



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 4

April 2006



## Editorial

READERS WILL REMEMBER WHEN the 2003 *Crier* unaccountably triumphed in the Village Magazine Awards in the face of *serious glossy competition*. Alas, alack-a-day! After three consecutive years in the awards, this year we did a *Henman* as the glorious Colour District Quarterlies swept the board.

Ha! One page of colour currently costs as much as the rest of the magazine put together and things did not improve when the Cambridge Evening News advised miffed monthlies to get with it and start *selling* instead—just like those Quarterlies. Now there's a thought! Instead of our distributors tramping down muddy tracks to deliver the *Crier* free of charge, you can tramp *up* them—and *buy* it. From our defunct *Station* or non-existent *Village Shop* of course....

Oh, but it was not always the case as you can read in

this month's Profile reprint of yet another radio programme (what a famous village Swaffham Prior is) about us. Maybe one day, our old community life will be restored, but until then, readers can be assured that the little magazines that sprinkle the Spring Line will not be conglomerating into a District and glossing over the changes, but will continue as ever to do their level best to *fill in the gap*.

Remember Miss Swaffham Prior and Mr Puny Prior? The turfing out of a Village Hall cupboard reported in last month's

edition seems to have unfortunately jogged a few memories—you may be meeting them again soon....

And despite *huge* efforts in the don't-be-late-again department, we've flopped again! Village Collating deadline, we miss you!

**Caroline Matheson**



*Big-footed Fairies? What are these rings in the Pylon field on the Heath?*

**Cover Picture: A seasonal fishy on a little dishy**

**by Clare Newbolt**

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# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

## From the Lion

Further to recent correspondence in this magazine about the complaint made following Halloween and New Years Eve parties at The Red Lion. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village who has taken time to write or voice their support to us and the pub. It is nice to know that our efforts are so appreciated. Whilst we acknowledge that any business is going to cause some disruption to its neighbours, we do try our very best to run the pub well and with the minimum of nuisance, after all it is our home as well!

Following talks with the Licensing Officer we would also like to assure our customers that despite these complaints our usual live music events WILL continue.

***Dave & Lorraine Nichols***

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Dear Editors,

## The Village Assembly

The village has seen a great deal of progress in the past year or so:

1. the playing field is no longer a constant concern and a disproportionate drain upon resources.
2. the village sign has been repaired.
3. the Beeches wall has been repaired.
4. Coopers Lane barrier has been repaired.
5. the church steps have a lamp.
6. Dencora Field is no longer a dumping ground and the location of nuisances affecting the senior citizens close by.
7. the Pound (or Cage) has a new roof.
8. the playground has new equipment.
9. new traffic calming measures are in place.

But, we are not left without a challenge or two where room for improvement is clear. They need just a little will and effort to correct:

1. the state of the electricity substation at the High Street/Cage Hill junction betrays a scandalous disregard for its very prominent position in the Conservation Area.
2. the bus shelter in High Street, weak in both concept and execution, has a leaking roof.
3. speed limits within the village and on the B1101.

These, and other matters, merit your attention, support and contributions at the Village Assembly, coming soon to a Village Hall near you.

***Frank Readhead***

# Rubbish Welcome to Swaffham Prior



WALKERS ARRIVING in Swaffham Prior via the public footpath leading from Devil's Dyke to Pulpit's Corner must then pick their way through piles of evil looking RUBBISH smattering the field behind Mill Hill. What a tip! How did it get there? Can it be cleaned up? Perhaps an issue for the....

## ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 THE VILLAGE HALL. 7.30PM

**This is your chance to put your views, ask questions  
or just find out more about what is happening  
in *your* Village!**

**If there is any item you like included on the agenda,  
please let your Clerk, Karen King, know before the next  
Parish Council meeting — 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006.**

***Your Village needs you!!***

# From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

## TIGERS IN LEGAL LIMBO HORROR! BIG CATS BLAME LAWYERS FOR PUSSY FOOTING AROUND FOOTBALL GROUND

(Parish Council meeting held on 09 March 2006.)

The Tigers legal limbo continues - now for the rest of the news.

Our elected councillors submit fairly comprehensive reports to the Crier so this reporter will avoid repeating subjects undeserving of particular comment. Hazel Williams was resting, so she submitted a written report you can read elsewhere.

Alan Alderson reported that Reach Fair is exploring alternative car parking venues now that Dencora Field is not available. (Can we now change the name, please? Would 'Fairview Field' or 'Rogers Field' sound better?) Fair parking on 1<sup>st</sup> May is now likely to be offered in a field between our two villages. Apparently, the mayoral procession will be reduced this year from about 113 cars to 4, with a horseless coach conveying the excess number of visitors and guests to an event which grows in popularity every year. It was immediately clear that there will be far fewer copper coins flung at us from the speeding vehicles this time, meaning a considerable loss of income for villagers.




There was concern that the entrance to the playing field was not really in a condition to deter determined attempts to breach the barricades; further attention was required. However, happily, now the ground is no longer a public responsibility, legal action to evict any squatters should be a short and sharp affair.

We heard pondering whether, if some housing development were ever to take place at the water tower, where men with measuring devices have recently been seen, a roundabout at the access point off Mill Hill might be funded by the developers. In mitigation for an unwanted development, we would at least then gain a traffic-slowing measure, it being generally accepted that nothing else here has worked. Comparisons were inevitably then made between the speedy erection of reflective bollards at the rogue pylon and other necessary public works for which

CCC is responsible. Lorries have also made a right mess of the footpath edge along the northern part of Lower End. There is no kerb here and, if not attended to, it will soon be unsafe for pedestrians.

The Pound roof repairs were proceeding very satisfactorily and should be complete before the next snows of the winter. The expected offer of garden accessories from the Pound



# HELP!

After two foot operations I am going to be unable to walk our dog from mid-May, probably until about September this year.

Our friendly Collie-cross needs one good walk a day, weekdays only.

I should be so grateful if you could help. Please ring

## 743720

If you would like to be a temporary dog walker

failed to appear in the Crier last month. Good! There was the usual talk about finances. That's not my forte, but I was pleased to learn that the Clerk's remuneration will soon be properly sorted, at last. (Talk about exploitation!)

Our chairman was good enough to invite additional comments about a planning application from those of us not privileged to sit at the big table. Planning applications are serious matters, of great importance both to those likely to be affected, and to the applicant whose hopes and aspirations they represent. Your PC gives them their full attention in a mature atmosphere, though some misunderstandings about this proposal tended to undermine the cause of those opposing it. Personally, I hope it gets built, but this was a minority view. (See separate article – hence this brief account of a relatively short meeting).

Please come to the Village Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> May, when issues such as the speed limit, lamp posts, dog dirt and disposal of the family silver should all be on the agenda. It's your annual chance to grumble in public.

The future PC meeting dates were also published but, for those with diaries, you need only to remember that meetings are normally held on the second Thursday every month, except in August, and you are always welcome to come and see democracy in action.

*Frank Readhead*



## Doctor Oscar

FRIENDLY BEECHES RETRIEVER  
Oscar Pritchard is in the news this month. Oscar, whose loveable ways include *bringing out his teddy-bear* whenever the Eds' puppy passes by his window, has been selected by the Princess Margaret's Hospital, Windsor, to appear on the front of hospital picture-postcards patients send out to relatives and friends.

Here he is, very convincing with his white coat and stethoscope. In fact, so convincing that it's perhaps a good job that Princess Margaret's is not one of those hospitals that has had to make *staff economies* recently....

## **MUSIC FOR EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 2006**

Piano music by **BACH** (four Preludes & Fugues from *The 48*),  
**MOZART** (*Fantasia in C minor*)  
and **SHOSTAKOVICH** (four Preludes and Fugues from *The 24*)

Played from memory by **Ian de Massini**,  
**Easter Bank holiday Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**,  
**Beginning at 5.00pm (ending at 6.00pm)**  
**in St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior.**

Free admission – retiring collection.  
All seats are unreserved.

For further details contact Ian de Massini (Tel. 0780 1234 343, or Email  
ian\_demassini@dsl.pipex.com)

*CAMEO PLAYERS PRESENT*

## **SPARK IN JUDEA**

**St Cyriac's, April 9, 4pm**

Tickets for the Swaffham Prior  
performance can be obtained by  
phoning  
01638 743864

More information about the  
performances at other venues can  
be obtained from 01223-323519  
or by e-mailing:  
raw1000@cam.ac.uk

## **Bach's *St John Passion***

Sung by Cambridge Voices  
With *The Orchestra of the Age of  
Reason*,

Directed from the keyboard by Ian de  
Massini

And with audience participation.

**Holy Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Eve of Easter Day)**

**5.00pm (ending c. 7.00pm)**  
**in St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church,**  
**Swaffham Prior.**

All tickets are £6, only available on  
the door. All seats are unreserved.

For further details contact Ian de  
Massini (Tel. 0780 1234 343, or Email  
ian\_demassini@dsl.pipex.com)

# THE VILLAGE MAG AWARDS

WHAT A NIGHT! Over Community Centre may not match the venue of the Brit Awards but it had its own colour and magic. It was a room with more than 120 budding editors, tables covered with copies of 57 magazines, and side tables bursting with fine food and drinks.

We looked, we drank, we talked, we ate – until the great moment when the winners were announced. The tension was high. There were two divisions – those with an over-1000 circulation and those with a circulation under 1000. We were only concerned with the latter for which there were 32 entries. How would the *Crier* fare with so much competition? Caroline was especially excited and wondered whether she would be needing the boa in her handbag for the photograph. And I had a tie in my pocket so that I could change from the nonchalant open necked Cameron style into a smiling Blair type. The judges were an outstanding disappointment. The *Crier* did not receive a mention and while we clapped the winners a number of us were muttering sedition.

The winner was the *Parish Pump of Alconbury*, Alconbury-cum-Weston and Buckworth. The runner up was the *Village News of Arkesden*. These two magazines were quite outstanding in exactly the same way. Both were sumptuously produced, with a mass of colour, printed on high quality gloss paper. And both appeared just FOUR TIMES PER YEAR. And what about the content you ask. Well, it was alright as far as it could be for quarterly papers. Inevitably up-to-date information was a bit short and the apparent reaction from readers was minimal. However for Production Quality both magazines won hands down with the *Pump* beating the *Village News* possibly because it was twice the size.

After the awards the judges circulated and having collected a body of like-minded revolting editors we converged on one judge just like footballers jumping on to some hapless referee. We successfully made all our points without getting a red card or even being threatened with a yellow one.

Was this poor behaviour? Was this just the response of a bad loser? Was this very unEnglish? Not at all. Why be a pudding and just mutter and complain afterwards. Apart from that it had been a jolly good party, prize selection is always open to controversy, the people awarding prizes always like feedback, and we had interesting conversations with the two winning editors—and gave them our fulsome congratulations.

**Alastair Everitt**

PS. A selection of the 57 magazines : *Prickwillow Messenger*, *Abingdon and Hildersham News*, *Orwell Bulletin*, *Stansted Mountfitchet Link*, *Huntingdon About Town*, *Meldreth Matters*, *Comberton Contact*, *Sawston Scene*, *Little Paxton Village News*, *Fulbourn Mill*, *Holywell and Needingworth Villager*, *Brampton Parish News*, *Everdens Tail Corn* and so on.



**22nd April 2006 ✂ 7.00 pm**



**TICKETS**

**£15.00**

**(to include 3 course meal & wine)  
available from**

**Ruth Scovil (01638) 743720 or  
Janet Willmott (01638) 743472  
(not later than 15th April please)**



***Proceeds to St Mary's Church***

**REACH FAIR, Monday 1st May**

**Nearly new ladies' clothes Required**

If you have any summer clothes in good condition which people would be thrilled to buy, please leave them at the following from 20-27 April:

Margaret Phillips 50 Lower End 741495

Tricia Harrison Goodwin Manor 742850

Kate Child 73 high Street 743983

PS. If anyone has a hanging rail, please let Kate know. If you could help on the stall, even if only for an hour, it would be appreciated.



# Proclamation of Reach Fair

**Bank Holiday Monday, 1st May, 2006**

YOU WILL BE AWARE that the Mayor of Cambridge and City Councillors travel out in convoy to the village of Reach on the first Bank Holiday of May each year in order to undertake the Proclamation of Reach Fair.

The convoy of vehicles has numbered anything up to 25 cars, and newly minted pennies are thrown to the people who line the route.

Due to the huge number of vehicles trying to access Reach for the Fair, and the fact that the usual park and ride facility organised by Reach Parish Council is unlikely to be possible this year, the City has made alternative arrangements with regard to travelling out to the village. **Four Mayoral cars will still drive out to Reach leaving the Guildhall just after 11 am, and newly minted pennies will be thrown from these vehicles.** However, the remainder of our guests will travel by coach.

I realise that this may disappoint the many people who line the route, and I felt I should make every effort to inform local people of this change. *Sue Edwards*



*On yer bike for this year's Fair*



Reach Fair, c.1933

# **The Village Feast 2006**

**Saturday 13 May**

**at**

**2.00 pm**

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

**\*Maypole Dancing\* \*Bouncy Castle\* \*Can Shy\***

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

**\*Egg Throwing\* \*Raffle\***

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

**\*\*Stalls Galore\*\***

**Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants**

**Gifts and Collectibles and more.....**

**Admission 30p. Children Free**

## **Elderly lady living on Mill Hill needs au-pair/companions 24 hours per day.**

Mainly cooking, light housekeeping and driving.

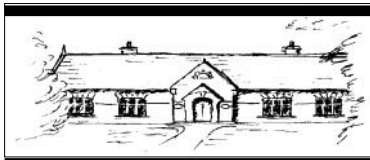
New person/people needed for one day per week at present,  
increasing later.

Would suit non-smoking females, over 21 with full driving  
license (automatic gear car) for daytime  
(8am to 6pm)

Younger non-driver considered for nights.

Will pay £55 to £90 per 24 hours plus meals etc according to  
age and duties.

Phone Cambridge (01223) 515759 for further details.



## Village Hall News

**The Village Hall Management Committee is holding its AGM on Wednesday 26 April at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to come and express an opinion.**

*Janet Cooper*

Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee



## THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE proudly presents "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 7.30pm with a matinee on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 2.30pm.

Performances take place in Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck (6 miles north-east of Cambridge on the B1102)

Tickets cost £6.50 for the Thursday evening performance and £7.50 for Friday and Saturday evening performances. Matinee tickets are £3.50. All tickets include a programme and light interval snack.

This year we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, so watch out for something special!

For tickets or further information, please contact Rosemary Upton on 01638 612173 or email [upton1@ntlworld.com](mailto:upton1@ntlworld.com) Visit our website at [www.sbstgands.co.uk](http://www.sbstgands.co.uk)

This year we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, so watch out for something special!

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

## A Personal View

WHEN THE PC considered a recent planning application I was reminded that we have many now much-loved historic buildings which, in their time, attracted considerable public opposition.

A small extension (bed and bathroom) is proposed behind 5, High Street, one part of the converted barn in the courtyard development that won a Civic Trust Award in 1965. The proposal has attracted comment from neighbours who legitimately fear some (easily correctible) loss of privacy. Most, or all, of the Parish Council, simply dislike the appearance of two small interlocking boxes, with new walls clad in blue/grey brick and timber boarding, climbing up the back slope. No-one actually quoted 'carbuncle on the face of a much-loved mistress' but I would not have been surprised to hear it.



New buildings in a Conservation Area (CA) have to preserve, or now increasingly, enhance its character and appearance. That's because CA's usually contain buildings erected over a long period of time, in different styles, and today is just another period with different styles, (except for 'period' style, which ain't got no style). Though situated within the CA, the existing courtyard buildings are not themselves listed as being of architectural or historical importance.

**“ ....in my opinion, the pretty, gentrified treatment of the gruff old buildings in the courtyard re-development make it rather a weak candidate for special recognition... ”**

The new boxes would probably be seen through the footpath hedge above the site, and from adjacent private gardens. Just the very top of the extension could be glimpsed from one small part of the High Street, with nothing of it at all visible from the courtyard to nos.1,3,5 & 7 as the flat roofs of the new blocks would prevent them from looming over the existing house in front.

So, why the universal opprobrium? Instinctively, we British don't like change and, with the lowest level of visual literacy in Europe, we are nervous about anything just a bit unfamiliar. It's common to see new buildings of (lets' be kind here) indifferent design go up without any comment and, curiously, while some of the best designers are British, their work is much

more appreciated overseas than here at home.

It's also curious that strong comment can be directed at discrete projects like this while the very prominent and unsightly substation on the corner of High Street and Cage Hill continues to be totally ignored. Yes. It's also in the CA.

At the PC meeting I admired the skilful treatment of the extension, broken down into smaller parts to achieve the right scale, and suggested that the mix of materials is not inappropriate. A variety of materials and colour throughout the village is what gives it its special character and appearance. We have many brick types, render and timber boarding too. There is no uniformity of e.g. Stamford

here. The sniffed-at new flat roofs can be said to echo the applauded flat roofs on the courtyard garages and the integrated bus shelter.

The boxes have been accused of looking industrial too but, as the presence of several industrial buildings in the Conservation Area attests (one just across the High street from the site, with boarding) there is no legislation and no reason to exclude or isolate them from neighbouring dwellings; it's a normal feature in many villages. However, the technical and logistical problems here are considerable so, even if planning permission were to be got, I do wonder whether the project would ever see daylight.

I also made friends by suggesting that, in my opinion, the pretty, gentrified treatment of the gruff old buildings in the courtyard re-development make it rather a weak candidate for special recognition.

At the post-mortem, we looked at a postcard above the bar of the Crimson Cat showing an aerial view of St Mary's church with its roof, part-pitched and part-flat! (Perhaps we accept them together only when they enjoy God's blessing).

***Frank Rreadhead***



## **BARBEQUE LUNCH** *at Adventurer's Farm*

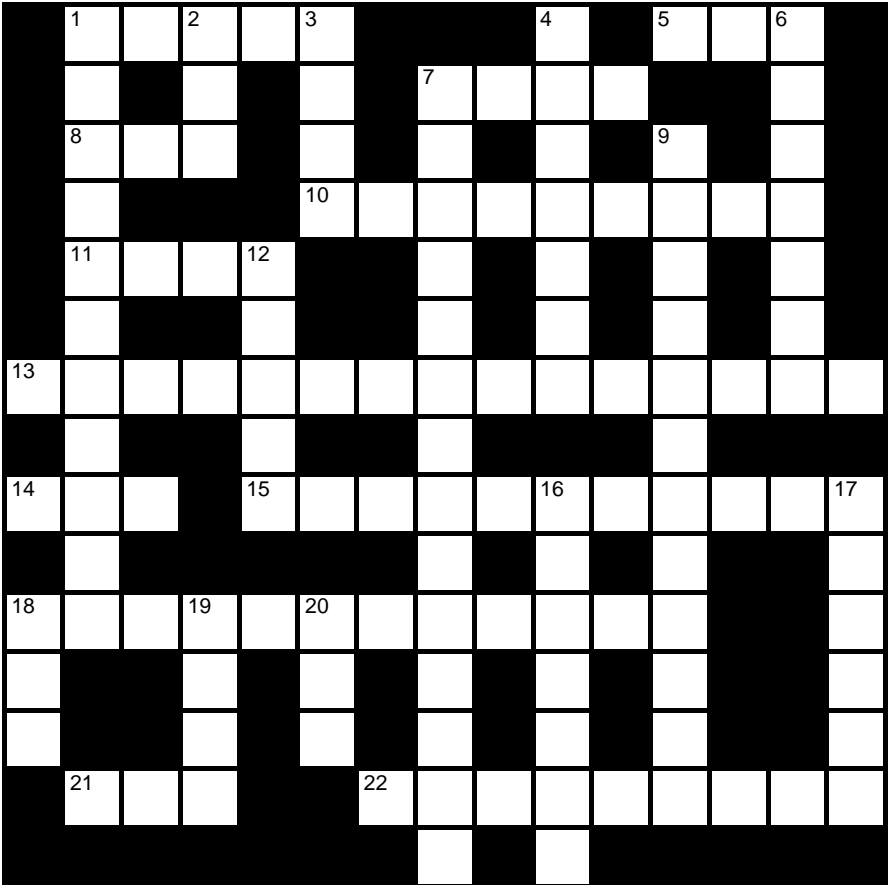
*on*  
**Rogation Sunday (21<sup>st</sup> May)**

*Following the 12 noon service at the Farm*

*For reservations, ring Janet Willmott  
on 01638 743472 by 17<sup>th</sup> May*

*Adults £6  
Primary School children £3.50*

This month’s crossword has a culinary flavour. Send your answers to the editors by 21st April 2006. 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 Dreadfully sated by these fruits (5)
- 5 Container is returned nevertheless (3)
- 7 Hack at meat (4)
- 8 Run out of pot (3)
- 10 Spread from a germ Iran developed (9)
- 11 A race to arouse passion (4)
- 13 Get wine then undo the grocer's maize (6,9)
- 14 Bottle opener and a French roll (3)
- 15 Put spicy punch on the table or in a warm cabinet (3,8)
- 18 Sends brownie perhaps to get hardtack (5,7)
- 21 Hold up jug (3)
- 22 Type of 14 across co-stars in tragedy (9)

## Down

- 1 Make rough dog hut into place to prepare bread (5,6)
- 2 Metal can store food (3)
- 3 Pam's composite meat (4)

- 4 Do a pump action for thin bread (7)
- 6 Sad old hag has colourful container (4,3)
- 7 Cat's-cradle a rum substitute for toffee sauce (7,7)
- 9 Old Bob follows policemen on foot for some tasty morsels (4,8)
- 12 Cogs for grinders (5)
- 16 The best tart is sweet (4,3)
- 17 Bride can't embrace and pour the wine! (6)
- 18 For starters, use sugar, oil and yogurt to make sauce (3)
- 19 Fill up and swig back (4)
- 20 Large 14 for graduate and party leader (3)

**Solution to crossword no. 31**

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

We congratulate **Bob and Julie Nunn**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. An honorable mention goes to Anita Lang.

# Crier Profile: On Your Doorstep

In 1983 a local radio programme “On Your Doorstep” was made about the village of Swaffham Prior. Some of the memories recounted include people who may well have been born a hundred and fifty years ago or more. And do the views from over twenty years ago match those today? Decide for yourselves. An alert reader may also spot the origin of the exclamation “streuth!” in the retelling of events below.

SEVERAL LOCAL VOICES are heard: the first is **Canon John Byrom**, questioned by the interviewer, explaining the origin of the two churches:

The reason is that in the year 1086 the village was divided between the Prior of Ely; a man called Hardwyn or Hardwyr, of Scalere in France; and three knights of Count Alan of Brittany. Well, Hardwyn seems to have dropped out of the picture leaving the parish divided between the two, and that’s how we got the two churches. Nothing to do with two sisters who quarrelled, as people seem to think.

They both have a square tower at the base, octagonal in the case of St Mary’s in the middle, with sixteen sides at the top. St Cyriac’s is simply octagonal above the square base to the top.

*I’ve come a bit further down into the village now*, says the interviewer, (after playing Canon Byrom’s musical request - Bach’s Magnificat) *to Ivy Farm. With me now is **Ida Clark**.*

I was born here, born in the Red Lion. My father was the landlord.

*The village must have changed over the years. What do you think of the changes?*

Sometimes I don’t think they’re for the better. I think people were more content and happier than they are. They didn’t have all the things they’ve got now, and they were far happier with a simpler life.

*What was life like when you were a child?*

Well, we made our own amusements, and everybody was neighbourly. Women would help one another and do things. We had lots of entertainment. There was always something on – whist drives, dances, we had a good cricket club, we had a band – a beautiful band, once. Drum and fife. I think the war finished that. Most of the young men went in the army.

*It must have been around the time of the first world war that the first planes must have come over?*

I did see a Zeppelin. It was one night, and we could hear this thing roaring – they made a terrible noise – and course, everybody went out. We were children, we were in bed, and we were got out of bed and everyone went in the street in their night clothes. The old grocer next door, he was out; and there was a baker just beyond us and he’d got a boy worked for him, and all of a sudden this boy, he was looking up in the sky, he shouted out ‘For God’s truth, there the devil be!’ And there was this Zeppelin, sailing away over our chimney stacks. Of course, it was up in the sky a



good way, but it did made a terrible noise. The little old grocer he kept bending up and down saying, where is it, boy, where is it boy? We says, just above your head! It was a real exciting night. And then there was an old lady farther down the village, they said she came out with a candle in her hand like this, looking for it!

*Of course, in those days, there wouldn't have been electric lights, perhaps not even gas?*

No, we were on candles and oil lights. There were a lot more shops in the village. The old chap next door, he was a grocer and draper; the baker, next door to him; then there was another shop, they sold everything, Asbey's, in front of the church; butchers, two or three butchers – and then there were the tradespeople in from Cambridge, you could get everything. I never went out of the house for anything – hardware, anything. They all came to the door.

Your father ran the pub, but I understand he used to run a kind of pony and trap taxi service for the railway line that used to come up here?

Yes, and then my sister did it. No cars. I remember the old horse buses they had. I do remember I was a little tot travelling in one of them from the station down into the city – it wasn't a city, just Cambridge town then. Everything was horsedrawn then, wasn't it? I remember the first motor car that came in the village, and we all went out to look. It came up my father's yard, one election. There was only Liberals and Tories in those days. It was a Mr Verrall, he was the MP. I don't know quite when this was. A long while before the first war.

*Have you noticed a real change, with a lot of newcomers?*

Too many. It's all newcomers. I don't think there's a dozen old families left.

I suppose people have got to have somewhere to live, and they tend to like to



come in the country.

I think they're running away from themselves. I think they're frightened. That's why they come out into the country. I think they think there might be a war or something.

*Do you have a favourite song we could play for you?*

Yes. Land of Hope and Glory, because it's all disappearing fast. I saw Princess Margaret pull the flag down on the Caribbean the other day, which I thought was sad. It would be better for us to have it as a National Anthem, I think.

*John Clark, says the interviewer next, you are one of those people that everyone seems to know around Swaffham Prior and they say you know everything about it, from the very beginning. So what was it from the very beginning?*

Well there's lots of evidence of very early occupation in Swaffham Prior. Mesolithic man was here; I have Neolithic flints in my collection; I have a bronze axe that Bronze Age man left behind, Iron Age pottery, and I have a Roman villa in one of my fields. I have fragments of wall plaster from the villa, just like you'd see in Italy. The whole area east of Cambridge at the foot of the chalk escarpment was a good site for ancient man to live because there's a spring line. Water wasn't carried far in ancient times and you lived on the spot where the water was. There's a string of villages all the way running from Mildenhall to Cambridge along that spring line. We have a whole series of Roman settlements along the 20-foot contour along the edge of the Fen.

*What do think has changed in the village most since you were a child?*

Well, the village has gone from being a cultural community to, shall I say, a commuting community. When I was a child everyone was employed in agriculture or its ancillary things, like the blacksmith, the village carpenter, the builder and so on, the harness-maker; now, most of the village goes out of the village to work, and that has happened in my lifetime.

*Is that, as your mother said, because there's no shops left in the village to speak of, or because there's nowhere to work in the village? Even farming employs a lot less than it did.*

Farming only employs a handful of people compared to what it did in the past – no, there's nowhere to work for people in the village, this is true, and not likely to be. The village is getting bigger, but that's because we're so close to Cambridge, and everyone works there. Changes in farming methods – you must have seen quite a few.

**“ The Anglo-Saxon name was Great Swaffham, and I can remember people that still called it that. Older people still talk of Swaffham Bulbeck as Little Swaffham.”**

Yes, I've seen a complete changeover from the horse-orientated agriculture – and steam-orientated agriculture – to completely mechanised internal combustion engine agriculture,

*And almost the one-man farm too?*

We had a number of men on this farm: now we

have just myself, my son, and one other man.

*What's special about Swaffham Prior?*

Well the fact that I was brought up here! But it has a wealth of trees, old houses, and the old inhabitants I like. And the churches – they were of two distinct parishes. St Cyriac's - all the land belonged to the Prior of Ely, which gave the village its name, and St Mary's belonged to Anglesey Abbey. 'Swaffham Prior' the name dates from post-Norman Conquest days. The Anglo-Saxon name was Great Swaffham, and I can remember people that still called it that. Older people still talk of Swaffham Bulbeck as Little Swaffham. 'Bulbeck' is a Norman name introduced after the Conquest, by the family that founded the nunnery at Swaffham Bulbeck.\*

*(John chooses Roses of Picardy here as his favourite piece of music)*

Presenter: *I've come to see the Cub Scout leader, **Sandra Houston**, who also used to edit the Swaffham Crier. You've started a new Cubs section here.*

Yes, there hasn't been any Cubs or anything to do with scouting here since about 1916, till we started our new pack in April. No Brownie pack, but we have a junior youth club which started about the same time as the Cub pack. We chose for our group a black scarf with a white border to represent the black Fen soil and the white chalk. We have an active WI with ages range from fourteen to...well, however old Mrs Clark is! She's one of our most senior members. And a keep fit class which is quite well attended.

*You used to edit the Swaffham Crier. I've noticed a lot of villages do these magazines, and they are not like the old parish magazines, are they?*

Obviously the church has its slot...I think it is the way everyone has an opportunity to know what's going on, and we have a village poet, and a village gardening expert and the various organisations that always keep you up to date...it takes a lot of work and, as my successor I'm sure knows now, it's a lot of fun, but certainly, it's very time consuming.

(Sandra Houston here chooses part of Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* as her piece of music and this writer struggles to recall what advertisement this was inextricably associated with in the 70s or 80s – was it something to do with bread?)

**Phil Sheldrick** speaks next:

Buses – it's left to the Eastern Counties now. There used to be a railway – we always called it the Mildenhall Flyer. Excursions out to the coast – when I was a young lad everybody used to get together from Mildenhall to Cambridge and a big excursion train used to be organised for the Sunday School and the choir. We used to go to Clacton and Lowestoft, the two chief ones. It was only about six bob return (30p). Us choir boys, we used to get paid to be in the choir in those days – we used to get a ha'penny a service, and a farthing choir practice. If you were very keen, and you went to all the services - you got paid once a year - it used to work out to about

**“There was a lot more shops and pubs as well – once upon a time it used to take you three or four hours to walk down the village, you'd meet so many people”**

six shillings.

There was a lot more shops and pubs as well – once upon a time it used to take you three or four hours to walk down the village, you'd meet so many people, but now unfortunately everybody goes out to work and they just use the village more for sleeping. You can walk up and down the village now and not meet a soul during the day – or night.

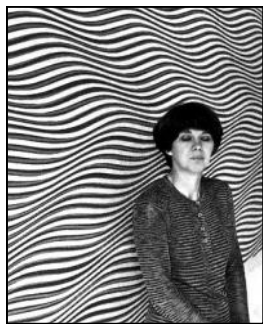
(He chooses a marching band to be played to finish the programme – *Entry of the Gladiators*)

**Mark Lewinski**

(with thanks to Shirley Wilkins for the copy of the tape, and apologies for any inaccuracies in spelling of any proper names – audio tapes can't be questioned about such niceties!)

\* Etymological note: Place names in England usually originate either from a person's name, or a feature of the land. 'Cambridge' is obviously the bridge over the Cam (*We thought it meant **fort** on the River Cam— Eds*), from a time when bridges were rare things; 'Swaffham' would once have been 'Swaffa's Ham' or similar – meaning Swaff's village or settlement. The 'ham' is the stem of 'hamlet' – ie a very small settlement. 'Bulbeck' as a family name would nowadays probably be spelled in French 'Bulbecque'. For those interested in such things, Nottingham was founded by a man called Snot – its Old English name being Snotingas-ham. - *ML*

 <b>THE NATIONAL TRUST</b>		
<b>The Great Anglesey Abbey</b>		
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at		
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Behind the scenes tour of the Gardens: see how we compost		
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*From Bridget Riley...*

# Art History Summer School

## at Swaffham Prior Village Hall

### *Nature into Art: A suitable theme for summer*

*(This is a slide based course by local art historian who teaches at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge)*

Course 1: Tuesday August 1st & Wednesday 2nd  
Course 2: Tuesday August 8th & Wednesday 9th, 10-12.30 a.m.

Artists from Gainsborough in the 18th century to Bridget Riley in the 20th have expressed their love of the landscape, reflecting both exterior and some fascinating interior visions of the changing human relationship with nature. We shall explore their wide variety of responses, from the picturesque to the sublime, in watercolour, oil and even stained glass.

***Special rate for locals: £29 per person including morning refreshments.*** Free parking and quiet picturesque location. When enrolling, please specify course dates preferred and if able to do either, especially as only one of the courses will run if there is insufficient interest.

*For more details and to reserve your place, please ring the tutor on: 01638 - 743259*



*..to Gainsbrough*

# PLANT SALE

## EASTER SUNDAY

16th April  
Gardiner Memorial Hall  
Burwell  
10.00am - 2.00pm

# Points

# mean

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By Our Farming Correspondent  
James Willmott

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AT THIS PRESENT TIME the farming industry as a whole seems to be drowning in paperwork and we are no exception, due in part to two environmental schemes that we are personally taking part in, one compulsory the other voluntary.

As a farming and land related business we have always been acutely aware of our environmental responsibilities, as you have read in previous issues. The two new schemes we are embarking on should in time benefit both the farm and the environment quite considerably.

The first, and compulsory scheme, is called Cross Compliance. This will have to be undertaken by all farmers and landowners in the UK and is linked to the new Single Farm Payment. There are conditions which need to be closely followed to qualify, such as leaving uncultivated margins round each field and not allowing soil erosion of any description i.e. not allowing too much mud to build up around cattle ring feeders in fields or if the cattle drink from a river ensuring that bank erosion is kept to a minimum. These are just a couple of examples from the compulsory scheme but there are countless others!

The second, and in my opinion more interesting, scheme is the Entry Level Scheme (ELS). It is voluntary and for this the farmer has to accumulate points – and as we all know “points mean prizes”. To obtain the “prize” we have to accrue 30 points per hectare of land farmed. To gain the points there are numerous options we can take up, for example hedge maintenance. We are not allowed to cut hedges between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July, except when safety may be compromised as in the case of road junctions or field entrances. This will then allow birds to nest without fear of cutting machinery and we gain 22 points per 100m for leaving both sides untouched and 11 points for one side with the further provision that it can only be carried out once every two calendar years.

Additionally, in these field boundary schemes, there are ditch management options, which for us down on the Fen is a large consideration. Once again, wildlife is the main consideration with nesting birds and small mammals such as water voles. Cutting and cleaning of the ditches can only be done at certain times and with different degrees of cutting such as half or whole resulting in different point totals.

Fertilisers and manures must also be kept at least 2m away from the top of the ditch bank. We have chosen to increase this margin to 6m to incorporate requirements from Cross Compliance and ELS which all adds up to give us 400 points per hectare!!! This 6m margin will now also give us a safe margin when we spray near watercourses, which in turn keeps the Environment Agency happy and our Grain Assured Scheme Inspector.

Another option that we have taken up is to plant wild bird seed mixes in field corner and other “hard to farm” areas. We will have to manage these so the more



*Drainage ditch, cut only on the top with margin on top of bank*

robust and competitive weeds to not swamp the young seedlings, but given good weather conditions and favourable growing conditions the birds will benefit in the long term.

To accomplish all this I have to measure every single field in the scheme on foot and make all the necessary calculations along with numerous other tasks which is time consuming and at times tedious, but given time this effort will lead to a much better environment for all concerned. For this second scheme we are rewarded to the tune of £30 per hectare provided that we accumulate a total of 25,830 points. However, by the time we have measured the areas, established all of the grass margins etc I suspect we will be out of pocket, but it will make us feel good and it recognises the fact that we need to look after and nurture what is around us for the future.

On the farm people have had time off for holidays and we are now just starting to gear up for the first busy period of the year, fertilising the oilseed rape followed by drilling the linseed. We have increased the acreage for the latter as we will not be growing any peas this year as the costing for this has now reached the stage where there is no point growing it any more. Unfortunately other crops seem to be heading in the same direction.....

*James Willmott*

## School News

CHILDREN FROM CLASS 1 AND 2 were joined by members of Little Windmill's playgroup for a lively performance of the Toymaker's Apprentice. With lots of audience participation, children enjoyed this whimsical tale of a scatty toymaker and his quest to make a set of traffic lights to stop the congestion on the palace bridge, all so the King could have his lunch on time!

Meanwhile Class 3 is anticipating a morning of story telling. To link with their history topic, children will hear tales from Ancient Egypt.

Class 4 joined in a Circle Link schools' activity, solving the mystery of the stolen bike. Here is their account of their two action packed mornings.



## NET DETECTIVES

*A report by Class 4 (all characters are fictional)*

*On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March a silver mountain bike was stolen from Upware Field Study Centre. It was going to be use as a prize in a competition to raise money for charity. It was stored in a shed in the centre grounds.*

*On Monday morning we linked up with police and witnesses to find out more about the crime. By setting up a network of computers it was possible to e-mail police and witnesses to find key information. Form this session we have learned more about the witnesses and found out who the suspects are.*

*Our first witness was Sid Goose who is a wildfowler who lives near the river. He saw a lady riding a bike similar to the bike stolen. He also saw a boy crying near a bonfire.*

*Our second witness was Gerry Blythe a local boat owner. He saw a silver bike on a boat and a greeting card dropped on the tow path. A bit later he saw a man standing near the boat with the bike.*

*Our third witness was Harry Carter, a young person who was playing football in the car park. About 4pm he saw a lady riding a bike, in a hurry. She dropped something on the verge. He didn't know what it was.*

*Suspect 1 is an IT specialist at Upware. He is a guitarist who might need the bike to get to an audition, 5 miles away.*

*Suspect 2 is Jake Radcliff, the gardener's assistant. He had been seen crying by the bonfire. A piece of mudguard was found in the fire, perhaps his bike had been burned or damaged which would give him a motive for stealing the new bike. So he could have stolen the bike to get around the village. His footprint matched with the one that was found by the shed but he could have been mowing the lawn.*

*Suspect 3 is Anne Gibson, a secretary at the centre. A piece of material found at the crime scene matched her coat. She said she was in a hurry to get to the post box, so this might have been her motive. However, she didn't need to be in a hurry,*



*because there was no pick up on Sunday it was Monday to Friday 4.00 - 5.00pm.*

*Suspect 4 is Bruce Osborne, a handyman at the centre. He lives in a boat near the lock and has a grandson called Charlie who wanted a bike for his birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> March.*

*Our fifth suspect is Ruth Edwards. She received an e-mail saying there was a squash tournament at 4.30 on the day of the crime, so she might have needed the bike to get there in time. She was seen by Harry Carter at ten to four rushing to the event. He also saw her drop her squash racket.*

*When we were in the forensic evidence laboratory we tested samples of clues found at the scene of crime. First we used a syringe to test DNA samples of blood found on the lock of the shed. The results pointed towards Bruce Osborne. Next we did fingerprints which again showed Bruce Osborne. A footprint was found at the scene of crime. By doing a wax rubbing of the different suspect's shoes we found out that they matched Jake Radcliff. We looked at hair which also matched Jake Radcliff. A pen and handwriting found in the shed suggested that Jez Holliwood was the thief. To finish off we looked at cloth which showed Anne Gibson to be a suspect.*

*Every group went down the tow path and we saw Bruce. We asked him some questions he answered our questions but we thought he looked very suspicious. We discovered that he was in the centre on the day of the burglary. He had a cut on his finger but he said he cut it on a nail while making a bird house but he denied ever knowing about a bike.*

*In conclusion we finally figured out that the main suspect was Bruce Osborne. He stole the bike for his grandson's birthday. Jazmin read the charge and he was taken away for further questioning.*

*Each year Circle Schools, those primaries which feed in Bottisham Village College, have a special event. Last year it was a dance day and this year the especially organised science detective day, which was made all the more interesting by practical activities and the use of e-mail.*

*The trim trail at the front of the school is now complete – the last piece of equipment was installed last month. Thanks to FoSPS for all their fundraising.*

## **Term Dates 2006-2007**

### Autumn Term 2006

#### **Staff Training Days 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September**

5<sup>th</sup> September to 19 December

Half Term from 23-27 October

#### **30<sup>th</sup> October Staff training**

Christmas Holiday – 20th December  
– 3rd January

### Spring Term 2007

#### **Staff Training Day 3 January 4th**

January to 30th March Half Term from  
12th February to 16th February **19<sup>th</sup>**

#### **February Circle School training**

Easter Holiday – 31st March – 15th  
April 2007

### Summer Term 2007

16th April to 20th July 2007

May Day 7th May

Y6 SATs week 14<sup>th</sup> May -18<sup>th</sup> May

Half Term from 28th May to 1st June  
2007

## FoSPS News

Having financed the new “trim trail” in the school playground, FoSPS are now turning their attention to much-needed computer equipment. Clare Freeman tells us how.

THE FRIENDS OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR SCHOOL (FoSPS) have been busy with fundraising since the start of the school year and have just seen the latest result of their endeavours installed at the School – the final piece of the ‘trim trail’ in the front playground. Our next target is to raise £1,000 for computer equipment, and then to fund an exciting new project for the school playground.

We have numerous other fundraising activities planned over the coming months, several of which we’d like to invite the wider community to join in:

**We want your recipes!** We are collecting recipes to compile into a recipe book which will be sold to raise funds for the School. As well as recipes from current children at the School, we would also welcome recipes from former pupils and staff, or from anyone who used to be connected with the School. If you wish you can add a short piece about yourself, the recipe or your memories of the School which will be included in the book along with your recipe. You can drop your recipes off at the School or give them to any parent who will hand them in for you. For more information contact Liz Tabecka on 742552.

**Sale of bedding plants:** We purchase plants in bulk from a nursery in Norfolk and sell them on to parents, neighbours etc at a discount. We first ran this promotion last year and everyone commented on the quality of the plants. If you would like an order

### Forthcoming Events

24 April: Sale of children's books, toys and games, School Hall 3.00pm

24 April: FoSPS meeting, School, 8.00pm

form but don’t have a child at the School, please contact Clare Freeman on 741316. Order forms must be returned by 28 April and delivery will be in early May.

**Sale of children’s books, videos and toys:** This will take place in the School Hall from 3.00pm on Monday 24 April. Why not come along and pick up a bargain?

**Better odds than the Lottery! Do you want the chance to win £20, or £50? Then buy** one of our ‘100 Club’ numbers from Dee Noyes (tel: 743864). Every year we sell 100 numbers for £10 each. Each month two numbers are drawn from a hat and the lucky winners receive £20 each (or £50 at the Christmas draw). The money raised is used exclusively to fund school trips. There are just 30 numbers left to be sold, so give Dee a call before they are all snapped up.

And finally, we will be raffling our annual ‘Barrow of Booze’ at Reach Fair. Last year this event raised £991.00 for the School and we are hoping to beat this total in 2006. So if you’re going to Reach Fair don’t forget to buy a couple of tickets from the shifty-looking folk huddled around the wheelbarrow groaning under the weight of bottles of beer, wine, vodka, whiskey, champagne, etc etc.

*Clare Freeman*



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

WE WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED to welcome Philip Whaite, Head Gardener for the last 25 years at Wimpole Hall, to our meeting; our first speaker of the year!

His topic was "Wimpole Hall gardens-past, present and future", which was very well illustrated with slides-the first being a plan of the garden in 1705, going right through to the present day.

In the early 18th century the garden was purely formal and had a large orangery. By the later part of the same century, Capability Brown, had swept away all the formal gardens to create open parkland, which in its turn in the 19th century, was back largely to the formal Victorian style, complete with a beautiful conservatory, which had a lovely Minton floor. During the inter-war years the garden became rather neglected and Mrs Bambridge (Kipling's daughter) had the conservatory pulled down—probably because it was too expensive to run.

The National Trust bought the property in 1975 and since then it has once again been a story of restoration-back too Victorian formality. The Dutch garden, full of Anemone Blanda; the parterre-planted in 1995, with 6000 box plants and still on going, the walled garden, which now grows all the vegetables for the Hall's restaurant and contains a wonderful "hot" garden in the summer.



The magnificent Wimpole Hall — its gardens have oscillated between formal and Capability Brown

Wimpole gardeners, of whom there are three full time and forty volunteers, don't seem to do anything by halves; bulbs are planted by the ton and dahlias by the thousand! Royalties from Kipling's work. money made from the sale of their vegetables and grants from gardening organizations, fund their considerable expenses.

There are still many more projects planned, including a water garden and meanwhile fund raising events continue. On the 19th and 20th August, there is another Tomato Day! 60 to 70 varieties to see and taste-all grown from seed by Mrs Whaite. But beware- as the last slide said-all plant thrives will be composted.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th April, when our speaker will be Peter Walker talking about the ancient ancestors and wild relatives of our garden plants.

**NB-please let us know if you would like to come to Sissinghurst Gardens on Sat. 1st July-an all day trip. Contact Roger Connan-742182 or Margaret Joyce-744390.**



## WI Notes

In March the W.I. held their Annual General Meeting. It was well attended and as usual Mrs. Jeanie King and Mrs. Jean Nash from Swafham Bulbuck came as Tellers. They were thanked and presented with small gifts.

The Treasurer reported that the finances were in a stable position, having made a very slight profit, the first time for several years. The Secretary then presented her annual report written in rhyme to make it more interesting and the President thanked the members of the committee particularly the Secretary and Treasurer for the work they all do to keep the Institute running smoothly.

As Margaret Phillips had agreed to stand as President for the forthcoming year, and as there were the required number of committee members, there was no need for a ballot.

After refreshments the members tried to match the children's' photographs on display to current members without a great deal of success. The evening ended with light-hearted quizzes supplied by Margaret Joyce and Margaret Phillips.

**On 10th April Sue Elliott is giving us a talk on Alzheimer's Disease and as reported last month this will be an 'open' meeting. All are welcome so come and join us at 7.30 pm. In the Village Hall.**

*Betty Prime*

## What's on at Bottisham Royal British Legion

APRIL STARTS OFF with Bingo on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd. For Easter we have a family disco on Saturday 15th April starting at 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. £5 per family. Easter Sunday 16th April Bingo will start at 7.30 p.m. and will be followed at 9.30 p.m. with entertainment by Roly and there will also be a raffle.

Sunday 23rd April is St. Georges Day and we have Rob Dean, a professional singer to entertain us from 8 p.m. until 10.30 p.m. £3 for members and £5 for guests.

The Men's Darts Final is on Tuesday 25th April. On Saturday 29th April Charlie Brown is here with his Soul Disco from 8.30 p.m. until late. This is a tickets only function, £3 for members and £5 for guests.

On Friday May 5th we have a Darts Night with the No. 3 in the world, Ronnie Baxter. The doors will open at 7.30 p.m. and this is a tickets only event, price £3. We look forward to seeing you. **Jacky Cameron**

### Totally Taurus

My daily horoscopes  
Leave me sad,  
In the paper,  
Black on white.

When they're bad  
They're never wrong,  
When they're good  
They're never right.

I could believe them  
If I had  
One good reason,  
Even slight.

Now I'll add,  
And pitch it strong:  
In the main  
I find them trite.

**Ophir**

# THE READING GROUP READS....

## *THE MYSTERIES OF GLASS*

by Sue Gee

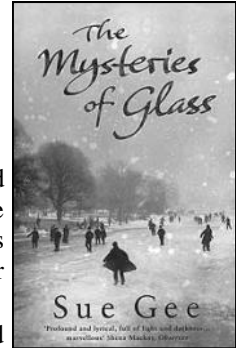
IT IS JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS in 1860. Richard Allen, newly ordained, arrives at a railway station in the Herefordshire countryside. The engine belches steam, it is bitterly cold, the first stars are coming out. The crossing keeper lights the way to his cottage with a lantern.

Richard has come to take up his first curacy. His father had been a priest and Richard finds he slips naturally into his father's ways, taking immense pains with his sermons, coping easily with parish small talk, making friends. But he falls in love with his rector's wife, Susannah, and she with him. He has begun to betray his calling and his faith is shaken. Was he turning towards a world without light? 'How did solid earth become translucent glass?'

The countryside is a powerful presence in this book, magical in all its seasons -a countryside in those days still whole and unfettered, not the diminished natural world we know today. Some of us felt this was so beautifully evoked, that we could have done without the love story.

But the book is not only about two lovers in 19th century England and the mystery of faith; it is also about the rigidity of Victorian codes of behaviour for men and women. Cruelty could be hidden behind a male facade of upstanding virtue, one who poses as a pillar of the church and of society. Richard stumbles across such a man and makes an enemy. So the answer was '...through purification by fire'.

I had been afraid as I read the book that it might end with a whimper; but it didn't — it went out in a blaze of anger and with an idea for service in a different field. The Reading Group meets again on Wednesday, 5 April at 8 p.m. at Janet Cooper's, 41 High Street, when we will be discussing *The Harmony Silk Factory* by Tash Aw.



**Meryl Moore**

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## Skye Weather

We've had snow, it is true, a mere  
centimetre or two  
Though you may find that hard to  
believe;  
Yet in the East, there's been five  
inches at least,  
Such imbalance is hard to  
conceive.

It's now all but gone, and it didn't  
last long  
The birds and the daffs are  
relieved.  
Spring's on its way, give it just one  
more day,  
If the forecasts can be believed.

**Ophir**



## STAINED HUNDRED

AT THE MARCH MEETING, Hilary Ritchie, archivist at Addenbrookes Hospital, gave an interesting talk about its history. Dr John Addenbrooke, born in 1680, had trained as a doctor in Cambridge and then Paris. In his will dated 1719, he left money for a “small physical hospital in Cambridge for poor people”.

He died later that year in Buntingford and his wife died six months later, There are few artifacts to tell about his life as he destroyed them, including a painting of himself, before his death. He left the sum of £4500 and was the first Englishman to leave money for the foundation of a hospital. After numerous delays, the hospital opened in 1766, with 20 beds housing 11 patients, 3 surgeons and 3 physicians. The first Matron, Mrs Perry, received £10 per year with a gratuity of £5. She had to oversee all the housekeeping as well as the nursing staff. Nurses, who were untrained, and were paid only £5 per year, often lost their jobs within weeks for misbehaviour. The first nursing training scheme was started in 1880 but probationers had to pay to be trained and



*Original Addenbrookes: a “small, physical hospital in Cambridge for poor people”.*

mostly came from Scotland and other far away places. It was one of the last hospital to charge nurses for training. Doctors who took their degree at Cambridge University would go on to London Hospitals to complete their training as Addenbrookes did not provide enough scope or variety of illness since it was mainly used by the poor. A wing was added on each side of the original hospital and later the building was largely rebuilt and extended in

1866 and continued to expand with more clinics and services provided until it outgrew its site and moved to the Hills Road site in the early 1950s.

Addenbrookes is fortunate to have the archives on site. All the patient's case notes between 1876 and the end of WWII are stored there but those less than 100 years old are not generally available.

**The next meeting will be held in the Youth Centre on April 12<sup>th</sup> when John Sutton will be talking about “Charles II and Newmarket”.** One of the Staine Hundred members, Joan Shaw, has recently published a book about Newmarket.

The Summer Outing will be on Tuesday, June 13, leaving Bottisham church at 9.15. There will be a visit to Cressing Barns, spectacular medieval timbered barns, followed by a visit to a Secret Nuclear Bunker dating from 1952. All inclusive price is £28. Ring Peter Arnold 822596 or Stewart Bell 811570 for further details.

***Peggy Day***



From disrepair to....

Good As New  
**TO LET**  
 THREE  
 SMALL ROOMS

Many thanks to Kim Sheldrick  
 who brought this all about.



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

**Having a Spring clean?  
 Please don't forget the  
 BULBECK AUCTION**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2006  
 Downing Farm  
 Swaffham Bulbeck**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May -- Goods received between 5pm - 9pm**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Viewing from 9am.**

**Selling starts at 10am.**

**Commission Fee 25%**

**Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772**



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL has now set this years level of council tax. There will be a 2.5 % increase. The band D levels in the ward are as follows. Reach £1238-94p, Swaffham Bulbeck £1240-65p, Swaffham Prior £1241-10p.

With East Cambs budget for next year having now been finalised and following several rounds of talks across the county we are able to confirm there will be a Cambridgeshire Countywide concessionary fares scheme providing free bus travel for the “over 60s” and other groups who qualify for bus passes within the boundaries of our district. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, the old (pre April 06) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough scheme will be replaced with a new scheme that enables free travel on local bus journeys within the district boundary where you live. It will also allow travel at a reduced fare (compared to the full adult fare) on journeys that cross your district or city boundary in Cambridgeshire. Passes can only be used after 9.30am, Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Blind or partially sighted residents with bus passes will be able to travel free on any journeys within the county boundary. Bus passes are available for the following groups:-



- Pensioners (men and women over the age of 60);
- People who qualify for the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance and the War Pensioners Mobility Supplements; • Those registered deaf;
- Those who are without speech, and can provide medical evidence;
- Those who are prevented from obtaining a driving licence on medical grounds;
- Those registered blind or partially sighted;
- Those who have a learning disability which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning;
- Those who have long term loss of the use of both arms. Leaflets explaining the new scheme together with detailed route maps are being published and should be available for distribution next week.

Reach Fair will soon be upon us. Unfortunately this year we will not have the use of the field at Rogers Road, Swaffham Prior for car parking. But hopefully a field will be available at Swaffham Road, Reach.

If this proves to be the case it will be well sign posted, thus avoiding parking by the road side in Swaffham Prior.

So let us hope for a sunny day and once again a very enjoyable Fair day.



**The Budget process is continuing and although the** consultation has been on whether a 4%, 5% or 6% increase is preferred by council taxpayers the cabinet seem to be set on 5%. This will still mean cuts in services. It will be decided at the February Council meeting but all budgets are going through the scrutiny process at the moment.

**Burwell Library** has now opened and is worth visiting. There are number of events happening throughout March, which is Local & Family History Month., including talks, workshops and exhibitions.



**The Mobile Library that visits Swaffham Prior has new times.**

On 14/2, 28/2, 14/3, 28/3, 11/4 and 25/4 it will stop at Cage Hill (ex post office) between 3.05pm and 3.45pm and at the Chapel between 3.50pm and 4.10pm.

On alternate Tuesdays the times are Cage Hill from 2.40pm to 3.30pm and at the Chapel from 3.35pm to 4pm.

For renewals or enquiries ring 0845 045 5225

**The Village Benefits Advice Service operated by** Cambridgeshire County Council for the last 11 years provides advice and help with Social Security Benefits. Many whom they help are elderly or disabled and home visits can be arranged.

Throughout the county incomes are being boosted by £2 million a year.

More information can be obtained on 01353 666990

More than 1.6 million people, a rise of more than 20% in the last year, now use the five **Park and Ride** sites around Cambridge. They have played a vital role in keeping traffic levels static in the city centre. Families can have free travel for up to three children if accompanied by an adult.

**A £25 million Private Finance Initiative for Waste disposal is being evaluated at the moment.**

I was fortunate enough to be one of a group of officers and members who visited the area around Hamburg in Germany to see a number of waste treatment plants to help inform our decisions.

We investigated technologies including Mechanical and Biological Treatment and Energy from Waste as well as becoming better informed about legislation.

Cambridgeshire is the top county in the country for re-cycling domestic waste, with 47% being diverted from landfill. The challenge will be to continue this upward trend but also press home the message of waste minimisation, then over the next year come to a decision about what happens to the residue.

# Notes from the Parish Council March Meeting

## Notes from Parish Council March Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 5 members of the Public.

### **Reports:**

**CCC–Cllr Hazel Williams**—apologies were received. A written report from Cllr Williams was read to the meeting.

**ECDC** – Cllr Alan Alderson reported to the meeting.

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported to the meeting.

### **Matters Arising:**

a) *Confirmation of Bus Stops, Rogers Road:* Replies to letters sent to both Stagecoach & CCC were received. Both noted that they would be looking at the unmarked bus stops to see what could be done. This is ongoing.

**The Pound – Fire Engine:** Burwell Museum remain interested in displaying the Fire Engine. The Chairman of the Museum Committee is to contact the Clerk with a view to measuring up the Fire Engine and moving to the Museum.

**Admin Item – dates for meetings 2006/07 + date for Annual Village Assembly:** The dates were agreed with the meetings being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (there will be no August meeting unless called). The Annual Village Assembly will be at the Village Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 (see separate notice for further details).

**Clerk's Gratuity – as requested by the PCRF:** This was agreed and back payments made to the Clerk.

**Accounts for Payment:** These were agreed.

**Planning Applications including:** 5 High Street – *single-storey extension to the rear*. Concerns were expressed about the new extension overlooking neighbouring property. The PC objected to this application.

**Planning Approval:** Highbridge Farm, S.P. Fen – *change of use of paddock land to all weather ménage with 6No floodlights and provision of a new vehicular access to existing stable block*.

### **Any Other Business:**

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that signs had been placed at the entrance to the Recreation Ground noting that this field is no longer the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Andrew Camps asked that CCC Highways be contacted with reference to the damaged road edging, Lower End, asking that this be repaired.

It was noted that the missing “passing place” signs have still not been replaced on Whiteway Drove. This will be chased with CCC Highways.

### **Open Question Time:**

There were general discussions.

**The next meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on April 13.**

***DON'T FORGET!!***

**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY  
ON: WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006  
AT: THE VILLAGE HALL.  
TIME: 7.30PM**

*Your Village needs you!!*

*Karen King  
Clerk of the Parish Council*

## Crier Sudoku No 3

**Hard**

	1		2				4	
					9	6	1	
8			1		7	3		
	7				6			4
5	6				8	2		
		8						
3				5	2			
								7
			9		3	1		

Fill in the rest of the numbers so that each row, column and box has all of the digits 1—9.

Set by Chris Carrington



## Lode Baptist Chapel

# Happy Easter...?

Are you one of the millions who have seen Mel Gibson's movie 'The Passion of the Christ'? The film reportedly sold nearly nine million copies during its first week in stores – meaning that it now holds the record for the best debut week ever for a live-action video. Did you know, however, that Mel Gibson said that the movie “had its genesis during a time in which I found myself trapped with feelings of terrible, isolated emptiness”?

Although many of us struggle with such emotions during our lives, I guess we often imagine that being rich and famous would make us immune to these dark feelings. So what did Mel Gibson do? Well, he said that “the only effective resource for me was prayer, I asked God for His help.” The Easter story, depicted in Gibson's film, shows us that Jesus also struggled with isolation and the other human emotions which are common to us all. When we pray, we know that we are in a conversation with a God who understands.

But, of course, the Easter headline is that 'Christ is Risen!' Jesus not only experienced the thing which we fear the most, death - He overcame it on our behalf! “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.” (The Bible, John 3:16).

Mel Gibson's hope when he made the film was that “many more people would recognise the power of God's love and let Him help them”. You may be looking forward to the long bank holiday weekend, the chocolate eggs and tasty hot cross buns, but this year why not look for the real joy of Easter?

**Come and experience the interactive Easter Exhibition 'Love Hurts...' in Lode Chapel, along with Easter Egg Treasure Trail in the chapel garden for children:**

10am – 4pm, Monday 10th to Thursday 13th April.

2pm – 5pm, Good Friday, 14th April

10am – 4pm, Easter Saturday, 15th April.

**Join us at Bottisham Primary School for a special Easter Day Family Service: 10.30am, Easter Sunday, 16th April.**

**We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.**

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30 with Sunday School.

For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB5 9EW.

Email: [simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk)

## **Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

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

### **St Mary's News**

We now have a superb sound system in Church; also a loop system has been installed for those using hearing aids. This project was initiated by Jan Petersen directing the £260 raised at his farewell service towards equipment for the family services.

The Pancake evening on February 28<sup>th</sup> was a lovely way to get together and meet newcomers. The vicar, David Lewis, gave a brief résumé of the various ways in which people could help the Church. It was very encouraging to have offers of help with some of the rotas.

Thank you to Chris Lewis who will assist with the daily opening and shutting of the two churches. If we had more volunteers it would be really helpful. It would be easy to incorporate in dog walks or walking children to school.

Thank you everyone.

*Tricia Harrison*

### **FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

**Movable Feast 22 April**

**Tickets from Ruth Scovil 743720 by  
the 15 April.**

**Reach Fair,**

**May Bank Holiday Monday. Nearly  
New ladies' clothes stall. Ring Kate  
743983**

**Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon,**

**18 June, Red Lion Beer Garden 2-5  
pm**

**Quiz Night,**

**23 September, Village Hall, 7pm**

### **Baby & Toddler Sale**

A large selection of new and nearly new clothes, books, toys, games, crafts, nursery equipment, ride-ons, outdoor toys, CDs/videos/DVDs and lots, lots more.....

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2006**

**10:00am – 12 noon**

**Bottisham Youth & Community Centre  
(next to the Holy Trinity Church on the High Street)**

## **Bargains Galore!**

**Everyone Welcome**



## Church of England Services

### April 2006

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 2</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion BCP <b>9:30am</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>BCP</sup> <b>11:00am</b>	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Fri</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Good Friday Meditation	<b>9:00am</b> Good Friday Meditation	<b>11:30am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sat 15</b>	<b>8:00pm</b> Easter Eve Service		<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service

#### PASTORAL LETTER, April 2006

#### Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

April is my favourite month of the year. My wife's and my youngest son's birthday both fall in April, but best of all Easter invariably falls in April too. April is a month that seems to speak to me of new hope, new life, and new joy and happiness. As the great pre-Raphaelite poet Christina Rossetti so eloquently puts it:

*Spring bursts today,  
For Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.*

An old legend tells of a parish priest who found a branch of a thorn tree twisted

around so that it resembled a crown of thorns. Thinking it a symbol of the crucifixion of Christ, he took it into his chapel and placed it on the altar on Good Friday. Early on Easter morning he remembered what he had done. Feeling it was not appropriate for Easter Sunday, he hurried into the church to clear it away before the congregation came. But when he came into the church, he found the thorn branches blossoming with beautiful roses.

Crowns have always been the sign of authority and Kingship. Charlemagne, whom historians say should deserve to be called "great" above all others, wore an octagonal crown. Each of the eight sides was a plaque of gold, and each plaque was studded with emeralds, sapphires, and pearls. The cost was the price of a king's ransom. Richard the Lion Heart had a crown so heavy that two earls had to stand, one on either side, to hold his head. The crown that Queen Elizabeth wears is worth over £20 million. Edward II once owned nine crowns, something of a record.

Put them all together, from all of Europe and from the archives of the East, all of them are but trinkets compared to Christ's crown. Revelation 19 says he had many diadems. He wears a crown of righteousness. He wears a crown of glory. He wears a crown of life. He wears a crown of peace and power. Among those crowns, one outshines the rest. It was not formed by the skilled fingers of a silversmith, nor created by the genius of a craftsman. It was put together hurriedly by the rough hands of Roman soldiers. It was not placed upon his head in pomp and ceremony, but in the hollow mockery of ridicule and blasphemy. It is the crown of thorns.

That crown of thorns is an everlasting symbol of the massive sacrifice that he made for you and me. But, as that lovely legend of the flowering crown of thorns reminds us, Easter Day is about the wonderful victory that he achieved over death itself; a victory that affirms the victory of the cross for each one of us. As the lovely hymn 'Crown Him With Many Crowns' proclaims:

*Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.  
all hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.*

I wish you all a very happy and joyful Easter.

*David*

Wed	5	Reading Group, 8pm, 41 High St	<b><i>Dates for Your Diary</i></b>
Sun	9	Spark in Judea, 4pm, St Cyriac's	
Mon	10	WI Open Meeting, Alzheimer's Disease, 7.30pm	
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3.45, Chapel 3.50-4.10	
Wed	12	Charles II and Newmarket, Stain Hundred, 8pm, Bottisham Youth Centre	
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30 VH	
Fri	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>	
Sat	15	Bach's St John's Passion, Cambridge Voices, 5pm, St Cyriac's	<b>April 2006</b>
Sun	16	EASTER DAY PLANT SALE, Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell, 10.00am - 2.00pm	
Mon	17	MUSIC FOR EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, St Cyriac's, 5pm	
Tue	18	Village Gardener's, VH	
Sat	22	Moveable Feast, 7pm Bay and Toddler Sale, 10am-12pm, Bottisham Youth Centre	
Mon	24	Sale of children's books, toys and games, School Hall 3.00pm FoSPS meeting, School, 8.00pm	
Tue	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3.45, Chapel 3.50-4.10	
Wed	26	Village Hall AGM, 8pm, VH	
Mon	1	Reach Fair, 12 noon, Reach	

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Fleur Routley	743992	Tues	2:30-4:00pm	Village Hall
Messy Play	Julia Turner	742688	Thurs	2.00-2.45	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

***Village  
Clubs  
&  
Societies***