



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

ONE WANDERS LONELY AS A CLOUD, when all at once—What's this? —a crowd! A host of golden...um...dandelions? Nope. Buttercups? Nope, can't be right either. Ahh....*Greater Hawksbeard* of course (well possibly)....

Yes, Priorites *shall* walk in Fields of Gold, well at least behind Pulpit Corner they will, where the messy rubbish bemoaned in April's *Crier* has all but magically vanished (thank-you, vanishing person (s)) and nature's golden carpet comeback (NOT that rampant rape featured elsewhere in this issue) is a joy to behold.

Just in time, as it happens. Anyone venturing out onto the Dyke walks during the Bank Holiday could not fail to notice unaccustomed hordes of *Guardian Readers* all proceeding in much the same direction, having doubtless noted the Pulpit Corner/Dyke/Barston Drove route in the list of 50 Best UK

Walks recently appearing in that publication.

Also featured were local hostleries, Prior's Red Lion and Reach's Dyke's End, but GUESS who just had to be shut on that Bank Holiday Monday? Well, it wasn't the Red Lion, anyway...

Meanwhile, are our local farmers' *Points Mean Prizes* set-aside schemes (see April Crier) having effect? This month's Bulbeck Beacon reports the return of the cuckoo, while the rest of us hastily dust off Wild Flower Compendiums in desperate efforts to decode resplendent newly wide-verged hedgerows. Finally, a *good* initiative? Surely not.

The Village Assembly (see 9) was *relatively well-attended* and much cheered up, as indeed equally augmented, by a visit from the Scouts. On Ascension Day, the angels *were* singing in the heavens (oh alright, Cambridge Voices in the Church Tower) and NB: JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S EVENING will be on A SUMMER'S *AFTERNOON!*



Pretty little Goat's Beard — see it now!.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Waiting for Summer* by Olivia Thomas

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Bridge of Reeds to cost £20,000,000!

YES, you should have come to the Village Assembly! Read all about it, page 9.



Relief *Crier* Deliverers Still Required

The ***Crier*** Delivery Team do a great job, distributing the magazine to the furthest corners of village, heath and fen in all weathers. We now urgently require a number of Relief Deliverers to provide back-up for our normal team. If you can help, please contact Ruth Stinton, 17 Greenhead Rd, Tel. 742641.



Dear Editors,

A-Level Distractions

No profile this month, I'm sorry to say. It isn't that there isn't anyone interesting left in Swaffham Prior, (no indeed - there are plenty of you out there yet) but I'm buried under an even bigger pile of A Level examination scripts than usual. Since this is a position which confers access to certain privileged information, (mostly contained in huge piles of candidate scribble) much of the process is not explicable; and probably not even enlightening even if it were explained to someone interested, let alone to anyone who's not. So I won't. However – although sometimes it feels like one's brain has taken a few turns in the microwave, there are occasional moments of revelation that make it all worth while. I have collected a few: these are from a year or two ago, so they have lain long enough in the dark to be brought out into the open. Some may not strike a chord (and not just the Gershwin ones) with everyone, but hopefully a few will.

Things you never thought might happen in a theatre:

“Eventually the dance has to end. It ends when the dancers grew old and died”

“John Godber is a writer who likes to confuse the audience. He finds the audience like the performance better”

“The second section of *Four Scenes* goes into the adolescence, which isn't a great deal different to the childhood section”

Unusual aspects of some contemporary Dance with scenes involving country people:

“some wore formal clothing, and some were dressed as pheasants”

“Their movement is smooth and fluid and shows the rigidity of their relationship”

“The llama showed the flirtatiousness of the female, who was led astray at the end of the section”

“They use flapping movements. This represents the bird in the dessert”

Bertolt Brecht was a German playwright who wanted his audience not to let his plays wash over them, but to think for themselves while they were watching.

This may produce some interesting responses for some members of the audience:

“He used many devices to ensure the audience stayed refreshed”

“Not only do the songs liven up the audience a bit, they teach them things”

“One of the things the writer did was to rearrange the order in which his scenes were structured. This could confuse his audience if they weren't paying attention”

“Brecht wants his audience to feel like they are in a theatre”

“Brecht proposes that theatre should stay in the theatre and not get caught up in real life and people's emotions”

“The character experienced a gradual transgression from being an impressionable and weak man.”

“He wanted power. Scene 8 showed his erotic state”

“Brecht used many ways which successfully distracted the attention of the audience”

“Each scene has no relevance to the scene before or after”

“The audience became unemotionally attached to the play”

“Brecht didn’t want the audience to know why the music was used or what it was for”

“The characters also play a part in distracting the audience”

“The use of music would sidetrack the audience and they would hopefully forget the emotions they were feeling”

“Music was used to create atmosphere but mostly to create confusion”

“The playwright doesn’t use specific details about the deaths: like in Katrin’s fatal scene: ‘Katrin falls onto the roof and dies’”

“He often burst out into rhyme, but this was only in one scene”

“Brecht left his play without an ending”

“I think Brecht found what he was looking for as when I read the book I had no emotion at all”

For all you fans of the songs of George and Ira Gershwin:

“George and Ira’s songs complimented themselves”

“Gershwin realised most of his songs had standard jazz cadence”

“By adding softer instruments, *Summertime* gives the beginning of the song a more child friendly sense”

“Gershwin has had a lot of one hit wonders”

“George and Ira lived in the early 1900s where music was popular”

“The song and words were happy. This was unusual as it was written in the American Repression”

“Ira had to consider the songs he was writing were from musicals”

...And a thought to ponder:

“If you were watching a play with no acting it would get boring, that’s why they use mime”

Mark Lewinski

PS Yes, I know it wasn’t necessarily a good idea to mention speeding last time. And I think Auntie Caroline was being mischievous in raking over the ashes by mentioning burning issues in the editorial last month. So I will take this opportunity to thank the bonfire folk for their forbearance in recent times. It really does make a difference to this corner of the village.

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



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

THUR 8TH JUNE – 5pm – 6pm

WED 12TH JULY – 10am – 11am

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I ENTERED THE MEETING ROOM, and nonchalantly, leaning in his chair at the back of the Public Gallery, was Geoffrey Woollard, in what appeared to be his white tuxedo, and it flashed across my mind just how beneficial had been John Prescott's Code of Practice for all concerned with Parish Councils, until I remembered that John Prescott has now lost office. We must hope his departure does not lead to any decline of standards. All *Crier* reporters will be watching.



As there had been no full ECDC meeting in the last month Alan Alderson took the opportunity to take the night off though he will be heard at the General Assembly in the following week. Hazel Williams covered events at CCC and reported that the CCC are holding desperate meetings in the hope of resolving the “free bus” problem. The trouble is that South Cambs is both broke and capped so it may be difficult to find a solution unless we subsidise South Cambs (does anyone know why South Cambs has no money?). Hazel blamed Gordon Brown for the bus fare fiasco and said that 34 other counties were having the same problems with the scheme. But you all now know what Gordon says – “Hoots man, nat t’do wi me.”

Hazel also announced that CCC had just signed a huge highways maintenance contract with W.S. Atkins, worth millions, covering the period 2006-2016. She and others were dismayed to have learned that the CCC Cabinet had passed this through following a two sided report. I applaud the good news that any report can be condensed to two rather than 200 pages with endless repetitions which often defy comprehension. But her caution is welcome and she and others were allowed to set up a scrutiny committee which after some hours of examination agreed that it was a fair deal which allowed for probable engineering and work changes during the next ten years.

Hazel also mentioned the financial difficulties of our Primary Care Trust, especially in regard to Fulbourne, and said it was not surprising PCTs were in trouble as they had been tinkered with so many times over the last four years. And lo!, within a few days of Hazel saying this it was announced on 17 May that the number of trusts is to be reduced by half. So, rather than trying make things work, the Government just announces more costly radical changes. It may be more insidious than just inept evasive fiddling as I gather that the major Management and IT consultants have had an undue influence on government policy, and within departments, and have grown very very fat on such changes. It appears to be a scandal which is an open secret, but more next month.

There is bad news about the Recreation Ground. Bidwells, so it is reported, appear to be determined to get their pound of flesh over what should have been relatively simple as all the principals had been agreed for months. To some extent Bidwells have nothing to do with this but “acting in the best interests etc etc” they continue to poke their nose into the arrangement and are now possibly racking up fees of £5,500. There is often a dilemma in reporting – does one report a topic with the risk that one party will take offence and make matters worse - in this case

Bidwells. Unless reports are incorrect Bidwells do appear to run the risk of behaving inconsiderately and unethically.

Later in the meeting occurred the same dilemma for a reporter and the same issues of inconsideration and ethics. This concerns the application of 5 High Street for an extension at its rear. The application was opposed by the two neighbours and also by the PC, but it was supported by the then *Crier* Reporter not only at the meeting, but also in the *Crier*, and also in a letter to ECDC. The application was approved by ECDC. The PC were annoyed that their views had been ignored without any explanation. But they were stunned by the circulation of a copy of an advertisement from the Web which showed the reporter in question to be not only a developer but also someone who claimed “If anyone can get you planning permission I can,” etc. It seems that the letter from the developer swung the ECDC’s decision. The PC members were not amused.

On a lighter tone later in the meeting Henry Hardiment asked when they were going to make their annual drive round the fen to make sure everything is in order. It really is a very large parish which is why we never beat (i.e. walk – is this a challenge to Oliver Ginn?) the bounds anymore. The Parish Council has agreed to meet in the Village Hall car park at 7.00pm on Wednesday 14 June. But times have changed. Not only have they agreed to share cars (!) but they have abandoned the custom of travelling by tractor and trailer, chewing the odd bit of straw. And they cannot blame the inability of getting hold of a tractor and trailer as many would offer the use of one just for the photo in the *Crier*. More seriously this journey is very useful, because many new PC members have no idea what exists in the nether regions of our parish and this circuitous exploration was one of the year’s highlights for some members in the past.

Our Parish Council now offers two wonderful opportunities to members of the public. Before our ECDC and CCC representatives leave the meeting, members of the public are allowed to put questions to them. Also, after the meeting is closed, members of the public are allowed to ask questions. At this meeting I asked a couple of procedure questions and then passed the floor to Geoffrey Woollard who was still sitting in his corner, immaculate, almost like a shining saint. “I have nothing” said Geoffrey. “Nay, Nay Geoffrey”, I said, “It cannot be that you have nothing to say”. I never thought Geoffrey would cap me, but he said “I have nothing *useful* to say.” It was good to hear Geoffrey admit this at last.

Alastair Everitt

PS. For those new to the village, Geoffrey and I have had a spirited contest over the years and if he ever offered to join the PC, the village could only benefit – I think.

Lode Open Gardens
Sunday 2 July 2006
11.00 am to 5.00 pm

**Visit gardens in Lode and
Longmeadow
Have tea and cakes at the Church**

Entry to all gardens:

Adult £3

Schoolchildren £1

All proceeds in aid of Church funds



Sunday, 18th June

2.00 – 5.00 pm



JAZZ ON A



SUMMER'S AFTERNOON



with

The Kemp Brothers

featuring **Ruth Applin**

at

The Red Lion

(in the garden, weather permitting)



No tickets & No admission charge

Collection for the band (Please give generously)

REFRESHMENTS & DRINKS & FAMILIES WELCOME

Raffle and sweet stall in aid of St Mary's Church Fabric Fund



Swaffham Prior Church of England School
SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 1 July 2006, 12.30 - 3.30pm
at Swaffham Prior School



Meet the Celts: try on costumes and woad!

Barbecue * Bouncy castle * Pony rides

Bar * Music * Maypole dancing * Silly sports

Henna painting * Craft corner * Stalls, games, cakes and more

There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the
Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!

Spring Lament

Oh, how I hate this time of year, when Spring is mild and calm.

I hate the gentle breezes as the Sun begins to warm.

Long, long ago I loved these months, with blossom everywhere.

So what is different now? you ask. The answer's in the air.

Each brown field that turns to green makes my spirits rise, but then

Each field that then turns yellow makes them sink back down again.

Drifting from each yellow patch is a cloud of strong perfume

Rank and sweet, it drowns the garden, permeates each room.

And then the sinus headache starts, the stifling lack of air

Promotes a sense of nausea, the annual despair,

Endless weeks, or so it seems, till these flowers fade away.

! Farmers, have some mercy please, grow linseed, peas or hay.

Chris Carrington

Sparks at the Village Assembly

IT WASN'T NEARLY AS GOOD AS *SPARK IN JUDEA* (woe to you who failed to see it) but the Parish Council certainly did its best to put on quite a show this year. The meeting started with a talk and slide show which ended with a heated 'discussion'. In the middle of the meeting there was a pre-arranged cabaret and entertainment. After which was a range of interesting local issues culminating in a most sensible suggestion.

Jake Williams of the National Trust was given the floor to illustrate the plans of the NT for the land around us. We learned that 99.9% of the wetland had been lost by drainage since 1600 so it was not a question of the NT "stealing it back" but simply reclaiming. In 1899 the NT had only 10 acres of wetland whereas the present aim is to have many thousands of acres. Even with the current holding of nearly 800 acres we were told that Wicken Fen is on a par with a tropical rainforest because it is the home to 7,000 species of wild life. Who would have thought that. And it was interestingly illustrated that the whole area of Newmarket Race Course was an environmental disaster as it sustained nothing but cropped grass. I didn't quite follow the argument that as the East Coast collapses into the sea and as new buildings gobble up land that the problem is being solved by turning huge areas of our local land into wetlands. He ended by showing us a picture of the proposed Bridge of Reeds – which was quite astonishing. There was the usual enthusiastic clapping though whether to congratulate the speaker or to welcome the end of the lecture was uncertain. And then it started.



Geoffrey Woollard said he disapproved of the whole project and did not wish to be waterlogged. He listed out all the fine manors in Swaffham Prior from Swaffham Prior House and Baldwin Manor through to Manor Farm and said they would all be subjected to a vast array of flies and mosquitoes which could decimate the people living in those fine buildings. And with 7,000 species (and growing) there were likely to be some interesting nippers just waiting for an unsleeved arm holding a glass of champagne. Geoffrey forecast that property values would plummet and it could be that these venerable manors will become valueless. If Geoffrey is right the owners should sell out now. Anyway, if the National Trust aims are carried out, Geoffrey will sue the NT.

Others were interested in the proposed Bridge of Reeds. It is crossing the A14 and I suppose will have the role of the 'Angel of the North'. "How much will it cost?" asked Geoffrey. "Twenty million" answered Mr Williams. "Eek!, Awk!, Gulp!" expostulated Geoffrey, as he sank into his chair, gurgling, at a loss for words, holding his head in his hands, rocking backwards and forwards, and he failed to hear Mr Williams explain this also included an information centre. "How high is it" asked another. I don't know, said Williams, and this is surprising because the bridge has been subjected to a lot of work, has been selected from 234 entries, and there has been widespread consultation. Mr Williams ought to have known how high it is especially as Marshalls are a sponsor and it may interfere with incoming aircraft. Alan Alderson, echoing the concerns of some Burwell residents, questioned whether

certain byways and paths on Burwell Fen would remain open and was assured that this would be the case, maybe.

After all this exciting rush of blood we moved on to the formal reports in which Hazel Williams, our CCC representative, explained about the CCC Cabinet which now rules. The seven members of the Cabinet are all Conservatives and the cabinet is supported by three cross-party scrutiny committees. Hazel thought this worked quite well. There is still no solution to the Bus Fare disaster though Hazel had another tirade against Gordon. The Cambridge Fire Fighters received several compliments and there was news about the redevelopment of the Parkside station. It seems that fire fighters now spend most of their time on traffic accidents and fire safety. May I here, and not at the meeting, put in an acknowledgement of the professionalism of the Burwell Fire Station two weeks ago. I had a real fire, it took two hours to quench, must have provided very good practice if fires are in short supply, and the whole crew were magnificent.

Back to the meeting. Hazel explained why South Cambs have no money. It had refused to increase its rates for the last two or three years and thereby it has the lowest rate in the county. But now it is short of money it cannot make an increase of more than 5% without being capped.

While Hazel was talking a group of threatening uniformed militia crept in and began to surround us. They appeared to be in the control of either a latterday Robin Hood with his gorgeous Maid Marion, or a rather ugly looking health freak with his very attractive moll. We were very very English and did our best to ignore them.

Alan Alderson ran through the achievements of ECDC though he studiously avoided any mention of the reasons for the revised plans for the ECDC offices. I can only imagine that the menacing militia surrounding us prevented any one asking about this. So Alan did not have to answer questions and to reward us he said that his report for the next *Crier* will be a pretty full report on garbage. Every meeting has its silver lining.

Then came the next drama. Robin Hood stepped forward with four of his merry band. And what very good reports they all gave on the activities of the Scouts. Each report was received with enthusiastic clapping and the reports ended with a plea from Robin (actually Tim Doe – telephone 743656) for any help which could be offered to the cubs/scouts in the way of facilities, know how, willingness to be involved, etc.

John Covill presented the PC report most of which readers of the *Crier* will already know. Sadly, since the time I reported the PC meeting on 13 May, the Recreation Field news is much worse and it seems that because of the legal costs Burwell Tigers may have to bail out and the whole proposition ditched. It is astonishing that after all the time, effort and money spent on this that the possibility has collapsed. With so many school playing fields having been sold off one wonders why this scheme should have ended so abruptly. In the minutes of the **May 2005 General Assembly** it said "Excessive charges by Solicitors proving an obstacle." Why is it exactly the same 12 months later? Later in the meeting we heard that the Sports & Recreation Committee have lots of money without giving any figure.

Speculation by those in the know suggested it could be between £15,000 and £19,000. The legal fees for the Recreation Field may be in the region of £5,500. With the S & R C and other local fund possibilities and goodwill gestures this surely cannot be an impossible sum to raise. If the opportunity is not taken now it will be gone for ever because I got the impression that the PC feels it has loyally kept the unused field long enough. Without the Tigers it will go, and the village and surrounding area will have lost the chance for a wonderful youth facility for ever. After the rather gloomy PC announcement there was no discussion, and just a lie down and die acceptance. Surely this cannot be acceptable, and surely there should be a village meeting of all parties before this village facility is finally consigned to the rubbish heap.

“ While Hazel was talking, a group of threatening uniformed militia crept in and began to surround us. They appeared to be in the control of either a latterday Robin Hood with his gorgeous Maid Marion or a rather ugly looking health freak with his very attractive moll.”

From the floor came an enquiry (mine) about the new Pylon in Whiteway Drove. EDF are trying to buy off Swaffham Prior's hostility to their behaviour by offering £1,000 to be spent on a single project which would mention the name of EDF. £1,000 for the injury they have done down the fen by putting the new Pylon so close to our Chairman's house and by putting the Pylon so close to the roadway! What an insult! Before EDF completed the works they must have known about the Sage Committee which was set up in October 2004 by the DoH to consider the affect of power lines. An early draft of this report indicates that nearby property could lose value by 10%-50%, and that the risk of leukaemia may rise by up to 69%. As for the position of the pylon a lady driver veered off the road and crashed at the pylon when driving from Upware at 6.00pm earlier this year. Even before erection, representations were made to the Highways Dept but they claimed there was no risk. Hazel explained that the accident could not be quoted to the Highways Dept because it could not be proved that the Pylon had actually caused the accident. I suppose the Pylon would need to leap in to the middle of the road before the Highways Dept accept that it may help to create accidents. Our Chairman reported hearing fairly regular sudden braking and anyone wishing to check the danger risk should approach the Pylon from the Upware direction. I proposed that we should refuse the miserly bribe from EDF and publicise our refusal. No-one was very interested.

In Open Question Time Caroline Matheson asked for white lines to be removed from the centre of the roads in the village. Hazel said that when roads are resurfaced they often omit the white lines, but some villages have complained because driving is less easy. “Exactly”, said Caroline, “Surveys have shown that people have to take more care and drive more slowly.”

Alastair Everitt

If MARMITE be the Food of Love - Yeuch!

Give me friendship, give me love
And we'll be like hand and glove;
All is made in heaven above,
- But MARMITE sandwiches.

Give me honour all your life
And I'll make you my dear wife;
Give me butter on my knife,
- But no MARMITE sandwiches.

Give me tender loving care
And my life with you I'll share;
Give me reasonable fare,
- But no MARMITE sandwiches.

Keep your cool when I get hot
And though it may not be a lot,
Give me everything you've got;
- But no MARMITE sandwiches.

Buy the clothes you like to wear
Keep the highlights in your hair;
But never give me, if you dare,
- MARMITE sandwiches.

Give me breakfast, give me lunch
And I'll call you "Honeybunch".
Feed me; anything I'll munch,
- But MARMITE sandwiches.

Give me dinner, give me tea
And I'll sit you on my knee;
Only listen to my plea,
- No MARMITE sandwiches.

And, when you and I get old
And begin to feel the cold;
Just keep doing what you're told-
NO MARMITE SANDWICHES!!

Ophir

Postscript:- Ophir sent a copy of this to Unilever Bestfoods UK (Marmite Marketing) last year and received a letter of recognition, saying that they had passed it to their publicity department. The subsequent TV advertisement used the idea, sustaining the love/hate theme.

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE OFFICER

SUE LOAKER'S POLICE VAN came to Swaffham Prior on Friday 5th May for her scheduled monthly visit. The problem is that, at the moment, this is quite a crime free area, Sue was under-employed, she was becoming bored, and therefore she has since been given another seven villages. We all know how boring it is to do nothing.

The advantage of these Police Surgeries is that you are able to meet the person who is your local officer and you can discuss either problems you may have OR hear about the community at large and also the views of the police. It enables both parties to put faces on each other rather than just thinking of the other as "THEM". So pop in for a chat when Sue comes again on the 8th June between 5-6pm.

This time Sue had been handed a live bullet which had been collected by a lad when he was ten years old, cherished, carried around the country, and then passed to his aging father saying "It's about time you had this". Sue will be handing the bullet onto the armoury section of our local police force, which could save a little money if it fits the guns now in use.

Sue now deals with people from 12 villages and as we chatted away she leaned towards me and murmured "The nicest people of all my villages come from Swaffham Prior". She is of course absolutely right, so do go and meet her when she next comes.

Alastair Everitt

Cantilena Singers in St. Mary's Swaffham Bulbeck

Unaccompanied voices in an historic setting

Saturday 8th July 7:30pm

St. Marys Church
Swaffham Bulbeck

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Programme including sacred music by Rachmaninov, Gorecki, Elgar,
Harris and Wood, and a selection of folk songs and madrigals

Tickets on the Door
Proceeds to Church and other charitable causes
Refreshments available.

French market is coming back to Ely

THE MARCHÉ DE FRANCE team of French traders, is pleased to announce that like previous years, they will be coming back to Ely mid-June, bringing once again a full scale French Market, to the town centre on Friday 16th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June.

The showpiece of the French market will be a magnificent cheese lorry with a huge selection of French cheeses from both Normandy and many other regions of France. There will also be a wide range of charcuterie including wonderful sausages and salamis. The bread stall, with its wonderful varieties of bread baked on site will also be part of the market. Coming from Normandy, there will also be a large stall offering three types of cider plus real



apple juice, and not forgetting calvados and pommeau - alcoholic drinks made from delicious Normandy apples. Other goodies to tempt the taste buds will include olives, wine from the Loire valley and Bordeaux area, smoked ham, calvados saucissons, paté normand, sweets, honey, pure butter, homemade biscuits and cakes, duck and goose products, cheesecakes and, of course, garlic!

For those with a sweet tooth there will be wonderful farm made jams and homemade apple and calvados fondant cakes, as well as the hugely popular crepe stall. For those with any room left, the sweet stall will also be making fresh pralines on site.

And there's not just food and drink; other products for sale will include soap from Marseille, lavender, beauty products, basketwork, table linen, and many other items.

Organised in partnership with East Cambs District Council, the market should once again attract many visitors from both the town and the surrounding areas, benefiting all the local shops with the increased footfall. On the Saturday, Ely's Farmers Market will also be operating, so Ely Town Centre is going to be buzzing!

The market will be held on the Market Place on Friday and Sunday, and along Dolphin Lane and the High Street, between 9am and 5pm (4.30pm on the Sunday).

For more information, please contact Marjorie or Martine on marche-de-france@wanadoo.fr or call 0033 228 535132 or 07980 865832.

The Reading Group Reads.....

The Time Traveler's Wife

by Audrey Niffenegger

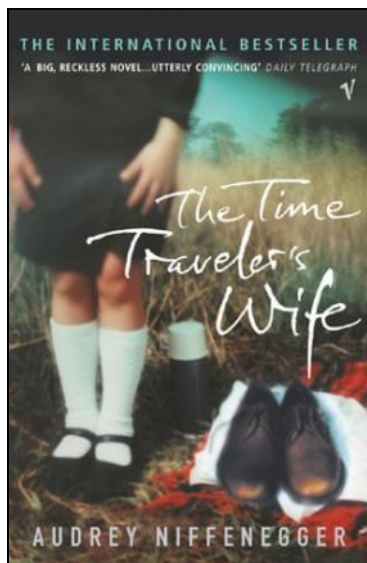
MAY 3RD SAW the members of the Reading Group, old and new, meet at Kent House to discuss Audrey Niffenegger's best selling first novel "The Time Traveler's Wife". (Actually, one new "temporary member", Harry, did not contribute directly to the discussion even though his name was repeatedly called during the evening.)

"The Time Traveler's Wife" is the story of the relationship between Clare and Henry. Henry, a somewhat selfish, womanising 28-year-old librarian first meets Clare (20) when he is already involved in an on-and-off relationship with another woman. However, when Clare meets Henry for the first time she is a child of 6, he is a man of 42 and he has been married to her future self for 12 years. It is clear from this brief summary that there is a twist to this love story, and the twist is that Henry is subject to sudden, relatively short but uncontrolled excursions to other times and places. This often lands him in embarrassing or dangerous situations and results, amongst other things, in his rather capricious morality. He rationalises that stealing clothes and money to survive is acceptable, but that using his knowledge of the future to make a fortune on the lottery or stock market is not. However this attitude is not inflexible - and there was discussion on whether this arbitrariness was a weakness of the plot or a reflection of the pragmatism of the character. Another effect of the time travel is that Henry's attitude to the child who will become his wife, and Clare's response to the man who will become her husband, are conditioned by their foreknowledge of these future partners and relationships.

Stories of time travel are not new, and love stories even less so, but Audrey Niffenegger's combination of the two, with its complex interweaving of events, is beautifully told and engrossing. Some of the group felt that the book was too long and that the author's inexperience as a novelist was apparent; others enjoyed the extra insight into the lives of the characters, were reluctant to reach the end, and are hoping for a sequel. The discussion was animated and passionate. (Indeed, one member of the group, excluded from the room -most unfairly in his opinion- forcefully insisted on rejoining the rest, although it was apparently the snacks he wished to share rather than the debate.)

Weds June 7th: Middlemarch by George Eliot: 8 pm at 2 Heath Road, Swaffham Prior

Weds July 5th: The Cement Garden by Ian McEwan: 8 pm at School Lane, Burwell



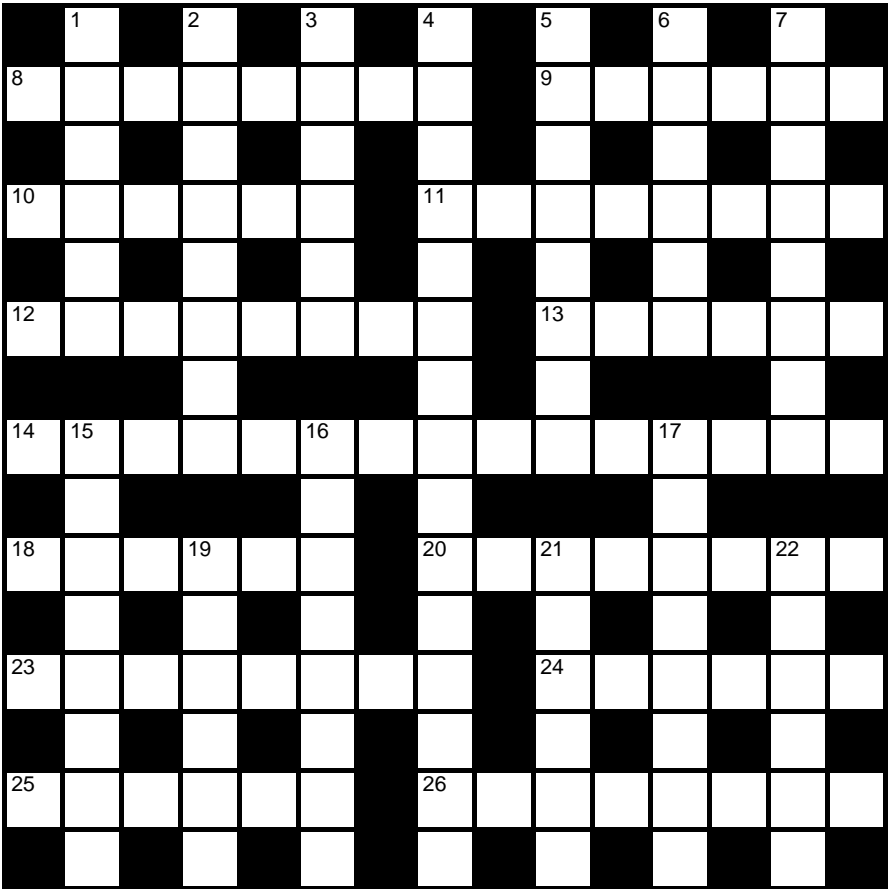
Crossword Number 34

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

A straight-forward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 21 June 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:.....		
Adress.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 8 Shell vehicle... quickly! (8)
- 9 User of cheap labour might drool (6)
- 10 Volunteers join top man for theft (6)
- 11 sweetheart found in part of swimming pool became more intense (8)
- 12 Anomaly found in dance I've developed (8)
- 13 Passage containing Jethro at rest (6)
- 14 Computer program gives instructions to surgeon (9,6)
- 18 Dried fruit is found in shower (6)
- 20 Frantic slap and tickle needs no skill when it's entertainment (3,5)
- 23 Girl's flower catastrophe (8)
- 24 Puppies make a mess (6)
- 25 Shooting star is remote possibility (6)
- 26 Teenagers perhaps grow old before rock band (3-5)

Down

- 1 Leave mess at cave (6)
- 2 First, find a man. Introduce love interest... and run! It's obvious (8)
- 3 To make a profit may corrupt the spirit (6)
- 4 Seemstress might use strange earth and get harassed about it (6-3-6)

- 5 Boss eats cooked insulating material (8)
- 6 Move quickly through one's profession (6)
- 7 Drink always needs bottle opener with silver point (8)
- 15 I reshape and restore old Israelite (8)
- 16 The colour of alcohol? (8)
- 17 Strip bird becomes street girl (8)
- 19 On which music for a barrel-organ might be written? (6)
- 21 Block and tackle could pull eye-witnesses in (6)
- 22 Reported confirmation of money order (6)

Solution to crossword no. 33

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

We congratulate Peter Sheldrick, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Claire Freeman, Robert and Julie Nunn, and Shirley Wilkins.

Feast 2006





Dear Editors.....

Joan Rest on the buses

The Bus Shelter....

ALTHOUGH I AGREE with Alistair Everett's discussion of the aesthetics of the bus shelter, he has missed the point. A bus shelter is to shelter while waiting for a bus. However, if you lurk in the depths, resting on the antique pine bench, the



Those well-loved Mondrianesque lines.....

bus will sail past you. Only from a standing square metre of the far edge of the shelter is it possible to see an approaching bus and flag it down. A mere four buses a day come from Reach, the rest suddenly appearing round the corner of Cage Hill, behind the timetable. This timetable was originally, and aesthetically tastefully, placed on the diagonal, totally obscure the view of any approaching bus. Fortunately, someone has since flattened it.

As a bus shelter, I award Swaffham Prior's two out of ten for design. The bench takes one of these points as it is warmer than the metal ones in many other shelters (even if you cannot use it and catch the bus). The other point is for some shelter. Surely we should have see-through-to-the-bus shelters (perhaps a periscope in Swaffham Prior's)?

And the buses.....

HAVING SPENT SO MUCH MONEY ON BUS LANES, shelters and designer timetables, we also need buses we can use. The half hourly service through the day is welcome but not the cut from every hour to every two hours in the evening and reduction in Sunday service as the 122 bites the dust. I never did understand a service to Soham twice a night and only to Ely on Sundays and bank holidays - but it filled the even hours of 8 pm and 10 pm from Cambridge and connected with the X12 in Soham and Fordham so that one could get home from Ely station (once in the evening because the X12 stopped soon after 6 pm). What a con when our County Councillor talks blithely of "improved service".

...And Concessionary Fares

THIS MORNING I HAD AN ADDENBROOKES APPOINTMENT FOR 10 AM. I caught the 8.42 am. It was late but sailed through much of the jam on that auto-green light bus lane. I was unable to use my concessionary pass so paid the full £2.50.

At Drummer Street, (9.28 am), eight people alighted from the 72 seater. Still at Drummer Street, I boarded the number 10 bus to Newmarket, due to leave at 9.30 am, and bought a day rider with my concessionary pass. It cost £2.10. I then jumped

off the bus, took the bus to Addenbrookes and back and then the number 10 back to Swaffham Prior. Had I purchased tickets on the Addenbrookes bus (i.e. on a bus not starting or ending my journey in East Cambs) I would have been unable to use my concessionary pass at all, although it was then after 9.30 am. I confirmed this nonsense with the Bus Inspector at Drummer Street, who, in common with every driver, confirmed the nonsense of the scheme. Drivers hand out the "please contact your council cards" with enthusiasm. They are sick of it.

Our representatives (Parish, District, County and Parliamentary) may all agree that it is a "sow's ear". But we, the people, didn't create the ludicrous boundaries and crazy 9.30 am rule. And we in East Cambs did not overspend South Cambs or Huntingdon's budgets. So what has each and every one of these representatives done to try to make it better? I note that there are no District or County Councillor reports in the May Crier. I would like to know how they all voted and when, whom and how they have lobbied to try to change the current mess. Someone is responsible for it. As a private citizen I have written to the County Council (twice) and the District Council and James Paice and am now contacting you, the local media. I will write to Gordon Brown. ***Come on representatives, you are elected to help.***

What are you doing before the next election?

Joan Rest

LUXURY AND EVERY-DAY TREATMENTS ON WHEELS

Whether it's make up for a special occasion you need or eyebrow shaping or a manicure, they and a host of other beauty and therapeutic treatments can come to you.

Metamorphosis is a new business, launched in May by Serena Parsons, who will be working as a mobile beauty therapist in the area. The range of treatments available includes facials, make up, manicures and pedicures, waxing treatments, body scrub, body massage and Indian head massage.

Serena, who grew up in Wicken and now lives in Isleham, has years of experience, having worked locally and in prestigious spas in the region including Clarice House in Bury St Edmunds and Center Parc's Spa at Elveden.

"The benefit of a mobile service is that it saves busy people time and makes my treatments accessible to a range of people who don't find it easy to get out. I love working with all age groups," explains Serena. "I can bring customers affordable luxury in the form of relaxing treatments in the comfort of their own homes."

Make up packages for special days, including weddings, race days, school proms and family occasions can also be provided by Metamorphosis. Serena is also offering birthday party packages ... for girls and ladies. Prices on request for any of the above services locally and further afield, if required.

Standard treatment prices range from under £10 for eye-brow shaping to £50 for a "Babybliss" body-scrub. To book an appointment or find out more, contact Serena **on 07886 189825.**

BURWELL SURGERY NEWSLETTER

MARCH & APRIL 2006

WELCOME TO THE LATEST edition of the Burwell Surgery newsletter. The idea of the newsletter is to keep you updated with current events here at the surgery and there is also an opportunity for you to ask us any questions that you would like answered.

Patient Survey

As many of you will know, we have recently undertaken a large patient survey (which we now do annually). The vast majority of the feedback that we got from this was again very positive and we are very grateful for this.

The top three comments that we had were:

1. Comments about the loss of Saturday morning surgeries and slightly shorter opening hours.
2. People wait sometimes for longer than they would like in the waiting room.
3. It can take some time to get a routine appointment and also some time to get through on the telephone.

To deal with these in turn, as you may be aware, we work to a nationally determined General Practice contract with the NHS. This was revised in October 2004 and has resulted in our shorter opening hours. We have tried to compensate for this by starting slightly earlier (at 8.40 am rather than 9.00 am), however we do finish slightly earlier - our last appointment is at 5.30 pm (rather than 6.00 pm for a routine appointment or 6.30 pm for an emergency as it was in the past). Although we do not have any immediate plans to change these, there does seem to be a growing political impetus to consider more flexible opening hours and this may well be something that we will reflect on in the future.

We do realise that some people wait a long time in the waiting room for appointments. A routine appointment length is 10 minutes but we have always taken the view that if somebody seems to require longer than this, then we prefer to give people the necessary time rather than require them to make a further appointment. We would, however, encourage you to request a longer appointment if you feel that a longer one is likely to be required (for example if you require certain examinations). We will always try and accommodate this.

We are also aware that sometimes it can take longer to obtain a routine appointment than one would like, especially with the GP of your choice. We do have busier times of the year and this is sometimes reflected by background disease such as flu and also by our staffing levels. Some partners also have outside interests such as teaching or performing certain surgical procedures which can reduce the number of available appointments. We plan to look at this issue closely over the coming months to see if there is anything that we can do to minimise the length of wait for routine appointments. If you need to be seen on the same day, then the receptionist will always allocate you an appointment for that day although we prefer these to be arranged during a morning to be seen at the end of the morning surgery where possible.

Telephone access should have improved considerably since our new telephone system was installed. We have six dedicated patient lines and our receptionists aim to answer calls within two to five rings. Clearly, there are exceptionally busy times, particularly on Monday mornings when this may not be possible. Certainly, if it is possible to ring later in the day, particularly on a Monday, then we would suggest it is a good idea. Please also note the prescription line is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm only (these times are changing to 10.00 am to 5.30 pm with effect from 5th June). We have considered the question of whether it would be appropriate to offer a dedicated phone line for an emergency but our current view is that there would be little benefit from this over the current service and would be extremely awkward for us to staff. We will, however, keep this situation under review.

If you have any comments to make about the above, then please feel free to relay them to our Practice Manager, Aileen Allen, and we will be very happy to receive and act on them.

Internet Booking and Repeat Prescriptions

Did you know that you can now both make appointments and order repeat prescriptions on the internet? The procedure is very straightforward. Please ask for details from reception.

Clinical Questions

Are there any illnesses that you would like further information on in the form of this newsletter? Is so, please write down your question and give it to reception.

Comments

If you have any comments on any of the above or any views about any other aspects of the Surgery please speak to reception or ideally write it down for the attention of

Aileen Allen, Practice Manager.

STEPPING OUT

ADULT TAP DANCING CLASSES.

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO AN
"OPEN MORNING"
OF INFORMAL DEMONSTRATIONS
DANCED BY THE STEPPING OUT LADIES
REACH VILLAGE CENTRE
SATURDAY JUNE 24TH
11AM - 12.30PM

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT FUN WE HAVE



WI Notes

After attending to business matters at the May meeting, the WI discussed the resolutions that are to be put before the National Assembly in June.

The first of these was a motion that was to be put before the Government pressing for renewable energy to be used in all new buildings, re-building and renovations. All forms of renewable energy were discussed—polar, wind, hydroelectric, geo-thermal and nuclear, and although no decision was reached as to which method was best it was carried unanimously, that the motion should be put forward.

The second resolution was for more sport activities for a healthy population, and after reminiscing about the sports we all played at school when we were young, and rueing the day so many school playing fields had to be sold off, we all agreed that sport and PE should definitely be put back on the school curriculum.

On to much lighter mode and a delightful talk by Hilary Sage on the acting career with the Pembroke Players, the Footlights, open-air Shakespeare and at the Edinburgh Festival. Her talk was full of amusing anecdotes, and put us all home with a smile on our faces.

Next month, on 19th June, Julie Drake will be telling us how to Grow Old Disgracefully. Sounds fun!

Betty Prime

Bottisham Legion

We have our normal Bingo sessions on Saturday 3rd June, Sunday 4th and Sunday 18th June. Line dancing is every Tuesday.

We are holding a Family Disco with A.J.s on Saturday 10th June from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. family tickets are £5.00, so bring the family along.

The Bowling Club are holding a Quiz Night on Saturday 17th June with a fish and chip supper.

Dance to Velvet Touch on 24th June from 8.30 p.m. till late. Members £3.00 and their guests £5.00.

Start thinking about fancy dress. On Saturday 15th July we are holding 70's Fancy Dress Disco with Looney Tunes, so you have plenty of time to find an outfit to wear.

The Poppy Restaurant for use of club members and their guest reopened on Friday 19th May 2006. The restaurant is open initially for sittings Friday and Saturday evenings from 7.00 pm and Sunday lunchtimes from 12 noon. Further sittings will be added soon. A bar snack service will also be operated for busy times including England World Cup T.V. viewings.

Restaurant bookings can be made at the club bar or by telephone on 01223 812063.

Jacky Cameron

BUS SERVICES have been the major item of interest recently, in three areas.

1. The operation of a half-hourly bus service has begun, now re-numbered route 10.

2. The cutting of £250,000 from the budget that supported buses that were not economical has resulted in the axing of the buses after 5.00pm that divert to Reach. This seems very short sighted if we want people to use buses more, particularly to go to work.

3. The saga of the 'Free Bus Passes' for all pensioners continues as I write this. I am clear however that it is the fault of a government who are implementing a policy without thinking it through and funding it fairly across the country. Cambridgeshire has not been funded adequately once again and Districts and Counties have been left to bear the brunt of the criticism. I hope that by the time you read this there will be a more satisfactory arrangement with the bus companies and that travel beyond our district borders will be free for pensioners.

The Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee met to look at issues related to the treatment of **domestic waste**. Following this there is a reaffirming of the commitment to waste minimisation and increasing recycling as well as sending less to landfill.

The Private Finance Initiative Board have also entered into a period of 'exclusive negotiation' with Donarbon Ltd whose proposals the Council favours, following a detailed evaluation of three bids. These proposals include a new Mechanical Biological Treatment facility at Donarbon's Waterbeach site for the treatment of residual waste, as well as in-vessel composting of kitchen and garden waste and additional recycling at the network of Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county.

The figures for **traffic flow** in Burwell have been received. They compare November 2003 (before the opening of the Fordham bypass) with November 2004. It shows a drop in vehicle movements that has surprised myself (and others) as the perception is that there has been an increase – certainly by those who use the Quy interchange. The combined flow has dropped from 14,980 to 11,389.

I have also had the opportunity to spend a very enjoyable day with the **Fire and Rescue Service** in East Cambridgeshire **finding out about the work that is being carried out by firefighters on a day-to-day basis**. It included issues such as community fire safety, partnership working and local initiatives.

At Ely Fire Station I was able (under supervision) to use the new cutting equipment they have for use at road traffic incidents.



Hazel Williams
01638 743897



I am frequently asked about recycling, so I am devoting this months newsletter to the subject

Recycling rates in East Cambs are now 33% and rising-double the national average. The council has been awarded 'Beacon Status' for its success working with the County Council and other districts in Cambridgeshire.

A trial in Witchford to collect the recyclables (including kitchen waste) one week and the black bag the next has proved a success, more than 50% was recycled. We have increased the number of plastic bottle banks in the district during the past year. The recycling scheme has been further extended so that it now covers most of the district.

The government has set a target for 2021 of 25% land fill, 25% incineration, and 50% recycled. So we still have a long way to go. But it is just part of an environmental issue that will be of greater importance in the years ahead.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

1. What happens to my paper waste when collected by my district council?

The old magazines, newspapers and junk mail we collect from you are sent to UK re-processing facilities and are made into more paper for newsprint primarily, but also into other products such as manila envelopes and cardboard.

2. What happens to my cans when collected by my district council?

They are separated into aluminium and steel at licensed premises in the UK. Then they are smelted to be used in a whole range of items, from more cans and washing machines to cars and even planes and ships!

3. What happens to glass bottles and jars when collected by my district council?

They are sent for re-processing to produce new glass containers: so by recycling your marmite jar, you give it the chance to maybe be part of a champagne bottle!

4. What happens to my plastic bottles when collected by my district council?

Plastic bottles are sent for re-processing. A proportion of them are transformed in the UK where markets are available. The rest is sent abroad for recycling. It is important to highlight that there are bigger markets for the re-processing of plastics abroad than in the UK, therefore by exporting these recyclable materials, we satisfy a demand of materials. The plastics are made into a range of items, from clothing, such as fleece jackets, and filling for duvets to drain pipes and wheeled bins.

5. Why can only certain types of plastic be recycled?

Plastic are as diverse as their use. Different types of plastic require different type

of treatment in order to be recycled. Currently, the re-processors we use do not have the facilities to recycle all kinds of plastics. However, we accept plastic bottles made from (1) PET, (2) HDPE and (3) PVC, which include all soft drinks bottles, bleach, shower gels, shampoos and conditioners.

6. What happens to garden and kitchen waste collected by my district council?

All the garden and kitchen waste produced by householders in Cambridgeshire is sent to two local contractors. One of them is based in Waterbeach and the other in Ellington. They have approved licenses to process even meat, bones and dairy products. All the contents from your garden and kitchen bin or paper sack are transformed into soil conditioner, which is used by local farmers and is also sold to residents to enrich gardens and allotments.

The garden waste you take to any of our Household Recycling Centre is also sent to our contractors in Waterbeach, Ellington and March.

7. What happens to the recyclable materials collected at the Household Recycling Centres?

All of the recyclable materials are sent to re-processors to be recycled and transformed into something useful.

8. What happens to the waste that cannot be recycled?

All the waste that is not suitable for recycling is sent to landfill. Cambridgeshire has a few designated and approved landfill sites that deal with our waste. The availability of landfill space is limited and is running out; therefore it is important to recycle and compost as much as possible.

9. How does my council ensure that my recyclables are actually recycled?

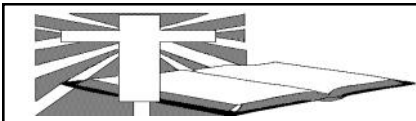
Comprehensive data is collected, audited and verified at different stages, to make sure that good-practice is observed by all of our contractors and that residents' recycling efforts are worthwhile. In the case of a suspicion of failure to comply with contract, a full investigation would be carried out.

10. What process is followed by my council when choosing a contractor to collect, recycle or dispose of my waste?

All of the Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have well-defined contract regulations in line with European and UK Legislation. When awarding contracts, a comprehensive tendering process is undertaken to ensure that not only we obtain the best value for taxpayers' contributions but also that good environmental, ethical and health and safety practices are in place. All of our contractors are licenced waste carriers and we obtain evidence when we let the recycling contracts that the companies have market outlets for the material the councils collect.

11. Does my waste get exported to third-world countries for disposal?

No. All the waste produced by Cambridgeshire residents that is not suitable for recycling is landfilled at authorised sites in Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire County Council fully complies with national and international legislation in the transport and disposal of waste.



Zion Baptist Chapel

The World Cup - Hoping for Glory!

I LOVE FOOTBALL – and even before the World Cup starts I’ve enjoyed a wonderful season. The reason – I’m a Reading supporter, and have been since I was a kid when I lived just down the road from the ground. In recent years the team have left their old stadium and the lower divisions behind them – and this season they broke records and won the Championship. From August they’re in the Premiership, and for the first time in their history they’ll be regularly playing the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea and Liverpool! Bring it on!

As a fan, it’s a wonderful feeling when your team wins, when it achieves something that you’ve long been hoping for. As we approach the World Cup every England fan is hoping for a repeat of 1966, and a share in the glory of ‘our boys’ being crowned world champions.

So come and watch their progress on the big screen at Lode Chapel – we intend to show every England match in a friendly, family atmosphere.

There will be refreshments, face painting and a half-time kick around. We’ve even got a special service on 11th June to celebrate the start of the World Cup where you’ll be able to pick up ‘KickOff 2006’ – your own free pocket guide to the competition.

Some people may ask what football has got to do with God – but those who watched Brazil celebrate their win in 2002 will probably recall that some of the team players and coaches took their shirts off to reveal ‘Jesus loves you’ vests. At the pinnacle of success, and with billions of people watching worldwide, these Brazilian Christians wanted us to know who their hero was! Their example shows that it’s possible to have a passion for football and a passion for Jesus too!

The first three matches are:

Sat 10th June: England v Paraguay – KO 2pm, open 1.30pm.

Thu 15th June: England v Trin & Tob – KO 5pm, open 4.30pm.

Tue 20th June: Sweden v England – KO 8pm, open 7.30pm.

Coverage of England matches will continue throughout the knock-out stages all the way to the final, hoping, of course, that we make it that far! Doors open 30 minutes before each kick-off. All the family are welcome. Children under 11 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult.

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

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 Church – News and Events

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, Brenda Wilson (743937) and Christopher Walkinshaw (742542) were appointed as churchwardens. Grateful thanks to Francis Reeks for his sterling service in recent years. I have taken over from Tricia Harrison as PCC Secretary; thank you, Tricia, for all you have done. A full list of roles and contact numbers is on the door inside the Church.

Three beautiful hampers were raffled at Reach Fair and we sold out of tickets, raising £200. In addition, a very successful nearly-new ladies' wear stall raised £417. Thanks to all who donated items, bought tickets and clothes and staffed the stalls on that grey and windy day.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to a barbecue at Adventurer's Farm after the open-air service for Rogation Day. Thanks to Janet and Jim Willmott for hosting the event and providing the barbecue.

All are welcome to celebrate Pentecost – the church's birthday – on 4 June with a special Songs of Praise service at 6.30pm. Come along to sing some favourite hymns chosen by the people of Swaffham Prior.

The popular Jazz at the Red Lion event is taking place on 18 June – with a difference. Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon – 2-5pm – will feature the Kemp Brothers with Jess Aplin. What better way of celebrating Father's Day? Entry is free, with a collection and raffle in aid of Church funds, and the Red Lion will run a barbecue. Hilary Sage would be grateful to receive donations of raffle prizes (742978).

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)

noyeshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk



Church of England Services

June 2006

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 4	11:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Songs of Praise	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 11	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion 6:30pm Concert
Sun 18	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 25			8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Benfice Service

PASTORAL LETTER, June 2006

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

My computer sits right by my large study window with it's sliding patio door, and often, when I am working at my computer, I can stop awhile and gaze out at the beauty of the green grass, the flowers and the trees. The garden is particularly lovely at this time of the year because of all the blossom on the trees. Henry, my Golden Retriever, often lies on the carpet beside me soaking up the sun or gazing out at the birds and butterflies and bees buzzing by. There is a beautiful Clematis climbing up one side of the window and it's lovely pink flowers are a site to behold. We often spot beautiful unexpected visitors – a lovely Green Woodpecker, a pair of Jays, a couple of Monkjacks.

I feel a real sense of safety and security as I gaze out of the window. It seems as if there is nothing bad or evil or cruel in the world. Yet I know there is.

St. Cyprian felt much the same way as he gazed out at his garden. In fact he wrote to his friend Donatus:-

“This is a cheerful world as I see it from my garden under the shadows of my vines. But if I were to ascend some high mountain and look out over the wide lands, you know very well what I should see: brigands on the highways, pirates on the sea, armies fighting, cities burning; in the amphitheaters men murdered to please applauding crowds; selfishness and cruelty and misery and despair under all roofs. It is a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world.”

St. Cyprian became a Christian at a relatively mature age. He was a wealthy man who lived in Carthage at the beginning of the third century, and possessed the most lovely gardens. Having become a Christian he found himself deeply concerned about the state of the world about him and felt that he should do something about it. He became a Priest and devoted his life to serving the needs of others, including giving much of his wealth away. He even sold his beloved home with its beautiful gardens. He eventually was elected Bishop of Carthage by popular acclaim, because the people loved and admired his deep faith in Christ and his concern for people. The people admired him so much that they clubbed together to buy back his beautiful home and gardens for him to live in. It is said that had it not been for the fact that the Emperor at the time initiated a great persecution of Christians, that resulted in Cyprian’s eventual death as a martyr, Cyprian would have almost certainly sold his home and gardens again to meet the needs of those in trouble.

In that same letter to Donatus St. Cyprian went on to write:-

“But I have discovered in the midst of the world a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians--and I am one of them.”

Jesus Christ said ‘I am the light of the world’. Jesus calls us to *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.”*

If we all truly followed Christ’s teaching, the world would indeed be a happy place, and the beauty of my garden would indeed reflect the beauty of the world around us. But first we need to accept in our hearts that Jesus is indeed the ‘Light of the World’, and to respond to his love by loving him and each other in the way that he taught.

May God bless you all.

David

Dates for Your Diary - June 2006

Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3.45, Chapel 3.50-4.10pm
Thu	8	Police Mobile, 5-6pm, Opposite School PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	11	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Fri	16	..to Sunday: Ely French Market
Sun	18	Jazz on a Summer's Afternoon, Red Lion, 2-5pm
Mon	19	WI: How to Grow Old Disgracefully, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3.45, Chapel 3.50-4.10pm
Sat	24	Stepping Out Open Morning, 11am--12.30pm
Sat	1	School Fair, 12.30-3.30pm
Sun	2	Lode Open Gardens, 11am-5pm, Tea and Cakes at Church
Sat	8	Cantilena Singers, 7.30pm, St Mary's, Bulbeck

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd 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 st 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 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***