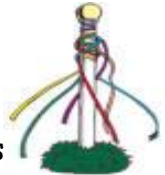
**TEAS, POTTERY & PLANTS
On sale
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Swaffham Prior School

SUMMER FAIR



Saturday 9 July 2005, 12.30 - 4.00pm
at Swaffham Prior School



Barbecue * Bouncy castle * Pony rides

Bar * Live music * Maypole dancing * Games

Ice creams * Face painting * Craft corner * Stalls

There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the

Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!

Fosters Mill 150th Anniversary Appeal

Wine Tasting with Alex Riley Wines

The Windmill, Swaffham Prior 19th June 2005 at 6pm

You are invited to a wine tasting in the wonderful setting of the Windmill. Alex Riley of Alex Riley Wines will be presenting a selection of excellent French red, white and rosé wines, complemented by a range of cheeses and breads to clear the pallet! Tickets (please purchase in advance) are £18.00 each with £10.00 from every ticket going to the appeal. For more information, please contact:

Jonathan Cook, The Windmill, Swaffham Prior, Tel: 01638 741009,

CRICKET

BULBECK versus PRIOR

SUNDAY 26 JUNE

AT 2.00PM

On Bulbeck Denny

It is all happening & coming together
Some young Bulbeck louts are getting
into

a frenzy and always shout at me
"Yah! We're going to beat you"

A FEW FACTS

1. Clive Riggs is Captain of the Prior team
2. It's a limited 20 over match, no player bowls more than 4 overs, and a batsman must retire after scoring 20
He plays again if all his side are bowled out
3. *A reporter is required.* Geoffrey Boycott would have liked to have reported but he's decided to fiddle around with some old ashes somewhere else
4. *Prior still needs one or two extra players*
(At the time of writing)

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE ASSEMBLY 2005

Where *were* we all??

27% was the decrease in numbers of attendees, 16 heads counted (2% of the village) down from 22 heads (2.75%) in 2004 and 25 (3%) in 2003. When complaining about some village matter, do people stop and think whether they took up this annual opportunity to say their bit? Inevitably, circumstances sometimes conspire to make it difficult, but - every year?

Hazel Williams introduced herself as our new CCC councillor. She sounds very busy, but if you want something done Her election must have been due to more than photographs that did not cut her off at the knees, nor have pipes and posts growing out of her head. James Fitch reported on matters which he dealt with last year – a modest annual Council Tax increase from an ‘excellent’ audit-rated county management for our area - Burwell, Swaffhams and Reach. Our local bobby failed to show, probably because he was busy elsewhere. We don’t have serious problems here but we remain vigilant about hare coursing, if not about hair dressing courses.

Allen Alderson took up the baton with good news that the cinema at Ely Maltings has doubled in popularity. Perhaps we should all give it a try. A decision on the ECDC new offices at Angel Drove gained wide support because it should avoid the sort of costs that SCDC have found in Cambourne. Ours will be self-financing, allegedly. It will also support a Park & Ride into Ely to counter difficult parking conditions, where other moves are now afoot to avoid too much use of feet. We shall have a new *Local Development Framework* in 2007 to replace the *Local Plan 2003* so, if you are unhappy about planning matters, write to get them considered before they get set in concrete. Affordable housing gets an investment of £60 million from 2004 to 2006, with 150 units a year from 2005. Sadly, we have no suitable land here.

“ Affordable housing gets an investment of £60 million from 2004 to 2006, with 150 units a year from 2005. Sadly, we have no suitable land here...”

The bus stop, a local landmark and one of the jewels in the SP crown, is under threat. The roof is failing. There was talk of replacing this imaginative and sensitive building with a pitched roof! Before you know it, they’ll stop inappropriate UPVC replacement windows in the Conservation Area, or screen off the electricity substation at the focal point. Where will the village character be then?

Village Hall bookings have also doubled over recent months, a growing testament to the foresight and effort of all those involved in its transformation. The patronage of so many visitors from surrounding areas confirms our good fortune with this increasingly popular facility.

Our School is also doing fantastically well, its success supported by a number of fund-raising enterprises (please keep your Tesco vouchers coming).

Our Youth Club has less happy news where, in need of some TLC are both building and management. Jill and Alan Badcock really cannot be expected to go on with a load they have carried for 16 years but the club will wither and die without them. With no outlet for youthful energy our children and grandchildren will be accused of hanging around looking for trouble, hooded or not, when they are just looking around for something to do. New blood is needed. The younger 17 scouts and 10 cubs are more lively, with lots to do. Could some connection be made?

John Covill, our new chairman, was able to advertise progress, like the Beeches wall repair (done), the new lamp at the church gate (sort of done and soon to get power) and the ever imminent Coopers Lane barrier replacement (not done, and currently less than a mini Cooper barrier as the appointed contractor is not that fast). Dumped asbestos will shortly be collected and disposed of, though not that in Dencora Field where, at least, at last, the police now have powers to stop selfish nuisances. As usual, we have visiting travellers on the fen, some families welcome and, those who habitually leave a mess behind them, some not. There remains fly tipping on the fen to be disposed of, and the proximity of this subject matter should in no way be interpreted as connecting with the preceding. Not everyone who dumps rubbish in the countryside lives in a caravan. That's like saying no-one who lives here ever speeds through the village, and you know that's not true.

Frank Readhead

Lode Village

Open Gardens

Sunday 12th June 2005

11am – 4.30pm

Cream Teas

2pm – 5pm
at
Lode Church

Entrance £2 includes programme
Available from Lode Church
Accompanied Children Free

Proceeds to St James' Church Lode with Longmeadow



Roll up, roll up.....!

Crier Profile No. 4: Though A Glass Darkly

The WWI Memorial Church Windows of Swaffham Prior

(Excerpts from Radio 4 documentary broadcast on Sept 14th 1995)

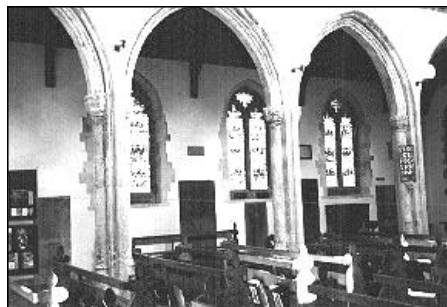
“A MEMORIAL, not written on paper, but figured in glass. The once remote village of Swaffham Prior is known for having two churches in one churchyard. In St Mary’s, the visitor will find three graphic stained glass windows: awkward, strangely kitsch-looking things, which seem all the more revealing for being in - what even the church leaflet here admits - *appalling taste*.

These windows tell the story of the first world war as it appeared to the bereaved village – or more precisely to its squire, one Charles Peter Allix, who designed them and paid most of the cost. The dedication service was presided over by the Reverend Laurence Fisher on the nineteenth of December 1919. This was Bob Sheldrick’s memory of the event, recorded some years ago for the BBC:

I was here with my father and mother. We sat over there – the people who made the dedication came round here and we sang the appropriate hymns. The buglers were up on the screen. Two marines: one was Mr Rule, Harry Rule, and the other was a friend of his, Mr Golding.

There were three new stained glass windows, a brass tablet bearing the names of the twenty-three fallen men of the parish, and a stone Celtic cross, placed below the centre window, and which looks as if it might be better placed on a village green, or outside in the churchyard.

The parish magazine describes the service: the cross was unveiled by the warden CC Ambrose – he was a big local farmer – and a hymn was sung ‘When I survey The wondrous Cross’ and the vicar read the names of the



Those windows

fallen. The subject of the two war windows and the peace window windows were then explained by warden CP Allix and the last post was sounded from the Rood loft by the buglers, perhaps the most thrilling part of a very moving service. The church was full – not only with the living, but with the names of the dead. Bob Sheldrick recalled for the programme one of them: Percy Benstead, who is buried in Palestine. His grand-daughter took up the story:

My grandfather died just at the end of the first world war of malaria. It was very sad that he went through all the war and then died just before he came home. My mother was born in 1917 and he never saw her, having already gone back to Egypt. He lived down the Fen road, past the station. He was a very good man. On the winter nights he used to go along the river bank and collect up

the gipsy children and put them in the barns, to keep them out of the rain.

So here, just after the Great War, with Englishness to the fore, paid for with young lives. Every village has its version of this, a memorial fused in a common act of memory.

But Swaffham Prior's windows really are unusual – brightly violent, they testify to the brutality: they are full of tanks; howitzers, airships, bombing planes, broken bodies being picked up and taken into ambulances...

Peter Cormack of the William Morris gallery was asked to comment on the windows:

They are a combination of a gothic framework, and then inside, very elaborate ornamental niches. There are more sophisticated war memorials with more sophisticated art, but this is fascinating because it is such an explicit tabloid document.

Bob Sheldrick reflected:

Just think, how soon that was done. I mean, the war was over in 1918: they had a meeting and decided who was going to pay for this thing; by 1919 it was designed, assembled, and dedicated.

Squire Allix's hand-written dedication speech survives. He begins by saying 'Friends and countrymen, lend me your ears, to quote our great poet Shakespeare' – and it's a long and moving document. But there was something just a little odd about it, because Allix clearly felt obliged to explain why these memorials should have been placed in this particular building.

A clue comes in the position of the Baptist chapel across the road. Another village voice, not identified in the programme, comments:

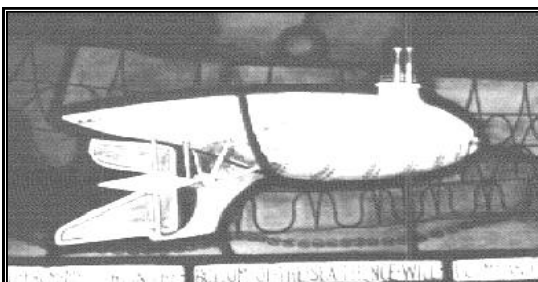
In those days it was very strict, really, the non-conformists would hardly ever go into the parish church, some wouldn't even go in for a funeral or a wedding. Church people would never go into the chapel. Reverend Fisher, he was very bigoted, he wouldn't never go into the chapel. Thank God it's not like it now. There was a lot of controversy about the war memorial.

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 lot of press cuttings here...

..To be continued.

Mark Lewinski

Many thanks to our Skye correspondent Ophir Catling for sending us the recording and to Radio 4 (*um, in advance*) in hopeful anticipation of their kind permission to publish these extracts.



Enemy U-boat, passing sunken wreck and about to collide with snake-like anti-submarine-net, hence:

"THOUGH THEY BE HID FROM MY SIGHT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, THENCE WILL I COMMAND THE SERPENT AND HE SHALL BITE THEM"!

Eds' note: if you participated in this programme or know of others who did, the Crier would be very glad to hear from you.

JUST A SENIOR MOMENT

A cautionary tale from Swaffham Prior

ONE night, on the High Street, some time before light, a car window was smashed. At about eight, the owner discovered it. Vandals were obviously the culprits, high jinks on the way home perhaps. Who could know for sure? Well-meaning, kindly neighbours were helpful and sympathetic, police and insurance were notified, a new window ordered, the pavement swept. Breakfast seemed to take forever. Then the phone rang.

It was John Lewis. "Have you been to Halfords in Coventry today and paid for items totalling £380 with a John Lewis partnership card?" There was laughter as I explained that I'd never actually been to Coventry and, anyway, I had the card in my bag. "Would you mind getting it please?"

Slowly, like a close-up in an old film, came realisation: the handbag must have been in the car. How could I not know that? Frantically I searched for telephone numbers and stopped all the debit and credit cards, all the store cards, which could be of use to whoever had taken them to Coventry overnight. The bus pass and loyalty cards could wait. The feeling of inadequacy and incompetence exhausted me.

The Switch card was stopped but there was time for five separate transactions to be made at various Tesco Stores in Coventry (with cashbacks, of course) and at J.D. Sports. But just think how much worse it would have been had not John Lewis contacted me so quickly. They told me they had a system in place which alerted them right away to any unusual practices: my partnership card is only used in Waitrose and in Robert Sayle so the handling in Coventry had immediately alerted them. How fortunate I was that the Halford purchase was the first to be made that day, and with the partnership card rather than Switch. I would not have known of the loss of my bag until the afternoon.

All has now been resolved: my new Switch card and my John Lewis partnership card have arrived, and, of course, I have to use another bag.

I shall treasure it.

More Cautionary Tales (circulating the E-mail)

I: I was approached at 3:30 pm in a Sheffield Tesco car-park by two males asking what kind of perfume I was wearing. Would I like to sample some fabulous scent they would sell me at a very reasonable rate? I probably would have agreed (*Que!! Eds*) had I not previously received an e-mail warning of this scam. *It's not perfume....it's ether: if you sniff it, you'll pass out, and they'll take your wallet and heaven knows what else.*

II: You walk across the car park, unlock your car and get inside. You lock all your doors, start the engine, but the rear-view mirror reveals a piece of paper stuck to the rear window. You jump out, but when you reach the back of your car, car-jackers appear, jump in and take off, quite probably with your (if female) *handbag*.

Many thanks to Janet Willmot for these

The Burwell Surgery Newsletter

EARLIER this year we conducted a patient survey and asked 250 of you to complete a questionnaire. The survey covered the service provided by the doctors and the practice as a whole. The survey was analysed and the results collated by a national company who carry out over 4,000 surveys of doctors' surgeries each year. We now have the results and would like to share them with you.

I am pleased to inform you that the overall score for the practice was above the national average and we received some very favourable comments which are very encouraging. The highest score was for the respect shown to our patients. However there are some areas where we didn't do so well and which we need to improve on.

“Our highest score was for the respect shown to our patients.”

The worst area was waiting times. 10 minutes are allocated for each routine appointment, however the doctors try to give each patient the time they need and this sometimes results in the doctors running late. We do provide double appointments if patients are attending with more than one problem. Please let reception know when booking your appointment if this is the case. All the doctors are aware of this problem and try to keep the wait to a minimum. The receptionists endeavour to inform you if their surgery is running late but please ask if you feel your wait is excessive.

Some patients also expressed concern about the opportunity to speak to doctors on the telephone. All the doctors are happy to carry out telephone consultations. When you request this service you may be given an actual appointment time for the doctor to ring you or if that is not available the doctor will return your call at the end of surgery. Urgent calls are put through to the duty doctor immediately and for more information on this please ask at reception.

The children's play area, or lack of it, was also an issue raised by some of you. Due to concerns of health and safety and infection control we have kept the toys to a minimum with a Lego table. Although we provide books to encourage parents to read to their children whilst waiting, we realise this is not sufficient. We have since purchased an activity table and are happy for parents to bring their child's own toys in with them if they wish.

We will repeat this survey later in the year but are happy to receive comments at any time. May I just remind you, to help us keep our records up to date please notify us if you change your address or telephone number as this is important if we need to contact you.

Opening Times

We are open from 8.30 am until 6 pm Monday to Friday. The prescription line is open from 9 am until 5.30 pm Monday to Friday. We close on the third Thursday afternoon of each month for training. If you need a doctor at any time when we are closed always telephone 01638 741234 and your call will be redirected to Suffolk Doctors on Call.

Thank you for helping us to improve our service to you.

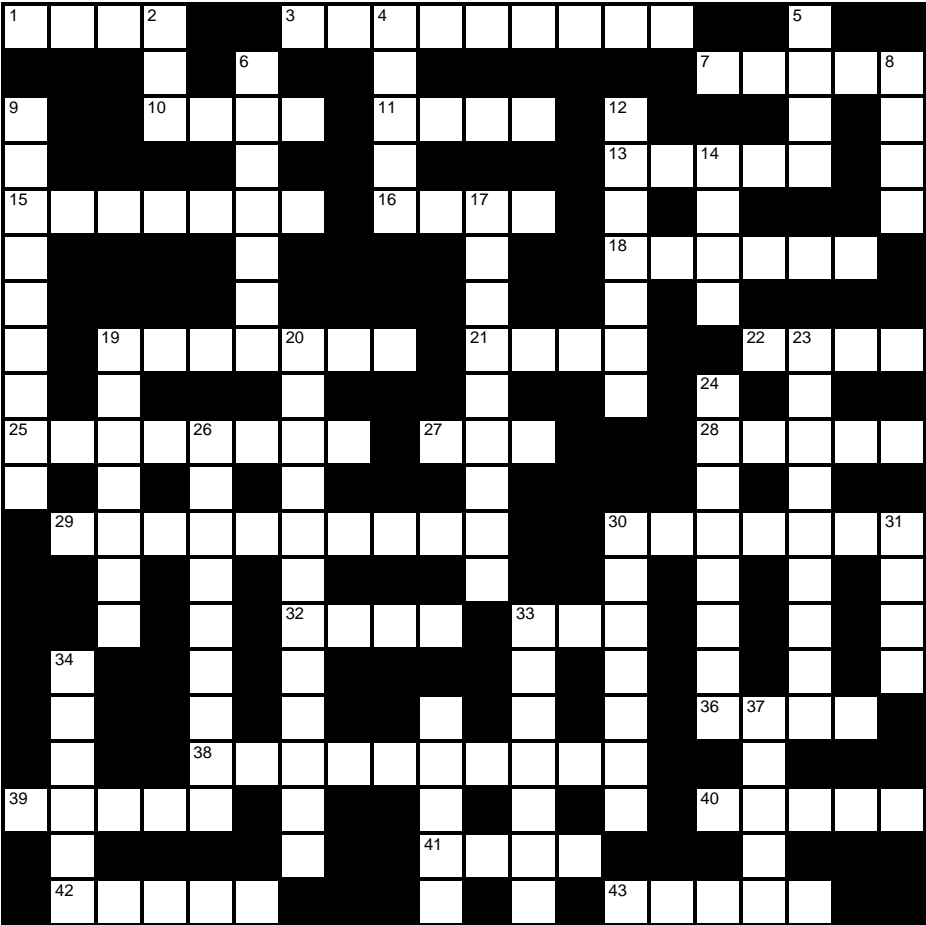
Aileen Allen
Practice Manager

Crossword Number 23

Sponsored by ~~The~~ Red Lion

Compiled by
TREEBORN

A themed crossword this month from a new compiler. Send your answers to the editors by 14th June 2005. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address.....

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

Across

- 1 Chocker block her for him (4)
- 3 Rocker can become a high flier (9)
- 7 Quick! It's Martin (5)
- 10 Inside boats wandering on the river (4)
- 11 Bill sits on the bench to see it (4)
- 13 Where the rare bird of Fairview Grove lives? (5)
- 15 Take away curb from pub crawling fiasco to get a flier (7)
- 16 Sus out sunsets at sea and find an ideal home (4)
- 18 This one's 16 across was flown over madly (6)
- 19 To gulp down rather swift like (7)
- 21 Strange video I took out about peace and love (4)
- 22 Spaceman came from bridge (4)
- 25 Headless earthlings taken out to see this songbird (8)
- 27 A great one takes it's time to start with (3)
- 28 Whereon we go out for this fisherman (5)
- 29 One of two after three nice egg layers (10)
- 30 Practice boxing and argue with a tree house resident (7)
- 32 A blackbird on the corner, of the castle? (4)
- 33 Junkyard drunk taken out for walking like this (3)
- 36 Remove hat in theatre made of wood (4)
- 38 Do keep crow away for this boring bird (10)
- 39 Tequilas stirred and set out for the game (5)
- 40 Flustered Hanoverian heron flew out

just like a bird (5)

- 41 Initially did I take out wildcat and get scratched by it? (4)
- 42 Aglee and scattered with golden feathers (5)
- 43 It's left out first thing from Caroline (5)

Down

- 2 Wakes to finish a good book (3)
- 4 A previous compiler returns (5)
- 5 A strange trike taken right out on a piece of string (4)
- 6 An odd law born during the night we hear (4-3)
- 8 Could you rent this out? (4)
- 9 Go first to ancient ridge to see warbler (9)
- 12 The fox's favourite is yellow (7)
- 14 Nothing to get down from (4)
- 17 Sad nipper ran around in the dunes (9)
- 19 It makes us legal as a scavenger (7)
- 20 Dog owner Ella changed her call for a hooter (4-5-3)
- 23 Once removed from tape recording the bird will be heard (9)
- 24 He pants a little oddly when playing this game (8)
- 26 Tiny shout we 'ear for 6's smaller rival (6,3)
- 30 An atmospheric prank? (7)
- 31 Cathedral nest builder (4)
- 33 It may be found on the Quay sign (7)
- 34 Go out gorgeous bird (6)
- 35 Seat found in proper Chinese restaurants(5)
- 37 Mix up in the tavern – no starter for the bird! (5)



THE VILLAGE FEAST

As the North Wind began to blow some thought the weather might have been better – especially those under the trees. But the early week forecasts had predicted much worse and on balance we were very lucky with the weather. We were even luckier with the great crowd.

A visiting American was bemused by the whole event and thought we were all barmy. He came in and saw people with their heads in buckets of water, so he wandered into the street where people were throwing eggs at each other. Fortunately the man in a bath of cold baked



beans had just left the scene and was being washed down by two men at the back of the car park. Ugh! An horrible sight.

Dominic Bowers and Paul Latchford continue to be the egg throwing champions, the Bowers family again dominated the wheelbarrow race, Andy Greenhill took the adults bowls prize, with Hannah Willmott being the champion junior.

Everyone was very generous with their cakes, bottles, books, collectables and time and the profit was £977 which goes towards the village hall maintenance costs.

Everyone was very generous with

Alastair Everitt





I said to Mum "Let's not be late,
The village feast is always great".
There was a cake stall and a bouncy castle
And getting there was no hassle.

There was cakes and ice-creams galore
They left us all wanting more.

Mr. Doe in a bath of beans,
Take the camera it had to be seen.

The second-hand book stall was very busy
I chose lots, it made Mum dizzy!
Raising money for the village hall,
Thanks to the organisers we enjoyed it all.

Ayshea Blanks.
(Aged 8)



Down on the Farm – Peter Taylor

By Our Farming Correspondista **Janet Willmott**

MAY HAS been a busy month but has been marked in particular by a special/happy/sad occasion! Peter Taylor, who has worked on this farm all his life retired and we commemorated the event in style.

Pete, who moved to Swaffham Prior when he was five and lived initially with his family in a cottage (which is no longer there) opposite the Chapel in the High Street, and attended the village school to the age of 15, started with Charles Woollard in 1955. Pete's dad worked for Woollard, who lived in the Manor House down Lower End, as a stockman with about 60-70 beef cattle. Woollard employed ten men back then and farmed approximately 700 to 800 acres in Prior, growing cereals and sugar beet. He had some barns at the Manor house, where he owned the land, and then further barns at Cadenham and Adventurers Farm on the land that he tenanted.

Starting as a general farm worker and doing odd jobs, Pete already knew the ropes, having worked at weekends with his dad from the age of 11. At 16 he moved quickly onto tractor work on a grey "Fergie" with hard metal seat and no cab – a far cry from what he has become more used to!

In 1959 Woollard sold his land to Usher Smith and John Norris took over the tenanted land that belongs to Henry Hurrell at Newton. Norris, who had come down from Wisbech, took on all Woollard's employees and Pete carried on his tractor work without a break in employment. At this time Pete used to



Pete admiring his carriage clock, with Henry and Carol looking on

enjoy ploughing and worked a regular 46-hour week that included Saturdays. At harvest time he would cut corn and cart the sheaves to the barns until 9pm – no extra harvest labour was taken on.

As he got older Pete was responsible for all the corn drilling and spraying with everyone having his own special jobs, unlike today where you have to be proficient at almost everything. He particularly remembers riddling potatoes up at Swan Lake from January though to the end of March and having to chop sugar beet by hand, but when I asked him what was the physically most demanding job back then without all the modern equipment

that we have now, he joked that it had all been easy – because he was younger!

In 1990 Norris retired and the farm was taken back into hand by Mr. Hurrell who then employed James as his manager at Swaffham Prior. Newton Farms was to be kept as a separate business at this stage. All Norris's employees were made redundant and James took Pete on to continue on the farm. His knowledge of the fields, the land, the croppings etc were to prove invaluable to James in the early months. We arrived just before harvest with not even a yard broom, purchased a tractor, and everything else was borrowed from the farm at Newton, which meant a lot of chasing backwards and forwards between the two farms. Pete just took this all in his stride, although he admits now that in the beginning he did miss the friends that he had worked with for so long.

In the last 15 years Pete considers that the biggest changes have been the increase in the size of machinery, which has meant being able to drill a hundred acres when on a good day when he started he was lucky to do 25, and the amount of paperwork! He reckons he's lucky not to have to get involved in the latter!! He derives a huge sense of satisfaction from cultivation work but says that it is harvest time that is the best as you "reap what you sow" and can see the culmination of the year's hard work and effort.

Pete loves the outdoor life and says he couldn't bear to be "shut up". Even as a child he never imagined not following in his father's footsteps into farming and at the age of 15 as all his mates went off to work on the land he says that there was never any question in



Carol receiving a bouquet from James

his mind of doing anything else.

Now, as we all know, behind every good man there is an even more remarkable woman! Carol moved to the village when her parents took over The Cock public house, which was on the corner of Cage Hill and the High Street. She lived there for four years and even when she moved with her family to Sawston she kept in touch with the friends that she had made. When she and Pete got married they moved into the house that they have lived in for 42 years on Cage Hill. Carol remembers with some irony how she had come from a lovely bungalow with "all mod cons" (loo, washing machine etc) to a mid terrace property with a standpipe outside on the corner for running water and a bucket up the garden with two planks of wood on top for a toilet.

The well outside the back of the house was only used by the people in the end house and wash days, which with a young family as they were to have in the coming years was every other day, meant endless buckets of water from the standpipe. This was made even more difficult when it froze in bad weather. It was with great relief that piped water and sewerage pipes

were installed in 1968.

Considering the pros and cons of a life in farming, Carol maintains that Pete's happiness was always far more important than anything else. She admits that there were times when it was very difficult when the children were little, particularly at harvest, but the benefits far outweighed this as Pete has always been able to do a job that he loves doing: "Pete was a happy man in his work which meant he was happy at home and this rubs off on everyone".

Pete is looking forward to being able to spend more time away in his caravan with Carol and enjoying his grandchildren, although he says he is far too young to retire and can't wait to get

back to us to help out with this year's harvest!

To celebrate his retirement Henry Hurrell and all Pete's colleagues and their partners joined him and Carol at a celebratory meal at the Red Lion where he was presented with a beautiful carriage clock from Mr. Hurrell and vouchers to spend on accessories for their caravan. Pete and Carol said they were both overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and kindness and that they had thoroughly enjoyed the evening. They bought, amongst other things, a wheel clamp, new skylight, rubber hammer(!) and a butter dish.

Our best wishes go to them both for a very happy retirement.

St James' Church Lode with Longmeadow

Church and Community Fete

Saturday 11th June 2005

Broughton Hall Lode

2.00 pm

Live Band—Mick's Kitchen

Bottisham Primary School Choir

Stalls—cake, books, tombola and bric-a-brac

Games Teas

Raffle 1st Prize £50

Display of motor bikes

Swaffham Bulbeck Fire engine

Lode Monkey Competition

**Displays by Bottisham Photographic Club
And Bottisham Art Group**

Please contact Julie Sale on 01223 811222 for more information



The Reading Group Reads..... Michel Faber's *Under the Skin*

ON Wednesday May 4th the Swaffham Prior Book Group met in Meryl Moore's cosy house on Cage Hill. to discuss the merits, or otherwise, of Michel Faber's first novel and Whitbread Prize nominee, "Under the skin". This group of people increases in numbers, each month, it would seem, and, at this occasion, now included another man, much to my delight! With tongues loosened by plentiful wine, complemented by thirst-inducing "nibbles", the evening proved highly engaging all round, with much discussion, at many intellectual levels.

Clearly, here was a first-time novelist showing off his credentials; leading the reader down carefully-crafted blind alleys whilst, at the same time, dotting the landscape with subtle clues that would quietly hint towards the true meaning of the gripping story-line. It would be invidious to give away, to those who have not yet read this utterly engrossing, though disturbing, book, any of the underlying, intriguing plot, suffice to say that it inspired the Book Group to upwards of two hours of fascinating argument upon such topics as intensive farming, the management of livestock, the carnivorous nature of mankind, what it is to be "human" as opposed to being "inhuman" or "animal-like", mankind's relationship with other, sentient creatures, and even whether all men were inherently attracted to large breasts, a topic which is, actually, most pertinent of the novel!

**Skin:
Keeps You In.**

**Hair:
Prevents You
from being
Completely
Bare.**

Ophir

Even the novel's true literary genre was not as simple as its opening chapters should have led one to determine, and prompted many of us to disagree amongst ourselves



about this, and ponder on people's varied perceptions of the same book, all of which goes to show that reading a book really can open the mind, and even question the very nature of the words in front on one.

And, last but not least, the Book Group has enabled me, and many others, to get to know other people in the village, through conversation relating to something beyond the village environs, and through conviviality. Do come along to the next meeting, on Wednesday June 1st, Kent House at 8pm, when the chosen book is to be "The No.1 Women's Detective Agency" by McCall Smith. New members will be given priority over choosing future novels to be discussed.

Ian de Massini



WI Notes



On Monday, 16th May the WI had a visit from two ladies who, with volunteers, run the Parrot Rescue Centre. They gave a detailed account of how the Centre started and showed slides of the state of the art buildings converted from an old piggery.

Three parrots accompanied the ladies. One was very quiet, another sat quite peacefully on his perch and the third kept interrupting the talk with “Hallo”.

A bring and buy stall was held to raise money for the centre.

After the business meeting this year’s Resolutions were discussed and we were asked to lobby the local council to reduce waste and re-cycle and re-use where possible, and to raise public awareness of the small amount paid to farmers for their milk.

Next month, on 20th June, Richard Howlett will be talking about Jimmy’s Light Shelter.

Betty Prime



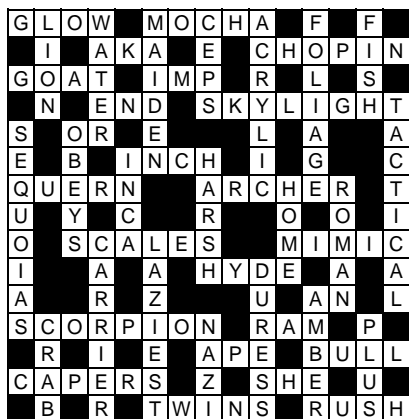
VILLAGE GARDENERS

No report this month since our Hemingford Grey visit doesn’t happen until next week! But please remember the WISLEY trip on 16th July — contact RC 742182 or MJ 744390.

Margaret Joyce

PS. Felbrigg is a *beautiful* National Trust Property in North Norfolk!

Solution to crossword no. 22



We congratulate **Julian Luttrell**, the winner of last month’s competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Caroline and James Matheson.

Evening Musical Performance of Carousel

ONCE AGAIN “The Garden Theatre Co.” are performing in the **Jubilee Gardens, Ely**. As with ‘Godspell’ last year, the performance will be **free**, though we will be holding a collection for the Company to help with expenses. We are a young adult Company, but this year we have performers ranging from 6 to 70 years old.

Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Carousel* is the deepest and most moving of all their acclaimed musicals. Based on a play ‘Liliom’ by Ferenc Molnar, much of the dialogue is taken from Benjamin F. Glaser’s translation of the original play. Through all the happiness and joy of simple community life, it drives passionately and relentlessly towards the death of its hero – Billy Bigelow, and in spite of the affecting sight of Nettie Fowler’s refusal to allow Julie Jordan to give in to her despair, it is (as in the original play) during Billy’s return to earth, when he replaces the words “If I loved you”, with “How I loved you” that the power of the play reaches full force.

With Richard Rodgers’ stunning and piercing musical score, *Carousel* contains some of the best known and loved songs of any musical; from the jubilation of ‘June is Bustin Out all Over’, to the beauty and serenity of “If I loved you”. “The Soliloquy” that Billy sings covers every emotion that any father can ever have felt. Finally the anthem of hope over despair, that is “You’ll Never Walk Alone”.

Saturday 2nd July at 7:45pm. Why not bring along a picnic and a rug or some chairs and make a special evening of it?

Contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or e-mail: tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk.

ACCOMODATION WANTED

I am quite grown up for a 2 year old girl, house trained of course, and well behaved – I don’t go upstairs. Sadly, my friend’s work prevents her from keeping me, and I have taken advantage of my cousins’ for too long. I don’t wish to outstay my welcome; I am not that kind of dog. White, except for one brown eye patch, I am small and quite well formed. Shortish legs and longish tail, combined with one floppy ear give me a unique appearance, and short hair is so much easier to keep clean. Of mixed background, I have a small, unfussy appetite and no medical problems like those often carried by inbred, aristocratic families. I have medical certificates, I am ECDC registered and security ‘chipped’. Though very affectionate, I like to defend my territory. I never stray too far (like my cousins do) from those sharing a gentle walk. They enjoy the health benefits of companionship like stress relief and low blood pressure, and I make them laugh when I bring back any balls they throw away!

I want no sordid financial transaction. (Do you know what people pay for puppies these days? What is the world is coming to?)

Please call 744051, and don’t worry if Frank answers - his bark is worse than his bite.

Dazy.

Green Man Inn

London Road, Six Mile Bottom

01638 570373

info@greenman6mb.com



www.greenman6mb.com

A la carte Thai & English menu available too!!

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

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

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

*Takeaway available hours as above
Excluding Sunday*





I will be devoting most of this month's newsletter to the refuse collection and recycling services in East Cambs district.

We have been set tough government targets to reduce the amount of waste sent to the land fill sites. These targets are based on the amount land filled in 1995/96. *The* government makes no allowance for the increase in our population in setting the targets for reduction. In 1995/96 we had 27,800 households in the district, by 2004/05 this had increased to 32,000 households. The targets are: by 2010 reduce to 75% of 1995/96 figure, by 2013 reduce to 50%, by 2020 reduce to 35% of 1995/96. There will be a government penalty of £150 per tonne over these targets, a cost that we must obviously try to avoid. Hopefully by recycling wherever possible we can avoid this penalty.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE BLACK BOX SERVICE

- The black box takes:
 - Newspaper
 - Junk mail
 - Washed cans — in a separate plastic carrier bag
 - Glass bottles and jars — in a separate plastic carrier bag
 - Cans and glass should be separated in order to speed the transfer of recyclables into the individual bays within the kerbside vehicle and to enable operatives to (easily) lighten the box should it prove too heavy for safe lifting.
 - Cardboard put out in the black box will usually be removed and left for collection by the Green Waste crew who will be following.
 - Boxes containing mixed materials (glass and cans not separated) or containing waxed packaging or plastics, which we are unable to recycle, will be left unemptied.
 - Aerosols may now be included in the black box in a bag along with the cans.
- Residents who want an additional or replacement black box can have one delivered free of charge.
- Small capacity (33 litre) — half the size black boxes are available for the elderly and infirm — free of charge — delivered on request. Suggestions that a householder's black box has been "stolen" by the collection crew and invariably unbound — nevertheless, we will replace the missing boxes.
- Boxes should be placed at the kerbside by 7.00am on the day of collection

GREEN WASTE SERVICE

- Green waste bags and their contents are taken to the Donarbon site at Waterbeach where they are composted. The resultant soil conditioner is on sale at £2.35 for a 40 litre bag at Donarbon or Grunty Fen household waste recycling centre.
- Cardboard should be flattened and placed in, or with, the green waste bag — cardboard assists with the composting process.
- Shredded paper should be included in the green waste bag to help prevent wind-blown litter.
- Telephone directories and yellow pages should be placed in the green waste bag again, they contribute to the composting process.
- Details of materials which can be taken in the green waste bags are printed on the bag.
- Normally, the operatives will leave a replacement bag for each full bag left out for collection.
- Although additional green waste bags are available for sale at 50p each from local retail outlets (see list) we are happy to give people further bags if they request them.
- Food waste and kitchen scrapings should be wrapped in a newspaper and placed in the green waste bag for composting. If an alternate week collection pilot is operating — place kitchen waste and food in the bag (either green waste bag or black sack) which is next due for collection.
- The bag should be placed at the kerbside by 7.00am on the day of collection.
- Kitchen waste bins (with lids) are available on request.
- Green waste put out in plastic bags will be left — it cannot be composted and would contaminate the whole vehicle load.

I hope this has led to a better understanding of our waste management service and the need for recycling.

Allen Alderson

Bell-ringers

A group of visiting bell-ringers will be ringing at St Cyriac's on Saturday morning, 25th June.

Margaret Stanier

Many thanks to Hilary
Sage for her very kind
donation to the Crier
this month

CAR BOOT SALE

The Friends of Bottisham Village College
are holding their annual sale on Sunday
12th June 8am to noon.

Lots of bargains, refreshments etc.

Ely Museum

SPECIAL EVENTS

Half term

Wed 1st June 10:30am - 4pm

'Get Potted'

The chance for children to make their own pot on a real potter's wheel with Kate Philips from Bodgers farm Pottery .

£3.00 per child includes free admission to museum. Contact museum for further details

Sat 23rd July 11am - Noon & 2-3pm

Discovering Dinosaurs

suitable for 6-12yrs

£3.00 per child- pre booking essential .

Contact: Ely Museum, The Old Gaol, Market Street, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4LS
Tel 01353 666655
elymuseum.org.uk

THE AUCTION POSTPONED!

The Organisers would like to thank all those who have already kindly donated items for this event, which is intended to raise funds for St. Mary's. However, we have decided to postpone the auction to allow further collections to be made.

It WILL take place WATCH THIS SPACE!

Items are still being welcomed by Penny Walkinshaw (tel. 01638 742542) and Marcia Miller (tel. 01638 741141)

CANTILENA SINGERS

Saturday 2nd July 2005

Emmanuel United Reformed Church, Trumpington St., Cambridge

7:30 pm

Programme includes

World premiere of 4 River Songs by Elmer

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

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Interval refreshments; Instrumental Interludes

Tickets £8; concessions £5 – available on the door

Further information contact:

R. Braun 01223 812115 website www.cantilena.info

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 9 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

CCC Report: Councillor Hazel Williams introduced herself to the meeting as our new County Councillor.

Matters Arising – *for information only*

a) *Coopers Lane – barrier:* This continues to be chased with CCC and their contractor.

b) *Enhancement Scheme.* Cambridge Landscape Architects confirmed with the Clerk at the beginning of May that they were actively chasing John Henry's to install the feeder pillar needed for the lantern. Ringways will then come and remove the old lamp post.

Village Maintenance Review:

Three estimates were received for maintenance work to village furniture such as seats, fencing, noticeboards, etc. Following consideration, Simon King's estimate was accepted. During this pricing process, it was brought to the Parish Council's attention that the bus stop roof was in a bad state of repair and needed completely replacing rather than just general tidying. It was agreed that this should be looked at further and separate estimates obtained for this extra work.

The resurfacing of the Village Car Park driveway had been completed by Mead Construction.

Request for Removal of Tree on Allotment: The Tree Officer from ECDC had visited the allotments and confirmed that she had no objection to the tree being removed.

Recreation Ground – Use by Burwell Tigers F.C: BTFC confirmed that plans were nearing completion and that copies would be available for the Annual Village Assembly along with a full package for planning submission. The legal costs were proving to be very high and out of proportion to the size of the project. Further advice is to be sought on this.

Approval of Accounts for 2005/05 & Appointment of Internal Auditor:

The accounts were approved subject to Audit.

Peter Cunningham told the Clerk that he was unable to continue as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor. This was acknowledged by the meeting and the members asked that their appreciation of his help in recent years be recorded. The Clerk will contact local Accountant firms to see if they would be interested in

For Sale

6 foot oval reproduction-antique table, dark wood — 4 chairs and 2 carvers, all very good condition. Can deliver. £180 ono tel: 742945/07940 512051

carrying out the Internal Audit for the Parish Council. Carried over to June meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Planning Application: 15 Mill Hill – *loft conversion and extension*. There were no objections to this application.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Inspection report for play area was received. This was discussed and carried over until next meeting. The arrival of travellers on Whiteway Drove was reported.

Open Question Time: *There were no questions.*

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 9th June 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

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

Duxford Saturday Workshop String Group

Present various pieces for strings, including

Haydn's Clock Symphony

Sunday 10th July 2005 at 4pm

St Mary's Church Burwell



Refreshments will be available

Collection plate proceeds will be shared between the church and Duxford Saturday Workshop (Re. Charity No 277374)

QUY FETE

**Saturday, June
25 2005**

**2.00pm in Bill's
Orchard**

**Entrance by the
Avenue**

**All the usual
attractions**



From our Footpath Correspondent - - -

After years of effort, we still do not enjoy footpaths free from overgrown hedges.

(But it does seem a nice plump, well-tended hedge, O Footpath Correspondent, and although the camera cannot lie, surely the path is just as narrow on the other side! Eds.)

ELY'S MEDIEVAL PAGEANT

Ely Park, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June 2005

10.00 am to 5.00 pm daily

Come to Ely where terrific medieval fun awaits you. The grounds of Ely Park, with the beautiful Cathedral backdrop will be transformed for this great two-day celebration of medieval history. Never has Ely celebrated history on quite this scale before! Knowing the popularity of previous Living History Events, East Cambs District Council and Ely Museum have come together to work up this spectacular event. The main part of the weekend will be the daily battles where the armies will first march into the Park from the City Centre and will then re-enact the battle in the main arena. The battles will be based on the Bishop of Ely raising troops in the area, before his quick escape to France.

In addition to lots of hands-on archery and drill displays including arming a knight there will be lots of colourful characters to entertain and demonstrate what life was like in years gone past. You will have the opportunity to wander around an authentic medieval village where you will be taken back in time to the Middle Ages. A Medieval Fayre, side stalls and refreshments including hog roast and beer tent adds to this great family day out.

This is a ticketed event and we advise you to book early. One and two day passes are available with special rates for children, concessions, groups of more than 10 (pre-booked only) and family tickets. Tickets are available at the Box Office (01353 669759) or from Ely's Tourist Information Centre, St Mary's Street, Ely Museum, Market Street or Burrow's Bookshop, High Street Passage. Tickets purchased before the day will be entitled to a 10% discount.

For full details of the programme of events check out our website at <http://tourism.eastcambs.gov.uk> or contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or e-mail: tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk.



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.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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



Rogation Sunday

The get-off-to-church routine was not the same today. Usually it's a matter of getting the children shoe-horned into the car, stuff the little blue envelope with something and off we go. But this time it's the first outing of the season for the cool box, stuff things to barbecue into that (and the little blue envelope still comes too) and scurry off down to Adventurer's Farm.

We did this last year and it was delightful: a small service in a green space next to a field. This year the weather held for us again, and we celebrated how lucky we are to live in such a fertile and green part of the world. We sang All Things Bright and Beautiful acapella (that's 'without anything to sing along to') remarkably tunefully. This year there were no passing aircraft and the horse joined in, quietly and politely standing attentively in the adjacent paddock so close behind Elisabeth Everitt I thought it would give her a shove – but no, this was a church service after all. Just a short one – then off we all went to roast our fingers upon the barbecue and have an entertaining time watching the children throw themselves into the pool. They had the decency not to take their clothes off, too, which added to the fun. A lovely lunch was had by all - many thanks due to all the preparers - and the only mutters of regret was that we'd done it so well two years running and we'd not publicised it more. We should put something in the *Crier*, someone said. Whatever happens next year, I know Barb's fantastic brownies will be remembered for many a day...long after the faint cries of 'ow' from the men burning their fingers at the barbecue will be forgotten.

Be there next year!

Mark Lewinski

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM THE PCC

THANK YOU to all those who attended our Annual Meeting. The Minutes and Accounts are available in the church.

Please call the vicar David Lewis on 01223 812367 if you need him
Your Churchwardens are Francis Reeks and Brenda Wilson.

Do try and see the Patchwork Exhibition which will be in St Cyriacs on the 18 and 19 June. It promises to be breathtaking.



Church of England Services

June 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 5	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 12	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 19	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Pet Service
Sun 26	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service

Open Garden Sale

Special Swaffham Prior CALENDARS (2006), CARDS, COASTERS and NOTELETS will be in sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th June and Sunday 19th June from 2.00-6.00pm. If you have friends overseas now will be a good time to buy them.

Teas will also be served at the same time. If there is anyone who would like to help serve teas etc., make a cake (we can reimburse you), I should be delighted to hear from you.

Kate Child

NB. This is Open Garden Sunday (2-6) and Patchwork Exhibits 10-5pm in St. Cyriacs, both days.

Dear Friends,

Our Golden Retriever, Henry, enjoys life to the full. He is such a happy dog, always full of fun, always wagging his tail, and always wanting to be close to us. Walks are, of course, his greatest joy of all, especially on our day off, when there is a promise of a really substantial walk. When Henry goes for a walk you know how much he is enjoying himself because his lovely fluffy tail is right up in the air—like a sail in the wind. A lovely lady we knew in our first parish described dog walks as ‘television for dogs’, because for them walks are a way of feeding their minds—giving them something to think and to dream about.

Scott Harrison writing in *Daily Guideposts* described his dog Sam as his ‘best dog, ever.’ Sam was a field trial dog who found birds and pointed to them with contagious enthusiasm, Sam taught Scott the joy of becoming part of nature. If his point said a bird was hiding in a clump of bushes, it was there. He was so much more than a bird dog, though. Often Scott and Sam would share together lazy lunches in an abandoned apple orchard, and then the snooze that followed afterwards.

“ Then Scott remembered a trick an old dog trainer passed on.....”

Late one afternoon, Sam and Scott became separated. Neither of them were familiar with the area. Scott called and whistled – but no sign of Sam. Scott needed to get back to town for an important appointment, but how could he leave Sam? If Sam finally came back and Scott wasn't there, would he lose him for good? Then Scott remembered a trick an old dog trainer had passed on. He unbuttoned his jacket, removed his shirt and laid it on the ground under the branches of a small bush, and then returned home, and then worried all night.

But when Scott returned the next morning there was Sam curled up with his nose under the sleeve of Scott's shirt. He looked up and wagged his tail. "Where've you been friend?" his eyes seemed to say. "I've been waiting for you all night. But I knew you'd come back."

Sam's simple unquestioning trust reminds me how trusting and loving Henry is, and how he seems to be so content just to be with me, to trust my every action, and to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. I can't help thinking that all of us need to learn from Henry and Sam in our relationship with God. We need to learn to accept that God cares about each one of us so much, and that he loves us more than we can ever really know or deserve. As Jesus said: *"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"* (Matthew 6:26-27)

God wants us to receive joy and contentment simply through being with him and sharing our lives with him and to *"seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33). So I pray that you too will be able to trust God with every aspect of your life.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - June 2005

Wed	8	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Fri	10	
Sat	11	Lode Fete, 2pm, Broughton Hall Ely's Medieval Pageant, 10-5pm, Ely Park
Sun	12	Lode Open Gardens, 2-5pm, Teas at Lode Church BVC Car Boot Sale, 6am onwards Ely's Medieval Pageant, 10-5pm, Ely Park
Mon	13	
Tue	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	19	10am-5pm Quilting Exhibition, St Cyriacs Open Gardens and Foster Mill, 2-6pm Teas, VH
Mon	20	WI, VH 7pm
Tue	21	
Wed	22	
Thu	23	
Fri	24	
Sat	25	Quy Fete, 2pm, Bill's Orchard
Sun	26	2pm Bulbeck Denny, Prior/Bulbeck Cricket Match
Mon	27	
Tues	28	Village Gardeners' Visit to Newnham College, meet at VH 6.15pm.
Wed	29	
JULY	2	Carousel, 7.45pm, Jubilee Gardens, Ely Cantilena Singers, Emmanuel United Reform Church
Sat	9	Moveable Feast, 7pm School Summer Fair, 12.30pm, School
Sun	10	Duxford Workshop String Group, 4pm, St Mary's Church, Burwell
Tues	19	Wine-tasting, 6pm, Foster's Mill