



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 3  
March 2005



## Editorial

VILLAGE magazines take a HORRIBLY long time to put together, and when *Out of Reach* editor Dave Summers estimates these hours at 16, it is only because Reach ingrates are not sending him any contributions these days. Quite unlike our own dear monthly *Crier*, of course, which takes at least 5 weeks.

When, last summer, the *Crier* was faced with the dilemma of go UP or go down, the emergency top-level management meeting unanimously voted UP and decided that the ticklish question of finding a *practical* way to distribute the donkey work in the face of helpful modern technology had to be re-addressed. Again.

Yes, even our redoubtable it-won't-take-a-jiffy distribution manager Ruth Stinton and her loyal team, justly praised in this month's *Letters*, are coming up against similar problems. Automatic stapling means *more* work for Ruth personally, but trying to share this out, more more!

So if you have offered to help, and the ungrateful *Crier* has not yet taken you up on your offer, bear with us, we will do; we *do* need your help and please, *please*, keep those offers rolling in!

Meanwhile, Simon Andrews, our new Web-guru has created a stunning web-site for the *Crier*, but for which he points out there are confidentiality issues, so it's not public yet. If you do *not*

want personal details that the *Crier* has published about *you* to appear on the Web, please get in touch with the Editors. And any photographs or anecdotes relating to *Crier* history, previous editors *please note*, are now being urgently sought.

This month's *Crier* is chock-a-block with Easter events, Cambridge Voices, Cantilena Singers, Bach recitals and the intriguing "After You Claud" to name but a few. We also introduce Chris Carrington's Club Notice Board — get in touch with Chris (see cover) if your club isn't there. Also, can we draw your attention to this month's GUEST reporter on the PC!

As for last month's issue, sorry Vita Sackville-West — we did call you Rita, sorry Tony Bower's JP, we did keep calling Pauline Betty, the calendar was indeed for FEBRUARY, and SORRY PROOF-READER volunteers, the *Crier* has miserably failed yet again to reach you. HAPPY EASTER ALL!

**Caroline Matheson**

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**Cover Picture: *March Hare*, by Clive Riggs**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **The Crier - For**

Amongst the many topics discussed at the Reading Group meeting this month was the 'Crier' and what it is that makes it so special. We received our first copy, hand delivered, within days of moving to the village almost seven years ago, and, to our delight, it has arrived regularly ever since. What a contrast with the S. Cambs village that we lived in before moving here. There, we were "too far from the village" (200m!) for the parish magazine distributors. Thank goodness that Swaffham Prior has more stalwart inhabitants. The Crier has proved to be not only a good introduction to village life, but extremely entertaining as well. The many 'voices' that contribute articles and letters illustrate different facets of life in this community, and many different points of view. How fascinating it is to see what "some people" get so worked up about, and how satisfying when someone else expresses an opinion that you agree with.

Most importantly, the Crier is not some glossy, professional publication prepared three months ahead of the delivery date. The copy deadline is only a few days (at most) ahead of the printing date, which means that the topics are timely and correspondence flows from month to month. This also means that the editors are working under considerable stress to put the magazine together in time, and I think that they do a fantastic job. Naturally, the occasional error slips through, and although this may add to our entertainment, I can see that it must be galling for the editors, who aim at perfection. Perhaps they should include the following disclaimer: "This magazine has been crafted with care. The occasional flaw reflects the handmade nature of this product and adds to its unique quality."

*Chris Carrington*

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Dear Editors,

### **The Crier - Against**

What happened to the *Crier* in February? Do we really want three and a half pages of "Experiences of a Deputy PM"? Why can't we have more news of village life such as the excellent articles by James Wilmot? Surely someone has a tale to tell that would be of interest to us all?

*Betty Prime*

*Que? The Boxing Day hockey match report? We did indeed splurge this hilarious annual feature with extraneous material such as a photo of the village*

<p><b>Stop Junk Mail and Unwanted Calls</b></p>
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*team. The fortunate **Crier** is indeed endowed with a great variety of columnists but none of them can hope to please everyone. Surely Betty cannot be thinking of **knocking** one of them? The WI report is good this month; and has a photo found for them specially by the Eds...*

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Dear Editors,

### **The Crier - The Balanced View from Reach**

You are doing a grand job with the Crier, for one principle reason: its style encourages me to read it right from the first page through to the last. I don't agree with everything in it, and some of the commentary annoys me but, more importantly, I am keeping myself well-informed about what's on and what people are thinking in my neighbourhood. and this is terribly important for the likes of me who spend their working day outside the neighbourhood. And, surely is this not the primary aim of a village magazine? You don't know you lucky you are, Swaffham Priorites! so, Carry on Criering!

*Ian de Massini*

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Dear Editors,

### **National Children's Home Collection**

I would like to thank the residents of Tothill Road who give generously every year towards the street collection for the National Children's Home. This year we raised £48. The money raised helps to make a big difference to the lives of vulnerable children and young people throughout the UK.

If you would like to organise a house to house collection in your street, you can telephone me on 01638 742945. *Or call the local rate* National Childrens Home Helpline on 08457 125726.

*Mary Cook.*

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Dear Editors,

### **Motorbike Noise**

It's 9.45am and I'm expecting the motorbikes to start again soon, as they do almost every evening and every day on a weekend. We have to keep the windows closed from the noise and exhaust fumes. To concentrate on the work I do in my office I have to put music on.

I'm a biker too. Twenty-five years, I've never been without one: I've ridden hundreds of thousands of miles more than I've driven cars. I didn't have a car licence when I moved to Swaffham Prior: I had to learn to drive in order to be ready to take Kaye to hospital when our first was due. First time I drove a car on my own was driving back from the Rosie Maternity after 36 hours without sleep. I can't imagine life without a bike: both of mine were way for repairs over Christmas and I didn't feel properly mobile till I got one back two weeks ago.

But I don't drive in fields. It's not that I don't think it would be fun, but I prefer

the risk stuff where the wheels grip. I've done the accidents, the smashed-up bikes, many near-death experiences, and I've got the scars. And I know of enough deaths not to push the risks any further. Gloves are to keep the hands intact – all those precise little bones and tendons: How much does it reduce your career opportunities to lose those? – don't even think about playing a guitar with a hand gone. And I've hit a lorry hard enough to dent the crash helmet...the two black eyes and the intensive-care nurse girlfriend who sat by my bed all evening because she knew they shouldn't have let me out of hospital at all, never mind without head x-rays. It was not long after she'd been dealing with the King's Cross fire victims at University College Hospital, but this wasn't a London teaching hospital. And I remember the face, and the name, of the student who took a pillion up a 50-foot back road in his village without a helmet and didn't live to reach the other end. And I remember the face of his sister for many months afterwards. But I watch them tear up and down the field without either, and they hurtle up the path in the Beeches through the old people's bungalows.

When I was about ten we used to go to motocross scrambling at Houghton Conquest over in Bedfordshire. I haven't seen it advertised for a long time now. I just remember a lot of noise, a lot of mud, and the occasional stretcher. But I think it was fun.

I've just paused to hop outside to speak to a lad trying to fly a kite out there, to encourage him up the field away from the power lines. I don't know that the children who play there realise that a kite that tangles in those wires could mean their instant death.

It's been going on a long time. All last year, and since then it's continued. It's now a wide muddy track all down the side of the field. We can't really use the garden when it's going on - sometimes well beyond dark on summer evenings – and the summerhouse at the end of the garden is only twenty feet or so from loud bikes tearing past, so that's out too. It's about the same distance from the track as the old people's bungalows, further down the hill. A couple of weekends ago I spoke to the boys, before ten on a Sunday morning. It'd been going a while by that time. They were polite enough: yes, they knew about the noise. They didn't know about the fumes. But they couldn't go anywhere else, they said, or they would be arrested. They agreed when I asked if it was possible at least, to go further away to the middle of the field. We'll meet you halfway, they said.

When I cycled back half an hour later and tried coming down the track, the wheels immediately choked with mud. So that's out, too.

They didn't move out to the middle of the field, and it carries on as before.

Later that day as I was feeding the rabbit, a lady walking her dog called me over. How do you stand it, she asked. This was the last time - she wouldn't be walking her dog down here any more, as it wasn't possible to walk on the track. Had I seen it down at the bottom? No, I haven't. It's worse down there, she said. She doesn't see other dog walkers either. She lives on Mill Hill and she hears the bikes from there. Enough is enough, she said: if someone gets up a petition, she'll sign it.

***Mark Lewinski***

Dear Editors,

## Rubbish

After getting some flack for my comments on cardboard composting, I shall simply observe that the organic waste collection paper bags delivered to every home here (so far as I know) have words printed on them - 'WHAT GOES IN THE SACK' above two columns headed 'YES' and 'NO'. Under 'YES' it says 'Cardboard (flat packed)'. Under 'NO' it says 'Plastic/Glass or Metal'. Therefore, waste cardboard packed in plastic bags cannot be accepted for recycling. Anyone still in doubt should contact ECDC for advice.

**Frank Readhead**

*What organic waste sacks?? And do we read that paper must now be shredded as well?! Eds.*

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## On Offer

Tired but working double oven free to anyone to take away.

Contact James Parry on 741544

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## Easter Lilies

**E**ach year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



**Ruth Scovil**

COMEDY COMEDY COMEDY COMEDY COMEDY

8.00 pm Saturday  
**12th March 2005**

in  
**The Village Hall**  
Swaffham Prior

# **AFTER YOU CLAUD**



An hilarious review  
on the subject of 'good manners'  
presented by Rex Freeman and Geoff Hales



**Tickets: £6.00**  
**(to include a glass of wine or sherry)**  
**from Hilary (01638) 742978**  
**or Dee (01638) 743864**

Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

# CRICKET

**! Bulbeck has challenged Prior !**

**Match to be played on Bulbeck Denny**

**SUNDAY 26 JUNE**

**Probably starting at 2.00pm**

***Many details to be finalised***

***except the following***

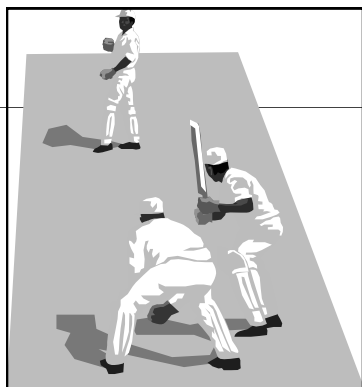
Selection, training schedule, diet,  
roadwork routine, catching practice, and  
many other aspects of your personal life  
will come under the personal control of

**Steve Kent-Phillips (743883)**

**and Clive Riggs (741876).**

***Phone them if you dare.***

*Alastair Everitt*



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# From an Outside Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

**Jim Hypit, Chief Political Correspondent reports  
from Cambridgeshire**

***“Democracy still lives in Blair’s Britain”***

‘I WANT some real, grass roots politics. Go and give it the full Hypit treatment.’ So said my editor. ‘Westminster? You have to be joking.’ ‘Swaffham Prior’, he said. ‘Swaffham where?’ ‘Prior, it’s a village in Cambridgeshire.’



‘A village parish council meeting? Me, an award winning lobby correspondent? Look’, I protested, ‘I’m used to sitting in expensive restaurants eating seared swordfish nicoise and drinking Grand Cru Chablis while some half-cut junior minister dishes the dirt on his boss. That’s political journalism.’ ‘Fine,’ he said, ‘they’ll probably give you a cup of tea and a fish paste sandwich.’

It was a late night sitting. The night was dark and I was splashing through puddles trying to find the village hall. I wondered if I would get through security. I’d left my press pass behind. I needn’t have worried. No one showed the slightest interest as I took a seat in what I assumed to be the press gallery and looked at the Order Paper.

Reports from the Upper Houses came first. These turned out to be largely a load of rubbish. There was some difference of opinion between County and district on the murky subject of detritus. Is it better to bury or to burn? Ely is for burning, a proposal which, for sake of an example, took us to the Isle of Man. Here, so we were told, the enterprising islanders incinerate their waste with such efficiency they have spare capacity and so import the stale butties, fish and chip wrappings and worn out football boots which threaten to engulf Liverpool. This Scouse ordure is obliterated in the Manx furnace for a fee. Better yet, the island enjoys free electricity, generated by hot air no doubt. At this point, some members who had appeared to become suspiciously somnolent during these early exchanges, became suddenly animated by the prospect of Lottery funding and EU grants to build a plant which would consume rubbish from as far away as Milton Keynes. Swaffham Pyre, waste disposal capital of the fens, with no more electricity bills and purer air to boot. Purer air? That’s what was said. Remember this information comes from a land of three-legged men and tail-less cats.

Leaving the rubbish behind, the man from Cambridge turned to more sinister things, the take-over of the county by the Scots; a sign no doubt that the Hibernian Mafia are stretching their tentacles from Westminster into local government.

The District representative then took us through the looking glass into wonderland, or so it seemed. Ely is to become England’s silicon fen. For reasons not entirely apparent, this will require, at some unspecified time in the future, the building of palatial new offices to house civil servants, whose job it will be to attempt to strangle the thrusting new hi-tech companies with red tape. Meanwhile,



until this Utopia arrives, Ely will become the site of an over-flow car park for Stunted Airport. Curiouser and curiouser.

At last we moved to more pressing matters such as the filling of council vacancies. No messing about with by-elections. Swaffham's seasoned representatives of the people recognise a sucker when they see one. A smiling Peter Hart was duly elected nem. con. His maiden speech was refreshingly brief. In fact I missed it altogether.

Economically merging the function of Mr Speaker, First Lord of the Treasury and Leader of the House, the Chairman then dealt with something called 'Matters Arising'. The title seemed apt since, as far as I could determine, the matters in question continue to arise without risk of resolution. It is also a useful device whereby members can register their disapproval of inertia without the tedium of undertaking action themselves.

Next came the Sexton's shed. What a solemn ring the phrase has! The parish church is seeking to improve its amenities by purchasing the shed in the cemetery. This grave matter was given appropriate consideration. Why, it was asked, after more than a thousand years, did the church need a toilet? To me the reason was obvious. That is a very long time to sit with crossed legs. However, doubtless there is a spare font or a strategically placed flying buttress handy for those caught short during a long sermon. What was the purpose of the shed? It is a storage place, we were informed, for trestle tables used at harvest honkies, witches' sabbaths and other pagan rituals unsuited for the Christian church, along with picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and, this in a hushed voice, grave templates. It was, you might say, an open and shut coffin. The Sexton's shed must remain the property of the people.

And so we turned to the recreation of the Recreation Ground, whereupon a member of the council proceeded to give a presentation which rivalled London's bid for the Olympics. Architects, planners, lawyers, Health and Safety Executives, Highway Authorities and the Football Association are all lined up to play their part. There is even to be a laser survey to prove that the playing field is not a range of mountains masquerading as a fenland meadow. I thought I heard a member say that by 2006 the Recreation Ground should be full of Bengal tigers. Unfortunately I had misheard, it will be Burwell Tigers, a football club. Presumably the name refers to the black and yellow colours of the shirts and not a habit of eating the opposing side?

The Clerk to the House, the only woman present, seems to juggle a number of

**Ely is to become  
England's silicon  
fen. For reasons  
not entirely  
apparent, this will  
require the building  
of palatial new  
offices....**



### **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.*

functions such as Public Works liaison, Hansard and Foreign Secretary. In the latter capacity she raised the Italian question. The village has been invited to twin with an Italian town, any Italian town. Have the Italians suddenly become deeply unpopular, the pariahs of the European Union? The offer was not greeted with enthusiasm. It was pointed out that twinning would cost money — alterations to the village signs and a copy of ‘Teach yourself Italian’ for a start. One member thought that if the village were to twin it should be with Colombey-Les-Deux-Eglises on the grounds of architectural compatibility. It was pointed out that, while De Gaul’s birth place might well have two churches, neither of them is in Italy. The invitation to conversazione and Chianti was declined. Indeed a whole raft of official and quasi-official correspondence quite rightly raised little enthusiasm. Even a booklet on ‘Vibrant Local Leadership’ by a distinguished recent visitor to the Swaffhams, Mr John Prescott, seemed destined to be recycled — unread.

A tranche of miscellaneous financial matters, all doubtless discussed at length and carefully scrutinised by a Select Committee, went through on the nod.

Now it was Question Time and I do not mean the stage-managed farce witnessed weekly in the Palace of Westminster. At the Parish Council it’s not just death watch beetle that may come out of the woodwork. What is more, problems are not ignored or swept under the carpet, they are, I discovered, frequently resolved there and then. How refreshing!

Take pot holes. In the House of Commons the PM would first of all deny the existence of pot holes and vehemently assert that if pot holes did exist they were caused by the last Tory administration which, through incompetence and sleaze, had allowed them to remain. Furthermore, (and the PM was admitting nothing you understand) the number of any pot holes that might exist had been reduced by at least 7% since Labour came to power. Contrast this, all-too-likely, fiasco with what happened when the question of pot holes was raised at the village meeting. Not only was the existence of this nuisance freely admitted, a practical solution, namely a mixture of gravel and dry cement, was proposed. What is more, one member actually volunteered to fill in the holes.

Again, take the question of the travellers’ horses. What a meal the Home Secretary would have made of that! Urgent investigations were being undertaken by security forces to establish whether, as rumoured, the horses are Arabs with possible connections with Al Quaida. Meanwhile the animals would be corralled without trial (cries of ‘Shame’). The owner would receive counselling and given a First Class ticket to Albania to enable him to rejoin a touring circus. Alternatively he would be entitled to draw full benefits while plucking turkeys in Norfolk. The Swaffham solution to the real problem was for the Chairman to volunteer to have a word with the Romany with the free-range horses and ask him to shorten their tethers. Simple.

The session ended after two hours. In that time I had heard more common sense than we hear in two years at Westminster.

I filed my piece. ‘Good stuff,’ said my editor. ‘Sorry it’s the inside, Jim. Something big’s come up’. Just my luck that Charles should decide to make an honest woman of Camilla on the day I was hoping to put Prior’s democrats on the front page.

***Tony Bowers***



# CAMBRIDGE V.O.I.C.E.S

plus Maestro Massini

## EASTER CONCERTS

**HOLY SATURDAY / EASTER EVE** March 26 at 3.00-5.00pm

**EASTER DAY** March 27 3.00pm (finishing at 4.00pm). The traditional Easter Day concert of piano music by J.S. Bach, given by Ian de Massini.

*St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior*

### Easter Eve

THREE years ago, Cambridge Voices and Prime Brass brought to life seven of the proposed twenty-one movements of De Massini's setting of Jesus's last words from the cross, here in St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior; the remaining part of that concert being devoted to the performance of well-known anthems and motets for Holy Week.

Several of these movements have since proven very popular and have even been re-worked, in one way or other, so that more performances could be given at other times of the year. Indeed, the music depicting the centurion's observation of Christ's torment and acknowledgement of his divinity was later transformed into a setting of The Coventry Carol, first

performed in The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and recorded on the choir's latest album. What, at first, seems a bizarre connection, that between a Christmas Carol and the drama of Holy Week, is revealed in the carol's focus upon the Slaughtering of the Innocents under King Herod, surely a precursor to the Christ's own suffering upon the Cross.

Another movement that has subsequently developed a life of its own is the setting of the words "Behold, thy mother". Composed for two separate choirs, its romantic harmonies and close interplay between the two forces clearly evoke the spirits of Stanford and Stainer.

The finale of De Massini's "Seven Last Words" is a vast passacaglia, with its long, sinuous, repeating theme imbuing



each bar with a high degree of pathos and harmonic development. This great funeral-procession is to be used for the closing to the composer's own setting of the passion narrative (entitled "PASSION") later this year, a work first heard by a capacity audience in Ely Cathedral's glorious Lady Chapel last summer.

Now all the movements have been completed. (Actually, that's not quite true: to date, I've finished music for two-thirds of it, having absent-mindedly left seven other movements,

sketched on scraps of paper, on the bus home some time over Christmas!) Not only will all seven "Last Words" be set to music for the full ensemble but the composer also includes musical and discursive commentary upon these utterings, setting them, more piquantly, for solo voice and/or solo instrument.

Admission is by

**"What better way to reflect upon the glories of Easter (and Sunday lunch) than to listen to the music of Bach? "**

programme at the door: £6 (children are welcome, free of charge).

## Easter Day

What better way to reflect upon the glories of Easter (and Sunday lunch) than to listen to the music of Bach? Come and hear Bach's famous Italian Concerto, the third English Suite in G minor, the second Partita in C minor and a selection of contrasting preludes and fugues from Book 1 of the Well-tempered Clavier resounding around St Cyriac's Church, accompanied by the

occasional singing of doves, pigeons and other feathered fowl! The combination of sound and light in this glorious building, with its clear glass looking on to the trees around, makes this place one of the great jewels of our country, and it is a privilege to have the opportunity to perform such wondrous music in such an uplifting ambience.

Admission to this concert is free: you are invited to give towards a retiring collection, in aid of the future improvement of this church's facilities.

*Ian de Massini*

0780 1234 343

[iandemassini@argonet.co.uk](mailto:iandemassini@argonet.co.uk)

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# MOTHERSDAY



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## IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

I WAS PLEASED to read the beautifully crafted and thoughtful article by Thomas Newbolt in an earlier Swaffham Crier regarding "Advent by Candlelight" 2004, which raised over £1,000 for Emmaus. I felt inspired to write a response as I am already in the process of organising this year's event, to be held on Advent Sunday November 27 2005.

It was felt (and I concur with this) that some of last year's poems were particularly difficult to understand and interpret, not only for the listeners but also for the speakers. This is a problem that we face every year, in fact, as the very nature of much poetry necessitates contraction of thought and expression. Indeed, what has been suggested is that, for our concert, every poem could be printed in full, within the concert programme.

However, there are two major drawbacks here. First, many of the poems we use are in copyright, and the cost of printing them would be prohibitive. We have tried, over and over again, to ask living poets for permission to print their works but few reply, and those that do often dismiss our event as merely a village carol service (wrong on three counts!). Second, during the concert, the poems are traditionally read out in the dark, so no-one in the audience would be able to read the poems in their programmes as they were being spoken. I do always ensure to include precise references to all the poems used, particularly from less well-known authors, and I do get quite a lot of positive feedback about this, particularly from people as far away as Korea and North America who had been unable to attend the concert but requested a copy of the concert-

programme to be sent to them.

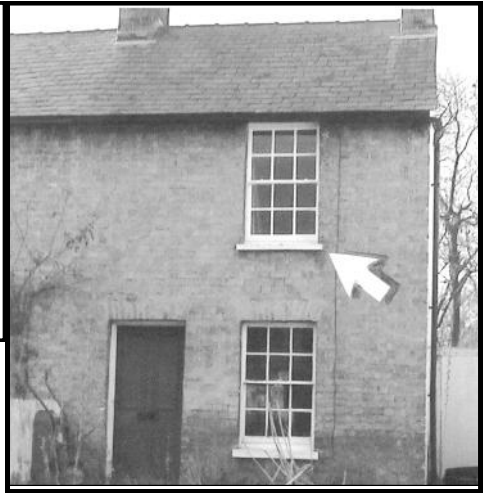
I do think it needs to be pointed out that the central theme of Advent, the forthcoming incarnation of Christ, is epitomised with the somewhat-confusing opening words of St John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God". Frankly, that text is one of most complex and difficult to comprehend in the Bible, particularly upon first hearing it. Its true meaning can only be truly gathered when one understands the various, interwoven meanings of the original Greek word for "the Word" - Logos. Indeed, the whole aspect of the Incarnation and Virgin-birth is, literally, incomprehensible. Our "Advent by Candlelight", with its changing themes each year, tries to explore all the many, varied ways of interpreting this unfathomable mystery. Our unique form of exploration, through poetry ancient and modern, prose and music, is very much our own creation: some years we score a high success, some years it is less so. But we are always exploring, experimenting, finding new things, or hearing familiar things in a unusual context. It is a journey that has no single point of arrival, and certainly not the same point for every person. By putting "Advent by Candlelight" in the context of a concert,

## ***Congratulations Paul, on you new Window!***

***Best Wishes from  
Lion Frequenters***

many people from far and wide feel able to come to visit our village (we have regulars from Sussex, Hampshire, London, Wales, Oxford and York), maybe just this one time in the year, to experience something that cannot be put into rational words.

In contrast Christmas is filled with simple imagery: wise men, shepherds, angels, stars, a crib, farmyard animals, straw, a surly inn-keeper, a virgin birth, trees, tinsel, no public transport, King's College Chapel, snow, robins, a yule-log, divorce, etc etc. Much of this has been made up, but made up by earlier generations for a good reason; to give us something to fix our thoughts upon, something that crystallises a particular aspect of the meaning of Christ's Nativity to us. But with Advent, we must work harder, and look for these images, similes and metaphors hidden around us. By ceaselessly researching the vast treasury of the English language, (I have about 33 anthologies and 60-odd single-author collections permanently by my bed!) I hope to find all sorts of things that might reveal something special to us: and we must never be afraid of the unknowable, the dark, the difficult, and the provocative, for in them lie the deepest truths; those thoughts and fears that we avoid in our



daily lives.

Finally, do please suggest your own choices of poems and prose for future "Advent by Candlelight" concerts. Each year we ask for your input, and we will always include anything relevant that has been submitted by you. Sadly, little has been submitted to date. So, if you would like to hear more approachable extracts of poetry, do please let me, or Hilary Sage (01638 742978) know your suggestions and they will all be included. This year's theme is "St Nicolas". Benjamin Britten has written a popular cantata about him (which we will perform in its entirety, complete with audience participation), and there are some wonderful friezes pertaining to him around Winchester Cathedral's font. His feast-day in December 6 (not November 6 as I stupidly wrote in an earlier Crier!) and he is the inspiration behind the modern-day Santa Claus. So I hope that gives you plenty of things to inspire you.

***Ian de Massini***

## **AFTER YOU CLAUD**

**8.00 pm on Saturday, 12th March**  
**in The Village Hall**

Rex Freeman and Geoff Hales present a comedy revue on the subject of good manners, a topic very dear to their hearts, with contributions from W.S. Gilbert, Charles Dickens, Samuel Pepys, Hilaire Belloc, P.G. Wodehouse, Jerome K. Jerome and others. Your attendance at this morally uplifting event is respectfully solicited.

A £6.00 ticket will include a glass of sherry or wine and tickets can be obtained from Hilary Sage on (01638) 742978 or Dee Noyes on (01638) 743864

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## **Wedding Dresses and Flower Display**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005**

We will be decorating the church with several flower arrangements, just like a wedding, for this weekend. If you were married in St Mary's, Swaffham Prior and would like to make a donation of £5 we will place a handwritten card next to an arrangement on the window sills or by the glass doors with details of your wedding. All I need from you is the money, name of the bride and groom and date of the wedding.

If you have not yet offered your wedding dress please contact Kate Child on 743983 BEFORE the end of March. If you have a mannequin on which a wedding dress could be displayed Kate would also like to hear from you. It needs to be free standing in order to show off the dress to its best advantage.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

***Ruth Scovil***

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior  
(The letter box is in the door at the back of the house!)

### **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BOTTISHAM**

# **800<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2005**

**FLOWER FESTIVAL**

**GRAND FETE IN THE VICARAGE GARDEN**



## GRAND JUMBLE & NEARLY NEW SALE

IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00PM**

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

Items can be collected by or left with:

**Elaine Malster, 28 Fairview Grove (743894)**

**Janet Cooper, 39 High Street (741326)**

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

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

**We would very much appreciate your help**

## Cantilena Singers Lenten Concert

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2005 7:30 pm**

**Church of St. Cyriac**

**Swaffham Prior**

**Director: Daniel Spreadbury**

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

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

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



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

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*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*

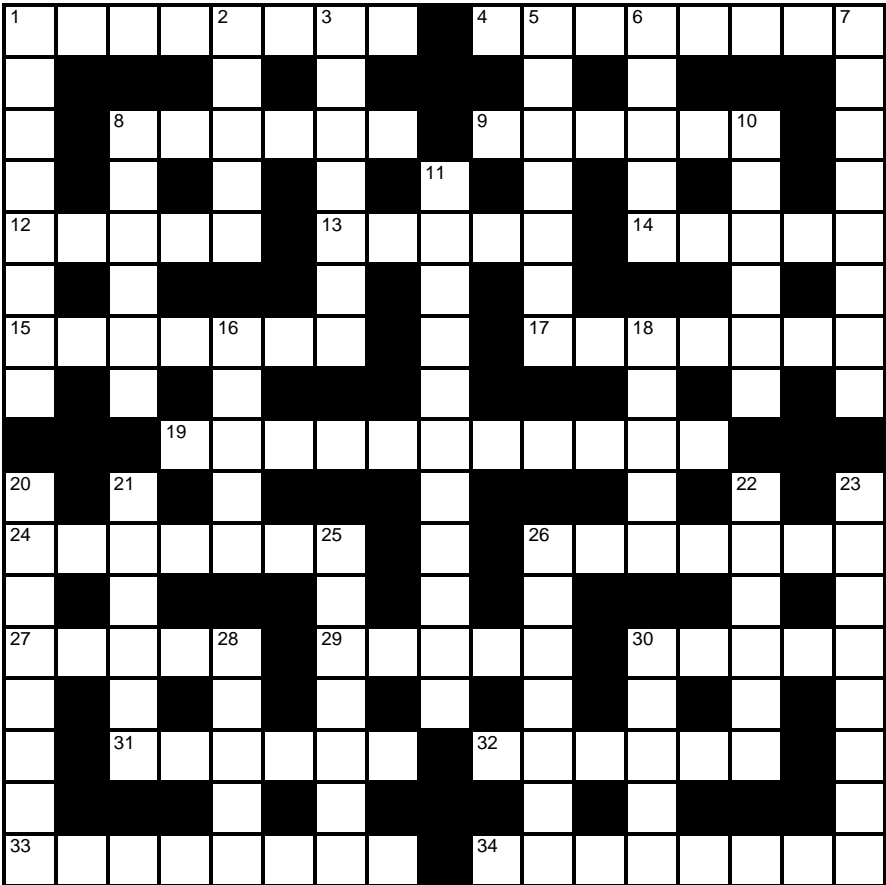


Crossword Number 20

Sponsored by The Red Lion

Compiled by  
OUNCE

Clues marked \* have a common theme so do not require a second definition. Send your answers to the editors by 14th March 2005. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – see Lorraine at the pub for full details.



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

## Across

- 1 \*Align ace crookedly (8)  
 4 \*Very loud royal we've confused (8)  
 8/8D \*Survey, Mrs. Mao made (6,6)  
 9 See 30 Down  
 12 Verne confused always? Quite the reverse (5)  
 13 \*Broken vial contains nothing (5)  
 14 Wooden horse causes anger in a monarch? (5)  
 15 Pull round female following serviceman, dangerous (7)  
 17 Decapitate turnout Father found (4,3)  
 19 \*Disguises or hides rash (11)  
 24 Strange quarters; note, rent's withdrawn over imaginary line (7)  
 26 \*Ruins are go no (7)  
 27 Group found in oxygen, usually (5)  
 29/21 \*Bizarre unsalted bar (5,6)  
 30 Ms Ure struggles in liquid (5)  
 31 Cravat we hear, goes with informal shirt, and small hose (6)  
 32 "Soap opera?" they say, "Corn!" (6)  
 33 \*Mad rat groans shortly (8)  
 34 Bridge players shelter small bird, on top of church daughter embroidered (8)

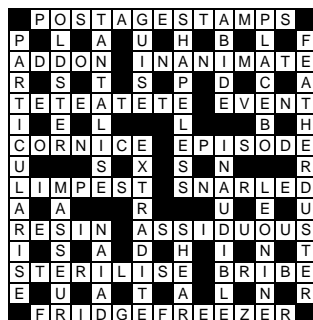
## Down

- 1 \*Various Elizabethans without zeal (8)  
 2 Creature caught in Marseille murder mystery (5)

We congratulate **Shirley Wilkins**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Julian Luttrell, Hilary Sage and Robert & Julie Nunn.

- 3 \*Broken ribs removed from twisted silver birch (7)  
 5 Prince's removed from apprenticeship. Last words? (7)  
 6 An eel affected girl. (5)  
 7 \*Initially, women of old Danish resort uncork free fizz (8)  
 8 See 8 Across  
 10 \*Fixed wry oar (6)  
 11 \*Patrol dog I'm leading around (3,8)  
 16 Little Miss Nightingale joins a Tory leader on decorated truck (5)  
 18 Article is the French passage (5)  
 20 \*GM boater remodelled (8)  
 21 See 29 Across  
 22 \*Rue all errors (6)  
 23 \*Transform row with Wild Western mood (8)  
 25 Arise sir, nought, no alcohol, none for Italian dish (7)  
 26 Peculiar people meet model for a scrap (7)  
 28 Mother follows soldiers coming up for Greek letter (5)  
 30/9 \*Cycle ties we disorganised (5,6)

Solution to crossword no. 19



# THE AUCTION

*For St. Mary's Swaffham Prior  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2005*

**We can collect items in good condition eg:**

Furniture(small!)	Decorative china
Glass	Oil/Watercolours
Silverware	Linen
Oriental rugs	Leather-bound books
Jewellery	Paperweights
Garden statuary	Leather suitcases
Sporting equipment	

**Please contact:**

Penny Walkinshaw or Marcia Miller  
Tel: 01638 742542 Tel: 01638 41141

**All items must be received (or collected)  
by Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

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**THE SALE WILL TAKE PLACE IN  
ST. CYRIAC'S CHURCH**

**On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

**Items for sale will be on view in from 5pm, wine and  
canapés will be served from 6pm.**

**The Auction will commence at 7pm.**

At the sale please note that cash or cheques **ONLY** will be accepted

# Crier Village Clubs' Notice Board

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
Baby & Toddler Group	Fleur	743992	Tues	2:30-4:00pm	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term time)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term time)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7:00-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7:00-10:00pm	

Yes, here it is, and from now on, this Notice Board will appear regularly in the *Crier*. Finding these details has not been as easy as clubs might imagine and we hope that this inclusion will add to village support for the clubs listed here..

I have not included anyone that I have not been able to speak to personally to check that they are happy for their number to be listed. (One lady's phone has been engaged every single time—at least 12 calls over 3 days!) I am hoping that the 'missing' contacts will get in touch, so that we can include them next month. Among the missing people are: Jamsing, Staine Hundred, Messy Play, & FoSPS. Please could these club contacts get in touch with me as soon as possible. In addition, **the Cubs would like to let it be known that they are still in urgent need of helpers!**

*Chris Carrington*  
Crier Club Editor

# Down on the Farm – Bird Song

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By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

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IN one of my earlier pieces you will recall that I mentioned the work we have been doing on the farm in association with the RSPB recording the number of birds in the sugar beet crop. This has involved recording the number and breed of birds both in the crop and on the boundaries.

On the area of our farm to be covered, the following were observed:

Skylark, lapwing, goldfinch, red-legged partridge, common buzzard, yellow wagtail, meadow pipit, wren, great tit, yellow hammer, chaffinch, blackbird, whitethroat, reed bunting, chiffchaff and dunnock!

This is a very good spread of birds for one part of a field, and I hope it demonstrates that sugar beet is a crop, which is not only good for the farm rotation but also very good for birds and other wildlife. It can provide cover at nesting time and because it is a crop that it harvested later it is also beneficial to the birds. Most of the chemicals that are used are harmless to wildlife and insects and any weeds that do remain in the crop are beneficial to the birds and insects as they can feed on them.

The RSPB would now like us to leave half a dozen strips undrilled in the field for weeds to grow to encourage skylarks in particular. There is a strong argument to preserve sugar beet in our crop rotation for environmental benefits.

Work continues on the farm, winter jobs are getting done and thoughts are turning to Spring work. One of the first



*Chiffchaff on the Wilmott Farm*

things to be done is a lot of field walking. I will go round each field in turn, there are over 130 in all!, checking the health of the crop and seeing how well the autumn weed control has been. If I feel there are any problems I will consult my agronomist who is independent and self-employed and not contracted by any single chemical firm. I can therefore rely on his advice to be impartial and I can then also “shop around” for chemicals and achieve the best price.

There are rarely problems with crop health at this time of the year and it will

just be a case of cleaning up any weed control that has not come up to my standards. I will achieve this by using a selective Herbicide to target the specific weeds I am after, for example, in the oilseed rape there will always be a volunteer cereal carried over from the previous crop, whether it is barley or wheat. In this case a graminicide will be used to kill off any of these unwanted weeds.

We do this for two main reasons,

firstly, if weeds get a hold they can then compete with the crop and smother it when it is not in a competitive stage i.e. fairly young and small and secondly, cereals carried over in another crop will always carry disease and aphids, which will be detrimental to the following cereal crop and which would then have to be treated later with the expense of time and money.

With everything well in hand I'm now off to the ski slopes!

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## The Reading Group Reads....

### *He Knew He Was Right*

by Anthony Trollope

The Reading Group met on 2nd February at Kent House to discuss Anthony Trollope's "He knew he was right".

The main story concerns the tragic outcome of an initially happy marriage which was wrecked by a combination of obstinacy on the part of both the husband and wife; interference by a mischievous-making, vainglorious, character intent on massaging his own ego; and the social conventions of the time, particularly the idea that a wife was owned by her husband and must obey him. The wife refused to apologise on the grounds that she had done nothing wrong, the husband refused to apologise on the grounds that she had been disobedient to his orders, and ultimately the husband's mental and physical health broke down completely. All this action took place over a period of several years and in different parts of this country and in Italy, but most of the group felt it was the various sub-plots that gave the novel life and interest and, to some extent, overshadowed the theme.



Trollope was a man who was up to date with the latest inventions and innovations of the time - letter boxes in the streets was an idea of his (when he had a Civil Service appointment at the Post Office, before he took up full-time writing), and he was widely travelled in the British Isles, Italy and America. Before the introduction of letter boxes you had to take your letters to a Post Office to send them, and indeed one of his characters in the book refused to put her letters in "one of those iron boxes". Railways as we know them were still being developed and to

travel to Italy it was necessary to leave the train and take a diligence over the mountains.

The general consensus was that although this may not be the best example of Trollope's prolific output, it was still a jolly good read.

On Wednesday, 2 March, we will be reading Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mocking Bird" at the Hollingsworth's, and on Wednesday, 4 April, Jane Austen's "Persuasion" at Kent House.

*Janet Cooper*



## WI Notes

ALISON HORSELY, Fund Raiser and Co-ordinator, gave us an excellent talk on the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service at the WI February meeting.

Anglia One is a helicopter adapted as an ambulance that exists to provide an air-ambulance service for the people of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. It has a top speed of 132 mph and can transport patients to hospital within minutes. As well as the pilot, there would be two highly skilled paramedics on board, or a doctor and a paramedic, and all the necessary equipment to save lives.

The ambulance receives no government funding so relies on sponsorship and voluntary contributions. No money has been forthcoming from the National Lottery, so they run their own lottery.

In future, it is hoped they can raise enough money to have a larger helicopter so that when they have to pick up a child there would be enough room to take a parent as well.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March, the WI will hold its AGM followed by a Beetle Drive.

*Betty Prime*



*Anglia One and its crew in action. Fund raising.....*





## VILLAGE GARDENERS

This month we had a very interesting and well-illustrated talk on what can go wrong in the garden, entitled “You should have been here last week”.

The speaker, Margaret Lynch is a landscape consultant and works in partnership with another local garden designer, John Drake.

She has a lovely two and a half acre garden in Meldreth, with which she has had many trials and tribulations. She’s very keen on conservation and has spent years finding plants that naturalise well and are what she calls “good doers”! Everyone needs good doers in their garden.

Despite flooding, regular assaults on her plants by muntjack, squirrels, mice — who are particularly fond of her crocus bulbs — ducks and disease, her skills and patience are now very evident: wonderful campanulas, drifts of narcissi, chinadoxa and tulips: tall elegant eremurus, iris and hellebores, pergolas and ponds.

We talked about fashions in gardening and decided that by and large we preferred the good old fashioned borders and beautiful colours, rather than the current trend of hard landscaping and foliage. However if you have water in your garden, it’s got to be moving!

*Margaret Joyce*

The March meeting is on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, when Mike Day from NAIB will talk to us about unusual vegetables.

NB. The coach for our WISLEY trip is now organised — Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Let us know if you are interested in coming — the more the merrier.

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## STAINE HUNDRED

AT the February Meeting of the Staine Hundred Local History Society, Chloe Cockerill talked about “The Lion and the Unicorn—Royal Arms and Attachments”. Although Heraldry is not one of my particular interests, she is such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker that she made this complicated subject most interesting and it was illustrated with excellent slides.

Richard Lionheart first chose the three lions to represent England in the Crusades to identify himself in the midst of battle. These three lions remain as part of the Royal Arms to this day. The Royal Arms became a sign of the King’s authority, and after Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the C of E, they began to appear in churches, representing the connection between the monarch and the church.

Changes came in over the course of the centuries for instance, when James VI of Scotland became James I of England, the Royal Arms of England, Scotland and

Ireland were brought together. (As Wales was a Principality and not a Kingdom, the Welsh dragon does not appear on the Royal Arms.) Until 1801, the Royal Arms also included the French Fleur de Lys, dating from Edward III's claim to the French throne in 1340.

The Succession of George of Hanover introduced the white horse on a small shield but the Royal Arms have been unchanged since Victoria came to the throne in 1837. Prince William's arms are the latest to be granted in which a shell for the Spencer family is incorporated into the Royal Arms of our present Queen. The talk ended with slides of hatchments still to be seen in many churches, and we were told how to identify whether it was the husband or wife who died first or whether it was a



bachelor. These were originally hung outside the house of the person who died before being transferred to the church. (The two in Quy Church, one for the Whichcote who died in 1720 and one for a Martins, both of whom were the squires at Quy Hall. These and the Royal Arms are currently being restored before being rehung.) The next meeting will be on **March 8 at 7.30** at BVC when Kasia Gdaniec will be talking about **“Roman Cilia Estates in Bottisham and the Swaffhams: recent archaeological evidence.”**

*Peggy Day*

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# Ely Museum

# 2005

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Running Until Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

***'Elchings of the Fenland in Cambridgeshire'***

An exhibition by the artist Robert Farren.

Normal admission charges apply.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March - 2 sessions**

**10.30am - 12.30pm & 2 - 4pm**

***'Gifts for Mum' - suitable for 7 - 10yrs***

Make gifts for Mothers day as well as Easter cards and decorating Easter eggs.

£2.50 per child-contact museum to book.

**Saturdays 19<sup>th</sup> March & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005**

***Ask the Archaeologist - Finds Days.***

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

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

***John Rohda, Local artist, selling exhibition***

Impressions of Fenland & East Anglia.

**May - Ely high School Exhibition**

Celebrating 100 yrs. Of Ely high School

Normal admission charges apply

**Half term - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 11am - 12 pm & 2-3pm**

***Discovering Dinosaurs- suitable for 6-12yrs***

£3.00 per child pre-booking essential

# School News

## News From Class 4

Class 4 is made up of the oldest children: 31 Y5 (aged 10) and Y6 (aged 11) children. Their teacher is Mrs Johnstone and their teaching assistant is Mrs Dalton. This year they have had an interactive whiteboard fitted to their classroom and the make over continued with new furniture – tables and green chairs.

Each term classes take an assembly for parents; here is Class 4's report.



### *Class 4 assembly – by Hannah Giles and Katie Luton*

*Our assembly was about playground buddies. There were five groups of children who showed how playground buddies help you if you have a problem.*

*The first group was about sharing. The second group showed that being different doesn't matter. The third group was about name calling. The fourth group was about bullying and the last group was to do with loneliness. Everyone had a great time.*

*By the end of the assembly the rest of the school had a better idea of what buddies did and how important they are.*

Year 6 children take it in turns to be buddies in the playground. Their assembly put a humorous slant on their involvement in school, but the role they undertake is a serious one: helping them to develop their own skills as well as supporting others. They initiate play and help solve simple problems. Buddies always refer difficult situations to adults.

Class 4 look forward to their residential trip to North Norfolk in June. They will spend 4 nights away, learning about the coast and getting muddy wading across Blakeney marsh. Who knows - maybe they will be able to take a dip in the ocean.

### **Community Dates**

**Red Nose Day**                      **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Big Hair and Beyond**

**Easter Egg Bingo**                **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 6pm**

**Easter Service**                   **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2pm**

New entrants for Reception September 2005: The final date for applications for reception places is 24<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

*Joanna Lakey*  
February 2005

**Email [office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk)**

**[www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk)**

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE LAUNCH NEW SINGLE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE is launching a new single non-emergency number. The new number **0845 456 456 4** replaces the many different switchboard numbers that were previously used, meaning non-emergency calls to police are now simpler and the cost is reduced for the majority of callers.

The number change is a part of a longer-term national drive to maximise performance, improve contact with the public as well as call handling.

Chief Constable Tom Lloyd said: "The number is being introduced to give callers a better service. Up until now we have had at least five different non-emergency numbers by which the public made contact with us. These were often difficult to remember and depended on where you were in the county. The move to a single non-emergency number will help people easily remember our contact number and will also reduce the number of 999 calls which should have been non-emergency calls but were made by those who did not know or could not remember the many numbers previously used."

Work is also underway to build and staff a modern customer service centre in Peterborough which is expected to be completed towards the end of the year.

This will allow non-emergency calls coming in through the single number to be directed to either the Customer Service Centre or a specific department. The Customer Service Centre will aim to resolve the call straight away but if it can't do that then the best-placed department to deal will be allocated the call.

Mr Lloyd added: "We still have a long way to go in terms of getting the new Customer Service Centre finished and getting the right level of staff and training in place. But we'll then be in a much stronger position to manage phone calls and direct callers to the most experienced and best-placed staff to handle queries."

**Local beat officer, Tony Payne, writes "Parties must report incidents of criminal damage to the police via the 0845 456 456 4 number. If incidents are not reported then Police Resources will not be allocated to problem areas."**

- **For more information please ring the Customer Relationship management Team on 0845 456 456 4. Please ask for Superintendent Mick Gipp or Chief Inspector Jane Weir. Alternatively, ring David Ward in the Press Office.**
- **The new single non-emergency number does not affect the 999 service which should continue to be used for emergencies.**
- **The existing switchboard numbers will not be switched off for a number of months.**
- **The switchboard deal with an average of 72,000 calls a month**
- **Of those calls 84 per cent are answered within the 30 second target**
- **Most calls to the switchboard are answered in 14 seconds**



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

It looks like 2005 is going to keep us councillors on our toes. So far, along with our scheduled council meetings there have been seminars on Emergency Planning, The East Cambs Local Development Framework, Waste Management, and Planning Issues.

The Local Development Framework and Waste Management are both issues with long term implications for our district. Then for those of us on the Licensing Committee, there was a one day training session to give us a better understanding of the implementation of the new Licensing Act.

By the time this magazine drops though your letter box, we as a council should have come to a decision on two issues.

Firstly, this years budget and council tax level. East Cambs is a council with no party in overall control, each group has formulated its own proposals. Hopefully the council tax will show a very small increase. Secondly there is the office accommodation issue, there is at present a short list of four sites. We should have chosen the preferred site before the end of February. On a more local level, there have been several matters to deal with.

The problem of travellers on Headlake Drove has been resolved. I can report that after ten weeks of continuously working with Brian Hicks, our Travellers' Liason Officer, we have managed to move them on. The area has also been cleaned up.

I have been working with Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council to have a plastic bottle recycling point sited in the village, this should now soon be a reality.

The local shop and PO is often an integral part of the local community. In our ward, we once had both of these in Reach and Swaffham Prior, but now sadly only in Swaffham Bulbeck. Recently, myself and two parish councillors had a meeting with the owners of Swaffham Bulbeck Stores to see if there was a way that we could increase public awareness and therefore the shop's use. There is no doubt that the present owners have greatly increased the range of goods on offer.

Unfortunately, because of this government's policy of now having benefit and pension payments paid into bank accounts rather than post offices, our post office will have a drop in income. But it does offer a range of services including the sale of foreign currency. So remember — use it or lose it.

Lastly there has recently been a case of distraction burglary in our ward, and three in the surrounding area. The victims are generally the elderly. Do not let anyone into your house that you are unsure of and who doesn't possess identification and have a phone number you can ring to check. If you do have a suspicious caller, then please ring the police.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report.

*Allen Alderson*



### Fire & Rescue Matters

Few people will grudge the modest cost of Cambridgeshire's Fire & Rescue Service. The cost on a **Band D property** this year will increase by £2.25 to £48.24, or less than a pound per week, This equals about £1.40 per **head** of population overall.

As a member of the Fire Authority with two stations at **Burwell** and **Swaffham Bulbeck** within my electoral patch, you will understand why I follow fire and rescue (usually from crashes) with great interest and admiration. At times it is a horrible job, and with the very recent tragic loss of two firefighters in Stevenage in mind, a dangerous one as well. The larger city fire stations are manned by full-time fire fighters. Smaller and rural ones are usually run by part-timers known as Retained Fire Fighters. As part-timers man our two local fire engines they clearly cannot attend fires or accidents at all times. However, evenings and weekends see them available and reacting with great speed to reported incidents. Cambridge full-time Station is open and able to respond at all times. Our brigade is highly popular and well respected for the job it does. It deserves our thanks and support.

### County Budget

This month the County Council will decide how big its **Budget** will be and what will be the consequent Council Tax for its services. Just now it looks as if the Conservative majority will plump for 4% increase to fund the budget of £511 million. There will be debate arising out of opposition Liberal Democrat and Labour amendments, but I do not foresee any great changes to the above proposals. Compared with other Shire Counties Cambridgeshire will continue to have one of the lowest Council Taxes.

Inevitably there will be cuts given the rate of inflation, averaging 3.5% for local government, legislative pressures not covered by the Government, rate support grant and the increase in demand on our services from people living longer. At this moment I expect to see reduced subsidies to rural bus services, important reductions in road maintenance, insufficient money for Social Services and less money for some of the needs of schools, libraries and museums. There will, in consequence, be plenty to argue about this month.

Over the last two months I have been campaigning with other like-minded councillors to get sprinklers installed in schools and other buildings owned by the County Council. We have had some success in that the majority party has now agreed to finance sprinkler protection in County buildings where people sleep overnight.

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**For the second time in 13 years, Bottisham Village College appears in "The best of the best" list along with just 43 others throughout England.**

Accordingly Burwell House should benefit from this change, which will make it an altogether super building

Lastly, we should all take pride in the superb reports about **Bottisham Village College** from the Chief Inspector of Schools in his annual report. For the second time in 13 years the College appears in “The best of the best” list along with just 43 others throughout England.

*James Fitch*

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## **Reconstruction of Commissioners Drain (2) Bridge**

Following a Principal Inspection report on the above bridge that is located on Lords Ground Drove off Whiteway Drove (OS grid ref TL 541665) we intend to replace this structure as a matter of urgency in mid March 2005.

The Principal Inspection has identified that the bridge is suffering from settlement and needs to be replaced. The bridge carries a road to a number of farms and provides a sole public highway link for them and this needs to be safeguarded, hence our urgent intervention.

I envisage that we will have to close the road at this bridge site for about a week and a diversion route will be established via a private road through Lords Ground Farm by kind permission of the owners.

*Gareth Guest*  
Area Bridge Engineer

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## **MOTHERING SUNDAY**



*Join us as we celebrate Mothering Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The day when we give thanks to God for our Mother's love in Mother Church. Each child is given a Posey to give to their Mothers and Grandmothers during this **Family Service**.*

Services are being held in your local Churches on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March** as follows:

<b>Holy Trinity, Bottisham:</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>St. James' Lode:</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>St. Mary's, Quy:</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
<b>St. Mary's Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>9.30am</b>



## Church News

FIRSTLY, grateful thanks to Catie Whitely, who after raising £315 through her coffee morning, then kindly had the church carpet professionally cleaned.

A very real thank-you to Robin Scovil, who, amongst much poster printing, produces monthly the church rota, covering over THIRY volunteers, cleaning, reading, opening etc etc. We are so grateful and it is **never** taken for granted.

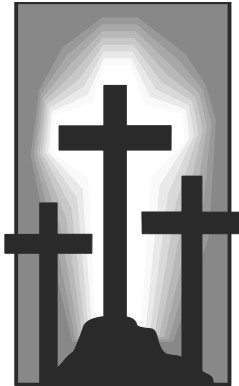
Can I bring to your attention the date of our Annual Vestry Meeting, to be held on **April 14 2005, 7.15pm for 7.30pm** in the School Hall. Please come and make your concerns known, you will be made very welcome.

Lastly, can I thank the generous donor who (a) produced the new service books for all services, hopefully helping people through the service, and (b) supplying the "Welcome" leaflets. These are currently being distributed personally throughout the village to all newcomers. They hold helpful information about the Church and the Community. Do let me know if you have been missed.

*Tricia Harrison*

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### ***MUSIC AND READINGS***



### ***FOR HOLY WEEK***

***FEATURING THE St. MARY'S SINGERS  
St. MARY'S CHURCH, SWAFFHAM BULBECK  
SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 6.30pm***

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## **Ely Cathedral Passes**

The Dean and Chapter of Ely have introduced Free Entry Passes to the Cathedral for those who are on the Electoral Role of a parish church. The passes are for individuals, and are not transferable.

If you would like to apply for a pass, phone 743939.

*Barbara Dennis*



## Church of England Services

### March 2005

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<i>MOTHERING SUNDAY</i> <b>Sun 6</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<i>PALM SUNDAY</i> <b>Sun 11</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <b>6:30pm</b> Music & Readings for Holy Week	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> <b>Thu 18</b>		<b>7:00pm</b> Holy Communion	
<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> <b>Sun 25</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Meditation	<b>9:00am</b> Meditation	<b>11:30am</b> Meditation
<i>EASTER DAY</i> <b>Sun 25</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion

### Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dear Friends,

Easter is quite early this year, and will truly be surrounded by signs of new growth as Spring bursts forth once again. As Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once wrote:

*'Twas Easter Sunday. The full-blossomed trees  
Filled all the air with fragrance and with joy.'*

In a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, is a grave that has been disturbed by the growth of a tree in the very centre of it. On top of the grave were placed huge slabs of granite and marble cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Yet strangely, she directed in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection, it could not reach her. On the marker were inscribed these words: "This burial place must never be opened."

In time, a seed, covered over by the stones, began to grow. Slowly it pushed its way through the soil and out from beneath them. As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs were gradually shifted so that the steel clasps were wrenched from their sockets. A tiny seed had become a tree that had pushed aside the stones.

The dynamic life force contained in that little seed is a faint reflection of the tremendous power of God's creative word that someday will call to life the bodies of all who are in their graves. He will also bring back every person drowned at sea, cremated, or destroyed in some other way. This is no problem to the One who made something out of nothing when He brought the universe into existence, and who brought Jesus Christ back from the dead.

As Billy Graham once wrote: "*There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three.*"

The journalist Frank Morison decided to investigate the life of Christ. The strangeness of the Resurrection story fascinated him, and, influenced by sceptic thinkers, he set out to prove that the story of Christ's Resurrection was only a myth. His research, however, led him to discover the truth of Christ's Resurrection in a moving, personal way, bringing him to a new and living faith, and resulting in him writing the book 'Who Moved the Stone', which has become an international best seller.

Faith in the risen Christ opens the door to a living and loving relationship with Him, and all the blessings that His Resurrection guarantees, including a glorious new spiritual body when we die, and a home in heaven.

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

*David*

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

Tue	1	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	2	Reading Group, 8pm, 41 Lower End
Sat	5	GRAND JUMBLE SALE 2pm, VH
Sun	6	Mothering Sunday Family Service, 11am
Tue	8	Staine Hundred, 7.30pm, BVC
Fri	11	School Red Nose Day, Big Hair and Beyond
Sat	12	After You Claud, 8pm, VH
Sun	13	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Fri	18	Easter Egg Bingo, School Hall, 6pm
Sat	19	Cantilena Singers, 7,30pm, St Cyriacs
Sun	20	Music for Holy Week, St Mary's Singers, 6.30pm Bulbeck St Mary's
Mon	21	WI AGM and Beetle Drive, VH 7.30pm
Wed	23	School Easter Service, St Mary's, 2pm
<b>Sat</b>	<b>26</b>	Cambridge Voices, 3-5pm, St Cyriac's
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>	Easter Day Bach Piano, 3-4pm, St Cyriac's.
Tues	29	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm



Grand unveiling of the Village Sign, 7 June, 1986. Centre stage (in white jacket) is first ever **Crier** Editor, Cyril Rowlinson. Cyril achieved this high distinction having misguidedly failed to turn up at a village meeting to discuss founding a magazine. In his absence, he was unanimously elected Editor. *Photo courtesy Ruth Stinton.*

*Official PC Reporter Karen King has been ill— back next month.*