The Swaffham Crier



Volume 29 Number 11 November 2005

SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Editorial

And October was seen out by Halloween as usual, but the *Crier* (being a bit late *again*) has a very sorry tale to tell about this. Concerning the disgraceful and anti-social behaviour of trick-and-treating Prior youth in fact. Read on.....

It seems that certain Prior residents, having a m p l y prepared themselves in advance with huge bowls of treats, handy trick-blasting water -soakers and all the other incumbent gear, were NOT VISITED AT ALL! This had better not happen again next year. Meanwhile you can read about the murky origins of that other Autumnal celebration, Guy Fawkes (Remember, night Remember) in this issue. while gratefully reflecting that that sort of would never happen nowadays, of course....

The eagle-eyed will spot another picture of the elusive newspaper shed (last month's cover) in our PC report this month. This is because some dozy Priorites are (allegedly) still asking: "yes, but where is it?" Just down the track

opposite the seats in the Town Close playground, that's where, and bundles of newspapers left there are used for horses bedding, all proceeds going to the Village Hall. Can't be bad..

Don't forget, Advent by Candlelight (topic: the real St Nicolas) - get volunteering now if vou'd like to read, St Cyriac's meeting Friends (will there be more free wine?), VILLAGE t h e VARIETY, and of course. the Christmas fairs and markets coming up. Copy date for December is going to be STRICTLY the FOURTEENTH OF NOVEMBER!! So there! This is because New Year copy-date is December 10. and current tardiness means we will otherwise be in grave danger of getting lapped.

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Three of the dastardly conspirators. (See p. 9)



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

HOT OFF THE GRIDDLE

The October issue was as lively as ever but as we are coming up to November why not join in the celebrations by spinning a few Catherine Wheels.

Mr W.G.Barton was obviously impeccable in the way he sold his land and I was equally impeccable in my report on the meeting discussing the travellers. The misunderstanding by those making the comments was that Mr Barton 'could not' rather than 'would not' cancel the sale contract. I am naturally sorry to have caused distress to Mr Barton and his family but our elected councillors work very hard to deal with the travellers and they had an obvious concern about the land and the *Crier reporter passed on that* concern. (Meantime it has all been resolved though one poor person at the end of the chain is seriously out of pocket). But the PC and the PC reporters were absolutely right in sending out warning signals. This is the value of the PC Report – it alerts people.

For example, from what source other than the PC Report would you have learned about the Red Lion's successful application to open up to midnight on weekdays and 02.30 on Fridays, Saturdays, Bank Holidays, etc. This is not anti-the Red Lion but as Frank Readhead said in his PC Report – "if you don't like it, tough – the period of valid objections has expired." How did so many people fail to see the notice in the local newspaper or the notice prominently displayed in/from the Red Lion? If we are too lazy to use our eyes and ears do we deserve the democratic vote?

Mind you, democracy was certainly there in plenty at the "Friends of St. Cyriac's" meeting. There may been a small problem with the acoustics but few would have expected the onslaught which appeared to be launched on the unsuspecting Trust representatives. Everyone appeared to have their own agenda but I suppose this is what you get if you give free wine to Fen people before a meeting. It was suggested they were misappropriating funds, they are but a faceless quango, they have no regard for the beauty of the church, they could create a traffic gridlock, they are philistine and never come to our artistic events – oh dear! – the Prior/Bulbeck hockey match at its worst was never like this. Then things settled down a little when the Trust showed they weren't so bad and explained they were spending £30,000 on repairs etc (including disabled access which many in the village wanted). It was an exciting meeting, very much like a Gloucester/Bristol eye -gouging rugby match with only a firm referee (in this case Christopher Walkinshaw) bringing a bit of order. Still, it is very good that all the various concerns have been raised at the beginning.

But Joan Rest's enthusiastic report is a little misleading when she says that "there is little point in maintaining a building which is unused". The bells and clock ring out from it, there are many wonderful events, 1,700 people paid a visit in the last 6 months, and £1,000 has been taken in hire charges and donations so far this year. It is not like Derek's Grand Food Emporium – use it or lose it.

Peter Mengham

I have received a letter from Hilary Mengham to let me know that Peter has died. This was last Thursday, 13th October, peacefully in a nursing home. She mentioned perhaps I could let everyone who knew him know of his death.

Peter and Hilary formerly lived in Tothill Road for a number of years but moved to Somerset some 5 years ago.

Pam Waters

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning

A very big 'Thank You' to everybody who contributed in any way to our annual Coffee Morning. You all gave so generously that the grand total was $\pounds472$! The cakes kept coming (and then being sold) raising $\pounds115$ towards the final result. The raffle was successful too, helped by some rather special prizes. Coffee, biscuits and chatter flowed and we all had a very happy time helping to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause.

If you already have a diary for next year do please make a note of the date for 2006 - Friday 29th September. I look forward to seeing you all again then!

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Motorised Two-Wheeled Vehicles

I have been asked by an elderly resident who would prefer not to be named, to write and ask those who have ridden a variety of motorised two-wheeled vehicles through the footpaths of The Beeches, over recent months, to find some legal means of reaching their destination.

I think those who have this information about it would prefer not pass it to the Police: they would just wish for it not to happen any more.

With thanks

Mark Lewinski

Come along and join the Friends of St Cyriac's!

On Wednesday 7th December, the inaugural meeting of the Friends of St Cyriac's will be taking place in the Village Hall from 7pm - 9pm. If you are interested in serving on the committee (the positions available are: secretary, treasurer and chairman) or becoming a subscribing member, then please come along!

If you would like to find out more about the Friends or to receive a draft copy of the constitution, please do get in contact: 01279 771478 or verity53@hotmail.com.

I hope to see many of you there,

Verity Stroud

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

CLLR HAZEL WILLIAMS APOLOGISED for her absences from two recent PC meetings and explained that they coincided with the Acre AGM and a Royal Garden Party. It's just not good enough! Trust a

woman – someone, please tell HM to avoid our meeting programme dates in future. A penitent HW actually offered her mobile telephone number to the masses. Her main 'phone number is published in the Crier, but many people prefer to use email. It's a courtesy because the recipient can finish their supper before choosing to take the message. Perhaps the Crier should publish email addresses generally.



Our public call box will soon take only cards. Recent Fire Service changes have no effect upon retained men, but the control centre will move from Parkside to Waterbeach, and a new fire station in Coldham's Lane will be closer to us. Police authorities are to be revised, with mergers between adjacent counties. Court appearances are up 30% due to improved detection rates, so be good. Museum archives are at risk from economy proposals. Schools have better examination results (so now they *can* tell their 3R's from their elbows) and various responsible bodies are meeting to agree a rationalised policy towards gypsies and travellers. 'Everything is for the best in this, the best of all possible worlds' (Voltaire), but I digress.

Cllr Alan Alderson mentioned that Dencora Field is for sale, at quite a high price for agricultural land with no early prospect of development. Let us hope that a new owner will re-consider the proposal for affordable homes here off Roger's Road that was frustrated in 2003, but will Reach Fair suffer a loss of its car parking facility? The STOP sign on Station Road was hit again, probably by lorries sweeping wide to avoid cars parked too close to the junction. Street lights were first introduced to the village well before my



That Newspaper Shed again

time, but some residents now want shades mounted to keep their bedrooms dark. My advice is to try curtains, if you really don't appreciate free illumination for the route to the bathroom in the wee wee hours of the morning. The Cooper's Lane barrier is half done so, perhaps, he wants more money up front before finishing it. The complaint about weeds in Lower End, where they are never satisfied, has produced a result - an Inspector will come and have a look!

Tina Jost's sketch of the newspaper sheds on last month's cover was prophetic. Apparently, because the wriggly tin roofs need some attention, it has been suggested that another part of our heritage (the remnants of adjacent cottages) should be demolished. Well, metal wheelie bins for paper recycling are so much more efficient, aren't they? (Yes, but they have no soul).

" The PC were invited to consider applying for a 20mph speed limit within the village ... "

Standing orders are to be changed to permit CCC and ECDC councillors to take part in discussion, 'both of whom may be invited to speak' at the discretion of the PC chair. HW said that some control should be retained as, by their very nature, unrestrained non-PC councillors can be tempted to dominate PC meetings, though she, herself is, of course, above any such temptation.



That Barrier Again

Lime trees alongside the village hall drive will be pollarded at the appropriate time, but the PC cannot afford to remove the lonesome pine on allotments behind the cemetery because it's not cheap and there has already been considerable unforeseen expenditure recently. The PC will not object to the allotment holder (alone seeking removal of the tree) doing the business himself, provided that he uses appropriate safety measures, gets

full responsibility for the appropriate indemnity cover and takes consequences of his actions. How badly does he want it down?

The playing field arrangements are now very near to completion. Watch this space! The village sign is undergoing surgery as we speak, and the prognosis is good. The PC were invited to consider applying for a 20mph speed limit within the village. Mill Hill is now 40mph limited, but S. Bulbeck has 30mph. Why them, and not us? Someone cut the new play frame net with a sharp blade. Although it is covered by insurance, mummy please give back the culprit their dummy before they do something else silly. Some graffiti in the same area has been swiftly dealt with, but things aren't so bad. After all, if our village was in Kashmir, half of us would now be dead or missing, and all the buildings levelled to the ground.

FRANK READHEAD



ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR EVENTS to be held in Swaffham Prior is the annual Advent by Candlelight, which not only attracts many residents from the parish and nearby villages but also visitors from afar as London, Bristol and Canterbury, who make their yearly pilgrimage to our neighbourhood expressly to experience the unique melange of motets, anthems, hymns, poems, prose and prayers, that we present, bathed in candlelight, using our two, complementary churches that sit side-by-side in our little village.

In recent years, a second performance has had to be presented on the same day (in the evening) in Cambridge to allow more people to enjoy our event, and this repeatpresentation has attracted its own, increasingly numerous, followers from the city (who would dream of venturing into the wild fens of a dark and chilly winter's evening!).

As ever, the choral music will be led by Cambridge Voices, directed by their founder, Ian de Massini, who lives within our parish. The readings will be coordinated by Hilary Sage (Email: hilary.sage@virgin.net Telephone: 01638 742978). Everyone from this parish is welcome to read: if you are interested (there will be an obligatory rehearsal on the day from 12noon) please contact Hilary for your reading.

Each year we have chosen a theme for our concert and, in the past, we have covered The foretelling of the

" Everyone from this parish is welcome to read...this year, we will look at the history, the myths and the fables surrounding St Nicolas "

Incarnation, The Annunciation, St John the Baptist, Advent by Bach, to mention a few. This year, we will look at the history, the myths and the fables surrounding St Nicolas. His feast-day occurs soon after our Advent concert, and it was his life and ministry that later informed the idea of Santa Claus, the bringer of gifts at Christmastide. The concert will examine all the known sources pertaining to St Nicolas's life, much of which echoes the life and death of Jesus Christ himself. Plus, we will look at how these brief facts have gone on to spawn so much invention and myth-making surrounding Santa Claus and Christmas. We will also hear some of the fascinating poems, and

prayers, and plainsong, that were composed in the early mediaeval era to mark St Nicolas's feast-day, December 6th. One of the most important buildings in East Anglia - King's College Chapel, Cambridge - is dedicated to St Nicolas, and so we will look at some of the music that has been specially written for this religious foundation. The font in Winchester Cathedral is liberally decorated with scenes from St Nicolas's life, and this will feature in our concert, too.

And so, through our examination of St Nicolas's life and times, we may perhaps enter into our own spiritual journey, transported through words and music, and so towards a deeper understanding of the meaning of Advent in our own, hectic lives in this modern and bewildering world.

Musically speaking, the bulk of the material for our concert will come from Benjamin Britton's famous cantata Saint Nicolas, which itself comes with selfcontained hymns, to be sung by both choir and audience. Also, we will include an extract from Haydn's little gem of a communion-setting: the Saint Nicholas Mass, which includes probably the world's most brief musical setting of the Creed, one in which the four voiceparts sing different words at the same time, in order to get through the long text as fast as possible!

Ian de Massini

ian_demassini@dsl.pipex.com 0780 1234 343

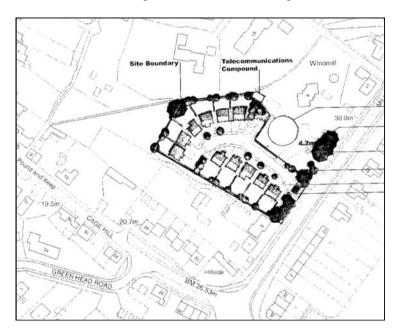


STOP PRESS

PC MEETING ABOUT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT THE WATER TOWER

27 October 2005

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC joined PC members to consider a planning application for housing on Anglian Water's 0.49ha. area of land at Mill Hill. An indicative layout plan provided shows 11 detached houses, though no number of units was described on the application form. No contributors favoured development here. Comments concentrated on the problems which new development would cause:



Overlooking and loss of privacy for existing dwellings at lower level adjacent to the southern boundary.

Potential stability problems from construction close to the top of the chalk bank along the southern boundary.

Excessive number of units for a site of this size and shape.

An increase of traffic generated onto a busy road with serious speed of road traffic and safety issues.

The loss of an existing lay-by at the site entrance, reducing local car parking capacity.

Noise, dust and inconvenience caused by a building site close to existing dwellings lasting maybe 12 months.

Likelihood of more children needing places in the full village school.

As there were deficiencies and errors on the application form itself, the application may have to be re-submitted. However, ECDC had asked the PC to comment upon the number of houses proposed. Prior is described as an 'in-fill only' village in the Local Plan, and this site exceeds in-fill criteria. Elsewhere, the required density for this area of land would actually demand 15 units. The PC will ask ECDC for clarification on these planning matters while sending a summary of the comments above.

This opportunity was taken to explore some of the issues of road safety along Mill Hill. School children must cross the road from the east side, while drivers seeking to leave their homes can wait up to 15 minutes for a safe opportunity to join the traffic flow where excessive speeds are the norm. It was observed that CCC had said a pedestrian safety refuge (island) in the centre of the road was impossible because the road is not wide enough. However, similar problems at Lode had been solved simply by widening the carriageway accordingly (twice). We would all like to know the reason for this apparent discrimination! **FRANK READHEAD**

Remember, Remember ...

FORGET NELSON, November 5th sees the 400th anniversary of the death of Guy Fawkes in the Gunpowder Plot (1605).

We all know the story. A group of aggrieved Catholics, whose civil and religious rights had been sorely undermined by protestant governments, rented a house next to the House of Lords. They burrowed into the parliamentary cellars and placed there 36 barrels of gunpowder with a view to blowing up all their Lordships, together with the king, James I, who was due to preside at the opening ceremony. The plot was discovered and Guy Fawkes seized red-handed. He was tortured to reveal the names of his co-conspirators (some of greater renown than himself) and all were put to death. Ever since, there has been a ritual inspection of the cellars the night before the State Opening of Parliament.

Historians, of course, cannot leave the Plot alone. Since 1897 there has been the theory that it was concocted by Protestants (specifically Robert Cecil) to further blacken the image of Catholics. This is not impossible. Our political establishment might recognise the imperatives. An article in *the Times* earlier this year was entitled "Remember, Remember the Spin of November" and spoke of "brilliantly fabricated black propaganda".

Elisabeth Everitt



"Dirty Tricks" supremo Sir Robert Cecil: Elizabeth I referred to her spymaster as "my pigmy", a term he did not like.

Remembrance – Crier Profile Continued

REMEMBRANCE DAY falls on the 11th of this month and those who fell in the two World wars will be commemorated on Remembrance Sunday on 15th November. At the end of the BBC Radio 4 programme 'Through a Glass Darkly' which was profiled in the *Crier* earlier this year and which documented the church windows, a number of village voices are included. They give their personal reminiscences of the people who lived at the time of the First World War, and of its effects on the village.

They weren't fools. The farm workers of those days were clever men. Absolutely country men. They knew if an animal was ill, and they would look after it. The loss of a horse was a big thing.

I've always gathered from my father's brother, his elder brother, in 1879, when he spent his childhood at Bottisham Lode, they entertained themselves by fighting, seems to have been one of the men's principal occupations – bare-knuckle fighting. He was always talking about fighting, and who could and who couldn't, and so forth.

I knew one chap who said there'd be a good war and he'd be in it. Fool, you know, boasting. Luckily he got it too. War was declared in August, he was France in September and he was taken prisoner and he had a rough time. He was young and silly, that's all. Didn't



Last rites depicted in St Mary's windows

"Well, I think they went along because all their mates went along. They went like all teenagers today wear trainers."

know what he was talking about. He thought a war would be just a case of fisticuffs.

Camps, says Bob Sheldrick. Andrew Camps. He's the only one of the family in Swaffham Prior now. It was his uncle, Harry Camps.

Well, I think they went along because all their mates went along, says another voice. They went like all teenagers today wear trainers. A kind of mass brainwashing, perhaps. But there was a lot of feeling if you didn't go. If you didn't volunteer. People like Fisher would imply that it was your duty to volunteer and go and fight for your you were fighting for your country, and there was a bit of, of young men, and there was adventure – and you were booty away from Swaffham, weren't you? (Laughs) Mr Prince, he volunteered and went all through the first war, and the thing he told me, when they were under dreadful shell fire, was he thought he'd never see Swaffham again, and he had the dreadful experience which he related to me they lost men of course,

and one day there was a family still in Swaffham, the Camps family, and he'd just come up the line and he'd not been before of course, replacing someone who'd been killed, and George Prince said to me, I gave him a few tips: I said don't you in any case ever look over that parapet

or they'll have you – cause the Germans had got snipers of course, and he said that very first day he was foolish enough to do so and the sniper got him right through the head. It was a young man he knew and it upset him dreadfully.

Uncle Harry as I remember, he was rather keen to get in the army because he'd got bad legs, varicose veins or something of the sort, he tried three maybe four times to get in the army before they took him, and when he finally went, I think it was at a time when the army were getting desperate for men. I've got a letter here which he wrote home from the second and fifth Bedford regiment. 'We moved on Tuesday out of tents into a fine big house as big as Squire Allix. He was thinking about home a little bit further on, he says 'I suppose you've finished harvesting now. I had a magazine from Mr Fisher last week. Tell him I'll write to him when I gets settled. And again he's thinking about home, reminding them 'dont eat all the apples before I come home, which I hope won't be long. Yours, Harry.' And after the war his parents were sent a bronze plaque and it's inscribed 'He died for Freedom and Honour, and it's inscribed with his name, Harry Christopher Camps.

Well, it was bummed up by authority.

They had the inscription, Lord



kitchener wants you, pointing the finger....they had recruiting evenings, and just two of them volunteered. They were gone by the next morning.

I remember them as a happy band of men. They didn't have a lot, in the way of

material things, but they were contented in their way of life. They had their beer and their tobacco, and they were happy in their work. I think agricultural work – not this mechanised way - was very satisfying.

How things were supposed to have worked out, says Bob Sheldrick, but they didn't. Cambridgeshire County Council allocated various farms for the soldiers who came home from the Great War they gave them 55 acres each to try and get a living. Well, that worked for the first couple of years, then we had a recession. The farmers couldn't sell the corn, even at top quality. My father used to grow Proctor barley, for brewing, and he had a hell of a job to get ten shillings for a sack of corn. I'd been up to the Corn Exchange in Cambridge and he'd been round to every dealer to try to sell his corn. In the end, they terminated their tenancy of the land.

And of course, what mattered, in a different sort of way, says a lady's voice, was that all the horses went to war. A lot

"...all the horses went to war. A lot of them didn't come back but one did, and they met it at the station ... It went straight into its own box. After four years of war" of them didn't come back of course, but certainly one did, and they met it at the station - they didn't have motorised horse boxes then - and brought it back and it went straight into its own box. After four years of war.

The casualty lists were dreadful. Pages and pages of them. Especially in '16. But they didn't make a song and dance about it. That wasn't English.

Mark Lewinski

From village interviews for Radio 4's "Through a Glass Darkly"

Part 2 of the Crier profile of Margaret Tattman will be in next month's edition.



The Friends of Bottisham Village College

Quiz Night

Friday 11 November 2005 Bottisham Village College

Teams of up to a maximum of 8 people Doors open 7.00pm Tickets £6.00 per person To include a 'Posh Ploughmans Platter' Bring your own drinks and glasses To book your team ring Val Stubbs on 01638 662927

No Lycra - Guaranteed!

A small, friendly, exercise class which has been running for many years in Reach Village Hall is now facing closure due to a shortage of participants. The exercise is mostly low impact, with a lot of stretching and strengthening exercises thrown in. The pace of the class is ideal for those new to exercise or returning to it after a break, as well as anyone wanting to maintain a general level of fitness. The class is very unthreatening for newcomers (no bendy young things in lycra to make you feel inadequate!), and it's so convenient just down the road in Reach.

Classes run from 7.30-8.30pm on Thursdays and restart after the half term break on 3 November. Why not join us for one session to see if you like it? Just come along to a class, or phone Clare on 741316 for more information.

But don't leave it too late - if we get no new participants by the end of November the class will have to shut down.



Another wonderful Swaffham Prior VILLH VARIET SHO How much fun and laughter can you stand? Come along and see on Saturday, 12th November at 7.00 pm Village Hall GHI Singing © Dancing © Sketches © Music © Magic © Lots more! Tickets – Adults: £5.00 School children: £2.50 from Andrew Noyes: (01638) 743864 or Mark Lewinski: (01638) 744062 Book early to avoid disappointment This event is always a sell-out! All proceeds for the upkeep of St Mary's Church

Clifford Edge: The early years.

CLIFF, as he encouraged everyone he met to call him, (being an Edge he had no 'side') – was a child of mixed parentage, that is, a male father and a female mother, as was the norm in his day.

He learnt his early climbing skills mainly at his mother's knee; his father's – he was a tall man especially about the legs – proving that bit too high. It was obvious during the rare times when he was lifted up on to his father's knee that Cliff was not at ease so far off the floor. This then was the young - soon to be older, Cliff.

And so it was that Cliff's future was genetically decided for him; it was not to be the high exciting peaks, but the flatness of the Fens. All Cliff had to master then was the utter monotony of the flatlands. He was helped in this by his father's musical bent, for it was he who composed that memorable symphonic monotone, 'Fenlandia', and the teenage Cliff would often be found listening with a glazed expression, to a gramophone playing a shellac record of that mini-masterpiece.

His unusual party trick, worth mentioning here, and with which he entertained his chums in class, was to waggle his ears – independently!

His school's consultant phrenologist, with an uncharacteristic flash of perspicacity, wrote of him, in his final term's examination report, "--- a level headed young man who, though not likely to reach great physical heights, will undoubtedly make a name for himself in some, as yet unknown field of original endeavour".

It soon became clear that he had come to terms with his lot and had experienced a vision of exactly what his mission in life was to be; the pangs of ennui that might have adversely affected a man with higher aims were completely absent.

He loved to quote from his favourite Essex poet, Titmus Hardy'; his particular poem being, as one would expect, the one entitled,' Childhood among the Fens'

I sat one sprinkling day upon the Lea Where flat, flat fens spread out from me And nothing, but flat fens there I could see.

The rain gained strength, and damped the ground Whereon I sat, and very soon I found The shaped slow creeping rivulets were all around With pride, my reed-roofed house; and though anon Some drops pierced its green rafters – I sat on Making pretence I was not rained upon.

The sun then burst and brought forth a sweet scent From the wet fen, as though it meant That I should rise and go with good intent To find myself some clothing- somewhat dryer And put my soaking clothes before the fire, Then reappear in far more suitable attire.

Ophir His official Biographer

MESSY PLAY

Thank-you to everyone who supported my "Yummy Mummy" moment in aid of CLC SARGENT. We raised a respectable £205.

Julia Turner 9 Cage Hill

Participants needed

to perform "readability testing" of patient information leaflets

We will provide you with a patient information leaflet for a particular medicine and we will ask you a few questions about the content. We want to know which parts are difficult to understand and how easy it is to find the information in the leaflet.

The test will take 30-45 minutes of your time and a fee will be paid to each participant.

If you are interested or need further information, please contact: Jane Garner on 01638 743 396 or jane@smgarner.com

Saturday 10th December 2005, Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham 7:30 pm

Cantilena Singers, A Festival of Christmas Music Director Daniel Spreadbury

Programme:

- Lullaby my sweet little baby Byrd
- This day Christ was born Byrd
- The Twelve Days of Christmas arr. Carter
- Still, Still, Still Gant
- The Holy Boy Ireland
- O magnum mysterium Lauridsen
- There is no rose Macmillan
- In the bleak mid-winter Walker
- Canite tuba Palestrina
- Somerset Wassail Rutter
- Silent night Sargent

plus - Rutter, Howells, more.

Tickets on the door.

Visit our website at www. cantilena.info or call R. Braun 01223 812115



We are urgently looking for a

VOLUNTEER VAN DRIVER

to assist with local deliveries, for at least half a day a week. (Must have a clean driving licence.)

Volunteering Opportunities at The Prospects Trust

The Prospects Trust is a well-established local charity working with adults with learning difficulties. Based on an 18-acre organic market garden at Snakehall Farm, Reach, the Trust provides work experience and training in all aspects of growing vegetable, salads and herbs in pots. There are excellent facilities and equipment, including polytunnels, tractors, a rotavator, potting benches, potting machine, wildlife area, packing room and meeting room. In addition, The Trust operates a garden maintenance scheme and also offers accredited pre-NVQ training schemes.

Volunteers are involved in many different aspects of the Trust's work, for example: sowing seeds, potting up herbs, making bird boxes, deliveries, serving on the management committee, strimming and harvesting. They work together with experienced support workers and co-workers to provide a stimulating and productive workplace, where everyone participates as fully as possible.

We also have opportunities for volunteers who can offer any of the following:

- Experience of working with people with learning difficulties.
- Horticultural/gardening skills.
- DIY/woodworking.
- Hedge laying.
- Maintaining machinery.

In return, The Prospects Trust is able to offer:

- A relaxed friendly working environment.
- Induction, support and on-site training.
- Experience in organic horticulture and of working alongside people with learning difficulties.

If you have a few hours to spare and think you may be interested, please phone us on 01638 741551 for further information.

Green Man Inn London Road, Six Mile Bottom 01638 570373 <u>info@greenman6mb.com</u>



<u>www.greenman6mb.com</u>

A la carte Thai & English menu available too!!

Open for food & Drink Monday ~ Saturday (specials on Monday & Tuesday) 12~2pm & 6.30 ~ 9.30pm (last orders) Sunday 12~2pm (last Orders) Traditional Sunday Lunch

> Takeaway available hours as above Excluding Sunday

Crossword Number 27 Sponsored by The Red Lion

Compiled by **NIBOR**

A straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 14th November 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.

1		2	3			4	5		6		7	8
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Name:	
Adress	
	.Tel:

Across

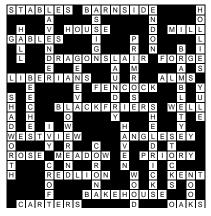
- 1 Act properly and own Beryllium first (6)
- 4 A soldier is very strong in lamp oil (8)
- **10** Fine clothing found untidily near Tim (7)
- 11 No tears when it's not wet I'd say (3-4)
- **12** Knock out on return to corner (4)
- 13 Find big bottle with soup ingredients. Great work! (6,4)
- **15** First send your lover voles and newts from the woods (6)
- **16** Art Saul distributed in the Southern hemisphere (7)
- **20** Sissy is all at sea, sportsmanlike but not astern (4-3)
- 21 Chinese bush illuminated by chinese energy (6)
- **24** Old can found by middle-age union leader is hot. Put it out (10)
- 26 Simple pool (4)
- **28** A religious officer I found by logical deduction (1,6)
- **29** Lace toy mangled by clerical assistant (7)
- **30** The panel designed a pachyderm (8)
- **31** A 12 inch ruler old Bob had was sweet (6)

Down

- 1 Member of the nobility rattles no sabres (8)
- 2 Common people give common exclamations about votes after end of March (3,6)
- **3** Compete with centre forward for position (4)
- 5 Supplement for a theologian who expresses hesitation about death (8)

- **6** My matrices are arranged but irregular (10)
- 7 Purifying gin I removed and cooked up for breakfast (3-2)
- 8 Mind us rewriting gymnosophy perhaps (6)
- 9 Mountains where 'e went bareheaded we hear (5)
- **14** Ham on stick is strange way to keep out the rain (10)
- 17 Pre-eminent English leader leads kind model (9)
- 18 The answer is to be solvent (8)
- **19** Similarity to equivalent head (8)
- 22 Member took in envoy (6)
- 23 Try to write an exposition (5)
- 25 Petersen lost pen and was abrupt (5)
- 27 Hero offers an insider view of the tiles (4)

Solution to crossword no. 26



We congratulate **Hilary Sage**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Steve Kent-Phillips and Anita Lang.



Cambridgeshire Master Composters

We're looking for enthusiastic people to join a network of 170 volunteers offering friendly support and advice on composting to people in their local community. You don't need to be an expert as all volunteers receive full training. The next training sessions will be held in November, for more information call Jane or Jamie on

02476 308202 jgriffiths@hdra.org.uk

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is recruiting more volunteers this year!

You may now be familiar with the Master Composter Programme, which has been appearing in some Cambridgeshire Parish Magazines since 2001. The Programme is being run by the County Council, working together with all the District Councils and HDRA Consultants, to promote home and community composting.

We're seeking volunteers to provide a network of local, friendly advice and support to people who already compost and those who want to start.

Master Composter programmes were established over 10 years ago in the USA and Canada. These programmes have proved to be extremely popular and successful in promoting the benefits of home composting.

The Cambridgeshire Master Composter Programme is the largest of its kind, with over 170 volunteers. Almost 4000 hours of voluntary work have been completed so far.

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

As a volunteer you will receive training in home composting and related

environmental issues (provided by HDRA – the organic organisation), a Master Composter resource pack and several educational visits; including tours of a composting site and one of HDRA's organic gardens. All training expenses will be paid for; you only need to provide your time. Once the training has been completed, you will be expected to spend 30 hours over the following year promoting home composting. These activities will be tailored to your individual skills and could be anything from giving a demonstration to your next-door neighbours, to giving a presentation to a class of school children or helping promote further compost bin sales. Upon completion of the training and 30 volunteer hours you will be awarded the title Master Composter and be invited to receive your certificate at an award ceremony.

If you are interested in becoming a Master Composter please contact Jane Griffiths, HDRA Consultants, Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry, CV8 3LG, email: jgriffiths@hdra.org.uk or telephone 024 7630 8202.

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A very small friendly dark female tabby cat has been trying to adopt us for some time now (since 22nd September). She is quite insistent and she must be missed. Do come and claim her if you think she's is yours. Fleur Routley, 21 Fairview Grove, Tel 743992 Fleur Routley, 21 Fairview Grove, Tel 743992 Prior School

Midday Supervisor/Lunch Time Support Assistant

Required from 31st October 2005 to work 12 noon - 1pm Monday (general duties), Wednesday (specific care duties), Thursday (general duties) and Friday (specific care duties) term time only.

Further details, including a job description and an application form are available from the office. Interested applicants are encouraged to telephone or visit the school.

Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB check, 2 supporting references and evidence of relevant qualification documentation.

01638 741529 office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Down on the Farm-

A Brief History OF TRACTORS

Part II

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott



Tractor guru Harry Ferguson:. founder of Ferguson Brown

Over 24,000 people attended the 55th British National Ploughing Match competitions over two days at Soham last month and it was a wonderful insight into how ploughing and tractors have developed over the last century.

In the first of these two articles I wrote about horses, traction engines and the early development of the tractor and will now continue with tractor development to the present day.

At the ploughing match the very early tractors pulled their ploughs with a simple clevis hitch. This works well until the conditions become heavy and sticky at which point the plough becomes a dead weight and everything stops.

This was the same for all farm implements and as most tractors were only 15 to 20 horsepower something needed to change.

As luck would have it along came Henry George (Harry) Ferguson (1884-1960) who had been dabbling with tractors for most of his life and in 1934 he formed the company Ferguson Brown and produced the Model A Ferguson-Brown tractor with the revolutionary hydraulic system.

In 1938 he made a handshake agreement with Henry Ford to produce the "Ferguson System" which was to revolutionise the way tractors and implements were used. This is knows as a three point linkage where the plough etc is supported by an hydraulic system with two drag links under the real axle to allow the implements to sit evenly behind the tractor.

The advantages of this system is that it allows the tractor to lift the implement clear of the ground when it is not in work and it also gives a good weight transfer to the wheels which in turn gives a much better traction and therefore the tractor is more efficient. This system has not changed over the years apart from modern upgrades such as electronic controls and becoming much larger as tractor sizes have increased.

The basic design of tractors has not changed in that they have small wheels in front and larger ones at the rear! Nowadays most tractors are four wheel drive and have cabs that provide the operator with a comfortable working environment as well as protection from a Health and Safety viewpoint. As mentioned in a previous article GPS (Global Positioning Satellites) are playing an increasingly important part in tractor use and are used, for example, to steer tractors in straight parallel lines with no overlap of the trailing implement which makes them much more efficient including the advantage of reduced fuel consumption. Using the GPS system can also reduce driver fatigue and in some instances can even take over steering the tractor from the operator!

On the farm we have had a very easy Autumn with all of the crops going into good seed beds and becoming established very quickly. Some grain is going out but we are looking forward to a slightly more relaxed period – time to dust off the golf clubs I think with a few weekends off

James Willmott

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire PCTs Working together in partnership

NAS

(...as in not fallen out yet? Eds)

Changes to Mental Health Services in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trusts, part of the local NHS, have launched a public consultation on potential changes to mental health services in their areas. The consultation commenced on 10 October 2005 and will close on 13 January 2006.

This consultation is being undertaken in the context of the Primary Care Trusts spending $\pounds 4$ million more than they are allocated nationally for mental health services.

A copy of the consultation document is available on the PCTs' website at www.cambcityandsouthcambs-pcts.nhs.uk, where you will also find an on-line comments form to enable you to submit your views. If you would prefer a hard copy of the document and comments form, or would like further information on this consultation, please contact Karen Mason at the PCTs on 01223 885717 or karen.mason@southcambs-pct.nhs.uk

The PCTs have arranged four public events to outline the proposals and hear local views as follows:

- Monday 31 October, 6.00 8.00 pm (The Main Hall, Over Community Centre, The Doles, Over, Cambridge)
- Wednesday 9 November, 3.30 5.30 pm (The Hall, City Church Cambridge, Brickfields House, 15-16 Cheddars Lane. Cambridge)
- Tuesday 29 November, 2.30 4.30 pm (The Main Hall, Community Centre, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn, Cambridge)
- Thursday 15 December, 6.00 8.00 pm (Meeting room 2, The Meadows Community Centre, 1 St. Catharine's Rd, Cambridge)

Bottisham Royal British Legion

The Poppy Restaurant is now open for members and their guests. Wednesday evening is 'fish and chip night' from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. The menu includes fish, chicken and pies, with chips and all the extras. These will be available to eat in the restaurant or to take away. On Friday evenings from 7 p.m. until 9.30 p.m. we have two menus. The restaurant menu and the bar menu for lighter bites. Sunday we offer



full Sunday lunch from 12.15 p.m. until 3 p.m. You can have two courses for £8, or three for £10. Children's portions are also available. Senior citizen's lunch is on Tuesday, followed by Bingo with tea and cakes. Booking is advisable to ensure a table.

Bingo is held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. There is also a Bingo session on Saturday, 5th November.

On Saturday 12th November we are holding our Poppy Appeal Race Night, come and join in with the fun from 8 p.m. until midnight.

David Hall Company will perform on Saturday 19th November songs from the musicals, such as Phanthom of the Opera. This will also be in aid of the Poppy Appeal, members £3 and their guests £5.

On Saturday 26th November we have **Jason and the Rockanauts**, a rock and roll band, 50's dress is optional, starting at 8.30 p.m. until midnight, members £3 and their guests £5.

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Start selling products from your own Online Shop with a robust Online card payment system. This unique **FREE** offer includes:

Online shop design & population e-marketing and management advanced Internet editorial features

More details & live examples on www.eRepco.co.uk

Applications for SP School Reception September 2006

WILL YOUR CHILD be five between September 1st 2006 and 31st August 2007?

Are you thinking about their school placement?

You are welcome to visit our school to look around and discuss admission procedures.

Please note that if you are living in Swaffham Prior or Reach and we do not already have your details on file, then you should contact the school from October 17th 2005 for a County Admission pack.

County application forms should be returned to the school by 9th December 2005.

> Joanna Lakey Head teacher

For Sale

Beige Recliner Armchair ("fireproof"). Very Good condition. £25 ONO Phone 01638 742712





WI Notes



What a pity more people didn't venture out to hear the County Connection Harmony in the Village Hall on 17th October.

This was a delightful evening organised by the WI. There were over 30 ladies in the group and they sang songs old and new, with the barbershop harmonies giving them a different sound. We were given an insight into the way Barbershop singing started and

how the choir is made up. We had a most enjoyable evening with a truly professional performance.

Next month, 21st November, Rev.D.Reindrop will be giving a talk entitled 'Millionaire or Bust'.

Now is the time to ask for nominations for the Gay Bulleid Award. As many of you know every year the W.I. presents a picture of the windmill to someone in the village who has been chosen as a really good neighbour to residents or the village as a whole.

Send your nominations with a reason for selecting them to Margaret Phillips, 50 Lower End, or Margaret Joyce, 41 Cage Hill, by 1st December please.

Betty Prime.



STAINE HUNDRED

THE AGM WAS HELD at the beginning of the October Meeting of the Staine Hundred. Members were welcomed by the Chairman, Maureen Rogers. Peter Arnold gave the financial report for the

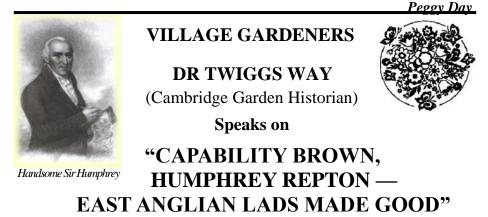
year which showed a profit, mainly because the coach to the North Norfolk Railway and Felbrigg in the summer was supported by 24 members and 18 non-members. Membership remains at £10 per annum or £2.50 for a single lecture. Maureen thanked Gill Rushworth for arranging the programme, Janet and Laurie Marsh for the Walkabout at Fen Ditton, and Stewart Bell for organizing the outing.

Tom Doig, a social historian, gave a talk entitled "Farming with Steam". Historically, farming first relied on human muscle power for ploughing, sewing, reaping and grinding the corn. This was followed by animal power, including the ploughs of Domesday Book which were pulled by a team of 8 oxen. Around 1800, the external combustion engine using steam came into use in a limited way. In 1790 a three-wheeled steam stagecoach which could reach speeds of 20 mph was used but because of bureaucracy this only ran for about 18 months. By 1810, windmills could be driven by a steam engine when there was no wind to drive the sails. A steam system was used to sterilise the soil in greenhouses around 1830. Steam was used to drive shears when shearing sheep, and for milking cows and for sawing wood. He spoke about the various ways used to draw ploughs with portable steam engines, the most successful being when two engines were used at opposite end of the fields, but as ropes were used these could get snared up. In 1851, there were 8000 portable steam engines in this country. Many were sent to France in WWI but never came

back and there was a steady decline in their use as the internal combustion engines took over, though his father had a steam driven car. He virtually ignored threshing machines as he thought we knew all about them but their inclusion would have given a more rounded picture of the use of steam in farming.

Tom Doig has passed his driving test on a steam engine and gave an amusing account of this. He was thanked by Maureen Rogers for an interesting talk.

The next meeting is on Wednesday November 9th in the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College at 7.30pm when Margaret Richardson will be talking about "War Memorials". Anyone is welcome to come as a guest.



TUESDAY 15th NOVEMBER, 8.00pm, VILLAGE HALL Entrance for non-members £2.50

Crier Astronomy ECLIPSES

October is a good month for interesting celestial events; a partial eclipse of the sun on 3^{rd} Oct. But whether any Swaffham Prior residents got the benefit is a bit doubtful. For the first three hours of the day, the time when the eclipse was occurring, our



northern and eastern skies were under uniform grey cloud. The partial eclipse of the moon on 17th October lasted longer. The moon would then be at full; the partial eclipse will have shown, as the lower edge of the moon's disc would look blurred and raggy, where the earth's shadow encroached onto it. It was the sight of the earth's shadow, at all lunar eclipses, that finally convinced people that the earth is spherical.

Margaret Stanier Astronomy Correspondent

The Reading Group Reads..... Down and Out in Paris and London by George Orwell

We all know about *Animal Farm* and New-Speaking-Room 101-ing *1984*, but for many book clubbers, this was the first time they had read Orwell's first novel documenting the years in his late twenties when he really hit the skids in Paris and London.

Orwell's graphic description of the actualities of late 1920s' poverty and the striking characters that inhabited this on-the-edge

world gripped most of us, although some did think he was being a bit patronising and could perfectly well have rejoined the ranks of the well-heeled if he'd really wanted to! But this was not clear, and in the first half of the book, set in Paris, his life most certainly devolved to "where is my next mouthful of food coming from?". Not from a Paris restaurant, book-clubbers chorus, having read with mounting horror the story of George's employment as "plongeur" (washer-up) in a top Paris Hotel. But funnily enough, both George and his readers look back with some nostalgia to those heady Paris days of crazy Russian émigrés and prancing "maitre'd"s as he winds up in dreary old Britain where true, he will eat—"tea and two slices" being the order of the day in British "spikes", and extras might always be obtained by due attention to hymning and singing—but poverty, although slightly more secure,



seems so much more isolating and joyless.

One difficulty was that although Orwell was quite happy to simply record what he saw in Paris, so creating vivid mind'seye pictures few will forget, when it came to Britain, his evident moral indignation—this was, after-all, *his* country could not be suppressed, and his closing chapters are maybe overly dominated by his own views on how things might be better managed. But an excellent "classic" novel, and greatly enjoyed by all.

This month's book will be *Under the Eye of the Clock*, and we will meet at 5 Pound Close Burwell, Wednesday 8pm on 2nd November. Next month will be our Christmas party.

Caroline Matheson



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.





From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

A recent MORI poll revealed East Cambridgeshire as being the fifth best place in Britain to live. Out of nearly 499 districts assessed, it is a compliment for our area to be given this recognition. Ely's Jubilee Garden's won the Green Flag award, the only park in Cambridgeshire to receive this honour, and Dullingham triumphed in the Village of the Year competition.

But the District is not entirely a land of milk and honey. There are serious issues confronting us. Beautiful



countryside, good transport, virtually zero unemployment and a buoyant economy all bring their won challenges--affordable housing, traffic congestion, the need for more schools, medical care and recreational facilities. These are some of the issues the council is tackling in order to maintain our high-ranking as one of Britain's best places to live. One issue we must try to address is housing that is affordable.

Cambridgeshire is going through a period of rapid economic growth, with thousands of people wanting to move here from other parts of the country. This results in rising house prices, rising levels of homelessness, and a shortage of workers in some key areas.

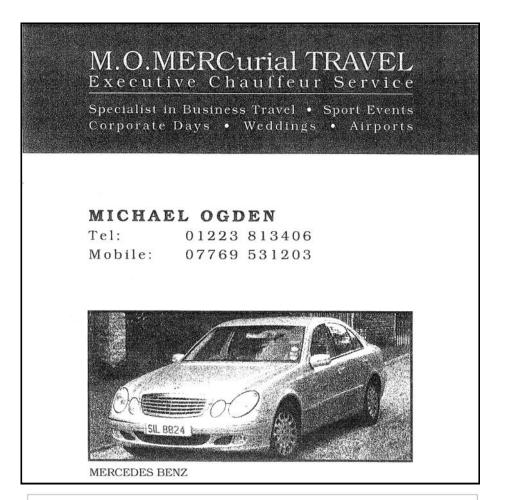
Affordable housing can be for rent from a housing association or through shared equity housing, where people buy a proportion of the house from a housing association and rent the rest. Shared equity housing is a way to get into the housing market for people who cannot afford full market prices. Last year work began on 184 new affordable homes, with a target of 150 a year thereafter. The housing associations insist on a high standard of construction, and the people who have moved into these houses are usually very happy with them.

If anyone would like any advice on this matter, the East Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Advice Team can be contacted on 01353 665555.

License Applications — Be aware of your rights!

The way that the government has framed new licensing laws can be problematical. What happens is that the licensee first places a public notice in a local paper, and this is usually missed by the general public. They then put a notice on their premises. At this point any affected residents only have twenty eight days to object in writing. If there are NO objections by members of the public, the police or the fire-service, the application will be APPROVED.

So be aware of your rights.





01480 456789 Ermine Street Alconbury Cambs

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CONSERVATORIES

Ely Museum Events

From Friday 11th November 'War Time memories from king's School Ely'

An exhibition of second world war time memories from The King's School Ely . Normal admission charges

Saturday 3rd December 10.30am-3.30pm 'Voracious Vikings & Anglo Saxons'

Meet Vikings & Anglo Saxons from the time of Hereward the Wake with Grantanbrycg Living History Group. Lots of opportunities to get hands-on and dress up. Normal admission charges,

accompanied children free.

Saturdays 10th & 17th December 'Santa's Grotto' 10.30am -3.30pm

Christmas in the courtyard at Ely Museum Come and visit Santa & join in

other

Christmas activities including face painting, making decorations, tombola and more. £2.50 per child includes free admission to museum.

Ely Museum, The Old Gaol, Market Street, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4LS Tel 01353 666655. Email:elymuseum@freeuk.com. Www.elymuseum.org.uk



New and nearly new Toys, Books, Clothes and Household Items

> Also A "Phoenix Trading Cards" stall

> On Saturday 19th November, 2005 10:00am - 12:00pm

At

Bottisham Youth and Community Centre The High Street, Bottisham

(next to the Holy Trinity Church)

(A percentage of the profits will be donated to Hopscotch Parent and Toddler group)

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public.

CCC Report: Councillor Williams reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – *for information only*

a) *Coopers Lane – barrier:* The work had finally started on the barrier.

b) *Sale of "Dencora" Field: The Clerk received an email informing the* Parish Council that Dencora Homes had instructed Bidwells to seek offers for the freehold interest in the site.

c) Budget Summary: This was presented to the meeting.

Pollarding of Lime Trees on Village Hall Driveway: A meeting was held on site with the ECDC Tree Officer, Cathy White. It was agreed to wait for the leaf fall and then take a photograph and submit with application form to Cathy White to confirm the work needed.

Removal of Tree on Allotments: Three estimates were invited for this work, 2 were received – the best estimate was \pounds 370 plus VAT. It was felt that this was excessive for the removal of one tree. Also in light of the unforeseen expenditure of recent legal costs, etc., to evict the travellers from the Recreation Ground, it was agreed that no further unbudgeted expenditure could be approved.

Play Area Climbing Frame Damage: The Clerk had contacted the suppliers of the new climbing frame asking them to inspect the damage climbing net. Following this inspection, it was confirmed that the net had been vandalised and that the cost for a replacement would be $\pounds 265-00 + VAT$. The Parish Council Insurers confirmed that a claim could be made for this item under the "malicious damage peril" clause.

Improvement Works at Church – use of Cemetery Water Supply: The Churches Conservation Trust had written asking the PC the cost of using the cemetery water supply during the works on St Cyriacs. It was agreed that this would be decided when the next Anglian Water account is received.

Recreation Ground – update: Following the relinquishing of the lease by the Parish Council, BTFC had met with Mr Hurrell and a new lease between BTFC & Mr Hurrell was being drafted and approved. A draft copy of the new lease was available for the meeting's information. It was noted that clauses had been included to ensure the availability of the area to village residents.

Date of Precept/Budget Meeting: This was agreed. **Planning Application**:

47 Lower End – Internal alterations and insertion of three small rooflights.

70 High Street – Installation of solar water heating collectors on frame on side roof.

There were no objections to the above.

Planning Council Procedure for the Consideration of Planning Applications: It was agreed that when planning applications are received between meetings and the date for comment is before the next meeting, an extraordinary meeting will be called.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

The Clerk confirmed that the External Auditors had approved the Annual Return for 2005 and that a "Closure of Audit" notice had been displayed.

Any Other Business:

Maintenance to Village Sign: When it came to dismantling the sign, it was found that the plinth holding the sign had rotted through. A new plinth will be made and the sign restored over the next few weeks.

Open Question Time:

Discussion about speeding through the village and the possibility of reducing the speed limit to 20mph in villages.

The ongoing problem of lorries in the villages and fens was discussed. CCC has appointed an Officer to monitor this traffic in the County. It was suggested that the PC contact him to discuss this problem.

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

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Church News HARVEST SUPPER

Congratulations to Dee Noyes and the team that created a welcoming and delicious harvest supper. The children clearly enjoyed it and the raffle was brilliant. Free sacks of potatoes were handed out to those with a ticketed chair! Thank you to everyone who supported such an enjoyable evening. Remember to put the Advent Concert at 4pm November 27th in your diary now.

Tricia Harrison



Green Man Inn London Road, Six Mile Bottom 01638 570373 <u>info@greenman6mb.com</u>

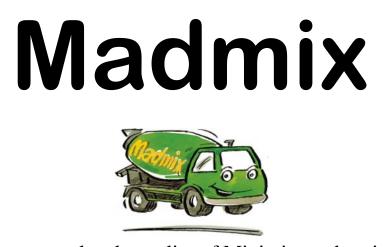


<u>www.greenman6mb.com</u>

A la carte Thai & English menu available too!!

Open for food & Drink Monday ~ Saturday (specials on Monday & Tuesday) 12~2pm & 6.30 ~ 9.30pm (last orders) Sunday 12~2pm (last Orders) Traditional Sunday Lunch

> Takeaway available hours as above Excluding Sunday



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Church of England Services November 2005

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham		
Sun 6	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion		
Sun 13	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 10:50am Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance	10.50am Remembrance		
Sun 20	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion		
Sun 27	11:00am Matins 4pm Advent Carol Concert (with Cambridge Voices)	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service		

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2005

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

On Sunday November 13th many of us will be in Church remembering those who gave their lives for their country in the two world wars and in conflicts since.

Whenever I hear the long list of names being read out I am always deeply touched, especially when I hear a number of young men's names being read with the same surname, and I remember the terrible price that many families paid during those times of conflict. The flame of a nation's youth extinguished in the carnage and clamour of battle, and families left to grieve and struggle with the awful impact of the loss of precious young lives.

One of the strangest tales to come out of World War II concerns the story of two young men who were captured by the Americans in Germany near the end of the war.

The two were shipped to a POW camp in the USA, but attempts to integrate them

were to no avail. They would not or could not speak to the American authorities. They kept to themselves and refused to talk to anyone, even their fellow German prisoners. In fact, the other German prisoners insisted that they knew nothing of the pair.

The American officers were puzzled. The two men seemed frightened and bewildered, but not sullen or rebellious. After a few weeks in their new quarters they even seemed willing to cooperate, but when they finally did speak no one could understand a word they said. There was something else too. They did not look like Germans. Since their features were more Asiatic in appearance, an expert in Asiatic languages was called in. He soon solved the mystery. The two were Tibetans, and they were overjoyed that at last someone was able to understand them and to listen to their incredible, almost unbelievable, story.

It seems that in the summer of 1941 the two friends, lured by a desire to see something of the world outside their tiny village, crossed the northern frontier of Tibet and for weeks wandered happily in Soviet Russian territory. Abruptly they were picked up by Russian authorities, put on a train with hundreds of other young men, and shipped west.

Outside a large city, at an army camp, they were issued uniforms and rifles and given some rudimentary military training. After a few days they were loaded onto trucks with the other soldiers and shipped to the Russian front.

They were horrified at what they saw. Men were killing each other with artillery, rifles--even hand-to-hand fighting. Because they were good Buddhists, killing was against their moral principles. They started to flee to the rear, but in their flight they were overtaken by the Germans and made prisoners. Once again they were loaded onto a train and shipped, this time to Germany. After the Normandy invasion, as the allied forces neared Germany, they were put into an auxiliary service in the German army. As the allies continued to advance the two were given guns and told to fight with the Germans. Once again they tried to flee, but this time they were captured by the Americans.

When they had finished their story, the interpreter asked them if they had any questions. They had only one: "Why were all those people trying to kill each other?"

It is a good question isn't it? Why indeed were all those people trying to kill each other?

Jesus Christ commands us to 'love each other as he has loved us', and inevitably that means that when we wage war we are disobeying Jesus' command. War has surely to be seen as a failure - a failure not only to obey Jesus' command, but also a failure of diplomacy, of human decency and of common sense. Yet the world is still fighting wars somewhere or other, and our task must surely be to pray for God's protection of those who are serving our country in our armed forces 'in harms way', and for their families, and to pray and work for peace. Because as the prophet Isaiah prophecies, one day people will 'beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.' (Isaiah 2:4/5)

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary - November 2005

Sat	5	School Christmas Fair, 3.00-4.30pm, SP School Hall
Sun	6	
Mon	7	
Tue	8	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	9	Staine Hundred, 7.30pm Lecture Rom, BVC
Thu	10	
Fri	11	BVC Quiz, 7pm, BVC
Sat	12	Village Variety Show, 7pm VH
Sun	13	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	14	
Tue	15	Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton, 8pm, VH
Sat	19	Christmas Market, 2-5pm VH
Sun	20	
Mon	21	WI, 7.30pm VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	26	Jason and the Rockaunauts, Bottisham British Legion,
Sun	27	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm St Mary's — St Cyriacs

APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

Dr Twiggs Way will speak on 15th and not the 165th November as stated in last month's *Crier*.

The Barbershop Singers concert started at 8pm in the Village Hall rather than 6pm in the Village Hell as billed last month.

"Just amazing what you read in the Crier!"

