



# The Swaffham Crier

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## Editorial

MARCH, and with it great news of forthcoming whole-scale *metrication* — a must-have for the Olympics, of course. Yes, how much more convenient to be 1.59 metres high as we quaff our 0.57 litres of beer and fling 113 grams of flour into the pancake batter. But for *combine-harvester* dimensions, metres seem just the thing — except that readers can't agree how many!

"Honest Tom" gives his views in *Letters* this month — the monster pylon debate continues — and where you'll also find further much-deserved support for our local hostelry. Sarah Dodge's comments last month seem to have *struck a chord*.

February has seen the sad departure of our stately fire-engine for Burwell museum, originally necessitated by a much-needed revamp to the Cage — no, don't want anything-else falling down! Here the pump will stay until we find

somewhere to display it ourselves — mixed feelings about this from all.

As usual, this March issue contains all the news of forthcoming Easter plays and concerts that our tiny village with its quite unique double-churched *heritage site* (ho yes!) is most privileged to host. But who knows about the two sisters that were alleged to have built it? A hand-me-down myth with no bearing on boring reality *of course*, but the Church's Conservation Trust would like to know more. What's *your* version of the story? Tell us, and we'll print it.

Lastly, there's a picture somewhere in this issue which might just have you in it — don't miss it! See you concerting,

**Caroline Matheson**



*Cage Refurbishment Underway*

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**Cover Picture:** *Auricula* by Claire Warren



# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

## Music at the Red Lion

Like possibly many others I am writing to The Crier to say that it wasn't me who complained, and I am surprised that anyone should have complained about late night celebrations on New Year's Eve. Apart from such a complaint being very anti-social, at least they should have got their facts right and not given a false report. Maybe they nodded off and had to guess.

Anyone who visited The Red Lion during the period between John Berry and Dave/Lorraine appreciates just what a well-managed and excellent hostelry we now have compared with the awful state into which the pub had declined after John left. It now offers a wonderful service and being a broad church it welcomes everyone – both regulars and strangers, is open most of the time, and its demands are few. If the Gay Bulleid Award included “service to the community” then Dave and Lorraine would be high on the list.

*Alastair Everitt*

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Dear Editors,

## That Pylon Again...and more about the Lion

The Eiffel tower syndrome seems to have spread to last month's issue, and the retort of the Angry Agronomist (best he has his own name and doesn't mock my own in future diatribe) made interesting reading. A few points by way of reply perhaps:

Whilst the road traffic acts are definitive, Combine harvesters do indeed traverse the fen with their 6-7 metre cutters keenly attached afore front, as well AA knows, so too do fast tractors wiz along with trailers which have neither working lights or matching number plates (this is not a complaint, I couldn't care less so don't haul me over coals please—I am from farming stock myself). So the council is correct in their statement.

When the travellers camped on the fen, I WAS one of the few who attended the meetings to discuss the matter (and was quoted by my dear friend Mr. Everitt in his traditionally misleading report of the same.)

The pylon is hardly an easy option to moan about, (I had to use a dictionary). It is, however dangerous and ridiculous. Caroline, (Controller of this Organ) invited me to join her when media were coming to “view”, I know she will affirm my decline.

As far as ridiculing my name, I find that an unattractive matter. It was given to me by one of the many “genial landlords” of the Red Lion who preceded the present, and excellent hosts, as a reference to the high level of honesty and integrity associated with my profession. (Automotive Retailer)

Whilst on the subject of the pub, I would like to add my support to Mrs. Dodge's letter. Our local hostelry is probably the best it has ever been under the careful management of Dave and Lorraine. In addition to the fine vitals supplied,

they are very aware of their neighbours, to the extent that on late occasions, customers are asked to leave quietly. I have this on excellent authority but cannot verify it because I have never stayed late myself. At this point my nose is extending.

With utmost admiration

*Honest Tom*

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## **The Moveable Feast**

### **Saturday, 22nd April 2006**

**(Please note new date)**

MANY OF YOU have been to previous Moveable Feasts and had a thoroughly enjoyable time moving from house to house for each course. If you would like to host any of the courses I would be delighted to hear from you. We limit the numbers to 30 so there needs to be enough space for people to eat their first and last course standing up or perching on chairs. However, for the main course we find it works better if guests can sit down at a table and eat their main course together. If you think you could accommodate about 8 – 12 people around a table for the main course or would like to host any of these courses please do give me a ring. If you get the answer machine I will be very pleased to ring you back. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Ruth Scovil* (tel. 743720)

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## **Gang Steal Prior Fire Engine**

Our Reporter reveals all.....

► 4



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

# SALE OF THE CENTURY

LITTLE DID I KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT as I made my way to the Village Hall, innocently pondering the great mysteries of the universe - why some blondes dye their roots dark and some brunettes dye their roots grey? I'm truly flummoxed by that one. It's like asking yourself 'What's a cat for?'

However, the playing field is now off our hands, and it's habit forming. Work starts today on repairs to the Pound, or Cage. (My caption for last month's picture of the FOR SALE sign there was *'It's only a Pound'*. Editors know better [of course, Eds], but I digress). The contents of the Pound have been removed for the duration of the works:

Fire engine      1 no. used

Lamps            4 no. used

Stand pipe       1 no. used

no illegal immigrants — (but it's an idea)

I discovered the fire engine myself a couple of years ago while removing nature's attempt to 'green' the Pound roof and finding roof repair work



Antique Lamps

necessary. I suggested then that this little treasure should perhaps be displayed at village community events, but n o t h i n g w a s forthcoming. It has, h o w e v e r , n o w



forthcome with the unanimous decision (apart from Eric Day's objecting right arm) to loan the machine to the Burwell Museum, recoverable whenever we have need or secure and dry conditions to keep it safely preserved. Eric told how the engine was commissioned to fight the Jerries during WW2, and removed to Newmarket, then dumped on a tip in Kennet, from where a stalwart hero rescued it for posterity. For those in ignorance, the engine is hand pumped and hand drawn on 4 wheels. Though it's sad that it should leave the Parish, other possible locations here would leave this valuable piece of our heritage vulnerable to rot or to undesirable

**“.....Eric told how the engine was commissioned to fight the Jerries during WW2, and removed to Newmarket, then dumped on a tip in Kennet. ”**

attention. So far, no argument, but then a collective fever of disposal seemed to grip the gathering; you will probably see elsewhere in our esteemed journal invitations to tender for 'patio' lamps and an 'architectural' feature, the water stand pipe allegedly removed without the proper consents from the playground area. Take the lamps, but I implore you to ignore the stand pipe. As sole bidder I can then afford to donate it back to the PC with inviolable responsibility for its welfare, in perpetuity. Fortunately, our redundant church is in the hands of others, and nobody proposed ripping up the water stand pipes remaining in place along our streets. I fear, though, for a reconditioned Pound, and a nice new oak barrier in Coopers Lane. Just when my pulse had returned to something like

normal, HH disclosed that he still had the old Parish safe and, if no-one else would house the beast, perhaps it could go to Solapark?

When you hit your thumb with a hammer, do you involuntarily say 'Pool'? This word came up in the same sentence as 'dogs' and 'footpaths'. There's too much of it in the wrong place, and shouldn't we start to prosecute those responsible? Of course we should, especially if they also have boundary hedges obstructing a footpath. They then annoy us in two different ways, and we know that polite reminders are not worth the soft and gentle paper they're written on. That would be better employed removing the stuff fouling the footpath. Oh, yes. 'POO BAGS' can be got for free from the Parish Clerk, as if

## Easter Lilies

**E**ach year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



*Ruth Scovil*

she had nothing better to do than hand them out. What about public dispensers or, better still, community service clean-up duties, for the discourteous who fail to practice responsibility and consideration for others?

There was other news, but it doesn't compare. The playing field entrance defences in Station Road will have been strengthened long before you read this because the Tigers' lawyers are still sleeping off Christmas excesses. There were red faces when it appeared that the various plans showing the PC ownership of Coopers Green all disagreed with each other, and also with the situation on the ground. The PC will now register all of its property (accurately) with the Land Registry, and so should you, really. Only new-ish properties and those recently changing hands tend to be properly registered.

Cllr Williams confirmed that Council Tax will rise 5% and there will be cuts on top – sounds like a no.5 to me. The Burwell Library is open, and it's a joy. There is free advice for those entitled to benefits, even for those of the older generation who feel they do not deserve it (Oh yes you do. Ask!) 1.6m people use the Cambridge Park & Ride, up 20% on last year, a great success soon, perhaps, to be emulated in Newmarket. Foolish talk about a new town at Six Mile Bottom (or 10km Bottom as EU regulations might have it) is just foolish talk. A large PFI contract for waste disposal/recycling will soon be awarded. Hopefully, the winner's performance will not be rubbish. CCC is the best performing recycling county in the UK. Thanks for doing your bit, though the temporary closure of the

**“...fouling footpaths .... shouldn't we start to prosecute those responsible? What about community service clean-up duties ...?”**



Depot Road facility has resulted in more dumping on the Fen, rubbish of a nature suggesting builders who are permanent local residents, not mobile transients whom it is easier to target. The new cycle route through S Bulbeck will follow the bend behind the hedge for improved safety – pedestrians keep off!

Cllr. Alderson spoke of fluorescent markers at the site of the rogue pylon and of hopes that the STOP sign in Station Road will soon once more be upright so you won't get a crick in the neck reading it on its side in the gutter. Action to remove illegal campers causing nuisance on highway verges and on droves will now become both quicker and more robust. We shall not appear a soft touch in future. Powers will be reviewed to take account of ancillary nuisances arising from licensed activities. Our local bobby will be invited to make occasional appearances at PC meetings when he is able to do so - no pressure.

Quite harsh things were said about the National Trust, in the context of their expansion plans for Swaffham Fen, so keep your eyes open for the gating of byways on the sly.

NT deny that they have plans for further expansion (beyond Moscow). Lastly, we read a letter about bus drivers

abusing elderly ladies wanting to get off in Rogers Road. This will be sent to whatever the bus company is currently called. I would like this sorted out before I get my bus pass next year, please.

The prize for spotting last month's deliberate error goes to James Willmott. Thank you, James (but wasn't 6 metres wide dramatic?) And no-one else queried it, so it's all about perception or, possibly, ignorance of the metric system.

*Frank Readhead*



*Prior's Sue Loaker..*

## THE RETURN OF THE BOBBY ON THE BEAT

YES, (S)HE'S BACK! The afternoon of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February witnessed the first visit of a large police van containing two Police Community Support Officers – Jonathan Hall 8888888 (Burwell) and Sue Loaker 8888888 (Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham). Why you may ask does Burwell have one all to itself? Well, apart from being a sin-ridden flesh pot, Burwell pays for Jonathan.

A *Crier* team was there to record this major event but too late to witness the visit by Dr Margaret Stanier who arrived with a bag of hair discovered on her sister's car exhaust. Margaret thought it came from an animal, we thought it was human hair, and the police adjudged it to be part of a wig. Shame – it could have been an interesting first case worthy of Miss Marple.

Because there was such short notice not too many people attended. Next time the publicity will be better, and meanwhile Sue will be writing the occasional notice (►8) for the *Crier* to keep everyone well-informed.



*...and Burwell's Jonathan Hall*

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### A Cambridge scene (true — allegedly! Eds)

Lady shop assistant describes an encounter to a colleague:

'A woman in a large 4WD leaned over and lowered her window to say:

*"My child goes to a private school; you **must** let me in"*

'I replied': *"I work for a living; **you** must stay in the wrong lane"*

In the first of an occasional column from our new Community Support Officer Sue Loaker warns us the latest trend in local burgling....

# DISTRACTION BURGLARY

FIRSTLY THIS ARTICLE is not meant to alarm you but to make you aware that Distraction Burglaries do happen using a variety of disguises the elderly are most at risk, listed below are a few excuses that somebody may use to gain entry to your property, **A person claiming to be from the waterboard, Gas board or electricity company. A child stating a ball has gone into your garden or that their cat has got through your window.**

**Gaining entry through an open window making a number of excuses for being in your home.**

There are ways to greatly reduce even to stop you becoming **a victim, Always keep your doors locked, if somebody calls on** you look out of the window first to see if you know him or her. If you don't, open your window and talk to the person or use a safety chain or bar on your door, ask for identification before allowing anybody in your home don't worry about delaying the person if they are legitimate they won't mind waiting. If you are still in doubt or simply want to make double sure ask them to write to you making an appointment for a future time and if possible have somebody with you when they call again. If they are claiming to be from a service provider telephone the company listed on your service bills to make sure the visitor is who they claim to be.



If anybody would like to have window stickers to deter callers please contact me, Police Community Support Officer Sue Loaker 07921938046

Please note this number is only answered if I am on duty at other times please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I return to work.

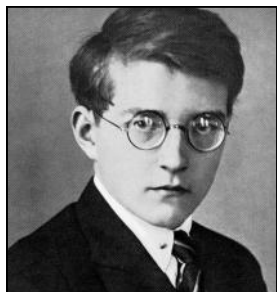
*Sue Loaker*

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## Down on the Farm – Any Questions?

JAMES WILL BE BACK NEXT MONTH, but meanwhile, if any readers would





2006 marks Shostakovich's  
70th and..

## MUSIC FOR EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 2006

IT'S BEEN TRADITIONAL, these past few years, for there to be an informal concert of music by Bach in St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior to celebrate Easter, by kind permission of *The Churches Conservation Trust*: indeed, what better composer could there be to listen to, in praise of God and all his creation? This year the concert will survey Bach's famous *Well-tempered Clavier*, otherwise known as the **48 Preludes and Fugues in all keys**. This year, concert-pianist Ian de Massini will look at

the second of the two volumes (not surprisingly called *Book 2!*), and will present four of the preludes and fugues from that – in C major and minor, and in D major and minor.

Additional composers will featured at this year's recital, as we mark not only the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Russian composer **Dmitri Shostakovich** but also the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**. Ian will, therefore, include in his programme Mozart's fantastical multi-movement *Fantasia in C minor* (K. something-or-other), together with four of **Shostakovich's 24 Preludes and Fugues in all keys**, the latter having been written in one rapid creative burst during the end of 1950 as a way of communist Russia marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Entrance to the concert is free. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the improving amenities of St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church.



...Mozart's 200th Anniversary

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

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

Free admission – retiring collection.

All seats are unreserved.

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

# Crier Profile: Sue Jackson

Sue Jackson has been a teacher at Swaffham Prior school for over twenty years. However, she has memories of places very far from here!

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE EXACT DAY I started teaching at Swaffham Prior - I first went in to help as a mum and I was doing lots of other supply as well, at a school at Lode then, and one at Wicken – both gone now. Then I was taken on one whole day, or two afternoons helping each class. I had been teaching in Sheffield before I moved here in 1983 - Sophie was born just as we moved, so teaching was put on hold for a bit. Gradually I took over from Barbara Brown, who was already my friend. It was quite a culture shock, moving from the city to the country – I thought what am I going to do? I felt really lonely and isolated to begin with so I found out about NWR – the National Women's Register. It's an organisation for women to get together and *not* talk about the kids! You made up your own calendar, so we talked about books, and went on visits – I think it still exists, but this branch may have phased out. But a group of us stayed together for ages, and still bump into each other. I was really pleased with that because it expanded my horizons. I was so surprised how insular it was in a little village. I'd say to people, do

you come from round here? And they'd say, no, no – I come from Bulbeck! (Laughs) In Sheffield people would talk to you at bus stops. Here I

**“ I'd say to people, do you come from round here? And they'd say, no, no – I come from Bulbeck! ”**

found if you walked along the road and there was one person walking towards you, you both ended up looking aside as you passed! – Every village used to have its own bonfire night, even the school had its own – and when I moved, I thought Quoy and all these villages to Reach – I expect they get together for everything but no, each village worked in isolation. I found this really hard to take on board because in the city you are used to travelling ten, twelve miles across to go to night classes or whatever – the distance didn't seem anything to me.

We moved down because work had been drying up for Dave – he worked in the

building industry – travelling from Sheffield to Manchester for a long while, and we'd moved to Greece for a year too, in the hope that building would pick up in Sheffield, but no. We'd visited Cambridge and it seemed like a nice city but I wasn't prepared for the culture shock...I said to a friend – a bomb could have gone off in the whole of the rest of the country, and I wouldn't know for a week in Swaffham Prior! The first year I was here I think out of 52 weekends, 40 were either going back to Sheffield or people coming to visit us. They all said, great, Cambridge! It was a way of getting by, at the time. But NWR helped, and I joined the babysitting circle.

I don't go back really now – I've got one very good set of friends who I do keep in touch with. But I don't come from the North – I come from Gloucester. I had a job in the car tax office – when car taxes were local - where we had to get rid of all the obsolete papers. The day was so long we invented various games to try and make the time pass. Like you're not allowed to look at the clock for fifteen minutes – we'd guess after about three and a half



*Sue with a class in Indonesia*

minutes. And promotion was opening the letters. And the bakery I worked in was a bit of an eye-opener. Very unhygienic. You weren't allowed to wash when you wanted – you had to wipe your hands on your overalls. I was a bit of a disgrace. I had a cream bag for the big sponge cakes. They had to keep stopping the conveyor belt because I wasn't quick enough. And I had to cut the custard slices – my hand was all blistered from the repetitive action. Then they put me on to peeling potatoes in the canteen and I think I enjoyed that more, really. You need to have done these jobs, to know what goes on. I went to training college in Sheffield, from '67 to '70. It was all girls – I believe it had been a home economics college. I think there were four men allowed in in the last year! One of my first little projects was to go out on the streets of Gloucester—we had to interview people—with a tape recorder and say: I'm going to Sheffield, have you heard of it? What do you think of it? They'd say, oh,

poor thing, how awful, or it's all chimneys and smoke, oh dear...so I wasn't looking forward to it! But Sheffield was looking up. We could go to parks. There were loads of parks. It's a big city but it doesn't feel rambling. My dad died when I was at college and we moved to Bristol so I had no particular home in the same way so Sheffield became my home in my heart, I think.

I taught there for two years, and then I met Dave. He worked in London but part of the job was to go out to Indonesia to work on the site of the Hilton Hotel, so I

joined him. We were both out there for two years. I taught at the school there. I didn't have a job waiting, I had to find one – but I had to give up the flat I had with my best friend and sell my car – I was really sad! And I followed Dave out...this must have been '74. People didn't travel out there a lot then. I had a huge goodbye with everybody and got to the airport and they'd cancelled the flight for a week and forgotten to inform me, so I had to go back home again...a week later no-one was really interested in saying goodbye, they'd already done it! Communications were poor then – Dave didn't really know what was happening at all – When I did turn up he'd had no idea where I was at all. They just said I'd never got off the plane. Now people would say, why didn't you email? Why didn't you text? But it was really hard then. You had say right, I'm going to make a phone call – and you had to go down to the main exchange in Jakarta and



*A street in Indonesia — 1974-ish*



*The Hilton Hotel (copied cast moulding from Sultan's Palace)*

queue for ages. Of course there was very little English spoken then. It was quite something!

I taught any nationality *except* Indonesian. The school was set up for people who'd gone over there and needed their children teaching. It was in a house and my classroom was the garage. The Business School was a bit like Swaffham Prior's, quite homely, whereas the joint Embassy school was bigger and grander with wonderful equipment!

Sometimes it rained so hard, the children would say, come on teacher, we've got to take off our shoes and socks

and lift everything onto the higher shelves. Were they having me on, I thought? But it happens every year. The rain would come in – three or four inches of water on the floor. Especially in the garage. The children just took it in their stride.

It was so hot, we started at eight; we had a break, which wasn't a lunch break, and then at one we'd be driven home, or to the pool...a strange life. I'd thought the 'ex-pat' life had died out with India, really, but it was very much like that. You went to *The Club...most people were older than us, with families. Very hard to get used to the culture, having servants...but you had to. Every house was massive. You had to have a chauffeur, because it wasn't safe to drive around on your own. Cars were air-conditioned there even then – you just stepped from your air-conditioned car to your air-conditioned restaurant...and a guard:*

every house had huge fences round. It was just the way the ex-pat life had evolved. If you didn't have one, there'd be a stone at your window, and five minutes later they'd come knocking on your door – do you need a guard?

There were minor political issues, but they didn't affect us directly. You might have a house boy or girl and you'd notice they're stealing the jam, or the coffee, and you'd think, what's going on here? But slowly you began to realise that they just saw that we had so much they just thought – well, what is it to them? It's just a tiny, tiny little bit. And what did surprise us as well was that they thought the way we were living there was how we lived in our own countries – nothing like it! A life of luxury. Totally alien to anything that I've ever known.

I was brought up in a little cul-de-sac and we shared our first car with our grandparents. Everyone came round and watched the one telly with us...to go from there to that very luxurious life was quite strange.

The house girl had a tiny room that belonged to the house and I remember one day she was ill, and her friends came round and they were chanting from the Koran – really quite scary, as we were saying look, can't we take her to a doctor? But that was not what they wanted. They were up all night, chanting...and she looked



*These creatures were 4" long*

**“ Indonesian was a funny language – quite simple in many ways. Take a word like A-da: that can mean I’ve got, you’ve got, have you got, did you have, will you have, are they? All those things. ”**

awful, and we were pacing round...but she pulled through, and that was an indication of their faith, in a way. They didn’t want our interference, they didn’t want the Western way. It very much opened my eyes. I can see how they would see the West as decadent – it looked as if we had absolutely everything...and they just had their religion. But it was said that the ex-pats treated the servants far better than the Indonesians did – they only gave their servants food....we were paying them and helping them where possible. The rich Indonesians were really very rich. There was a huge divide. Lots of beggars, people without limbs. Quite often there were floods. When you were going into the city and you got stuck, lots of people would just always appear, hundreds of them and push you out of the floods, and probably ask for money afterwards...it was partly frightening and partly absolutely dreamlike. We travelled around a lot – a

shame to be over there and not travel...Bali, hardly any tourists, and the Thousand Islands – just...sea. And sand. And a hut. And Komodo Dragons, you know, the big lizards, crashing around in the undergrowth.

Coming home two years later, I really missed the seasons – out there, it’s just wet, or it’s dry. And it’s hot all the time. Indonesian was a funny language – quite simple in many ways. Take a word like A-da: that can mean I’ve got, you’ve got, have you got, did you have, will you have, are they? All those things. Bunga was a flower. Flowers were bungabunga. Ruma was a house, sakit was ill, so a hospital was ruma sakit. Whereas learning Greek, the year I was there – that was really quite hard! I went to Greek classes - the only thing I did in Greece on my own - while Dave looked after our two little tots. Dave would phone up with bawling in the background...so sometimes I didn’t always make it to the end of the lesson. But the Greeks were very good with

children – in a restaurant, they’d say, oh, you have your meal, we’ll look after them...stand up on a bus to let them sit down. I did a little bit of private teaching – that was quite lucrative.

In Indonesia, You’d drive though the city and it would be open sewers...kids jumping in and out of the water. But the local lads would have immaculate white suits, and they looked really good. I’m not a very good swimmer, but one of the most amazing experiences I had was when we went off somewhere – the Thousand Islands? and I just put the snorkel mask on and put my head down into the water – and ok, I’ve lived on this earth, but here was another world, entirely. You see fish on TV, but this was fantastic. One of the best days of my life.

When we went back, Dave was still working in London but he was looking around, we weren’t married and I went back home to my poor mum – what was I – 27? 28? I think it was a bit of a shock for her. It was a time



*Sue’s garage classroom in Indonesia*

when getting teaching jobs were looking not so easy to come by, so I went on a TOPS course...I trained as a secretary. I did law, sociology and economics. Then I got a job for September teaching so I never went back to secretarial work! But what was useful was learning shorthand. This is what kids have to go through – these symbols, trying to interpret them and get them in my head...and this is what kids have to do learning to read.

As for my own schooling, you remember the teachers that do something for you personally. I remember one of my maths teachers, Mrs Payne – she would just explain things to you as many times as you liked. When she said put your hand up if you don't understand, she really meant it. If you didn't get it, she'd explain it again another way. I think she really turned me round with maths.

When I first started teaching at Swaffham Prior it

was much smaller. There wasn't class two or the library, or the existing staffroom...Where Jo's office is, was the whole of the staffroom and the toilet! There were about eighty pupils. There have always been four classes except when it went up to five once. Teaching has changed a lot ...endless, endless initiatives. The big one was the National Curriculum which came in when I came back, so I was in on that, which was nice. Things go round in cycles...there's a big debate coming round again about phonics.

Mostly school life has been very good. That time we failed the Ofsted, that was very unpleasant and felt very unfair. My big worry when I came from a city school was – well, there aren't going to be many people to talk to: what if you don't get on? But it hasn't been like that. Loads of memorable children. Loads and loads. Lots of fun with the

pets. Various rabbits and things. There was Boney – lots of people laugh at his name but the children did vote for it! Whenever he escaped he'd come round my house because I had two female rabbits. And one year we'd been growing some sunflowers, measuring them and watering them – but one of the rabbits escaped and we got him back but I noticed the sunflower stem had an inch gap where it had been nibbled. Shall I tell the children, I thought, or shall I just wait? And another one escaped and mated with a wild one and the children had the babies and then escaped again but this time the babies were really wild...and we've had stick insects and a giant snail. I can't think of anything else I would want to do other than teaching, though. When I was little, I wasn't girly, I didn't play with dolls exactly, but I lined all my dolls and teddies up in a row and when I played teachers I made them little books, and I wrote sums in their books and then I went round and ticked them all – So I guess I was made to be a teacher somehow.

Village life here is lovely, though. It's safe for the kids to play. Popping down to the park. When we moved here there was only one swing, buttercups growing in the grass. I love the skies. The only thing I still really miss is the hills. Cycling's a bonus. And it's a nice easy atmosphere.

**Mark Lewinski**

*From an interview with*

**Sue Jackson**



*A Swaffham Prior class — anyone recognise themselves?*

# ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Bottisham Tennis Club is looking for new members. If you have played before and want to rekindled the spirit of Andrew/Andrea Murray, that's good, if you've never played before, that's even better!

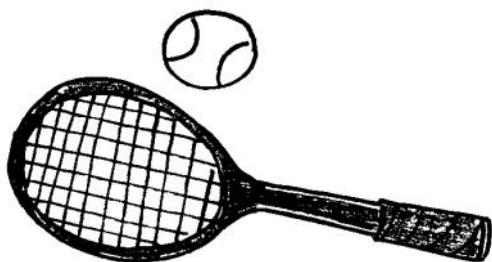
BTC is planning to provide coaching for beginners and improvers this year to encourage would be players to have a go, as well as helping those with a basic knowledge to improve.

Club members of all abilities play on club nights which are from 7-9pm on Mondays and Fridays. Club nights run from Easter Monday, 17 April, to the end of September. The club has the use of three hard courts and two Astroturf courts at the west side of Bottisham Village College for club evenings. Everyone has the opportunity to play on club sessions so it's a good chance to have a game if you join on your own and to meet other members.

Club members have the use of the hard courts at all other times out of school hours throughout the year.

It is also our intention to join the LTA and apply to join a league for the more competitive players.

We shall have a tournament at the end of the season followed by a barbecue. We have an AGM in the winter to get feedback about what we are doing right as well as wrong. All constructive suggestions are welcome. The season starts 17 April and you are welcome to come and have a try without commitment. Should you wish to join the fees for the year are:-



Adults £36

Junior £10 [under 18]

Family £80 [2 Adults + 2 or more children]

Please contact the Club Secretary, Dawn, on 01223 812416 or the Chair Person, Tessa, on 01223 811812 for further details.

## Quiz Night! Everyone Welcome

**Date - Friday 31st March 2006 (7.30 for 8 pm prompt start)**

**Venue - Lode Social Club**

**Tickets Price - £5 per person (max of 8 to a team)**

**Tickets are available from Fran on 01223 813016.**

# MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK 2006

Following the choir's resounding success with Bach's *Mass in B minor* to a capacity crowd in Ely Cathedral's Lady Chapel last year, Cambridge Voices present Bach's astonishingly dramatic setting of the St John Passion in St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior on Saturday April 15th (Eve of Easter Day) during Holy Week this year.

THE CHOIR WILL BE JOINED, once more, by their own orchestra, *The Orchestra of the Age of Reason*, though this time they only will employ one player for each instrument, effectively turning the orchestra into a chamber group of Cambridge's leading instrumental soloists. Besides this, there are several other features of this performance that should make this event very special indeed.

Firstly, in Bach's time, the audience for his *St John Passion* performances would have been encouraged to join in the singing of the hymns that Bach included in his music. Sadly, at most modern-day performances, the audience is firmly *discouraged from doing so!* But Cambridge Voices are keenly aware that their performance, this year, should respect the spiritual ambience of both the venue and the special time of year (Holy Week), which is why they will include some of England's best-loved Passiontide hymns in their performance of the *St John Passion* and, furthermore, will encourage the whole audience to join in the singing of them. This, I think, help break down the inhibiting barrier, at so many modern performances, between the "active" performers and the "passive" listeners and I hope, promote the listener to the role of real participant



in the passion drama.

Secondly, the role of the Evangelist is nowadays given over to a hired professional singer. However, Bach much preferred to elect a member of the chorus, made up of singers from his own choir at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, to sing this role, and Cambridge Voices will do the same this year, but with one important difference: the many recitatives for the Evangelist will be shared amongst all of the singers in the choir. The aim of this radical re-interpretation will, I hope, enforce the inclusiveness of the Evangelist's role as the observer of the Passion narrative, a role which many of us will participate in during Holy Week.

Thirdly, the solo arias will likewise be distributed amongst the choir-



members, just as they did for their performance of Bach's *Mass in B minor* last year. The overall effect will be that all the singing will be presented by just the choir, as in Bach's time.

Fourthly, Cambridge Voices are to present all of the "alternative" arias and choruses that form the so-called "appendix" to the modern edition of Bach's *St John Passion*. These all date from the second performance of the piece, which Bach gave in 1724. Later, in the penultimate year of Bach's life, the composer re-designed the work, re-assigning some of these "alternative" movements to his *St Matthew Passion*, or simply casting them into the bin! But these pieces are so wondrous, and so rarely heard nowadays, that Cambridge Voices wish to bring them to life once more.

Finally, the whole work will be directed from the keyboard, though not from the harpsichord or organ. My ongoing work preparing the complete solo keyboard works of Bach for performance on the modern piano (without use of pedals), coupled with the presence of only solo instruments in this concert, has led me to create an independent keyboard part for the *St John Passion* that is no mere "chord-filling" continuo-part. Rather, I have written out a fully-contrapuntal part for the keyboard, one that is faithful to Bach's customary compositional rigour, constantly complementing the other instruments and voices involved in each movement. This, I hope, will produce a true equality between all the musicians concerned, at long last!

We ask that the audience pay £6 each to attend this special concert. None of the money will go to the musicians: instead, all proceeds will go towards the

**"...in Bach's time, the audience would have been encouraged to join in the singing of the hymns. Sadly, at most modern-day performances, the audience is firmly discouraged from doing so."**

choir and orchestra's ambitious project to make a new CD of some of the best music that has been specially composed for them over the years, to be partly recorded in St Cyriac & St Julitta's Church, Swaffham Prior (by kind permission of The Churches Conservation Trust) and partly in the church of St Etienne-du-Mont, Paris. This will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the choir's foundation, and will feature works never recorded before. So, here are the details of the choir's concert:

## **Bach's**

### ***St John Passion***

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

Directed from the keyboard by Ian de Massini

And with audience participation.

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

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

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

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

Positively the last in the saga of Fen climbing celebrity .....



## Clifford Edge

AN INVITATION TO HOLLAND to lecture on his Fen Climbing technique resulted in what was possibly his finest hour when he gave an exhibition of abseiling down a frozen canal, escorted by a crack team of skilled Dutch down-hill skaters. The banks were lined with excited Dutch enthusiasts all heering and chooting.

Having virtually retired from his intensely active life, he was much in demand as an after-dinner speaker and would regale his audiences with tales of climbs far and wide from his beloved Fens, such as, 'The Somerset Levels' or 'The Great Plain of Salisbury — Avoiding many an Ancient Ridge' or, closer to home, 'Holme Fen' near Peterborough, apart from those already mentioned in his books.

These after-dinner speeches were better attended than the organised circuit type e.g., in halls, as, apart from the food, if there was a stage in the hall Clifford would insist that as many as possible of the audience were on the stage whilst he spoke from the back in the body of the hall. He would usually begin his talks with some quotation, his favourite being, "We are here, as on a Darkling Plain".

Cliff, in these later years, could honestly and proudly claim (and often did), that during his many expeditions in the field, no one fell nor was even slightly hurt — a truly magnificent record. This was due in no small part to the fact that his expeditions were indeed, 'in the field' — nothing was attempted that could, by any stretch of the imagination, be deemed too high, nor dangerously steep for his followers to follow. Of course, the team also had the distinct advantage of being unencumbered by heavy breathing (apparatus), though tiny tents were sometimes carried by a small team of short porters.

It was this and his level-headed outlook - he neither looked up to nor down on any one in the team - that ensured success in what was to become the unique form of Extreme Sport that it is today — Fen Climbing.

He would often end his speeches by declaiming one of his verses, written in the style of the great Thomas Hardy, whose works — during his quiet, introspective moments - he readily admitted he had admired since his schooldays. It shows just how much he favoured the Fenland area; I quote:-

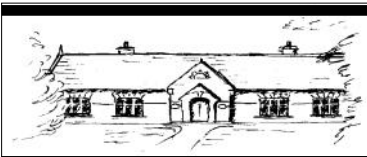
'There are some levels in East Anglia,  
Shaped by a Kindly Hand  
For thinking, walking, and climbing on —  
And at crises when I stand  
And think say, of Burwell to the eastward,  
Or of Bulbeck, to the west;

They're both within my easy reach;  
And the climbs I favour --  
For they are the very best'.

Such a stirring conclusion would inevitably be greeted by loud and prolonged applause, and the odd 'Huzzah!' Alas, his speeches escaped the attention of keen recording engineers, so we are left with only the written word, and must imagine the fervour of his delivery. Thus this largely unsung hero passed quietly into history, remembered only by there being somewhere, low down on the wall of his 'shack', a green, low isosceles triangular plaque bearing this odd tag along the bottom edge:-

VERT IGO IFYA SCAY LIT

*Ophir*  
His Official Biographer.



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A RATHER SPECIAL LOCKED CUPBOARD in the Village Hall has been cleared of its contents so that the Quilting Society can store its irons and ironing boards in safety. The Committee does try to cooperate with users whenever possible and does go out of its way to be helpful.

However the apparent easy going affability of the Committee can so easily be misunderstand. One local family has taken advantage of it by indulging in a number of small well-oiled swerves and sidesteps which were at the time quite time-consuming and irritating. No doubt the family is congratulating itself on being so smart! We were not impressed.

Now to return to the aforesaid locked cupboard. Inside we discovered a couple of interesting Village Relics. First was the FUN RUN CUP. Some people still lament the loss of the village's rich past and in particular they quote the Fun Run. (I have never thought it much fun to run four miles). Because there appears to be such a demand the Committee will organise a Fun Run this year if a minimum of 12 runners of any age or sex agree to run. This is a great chance to have your name engraved on the cup.

The second item was the "MISS SWAFFHAM PRIOR" Sash. I don't when the last competition was held and I doubt if the traditional beauty queen contest will go down well today. But there could be a new approach if a minimum of *either 6 men or 6 ladies* entered. The contest would be for the most stylish, the most alluring, the most outrageous, the most colourful, the most of anything you like. It would be a wide open contest and the judges would be a broad spread of the village.

Interested? Discuss with others? Phone me on 742974 if you'd like to enter.

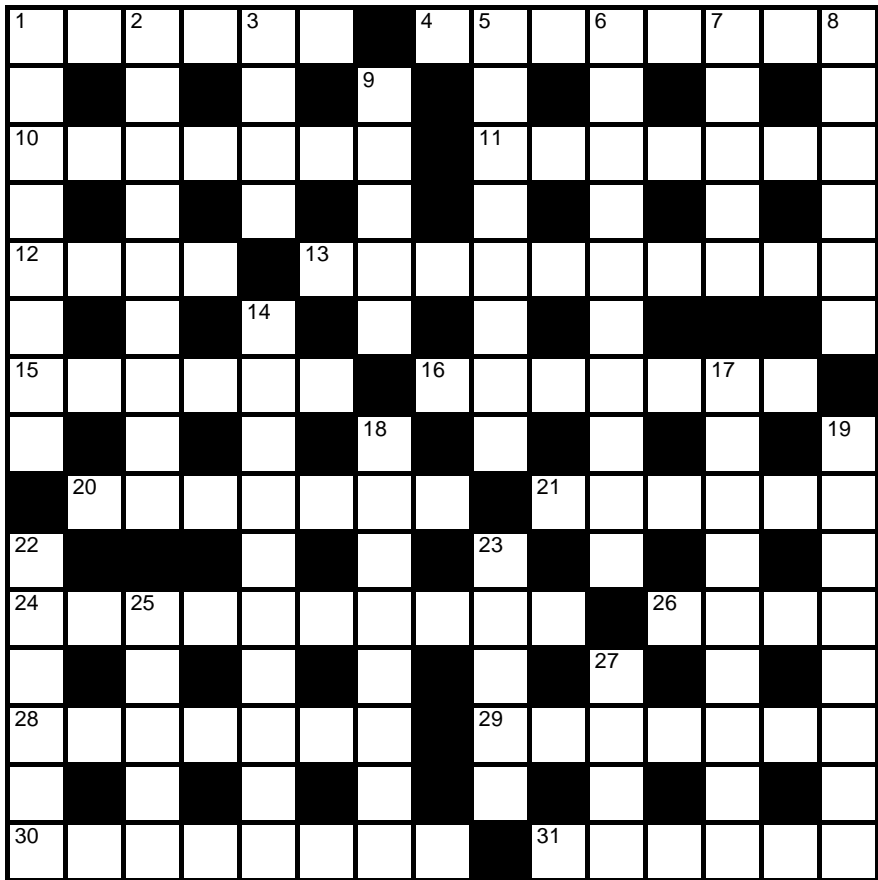
*Alastair Everitt*

# Crossword Number 31

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by  
**NIBOR**

You should have no problems with this month's crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14th March 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

- 1 A very soft organ might pop out (6)
- 4 Revolutionary separatist, at a loss, moves wearily (8)
- 10 I love Latin and French streets - so romantic (7)
- 11 Hang on for American writer in empty, squalid surroundings (7)
- 12 Do not despair or jump before the end of June (4)
- 13 Excited to be spread out in old burial mound (10)
- 15 One who suffers from leading many a reprobate to youth rehabilitation (6)
- 16 Skinny enough to make swan cry out (7)
- 20 Nowadays, a day in Paris at the end of autumn might be close (7)
- 21 African leader gets a pound in job centre; must be a white man (6)
- 24 Arrange daily written instructions (5-5)
- 26 A return of flyers from a long way off (4)
- 28 Pole jumper might be one looking for bargains (7)
- 29 It's the flavour that makes midwives go to a love city (7)
- 30 All people in revolt every so often loose soft characters (8)
- 31 Knowledgeable about poetry and old money (6)

## Down

- 1 Hate a man who is confused and cursed (8)
- 2 Right about old Bob and Edward. They flourished (9)
- 3 Swear a pledge (4)
- 5 Support soldier gets at the beginning (8)

- 6 Banalities contrived to become hard to satisfy (10)
- 7 Shorthand typist takes gun to opposition leader (5)
- 8 Sad is my beginning. Such pleasure derived from inflicting pain (6)
- 9 I find strange uses for this edition (5)
- 14 Strangely happy? Go try printing processes (10)
- 17 Brad registers what manicurists might use (4 5)
- 18 A race in court? it's just an experiment (5,3)
- 19 Dock the boat and come ashore to see some open spaces (8)
- 22 Mix us some dessert (6)
- 23 Burrow seen by Derick on victory day (5)
- 25 Took the car across the fen (5)
- 27 Keen beginner got directions to the joint (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 30

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

We congratulate Robert and Julie Nunn, the winners of last month's crossword competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Steve Lang and Julian Lattrell.



I WOULD LIKE to bring Freecycle to your attention. Freecycle is a yahoo-based internet service where unwanted items are posted on a message board. The principle of Freecycle is that the unwanted item is being offered for free. Examples that I have seen on Freecycle include gravel, cardboard boxes, polystyrene packaging, furniture, clothes, childrens toys, music and the list can go on. You can also post a message for wanted items.

In brief, you can arrange to collect an item, or agree plans to have it posted. If you do not want a stranger coming to your home you can arrange a public place (like a supermarket car park for example) to meet and pass on your offered items. Or arrange for a friend to be present.

The Freecycle idea was started in the US but seems to have become very popular in the UK. The overall aim of Freecycle is to build a community spirit and keep things out of landfills. Freecycle is divided into regions of the UK, for example, Cambridge Freecycle (internet address = [groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle)) and Fenland Freecycle(internet address = [groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle)) cover this area.

I feel that Freecycle is a refreshing alternative to the commercial and throw-away culture that we seem to have developed. Therefore I would like to encourage you all to have a look at Freecycle when you have a spare moment.

In addition to participating in Freecycle, how would you like to post offers and wants in the local village magazines. I would like to open this up to residents of Bottisham, Lode, Longmeadow, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and Stow-cum-Quy. If you would like more information or would like to take part, please e-mail me on [jun.thompson@tesco.net](mailto:jun.thompson@tesco.net) (or phone 01223 813362) with the following details:

Your “wanted” or “offered” items; Maximum of 5 items per month, with brief details about the item.

Your name, village and contact details (e.g. phone number/e-mail).

I have not really done anything like this before – so it might fizzle out, or become a popular community scheme. I am planning on taking peoples e-mails for each magazine edition following the usual deadlines. If you don’t have any response to your message, then you will need to e-mail me again for inclusion in the next edition.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

***Jun Thompson***  
Longmeadow

# School News



THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE CIRCUS CAME to our school. FoSPS paid for this end of term entertainment, which allowed children to develop balance and co-ordination skills. Children practised juggling, stilt walking, balancing peacock feathers on the palms of their hands (give it a go), spinning diabolos and balancing on pedal walkers.



The school has purchased some of the equipment and circus skills are on the menu for the new look lunch times.

Each day there is a game of the day, for example frost and sun, a variation of “it” where a catcher “freezes” the children into statues. They have to be melted back into action by the “sun”. This game of the day is led by a midday supervisor and is enjoyed by all age ranges.

There is also the use of our quiet area, a free play area which uses other equipment such as the diabolos and juggling scarves and the use of the trim trail. The last piece of the trim trail — the Burma Bridge — is being installed this term. Thanks to FoSPS for their all their fund raising for this wonderful climbing equipment.

Once again we are collecting Sainsbury's Active Tokens and, when they begin, Tesco computer vouchers. If you don't know any one to pass these on to, just drop them off at the office.

Please keep sending in your old mobile phones, used ink cartridges and aluminium cans too.

**We hope to see you at our Easter Egg Bingo on 24<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm, our Easter Service on 30<sup>th</sup> March 11am at St Mary's and at our end of term assembly on 31<sup>st</sup> March at 1.30pm.**

**Summer Term begins on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

*Joanna Lakey*

Head teacher

office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk [www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk)



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

THEIR MEETINGS, HAVE NOT GOT OFF TO A VERY GOOD START THIS YEAR. Last month the speaker couldn't come and this month's just didn't come! But to quote Christopher Lloyd, the great gardener from Great Dixter, who died last month: "Of course gardening is not for enjoyment; No, no, indeed not. There is no virtue in enjoyment. The hard grind, the solid slog, these are the character-forming attributes of our—I nearly said hobby—of our mission." We're struggling with disappointment too!

Our next meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, our speaker (we hope) will be Philip Whaites—Head gardener of Wimpole Hall talking on the past, present and future of this lovely National Trust property. Every one is welcome.

See our full year's programme below.

*Margaret Joyce*

### Village Gardeners Programme 2006

<b>Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	Oviatt Hamm.	"Making the most of clematis"
<b>Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Mar</b>	Philip Whaites	"Wimpole Hall gardens; past, present and future"
<b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	Peter Walker	"Ancient ancestors, wild relatives"
<b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Lamorna Thomas	"What plants — where and why?"
<b>Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>	Ken Harbutt	Evening visit to Rougham Hall Nursery
<b>Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jul</b>	All day visit to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens (NT), Kent	
<b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Jul</b>	Sir Martin and Lady Nourse	
	Evening visit to Dullingham House Garden (National Garden Scheme)	
<b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Sep</b>	"Failures, frustrations and fun in the garden"	
<b>Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	AGM and entertainment	

*Indoor meetings, 800pm at Swaffham Prior Village Hall*

*Details of summer visits will be confirmed later*

*Family Membership: £12*

*Visitors always welcome: £3 per evening*

*Contact Numbers*

*Chairman: Roger Connan 01638 742182*

*Secretary: Margaret Joyce 01638 744390*

*Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681*

## GB sticker

DAVID CAMERON SUPPORTERS can help his cause by making more use of his initials.

Though Tony Blair can do no better than appear on health warnings, Charles Kennedy had his own fashion label and many vehicles on the road display a Gordon Brown sticker.





## WI Notes

**Waitrose**  
For quality food at Christmas, Waitrose offers a wide selection of leading brands to safely at home.



In February the WI. visited the Waitrose store in Newmarket.

On arrival we were taken up to a large lecture room on the

second floor and offered a glass of wine. We then heard a talk on how John Lewis and Waitrose first started, how the business is run and the aims for the future. There followed a talk by a Cambridgeshire apple grower who produces apple juice in various flavours according to the apples used and we were given four 'tasters', all delicious.

After a selection of cheese and biscuits and nibbles we were taken for a tour of the store and the store rooms, ending up in the coffee shop for coffee and tea and a raffle, the proceeds of which are to go to a charity. We were all given a 'goody bag' of leaflets, recipes and a sachet of coffee to take home.

This was a very interesting evening. Thank you Betty Fox for arranging it.

Next month will be our Annual General Meeting.

*Betty Prime*

## WI ADVANCE NOTICE

On 10th April Sue Elliott will be giving us a talk on Alzheimer's. This is an illness many of us will have to face at some time, either amongst our friends or relatives or even ourselves so it should be of interest to many. So it will be a meeting open to all.

Sue works for the Alzheimer's Association and I have heard her talk on the subject. She is very helpful and reassuring. Do come if you are interested — 7.30pm in the Village Hall on Monday 10th April.

*Betty Prime*

## What's on at Bottisham Royal British Legion

We start the month with a dance on Saturday 4th March with Glam -R-Us starting at 8 p.m. members £3.00 and their guests £5.00.

We have our usual Sunday Bingo sessions on 5th March and 19th March, and Branch Bingo will be held on Saturday 11th March.

On Saturday 25th March Bottisham Sports Association are holding their Race Night, starting at 8 p.m. so come and join in the fun.

The Poppy Restaurant is open for Sunday lunches and Tuesday Pensioner lunches. There is a special Mother's Day lunch on 26th March, so telephone 01223 812063 to reserve a table.

*Jacky Cameron.*



## A BETTER EASTER BET THAN JERRY SPRINGER?

On April 9th, the touring Cambridge-based Cameo Theatre Company will be playing in St Cyriac's...



"GIVEN THAT JERRY SPRINGER: THE MUSICAL is at the Cambridge Corn Exchange in Holy Week, we thought some theatregoers might like a play more appropriate to the season" says Rex Walford, who is directing R F Delderfield's classic play SPARK IN JUDEA this Easter. Cambridge-based Cameo Theatre Company are touring the play in a variety of Cambridgeshire venues over the Easter period and are coming to St Cyriac's Church in Swaffham Prior on Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4.00 p.m.

They also play at Ely Cathedral (April 2<sup>nd</sup>), Haslingfield (April 7<sup>th</sup>) and St Ives (April 12<sup>th</sup>) before finishing their tour with two performances at St Mark's Cambridge on Good Friday and Easter Eve.

C a m e o h a v e produced several major pieces of Christian drama in recent years including a dramatisation of the whole of the New Testament to mark the Millennium and, in 2004, a first theatre staging of the twelve plays of Dorothy L Sayers' radio-cycle THE MAN BORN TO BE KING. Most recently, in autumn 2005 they toured East Anglia with CELL TALK (about Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe of Lynn) and also presented the large-cast musical WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND in Cambridge.

**"We are thrilled to have re-discovered this almost forgotten full-length play, which Delderfield himself regarded as his best work "**

Rex Walford says "We are thrilled to have re-discovered this almost forgotten full-length play, which Delderfield himself regarded as his best work. It is exciting theatre and presents the events of Holy Week in a fresh and surprising light. It's a beautifully crafted piece and all our experienced cast are finding it a genuine pleasure to be working with that tried and trusted formula 'the well-made play'.

Delderfield is a twentieth-century novelist of distinction (e.g. To Serve Them All Their Days, A Horseman Riding By —both turned into big TV series) as well as a successful playwright. His comedy WORMS EYE VIEW ran for five years in the West End, post-war. In SPARK IN JUDEA he forsakes his usual contemporary domestic settings, and brings his gifts for easy dialogue and rounded characterisation to the Holy Week story.

The play is set in Pilate's imperial headquarters and has a cast of twelve (nine men and three women). The events of the Week are seen from the point of view of the Roman Governor, who has a failing marriage and impatient younger officers to

deal with, as well as problems with the Sanhedrin and with workers building an aqueduct. To complicate matters, he has reluctantly to deal with the trial of Jesus, whom he has previously admired through an encounter in Samaria. The play moves to a spell-binding and unexpected climax as the events of Holy Week unfold.

*Tickets for the Swaffham Prior performance can be obtained by phoning 01638-743983 More information about the performances at other venues can be obtained from 01223-323519 or by e-mailing: raw1000@cam.ac.uk*



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

POLICY AND RESOURCES committee conclude its deliberations on the councils budget this week. It is recommended that council, on the **23<sup>rd</sup> February, increase its share of the council tax by 2.5%** from April. After taking account of the likely increases from the county council, Fire and Police Authorities and the parish council, I expect that bills in the district will rise by an average 4.8% next year. Subject to councils approval, the proposed budget would provide significant additional resources for recycling, developing and local planning framework for the district, improving the way citizens can contact and deal with council providing free concessionary fares for the over 60s within the district. Additional resources have also been targeted at meetings the needs of the homeless, providing additional funding for Police and Community Support Officers in partnership with parish councils and support for voluntary organizations including the two community transport groups operating within the District. In addition to the increase in council tax, these additions to the budget will be funded through additional government grant and a package of efficiency savings of over £300, 000.



Community services committee has formally approved the Economic Development Strategy. The strategy sets out the key economic issues and priorities for the district over the next five years. The new program will commence in April 2006 and places a greater emphasis on marketing the district as business location, encouraging the development of key employment allocations. The completion of the strategy represents another key step towards the Councils Breakthrough to Excellence Program.

A small number of 'objections on principle' to the trial of alternate week collection of refuse and recycling in Witchford continue to be received, but the vast majority of residents have reacted very positively to the change. Recycling through the black box system has increased. The organic waste bags, (which are now used for kitchen waste every other week) are producing *4-5 tonnes of compostible waste at every collection* despite the fact that little gardening activity is likely to be taking place at present. Better still, the average weekly tonnage of 11.25 tonnes of residual waste, prior to the trial, has been reduced to about *8.5 tonnes* over the 6 collections

since 4th November. The need, we recognized, for residents to ‘manage’ their waste under the alternate week system seems to suggest that a welcome element of waste minimizing is being practised, since the residual waste taken to the Guntly Fen site has also dropped. Next stop Woodditton!!

Cambridgeshire County Council has been working closely with the District and City Councils in bringing innovative curb side recycling facilities. Household Waste

Recycling centres a cross Cambridgeshire have also brought in new facilities such recycling batteries, wood and mobile phones.

All these high-quality facilities and schemes have been welcomed by residents and since April, an amazing *45% of the waste* is recycled in Cambridgeshire. More than 86,000 tonnes of waste have been given a second chance—that’s equivalent to the weight of around 71,600 family cars!

At present on a national level we produce enough rubbish every hour to fill the Royal Albert Hall.

The Government has set a target for 2021 of 25% land fill, 25% *incineration*, and 50% *recycled*. So we still have a way to go. But it is just part of an environment issue that will be of greater importance in the years ahead. We must not fail our children’s and grand children’s generations.



From our Local County Councillor  
Hazel Williams

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

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

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

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

On alternate Tuesdays the times are Cage Hill from 2.40pm to 3.30pm and at the Chapel from 3.35pm to 4pm. For renewals or enquiries ring 0845 045 5225

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

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

More information can be obtained on 01353 666990

More than 1.6 million people, a rise of more than 20% in the last year, now use



the five **Park and Ride** sites around Cambridge. They have played a vital role in keeping traffic levels static in the city centre. Families can have free travel for up to three children if accompanied by an adult.

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

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

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

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

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Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre proudly presents....

## **Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance"**

8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 7.30pm Matinee Sat 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2.30pm



WRITTEN IN 1879, "The Pirates of Penzance" is a topsy-turvy tale of paradox, pirates and policemen, centred on an idyllic Cornish cove. Orphan pirates, not very successful at their way of life, are confronted by a major-general and his bevy of daughters who are on a seaside outing. The pirate apprentice Frederic falls for the lovely Mabel but is constrained by a dispute over his birthday.

The pirates, angry at being tricked, seek to attack the major-general at his ancestral home and policemen brought in to try and resist are hopelessly ineffective. Running through this amusing and popular piece is the concept of 'Duty' in all its forms, which plays its part in all the twists and turns to the final resolution, in classical G&S style.

A theatre has been built inside a 19<sup>th</sup> century barn at the edge of the fens, creating a unique setting. There is a licensed bar. Toilet facilities (including disabled) are available.

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

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

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

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

## Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public.

**CCC Report: Councillor Williams reported to the meeting.**

**ECDC Report: Councillor Alderson reported to the meeting.**

**Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.** A letter was received bringing the Parish Council's attention to the reluctance of bus drivers to stop at bus stops that are not marked and in some instances being abusive when asked to do so and causing unnecessary upset to people using the service. The Clerk spoke with CCC and they confirmed that many bus stops in the County are unmarked but are still designated bus stops. The Clerk is to follow this up with Stagecoach and look into the possibility of signs being erected.

### **Matters Arising – for information only**

a) *Recreation Ground:* Steve Kent-Phillips told the meeting that the entrance to the Recreation Ground had been ploughed up and that further hardcore material would be put in gateway.

**Coopers Green – query re boundary: It was confirmed that the boundary lines** overmarked on original plan were incorrect. This is to be rectified.

**Pollarding of Trees on Village Hall Driveway: Three contractors** were invited to tender for the work, two estimates were received – Eastern Tree Surgery at £470 plus VAT & Designed by Nature at £400 plus VAT. Following discussion it was agreed to instruct Designed by Nature to carry out the work.

**The Pound – renovation works: The Fire Engine was removed from the** Pound and put into temporary secure storage. Kim Sheldrick confirmed a start date of 10/2. Scaffolding would first be erected and then the roof stripped. The Clerk is to inform Rosie Burton, Conservation Officer for ECDC.

With reference to the Fire Engine, it was agreed that this should be on view rather than locked away. In light of this Steve Kent-Phillips made enquires of the Burwell Museum Trustees asking if they would like to have the Fire Engine in the Museum as an exhibit. Following a meeting of the Museum Trustees, their Chairman confirmed their interest in having the Fire Engine but said that space was an issue. This is to be further looked into. Should this go ahead, the Fire Engine would be on a 5 year loan agreement.

Other items stored in The Pound are to be listed in the Crier for possible purchase. *See separate item.*

**Rogers Road – additional grasscutting services:** The Contractor, K H Services, will be asked to cut the verges from the 30mph up to the main road as and when requested by the Parish Council during the cutting season at a cost of £36-50/cut. This is in addition to the routine CCC Highways grasscutting schedule.

**Annual Subscriptions – CALC (Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils) & The Wildlife Trusts. These were agreed at £192-71 & £36** respectively.

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

**Planning Application:** 20 Green Head Road – *single storey rear extension.*  
*There were no objections.*

**Planning Approval:** The Paddock, 43 Lower End – *Change of use of arable land to grazing paddock, along with the construction of stable block, muck bunkers, ménage, access road and associated site works.*

**Any Other Business:**

**Dog fouling** – this was again reported as a problem on footpaths, pavements, etc.

**Village safe** – H Hardiment reported that this needed a new home.

**Open Question Time:**

There was further discussion about the Fire Engine, noting that it would be a shame for it to leave the Village and that perhaps it could be placed on view, possibly in the Village Hall.

Further discussion reference the security of the Recreation Ground.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

*Karen King Clerk of the Parish Council*

*Email: [karen.king5@bopenworld.com](mailto:karen.king5@bopenworld.com)*

## Crier Sudoku No 2

## Puzzling

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

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

Set by Kudos

# ELY'S EEL DAY

EELS, EELS AND MORE EELS will be the flavour of the day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April for Ely's Annual Eel Day. Starting at 11.30 am on Cross Green (adjacent to the Cathedral) Ely's very own 'Ellie the Eel' will be heading the carnival like procession along part of the City's Eel Trail Heritage Walk. Everybody is welcome to join in the procession which includes members of Ely's Lantern Studios and children from St Mary's School who helped make 'Ellie' for the launch of the trail three years ago. The procession includes Ely's Samba Band who will lead the line down to the Waterside and into Jubilee Gardens where a whole host of eel related activities will be held.



Along with a full programme of arena events including musical performances, children's theatre and historical re-enactments there will be lots of family participation opportunities. Can you set the East Cambs record for Eel Throwing? Based on the wellie throwing idea, children and parents alike can battle it out to see who can throw the handmade eel socks the furthest. Each eel has to be first named and then the names and distances will be put on a leader board and entered into an hourly competition. Winners will receive a variety of prizes from free cinema tickets to free swimming pool sessions. Other 'eel related' games are also on offer as are puppet making and pottery workshops.

There will be displays from the Environmental Agency and Ely Perspective Riverside Group as well as information and artefacts from the art of eel catching. Experience life in years gone past with a living encampment showing the trades and wares of the time. Children have the chance to try on period costumes and play period games.

There will be the chance to taste smoked and jellied eels as well as more conventional forms of food on sale including a hog roast and vegetarian falafels all washed down with a one off Eel Day special brew!

In addition, Ely's Boathouse Restaurant, beside the river, is offering a variety of eel dishes on the menu throughout this weekend.

For further information about the day, contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or email [tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk) or check out the website at [www.eastcambs.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/tourism).

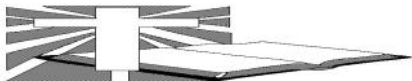
## **Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).





# Zion Baptist Chapel

## SPRING ... Into Action

ISN'T SPRING ONE OF THOSE WONDERFUL TIMES OF THE YEAR? The days are getting longer and the earth is starting to wake from its Winter slumber. As flowers start to emerge, we are once again reminded of the beauty of creation, and the amazing processes that make up the ongoing cycle of the seasons. But the fine ecological balance of the earth is at risk from climate change!

Our news programmes constantly remind us that the world is experiencing an upsurge in flooding, drought and damaging storms – that the earth is facing a serious environmental threat! Global warming is being caused mainly by industrialised countries burning oil, coal and gas – creating carbon dioxide, trapping heat from the sun.

But did you that people in the UK contribute as much as 50 times more to this climate change than those in the poorest countries? And that it is the poor who will feel its worst effects? By 2050, rising sea levels, severe weather and crop failures could create 150 million refugees. Even in the UK up to 5 million people are at risk from increased flood and storm damage.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding a special service at Lode Chapel to explore this important issue – and to ask 'Is God Green?'. We'll be looking at what action can be taken and how we might be able to make a difference. For example, did you know that you can purchase electricity from a company investing in only 100% renewable sources (contact **Good Energy on 0845 456 1640**). **You'll also be more than welcome** to a family service on 12<sup>th</sup> March when our young people will be helping us to think about the importance of buying things that are fairly traded.

I look forward to seeing you at one (or both) of the services, or contact me directly for more information about these issues. *Simon Goddard*

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**'Fairtrade', a Family Service led by the Young People. 10.30am, 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
**'Global Warming – Is God Green?'**  
**10.30am, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

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

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30 with Sunday School.

For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

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

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

Web: [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk)



## Church of England Services

### March 2006

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 26</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service

#### **PASTORAL LETTER, March 2006**

#### **Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

This year March is the month of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, therefore the whole month is within the 40 days of Lent. Actually, Lent is a period of 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Saturday, but we don't count the six Sundays, so that brings the figure down to 40 days.

Those 40 days mirror the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry on earth. During that period Jesus was tempted by the devil to consider alternative ways of achieving his objective – of sharing God's love with the world.

He was tempted to win people's hearts by meeting their material needs through turning stones into bread; or to become a superman figure by jumping off the highest pinnacle of the temple and being safely carried to the ground by angels; or to become the greatest king that ever lived. All those temptations were put to him as supposed short cuts to his objective. Yet Jesus never wavered or weakened, he resolutely stayed true to his destiny to become the servant king, the one who would

suffer and die for us all in order to help us be right with God. He rejected the easy soft options in favour of the hardest option of all – the one that demanded the greatest pain and suffering.

All of us are tempted to take short cuts in life. We are tempted to satisfy our inner needs at the expense of others, to give in to our weaknesses, to do something we know is wrong in the hope of getting away with it. But in the end we are being selfish and self-centred. But the message of Lent is that Jesus Christ understands our temptations and wants to help us to cope with them, in the same way that he coped with them.

That thought reminds me of the occasion when Joseph Turner invited Charles Kingsley to his studio to see a picture of a storm at sea. In rapt admiration, Kingsley exclaimed, "It's wonderful! It's so realistic! How did you do it?"

The artist replied, "I went to the coast of Holland and engaged a fisherman to take me out to sea in the next storm. Entering his boat as a storm was brewing, I asked him to bind me to the mast. Then he steered his boat into the teeth of the storm.

"The storm raged with such fury that at times I longed to be in the bottom of the boat where the waves would blow over me. I could not, however. I was bound to the mast. Not only did I see the storm in its raging fury, I felt it! It blew into me, as it were, until I became a part of it. After this terrible ordeal, I returned to my studio and painted the picture."

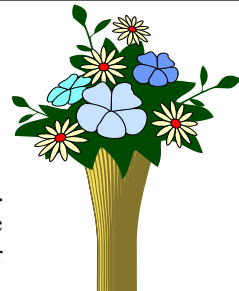
Jesus Christ has been there and experienced temptation at first hand for himself, and he knows exactly what it is like. So, the next time you are tempted to do something you know in your heart is wrong, why not consider sharing it with Jesus in prayer? I am sure he will understand – he's been there, he understands.

May God bless you all,

*David*

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## MOTHERING SUNDAY



Join us as we celebrate Mothering Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The day when we give thanks to God for our Mother's love in Mother Church. Each child is given a Posey to give to their Mothers and Grandmothers during this Family Service.

Services are being held in your local Churches on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March as follows:

Holy Trinity, Bottisham:	11.00am
St. James' Lode:	9.30am
St. Mary's, Quy:	11.00am
St. Mary's Swaffham Bulbeck	9.30am
<b>St. Mary's Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>11.00am</b>

## ***Dates for Your Diary* March 2006**

Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	12	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm NB LATER HOURS. Renewals and Enqs. 0845 045 5225
Mon	20	WI AGM, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	21	Village Gardeners, "Wimpole Hall Gardens", 8pm, VH
Fri	24	Easter Egg Bingo, School Hall, 6pm
Tues	28	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm
	30	School Easter Service, 11am, St Mary's
	31	End of Term Assembly, 1.30pm, School Hall

## ***Village Clubs & Societies***

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