



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 29 Number 10

October 2005



Editorial

THE *Crier* returns from its Summer break only to find its pages *spurned again* by our new County Councillor. While slightly mollified to learn that at least we're not being *discriminated against*—our CC's cross-district parish council attendance has recently been estimated at a discriminating 30% and a plaintive "*there was no CCC report this month*" is now a regular feature of Karen's report from our own PC — a regular article in the *Crier*, as from predecessor James Fitch, is a surely good way to keep in touch with the electorate. We were promised it!

Of course, coverage in the *Crier* can occasionally be a mixed-blessing, if not as mixed as some readers suppose. Yes, it seems no sooner has Y innocuously written "...and X did a really good job...", than an indignant X will be demanding to know what Y *meant by it*. But we are sorry when we genuinely offend or get things wrong (see *Letters*).

Last month's *Crier* also contained some truly spectacular "re-adjustments". Clearly miffed by the less-than-complimentary coverage it frequently gets in these pages, our so-called "publishing" software got its own back and wreaked havoc on our advertising print-run. Many apologies to all affected.

After a highly effective advertising campaign (ably aided by the *Crier* of course) a well-attended "Friends of St Cyriac's" meeting went ahead, but reckoned without St Cyriac's celebrated *acoustics*. No-one could make out a word anyone-else said! Not that that

deterred *in the least*, but confusions did arise (the *Crier* is at least happy to report that monies already raised have *not* been scrubbed of the slate, as a dismayed audience rather thought they had) and we could probably have done with a few more "hard truths" at the beginning. But the ball is rolling — see Joan Rest and Verity elsewhere in this issue.

In fact, this month's issue is absolutely packed — thank-you correspondents all! Congratulations to Trevor our postman, who's collected a magnificent £1400 for Arthur Rank, Joanna Darul, who's off to the European Parliament and (grudging!) same to neighbouring team the magnificent *Optimists*, who triumphed at the quiz (yes, the Eds were thrashed as usual). Alas, profuse apologies to Allen Alderson, whose hand-delivered report came to an untimely HALT, and....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BOB SMITH, 95 on October 6!
Caroline Matheson

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Small Tabby Cat	ring Editors!

Cover Picture: The Newspaper Shed by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Sale of 5.8 acres of land at Little Fen Drove

I would like the opportunity to state the facts regarding the sale of the above land. These are:

1. Advised by Cheffins to sell by auction.
2. Advertised on Cheffins website with notice boards at the sites of the land.
3. When land or property is sold by auction a legal contract is formed when the hammer falls.
4. The communities of Reach and Swaffham Prior had at least a month to decide whether or not to bid at the auction and the Chairman of Swaffham Prior Parish Council, Mr Covill was informed by Mr Hamilton of Cheffins that there could be no discrimination of prospective purchasers at the auction.
5. There was no communication from either Parish before the auction to ask me to sell to them.
6. If I had backed out of the contract as I was being asked to do after the sale, I would have a County Court Order against me and it would have removed my credit worthiness.
7. My wife and I sold our land in as fair a way as possible and rumours have been taken in by pillars of society in Reach and Swaffham Prior and subsequently my name has been dragged through the mud, particularly by Mr Everitt's comments in your August and September issue.

I hope that you print this letter in your next issue to give the residents of Reach and Swaffham Prior a factual account of why I was unable to break a legal contract after the sale was completed.

W G Barton

Melton Farm, Newmarket Rd, Burwell

*And we would like to apologise for creating a misleading impression last month.
Sorry Mr Barton. Eds.*

Dear Editors,

Tall Ships Adventures

Is there anyone interested in taking part in one of the Tall Ships Adventures? This would be joining others to sail and work on a traditionally rigged tall ship.

The Trustees of Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities would be prepared to sponsor someone who is interested.

This can only be open to residents of Swaffham Prior and Reach, and must be aged 16 or over. If you feel this is something for you then please contact me in writing.

Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees, 31 Tothill Rd, CB3 0JX, Tel: 01638 741035

Dear Editors,

Parochial Charities Grant

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual, the majority of these applications will come from our pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the state pension, but if you are in particular need, or know of anybody who may be in difficulty, but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees, 31 Tothill Rd, CB3 0JX, Tel: 01638 741035

Dear Editor,

Fen Drovers and Travellers

It is some time since I wrote about the Fen Drovers in your publication and little has changed in the meantime. The lack of attention to the road verges and footpaths is now more accentuated. Scruffy, unkempt and unloved areas seem to attract unwanted visitors, be they youths or caravan dwellers. The open space in Swaffham Bulbeck does not attract these folk because it is looked after well, and games of cricket and football are played there without hindrance.

There must be conclusions to be drawn from this, reinforced by the games played on our ground forty years ago. We are at a slight disadvantage in that the ground is so far from the centre of the village, and is for the most part out of mind and out of view. Indeed, it is getting more and more out of view year by year. When was the last time the bushes and hedges were trimmed.?

When I came to live here in 1959, all the field behind the school from the school buildings to Driest Drove was a paddock, grazed by cattle and horses, with a small area fenced off as a cricket square, and with a small pavilion in the far corner. All very nice and rural.

When Mr Ambrose retired in 1965, I took over the field, and as the rents had just increase from ten shillings to five pounds an acre, it was agreed that the three acres of the recreation ground be fenced off and let to the Parish Council.

For several years some of my staff kept the ground mowed and played with many others in the team, their wives helping with the refreshments. All was going well, but they did not win many matches! "Better players" were required. They came, but some had to go and become spectators. The new arrivals did not mow the pitch or the outfield, their wives did not make the tea and sandwiches, and in three years cricket ceased.

Later attempts were made at playing football, indeed a shed was procured and water laid on, but it was a half-hearted attempt by a few and failed. And so to the present day. The vans are here in a derelict field; some will say it is rural, and rough grass and unkempt trees are fine, but look at the consequences. In fairness, the parish council have

mown the field, but not as often as is necessary to maintain a good looking playing field.

The Fen Drove is access for owners and occupiers of the land they adjoin, so says the Parish Award of 1806. During the war in 1942 the Ministry of Agriculture constructed concrete roadways to enable farm produce to get to the railway or main roads. Previously in the winter these drives were useless for anything other than horses and cart, being wet and made of soft peat. The result of the hard road was that produce could for the first time be grown and delivered when required.

The original drives were a chain wide (22 yards), and being grass were available for grazing. Cattle were driven from the village to grazing areas, and returned home in the evening, hence the name "Drives" for these green access areas. The new concrete road cut down the grass areas so that it was no longer of interest to the cattle grazers. After the war, when cattle farming began to decline, the lettings ceased, and the whole area of the drives took on a derelict look.

I did not like this, and having cattle to feed decided to take a cut of hay off the drives adjoining the land I farmed. This had several effects. I got several tons of rather poor hay, which did not pay for the cost of harvesting it, but the drives lost their neglected appearance, and the van dwellers, of which there were several, did not stay long as the grazing was insufficient for the horses. It worked well until trees were planted all over the place. I am not against trees, but they ought to have been planted on the farmers' field edge, not the drive, so that mowing the vegetation would be possible.

What do we find now? From the village down to the station it is a wild with unkempt verges, rampant tree growth, and tatty wire netting; a perfect magnet for the travellers, who see this as a neglected area on which they can do no harm. The ploughing up of the drive edges by the local farmers is unfortunate; it is not their property to vandalise, and will serve no purpose except perhaps annoy a few.

I lived with these van dwellers for over thirty years, and found that co-operation was far better than confrontation. Although I feel that the present generation of van-dwellers are more wealthy, and should not be inflicting their style of life on our community. The old generation of gypsies stayed in one location for a short while, and then they moved on.

In this new century, where we expect somebody else to manage our problems, it may be best to give up the recreation ground for the time being to the farmers with the hope that should a real desire materialise it could perhaps be reinstated. The parish council cannot be responsible for running a sports club, it is up to a group of village enthusiasts to take this on, and put some money where their mouths are! I am sure that in time these matters will be resolved.

John Norris

Found in the Village

One Disney Baby (18-23 months) blue coat with hood, red lining.

One Ladybird Star fleece with hood. Red. Age 7-8 years.

Phone 742974

Dear Editors & Customers,

Bottisham Garage Closure

It was with sadness and regret that we decided to close the garage workshop and forecourt. In recent times trading has been extremely difficult and the supermarket petrol price war has only added to the problems with the local supermarkets selling fuel cheaper than we are able to buy it from Murco. We have also found it extremely difficult recruiting and retaining good technicians for the workshop.

In the light of all of this we decided that we were not able to suffer any more losses and had no option but to close. We would like to thank everybody for their support and loyalty over the years and realise the inconvenience that shutting will cause, especially to some of our older customers. If you are looking for somewhere else to have your car repaired or service locally then E C Autocare (tel. 812357) may be able to assist.

We would also like to thank our staff for their support over the years and the dignified way they took this news.

Peter Rank & Ed

BARBERSHOP SINGERS

We invite you to the Village Hall on
Monday 17th October to hear



The County Connection Harmony.

A Ladies Barbershop Chorus based in Cambridge who are coming to

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

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

TOUGH BITS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 08 SEPTEMBER 2005.

Refreshed after summer holidays, councillors sped through the business at a rate unprecedented in my experience, and probably in theirs too. Allen Alderson told us that the build contract for new ECDC offices has been tendered. The next news will no doubt reveal a dreadful overspending prospect. Dumped asbestos still remains in Cooper's Lane (one year on) but weedy kerbs now remain only in Lower End and The Beeches, all on my doorstep. Why? That's tough, but I don't deserve this.



The Red Lion plans to extend opening hours up to 24.00 on weekdays, and up to 02.30 on Fridays, Saturdays, Bank Holidays, etc. If you don't like it, tough—the period for valid objections has expired. Trees in Conservation Areas are protected, and that's tough if you have a neighbour's vigorous lime trees shading your home and dropping sticky muck everywhere. Let us hope that the Tree Officer is sensible enough to suggest removal and replacement with more friendly native species. The Cooper's Lane barrier (not boring you, am I?) was broken in 2003. The CCC decided to pay a contractor up front for a tough replacement. They can pay me up front any time they want, because it clearly imposes no obligation to act. This lane



The prospective horse-paddock at Little Fen Drove

remains open, so feel free to use it whenever you want to. Don't send your protests to the officers responsible though, but straight to the CCC chairman, confusingly a woman (named in the last *Crier*). You could also mention it to our new CCC councillor (her name escapes me— *the elusive Hazel Williams. Eds*). It was noted that her attendance at PC meetings leaves something to be desired. The lamp at the church steps erected last year (?) has now been powered up, casting its friendly light, of only slightly different hue to the other street lights, on the steps. That particular exercise started in 1997, but we get there eventually. It is of course, as one would expect, in the very best of taste. Chris Riggs, tough acrylic paints at the ready, will restore the village sign for a modest sum. HH told us the post was recycled from the station and he should know— another little gem for the village history.

Now, if you wanted a few acres on which to keep horses, would you happily pay £5,000 per acre for soggy, peaty land under stubble, which needs sorting out and seeding, not useable until next year? And it needs fencing too. Let's say it's many miles from here, perhaps near Bedford? You may be wondering why the new owner of land at the Headlake Drove end of Little Fen Drove thinks the acquisition worthwhile, even though he lives near Bedford. He says it's for horses, and the tough new post and rail fence along the roadside would indeed stop horses from encroaching no more than about 1 metre over the highway boundary. Only 800 metres of new fencing left to go. Ouch! It's all beginning to look like an expensive exercise for horses!

In the last edition of *The Crier*, 3 options for the playing field's future were described and your comments invited. Some responses were ill-informed, raising problem scenarios that have long been foreseen and planned out. One correspondent wanted more time for an extensive study of village needs, and exhaustive discussions, etc. I have watched the unused field for several years, walked it with the Dad's Army of muck cleaners and sat through several exhausting discussions on this subject. That's what the PC is for (and the Annual Assembly). Further, rigorous examination of the details was conducted this time before the decision so, if you were not there, tough. It's too late now. Of those responding sensibly, a clear majority agreed on option 3. We shall at last have a secure field for our kids to enjoy under proper management, contrasting with a situation where we paid out about £17,000 for no benefit. That silly situation applies no more. This is a great victory for common sense.

(Tiger, tiger, Burwell bright, with Prior kids too. All right! All right!)

FRANK READHEAD

Bellringing

Some visiting bellringers from St Peter's Church, Berkhamstead, will be ringing here on the morning of Saturday 8 October for 3/4 hour.

T H A T PASSION

NOT MANY VILLAGES can boast two world-renowned artists in their midst, but on Sunday, 11th of September, Messrs Thomas Newbolt and Ian de Massini, artist and composer respectively, joined forces in St Cyriac's to tell the story of the Passion in music and painting. First performed in Ely's Lady Chapel, Cambridge Voices' magical rendition of Ian de Massini's new composition to the backdrop of the four compelling Newbolt paintings that inspired it enchanted the audience.

All involved, artist, composer,



Waiting for the music.....

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE



A huge 'Thank You'
to all who gave so generously for my recent
Sponsored Cycle Ride.
I collected a staggering £1400.00 for the
Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge.

Trevor

CRICKETING NEWS

JUST AS DISCUSSION and reports continue about the Ashes so they do about the memorable Prior versus Bulbeck Cricket Match. Here is an extract from John Trapp's report in this month's *Bulbeck Beacon*.

"Bulbeck batted first, and accumulated runs in a gentlemanly fashion. Not for them the vulgar four or six, but a push for a single, sometimes two, and a gentle stroll to the other end. When a batsman deemed that he had had his share, he gave his wicket away. In this way the whole team had a bat, and everyone participated. Eventually we managed a respectable 73 all out - in the final over.

"It was different when Prior batted. They strove for boundaries, scampered for runs, and did not give catches. Several of them had to retire when they had scored 20, the maximum allowed. Of course, this meant some of the team never batted, because the ones up the order stole all the glory. Nor was it possible for Bulbeck to demonstrate its full bowling potential. Not quite the game – and eventually Prior won.

"Despite this sad behaviour by Prior, it was deemed to be a success, and we will have another match next year."

Alastair Everitt

FROM SWAFFHAM PRIOR TO

HAVING WORKED as a seasonal fruit picker and sales person for over two years at a fruit growers in Milton, 27 year old Joanna Darul had nowhere to stay. A resident of Swaffham Prior, Ludmilla Trapp, offered her a spare room together with an opportunity to improve her Russian.

Joanna quickly made many friends in the village and has been recently working as a live-in companion and carer to an elderly lady. She has a good grounding in six languages; Polish, Russian, Portuguese, French, German and, of course English.

Just recently, she received some good news. She was accepted as an interpreter to the European Parliament and will start work in Luxembourg from the beginning of October.



We all extend our hearty congratulations and wish her every success.

Cliff Edge – Last of the Great Fen Climbers. A one-time Swaffham Prior celebrity.

MENTION IN THE ‘CRIER’ (Vol 29, No 8, pg 6) of the notable lack in Swaffham Prior of a mountain rescue team, reminded me of my days in the village, many long years ago, when occasionally might be seen a stalwart who could well have made a fine leader of such a squad had he been called upon.

Cliff (to use the familiar), was one of that rare strain of men, a modest specialist, in a sport not overburdened with its practitioners.

Months, nay weeks before a major climb, he might have been seen stretched across a pavement, quite likely the East face of North Street Burwell, fingers over the edge of the kerbstones, knuckles white and booted toes well dug into the opposite side nearest the wall, scrabbling for a grip, inching himself along, (metrication was unheard of then) spurning all offers of help from kindly passers-by. Thus the great man trained, strengthening hands, toes, resolve and muscles so that if called upon for that final superhuman effort, they would not fail him.

It was a magnificent spectacle, both in sight and sound; pitons, crampons and futons tinkling and gleaming in the sunlight, for he was a stickler for cleanliness in all his gear.

Wicken Fen was his particular favourite area, being close to his first base camp in Burwell; the windmill there providing an unusual almost vertical challenge to his undoubted skills; the thrill heightened by the ever-present danger of plunging into the dark weedy waters below, should he perchance lose toe- or finger-hold.

For a while his spectacularly illustrated and exciting books could be

found in the local Library: “Fen Climb No 1, Wicken”, or “Fen Climb No 2, Cawdle” etc. Truly a collection to grace any home suitably equipped with a bookshelf, or coffee table.

Shall we ever see his like again? I doubt it. His daring exploits inspired the following verse:

b.
m
i
l
It's the c
That starts the rhyme.
The one who's fit continues it.
The one who's not is just a clot,
And lots of hope and lengths of
rope
Will not prevent the swift d
e
s
c
e
n
t
It's not the drop, but the sudden
STOP!
That brings the hearse
To end the verse.

Ophir



Summit

But Not *Quite* the Last of the Great Fen Climbers

Cliff's mantle is ably taken up by another youthful Swaffham Prior celebrity.

The Sherpa?



Base Camp

THE HARVEST SHOW

NO HARVEST SHOW is ever the same. This year there were some **notable absences**. The Bottisham branch of the Latchford family were away, Eric Day gave it a miss, the Scovills were on holiday, and the Bowers family had lost the use of the patch of ground (a lively mix of cultivation and untamed nature which was always a joy to behold) behind the Chapel.

On the other hand we had a magnificent collection of sunflowers from the School together with the usual wonderfully imaginative children's entries. The new "any cake" and "any tart" entries added an excitement and we had the largest number ever of under fives attending the Auction. Now they have the taste they could become really fearsome bidders next year. Twelve hikers from Cambridge dropped in for cream teas and to witness the local customs of folk living in the fens. "Is this how you amuse yourselves?" they asked, and went away scratching their heads.

Thanks as usual to Jenny Brand and Janet Cooper for organising the Show and also to Betty Prime and her staff for the Cream Teas. The profit was £173.

Alastair Everitt

See Results on Page 32

The Love Nest
A farcical comedy
by Raymond
Hopkins



**Autumn
Production 2005**

David and Janet Thompson were deeply in love when they married over 20 years ago. Their future seemed destined for marital bliss. That was until Janet's mother, Marjorie, moved in with them. From that day onwards, things started to go downhill.

The relationship has now reached an all-time low. In a last attempt to save the marriage, the couple have decided to return to the guest house where they spent their honeymoon. The idea being that they will rekindle the lost feelings of warmth and affection they used to share, and live happily ever after. If only life was that simple.

The second honeymoon is doomed from the beginning. The guest house is going through a bad patch. Marjorie decides to come along and upset everyone, David is pursued by an over-zealous waitress, a frustrated newly-wed and an admirer from the past turn the whole week into a farce.

Will true love win through in the end?

Will the guesthouse survive the visit from the environmental health inspector despite the presence of Tyson the mouse in the kitchen?

Performances will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, Friday & Saturday 6th, 7th and 8th, October 2005 in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

Tickets £6 (on Thursday those entitled to a concession will be charged £4), available from Lushers News, Bottisham for personal bookings. Alternatively ring our separate advance booking line on 01223 812779.

Soft drinks will be on sale, but you are invited to bring any other drinks with you as we are not licensed

Your own Online shop ?

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

Online shop design & population
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We would like to invite you to join us at the annual Harvest Supper

on Saturday 8 October, starting at 6pm
in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Food and Entertainment included in ticket price
£5 per adult; £2.50 children under 12
Bar; Raffle

Last year we sold out of tickets for the Harvest Supper, so put the date in your diary now! With prices held at last year's very reasonable rate the organising team has planned a delicious repast and laid on entertainment suitable for all the family, courtesy of the popular singer, Richard Morris. All ages are welcome; an early start time has been set with families in mind. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale and a raffle with superior prizes will take place. Vegetarians gladly catered for. Tickets are available from:

**Barbara Dennis - 743939 or Dee Noyes - 743864
from Monday 12 September 2005.**

Don't miss the village social event of the year.

The organisers would be very glad to hear from anyone able to donate a dessert for the Harvest Supper. We also wondered whether anyone with a bread-maker would like to contribute a loaf of bread to go with the meal, perhaps using flour from Swaffham Prior Mill? Please be in touch with Mandy Kingsmill - 742482; Barb Mitchell - 742492; Dee Noyes - 743864 or Janet Willmott - 743472. Many thanks.

Crier Profile No. 5: Margaret Tattman

Margaret Tattman is one of the last two of the Land

WHEN I LEFT HOME I were seventeen. That was it. I came here, New year's Day 1945, there were twelve of us came: thought I'd come to – Oh God, I wished I'd gone to munitions now, at least I'd have gone home! Got there and I remember us tea was a bit of spam and half a tomato and a bit of lettuce and a bit of bread and butter and that was us tea, and we'd been coming all day from Chesterfield and we didn't come direct - we'd had nothing to eat! We was too excited in us uniform. They were hand-made, they were beautiful. (Margaret has a framed photo of herself in uniform) I look at that with many regrets – see, we had some Italian prisoners of war lived down Station Road in a wooden hut, about thirty of 'em, and they used to make spitfires out of a penny. That spitfire is on the lapel of my jacket. How I regret not looking after it. Fantastic, making a spitfire out of a big old penny.

When I left school at 14, I went into bespoke tailoring – which my mother went and got, and took me the first morning I went to work, much to my disgust: but you did as you were told, even when you were 14. But I didn't like it. A penny farthing an hour! I worked from 8 till 6 at 14...like something out of Dickens...The boss that always seem to be looking over his glasses at you...I became a buttonhole machinist but I kept putting buttonholes in t'wrong place so..I went to Robinson's, big factory in

Chesterfield. My friend went in t'weaving shed and I went into the antiseptic department, we did all the pink lint and aquaflavin for the Navy. We used to put little notes in – but we never did get a response! Then last year of t'war I was informed I'd either got to go in munitions or Land Army.. I wanted to fly me wings a bit, never been allowed to flutter your wings a bit, y'know, freedom, so I thought, here's your chance. Never been out of Chesterfield...there'd been six years of war, there were no lights, and you were protected...cause the paratroops were stationed in Hardwick Hall – well, I could see that through my bedroom window, but when they kept bringing more dirt out of the pits, it blocked the view...Pit me dad worked at was Hardwick pit.

My dad were a miner from when he were about thirteen. Went down with his dad. Used to look after ponies. People used to think they were treated badly but they weren't. All right, maybe people in this area would think, pulling tubs of coal - but horses used to pull a beer, and a ton of coal I mean...that's how we used to have all our coal delivered! They used to fetch them up on a weekend. We always run home on a Friday night, watch them as they brought them up. Men used to fetch the canaries home too – they'd all be in a row, like Coronation Street, all these canaries in cages, hung on a nail on t'hook.

When I was a kid, I always dreaded



Margaret is pictured on the right hand edge of the middle row. Directly underneath

seeing t'ambulance outside door when I went home and it was there one day – he'd had his hand smashed with two tubs of coal run away, smashed his hand – no compensation, nothing, in them days.

I would have thought my dad, being what he'd been through in the General Strike, he would have been red hot Labour but he wrote a book, which we found, but he didn't finish it because he went blind - *Looking Back* – from being a little boy, going to school with a satchel and a slate on his shoulder. And he had no political views whatsoever. He's not here now, so I can't ask him why he hadn't got any political views. I don't know.

Me mam didn't come to see me off.

Only me dad, come out of pit. Me mam didn't want to know. I wasn't contributing hardly anything to the house, which shouldn't be expected, not when you earn that little. I never remember my mam kissing me, and if you tried to kiss her, she'd turn away. She was the youngest of thirteen, and her mother died when she was twelve...so we've tried to look back and think, did it stem from then? She went in service in Nottingham when she was thirteen, so maybe she was a very bitter lady. She wouldn't sit and talk to you like my daughter, cause my son in law says, oh, not you two again at it – Ann says, if I don't ask when me mam's here, I won't know! Same as my other sister, her young man, they were a family that always stood on market, with

fruit and veg. Nothing wrong with that, they were earning a living, but he used to what we'd call hawk – he'd come with a van, and as soon as me mother heard him come up jenal – you know what a jenal is? There were so many houses, then a passageway, and they called it a jenal. Soon as me mam heard Stan, she'd go in and shut t'door. It was beneath our mother for Mavis to marry someone that stood on market. She got pregnant and she left home, and I got pregnant, so there was all this fuss Mavis being only nineteen and I was twenty. We didn't want that. And our other sister, Lorna, she lived with me mam and dad for a while. Her husband worked down t'mine, a pit rescuer and electrician. They went to live in another mining village, Doe Lea, about ten minutes away. Well, it had a reputation. It was in a hole and all the houses went up the hill in rows. Well, of course it were dirty – where I lived it were dirty. Couldn't be any other wi't mines, could it? But my mother was disgusted that our Lorna was going to live at Doe Lea.

Everywhere round us was filthy, it was only our mothers that kept it clean, rubbing stone steps, and do all the grates round wi't donkey-stone, off rag and bone man. They all wore apron made out of a sack when they were doing steps and grates. You could have eaten out of 'em. She'd had a hard life, but we couldn't help that though.

My dad always had a greenhouse with

“ Everywhere round us was filthy, it was only our mothers that kept it clean, rubbing stone steps, and do all the grates round wi't donkey-stone, off rag and bone man. ”

chrysanth, cause miners always grew chrysanth. Didn't bother about growing anything to eat, as long as they'd got the chrysanth. He'd put his arms round me and he'd say, You're best of t'lot, lass. That's what he'd always say to me. Somebody'd put some new windows in and he'd take the glass and made a greehouse, grew tomatoes. He smoked and I smoked, and I put this cigarette out, so I thought, but I hadn't and there was this old sack beneath the bench (he had a coal fire, so we had tomatoes at Christmas!) and the fumes from the sack killed all his tomato plants. Used to call 'em Swaffham flips, because I used to smoke a bit then put 'em out. He was a lovely man. To have all that talent, and it be wasted. I used to have a little blue card, and it was a miniature of me dad on't front with trombone. And he won about twenty-eight gold and silver medals but we never ever saw the medals so I reckon that he must have sold them. They used to go to Belle Vue, they used to go to London, to band contests and all that. Fantastic man. But he said, he was born too soon. But he did have the pleasure of playing at the Princess Royal's wedding, at the 'crooked spire' in Chesterfield, the old Princess Royal. She was a bit staid, like old Queen Mary, the older generation. This book that he wrote, lots of people in the village have read it, the old lady at number six, she couldn't stop reading it, till two in the morning. But he never mentioned us, he never mentioned me mam. But he was blind for about four years. He just went to bed out of way. He was a proud man, a bitter man. He wasn't having people seeing him fumble about, couldn't write his music any more. So he just went to bed. He wrote a score for Burwell Band. In the band that me dad ran there were three brothers called Forbert, and he wrote a piece of music, and he called it The Forbert Brothers. After he died, one of them came to see if me

“During t’war you couldn’t get in any of the pubs there was so many soldiers and air force. About 500 Belgian Air Force boys at Bottisham – of course, they all used to come because there was 60 girls. Me dad said, don’t do what other people do, it’s weakness. But the other 59 were going so I went with them!”

mam had found it, but it was all gone. See, it could have been up in band room. They had a band room over the pub, the way they used to. And he could do the other writing, copperplate. I mean, he only went to school till he were thirteen. You either got it or you haven’t. I couldn’t read music at school. Wouldn’t go in.

There was three girls and one boy – I was the youngest, there were nine years between. My oldest sister died last year at Doncaster, that’s all was left of my maiden name, Roughton.

I didn’t go to work till 1962, for Pye’s in Cambridge, till 1987, when it were Philips at the end. I loved every year of it until the last two when they went like the Japanese. Flowline, you did something for a minute then passed it – bored you to tears. Much better when you made an article yourself. It wasn’t progress, because there were more mistakes than there was if you made the whole set, because they knew who’d done it...all the walkie talkies the police’ve got – printed circuit boards, no bigger than a stamp...then came the robots, we had a robot

cut the components then. I finished when it were me 60th birthday, July the 19th 1987, and then my mam died a fortnight before I retired... then I used to go cleaning, 3 shillings an hour; I used to go to Mr & Mrs Norris, I went to Bowden’s the vet down here, I went for Doctor Weeks that lived in the White House. And when it were potato season, that were 19 bob a day. You were home at two o’clock, before the kiddies came home...and I used to bike to Fordham, picking flowers. They don’t seem to grow the flowers now, they’re all imported.

The breweries, they wouldn’t spend the money in those days, on the pubs, after the war. The Rose & Crown, same as the Cock. During t’war you couldn’t get in any of the pubs there was so many soldiers and air force. About 500 Belgian Air Force boys at Bottisham – of course, they all used to come because there was sixty girls, and if they wanted to go to toilet sometimes they couldn’t get out of door so they used to get out of t’window...and that’s when they made their business, these pubs, but after that there were nothing. There’s a lot more people in this village than what there were...

Me dad said, don’t do what other people do, it’s weakness. But the other 59 were going so I went with them! We used to get a gallon of beer, I think, for about half a crown, in a white jug. And that’s how we..I mean, I’d never had beer in me life! That was taboo. You might get a drop of raisin wine at Christmas, at home, but me mother thought pubs were dreadful. I always remember she come to Cambridge, and she didn’t like heat...she wanted to go to t’botanical gardens so I took her, with a big umbrella held over her; then we come back into town and I said, well what do you want to do? And she said can we go somewhere where it’s not hot? And there used to be a reputable pub at the side of Victoria Cinema,

and it was underground, you went down stairs at side of cinema. Course, when we got down there, it was a gay pub – well, my mother...! But anyway, she did stop down there and have a shandy because she was glad that she could go somewhere cool. I can't remember the name of it but it was a gay pub and I'm going back 60 year ago! I forgot the name. I bet Sid would know. Not that he used it!

Mark Lewinski

From an interview with Margaret Tattman

St Peter's, Fordham
Saturday 26th November 7.30
MOZART Solemn Vespers
HAYDN Nelson Mass
Saffron Walden Choral Society
With Soloists & Organ
Conductor: Janet Wheeler
Tickets £7 Concessions £5
Tel: 01638 720328

APPLE FESTIVAL 2005

ECDC is holding its fifth Apple Festival on Saturday 15th October on Palace Green, Ely in celebration of the great British Apple.

The popular Apple Café, run by Sue Ryder, is back at the Cathedral Centre, where you can enjoy a variety of apple related refreshments. Further apple delights can be tasted at the Watergull Orchards marquee and there will also be a hog roast (with apple sauce, of course!). Our experts will once again be there to identify any apples that you care to bring along, but bring a long part of the stalk and/or leaf as well.

There will be several competitions and activities including the longest apple peeling competition, apple and spoon races, plant your own apple seed, and an apple shy. Information stalls, a woodturner and bee keeper demonstration and folk music and dancing all add to the fun of the day which runs from **10.30 am until 3.30 pm.**

A Tree Dressing Workshop on Saturday 1st October at Ely Library. Working with local artist Ricki Otis, families are encouraged to call in anytime between **10.00 am and 3.00 pm to have a go at screen printing** activities around the apple theme – all activities are free. The finished articles will then be displayed around Palace Green on the Apple Festival Day.

LOOK! COMING TO
REACH.....

"STEPPING OUT"

ADULT

TAP DANCING CLASSES

REACH VILLAGE HALL

8PM - 9PM

EVERY TUESDAY

FIRST CLASS 13TH

SEPTEMBER 2005

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

VERY WELCOME

£3.50 PER SESSION

LEARN SOMETHING NEW -

HAVE FUN - LIGHT

EXERCISE - FRIENDLY

GROUP

FURTHER DETAILS RING

JANE: 741558

Swaffham Prior Village



CHRISTMAS MARKET



Saturday, 19th November



**2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
in the Village Hall**



**Gifts ☺ Produce ☺ Tombola ☺ Cards ☺ Calendars
Raffle ☺ Children's Clothes ☺ Fancy Dress
Jewellery ☺ Books ☺ Refreshments**

Admission: 50p ☺ Children under 12: free

Proceeds to St Mary's Church

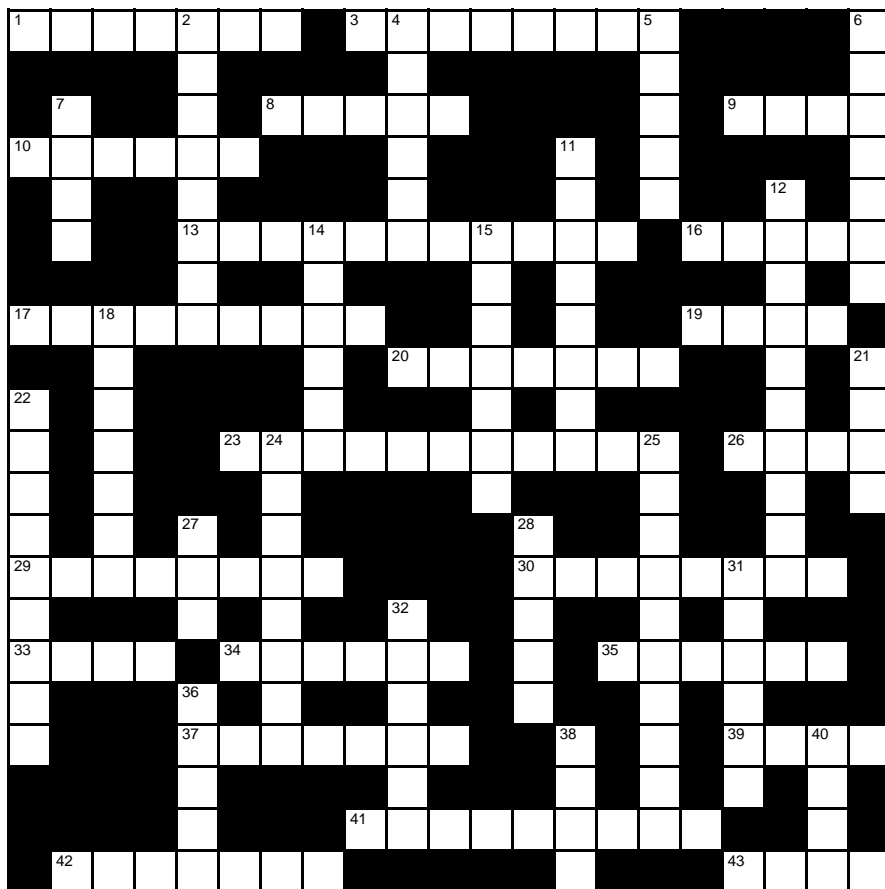
Crossword Number 26

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

TREEBORN

A nice big crossword with a horticultural flavour for you to get your teeth into. Send your answers to the editors by 14th October 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 Where the horses have bolted from constables (7)
- 3 Are brandies mixed up here? (8)
- 8 Bring out strange neighbours who live in one (5)
- 9 It sounds like sales go on round here (4)
- 10 No firms made out of glass fibre on the roof (6)
- 13 In the hot house Gordon's a liar, confused and loveless (7,4)
- 16 Does Mr Smith copy things here? (5)
- 17 Artless Libertarians from West Africa (9)
- 19 Be calm, step inside and give aid (4)
- 20 A heron or a chicken from Wicken? (7)
- 23 Do monks with dark faces reside here? (11)
- 26 Spring is okay (2)
- 29 look away from the rising sun (4,4)
- 30 At first, no young eagles were about in Wales (8)
- 33 Eros turns up (2)
- 34 Three men and a dog went here to mow (6)
- 35 House of Swaffhamy! (6)
- 37 Make gondolier go out to the watering hole (3,4)
- 39 Change 10,000 in the South East (4)
- 41 Use the oven with 8 across here (9)
- 42 The carpenter's pen went missing; see the hauliers (7)
- 43 Originally only a kernel sprouted to produce these (4)

Down

- 2 Arlene did visit to begin with and turned pale purple (8)
- 4 Specify a small poster (6)
- 5 You may find it in when Don comes out (5)
- 6 "He ain't heavy, he's my brother", may be heard from them (7)
- 7 I shall be enclosed within this room (4)
- 11 Plant upright with another plant (8)
- 12 Weed has thorny neckware we are told (7,3)

- 14 Information Ellie, Vicky and Anna initially found in Switzerland (6)
- 15 Dangerously confused, goes out to find clean clothes (7)
- 18 Cheeseboard Dora removed carelessly from the trees (7)
- 21 Elusively Elvis goes missing; strange at this time of year (4)
- 22 Words hath changed in this High Street residence (9)
- 24 Owner led astray or just down the road? (5,3)
- 25 Clerk's dish was served up in this village cottage (10)
- 27 Four jobs first then a hanger-on (3)
- 28 Find refuge, have new beginning (5)
- 31 Shares the flowers (6)
- 32 Crazy racoon said "the sun has one during an eclipse" (6)
- 36 A small farm often needs credit initially (5)
- 38 Yew perhaps would be heard (4)
- 40 I'm not in a crumpled kimono in the corner (4)

Solution to crossword no. 13

A	C	C	O	U	N	T	A	N	T	M	W	O	M	B
F	U	N		A	U	E	M	I	T	V	R			
F	A	B	R	I	C	A	T	O	R	X	V	L	E	N
R	I	C			A	R		P	R	A				
O	U	T	D	O	B	R	O	A	D	M	I	N	D	E
N	S	R			C	I		S	U	T				
T			G	N	A	S	H	O	N	E	S	T	E	T
E			U	B	Y	S	A	A	A					
D	U	K	E	D	O	M		V	U	L	T	U	R	E
			S	D		O		I	D	E			X	
P	O	P	T	H	E	Q	U	E	S	T	I	O	N	C
A	A	E			I	O		A		J				
N	E	U	T	R	O	N	B	O	M	B	K	N	E	L
I	C	E			B	E		T	S		S	E		
C	H	I	N	T	Z		A	R	K	A	R	O	U	N
K	T		O	O	Z	E	I		E		I	L		
Y	O	Y	O		O		D	E	C	A	D	E	N	T

We congratulate **Martyn and Debby Clark**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jill Bourne, Anita Lang, Hilary Sage, Robert and Julie Nunn, Julian Luttrell and Jenny Brand.

FACE TO FACE

A Slide-based talk exploring the self-portrait through time

Saturday December 10th 2-5.15 p.m.

The Village hall, Swaffham Prior

Timed to coincide with the exhibition, *Self-portrait at the National Portrait Gallery: Renaissance to Contemporary*, Oct 20 - Jan 29



Berthe Morisot

Many artists have long been fascinated by their own image — artists observe and present themselves. What exactly do they aim to express to their contemporaries and to future generations?

We shall examine the self- portrait as practised by different artists, altogether a rich legacy of faces and visual diaries. Artists include: Titian, Rembrandt, Therbusch, Morisot, Van Gogh, Picasso and Matisse.

Fee: £9 (Special local rate! Includes tea/coffee/biscuits), based on a minimum of 10 in the group. *Please enroll by October 21st.* Ring 743259 to book a place.

CHRISTMAS MARKET 19th November

Money raised from the Christmas Market goes towards the upkeep of St Mary' s Church. Are you aware it costs £65 per day just for running costs?

The Market relies on the help of many people. Some give their time and energy, some give donations— see the list of requirements. Articles in pristine condition can be passed on to stall holders (so that people will be attracted to buy them.) Then we need you to come and support and buy. Please make a note of the event in your diary and tell your friends. There are more stalls besides those listed below and every table has now been allocated.

Kate Child / Betty Prime

BOOKS	Mark Lewinski, 32 Fairview Grove	744062
Hard covered, looking new	Francis Reeks, 44 High Street	743693
CHILDRENS CLOTHES & TOYS	Tricia Harrison, 2 Station Road	742850
In pristine condition		
JEWELRY	Kate Child, 73 High Street	743983
PRESENTS	Elisabeth Everitt, 59 High Street	742974
PRODUCE	Jan Pattinson, Quoin Ho, High St.	743866
TOMBOLA	Peter & Mary Hart, 15 Miii Hill	741681

The Friends of St Cyriac's Church

The Churches Conservation Trust would like to establish a Friends organisation for St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior. Although this much-loved building is already wonderfully cared for by a few dedicated individuals, in order to plan for the future of the church it is essential to establish a larger group of supporters.

A Friends group would work with the Trust to care for St Cyriac's and to promote the church as an important community venue, piece of local heritage and educational resource.

A Friends group would be able to

- Organise and support local events and activities in the church.
- Raise money to pay for specific work at the church. This will include working with the Trust to apply for external grants..
- Support the work of the Churches Conservation Trust to promote the church locally as an important piece of built heritage and as an educational resource

What will the advantages of this increased community involvement be?

- Forming a constituted body dramatically increases chances of obtaining funding from grant-giving bodies.
- The church will be able to respond more fully to the needs of its village.
- A greater sense of community ownership and function will be returned to the church.
- The group will be able to help shape the church's future, contributing to discussions with the Trust about future work at the church.

How do we set up the group?

- We need to set up a properly constituted organisation. This will be done at a public meeting. (A draft version of the constitution is available on request).
- We need a chairman, a treasurer and a secretary to serve on the committee.
- Once the committee has been established, the group will then open its own bank account.

Who can be Involved?

- Any person over the age of 18 and any corporate or unincorporated association.

How much time Is involved?

- There will be an Annual General Meeting. The frequency of additional general meetings will be decided by the chairman, though they would typically be quarterly or biannual.

Interested?

Please get in touch. Offers to serve on the committee are particularly welcome, but we would also love to hear from people who would like to join us as ordinary members or simply offer moral support.

Contact Verity Stroud on 01279 771478 or 07960 443358, or at verity53c@hotmail.com

Down on the Farm –

Harvest

By Our Farming Correspondent James Willmott

Time

HARVEST IS OVER and done with for another year and not a very memorable one at that I am sorry to say. There were some good crops, a lot of average crops and some that could have been a bit better! Most of the crop variation can be seen on our yield maps produced for us by the combine harvester, and there were no surprises in that 90% of the variation coincided with the soil variation of the fields. Where we have heavy soils and the moisture is retained on the whole most of the yields have been good, but we suffered on the light land as when we had the very hot period of weather in the late spring/early summer the ears on the crops did not have the chance to fill out as well as they should which would have given us better yields.

However, although the yields have not been particularly wonderful the quality of the wheats has been excellent. Milling wheat, used for bread making, gets paid the best premium but the quality has got to be good. Once accepted it goes into mills such as Bowman's Mills in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, where it is processed and set out to bakers. We have to spend more time and money on these "quality" wheats but the rewards are there if everything is right.

Lower down the scale we grow soft wheats which are used for biscuit and cereal making and for example go to Weetabix just off the A14 near Corby or Cereal Partners in Welwyn Garden city where Shredded Wheat is made! An interesting fact is that five years ago such companies were paying twice as much for our wheat as they are today, but the price of the end product has not come down at all – so much for fair trade!!

The wheats that are left are of the feed varieties and although they yield more the quality is low so generally most of them go as animal feed. Some (quite a lot in this area) go to a plant at Icklingham where a refining process removes the gluten and the resulting product is then sent to a factory in close proximity to the Millennium Dome where further refining takes place before it is sent on to companies like HP to be made into sauces etc. Of benefit to us on a financial note the factory at Icklingham takes in wheat seven days a week and having such a large user to close in economically good for us with today's high fuel and haulage costs.

Back on the farm all the land for oilseed rape has been prepared and drilled with most forward crops emerging nicely. This year we prepared the ground in three different ways: (i) one field was direct drilled straight in to the wheat stubble (ii) some fields were "min tilled" once only with a cultivator and (iii) some were ploughed before drilling.

The ploughing was necessary because we had sludge from a sewage works applied to the land and the by-law (and being a good neighbour!) says that it must be inverted within 36 hours.

In the past most human sewage was dumped out at sea but increasingly in the future it will be treated and put onto the land. This is very good for us as it benefits the land by adding organic matter to the soil and replaces some of the nutrients that we would otherwise have to do by using artificial fertilisers. Also, the cost to us is minimal, so everyone benefits!



“Just Amazing what you read in the Swaffham Crier!!”

Anglian Water visits the farm and specifies which fields we are allowed to put the sewage on and those that have restrictions i.e. those that are near to houses, the wrong type of soil etc. It also carries out soil tests that give us an up to date soil analysis so that after an application we know what nutrients have been added and therefore allowing us to reduce our own fertiliser usage – an added bonus!

Wheat is the next crop on the agenda for planting and at the time of writing we have just made a start.

(I have not forgotten about Tractors: A Brief History – Part Two, it will follow, at some point!)

James Willmott

School News

THE START of this academic year sees 111 children on roll, with an organisation of four classes:

Class 1 reception and Year one

Class 2 Year one and Year two

Class 3 Year three and Year four

Class 4 Year five and Year six.



Applications for Reception places in September 2006 need to be in school by 9th December so now is the time to come and visit the school and discuss placements. Please contact the office to arrange your visit and collect a prospectus.

We hope for another successful and creative year. It starts off with a Hans Christian Andersen focus, with theatre performance funded by the School Trustees.

A longer term project is arts based one: the sad demise of a very special tree is being used as a stimulus for some creative work. Within our school grounds adjacent to Station Road is a large tree, commonly known within the school at the elephant tree. This tree is thought to be over 100 years old and originates from Hupea, a province in China. The tree is facing serious pollarding as it is showing signs of disease. In order to preserve



Our 100 year old tree

memories of the tree, children have spent the early part of the term drawing and writing about it.

We are inviting members of the community to share their memories of the tree – do you remember playing on it? What stories about its origins do you know? Who did the carvings? Please write into the school as we would like to collect as many memories as possible. The next step is to invite interested parties to the school to discuss what they would like to see happening to the cut wood. We are hoping to work with local artist Richard Bray to create a sculpture for the school. Members of the community are also invited into school to work with the wood and this will take place next summer.

We are collecting Tesco sport tokens, used ink cartridge and old mobile phones. Please send these in to the school.

Joanna Lakey



Do you remember playing in this tree?

Community Dates

Harvest Service 6th October 11am St Mary's
Christmas Service 15th December 2pm at St Mary's
Christmas Fair Monday 5th December 3pm
End of term assembly 20th December 1.30pm School hall

Entertainment at Bottisham British Legion

On Saturday 1st October we are holding a Casino Night. As well as roulette and black jack there will be scalextric car racing. The tables will operate from 8.00 p.m.

There is a Soul Disco on Saturday 15th October from 8.30 p.m. to midnight. This will be tickets only and are available from the Bar Steward. Members £3 and their guests £5.

Saturday 22nd October is the date for the Frigidaires, a lively 50's rock band which will also be from 8.30 p.m. to midnight and £3 for members and £5 for their guests.

Fun for everyone on Saturday 29th October. The Children's Fancy Dress Halloween Disco will be from 5.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. admission £1.

Then in the evening 8.00 p.m. to midnight the Adult's Fancy Dress Halloween Disco. Members £2 and their guests £5. Prizes for the best dressed, so young and old alike see who can be the most scarey.

Application forms for membership can be obtained from the Club in Downing Close.

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ADMIRAL WINDOWS

• • • • • & • • • • •
CONSERVATORIES



WI Notes

Mr Paul Shakeshaft gave a most interesting talk to the W.I in September. His subject was Kings College Chapel and he had obviously made a study of the history and architecture of the building.



In 1440 Henry VI began to build the Chapel of the Virgin Mary and St. Nicolas. It is 300 feet long and very tall, the oldest and largest building in the area, very impressive when seen in an aerial photograph. Mr Shakeshaft showed slides of other cathedrals — Exeter, York, Gloucester, Ely, Norwich — and it could be seen that certain types of architecture had been copied from these earlier buildings.

After Henry VI died Edward IV continued building but it was not until Henry Viii took over that the chapel was completed. The team of Royal carvers employed by Henry VIII completed the amazing stonework in the west end in just 9 months, and the beautiful fan vault (ceiling) of the chapel, similar to that in Norwich Cathedral, took just 36 months. To this day no one knows exactly how it was built. In places there is a Spanish influence (Katherine of Aragon) and the initials of Henry and Ann Boleyn are carved in stone.

At the end of Mr. Shakeshaft's talk we all felt we must definitely pay another visit to Kings College Chapel while all this interesting information is fresh in our minds.

Do come to the Village Hall on 17th October and bring your friends when the Barbershop Singers will be entertaining us at 8 o'clock after our business meeting.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners have had a very good summer with three visits to Hemingford Grey House, Newnham College Gardens and Wisley—all blessed with fine weather.

We're now indoors till next May! This month, we had a very well illustrated talk on "Chelsea since 1947". Our speaker joined the RHS in that year paying 2/6^d to do so. We agreed that then there were proper gardens and that now it's all a bit trendy.



Don't miss Dr

We have our AGM on October 18th — 8pm at the Village Hall and on November 156th Dr Twiggs Way — a Cambridge Garden Historian — is coming to talk to us about Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton—local lads made good. If it's anything like the last talk she gave us, it should NOT be missed!

Everyone welcome.

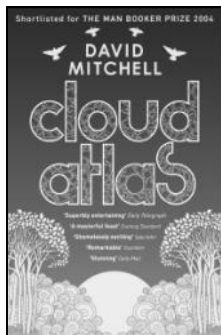
Margaret Joyce

The Reading Group Reads....

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell



The Reading Group's August meeting was an animated two hours discussion of this unusual book. The author writes a series of separate stories spanning the time period from about 1800 to somewhere in the future. However, we find that there are connections between the stories – some obvious (characters, documents and events that reappear in subsequent stories), some not so obvious. It was the latter which the group found absorbing to discuss, such as man's duplicity, greed, self-destruction. David Mitchell has the ability to write in widely different styles; one story may be like a fast-paced 1950s American thriller, another written as a series of letters to someone in another country. We found that there was so much to discover in this book, and the more we talked about it, the more we unravelled.



If you enjoy reading, please come to one of our future meetings, always held on the first Wednesday of the month. We take it in turns to suggest a book. The next meeting will be on the 5th October at the Matheson's, Kent House, 9 High Street, *Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell, and on November 2nd, *Under the Eye of the Clock* at 5 Pound Close, Burwell.

Ann Hollingsworth



55th

**British National Ploughing
Championship and Country Festival**

8th and 9th October 2005, Soham

Heavy horses, Vintage Tractors,

Country Crafts, Steam Engines

Admission Adults £6, Concessions £3. Free car parking

Green Man Inn

London Road, Six Mile Bottom

01638 570373

info@greenman6mb.com



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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*





EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

During the last two months I have been very busy dealing with the issue of travellers in our ward. Two separate families were camped by Whiteways Drove for a long period, causing many problems. We finally had to obtain a court order to have them moved. Both families eventually moved to locations in Reach. One family then moved into Swaffham Prior recreation ground, which unfortunately meant that the Parish Council had to seek a court order to have them evicted. This cost about £1700.



I work closely with Brian Hicks, East Cambs District Councils travellers Liaison Officer, to deal quickly with the many traveller problems as they arise. But we need stronger laws framed by the government to assist us. I have managed to get the road verges in the Greenhead and Tothill Road areas cleared of weeds. The County Council workers used to use weed killer, but because of Health and Safety regulations they now have to clear them manually.

Being a member of the Council's Licensing Committee, I have had to deliberate on the Licensee's applications for longer opening hours. The way that the government framed the new licensing laws has made it more difficult for individuals to object to applications.

St Cyriac's Needs Friends

Our elderly, redundant and splendid Church is looking for friends.

At a meeting on 22 September in St Cyriac and Julitta's, 25 interested locals heard what was needed. *Maintenance and repair* of the fabric of this listed building is in the care of the Redundant Churches' Trust and will remain their responsibility. Funds for this come from the Church Commissioners and the Department of Culture. On 17th October, approximately £30,000 of work on the Church will start.

However, there is little point in maintaining a building which is unused. The Commissioners are therefore looking for a group of local people to form a support group. Once such a group is established, it will be possible to investigate additional funding for *improvements* to the building. These could include heating, toilets and disabled access which would enable more frequent and diverse use of the building. Without a group of friends any Community Development Project is doomed to failure.

The project needs: committee members, subscribing members, volunteers to write letters of support and distribute literature and event organisers. Anyone interested in joining the Friends of St Cyriac's should contact Verity Stroud on 01279 771478 or verity53@hotmail.com

Joan Rest

SWAFFHAM PRIOR HARVEST SHOW RESULTS

2005

	1st	2nd	3rd
Mixed vegetables	A. Kirby and M. Malster		
Potatoes	P. Latchford	R Dalton	
Beetroot	R. Dalton	R. Dalton	
Carrots	A. Kirby and M. Maister	R. Dalton	R. Dalton
A vegetable marrow	R. Dalton		
Courgettes	P. Latchford		
French beans	A. Kirby and M. Malster	F. Everitt	A. Everitt
Runner beans	P. Hart	A. Everitt	R. Dalton
Indoor tomatoes	P. Hart	R. Dalton	E. Everitt
A cucumber	R. Dalton	T. Latchford	P. Hart
The longest runner bean	P. Hart	A. Everitt	
Onions from sets	R. Dalton	R. Dalton	P. Latchford
Shallots	R. Dalton	P. Latchford	
Uncommon fruit or veg.	S. Dodge		
Pears	J. Dean		
Dessert apples	Pumfrey family	E. Everitt	J. Cooper
Cooking apples	A. Everitt	E. Everitt	
Plums	A. Everitt		
Raspberries	L. Kirby		
Pom-pom dahlias	R. Dalton		
Spray chrysanthemums	P. Palmer		
Michaelmas daisies	A. Everitt	E. Fveritt	
Roses	R. Dalton	B. Prime	R. Dalton
Floribunda roses	B. Prime	A. Everitt	
Vase of perennials	J. Lankfir		
Bowl of flowers	A. Everitt		
Basket of flowers	B. Prime		
Miniature arrangement	B. Prime		
Jar of soft fruit jam	L. Kirby	S. Wilkins	P. Latchford
Jar of stone fruit jam	J. Reeks	S. Wilkins	J. Reeks
Jar of jelly	A. Everitt	S. Wilkins	
Jar of orange marmalade	B. Everitt		
Jar of lemon curd	S. Wilkins	B. Prime	
Jar of piccalilli or chutney	J. Vickery	J. Reeks	
Victoria sponge	S. Wilkins	S. Napier	D. Noyes
Flapjacks	B. Prime	S. Wilkins	
Shortbread	B. Prime		
Any sort of cake	S. Wilkins	J. Reeks	E. Everitt
Any kind of tart	S. Wilkins		
Scones	S. Wilkins		
Bread	P. Hart	D. Noyes	
Tallest sunflower	S.P. School	S.F. School	L. Whiteside
Largest sunflower head	S.P. School	L. Whiteside	S.F. School
Chocolate crispies	M. & G. Tozer	S. Bell	B. Wade-Gledhill
"Happy Faces" iced biscuits	H. Eaton	E. Noyes	S. & Z. Pollini
Garden on a plate	I. Lewinski	R. Noyes	O. Wade-Gledhill
Vegetable or fruit "animal"	E. Hubbard	H. Pumfrey	F. Thomas
Model (original)	A. Tarasewicz	B. Noyes	R. Noyes
Red wine	S. Everitt	P. Latchford	
White wine	P. Latchford		

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Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

CCC Report: There was no CCC report this month.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – for information only

a) *Coopers Lane – barrier:* This work remains outstanding. The Clerk will write to CCC and ask Cllr Hazel Williams to follow up.

b) *Enhancement Scheme. The light over the Church steps has finally been connected and is now fully working.*

Renewal of Annual Insurance: This was agreed at £659-83.

Adoption of Financial Regulations: These were agreed as a requirement of the Annual Audit by Moore Stephens, External Auditors.

Village Sign – Maintenance: This work is to be carried out by Clive Riggs. The Parish Council recorded their thanks to Clive for his offer of help.

Future plans for Recreation Ground following eviction of travellers and article placed in Crier.

It was agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to instruct Taylor Vinters Solicitors to serve an Eviction Notice on the travellers illegally camping on the Recreation Ground. This was carried out and the travellers left the site. The cost to the village was £1,782-62 in legal costs.

The clearing of rubbish left by the travellers was carried out by Richard Freeman of BTFC and helpers. This was a particularly unpleasant task and the Parish Council recorded a vote of thanks to Richard and members of BTFC for their help. The rubbish was collected by Cleanaway from the roadside.

Steve Kent-Phillips had written an article in The Crier inviting the views of residents about the future of the Recreation Ground, listing 3 options. Responses to the 3 options were as follows:

Option 1	:	1
Option 2	:	2
Option 3	:	21

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council and the Village remained fully supportive of the BTFC using the Recreation Ground but that the costs involved to amend the current lease agreement were too high and following clarification with CALC it became clear that such expenditure could not be warranted from the Precept as the BTFC scheme would not directly be for the Parish of Swaffham Prior, although all facilities would be available for the use of Swaffham Prior residents.

Option 3 was agreed (with one abstention) as it would allow BTFC to negotiate a new/amended lease direct with Mr Hurrell and hence take full responsibility for any costs incurred and also for the future maintenance of the field.

Planning Application:

The Bungalow, SP Fen – *Reserved matters for 3 bedroom detached replacement dwelling. No objections.*

Planning Permissions:

Old School House, 69 High Street

Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street

The Cottage, 67 High Street

The Old Forge, 27 High Street

Planning Refusal:

2 Fairview Grove.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Any Other Business:

Residents to be reminded about overhanging hedgerows on property boundaries.
See separate notice.

Replacement of missing “Passing Place” signs to be chased again with Andrew Tiple of CCC.

Open Question Time: No questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th October 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

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

Should you have footpaths or pavements running alongside your property boundaries, the Parish Council would welcome your help in keeping any overhanging trees, bushes, shrubs, etc., cut back to allow clear access for walkers.

**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.

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*Takeaway available hours as above
Excluding Sunday*



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

Everyone is most welcome to our Harvest Festival Supper from 6pm on October 8th, in the Village Hall. Then the Harvest Service will be on Sunday at 11am. Traidcraft products, for Fair Trade in a better world, will be available.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Tricia Harrison

Mobile Library News

Remember that you can return books back to any local library. Local enquiries 742850. Renewals and enquiries 0845 045 5225.

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3J High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck



Church of England Services October 2005

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 2	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Harvest Festival	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 9	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Harvest Festival	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 16	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 23	11:00am Matins (BCP)	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 30	10:00am Benefice Communion Service		

PASTORAL LETTER, October 2005

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am sure that like me you have been shocked and saddened by the destruction and death that Hurricane Katrina has brought to the Southern states of America. The particularly sad aspect of the impact of the Hurricane and associated floods has been that, by and large, the victims have been the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community, and that doesn't seem right.

How do we react to this situation? Well, first of all I suggest that we look to

Jesus' teaching. In Matthew Chapter 25 Jesus talks about the judgement day, when people will be separated as a shepherd separates the sheep and the goats, with the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on the right: *"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* Then the righteous will answer: *"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"* Then the king will reply: *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Jesus' message is that caring for the most vulnerable and needy in society must be our priority. It is essential for the word 'society' to have any real meaning at all, because each and every individual is of equal value in God's eyes – we are all precious to him.

At this time of the year our parishes are busy giving thanks for the harvest, and I think we must, in the midst of our celebrations, remember that we, who have so much to be grateful for, must take time to focus our attention on those who have so little, whether it be in New Orleans, Niger or any other part of the world in need, or, indeed, just around the corner .

There is a vital reason for doing so, as this little story helps us to appreciate. A Christian man lost his home and mill when a flood washed them away. He was broken-hearted and discouraged as he stood surveying the devastation and loss. Just then he saw a glittering object that had been uncovered by the waters. It was a chunk of pure gold! The disaster he thought had made him a beggar had actually made him rich.

There have been numerous reports from America of Christian Churches right across that country setting to and providing accommodation, food, clothing, money, help with jobs, and a great deal more, to the victims of the disaster. As a result those who have been helped have discovered a rich vein of human love in their time of greatest need. That is the true object of pure gold in the midst of all the devastation.

Surely this is what being Christian should really be about: *'loving the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength, and our neighbours as ourselves'*. Then those who we have loved and helped can begin to say, as Robert Lowry so movingly puts it:

*What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Saviour liveth;
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth;
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that refuge clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
May God bless you all,*

David

Dates for Your Diary - October 2005

Tue	4	Tap Dancing (every Tuesday) , 8-9pm, Reach VH
Wed	5	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House
Thu	6	Bottisham Players, Main Hall, BVC Harvest Service, 11am, St Mary's
Fri	7	Bottisham Players
Sat	8	British National Ploughing Championship and Country Festival, Soham Bottisham Players Harvest Supper, 6pm, VH
Sun	9	British National Ploughing Championship and Country Festival, Soham
Mon	10	
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	12	
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	14	
Sat	15	Ely Apple Festival, Palace Green, Ely Bottisham British Legion Soul Disco, 8.30pm
Sun	16	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	17	WI + Barbershop Singers, 6pm, VH
Tue	18	Village Gardeners AGM, 8pm, VH
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	26	
Thu	27	
Fri	28	
Sat	29	Bottisham British Legion Children's Fancy Dress Halloween Disco, 5-7.30pm Adult's Fancy Dress Halloween Disco, 8pm
Sun	30	
Mon	31	