



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 7

Summer 2006



Editorial

LOOK WHAT A FINE MESS you got us into Stanley! Yes, the mess in question is the delayed August/September Crier and of course the completely missing July Crier — are we going *quarterly* now, readers may well ask.

Certainly not, but it's one thing to get into a fine mess, and another to get out of it. It is now just 8 ½ years since our very first *Crier* editorial and until now the *Crier* has sailed serenely on, quite regardless of *stuff happening*. Yes, anyone who might be thinking *they* would have done better should send in their application and supporting CV. But we're back now, with particular thanks to long-suffering Ruth Stinton, Alastair Everitt and supportive readers and contributors generally, with MANY APOLOGIES

to all those adversely affected.

Meanwhile, not a great deal has been happening: fortuitously only 44 pages of happenings at any rate. The *Crier* Eds (along with other Village Magazine Editors) went on a trip to see the Cambridge Evening News—who forgot we were coming. Not to worry, we still had an excellent time and took the opportunity to smartly point out that whereas their 'new improved' production technology could only mean sackings at CEN—yes, that's progress for you—for the *Crier*, it meant expanding our editorial staff. And long may it last, as the Eds could not help but notice that there were really quite a lot of people doing *their* job at CEN. Back for October (promise!)

Caroline Matheson



Distant Guardian Readers on the Dyke

Cover Picture: Granta House by Tina Jost

REGULARS

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Staine Hundred	12
Crier Profile: Barb & Dave	16
Crier Sodoku	21
Ophir	22, 35
Bottisham British Legion	23
CROSSWORD	24
Crossword Winners	26
Neighbourhood Police	26
School News	30
Midday Supervisor	31
WI	32
Village Gardeners	32
Reading Group	35
CLlr Williams	36
PC Notes	38
Lode Chapel	40
St Mary's News	41
Church Services	42
David Lewis	43
Diary	44

NEWS, VIEWS & REVIEWS

An Extraordinary Crier	
Report	10
Village Feast	3
News from the North	7
Watch the Clock!	9
Red Lion Jazz	8
Unique Gifts for Kids	15
No Cricket!	23
School Fete	28
Rogation Sunday	30
Imagine	39
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Harvest Show	11
Bach's Masterworks	13
Coffee Morning	14
Harvest Show	22
Quiz Night	27
Harvest Supper	29
Ely's Party	37

FOR SALE

Freecycle	26
...AND ALSO	
A Daytrip to Sissinghurst	34



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Exposed in the Crier, damn it!

Yes. I did build us a new home in 1972, and a second (here) in 2001.
Yes. I did try to find a building plot for a newly married daughter, so
Yes. I did offer planning advice on an obscure self-build website,
my only such 'advert' of its sort anywhere.
Yes. I have recently advised several people on planning matters
(without reward).

Some developer!

Incidentally, the same rigorous investigative techniques reveal that James Matheson was an opium smuggler in China.

Frank Readhead.

PS Our 2nd daughter plans to marry in 2007, so now I need two plots.
If your large garden is proving a bit too much to handle, let's talk.

Eds note: Frank separately asked why he was not given the opportunity to reply last month. The Crier's policy is that we don't pass around letters or articles for comment prior to publication unless significant facts appear likely to be in question or the content might be likely to cause distress (or occasionally if we want to hurry things along); we could otherwise end up with a long series of letters in a single issue! Remember the great Shakespeare debate?

Dear Editors

On the Buses

Gordon Brown's bizarre initiative to subsidise travel for the aged has given us all a good source of conversation and correspondence. My experiences have been less cunning than Joan Rest's, but perhaps as weird.

The first time I took the after 9.30am option of a £1.80 return journey to Cambridge we only got as far as Bottisham before running out of diesel. (I suppose they can't afford it now.) We had to await a relief vehicle before proceeding and I was nearly late for an appointment for which I had allowed one and a quarter hours journey time. More exhilarating (and economical) was a recent trip to St Neot's. The young driver took one look at me, asked if I had a senior travel card, ignored my remonstrations that it was only for East Cambs – and charged me £1.00.

Elisabeth Everitt

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Cancer Relief Coffee Morning

Our village's contribution to the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief is going to be held on Friday 29th September at my house, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior from 10.30 am to 12 noon. There will be Home Made Cakes and Savouries, which I am hoping many of you will be happy to provide - or purchase if you are happier to buy than to cook! We will also have a Raffle with, I hope, some tempting prizes!

Last year the grand total raised nationwide was an amazing £6.3 million - the most successful year so far. Our final total was £472 which was excellent. All the money we raise goes directly to the local branch of Macmillan Cancer Relief.

If you haven't been before you are very welcome to come along on Friday 29th September. It's a great way to meet some new people. If you have been before I look forward to welcoming you once again and hoping that you will all be able to contribute to a record breaking year!

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

FOSPS Summer Fair

Many thanks to all of the villagers who attended the Friends of Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair on July 1st. We had a wonderful, though very hot, afternoon and raised £965. This is a fantastic amount which will go towards our next project for the children to enjoy: a low level traverse climbing wall.

THAT VILLAGE FEAST

WELL, WE DID PUSH OUR LUCK to the limit this year and only got away with it because of our strength of character and "because we're worth it". There was racing at Newmarket, there was the F.A. Cup Final, there was the Test Match, and the weather forecast was full of doom and gloom. We couldn't do anything about the many people who chose not to come to the Feast. But we could do something about the weather – and the plan worked. There were deluges in Reach, Burwell, and Newmarket, heavy rain in Bottisham, a few drops in Bulbeck, but not one drop touched Swaffham Prior. We are contacting the national events above to ensure they do not clash with us next year.

Initially there was a little nervous tension because of the weather, but once the Feast started it was a great buzz to the sound of Glenn Miller and Dave Brubeck. All the stalls and the helpers were superb, the crowd was great, and we made £840 for the Village Hall Funds. Once again Dominic Bowers and Paul Latchford won the egg throwing contest.

There was one poignant moment when Jane Bulleid bought for her step grandson a jigsaw puzzle with a picture of one of his grandfather's famous railway engines. His grandfather, Oliver Bulleid, was one the great names in railway engineering and created the powerful 'Battle of Britain' class of locomotive, amongst many other

achievements. His son Michael Bullied, Jane's husband, fought in the Battle of Britain, was a notable architect and restored the working windmill in Swaffham Prior. The grandchild will have much to remember from the Feast.

Swaffham Prior has another great railway engineering connection. Dr Margaret Stanier is the niece of Sir William Arthur Stanier whose locomotive designs included the 1937 4-6-2 'Coronation' class. Oliver Bulleid died in 1970 at the age of 88, and Sir William died in 1965 at the age of 89. For a long life take up engineering!

Alastair Everitt

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting AN UNRELIABLE ACCOUNT[†] OF THE PC MEETING ON 08 JUNE 2006



IT'S ALSO A BRIEF ACCOUNT at this time of year, with holidays affecting attendance. Deputy Chairman Andrew Camps took charge.

Allen Alderson mentioned a planning appeal at Mereham, and the 100,00's of new houses planned for the fastest growing DC in the country. Consultation on and consideration of the new Local Development Framework does include water resources and we still hope to avoid a hosepipe ban this summer. Allen also expanded upon the scandal of bus passes – we find they are practically useless for

the trips many of us wish to make. 'It's all down to politics' he said, and he should know. The rogue fen pylon's warning signs are hidden by summer's vegetation growth, so look out. Travellers on Headlake Drove are resisting encouragement to seek pastures new.

A new planning application for residential development at the water tower site has been submitted for a notional 13 units, though up to 27 units may be considered.



Bus Shelter "Spanish tiles" getting a revamp

A large bundle of submission papers defeated the meeting and so a special meeting will be held to consider the matter next week. However, comments about road traffic on Mill Hill and the potential effect of a new site access were rehearsed again. The report in the Crier at the time of the previous application covering some of the main issues following the public meeting that led to its withdrawal, may reward re-reading. This time the applicants claim ‘brownfield’ or ‘brown windfall’ status in an attempt to justify exception from current Local Plan policies. But, our village school is already oversubscribed, and the Red Lion is always full! Many members felt that they could not comment because they have an interest in this proposal.

The Sports & Recreation Society have supported school projects and want to assist the Burwell Tigers in their current difficulties over the recreation Ground – which I shall go into no further yet – the situation is both confused and sensitive. Let us just ask what a Cambridge lawyer and a sperm have in common? They both have a 1 in 50,000 chance of becoming a human being.

The RoSPA report on our playground asks for tree branches to be trimmed and roots to be removed, so there will be a lot more daylight there when the trees fall over.

Your reporter was generously allowed a few minutes at the end to remind members that planning decisions are made by the democratically-elected members of the planning committee after carefully considering all the evidence before them. Giving too much credit to a private individual serves only to devalue the efforts of the applicants and their architect, and ignores advice to the committee from the planning officers.

Frank Readhead

† PS. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this Crier report; as you know they are not always reliable. For example, PC members struggled to reconcile their recollections of the previous meeting with the account of it published here last month. In fact, “they were stunned” by it. I too enjoy fiction and I’m not averse to some creative reporting myself, so perhaps this was a case of the biter bit?

...And More from July

STROLLING TO THE MEETING on a beautiful summer’s evening, I pondered one of the essential truths of life: you can leave middle age behind, but not middle age spread; it stays where it was before, literally before.

The meeting also looked backwards and forwards when it considered a resignation letter from Henry Hardiment, long-serving member and former chairman. Sadly, Henry was not there to hear the expressions of gratitude and respect for his many years of service to the community. Everyone wished him well (and a successful auction sale too – a brave act to clear years’ worth of collectable bric-a-bac - which some of us could imitate). Clearly, Henry’s departure will create a vacancy on the PC and, if you have any plans to fill it yourself, you’d better get a move on because one or two potential candidates are about to throw their hats into

the ring (or, maybe, a third party is about to throw their hats in on their behalf – we shall see). Henry's departure also meant management moves were needed to ensure that the financial side of matters would proceed smoothly, and now it will.

Our CCC and ECDC councillors were attending another (no doubt, more important) meeting elsewhere, so they could not be challenged about the need to manage a new influx of travellers to Headlake Drove, close to where 27 old tyres and other stuff have been dumped. There may be no connection between the two events, but the facts need to be ascertained and urgent remedial action taken. The authorities had already been informed that this semi-permanent situation is unacceptable.

A new map of cycle Route 51 for the area between Cambridge and Newmarket is now available from CCC. Get on your bike and try it. The PC have also been invited to produce their own Parish Plan, and that will need a little thought. The Tour of the Parish (beating the bounds) produced no nasty surprises; we've known about the dumped glass on Barston Drove for a year now, and the 'fridge on the north side of the drove is probably Reach's responsibility, anyway.

The safe surface under one set of playground swings is breaking up and needs some attention, though kids are not yet at risk here. Swings always have this effect as the top of the frame is pulled horizontally, alternatively in opposite directions. I have seen a swing frame pulled right over, but our swings here are too secure for this to happen.

Special street lights in the 'key part' (!) of our Conservation Area (CA) are to be shielded where they keep people awake by shining through their (too thin) curtains. The CA is official, but there is no official status for 'key parts' so which bureaucrat dreamed up that one? (UKIP members be aware – we had them long before eurocrats. In fact, The Domesday Book, — but I digress, again).

Whoever is responsible for the substation at the foot of Cage Hill protected by rusty chicken wire, (centre village, and in the CA, if not in a key part) will be asked to screen it with an appropriate timber boarded fence like the substation in the key part of the CA, which is less prominent than the open eyesore.

The status of some road markings in the High Street was questioned. Some are invalid, while some desirable others are lacking. However, experimental roads in some Dutch and German towns have no markings whatever to denote priority, etc. and they prove that the exercise is unnecessarily expensive (often just another eyesore) because then road traffic moves more slowly and accident numbers are reduced as a result. Just think! No more large vehicles or 4WDs charging through the village at dangerous speed if we get rid of the yellow perils!

Geoffrey Woollard produced an original copy of The Times from 1940, wherein the first name in the DEATHS column was a young officer by name of Allix who died at Dunkirk. Close relatives living locally must remember this awful event, one of so many, having a profound effect on their family, and on the village. This relic must be one of many which have no appropriate home. Do you have something of value like this, and can you suggest how best such memorabilia relating to the village could be kept safely, together, here? The Pound does have a new roof, but without dampproofing and heating, it cannot fulfil this function. Neither can the bus

shelter do the job, though Kim Sheldrick has done us proud with a robust, no longer flat, new roof. If a new convex mirror could be wall-mounted on the opposite side of the street, one could also see buses approaching, but not in a key part of the CA, please!

In the north east, a large metal sculpture ‘Angel of the North’ dominates the skyline where it has stimulated the economy of the area, simply through increasing awareness of the region, thereby more than repaying its cost (£800,000 in 1998). Here, the proposal for a tall, sculptural bridge (sculpture and road bridge) landmark over the A14 estimated to cost £25m. is not getting much sympathy hereabouts (a bridge too far?) so, if the proposal does not come to maturity, unemployed people here need not worry about it helping to present them with new opportunities.

Frank Readhead

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

The first in an occasional series from your Special Correspondent

A LONG TIME AGO in my youth I lived in Cambridge and since then I often return and stay in Swaffham Prior. During my last visit I heard about a proposed Folk/Rock Festival in Lode. In those years long ago I used to attend the Cambridge Folk Festival, which may well be audible in the Swaffhams when the wind is in the right direction. To my great surprise and delight Kathryn Tickell, then very young and without a band, was playing the Northumbrian pipes in the smallest tent. It was a breath of fresh air from the hills for an exile, like myself, trapped in the south. Now Kathryn is famous (of course you’ve all heard of her – haven’t you?), has a band, does world tours, and probably plays in one of the bigger tents.

This year, Northumberland had its own Festival, the first; why? Because everywhere else in the country had a festival (I paraphrase, but not by much). It clearly had not occurred to the organisers that “everywhere else in the country” is by and large packed together a lot more closely than Northumberland. Thirty miles from where you are reading this is, let’s say Huntingdon, with Cambridge in between, Thirty miles from where I am writing this is the top end of Kielder Water, with vast emptiness all around.

Nevertheless, the Festival went ahead: three stages, twenty bands, 25,000 expected; and of course the people who lived across a couple of fields from the site were appalled (and frightened). The result? As detailed in the *Hexham Courant*: there was a crowd of perhaps 3,000, £55 tickets changed hands at £5, the “free” shuttle-bus to/from civilisation cost £12, six bands failed to appear I could go on. Oh yes, 53 people were arrested for “various offences” – we police these events

“robustly” in the North. (Pro rata, how many arrests would that be at Cambridge? 2,000?) The organiser says he will do it again; the owner of the estate on which it was held, who presumably got his money in advance, says it will happen again But it seems to your correspondent that while Northumberland does some things (emptiness, hills, red squirrels) better than Cambridge, Cambridge does rock and folk festivals a whole lot better than Northumberland. I hope it stays that way.

As for the village of Lode, I wonder if it is going to have the Northumbrian experience.

Novocastrian

Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon

FATHER'S DAY, FOOTIE FEST AND TIME CHANGE notwithstanding, the annual Jazz Concert in the Red Lion garden was a great success, with the usual braid-cross-section of the village turning out for a seat in the sun, a pint—or three—from the pub, an excellent burger from Jamie's Barbie and some first class jazz from Martin Kemp and friends.

The sweet stall and raffle raised nearly £90 for St Mary's—which looked better and better as the afternoon went on—and Dave and Lorraine were great hosts as ever.

Our thanks to everyone concerned. No points at all to the ungenerous person who suggested that Brenda and Hilary had *pulled* at last!

More jazz next year? Let us know what you think.



From left to right: Martin Kemp, Brenda Wilson (Church Warden), Bert Scilperoort, Hilary Sage, David Yourgs, Dee Noyes (S. Prior PCC) and Jeremy Kahn (sic).

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE CLOCK!

**Airbus problems can't compare with the
teething troubles of our Village Clock.**

Time Lord Alastair Everitt reports...

IT MUST BE ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO since the village clock on St Cyriac's began to strike again. Having worked closely with Colin Walton, the clockmaker, during the overhaul, the refitting, and the teething problems (Airbus has nothing on this), I then kept the clock *roughly working and striking to time* – until the end of December 2005.

At this point John Norris, an engineer and clock enthusiast, asked whether he could have a go at maintaining a more accurate time keeping. "Of course", I said, "and you have until the end of February to see how you get on." John was brilliant. Not 100% of course but he did pretty well. The end of February came and all was well, March passed, then April – and at this time he had quite an impressive record. In May something must have happened. I hadn't seen John around and for two weeks the clock was 3 minutes slow. Towards the end of the third week of this serious lapse I had to do something and I had to make a choice.

I could either drop a note through John's door mentioning that I had received a number of remarks/complaints and asking whether he should consider resigning if he couldn't cope. Or, for the first time in 5 months, I could adjust the clock and see what happened. I chose to adjust it, and by making it 3 minutes fast I thought this might arouse a response. I also thought it better for the village clock to be 3 minutes fast rather than 3 minutes slow, especially if catching a bus.

It certainly did raise a response. John called on me, said that I had "overcooked" it. Later he told me with a smile that the Churches Conservation Trust, at his own request, had appointed him as the sole person in charge of the clock. John assures me that under his management this 17th century clock will only deviate by one minute in one month.

So, do keep your eye on the clock and if it is more than one minute slow or fast do phone John as he really wants to know.

Alastair Everitt



AN EXTRAORDINARY CRIER REPORT

THE OFFICIAL MINUTES of the June PC meeting mentioned that Frank Readhead had written to the Chairman about my *Crier report on the May PC meeting*. The Minutes record *“The members of the PC expressed concern that their comments in relation to this application at the May meeting had been reported in such an exaggerated way as to offend a village resident.”*

I admit my *Crier report* was biased. IT WAS BIASED IN FAVOUR OF FRANK. Because he is such a helpful person throughout the village, and is always willing to offer advice and to be supportive, I deliberately quoted only the first part of his web advertisement. I thought that the PC being aware of it would be sufficient. My report should have been as follows:-

“During consideration of a planning application the Chairman passed around a single copy of a letter from Caroline Matheson containing the text of the Readhead web advertisement asking for any available land. It also said “IF ANYONE CAN GET YOU PLANNING PERMISSION I CAN, THOUGH I NEED AN OPTION TO BUY YOUR LAND IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO PAY MY FEE!”

“Her letter circulated slowly from member to member. “Ooooooooh Deeeear” said one member. Each person appeared to ponder it very carefully and most (which is not uncommon) made no comment. “Um, well”, muttered another, accompanied by a lengthy sucking of teeth. After a very protracted look and consideration another member concluded, “Well, the only thing you can say is that it’s not illegal.” Then the letter made its way back round the table and another member said “We’ll have to make sure everyone knows about this”, and he passed it back to the Chairman.”

That is how my report would have ended. And I wish now I had written it thus, especially as the official PC Minutes of the May meeting *made no mention of Caroline Matheson’s letter. It had been swept under the carpet in a way that I suspect may offend the village residents in question when they find out.*

I do not know what FR wrote in his letter to the PC but I do think he should have declared his potential conflict of interests - just as a collector of antiques advising someone how to dispose of furniture should not hide the fact that he is actually a dealer and not just an amateur collector. Such undeclared professional interests do inevitably provoke questions such as “Was he working for No 5?” or “Will this help his portfolio by showing he can get an application through in spite of all the opposition?”. One might have thought it had been a “fair cop”, that there could have been a few generous words about a ‘misunderstanding’, a shake of hands, and a line drawn under the issue. Alas, Frank Readhead’s complaint to the PC appears to show this is not to be.

Alastair Everitt

**The Swaffham Prior
Annual Harvest Show
Saturday 9th
September
From 3.00pm**

Special Attractions Include:

- * Cream Teas * * Children's
Refreshments *
* Fun Competition *

**GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE
4.00pm**

Classes for the Children include:

- * Happy Faces Biscuits * * A Vegetable or Fruit Animal *
* An Original Lego/Knex (or similar) Model *

See page 22 for Full Entry Details





STAINE HUNDRED

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL EVENING for the Local History Society's walk around Haddenham, led by Lorna Delanoy who was brought up in the village and was an excellent guide. She had many stories to tell of the personalities who had lived in the village. Haddenham is built on a ridge and is the highest village in the Isle of Ely. The tour started from the old school founded by Robert Arkenstall in 1723, which has been enlarged to become the Arkenstall Community Centre.

The 20 or so members crossed the busy Station Road and then turned into the peaceful Merrick Lane where there were good views over towards Ely and Grunty Fen. Much of the land in this belongs to the Mormons. The well-kept recreation was a hive of activity and from there we passed the new school and came out in Camping Close. Camping is an old name for football. We then proceeded to the High Street where we saw a number of interesting buildings before making a stop at the Methodist church where coffee was served.

This Methodist church was rebuilt in 1891. The red-brick Baptist Church with a spire on the Green was built by the Chivers family in 1905, when they had extensive fruit farms in the area. People who worked for Chivers were expected to attend the Baptist church on Sundays. The new Health Centre is built on the site of the old Baptist Hall where Lorna remembered having school meals, and there were whispers of bodies under the floor - which were probably true as there was an old crypt. Opposite is the Manor Farm House, though the present owners have dropped the "Farm House" which had a tall building at the back where the farmers ground their corn. On the corner of Church Lane, there are some interesting cottages which had never been modernized with brick steps with rounded ends down to the road which are so steep and narrow that some of us would have found them impossible to negotiate.



Haddenham's Spired Baptist Church

The old Anglican cemetery is now a wildlife park and again lovely views over towards Sutton were enjoyed. When the railway was built, earth was taken from the field adjoining the cemetery and put into trucks which ran by gravity down to the railway. Cart horses would then pull the empty carts up. The deep hollow where the earth was removed is still clearly visible. The railway, which ran from Ely to St Ives, was one of the Beeching casualties.



...And the spire that fell down

The old church hall which was used as a village hall until the Arkenshall Centre was built, had been converted into attractive dwellings. The doctor lived in the old vicarage where the old stables had been turned into a bungalow. A new surgery has been built by the Green next to the Methodist cemetery. The present lady Vicar lives in a new vicarage. A previous Vicar who drove himself in a trap, offered a lift to the local policeman in torrential rain but when the thunder lightning

came, the horse reared up and the policeman was thrown out backwards, hit his head and died. We saw his grave in the churchyard.

Ovin, who was a steward to Queen Ethelreda, founded a Christian church in Haddenham in 673 so Haddenham celebrated 1300 years of Christianity just a year after the celebrations in Ely Cathedral. The church was extensively renovated at the end of the last century with money collected from a number of sources. There were plans to put a spire on the square tower, but the person holding the money made a sudden and unexpected trip to America and was not seen again so there is no spire on the church!

The Staine Hundred Outing on June 13th has been cancelled owing to lack of

BACH'S KEYBOARD MASTERWORKS

As part of the national Heritage Open Days
during which the Churches Conservation Trust
is opening all its churches

Ian de Massini

is giving a virtuoso recital
in St. Cyriac's Church on
Sunday 10th September
5.00 – 6.00pm

The Programme

The Italian Concerto

The Great Chaconne in D minor from the
solo violin Partita no.2

*(arranged for piano right hand only by
Ian de Massini and it is a World Premiere)*

Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor

Five of the 15 Two-part Inventions

(selected by members of the audience)

Fantasia in C minor

Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection for

The Churches Conservation Trust

Do not be late as the recital lasts exactly one hour



JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Support people living with cancer

Event details

Friday

29th September 2006

10.30 am – 12.00 noon

The Oaks

Manor Farm Court

Lower End, Swaffham Prior

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Unique gifts for kids

IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED what this Online Shop advert : www.cooltoysandbags.com was doing in the SP Crier magazine, there's a simple explanation; we're promoting our family connections with Barefoot in Sri Lanka.

“ Barefoot was born in 1958, out of a need to rehabilitate young women who had little schooling...”

The majority of people working with Barefoot live and work in the rural areas of Sri Lanka, where lack of education and poverty are still an everyday reality. Barefoot offers them real work, regular income and involvement with a creative process that takes place in their own village.

Available Online is a unique range of colourful stuffed toys, bags and backpacks for kids. Each piece is hand-crafted by one person using Barbara Sansoni designed Barefoot hand-woven fabrics.

Barefoot was born in 1958, out of a need to rehabilitate young women who had little schooling and had been placed in the care and protection of The Good Shepherd Nuns in Colombo, Sri Lanka. It was founded by the Mother of Good Council at that time and Barbara Sansoni, a young Sri Lankan artist.

Barefoot dyes its own cottons, silks and wool with colour mixed by the Master Dyer after original designs by the Barefoot Designers. The fabric is woven in one of six



weaving centres, As well as sewing clothes, toys and accessories Barefoot make wall hangings, bedspreads, sarongs and rolls of fabric which are works of art in their own right - more at : www.barefootceylon.com

Barbara is now a well known artist & designer in her own right around the world and remains at the head of Barefoot which now has some 600 people weaving and sewing all over the country, creating valuable “fair trade” employment and support for the Sri Lankan economy.

The www.cooltoysandbags.com Online Shop design and management is available to all e-commerce entrepreneurs FOC from : www.eRepc.co.uk *Peter Cook*

Crier Profile: Barb and Dave

A double profile this month: Barb & Dave – Swaffham Prior's resident US visitors

B: I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN GLOBE, Arizona, north-east of Phoenix. My parents still live in the house next to where I was raised. We'd been married for a year when we left Globe. It's a small town, maybe 10000 people. It's not small in the way the villages are here. Copper mines, is the industry there, but they've become automated, so the number working there is less. It's the heart of copper country, Arizona. It's about 3500 feet elevation, so it's not in the mountains but it's cooler than Phoenix and Tucson, in the desert.

“ We don't live on base.... There's not the exposure to the culture that you're living in. It would be sort of pointless....”

D: It's really sort of a dusty place. There's really not much grass to mention.

B: It's one of the first things you notice driving up from Heathrow or Gatwick, it's *so green*!

D: It's very beautiful here. It's hard to go back and look at that.

B: I didn't move as a child; I've moved 12 times in the 25 years since. Because it's a small town, everyone knew I was the minister's daughter. There was a certain expectation of behaviour, that was (or was not) met at any given moment! There are some great stories about things the minister's kids did – I have three brothers...



Globe Arizona, where Barb was born and raised.

“ I was the minister’s daughter. There was a certain expectation of behaviour..... Yes. we were the examples on the sermon quite often.”



Barb's Father's Presbyterian Church

(laughs)

D: ...And they'd be examples in church on the sermon!

B: Yes. we were the examples on the sermon quite often...we were raised in what you would call the vicarage. We called it the Manse. When my dad retired they bought the house next door to where they'd lived for thirty-five years. We usually touch base with family about once a year. The rest of our families are spread all over.

D: I was born in Montana. Very different. There's copper country in Montana too. That's the common tie here. But when I was five years old we moved to south America, from '58 to '62. I've always moved since. We went to Chile, the Atacama desert. Some good copper there. I was about five years old – it was an adventure. We had to take the train from Montana to New York, and the trip down to Chile was on a cargo ship with some cabins, and it took 21 days, stopping at all the little ports, loading and unloading goods. I remember them loading bananas – they would pull up next to our ship in smaller native boats and they would carry them up by hand, huge loads of bananas. We'd go through the Panama canal each time, which was exciting. They were starting the mines and there weren't any roads, so from the port we took a car that was modified to run on railroad tracks. It would derail, and all the men would have to get out and lift it back on the tracks. From there to Arizona - our common starting point! I'm from a mining engineering family – my father was an engineer too. I deviated from the family path and studied architecture, but now I'm a project manager.

B: We were both working for the Forest Service, which is a federal program – fighting forest fires and taking care of camp grounds – that was my side of the piece. He was out of school by the time I went to work there, I came in as a summer employee. According to a good friend, he looked out of the window and saw me and said 'That's the girl I'm going to marry'. Actually, the guy that told me, he and I dated for about three months... mine was just a summer job. I knew I was going back to college 2500 miles away. The guy I was going out with was just someone to go dancing with on a Friday night, you know(laughs). But he finally said, you know, you really ought to start paying for these dates...and I said 'Hmm, don't think so.



They met Forest Fire Fighting

Hey Dave, d'you want to take me out?' And Dave said yes. So actually I asked him out.

When I went back to college, we would talk on the phone, and by Christmas we had decided we were too far apart: I would come home, and we got married in April. Not quite a year! So what did I do about college? I completed two weeks ago - 25 years. Not the same college. I was doing elementary education in Illinois. Now I've just finished computer studies. The University of Maryland (US equivalent to the Open University) didn't offer elementary education so I had to choose something else.

D: We don't live on base. Some bases have enough room for civilians, but typically not.

B: Even if we were allowed to, we wouldn't choose to.

D: There's not the exposure to the culture that you're living in. It would be sort of pointless, and you don't really get away from work if you live on base. They may move us back in a year or so. My base is in Colorado Springs.

B: It's a temporary contract, for three years. We don't travel very much – we just move!

D: From Globe our first move was to Pinetop, Arizona – I had a full- time job with the Forest service. High in the mountains – that was a really beautiful place. About 8600 feet. Lots of snow in winter. But as a firefighter I wasn't using my education. It was an adventure. We had quite a lot of fires – when you're away a lot of the time from family, it's not so adventurous. So I got a job as an architect with the military. We moved to Texas for a couple of years, as civilians. Then I got a job with the Air Force in California, right on the ocean, just north of Santa Barbara, a flower-growing area. The fields of sweet peas are like the fields of daffodils here but with the mountains behind. Then to(Thinks hard)Denver! Really an exciting job - to bed down F-16 fighters transferred being from Spain back to the States, when the political climate changed, after Franco. Colorado was good, we spent three years there...

B: But Dave gets itchy feet after about three years.

D: I have a three-year attention span, so...from Colorado my next job was Aviano, Italy.

B: It was supposed to be a sleepy little base...then after two weeks he came home and said 'we don't know whether they're going to close this base and we go right back home, or they'll bring the F-16s in here. They gave the okay on the F-16s, and suddenly life got *really* busy!

D: So that turned into a five-year job.

B: We spent most of our travel time in Italy. We went to France, and Germany,

but we didn't do England that time. I used to say I could do almost anything in Italy – find something to eat, shop - because Visa's a universal word! And I could do orthodonture because our oldest had braces and our orthodontist was Italian. We were the first Americans in his office, and he didn't speak any English at all. I had to go and translate every week - Urgh! Because we were the only Americans in our neighbourhood and we were there for five years, we got to know our neighbours, which was good.

B: After Italy we went to Germany for three years. How was that after Italy? It was cold...

D: Schnitzel and pasta.

B: Beer versus wine...But because we were living near the largest base in Germany, even though we were off the base, the people that surrounded us were all Americans. It was hard to get out and find the culture.

D: Italy had the village markets, which was fun; Germany didn't have that. Christmas markets and things, but it was different...Italian ice cream was good too, Gelato...

B: It was different in Germany because they were still struggling with their economy after the fall of the Berlin Wall. They were happy to have us rent property, but they were worried about people coming and taking jobs, because unemployment was already so high.

D: but we had some good trips, World War Two history – we went to Hitler's Eagle's Nest, and we saw the basement of Hitler's house there, that was all that was left of it. We got to go in there – it was blown up later. And we got to go in part of the bunker system there.

B: But we had to go home after that – the American Government won't allow you to stay abroad longer, so we went back for five years, just south of Denver, but higher up. A good time to take the kids back, with the stages they were at, the little one just starting high school. We thought we would stay there but his attention span was gone, so he needed a new job...

D: But that was an interesting assignment because I manage construction, and even though I was in Colorado, I had projects in Wyoming and Montana, so that was fun! But once my major ones got done, well... (laughs)

B: So this job came up. We checked with Katie, our daughter, because she was halfway through high school, and it can be hard on



Some of the beautiful countryside they left back in Globe

kids doing a major move at 15-16. But she said no, it was fine. I said - I don't trust this! But it was ok. But was a good time too, because I was looking to go back to college, and it's hard to get out of your life commitments. But when you move, suddenly they all go away! You aren't sitting on the board of the church, you aren't doing all that volunteer work: so it was easy to come over here and start a degree programme.

How do we manage friends? We have the christmas card list! And we have a few friends we've kept over the 25 years, but it's probably less than a handful, because we don't see each other. We send christmas cards, and that's about it. But the Air Force makes the world a smaller place. Sometimes we've actually been back stationed with people we knew previously, like those who were having children when we were having *our* children, in Colorado Springs – so they were back together when they were graduating from school! But friends we started with...there aren't very many.

D: It's a matter of who's going to move first in this industry, really.

B: We still have our house in Colorado Springs, and in a lot of ways I would be happy going back and living in that house another fifty years. But...I don't think he'll be happy doing that!

D: It's hard to say, you know – the moving bug maybe it'll...(trails off)

B: Maybe we'll get a travel trailer, a caravan...(laughs)

D: Time will tell, but actually, it really goes back to the family. Of my dad's family, he was the only one born in the United States. Everybody else was directly from Scotland. So I think there's moving in the blood.

B: That's why the Scottie (points to small black rug-like object sprawled on the floor here).

D: He's from Montana. A Montanan scottish terrier. It adds a whole dimension to moving. Our vet in Colorado springs was trying to figure out how to move the dog. He says, believe it or not, there is a large dog that comes over to the UK once a year, back and forth between two houses - the dog just flies, on his passport. So they knew about doing the blood tests and paperwork. It was real science. But living in England has always been on the list, because Barb's dad as a Presbyterian minister came over to Scotland on a pulpit exchange.

B: He spent about four months, but we didn't get a chance to visit. And there was no language to learn! It has been fun, from the first day we walked out on the patio, Dee was sitting out, and it wasn't 'okay, how do I say hello'! What do we have to do before we go back? I've got to go to Norway. I've always wanted to do a cruise and see the fjords, so that has to be done.

D: And we have to get down to Portsmouth and see the Victory (Points out his bust of Nelson) So that's on the list. And the Naval Museum in Greenwich, that has to be done.

B: and we have to go to Aberdeen, because that's where the family's from...

D: and we've got to catch Ireland, Wales...Not much to do, then! But I have this book, A Hundred Best Museums...

B: And he's going to check them all off.

D: I probably won't get them all done. There's never a lack of things to do. And you never have to go very far. There's plenty on the list... You know, Denver has a really good art museum, but it's not like you can pick and choose – you've got one in the whole state. There are some galleries but there's just not the classical art in the US. But close by, I don't think there's anything we haven't done...

B: Oh, but we haven't done Strawberry Fair, we haven't done punting on the Cam...

D: And we would like to go to the races. We've walked to the racecourse, but we haven't been to the races! And then the shows – we've only been to a couple...there's no lack of things we can do here.

B: We were told, in briefings on base, that once you get to know the Brits, they're really very nice people but they're a little stand-offish to most Americans when you first arrive...and we thought, actually, we've already had coffee with the neighbours, and we'd been invited to go and see Andrew (Noyes) play some place by the time we'd been given that briefing. So we thought, really? We haven't seen that at all, you know.

Mark Lewinski

As told to him by Barb and Dave Mitchell

Crier Sudoku No 1

Hard

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

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

THE HARVEST SHOW

HARVEST TIME IS IN SEPTEMBER

ON SATURDAY THE 9TH

There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you like, and you do not have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's class) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly, yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**.

All you have to do is to bring your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 9.00am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards take place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea and then join the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction Starting at 4.00pm**.

It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

With no September *Crier* the list and entry forms are not included in the magazine. Nearer the time we will give a list to all those who entered last year and to others we think may be interested. If you think you have been overlooked, forgotten or ignored please contact:-

Janet Cooper (741326) Jo Pumfrey (741376) Alastair Everitt (742974)

**PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER IN
YOUR DIARY**

PS. The BBC/12.yard Productions have announced a new Factual Entertainment Series set in Britain's rural heartland which celebrates the traditional village show and the fact that for many people being champion in their village show is the highlight of their year. If any enthusiast wishes to enter or to be involved call 020 7432 2935 or email gbvs@12yard.com. You will need to be quick.

Crier Clerihew I

Gershwin said "I'll never hire a
Lyricist half as good as Ira;
But I'll get him, if I do
To write words for 'Rhapsody in Blue'."

Ophir

What's on at Bottisham Royal British Legion

We have our usual Bingo sessions on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

On Saturday 5th August we have the very popular band The 6 'T' s, so you can dance from 8 p.m. until late, £3 for members and £5 for their guests.

On Saturday 26th August we have Mike Carnell, a professional singer and on Sunday is a family fun day. There will be a Bar B Q, Bouncy Castle and from 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. a children's disco with Roly . Roly will then have the Adult disco from 8.30 p.m. until late.

Colin Day is holding his Quis Night on Saturday 9th September starting at 8 p.m. so put your thinking caps on.

Country and Western is back on Saturday 23rd September with Ainsley from 8 p.m. until late. Members £4 and guests £6.

On Saturday 30th September you can dance to Get Back from 8.30 p.m. until midnight, members £3 and guests £5.

The Poppy Restaurant is open for Sunday lunches, Senior Citizen lunches on Wednesdays and in the evenings on Friday and Saturday, also fish and chips on Wednesday evenings.

Bar snacks are available Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

To book a table telephone 01223 812063.

Annual membership is £12.50 and application forms are available from the Club.

Jacky Cameron

CRICKET

The Occasionals were not playing this year.

The Swaffham Prior Occasionals and the Swaffham Bulbeck Occasionals were not playing this year.

**This was because of a technical hitch.
Boo Hoo.**

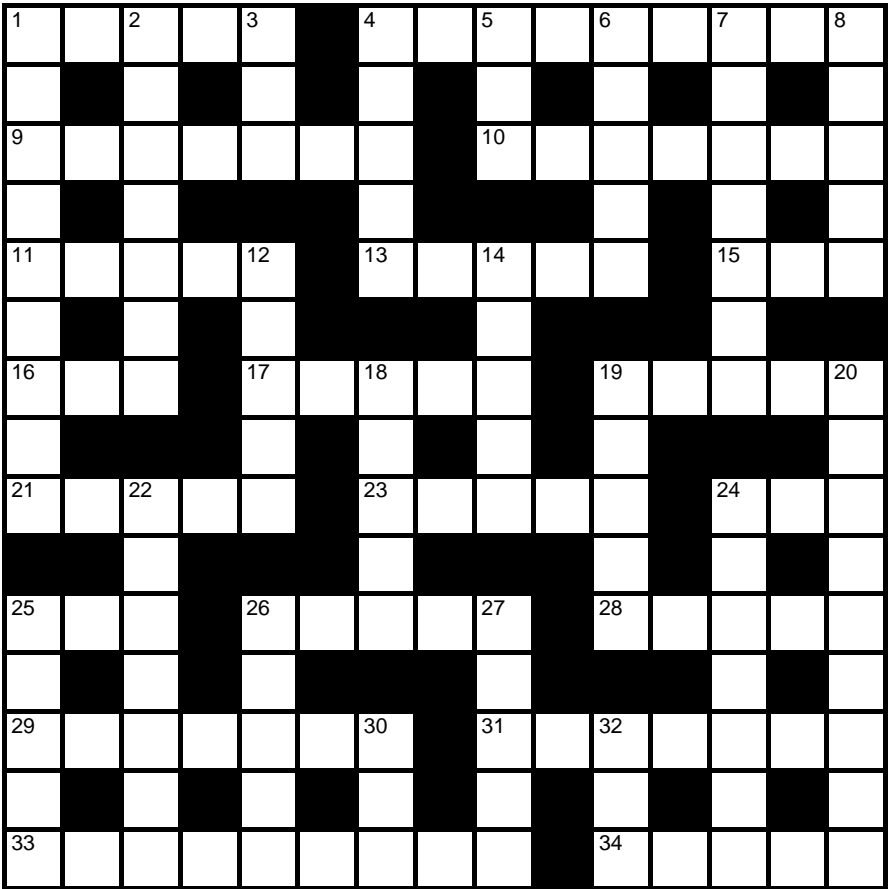
Crossword Number 35

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

A nice, easy crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 21st July 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 Get information from scoreboard at umpire's discretion (5)
- 4 Boil bright red stone (9)
- 9 At the altar I'm confused about what marriage means (7)
- 10 a student might get on (7)
- 11 Steps a good man takes to dry out (5)
- 13 Agent in church finds something to eat (5)
- 15 I hear an organ (3)
- 16 Thank you for including a saucer (3)
- 17 Scholar is not in favour of meat (5)
- 19 A rat has nothing but sauce (5)
- 21 Man gets into pyjamas first; in bed! (5)
- 23 Say farewell to a French god (5)
- 24 Pouch or large bag, we hear (3)
- 25 General goes back for fish (3)
- 26 Eager about match (5)
- 28 Bugle playing might give you the hump (5)
- 29 Shield distressed lumberjack with no jam (7)
- 31 Extract from old certificate hides small change (7)
- 33 Ben dug Guy out of beech vehicle (4,5)
- 34 A rope used for musical entertainment (5)

Down

- 1 A wet firework is a bit of a disappointment (4,5)
- 2 High wind blowing and road not mended (7)
- 3 Came together at the weather centre (3)
- 4 Gripes about the gap I get before

first course (5)

- 5 Steal a strange ball (3)
- 6 Wise man meeting union leader is normal practice (5)
- 7 Scroungers madly discourage taking out IOU (7)
- 8 Spooky place for birds, we hear (5)
- 12 Passionate call by artist (5)
- 14 At first, every new nanny ushers in boredom (5)
- 18 He may preside at a seat of learning (5)
- 19 Lead a follower after fruit (5)
- 20 Carrots he cooked for the players (9)
- 22 A bird might chew a pencil (7)
- 24 Gulpers go out on a binge (7)
- 25 Introduce laid back young lady after first ending marriage (5)
- 26 Spontaneous remark from bad liberal (2-3)
- 27 Each first lady finds redhead with ponytail (5)
- 30 Made from cloth or paper (3)
- 32 "10,000" said the pigeon (3)

Solution to crossword no. 34

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

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

Neighbourhood Police Officer Sue Loaker will be holding Police Surgeries at:



**SWAFFHAM PRIOR HIGH STREET
(opposite school)**

**WED 16TH AUGUST 1.30pm – 2.30pm
TUES 19th SEPTEMBER 6.30pm—7.30pm
FRI 20th OCTOBER 7.30pm—8.30pm**

TEL: 07921 938046

FreeCycle

Offers	Wants	Details:
24 hour Kingsheild immersion heater timer (unopened) Black & Decker 9.6V dustbuster (used a few times only) Clarke Strongarm 10 ton hydraulic body repair kit (I'm sure those in the know know what it does) Chrome portable BBQ Metres and metres of anti-weed fabric 2 x ~10" saucepans with lids	Child's booster seat Steering wheel suitable for a child's car (e.g. from a go-kart or mini-cooper)	Jun/Andy Thompson (Longmeadow, 813362)
Mothercare newborn baby car seat: blue/white/orange colour scheme, with hood and cover. 3 years old, twice used. No accidents. With instructions.		Claire (Northfields, Longmeadow) 01223 813736

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall
7.30 pm ★ Saturday

23rd SEPTEMBER 2006

Tickets: £5 each ★ To book a table contact
Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ★ Raffle
Bring your own drinks and glasses

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

That Skool Fate



St. Mary's Church would like to invite you to join us at the annual

Harvest Supper

On Saturday, 7 October, starting at 6 PM

In Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Food and Entertainment included in ticket price

6 per adult; 3 children under 12

Bar and Raffle available

Last year we sold out of tickets quickly for the Harvest Supper, so put the date in your diary now! The organizing team has planned a delicious repast and laid on entertainment suitable for the entire family, in the form of Barbershop Singers. All ages are welcome; an early start time has been set with families in mind. Wine and soft drinks will be on sale and a raffle with superior prizes will take place. Vegetarians gladly catered for.

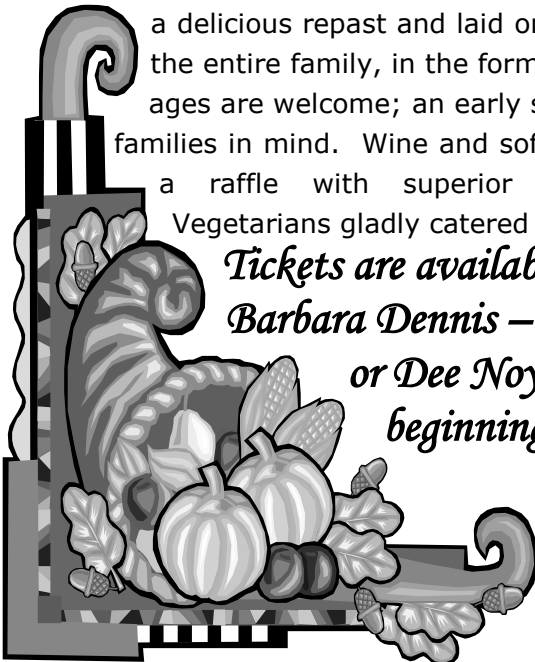
Tickets are available from:

Barbara Dennis – 743939

or Dee Noyes – 743864

beginning 17 September 2006.

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



WEATHER? WHAT WEATHER?

Just before twelve, on Rogation Sunday, a group from St. Mary's assembled at Adventurer's Farm for an open-air service. The knack of alighting from a car with the umbrella already up proved difficult for a few who had not mastered the art earlier.

The service was held in the shelter of a barn which was open on three sides to keep one well aware of the hazards of a career in agriculture. The Rev. David Lewis spoke to us and expertly led the unaccompanied singing, his strong tenor in the lead as, dripping, we followed.

At the close we moved swiftly as if pursued from the shelter of the barn to Janet and Jim Willmott's house for the barbecue. Extensive building and refurbishment was in progress so there was no furniture nor flooring to spoil as we trudged in from the pouring rain. The kitchen is lovely, the fridge spectacular and the cooker and the oh so silent dishwasher superb. A circle of chairs was set out in each room and it was not long before Janet and Jim served up a meal fit for 45 kings - beefburgers, sausages, chicken and a variety of salads and rice and, best of all, warm bread. Silence fell as the Rogation Day barbecue was consumed enjoyably by every single person. A choice of delicious deserts rendered each of us replete, content and silent.

As for the rain, what rain? it just didn't come into it. We were warm, comfortable, well-fed and dry. Thank you, Janet and Jim, for your hard work and your hospitality, from each and every one of us. We can scarcely wait for 2007.

School News

CLASS 4 have recently taken part in a successful residential at Mepal Outdoor Activity Centre. During their three days children took part in outdoor adventure activities, including sailing, kayaking, wall climbing, and target shooting. They also had team building activities and raft building.

This residential gives children a chance to experience a much broader sports' curriculum than the school can offer on our own premises. Thanks to all the adults who accompanied the children, ensuring that they had a happy and safe time.

Thanks to all parents and members of the community who have passed on their supermarket tokens. This year Tesco tokens will be used to buy more software to support the ICT curriculum. Our school is now very well equipped and has gained the prestigious ICT Mark for Schools. All classes have white boards and our laptop allocation is up to 13, with the aim to provide one laptop for each two children. Next year we will reach this target. The School Trustees have donated £300.00 to the school to purchase a high specification digital camera for whole school use. We are also runners up in the Rolls Royce Science competition and have been awarded



£1000.00 which will buy data loggers, which previously we have borrowed.

Development of our grounds has included a major overhaul of our nature garden. This had been thanks to the hard work of staff and parents. During our recent art week, adults joined with local sculptor Richard Bray to make two wooden sculptures for this area. Children worked on smaller pieces of wood from the special elephant tree to create a special wall sculpture for the hall.

To come and see this work, look around the classes and hear the children sing and play musical instruments come along to our open evening on 13th July from 5.30pm.

During the summer, the external render to the school hall will be painted. This should brighten up the exterior considerably. There are plans to fit a low climbing wall to the end of the school. Thanks to the Village Sports and Social Committee who have donated £500.00 towards this project. FoSPS have successfully fund raised for the remainder of the costs.

Jo Lakey



Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School



Telephone: (01638) 741529
email: office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk
www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Midday Supervisor: Term Time Position

Do you like working with children?
Do you want to work during term time only?

We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor to care for our children during their lunch time daily from 12 noon until 1pm. For further information please contact the school.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.



WI Notes

GROWING OLD DISGRACEFULLY was the intriguing title of our talk at the June meeting. The speaker Julie Dore, a qualified medical herbalist, quickly explained that she would give us some guidelines to extend our healthy life-span – the disgraceful part was then at our discretion!

We heard of the important part Garlic and Hawthorn play in herbal medicine and how herbs could be used alongside exercise and diet to improve our health. At the end of a really interesting talk Julie invited us to taste a number of her freshly brewed herbal teas. Our July meeting will be a summer party in Margaret Phillip's garden at 7pm on 17th and on August 20th we visit Belton House and Gardens. Our next meeting in the village hall will be on September 18th when our speaker will be Ruth Killcullen from Wood Green Animal Shelter.



Wood Green Resident — September's WI

....and from July....

The July meeting was our summer party in the lovely gardens of our president Margaret Phillips. The weather was perfect and members and guests enjoyed a very relaxed evening with delicious food provided by the members. In August our usual meeting is replaced by a visit to Belton House and Gardens in Lincolnshire on Sunday 20th. Our next meeting in the village hall will be on September 18th when our speaker will be Ruth Killcullen from Wood Green Animal Shelter. New members are always welcome.

Pat Cook

VILLAGE GARDENERS



THE VILLAGE GARDENERS began their summer season with a very pleasant evening trip to Rougham Hall Nursery, on the 6th June. Because of staff shortages, Mr Harbutt explained, the Nursery was not looking it's best, which I think made us realize just how much work goes into growing plant for show and for sale. We were nearly all, despite the weeds, seduced by a plant or two and left after much appreciated refreshments, provided by the

Harbutt family.

Then we had two very enjoyable (if exceedingly warm) visits in July. Firstly to Sissinghurst Castle Garden, on the day of our exit from the World Cup, which started quite dramatically (well—not as dramatic as the penalty shoot out) - we broke down! However after a brief respite on a grassy verge near Dullingham, we were on our way in a school bus, but our patience, good humour and tolerance



Vita Sackville-West

were finally rewarded by the beauty of this garden.

The house—not really a Castle—has Saxon origins and it, along with the garden, in a very dilapidated state, were "rescued" and purchased by **Vita Sackville West** and her husband Nigel Nicolson in 1930. The current design and structure of the Garden is what they created over the following thirty five years. It was taken over by the National Trust in 1967, following the death of Vita Sackville West.

There are in fact ten gardens, interlinked by pathways and vistas, but the July "stars" were the stunning White Garden, the red, orange and yellow flowered Cottage Garden and the Purple Borders in the front courtyard. We could see views of the Weald of Kent from the huge old

barn, walk along shady pathways along the Moat, through the Nuttery and Lime Walk which is a sea of brilliant spring bulbs, earlier in the year. BUT—talking about it cannot possibly do it justice—it's a place to be visited. Vita Sackville West said of her visitors "The mild gentlemen and women who invade one's garden after putting their silver token in the bowl....are some of the people I most gladly welcome and salute."

Secondly, to Dullingham House, where we arrived without mishap, the home of Lord and Lady Nourse. Our initial welcome was from Millie, the family Springer, promptly followed by chilled wine and nibbles—much appreciated on a very hot evening. Lady Nourse told us about the history of the house an garden and wandered with us along the lovely borders, through the kitchen garden, the woods and parkland.

Lady Nourse was extremely knowledgeable about the planting, as she and her gardeners had planted the vast majority of it over the last decade. It sounded as though the present owners with their knowledge and skills had breathed new life into this splendid Repton garden. Again, it's well worth a visit and is open in the summer under the National Garden Scheme.

Our next meeting will be on September 19th at the Village Hall— "Fun, failures and frustrations in the garden. All welcome.



....and her garden

Margaret Joyce

A Day-Trip to Sissinghurst

(with apologies to Albert and the Lion)

There's a famous garden called Sissinghurst
That's found in the county of Kent
The 'Gardeners' wanted to see it
So off in a coach they all went.

A grand bunch of folk were the Gardeners
A green-fingered crowd, every one
They all met quite early that morning
Looking forward to flowers and fun.

They didn't think much of the coach though;
Strange noises came out of the back
It juddered and shuddered and stopped, and
Made smoke that was pungent and black.

A new coach then had to be sent for.
It came, though not quite straight away.
The cheerful Gardeners re-boarded;
They wouldn't let this spoil their day.

They arrived at the gate and were counted.
"This way ladies and gentlemen,
Off to the left to buy tickets."
(And be counted all over again.)

There were too many flowers to mention
Herbs, lilies and roses galore
A border all in shades of purple
Beds of yellow, red, pink and much more.

The famous White Garden, so soothing
So restful to view, so serene
With rose-covered arbours and benches
A haven of cool white and green.

"Let's look at the view from the tower."
"Mind the door at the top," the Guide said.
His words were promptly forgotten,
Then remembered when doorway hit head!

The gardens were all they had hoped for,
A wonderful, beautiful spot
The only thing dimming the pleasure:
It really was too blooming hot.

Back at the bus, the poor driver
Was trying to watch England play
But his football-shaped set didn't function
Whilst the vehicle was underway.

The tension increased as they travelled.
In Prior the driver pulled up
And turned on the football to hear
"And so England are out of the Cup."

The Gardeners returned to their houses
England's loss not affecting their cheer.
The day trip to Kent was successful.
So they'll go somewhere else the next year.



Chris Carrington

The White
Garden

The Reading Group Reads.....

The Cement Garden by Ian McEwan

LOVE IT OR HATE IT (both extremes were represented in our Reading Group this month), this is a disturbing, surreal and thought-provoking novel which tackles uncomfortable topics.

We are led through the lives of four siblings, in the Sixties, as they lose both parents - first their authoritarian father, then their mother. In order to avoid being taken into care the children bury their mother in a trunk of concrete in the cellar. Implausible? Certainly, but it is McEwan's clever use of prose which makes the whole scenario seem not only possible but perfectly reasonable and logical. The children, Julie, seventeen, Jack, fifteen, Sue, thirteen and Tom, six, left without parental influence, pass the long, sultry summer days in their own ways, simultaneously becoming emotionally closer and more and more isolated from reality. It is the developing incestuous relationship between Jack (the moody and morose narrator of the events) and Julie which eventually leads to the inevitable ending of the story as the adult world crashes in on the children.



*A Still from the mesmeric DVD of
the book*

Besides much animated discussion of this dark tale we also saw the film of the book - a 'first' for our Reading Group! This, we agreed, gave the story a softer and more sympathetic treatment. All in all, we passed a lively and interesting evening.

The next meetings will be: Wednesday 2 August 8pm at 15 Mill Hill to discuss *Harnessing Peacocks* by Mary Wesley.

Wednesday 6 September at Yule House, 41 Lower End to talk about *Therapy* by David Lodge.

Peter Hart

Crier Clerihew II

Alexander Graham Bell
Invented a device, we know it well.
The first number he rang, left him enraged
When he found an hour later,
It was still engaged.

Ophir

THE **ANNUAL MEETING** took place in May but with little change to positions. All the Cabinet members remain the same.

The **Children and Young Peoples Plan** has been agreed. This sets out the over arching plan for all the services provided by the statutory agencies, that affect children and young people. There are six areas that require particular improvement over the next three years.



1) Improving the emotional and physical health of mothers to be, babies, infants and primary aged children, eg reducing smoking during pregnancy, increasing breast feeding, reducing obesity, establishing child and adolescent mental health services.

2) Raising aspirations to improve employment and life prospects, eg reducing number of 16 – 18 year olds presenting as homeless.

3) Improving access to recreation, decision-making and support, eg reduction in bullying, increasing participation in sport.

4) Improving health and educational attainment of children looked after by the Local Authority,

eg reducing the final warnings and convictions of looked after children.

5) Narrowing the educational performance gap for disadvantaged groups, eg increasing attainment for traveller, Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage at Key Stage 2 maths and English.

.6) Ensuring children in vulnerable situations are protected, eg reduction in the number of child protection re-registrations, improve reporting incidences of Domestic Violence.

The full plan can be found at

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/change/cypsp.htm

The **Highways Services Contract** 2006-2016 has been awarded to W. S. Atkins. This brings together all the existing highways contracts into a single design and build contract based upon collaboration and partnership working.

The report on the work of the **Scrutiny Committees** has been received. They have worked very well, looking at items under Environment and Community, Corporate Services, Children and Young Peoples Services and Health and Adult Social Care. Items that have been scrutinised by these cross party committees include, the Youth Service, Life after school for young people with Special Needs, County Farms, Waste Private Finance Initiative, Heritage services, and Adult Social Care performance. This last one in response to the concern that the Independent Commission for Social Care Inspection awarded the County Council only a One Star Rating in its assessment of Children's and Adult Social Care in Cambridgeshire.

Ely's Big Weekend Party in the Park

Ely Park (Cherry Hill)

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 August

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL in conjunction with Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire (ADeC) bring you three spectacular days of live music, theatre and opera in Ely Park, Cherry Hill, including Sunday Family Festival Day with unmissable children's circus and theatre shows, sports & crafts.

Friday 11 August - Electric Eel Exposed

Gates open 6pm, First band 6.40pm, Music ends 10pm

£5 per person

Electric Eel is back, stepping outside for a spectacular open air gig. Launching Ely's Big Weekend in style, our Main Stage will be jam-packed with the dynamic sounds of drums, bass and guitar.

Saturday 12 August - The Garden Theatre Company presents

'On Your Toes'

Gates open 6pm, performance 7pm

Reserved seats £6/ bring your own blanket £3/ U5's go free

Fresh from previous successes with Godspell and Carousel, Ely's own Garden Theatre Company bring you Rodgers & Mart's musical comedy 'On Your Toes'. First performed at the Imperial Theatre, New York, 1936 this is one of the funniest



Notes from the Parish Council June Meeting

Vice-Chairman Mr Andrew Camps chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the public.

CCC Report: There was no CCC report. Apologies were received.

ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – *for information only*

a) **Sports & Recreation Committee** – *report by S Kent-Phillips:* As the Parish Council representative, Steve Kent-Phillips reported on the recent AGM of the SPSRC. He told the meeting the School had received support from the SPSRC. Also that the SPSRC were still very hopeful that plans for the use of the Recreation Ground by BTFC would be allowed to progress and this would be watched closely.

It was noted that no financial report was available from the SPSRC and Steve Kent-Phillips said he would follow this up.

Play Area – *Annual inspection report by RoSPA.*

The annual inspection took place during the month of April. Several items noted as “low or medium” risk were recommended for attention such as overhanging vegetation, more prominent signage, cracking to surfacing under swings and bird fouling on swings. The surface cracking is to be monitored with a view to possible replacement next year. The bird fouling has already been cleaned up and other minor items will be put in hand in the near future.

Whilst discussing the play area, the Clerk confirmed that the damaged climbing net had been replaced and an insurance claim for this replacement submitted.

Recreation Ground – *status of use & future use.*

A letter received from Mr Hurrell’s agents, Bidwells, confirmed that until a new tenant was confirmed for the recreation ground, the relinquishing of the lease by the Parish Council could not be accepted.

Burwell Tigers Football Club was finding it very difficult to fund the legal costs involved in drawing up a new lease with Mr Hurrell but it was hoped that some progress could be made within the next few weeks with a deadline date of the 1st July 2006.

In light of this deadline, it was agreed to defer any decision on the ground until the July meeting and reply to Bidwells at that time.

In the meantime, serious concerns were raised about the status of the ground in the interim. The main concern was the security of the gateway and it was agreed to pile more earth in the gateway to ensure no access was available to vehicles or caravans.

Approval of Annual Audit Return – 2005/06: *This was agreed and will now be passed to Internal Auditor for approval before being forwarded to External Auditor by 1st July 2006 for final approval.*

Accounts for Payment - These were agreed.

Planning Application

Land at Mill Hill – *residential development*. As this application was only received the day of the meeting, it was agreed to call a Planning Meeting for the 20th June 2006 so that full consideration could be given.

Planning Approval

25 High Street – *total demolition of barn after partial collapse*.

Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street – *removal of existing single storey kitchen extension and replacement with 1.5 storey extension to existing dwelling. Minor internal alterations and repair to existing house and landscaping*.

Any Other Business

Overhanging vegetation on the footpath at the back of properties on Lower End was reported. A reminder is to be sent to residents on Lower End.

The Clerk told the meeting that the work to the Pound was now fully complete but that this area also needed some weeding, etc. This is to be put in hand.

Peter Hart asked that items raised at the Annual Village Assembly be added to the Agenda for the July meeting.

Open Question Time - No questions.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th July 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

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

IMAGINE 2006!

THERE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN a better day for it! The sun was out, the children came in their masses, and parents enjoyed the beautiful grounds of Anglesey Abbey. Around 110 children arrived on 3rd June to enjoy a huge party (called Imagine!) run by Parish Churches around Cambridge and Ely. GenR8 led the singing, ice creams were delivered, the Bishop of Ely came for a visit, and toys and craft were proudly taken home.

Rev. Rhiannon Jones, who organised the event, said afterwards:



“ We are delighted that so many children enjoyed this event, which we intend will be the first of many annual childrens parties. We were also pleased that parents had the opportunity to enjoy the sunshine in the grounds of Anglesey Abbey while their children partied. We are looking forward to Imagine! 2007”.

LODE BAPTIST CHAPEL

Time to Relax

THIS IS THE TIME of year in which many of us take a couple of weeks off work, put our feet up, relax and take time to recharge our batteries. It's part of an annual cycle and somehow just knowing that we're going to have a bit of time off gives us the motivation that we need throughout the year!

There's a weekly cycle too that's been observed by all sorts of cultures over hundreds and thousands of years. The principle of keeping one day free from work is found in the Bible – and it's there for a reason: “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!” Sometimes we can spend so long working for a living that we leave little time to actually enjoy being alive!

The Japanese phenomena of *Karoshi*, where many people are ‘dying from overwork’, gives us a stark warning of can happen if our lives get out of balance. Recent surveys in this country have shown that British workers are also suffering high rates of stress and depression due to overwork. More than a quarter of working men are suffering from exhaustion and more than a third have trouble sleeping because of pressures at work.



The CD: “Work Yourself to Death”

As a minister I work on Sundays – but I almost always take a day off during the week as the principle is an important one. A recent NOP consumer poll showed that three out of four people say they would rather be assured of one day a week to spend with family and friends than to have extra hours to shop on a Sunday, and 87% thought that it is important for family stability and community life to have a common day off each week. For these reasons it was good news that last month the Trade and Industry Secretary Alistair Darling announced that there is to be no change to the current Sunday shopping hours.

The Bible is, amongst other things, an instruction manual for life. The guidelines that we read there are for our own good – and we ignore them at our peril. Nobody ever said on their deathbed “I wish I’d spent more time at the office!”

Simon Goddard

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

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

St Mary's Church – News and Events

WELL, IT RAINED and was chilly, but the food and fellowship kept us warm at the barbecue at Adventurer's Farm following the service on Rogation Day. Janet provided an excellent range of salads and puddings and Jim did sterling service on the barbecue. Grateful thanks to the Willmott family for hosting the event and to their builders for ensuring we could shelter inside!

Tales of Norman castles, St Patrick and school day memories accompanied some wonderful hymn choices at the Songs of Praise on 4 June. This very joyful service was enhanced by spirited organ playing by Richard Ayres.

The popular jazz event – this time on a summer's afternoon – took place at the Red Lion on Father's Day. Thanks to Hilary Sage for master-minding this free entertainment: the Kemp Brothers band performed brilliantly, and the raffle and sweet stall contributed to church funds. We are grateful too to Lorraine and Dave for their support in hosting the event.

Social and fundraising events pause now until the autumn; some dates for your diaries are as follows:

Saturday 23 September	Quiz Night	Village Hall
Saturday 7 October	Harvest Supper & Gift Day	Village Hall
Sunday 8 October	Harvest Festival & Gift Day,	St Mary's, 11am
Saturday 11 November	Christmas Fair	Village Hall
Sunday 12 November	Remembrance Service	St Mary's, 10.50am
Saturday 18 November	Village Variety Show	Village Hall
Sunday 3 December	Advent Carol Service, Cambridge	Voices, 4pm
Sunday 10 December	Christingle	St Mary's, 11am
Sunday 17 December	Carol Service	St Mary's, 6.30pm
Sunday 24 December	Crib Service	St Mary's, 3pm
Monday 25 December	Christmas Communion	St Mary's, 10am

Regular services continue as usual in St Mary's:

First Sunday	Holy Communion	11am
Second Sunday	Book of Common Prayer	8am
Family Service		11am
Third Sunday	Holy Communion	11am
Fourth Sunday	United Service with other	10.30am
Fifth Sunday	churches in benefice (see website/notice board for venue)	
	Matins	11am

I would be delighted to hear from any children interested in taking part in Family Services. St Mary's, Swaffham Prior, is part of the Anglesey Group of Parishes (with Bottisham, Lode, Quy and Swaffham Bulbeck). We have a new benefice website which includes weekly notice sheets, service times, calendar of events throughout the benefice, information on the local churches etc. Please visit www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; your comments and contributions would be most welcome.

Dee Noyes, 743864

Contacts

Vicar	Rev David H Lewis	01223 812367
Churchwardens	Christopher Walkinshaw	742542
Brenda Wilson		743937



Church of England Services

September 2006

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 13	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 20	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 27	10:30am Benefice Communion		8:00am Holy Communion
September Sun 3	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Family Service
Sun 10	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 17	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 24			8:00am Holy Communion

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you in the week following a magical Brass Band Concert in the Vicarage garden on a lovely summer's evening, and a week after a truly delightful Bottisham Trinity Fair, also in the Vicarage garden.

I regard it as an enormous privilege to be able to hold such events in my garden and to possess such a wonderful resource to make use of for the benefit of the community. I took some lovely photographs at those events, which show the garden, the people enjoying themselves in it, and the lovely Holy Trinity Church in the background adding a true sense of beauty to the occasion.

Those photographs say something about the true importance of the Church within our communities. Each one of our villages possesses a beautiful Church building, but, no matter how beautiful it is, it is only a building. When the Bible speaks about a Church it doesn't mean a building at all. It is referring to a group of people who are united in a common love for God and a desire to share that love with those around them. They may meet in a suitably designed building, but that is only simply a matter of convenience. The building only becomes meaningful to a community when it is indeed the focus and the reflection of God's love for His people, and His people's love for Him. God's love is not a static remote thing that we can only gaze upon. God's love is active, healing and transforming, and seeks to make a difference to human society.

That thought reminds me of the story of a famous king, who was depressed by circumstances in his realm and felt rejected by many of his subjects. So he called for his three daughters to comfort and reassure him. After they had talked awhile, he asked how much they loved him. Two of them answered that they cared for him more than all the gold and silver in the world; but Mary, the youngest, said she loved him like salt. The king wasn't pleased with her answer, for he considered salt to be of very little value. The cook, who overheard the conversation, knew that the child's reply had more significance than the father imagined. She dared not speak to the monarch about the matter, but devised a subtle way to emphasize the true meaning of the young girl's words. The next morning at breakfast she withheld the salt from everything she served, and the meal was so insipid that the king didn't enjoy it at all. Then he realized the full force of his daughter's remark. She loved him so much that nothing was good without him! With a smile he said, "I understand now, Mary. Your love is the greatest of all!"

Jesus said: *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."*

The Church is meant to be like salt, flavouring our communities with God's goodness and love. My task as the Vicar of these five parishes is to help the five Churches remain 'salty' – in other words to be effective in reflecting God's love in our communities - and that is something I shall continue to do to the very best of my abilities.

May God bless you all.

Dates for Your Diary: August September 2006

Tue	1	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Fri	11	To 13th: Ely Party in the Park
Mon	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	16	Neighbourhood Police, 1.30pm—2.30pm, High Street
Tues	29	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
September		
Sat	9	Harvest Show, 3pm VH
Sun	10	BACH'S KEYBOARD MASTERWORKS, 5-6pm, St Cyriac's
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Tue	19	Neighbourhood Police, 6.30pm—7.30pm, High Street
Sat	23	Quiz Night, 7.30pm. VH
Tues	26	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Thu	29	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12 noon, The Oaks, Manor Court

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2nd 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	1st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3rd 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***