



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 5

Ma y 2005



Editorial

A VERY SAD GOOD-BYE to James Fitch, who after 20 years as our County Councillor, is retiring this month (see his article). While James has been in charge, we have always been confident that good things would get done when good things needed doing, and any bad things *they* tried to foist on us would have a tough job getting past James! He will be sorely missed.

May is a *very* merry month in SP, with everything happening at once: Reach Fair, Village Feast, the long-awaited Grand Auction, the Village Annual Assembly (well alright, that might not be *very* merry) the Flowers and the Wedding Dresses, .So spare a thought for Jean Moore, who has broken her arm and may well miss all this. As a previous winner of the WI's Guy Bulleid Award, Jean's kindness is renowned, and the *Crier* would like to offer her all their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

This month's issue sees the long-awaited return of Mark Lewinski's *Crier* Profile with a truly fascinating account by Sid Prince of the way things used to be, when the only things you *couldn't* buy in

the village were clothes (but you could get the cloth to make them). Yes, we are a PALE SHADOW OF OUR FORMER SELVES, the only good thing to say being that we don't get *ruled* by *evil teachers* any more! No, teachers get ruled by *evil pupils* now....

The Crier Website! Please do visit it at **w w w . s w a f f h a m - c r i e r . c o . u k**. We now have a *search engine* (yes, to settle all those who-said-what disputes) and what we would REALLY APPRECIATE are volunteers to type out (or scan and correct) old *Criers* for which we only have paper records.

See you fairing, feasting and assembling, not to mention Red Cross coffeing!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Maypole, by Claire Warren



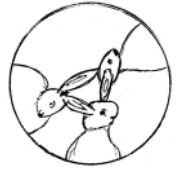
Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Tinners' Rabbits: A Development.

The Hare has long been a symbol of Love and Fertility, and its image is associated with the moon. As for three, there are many threes: the monkeys—the well known, “hear all, see all, say nowt”; the equilateral triangle; Mind/Body/ Spirit; the “Three Magi”; the double interconnected equilateral triangle of the “Seal of Solomon”; the Celtic Triple Enclosure; even the “Three Coins in the Fountain”.



I think we will find the origin of the Triple Hare symbol needs a little more research before we can close the book on it. Church window art can be strange — witness the odd image in Swaffham Prior church of the French SPAD world war one aircraft bearing German markings, which I wrote about some years ago.

Ophir Catling.

ophir.catling@dial.pipex.com

Dear Editors,

A plea to drivers at the Greenhead/Tothill Rd Junction

Over the last few months we have suffered damage to our cars parked outside number 32 on no less than three occasions. This has been caused by drivers who do U turns at this junction, far too quickly and often, carelessly. The first time



THE VILLAGE FEAST STOP PRESS!

1. Lorraine of the Red Lion will be offering her BBQ.
2. The Bar will provide (apart from good beers, shandies and Pimms) an AMAZING range of EXTRAORDINARY beers and ciders.
3. There will be a 7 Piece Band.
4. We may even have a man in a can of baked beans.

SATURDAY 14TH MAY

we had a broken wing minor, followed by a dented side bumper and now recently, a shattered side window. Only on one occasion did the person responsible own up to the damage! We have had the inconvenience and the extra costs to meet

Whilst I realise that cars will continue to turn round at this spot, could I please request that people exercise more care in how they do so, remembering that cars will always be parked along the road!

Dear Editors,

Bonfires

Is anyone able to advise me of what exactly the rule is with regard to when you should and shouldn't be able to light a bonfire? I personally have no objection to people having fires in their garden, however, am I the only one that takes exception to not being able to open my windows or put my washing out on a nice sunny spring morning?

I have young children so the opportunity to dry my washing outside is greatly appreciated.

I was always under the impression that bonfires could only be lit after sunset, which seems sensible to me as most people will have taken any washing in and closed their windows by then. However, I know a friend of mine down Fairview Grove is just as fed up as me at not being able to enjoy the benefits of a garden on a sunny day because of the ignorance of others. On top of which, what are they finding to burn? Have they forgotten that we now have a regular collection from our driveways every other Tuesday for garden waste, papers, cans etc!

Perhaps next time any of your readers is considering having a bonfire, please, please please, check to see if the sun is shining, has anyone got any washing out or windows open and which way the wind is blowing. Thank you.

Denise Fox-Teece
20 Mill Hill

THE LAW

“There are no national laws or local by-laws which prohibit or control the times at which bonfires can be lit. If used sensibly, an occasional small garden bonfire should not cause a major problem and therefore an outright ban would be unreasonable. However, if a neighbour is continually having bonfires which affect the reasonable enjoyment of your property, the law is on your side. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 it is an offence to cause a **statutory nuisance** and smoke from a garden bonfire can constitute such an offence **if it is a regular occurrence and is interfering substantially with your well-being, comfort or enjoyment of property.**”

“Advice to Householders”, Environmental Health
So, Priorities, don't be a “statutory nuisance”! But we're sure bonfire setters don't want to be a any sort of nuisance and would be very happy to acquiesce to reasonable requests, especially when approached in an amicable manner. Eds

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

14 APRIL 2005 — OUR BIGGEST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING EVER
(PROBABLY)

This is no idle claim; there were 19 bums on seats in a crowded committee room for the visit of Eleanor Hoggart from ECDC who addressed councillors about standards, ethics and the pursuit of happiness. We were joined by 4 Reach councillors, and then 2 police officers who, just passing, decided to investigate these suspicious characters. That's what happens when Reach comes visiting. Our new bobby PC Wayne Davis (his new mobile number will shortly be advertised) was accompanied by Jonathan Hall, Community Support Officer for Burwell.



Allen Alderson's campaign for the Cambridge 'Phone Book continues, but the big news was his letter from the owners of Dencora Field saying very clearly that no-one has permission to be there, whether raising mayhem, depositing killer asbestos waste, or simply collecting firewood (I'm in trouble now). Previously, when called to address a problem, police officers would assume the owners' consent for the activity and avoid entering private property. Now, apparently, they must respond to complaints there. Thus enlightened, our new friends in uniform ended their rather opportune visit.

As we have so few signs around the village, more are planned. They will be useful for visitors and, of course, for villagers who cannot locate Lords Ground Farm. (That could be a quiz night question.) A phantom contractor is delaying work on the Coopers Lane vehicle barrier. Topics proposed for the Village Assembly agenda moved seamlessly on to various maintenance tasks needed around the Parish

“Sadly, too shocked by the news that we must carry on without James after the election, we allowed him to leave the meeting without a standing ovation”

at Springtime. These included a proposal to re-grade the VH car park access, removing its recreation of an Alton Towers experience. Some seem to think that area is beyond the VH committee's remit, which should end at the door. Now they tell me, but heh! I'm relaxed about that. Let's go over it one more time at the VH AGM next week 'cos I like the sound of it. Another sign was suggested to warn drivers leaving the car park to be cautious on their approach to the footpath that may have escaped their notice when they came in from High Street. Please don't laugh.

There is plenty of evidence that many drivers are blind - though that falls down too, because blind drivers don't read signs. Oh! I give up. I believe in the carrot and stick approach. If they're good, give them a stick. If they're bad, pelt them with carrots. They soon learn.

James Fitch arrived late for his second meeting of the evening with a Jamie Oliver moment; the average Cambridgeshire school meal costs 44p. At his SP swansong, he could announce improvements to the Bulbeck chicane before the

opening of Route 51 late this year, and that all CCC schools will be assessed for fire risk. Sadly, too shocked by the news that we must carry on without James after the election, we allowed him to leave the meeting without a standing ovation. Following many years of valuable service, James will stand aside for one of two competing lady hopefuls, neither candidate for Labour (old or new). The choice is just between LibDem and Conservatory, no Greens and no crazy parties. That's so disappointing.

It seems likely that the school pool can no longer drain to a soakaway, but get connected to the Village Hall mains drain. Allotment holders behind the cemetery want a shady tree, thought to be a lonesome pine, removed. Legal fees for the Burwell Tigers' lease of the playing field look alarming. These and other subjects passed in a haze as the implications of Allen's Dencora letter began to sink in – must I stop collecting kindling, and can I no longer exercise the dogs there? Each circuit is, near as damn it, one kilometre, so you know how much ground you have covered in your fight against flab, moving away from OB City, the destination of choice for so many.

Frank Readhead

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH MAY 2005
SHOULD ANYONE WISH TO HAVE AN ITEM INCLUDED ON
THE AGENDA, PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK**

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



From our fencing correspondent.....

After months of effort we have not yet been rewarded with a replacement barrier to stop motor vehicles at the top end of Coopers Lane.

The Moveable Feast

Saturday July 9th 2005

Many of you have been to previous Moveable Feasts and had a thoroughly enjoyable time moving from house to house for each course. If you would like to host any of the courses I would be delighted to hear from you. We limit the numbers to 30 so there needs to be enough space for people to eat their first and last course standing up or perching on chairs. However, for the main course we find it works better if guests can sit down at a table and eat their main course together. If you think you could accommodate about 8 – 12 people around a table for the main course or would like to host any of these courses please do give me a ring. If you get the answer machine I will be very pleased to ring you back. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Ruth Scovil (tel. 743720)



“MEAD’S MARAUDERS” REST (ON THE LEVEL) AFTER THEIR EXERTIONS AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

THE AUCTION

*For St. Mary's Swaffham Prior
13th 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 8th May**

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

On 13th 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

The Village Feast 2003

Saturday 14 May

at

2.00 pm

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of
fun and games including

Maypole Dancing *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy*

Bowls *Children's Play Area* *Lucky Dip*

Egg Throwing *Raffle*

Teas & Home-made Cakes *Ice Creams* *Beer Tent*

****Stalls Galore****

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants
Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

Admission 30p. Children Free

Your help is needed....

As usual we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

Books, Books, Books - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give Alastair Everitt (742974) a ring, and they will be happy to receive or collect. But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Elisabeth Everitt (742974).

We shall also be collecting for the **Bottle Stall**, and will be calling during the early part of May for anything you can offer.

Thanking you for your usual generous support



**"NINE IN
THE FRAME"**

*would like to invite you to their
second exhibition of*

***PATCHWORK
& QUILTING***

**Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June
10.00am – 5.00pm**

*St. Cyriac's Church
Swaffham Prior, Cambridge*

**Admission £2
Tea and coffee in the Village Hall**

*Proceeds to Swaffham Prior Church
All enquiries, please ring 01638 743983*

OPEN GARDENS

**Sunday 19th June
2-6 pm £2.50**



CRIER PROFILE No. 3: SID PRINCE

SID PRINCE was born in Swaffham Prior and has always lived here apart from a short spell in the war. He has lived in Greenhead Road since 1957.

I was born in 1921...I'll leave you to work out how old I'm getting!

I call it a dying village. Once upon a time in Swaffham Prior you could get anything you wanted bar clothes. But you could buy cloth, at two shops in the village. There'd be butcher's, sweetshops, shoeshop. There used to be a cobbler, but my dad used to buy a piece of leather and mend our shoes.

You could buy a square of leather. He used to sit there with an old hobbing iron and mend 'em. He'd cut it off and nail it round. There was a nurse in the village when I went to school. Four pubs, and one down the Fen, the Cherry Tree. That used to do a good trade during the summer. My dad, he could remember eight in the village. There used to be one up that house, what they called Croft. And opposite the Carpenter's shop, that was called the Cow and Calf. Then there used to be another one, just the other side of the Lion...and they used to get a living. There were a few that would bike to Cambridge, on the building; farms - Ambrose, he employed a lot of men, and so did Mr Woollard... Woollard had one farm, Arthur Yarrow had a farm, I think he employed about three or four.

When I left school at fourteen there wasn't a lot of work for youngsters but I had a job to take the papers round. Well,

there weren't many houses those days - then I'd carry on and deliver at Reach. Then twice a week, with a grocery van, I used to come round with him. Three half crowns he used to give me, (laughs) six days I'd deliver the papers, then in the afternoon I used to work down the parson's, the Vicarage, the Reverend Hills's, in his garden, five days, so I used to have six half crowns a week (laughs) - I was well off!

Dad, he was a baker, used to work for Mr Low. Mum worked on the railways during the war as a guard -she'd get the train down here to Cambridge, then she used to be a guard to March.

There used to be four trains a day from Cambridge, used to go

right through to Mildenhall, and there used be a goods train. You always knew what time it was - cause some of us didn't have watches - we used to see that old train, we used to say, there y'are, it's getting on so-and-so. There used to be buses, two bus services we had.

It didn't cost much to go to Cambridge, two or three coppers I think. You could go on the train from Swaffham Prior to Cambridge for three pennies. My grandchildren don't believe what I tell 'em! See, everybody, them years ago, everybody seemed happy in Swaffham Prior, cause they were all on

“ See, everybody, them years ago, everybody seemed happy in Swaffham Prior, cause they were all on the same lines, the same monies.”



Landgirl Reunion, with Sid's wife Mary fourth right from tractor wheel. Who, when and where, readers?

the same lines, the same monies. My dad being's a baker, he used get five shillings a week more than the farm workers. He used to get a golden guinea a week, that's a hundred and five pence. My brother, he was a piano tuner. He could play the piano; I couldn't play nothing, only ruddy cricket and football. I love sport. But I got

smashed up in the war. I was in the Royal Armoured Corps. We finished up in North Africa, that's where I got smashed up.

I joined up seventh of February 1942. I had my 21st birthday in the army. I got stationed at Newmarket. That was handy, I used to get me bike and bike home. We went the February 43, Algiers, then we carried on up to Tunisia. There was four of us. We'd



Sid at Swaffham Prior School....

been called up together; we'd been together all the time...it was a ruddy aeroplane. We see these old Jerries fly round, never took no notice of us. Course, they goes round and comes out of the sun at you. We got machine-gunned and these here little shrapnel wounds. Me mate got killed, Parker; the other guy, Davis, had his leg blew off; and Salt, he only got a scratch. We were near a forward base hospital. I don't pray but I think to myself, Sid, you're bloody lucky. Parker, he died; Davis, I never knew where he went. Nearly seven months in hospital, and I weren't

**“ We see these old
Jerries fly round, never
took no notice of us.
Course, they goes round
and comes out of the sun
at you. ”**

no more good so they chucked me out the army. I weren't sorry, but I had been looking forward to having a good look round, in the army, for nothing. I come out and I didn't do anything for a while because I wanted to get over all this, but anyway, I got a job on the farm again, then I had a job for Crittalls, the window people, doing jobs all round here, on the first stage at Addenbrookes Hospital. then I got on the public works, roadwork, I had a few years with them, we used to tarmac with a fork; then I got a job at a building firm; Addenbrookes second stage was coming on, 1967. I got a job up there, 13 ½ years up there, then the job got done.

It was hard work on the land them days. Now everything's changing and I looks back and I say what a change. It is! The whole village, years ago: you'd see people on a Sunday, kiddies all dressed up, going to chapel, then church – I used to go to chapel twice a Sunday; well, there weren't nothing to do so we used to go. You wouldn't see nobody working on a Sunday them days, nobody. No, Sunday was a day of rest.

My old dad, he used to start six in the morning till five at night. He went all through the first war; in the Royal Signals, running messages; four years there, come out with a clean record: so when I went he said Sid, remember, come out with a clean record. So that's

what I did.

We used to play in the old meadow where the swings are now. That was our playground. A lot of kiddies used to get in there. We'd get two or three wickets in there and an old bat; then football come, we used to play football; we used to have a lovely old fair in there, after Reach Fair they used to come in that meadow. They used to come the Thursday and then Friday and Saturday the whole village would be packed, Saturday night. It used to be packed.

There used to be two schools near the church. One for the infants, one up till eleven. I started in the infants school, then I carried on in the other one while they were building the new one, then we moved into there. Some of the teachers were ghastly, they used to give you the cane! I've had the cane many a time. Mrs Davis, she wouldn't say anything but she'd come and draw a cane across your fingers. Now learn that, she said. Learn your lesson. But we'd get another one, next week. You know the little rulers a foot long, we used to flick plasticene at the headmistress. Her son used to sit next to me, and he were worse than me! He used to get the same. We used to act about in the school. It weren't any one who got the cane – we all used to get it! Teachers were really strict them days. You got the cane a lot down here, but when I went up to Burwell I never got the cane once. I seemed to change. I learned me lesson.

My wife, she came down from Manchester with the Land Army. There were three of them, Joan, that's Joan Bradley - Mary, and Irene. They came down together. Irene married my brother. Now I'm the only one that's alive now. She were one of the best. A good manager, everything. Fifty-six

years I knew her; fifty-four we were married. First child, you never got no money. Second child, you got forty pence. Eight shillings.

I sit and think sometimes, forty pence. Now what do they get today? We used to go without to keep those girls tidy. They always came first.

When I went in the army I got one pound, seven and six a fortnight. People



...and before the machine gun episode

say how did you manage? Well, everything was cheaper then. My mum used to send parcels. I know me 21st birthday she sent a big box with a cake in – we sat in the barrack room and scoffed the lot. That's how it goes. You always see someone worse than you. I was very lucky, the surgeon said. Well, I got through it. I still do me garden. I dust all round. I try me best. You can't do any more, can you?

Mark Lewinski

From an interview with Sid Prince

CAMBS QI GONG

In March this year a new venture came into being in the Swaffthams. Three of us, who had grown tired of trucking down to London for the benefit of our health, decided to see if we could set up something more local. Inspired by the teachings of a Chinese master who developed a very special healing form, we managed to attract a world-class teacher in Qi Gong and decided to hire the beautiful venue of Swaffham Prior Village Hall. Amongst the complexities of putting together a multitude of diaries, we managed to eke out a number of Saturdays, one a month, from spring into summer.



Qi Gong infuses qualities of relaxation, balance, sensitivity and awareness throughout the body and mind. Based on the Tao — it is a poetic and practical way of being in life through its seasons, elements and changes.

Qi Gong forms the basis of martial arts such as T'ai Chi and originated in China several thousand years ago. Qi Gong was practised by Taoist monks, indigenous doctors and martial arts practioners in search of well-being and wisdom.

Barbara Brown has been practising T'ai Chi for 25 years and Qi Gong for over 12 years. She co-authored a book "Qi Gong the Chinese Art of working with Energy" commissioned and published by HarperCollins.

For me it is an absolute delight to have this happening on my doorstep.

There is place for a few more people. If you want further information contact Sally on 01223 513 014 or book a place by sending a cheque for £40 — for an individual workshop to:

Cambs Qi Gong
The Mill House
Bottisham Park
Bottisham
Cambridge CB5 9ED

Dates:
Saturday 7th May
Saturday 4th June
Saturday 16th July

Nicole Buijsse

Visiting Bellringers

A group of bell-ringers from Little Baddow in Essex will be ringing in Swaffham Prior for half an hour, on the morning of Saturday, 14th May.



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.

Double-take?

On leafing quickly through April's
'Crier',

I suddenly turned quite pale.
Page 14's headline clearly said,
'Baby and Toddler Sale'.

Wild questions hurtled through my
mind -

'Has Swaffham Prior gone mad?'
'It's changed a lot since I lived there,
From fair to really bad'.

But my colour very soon came back,
As I realised what it meant;
It seems the sale wasn't redundant
stock,
Of the young and innocent.

Ophir

A Display of

WEDDING DRESSES AND FLOWERS

in

**St. Mary's Church
Swaffham Prior**

on

Saturday 21st. May 2005

and

Sunday 22nd May 2005

12 noon - 6pm

Donations to St. Mary's Church Swaffham Prior



British Red Cross
Cambridgeshire Branch

As there will not be a house to house collection in your village this year,

MARCIA MILLER

would like to invite you and your friends to

A RED CROSS WEEK COFFEE MORNING

at

BALDWIN MANOR, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Tuesday 3rd May 2005 10.30-12.30

*Bring and buy stall for home produce - Plant stalls
Leopardi: Pretty clothes & accessories - Raffle*

**ENTRY: By donation,
to include coffee & biscuits**

Registered Charity 220949

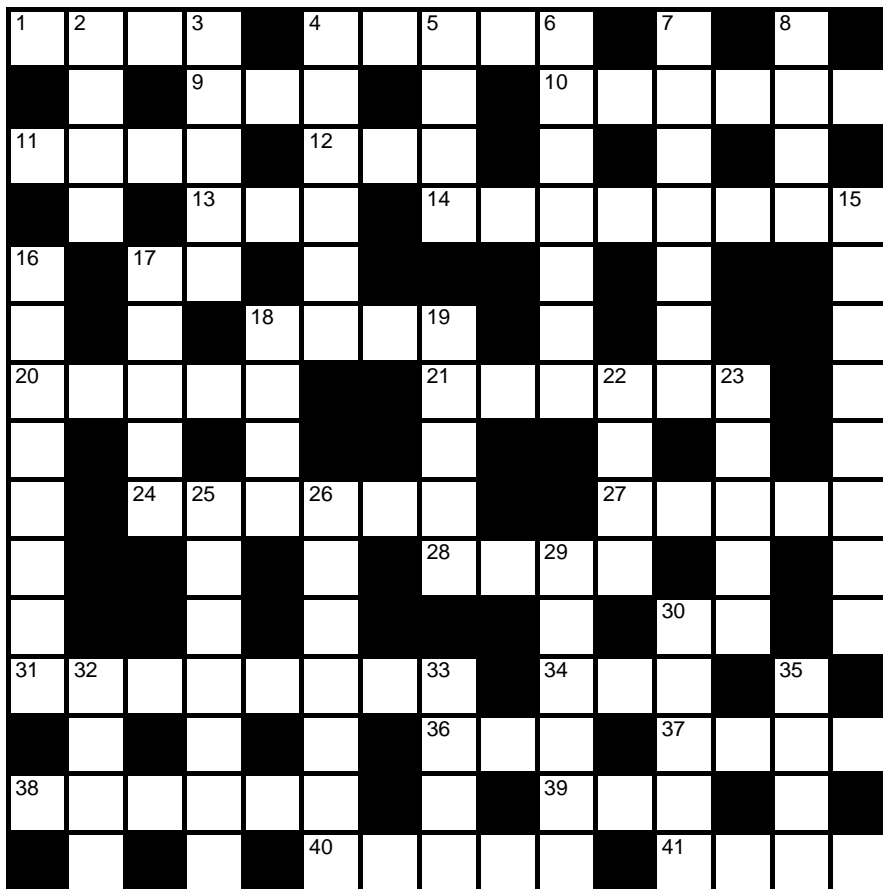
Crossword Number 22

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

OUNCE

The dozen clues marked * are of the same type and do not have a separate definition. However, the clue does not lead directly to the answer, but to a synonym of the answer. Send your answers to the editors by the 14th May 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

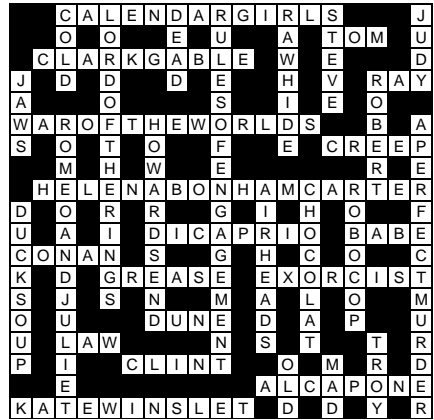
- 1 Initially, George's long outdoor walks give healthy shine (4)
- 4 Emil leaves chamomile mixture for coffee (5)
- 9 African leader (king) first indicates alias (3)
- 10 Composer in French opinion, and Polish naturally (6)
- 11 * Crop cairn badly (4)
- 12 Mischievous creature, but a member (3)
- 13 Finish on leg for a great story (3)
- 14 Lofty window reveals thousand and fifty circling youth leader in view (8)
- 17 Alternative, gold (2)
- 18 Measure, of Miss Marple's taxi-driver for instance? (4)
- 20 "Used for grinding corn?" Question you hear before hesitation and new start (5)
- 21 * Crazy as guitarist (6)
- 24 * Blair incoherent (6)
- 27 Imitate 36 (5)
- 28 Alter ego's skin, it's said (4)
- 30 Not the smallest article (2)
- 31 * Take cue from precocious lunatic (8)
- 34 * Outwit wariest (3)
- 36 27 animal (3)
- 37 * Greek letter to king, you and me (4)
- 38 Spacer pickled flowers (6)
- 39 Rider's mistress (3)
- 40 * Sounds like group with "Nul points" in Eurovision (5)
- 41 Hurry, Reed! (4)

Down

- 2 * Left oriental duck (4)
- 3/25 * Classical liquid; right one for me and you (5,7)
- 4 * Removing mess without men (6)
- 5 For starters, Colin eats plenty; stuffed mushrooms. (4)
- 6 Icy Carl mixed paint (7)
- 7 Leaves female stewed; oil with Thyme, they say (7)
- 8 * Drink up before church, Old Bob (4)
- 15 Holding object intact, I calculated strategy (8)
- 16 Redwoods' vessel contains Queen's Head and Vowels (8)
- 17 Rumpole responds to 39's order (5)
- 18 Caine loses direction playing old Peruvian (4)
- 19 Distributed burnt remains of hogshhead, Reverend? Cruel (5)
- 22 If this is where you're at, you're in (4)
- 23 Horse swallows minute kind of nose (5)
- 25 See 3
- 26 Most indolent, Eliza sat around after losing article (7)
- 29 Under pressure, dishevelled seductress abandons sect (6)
- 30 Yellow bream cooked (5)
- 32 * Able to get caught by East Russian beginner (4)
- 33 Fascist found in Argentina; Zionists enraged (4)
- 35 Add afterthought about left bend (4)

Solution to crossword no. 21

Last month's crossword foxed everybody save **Martyn and Debby Clerk** and **Bob and Julie Nunn**, but it is the invincible **Bob and Julie** (last month's winners as well) who should collect their prize certificate from the editors.



“Portrait of Murder” by Robert Bloomfield



**Spring Production
19th, 20th and
21st May**

OUR Spring production is to be a thriller “Portrait of Murder” by Robert Bloom field (in association with Samuel French).

A successful novelist returns home from hospital following a fire which almost killed her. She has short term memory loss and has undergone cosmetic surgery. Her devoted husband is on hand to aid her recovery or is he? Where do her best friend's loyalties lay? Does her agent really have her best interests at heart and is her secretary all she seems?

Will everyone survive to answer these questions? The only way to find out is to come along. We will be performing in the Bottisham Village College Main Hall Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30 p.m. Ticket prices will be £6.00 with concessions at £4.00 on Thursday only.

Behind the "cameras" this time around will be Val Quy. Tickets can be purchased personally from mid-April Lushers Newsagents in Bottisham and via our own telephone booking line 01223 812779 (not Lushers)

Tickets will be available at the door subject to availability. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

School News



CLASSROOMS are always busy and exciting places, but with the noise of the incubator humming in the corner, Class 1 and the whole school (including the adults) were agog with anticipation as they awaited the arrival of the new members: Fluffy, Humpty and Little Dan. Whilst all the chicks actually chose a quieter time to hatch completely, the chipping process and subsequent tapping of the shell was addictive to watch. Close observations were made and the new arrivals all caused quite a stir.

Of course, Mrs Jackson had arranged all this so that the children had first hand experience of new life. The eggs were turned regularly and once hatched the chicks were weighed and measured with a variety of objects. They now return regularly from their home in Reach so that the records and observations can continue.

New life also featured in Class 2 where the growing of Paper Whites allowed the children and parents to be involved in daily measurements of their plants. Not only were flowers painted and written about, data was collected and graphs made. Their sweet perfume gave the classroom a welcome scent and the in the last week of term dried petals were used to add colour, texture and fragrance to hand made paper.

Other events last half term included our recycling focus which featured a visit from the County's recycling bus. Older children learnt about rocks and fossils as well a sources and sustainability. Younger children worked with reclaimed packaging to make simple vehicles. The school is already recycling some paper and card, but is now acting as a point of collection for old mobile phones and used ink cartridges; do drop these into the school. Class 4's survey found that the school is still throwing away too much paper and in a bid to earn our Green Flag from Eco-Schools will be thinking about further initiatives to increase recycling.

Class 3's assembly on talking partners gave insight into the way their learning has been helped by children having the chance to discuss, reason and explain ideas or methods prior to their recording. The amount of chatter has increased, but in a very productive way!

Many children took part in Mencap's Spellathon; as well as raising over £400.00 for this charity all of a sudden spelling was ...interesting. The lights were dimmed, the spot light was on and finalists took part in our own version of Hard Spell (check out the BBC website for more information or to test your own spelling). Well done to all involved.

This coming term is always a busy one; the Maypole has been dusted down for a new set of children to enjoy traditional dancing. Other events include class trips, our book fair as well as next year's reception children visiting on a regular basis. Year 5 are involved in a Circle Schools' dance project and as well as our sports' week there are other area tournaments for football and tennis.

We are collecting Tesco's vouchers with the aim to obtain 10,000 for an

additional digital camera. Sainsbury's vouchers are also being collected for new playground equipment and a springboard for gym. Do save your tokens and drop them into the boxes outside the office.

Joanna Lakey



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Alison Davis, from the Cambridge Branch of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (the NCCPG) gave us a very interesting talk on many of the national plant collections in East Anglia.

There are 600 National Collections, from believe it or not, Teasels to Rhubarb!

The NCCPG was set up in the 1970's when it was realised by the RHS that many plants were being lost, simply because nursery men were not growing them.

There are now county groups, supported from Wisley, who accept plant collections as National Reference Collections.

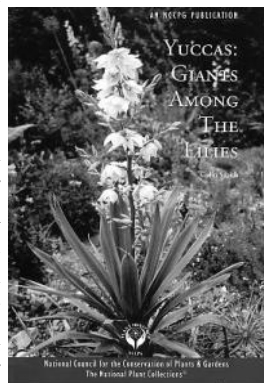
East Anglia has an amazing number, from the eleven held at the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge, to the Lavender Collection, held by Norfolk Pakender — Alchemilas in Cambridge, Artemisias in Elsworth, Aquilegias in Fen Ditton, Begonias in Cambridge, Campanulas in West Wrating, Clematis in Norfolk, colchicums at Felbrigg (*where? Ed*), Daphnes in Shelford, Fritillaria in Cambridge and Hyacinths in Waterbeach, Lilacs near Ipswich, Mathis (Crab Apples) at Hyde End, Saxiphrages and Tulips in Cambridge, Viburnams, Walnut trees at Wimpole and Yuccas at Burwell.

We were all amazed what our region had to offer.

All collections can be visited, which is one of the conditions of the RHS, and a list of the National Plant Collections is available from the NCCPG at Wisley for £5.00.

Village Gardeners are now taking to the road for the summer. On Tuesday, 24th May we are visiting Hemingford Grey House — please meet at the Village Hall at 6.15pm — all welcome.

We are visiting Newnham College garden in June and WISLEY on Saturday, 16th July — again all welcome. Contact Roger Connan — 742182, or Margaret Joyce — 744390, if you'd like to join us.



Yuccas: Giants among the Lilies, by Burwell's Colin Smith

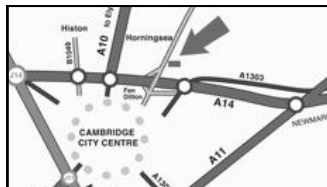
Margaret Joyce



WI Notes

In March, the WI held their Annual General Meeting at which Margaret Phillips was elected President for the coming year. At the following committee meeting, Margaret Joyce was elected Secretary and Shirley Wilkins continues as Treasurer.

Have you been to Notcutts (previously Ansels) Garden Centre recently? It has been completely refurbished and the WI visited it for their meeting on 18th April. Andrew Haper-Scott gave us a very informative talk on the various products for weed control in lawns and flower beds, pest control, how to get rid of ivy, and the best fertilizers to use. We were then able to wander at leisure round the various shops — food, cardfs, books, ornaments etc., and to admire the pets and plants. We made our purchases for which we received a 10% discount. Andrew then opened the restaurant and made us tea and coffee which was very welcome.



On May 16th, Maddy Kay will be telling us about Life in a Parrot Rescue Centre. We understand there are several people in the village who are interested in parrots (*how's Albert doing? Eds*) so this will be a meeting open to everyone. The talk will be the first item on the agenda, so please be there at 7.30pm. The usual business meeting and discussion of this year's Resolutions will follow later.

There will also be a "Bring and Buy" stall to raise money for Parrot Rescue.

Betty Prime

Fundraising for 1st Swaffham Prior Scouts and FoSPS

By kind permission of Dave & Lorraine Nichols and the VHMC,

Tim Doe, former FoSPS Chairman & present leader of Scouts
will bathe in a "Bath of Beans"

Starting outside the Red Lion at noon

Then moving on to the Village Hall for the Feast at 2pm.

At approximately 4pm, Feast schedule permitting,
the aforementioned "bather" will have any bean residue removed by
airborne wet sponges!

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Excluding Sunday*



The Parish Church of
ST JAMES

Lode with Longmeadow

Music in the Church

Friday 6 May 2005 Jonny Rondo: *Country and Western*

Friday 3 June 2005 Silverwood: *Flute and Guitar*

Individual concert ticket: £8 at the door

Season Tickets: contact 01223 813070 or 812797

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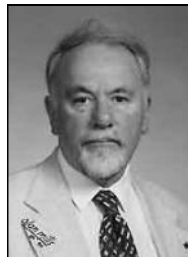
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Farewell

IN 1981 I was agent to the Liberal candidate, Felicity McMahon in the County Council election. Four years later Felicity did not wish to stand, so I picked up the baton and ran successfully in the 1985 contest. The next four years were fairly tough since the Liberal / SDP Alliance formed a minority administration in the face of Conservative and Labour opposition.



As a busy representative of your village and also District Councillor for Bottisham I decided to take early retirement from ICI and became a full time councillor.

Partly as a result of a high rate demand we made halfway through that council; partly because of a national surge by the Conservatives under Mrs Thatcher we suffered at the 1989 election and I lost the Burwell seat to Geoffrey Woollard. Four years later in 1993 I won it back and have represented you ever since.

A great deal happened during those years. I started as Chairman of Personnel ante Police Committee (for two years) as well as taking a strong interest in such things as the Fire and Rescue Service (as a member of that Authority). Also I helped with your school, Social Service establishments like Downing Court, the Burwell Day Centre, which I backed from the first meeting to form it in June 1985, the Prospect Trust and playing field in Reach, cycle ways Burwell—Swaffham Prior — Swaffham Bulbeck—Lode, and of course a large amount of traffic calming in Burwell. The list could continue but you get my drift.

During all these years I have attended your Parish Council on a regular basis, and I am grateful for the courteous and friendly attitude of the many parish councillors. It has been a remarkably harmonious relationship and a pleasurable experience for me. I have always tried my best; indeed, that has been my only election promise to villages.

I would like to end with sincere thanks to all those people who have rewarded me with their votes during these last twenty years. I shall maintain a continuing interest in the future progress of your village.

James Fitch

On behalf of our readers, *Crier* Editors would like to express their gratitude for the great service James Fitch has given to this community over so many years, and which we can see clearly in so many of his achievements. We are very disappointed that he is retiring. It is very hard to see how anybody could replace him! But it is an extremely well-deserved retirement, and we would like to further him all our very best wishes for the future.

Caroline and James Matheson



The Reading Group Reads... Jane Austen's *Persuasion*

WE met at the Hollingsworths' on 6 April. One of the most interesting and rewarding aspects of the Reading Group is the different reactions to the books read. Some readers found *Persuasion* slow to get into but then enjoyed it; some didn't like it at all, finding the sentences too convoluted, the pace of it all too leisurely (compare with *The Da Vinci Code!*), and many of the characters unlikeable – for instance the vain Sir Walter Elliot of Kellynch Hall, his unmarried and cold-hearted eldest daughter Elizabeth and his selfish youngest daughter Mary, wife of Charles Musgrove of Uppercross. But some loved it, and for two of us it was a favourite book.

It is set partly in the two villages and their manor houses of Kellynch and Uppercross in Somerset, partly in the city of Bath and briefly in Lyme Regis in Dorset. The central character is Anne Elliot, the second daughter of Sir Walter, who at the age of nineteen had been persuaded to turn down a proposal of marriage from a young sailor, Frederick Wentworth, whose prospects looked uncertain to her family and friends. In the novel he reappears nearly eight years later as a prosperous naval captain, still resentful of Anne's rejection. Of course he falls in love with her again and after various vicissitudes they are reunited.

We all contemplated the slow pace of a world where it took three and a half hours to travel seventeen miles by horse and carriage with disbelief and some regret for a lost peace. We were again jolted back nearly two hundred years when young Louisa Musgrove, who looked like making a match with Captain Wentworth, fell off the steps of the Cobb at Lyme Regis and was concussed. At first she was feared dead. Her sister Henrietta fainted, Mary had hysterics, the gentlemen were distraught and only Anne seemed to know what to do. Jane Austen herself must have been amused by the consternation she had created, for local workmen and boatmen “collected near them, to be useful if wanted; at any rate, to enjoy the sight of a dead young lady, nay, two dead young ladies, for it proved twice as fine as the first report.”

On Wednesday, 4 May we meet at my house, 14 Cage Hill, for Michel Faber's *Under the Skin*; on 1 June at Kent House for Alexander McCall Smith's *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*; and on 6 July at Mary Hart's, 15 Mill Hill, for Iris Murdoch's *The Sea, The Sea*.

Meryl Moore
Tel: 742989



Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

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

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Alderson introduced the new Community Beat Manager for the Ely Police Sector, Wayne Davis and Jonathan Hall, new Community Beat Officer for Burwell.

Guest Speaker from ECDC Standards Committee – Eleanor Hoggart, the Monitoring Officer for ECDC spoke to the meeting about the requirements of the Code of Conduct with reference to Councillors' Register of Interests, Gifts & Hospitality. Members of Reach Parish Council joined the meeting for this item.

Matters Arising – for information only

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

b) *The Beeches – completion of repairs to wall. The rebuilding of this wall is now complete.*

c) *Enhancement Scheme. The lantern is now in place over the Church steps. The installation of the feeder pillar is still awaited.* It was noted that the streetlight next to the lantern was continuously on. This will be reported to CCC.

Agenda for Annual Village Assembly: Items for the agenda include – The Village Award, Repairs to The Pound and progress report on the Burwell Tigers Football Club's plans for the Recreation Ground. Wayne Davis, the new Community Beat Manager will be invited to attend the meeting to introduce himself to residents.

Village Maintenance Review: Items needing repair, etc., include the village seats, noticeboard, bus shelter, fencing around village hall and play area. Estimates for the work needed will be obtained for consideration at the May meeting.

Following a report that the Village Hall driveway was in a bad state of repair and needed resurfacing, an estimate for the work needed was requested and received from Mead Construction. This was agreed. Once this work has been carried out, the erection of a "Slow" or "Stop" sign at the exit of the driveway from the Village Hall is to be considered.

CCC Report: Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting. Councillor Fitch also confirmed that he would not be standing for County Councillor at next month's elections and that this was the last meeting he would report to.

The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr Fitch for his hard work and efforts as County Councillor.

Request from School re Swimming Pool Drainage: A request was received from the Head Teacher, Joanna Lakey, to reroute the School's swimming pool drains into the foul drains behind the Village Hall. There were no objections subject to the School meeting all costs and obtaining the agreement of Anglian Water.

Request for Removal of Tree on Allotment: Subject to the approval of the Tree Officer from ECDC, it was agreed that this tree could be removed. It was

suggested that perhaps a suitable replacement tree could be planted such as a fruit tree.

Recreation Ground – use by Burwell Tigers F.C. This is ongoing. A full report will be given at the Annual Village Assembly.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Planning Applications: Application received for 73 High Street was withdrawn.

Planning Approvals: Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Road signs: Andrew Tipple of CCC Highways again confirmed that “Swaffham Prior” sign should be reinstated very soon. “Upware” signs are still on order.

Removal of leaves, etc from Lower End: This work has been carried out.

Open Question Time: *There were no questions.*

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th May 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*Karen King Clerk
of the Parish Council*

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

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<i>Future dates</i>	<i>Former Post Office</i>	<i>Chapel</i>
<i>10 May</i>	<i>2.40 – 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 – 4.00pm</i>
<i>24 May</i>	<i>2.40 – 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 – 4.00pm</i>
<i>7 June</i>	<i>2.40 – 3.30pm</i>	<i>3.35 – 4.00pm</i>

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 st 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 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 rd 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	

NB: Scouts and FoSPS (where are they?!) will be raising much needed cash at the Feast.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

**H O L Y
C H U R C H**



**T R I N I T Y
BOTTISHAM**

800th

ANNIVERSARY

21st/22nd MAY 2005

**FLOWER FESTIVAL
GRAND FETE IN THE VICARAGE GARDEN
TUG OF WAR COMPETITION
GRAND DRAW**

Further information from Rev'd David Lewis 01223 812367

Flower Festival

to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the installation of the first
recorded Vicar of Bottisham

Sat 21st May 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Sun 22nd May 12.30 – 5.00 p.m.

& Fete

in the Vicarage garden

Sat 21st May — 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.



Church of England Services

May 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 1	12 noon Rogation Service (Adventurer's Farm)	8:00am Holy Communion 11:15am Rogation Service (The Abbey)	9.45am Rogation Service (Parsonage Farm)
Sun 8	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 15	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 22	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion [†] Book of Common Prayer	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service



Sun Shining on Roag Island

Readers will welcome the return of Ophir Catling to our columns, and might be envious in the view he *now* has from his South facing windows (on Skye).

Dear Friends,

DURING the month of May Holy Trinity Church Bottisham celebrates it's 800th birthday. John Betjeman described Holy Trinity as "one of the finest Churches in Cambridgeshire". We are very blessed that at the heart of our lovely villages are the most wonderful Church buildings.

I expect that when you are on holiday or on a day trip you might well drop into a village Church to have a look around. Someone once wrote this little poem about visiting Churches:-

*Every time I pass a church
I stop in for a visit,
So when I'm carried in
The Lord won't say,
"Who is it?"*

That little poem reminds us that Churches are meant to be more than simply attractive buildings. They are meant to be a reminder of God's presence amongst us. Churches are places where we can meet with Him. They are places where we can share with Him the joys of our new relationships, the blessing of new life, say farewell to friends no longer with us and especially give thanks for the wonder of God's everlasting love for us. Churches are places where we can share with God our fears, our worries, our sense of loss, our hopes and our aspirations; knowing that all these things are important to Him, and that He cares about everything that is important to us.

The Biblical definition of a Church is not actually a building at all, but a group of people who meet together to praise God, to pray, to encourage each other in their journey of faith, to be taught about God's word and to be fed and strengthened to go out into the world to serve God. It was C. S. Lewis who wrote:

The New Testament does not envisage solitary religion; some kind of regular assembly for worship and instruction is everywhere taken for granted in the Epistles. So we must be regular practicing members of the church. Of course we differ in temperament. Some (like you-and me) find it more natural to approach God in solitude; but we must go to church as well.

So as we gaze on and admire our wonderful Church buildings let us never forget that it is not the buildings that matters so much as the people who meet with God inside them. I would not like to think that our Churches become merely historic reminders of a distant and irrelevant religion. I would like to think of them as power houses sending out revitalised worshippers into the world to share the love of God and to seek to make this world a better place.

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary - May 2005

Sun	1	
Mon	2	Reach Fair, 12 noon
Tue	3	Red Cross Coffee morning, Baldwin Manor, 10.30-12.30pm,
Wed	4	Reading Group, 14 Cage Hill, 8pm
Thu	5	
Fri	6	Jonny Rondo, Lode Church,
Sat	7	Cambs QUI GONG, VH,
Sun	8	
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	11	
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	13	THE AUCTION, 7pm, St Cyriacs
Sat	14	VILLAGE FEAST, 2pm VH Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI Parrots, VH 7pm
Tue	17	
Wed	18	Village Assembly, VH
Thu	19	Portrait of Murder, BVC Main Hall, 7.30pm (to Saturday)
Fri	20	
Sat	21	Wedding Dresses & Flowers, St Mary's 12noon-6pm Bottisham 800 th (see p.29 for details)
Sun	22	Bottisham 800 th
Mon	23	
Tues	24	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Visit to Hemingford Grey, VG, 6.15pm, Meet VH
June	9	Moveable Feast
June	19	Nine in the Frame, 10am-5pm