



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 5

May 2006



## Editorial

### THE *CRIER* DONE-AND-DUSTED IN A *DAY*?

That was indeed the Eds' great ambition this month. Impossible, of course—it takes at least a week—BUT we've very *nearly* made it! Yes, away with this footling namby-pamby we'll-do-a-bit-at-a-time, it does not work, and here are the results — has our doggie proof-reader been up to scratch this time? We do hope so, otherwise **BAD DOG, NO BISCUITS....**

Over the years, the *Crier*—for which better printing means we now use considerably smaller fonts—has nevertheless been getting bigger and bigger, and what with the photographics and this, that and other, a bit of a *task* for the editors. Further, the wretched decimalising Post Office is now threatening to crank up our postal charges by 30% because of some entirely spurious threshold they have invented: 100 grams, how ridiculous! We'd be perfectly alright with 4oz...



More trouble brewing for the Lion?

**Cover Picture: *European Bison*, by Brenda Wilson**

But long may it last, we like it this way (see *Letters*) and onwards ever. Meanwhile, even though a number of our regular correspondents are away this month (yes, are councillors playing hooky this month?) contributors have not let us down.

Don't miss Mark Lewinski's delightful summary of the burning *Crier* topics-of-the-day of yesteryear, Alastair Everitt's bid for the Our Architect column, and some really excellent reviews, including a breathtaking debut from Jim Henderson, who has some *quite controversial* views on *schlagsahning* sonatas!

Alas we missed much of the Easter entertainments, but we won't be missing the VILLAGE FEAST or the VILLAGE ASSEMBLY, as neither, dear readers, will YOU, of course! See you there...

**Caroline Matheson**

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Those Awards—Why We Lost

So, no awards in the *Village Magazine Awards*, then. *Colour glossy quarterlies were 'the new black'*. We was robbed. Nasty shiny things may have done us down, but a thought creeps in here. was there anything else to account for this? Was 2003 the end of an era? Has our glory faded? Where is the correspondence of former times? (*strains of Land of Hope & Glory fading in behind that last bit for effect, continuing into the next paragraph...*)

No more does Mr Everitt write with glinty-eyed zeal against me, of the merits of the Umpteenth Earl of Somewhere, claiming for him Shakespeare's literary crown. Gone are Name Witheld\* and all other anons, banished years ago (– Aunt Caroline got too much grief from others, mostly non-correspondents, to allow such things any more). Grit bins go unnoticed, undiscussed, unmentioned, and – in the case of the Fairview Grove one – unmoved, despite plans to shift the thing halfway down the road. (What happened there, then?) And, in case anyone was wondering, the overhanging hedge does not. It keeps itself to itself. Quite how, I don't know, but it does. So nothing to report there, neither. And does nobody speed any more? I've not heard anyone complain for ages.

The frogs and toads in Mr Norris's pond may be going about their spring business, but nobody mentions it. In these days of sweeping global frog demise, their presence/absence must be worth a small note somewhere, surely?

Dencora's field is ploughed! The larks are dispossessed, the slow-worms dead and gone (yes there were, I saw one once); small furry things which once kept the owls and kestrel violently happy are now just refugees in the woods, ravaged by my evil moggy - their chewed remains arrive on my kitchen floor several times a day, with more tragic manner than all the works of Shakespeare (or the Earl of thingy if you are of that persuasion). Larger vermin lives on, of course, and frolics on the rather feeble crop even as I write, in rabbitly abandon. There is also a somewhat deranged pheasant which seems to be asking someone to shoot it, judging by its attention-seeking behaviour. This evening it decided that the undergrowth afforded too much cover so it clung unsteadily to the spindliest and most leafless branches of a tree at the end of the garden squawking, until it fell off. Entertaining this may be, but the tractor which turned up all those weeks ago and churned the field over left no time to ponder whether there might have been some other way to end the bike saga, one which didn't involve turning it over to a wildlifeless crop. But there it was, gone. So nothing more to write about the field, then. Except that the crop seems to be turning yellow. What will happen if it all dies? A cropless barren wasteland, maybe? Not the magnitude of the rainforest perhaps, but could the desertification of the Fen already have begun here?

The bikes are silent and gone too! (Actually that's not true – but they aren't in the field, at least. I just put that in for a bit of colour).

Me, I have joined the system, become a feature writer, a columnist. I interview



and write profiles of people who live round here. It's a lovely task, and I wouldn't want to give it up. It's a privilege, it really is. But we are tamed, us correspondents. We behave ourselves. We write nice things. Haven't we in consequence made this a...a less...*original* magazine?

**Mark Lewinski**

\* Yes that *was* me, before Mr E girds up his loins and his pen for battle again...

*And Finally....Name Withheld Revealed*

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Dear Editors,

**....But Never Mind**

We're sorry you didn't get a mention in the Village Magazine competition.

Please don't change the format—we like it as it is. We don't need glossy pages and we read it once a month to keep up-to-date with what's going on in the village.

And we like it to be free!

Keep up the good work.

**Betty Prime**

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

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

**If there is any item you like included on the agenda,  
please let your Clerk, Karen King, know.**

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

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

IT IS NOT VERY OFTEN you hear a Budget statement by Gordon Brown and within a few weeks you experience the effect. When way back he announced his raid on Pension Funds it took a year or two to realise that weakening the Funds by £5 Billion per annum would help to cause the crisis in pension funding. When charged with this all Gordon says is “Hoots man, nay t’do wi me.”



In his last Budget Gordon announced that pensioners would get free buses in their area. Sounds great but for people living in East Cambs it has been a disaster. Instead of paying the concession rate of 90p to use the Park and Ride to Cambridge the fare has gone up to £2.00. Yes, from 90pence to £2.00. And this is just on the Park and Ride.

This was obviously hot news at the last PC meeting and Hazel Williams opened the subject, turned to Alan Alderson and said “It’s a Pig’s Ear”. I know she didn’t mean Alan but why does the pig get it in the neck (or rather the ear) for Gordon. As far as I understand Gordon has thrown a bit of money at the scheme which gives free bus rides for pensioners within their district. But like so many other ventures the expense of the “good idea” is passed on to the local councils. While Suffolk, Bedfordshire and Norfolk appear to have implemented the scheme, Cambridgeshire has not. South Cambs and Huntingdon are both in debt and cannot make any contribution. Without these there can be no county scheme. Here in East Cambs we can travel free to March or Wisbech but not to Cambridge and at the time of writing it is doubtful whether you can travel free to Newmarket, or even whether you are able to travel through Newmarket if you are going to Ely free.

Some PC members had horror tales about people travelling on the normal bus service into Cambridge and also that free transport in the East Cambs area is only available after 9.30am. Someone up high decided there would be such a rush to use the buses that pensioners should not be allowed any early morning concession. There is even worse, and this has nothing to do with Gordon. The buses to Reach (always recognised as an underused service) are cut to five a day with the last one leaving Cambridge at 5.00pm . Meanwhile the new No 10 will be running every half hour and, Andrew Camps fears, will run up Cage Hill and leave out Lower End and in particular the Beeches. At the time of the meeting nothing was very clear.

Can we blame Gordon? He will claim it is not his fault that South Cambs and Huntingdon have bungled their budgets. But without his intervention we would still be paying 90p and not £2.00 on the Park and Ride in to Cambridge. Without his intervention the fare from the Babraham Park and Ride to Addenbrooks would still be 90p and not the new special price of £1.50. And where does Stage Coach fit in to all this. Well they do need to make a profit and they could make calculations about the possible number of concessionary fares when travel cards were issued. Now the company has no idea as travel cards are useless.

On the other hand now that travel cards for pensioners appear to be useless and the fares have gone up, where is all the extra money going? Gordon will of course

blame district and county authorities for what seems to be the worst of all possible worlds and say, with that rather gentle simpering smile of his, “Hoots man, nay t’do wi me.

The Grange at Ely is going to require quite a large sum for refurbishment but possibly less than that required for the new offices (like South Cambs?) originally proposed, and then abandoned. At the Annual Assembly I am sure we will have a detailed account. But while East Cambs may have backed down on the new offices they are breaking new ground by amending all the local bye laws so that Smart taxis can be approved for use in Ely. This could be a trend setter which will spread throughout the nation and one day may warrant a blue plaque in Ely.

Nothing quite reached the same level of interest as the new bus fares though obviously the whole village has become less “visually illiterate” and a newcomer has requested that the saltbin outside his house should be moved on to the other side of the road because it is unsightly.

This is the first PC meeting I have attended for about a year and the experience is like riding a bicycle – unforgettable.

*Alastair Everitt*

# **The Village Feast 2006**

**Saturday 13 May**

**at**

**2.00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Admission 30p. Children Free**

*Help is needed! See page 9 for details.*

After 50 years in the business, Hilary Sage “does not often find much to rave about in the world of amateur theatre”, but this was different...

# Spark in Judea

by R F Delderfield

WE HAVE GOT QUITE USED to superlative concerts and excellent exhibitions in St Cyriac’s, but theatre has not yet made much of an impact there — until now.

Rex Walford and his talented company brought us a most brilliant and thought-provoking production of a play about Pontius Pilate and the background to the better known dramas of Holy Week. The excellence of the lighting and sound effects, the detailed costumes, set and props, together with the clear, authoritative performances of the actors, all combined to produce exciting moments — as when Martin Woodruff, as Pilate, stood on the balcony symbolically washing Jesus’ blood from his hands while the crowd swirled and yelled below — as well as times of great emotional intensity, as when Pilate’s wife, powerfully played by Madeleine Forrester, struggled to understand the political complexities and moral uncertainties of her beloved husband. It was all thrilling, but if you missed it, you missed it, so I won’t go on.

Suffice it to say that I do not often find all that much to rave about in the world of amateur theatre (after 50 years of involvement with it) but I do rave about Cameo Theatre and sincerely hope that they will come to Swaffham Prior again and that you will be there too!

*Hilary Sage*

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



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

**FRI 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 4pm – 5pm**

**THUR 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 5pm – 6pm**

**WED 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 10am – 11am**

We congratulate Shirley Wilkins, the winner of last month’s crossword, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Anita Lang, Bob & Julie Nunn and Peter Sheldrick.



## GROMMIT LEADS PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

THE PALM SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE on 9 April was a little different in that it started at the Red Lion — thanks, Lorraine and Dave! Grommit the pony did a good impersonation of a donkey as we processed with palm crosses to St Mary's. The children then led a Harry Potter themed service that looked at ideas of death and new life, in keeping with the start of Holy Week.

Family Services usually take place on the second Sunday of the month (although May is an exception; we will instead be at Adventurer's Farm for a outdoor Rogation Day Service — followed by family barbeque — on the third Sunday, 21 May). Children are involved in all aspect of Family Services: taking part in drama sketches, leading prayers and doing bible readings. We have a colouring corner and toy bags for toddlers and serve drinks and biscuits after services. All are welcome to these friendly services - grown-ups enjoy them too! (And now we have the new sound system and audio loop it is much easier to hear what even the little ones are saying!)

*Dee Noyes*

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### The Blood Stirs

In the Spring, a young man's fancy,  
But a young girl's even more so.  
So the man tries something chancy  
And lets hairs grow on his torso.

Thus we get the downy chin,  
That promotes the merry quip;  
Nor can one help but grin  
At leverets on the upper lip.

*Ophir*

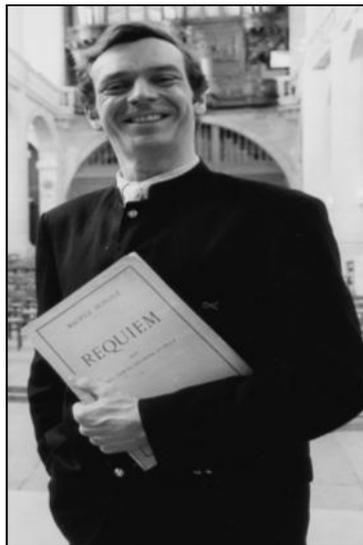
# Ian de Massini in Concert

**How it sparkled! Jim Henderson  
reviews the Easter Concerts**

ON EASTER MONDAY, after our commemoration of the Agony and our exaltation from the Resurrection, those attending in Saint Mary's witnessed a revelation. We were shown the inner drive and skill behind the wonderful achievements of the Cambridge Voices. These frequently bless us there, and in Saints Cyriac and Julitta's. Ian de Massini, without his choir on this occasion, presented four more of his Bach's Preludes and Fugues. He paired each for this event with one of Shostakovich's, composed a century and a half later, and played all from memory.

Performance from memory demands a deeper knowledge of the work than comes from running transcription, however adept, from stave to keyboard. Furthermore de Massini did not hold back from disclosing for us structural features in the music which gave it meaning and made possible that quality of memory which surely approaches integration with the soul. He drew attention to evolutionary forces, first recognisable in Bach, which formed our later music. Few of us think of Bach and Shostakovich together. Yet such was the wonder of the former's creativity that the latter's, nor anyone else's since, might not have found voice without it. All of this was made clear by de Massini's analytic and executive genius. This last was much enhanced by the acoustic gift from the architects and builders of St Mary's Church in our village. The pure precision of Bach's complex, mutually supporting forms shone constantly throughout without detracting from the totality of our musical experience. The essence of the lines, clarified as multiplicates of themselves, gave a

**“The Mozart C  
minor Fantasia  
came then like a  
dollop of  
schlagsahne....  
Beautifully and  
marvellously  
played, but did it  
not serve to show  
where we have  
gone astray...?”**



Maestro Massini

diamantine character to each piece and to the whole afternoon's performance. How it sparkled! The Mozart C minor Fantasia came then like a dollop of schlagsahne. It was, of course, beautiful and marvellously played but did it not serve to show where we have gone astray intellectually, emotionally and perhaps nutritionally? Thankfully the final Bach Fantasia paired with it returned us to the rigours of pure thinking with which it is better habitually to face the world. Thank you Ian de Massini for being. And thank you for being so generous in sharing fine gifts of communication and performance with us in this village and the greater orb beyond.

*Jim Henderson*

# Visually Illiterate?

WELL, THAT'S A CHARGE TO MAKE EVERYONE SIT UP. As the fine weather approaches Frank Readhead's article in the last *Crier* should make us all look around the village and notice the variety of styles and all the good and the bad design. Of course Frank was being deliberately provocative when he listed our many sided church towers as being the reason for allowing all flat roofed buildings. But such a statement does make you think, and look.

At the recent PC meeting a proposal was considered for repairing the bus shelter, the flat roof of which had rotted and needed replacing. I did not see the plans and had to rely on the verbal description of the first tender which suggested adding a small hipped roof using Spanish Slates which "will be more in keeping" with the village. Obviously Frank's comments had hit home as the bus shelter is flanked by two hipped slated buildings albeit they have Welsh Slate. Even though Spanish Slate does differ it will be acceptable because we have so many Spanish lorries coming through the village.

It is with some sadness I report this proposed gentrification of the bus shelter because I have always found it a rather lovely quiet design, albeit a little distressed because of the neglect and regular usage over the years. If you stand and face it you will find some quite fine proportions with the most subtle, gentle and self-effacing brick decoration.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## Your Feast help is needed....

AS USUAL we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

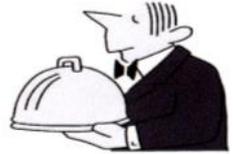
**Books, Books, Books** - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give Alastair Everitt (742974) a ring, and they will be happy to receive or collect. But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Elisabeth Everitt (742974).

We shall also be collecting for the **Bottle Stall**, and will be calling during the early part of May for anything you can offer.

**Thanking you for your usual generous support**



# MOVEABLE FEAST



WHAT A WONDERFUL EVENING 27 Priorites had on Saturday as we moved from one house to another for the most sumptuous of feasts as organised, most adeptly as ever, by Ruth and Robin Scovil.

For a very modest fee per head we were treated to the most amazing starters at the beautiful home of Barb and David on Mill Hill with assistance from Dee and enjoyed the wonderful view from their patio overlooking the Fen before we moved on to our main course. As the dinner guests then went their separate ways James and I were treated to the very kind and generous hospitality of Mary and Peter at the back of the windmill, and along with the dining partners of Barb and Dave, Kate and Barbara, enjoyed an absolutely delicious chicken dish, accompanied by a beautifully crisp green salad and graced with amazing views of a garden to dream about. Conversation and wine flowed and it almost seemed a shame to move on to the final venue and puddings at the Matheson's - but how glad we did! Something to tempt everyone awaited on the sweet front and the cheese board, as provided by Caroline and James was just heavenly, and Harry (the puppy) just about managed to keep his nose away from everything. We were extremely impressed by how well behaved he was (well we would say that — he's from one of our litters!!!!).

The evening was much enjoyed, and although I had to leave at a modest hour to collect a teenage partygoer, I feared that I would be too late to rejoin the proceedings, but found that coffee was still on offer at a much later hour than I had expected, people just didn't want to leave! With a profit of £348 for Church funds having been raised on such a wonderful evening all that remains for me to say is a very BIG thank you to all those villagers who took part with an especially warm welcome to newcomers Judy and Mike, all those who kindly gave up their homes and provided main courses, for the genuine welcome at the starter/final venues and of course to Ruth and Robin for steering us through the whole proceedings.

I only hope that I can match such organisational feats next year when the mantle of the running of the Moveable Feast is handed over to me!!

*Janet Willmott*

## **Relief *Crier* Deliverers 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.



# BARBEQUE LUNCH

*at Adventurer's Farm*

*(Down Station Road on the Right)*

*ON*

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

*Following the 12 noon Service at the Farm*

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

*Adults £6  
Primary School children £3.50*

# PARCEL SCAM WARNING

If you receive a card through your door from a company call PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) saying that they have a parcel awaiting delivery instructions and can you contact them on 0906 6611911.

DO NOT call the number as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number, you will be billed for £15.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please throw it away and do not call the number provided.

This is a genuine scam (*interesting concept! Eds*) and is under investigation by ICSTIS.

**Kate Kent**

Community Contact Officer, East Cambs Sector, 01353 656643

## Crier Sodoku No 4

Medium

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

Set by Chris Carrington

**Funny Money**  
a farce  
by Ray Cooney  
by arrangement with  
Samuel French



**Spring  
Production  
2006**

ON THE WAY HOME to his birthday dinner, mild mannered, hard working accountant Henry mistakenly picks up a briefcase stuffed full of £50 notes.

All Henry's dreams could come true but, if getting the money was easy, keeping it is a different matter. Hilarious innuendo and cruelly funny turns of fate ensue as Henry, his bemused (and tipsy) wife, Jean, together with their friends, Vic and Betty, are forced into a frantic game of cat and mouse.

To find out what happens make sure you buy your tickets and attend.

Performances will be at 7.30 pm on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006 in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

Tickets £7. Those entitled to a concession (O.A.P's, children under 16 and anyone over 16 who can produce a Student card) will be charged £4, available from Lushers News, Bottisham for personal bookings. Alternatively ring our separate advance booking line on 01223 812911.

Tickets must be paid for and collected prior to the show. Tickets may be available on the door

The format will be tables and chairs. Soft drinks will be available to purchase on the night. You are free to bring any other drinks and refreshments with you.

Friends of Bottisham Village College

# Quiz Night

Friday 9 June

Bottisham Village College

Teams of 6-8 people (8 max)

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets £7.00 per person

To include a fish and chip supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses

To book your team ring :

Carol Lively on 01223 811895

# Crier Profile: Meryl Moore

Meryl Moore was born and brought up in Cambridge. She served a term on the Parish Council in Swaffham Prior, having lived here for over twenty years.

I WASN'T BORN IN BARROW ROAD but I spent all my childhood there – it's in the parish of Trumpington. My father worked all his life in the University library and finished up as a Deputy. It was a born thing for him. He ran the Copyright Department for many years. I've been working on a book, because he left a diary and lots of letters, from the First World War.

He trained at the University College school of librarianship where he met my mother, who was also studying to be a librarian. He was an absolute dear, my father. I didn't really ask him about the war, but he did tell me that in the retreat in 1918 as an officer he'd carried three rifles, because the men were exhausted – and of

course, then I found this in his diary.

Cambridge was very different when I was a child. It was rather more peaceful, and very unusual to see a foreign face. I remember my mother coming home saying she'd seen a black man, and what a wonderful place Cambridge was where you could see somebody like that! We bicycled everywhere. My parents never had a car. Everybody bicycled everywhere. In the war there wasn't any petrol anyway. All that new part in Petty Curie, that was just old shops.

Our parents were so good, they didn't



Trumpington in the '30s, where Meryl grew up

have much money but would always take us for - very modest - holidays, they would book a cottage, or rooms. Barrow Road was very nice, we had lots of friends there. It was a much friendlier place, much safer – I mean, everywhere was safer. The childhood I remember was mostly during the war – I do remember pre-war, but only as a small child. I suppose most of the dangerous men were out fighting, poor things!

I must have been about eight or nine, and I do remember my sister coming home – we used to wander off into the fields – and saying a tramp had kissed her. My mother was furious, and I accused her of being a snob! (laughs). My parents never talked about class and I remember asking once – I must have heard someone talking about class, and I asked ‘What is class? What are we?’ And my mother said we were middle, which was a very reassuring thing to be – neither one nor the other. But we used to walk along Hobson’s Brook and I do remember seeing a man – a very disagreeable man – he was dredging the stream, wearing his old best suit, an old striped suit. We thought nothing of walking a mile to school, even at five years old. My father used to walk with us, and then continue on to the library. I remember noting even as a child that he the workman was wearing his old best suit. In those days country workers tended to wear their old suit to work. People on the whole didn’t have the money to buy work clothes. Anoraks and things hadn’t been invented then, of course.

We had great fun in our road – one boy, Christopher - he’s an architect now, has umpteen grandchildren - he spent a lot of the war going through hedges, being soldiers, playing war games. We had a bomb next door. There were a lot of bombs in

**It was a much friendlier place, much safer... I do remember my sister coming home and saying a tramp had kissed her. My mother was furious, and I accused her of being a snob!**

Cambridge during the war. My parents discussed sending us to Canada. I was nine when war broke out, my sister was four years younger. They were wonderful, they discussed things with us. So we didn’t go. People were saying in 1940 that the Germans were going to bully England by bombing Oxford and Cambridge. So we went up to the Lake District for a wonderful six weeks, and

that’s when I fell in love with the mountains – switched from horses to mountains. I’d been potty about horses for about six years. We got back just in time for this bomb, which fell on the house next door. I was in the bath, and I heard the plane: they had a very distinctive sound, absolutely unmistakeable. I was so close, I didn’t hear the whistle. And then the whole house rocked! And most of my bathwater slopped out. It seemed most extraordinary to me that the house could rock so much and not fall down! I thought it was going to fall down on me. As soon as things slowed down my father rushed in and fished me out and took me downstairs - there was glass all over the bathroom floor. My mother, who was downstairs with my sister, said very calmly ‘The soot’s come down the chimney.’ The next door neighbour rushed in in tears, she was hysterical. She couldn’t get to her husband. You could see the reflection of the flames across the front garden, and of course, they couldn’t get anywhere near him. He’d been playing the piano, and the house just collapsed on him. Poor Mrs Crowson. The fire engines took an eternity coming, and one of them was black, I remember. I was very affronted at having a black fire engine! All the tiles came off one side of our house and the chimney twiddled around a bit so it wasn’t safe, so we were taken along to our friends’ house along the road and we spent six weeks there, head to toe on the kitchen bed in their strong room. Our parents stayed



Meryl's mountaineering prowess starts early....

with other kind neighbours. I suppose we were frightened – after we were back in our house we did hear the planes going over to Coventry. For a long time afterwards we children slept in my father's

study because it was supposed to be the strongest room, and safer downstairs. We all, everybody, had what we called 'Bombinitis'. I wouldn't have a bath for a long time after without having the door open.

After the bomb, some workmen came to clear the rubble of the house next door – I'd just got to the back door, and I heard machine gun fire – they were machine-gunning the men. I've never seen men move so fast. They were probably old soldiers from the first war. Young men wouldn't have been there, they'd all have been away. Then. My mother was machine-gunned too – this was early in the war – the aircraft would follow hedges beside roads and machine-gun people. My mother came out of the little greengrocer's that used to be in Panton Street. I don't know that they were aiming directly at her – but that's what she felt was happening.

After the war, we weren't in the least depressed. It's often said we were - England was pretty well broke then, but for my generation, we were teenagers and feeling pretty excited about life generally and putting England back on her feet again. We did talk about England rather than Britain. Life was rather serious – we had to earn our living, to help get the country back on her feet again.

Barrow Road was a middle class road. My grandfather bought the house for my parents. My mother said it was a bit expensive for them, but they did love it, so... I went to the Perse. Did I like it there? Not

particularly. But I think it was a good school. I liked the first headmistress, Miss Catley. Quite a lot of the staff had lost their fiancés in the first war. There were some very good teachers, and some indifferent ones. There was no corporal punishment or anything like that in a girls' school. My English teacher, Miss Garratt, was excellent. Garratt with an A: she always said 'I am not an attic' so of course she was always known as Tic. There was a splendid copper beech tree. The worst row I ever got into was for climbing it – someone had fallen out of it once and broken a leg. My daughters were both there – It was very strange going back as a parent.

When I finished school I worked in the General Library for a year. There was a ghost called Mr Pink – he was an ex-librarian. This was in the back of the Guild Hall, looking onto the Corn Exchange. He was a great joke, said to appear after dark to the last person who was in there. Then I went to Reading University and did English and Philosophy – a General degree, they said I wasn't good enough for an Honours degree. They have a wonderful reach on the Thames there, racing dinghies, and I got completely bitten. I spent too much time sailing and I thought I wouldn't pass my degree but I did. My parents loved boats, and we went on boat trips in the Lake District and things. I was so sure I must have failed so I sent my friend – who I'm still in touch with – to get my results. After a while I heard footsteps running up the stairs – It's all right, you've passed! So that was a great relief. It wasn't very common for women to go to college, but father only had daughters and he was very keen for me to go to university, and my sister Juliet too. She did domestic science. I worked for a year in London for the University at the Senate House. I did the minutes for the sub-committees. They were very different people. The Science sub-committee were slightly bored, and they sometimes went to sleep. The doctors were the politest, and they always got through things pretty quickly, and sensibly. But the Arts people, they always just loved a theoretical discussion about principles. But

after there, when we started a family, I'm ashamed to say I never worked again! My husband commuted, once we got to Cambridge – when he stopped working for the Senate House, he worked – always as the secretary for these colleges – at the Royal Free, and then University College, and the last one was SOAS (The School of African and Oriental Studies) and he loved that last one especially.

I wanted to write, so I wrote a children's story – the kind I would have wanted to read. I wrote about an invented island off the west coast of Scotland, with ponies and things, for about twelve years upwards - about 90,000 words. I sent it off to a publisher and had a nice note saying it was a bit long – for that sort of book they couldn't afford to publish more than about 60,000; and it needed to be jazzed up a bit. No child would read it now, I'm sure. But I started to work on that, and then I came across my father's diaries and I thought, there's a story here. So it all got put on one side. My grandmother was a VAD – Voluntary Aid detachment, a junior nurse. She was very practical. In August 1914 they were on holiday in France – it all sounds a bit odd, but they thought it would be like 1911, when they were on such good terms with the Germans. The war all came rather suddenly – My grandmother got arrested as a spy. They were staying near Graveline, between Calais and Dunkirk. She was on the ramparts looking at her shopping list and a man came up and accused her of spying! But it all got sorted out. My father's diary started in 1916, when he was still at school, going on an officer's training course – hopeless preparation for the Front. Someone got lost, they all roared with laughter. Ludicrous, really. Eventually he got to the Somme, where there were fearsome tales of the fighting. As he gets more training, his writing becomes more professional. One of the major problems in that war was communications. That was solved in the second world war with the walkie talkie, but in the first war, no longer could orders be shouted to the men, because of the noise. Telephones couldn't be relied on because the

lines would get blown up. Generals who fought in that war said no-one who hadn't fought in that war could understand what it was like because they didn't have communication. The cavalry was obsolete, and they didn't have a mobile arm because tanks weren't properly developed.

We left London in 1970 when my father died, partly to keep an eye on my mother. My husband and I split up in 1982 – We'd sort of just fizzled out. It was probably the most friendly divorce anyone could have. He got married to Sally then promptly had a heart attack and died, which was very sad. Poor Sally. He'd bought this house for me and just got me moved in, then went off to meet her: he got into Cambridge and then died. And that was that.

When I moved out here I loved it. I did have four years on the parish council - I remember being fascinated by some of the discussions between local people, true local people like Eric Day – If you ask Eric about it he'll probably tell you I've got it all wrong, but the village hall drive has a bit where it dips, and had to be filled in every so often – something to do with the spring underneath it. I loved doing it but I came to the conclusion I wasn't a very civic-minded person. The war windows in St Mary's - I recorded those for the Imperial War Museum. Some years ago, they

►20



....and later, a hiking holiday on Skye

# Crossword Number 33

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**OUNCE**

All clues starting \*\*\* have answers beginning with cat or dog and no other clue to that part of the solution. e.g. \*\*\* Wild flower in lines we hear. = dog rose. Send your answers to the editors by 21st May 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.

1			2				3					4		5		6
7		8		9				10								
				11												
12																
								13				14				
		15										16				
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					22	23					24					25
26		27		28												
										29				30		
31																
														32		
33							34									

Name:.....

Address.....

..... Tel:.....

**Across**

- 1 \*\*\* Crawler, peripherally in trouble, lost hype (11)
- 4 Intimidated leader married (5)
- 7 Hood's friend, food or fold? (4)
- 11 \*\*\* Faker stabs cook - what a mess! (4,9)
- 12 Best fruit? (4)
- 14 "This is the lowest point in Indiana, directly ahead" (5)
- 15 \*\*\* The German follows old boy back on board for menials (4-6)
- 18 \*\*\* Mother's rigid beliefs (6)
- 20 \*\*\* Jupiter's moon named for charged particle? (6)
- 22 \*\*\* Sly Gina unusually increasing rate (10)
- 26 Head of clan has cocktail in Scottish river. How tasteless! (5)
- 30 Confused tiger loses direction and courage (4)
- 31 \*\*\* Anoints Eli as twisted means of punishment? (3-1-4-5)
- 32 Lowest range in basalt outcrop (4)
- 33 Quiet after one in bed, having two feet (5)
- 34 \*\*\* See their mistake? Insert tube (11)

**Down**

- 1 \*\*\* Helper destroys wasp (4-3)
- 2 William Harvey initially removed from seafood to gain large animal (3)
- 3 Tether found in azaleas, hidden from sight (5)
- 4 \*\*\* Relative to lamb's tail? (6)
- 5 Draw round final one back for Harry Potter (6)

- 6 \*\*\* Worn out cravat wrapping Royal daughter (3-5)
- 8 Could RNA disentangle 5's vessel? (8)
- 9 \*\*\* Bridge opponents and important Venetians (5)
- 10 River net (5)
- 13 Fleet officer, has six feet when red? (7)
- 16 13 at home (or work) here (3)
- 17 \*\*\* Meagrely, Amy abandons mixed verse (8)
- 19 In brief, a real curve (3)
- 21 \*\*\* A hundred insanely mob underground burial site (8)
- 23 Nerve fibres idiot abstracted from hybrid oxidations (5)
- 24 Pursue bird, we hear (5)
- 25 \*\*\* Dug around terminal (7)
- 27 \*\*\* Pinch of a herb? (6)
- 28 Tugged sharply as American changed final note. (6)
- 29 \*\*\* Trap Swiss (5)
- 32 Atmospheric tune? (3)

**Solution to crossword no. 32**

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

were, probably still are, getting all the war memorials in the country recorded. I sent them photographs, and I had to measure them. I did the Quay one, and the Fen Chapel. I managed to get in there, and there is a nice little plaque on the wall, but I had great difficulty finding out who made it. That was interesting, calling in on all the local farms and asking them. But nobody knew for certain - I could only say who we thought had made the plaque.

And Wicken Fen, I love that – My father met the then director of the Botanic Gardens in the Home Guard, Mr Gilbert Carter, who was absolutely hopeless at anything practical – he would say to my father ‘Ansell, my tin hat seems to have turned inside out’. He couldn’t cope with his equipment – he had to have help getting it straight. He invited us to go with him, the students, so we all got on the train and got off at Swaffham Prior, and bicycled to Wicken Fen. My sister and I thought this was wonderful – it was quite untamed in those days. My father ended up as a pacifist after the first war. There’s a bit in his diary about how he talked with Peterhouse fellows who were not pacifists about this. Quite a friendly discussion, but after a while he did join the Home Guard – ‘a difficult decision for a pacifist,’ he wrote – but he did it because he thought that domination by Hitler would be even worse.

There were some dear people I met when I came here who’ve died, like Bob Sheldrick. He was one of the first people I spoke to when I came here. I was wondering what on earth to do with the roses on the front of the house and he came along and told me what to do. Another day, he came past – my roses tend to flop over at the front there – ‘cut them down, he said. ‘They’re all wet. They’re in the way.’

And now I’m planning a move to Burwell. I don’t want to go in the least, but this house isn’t suitable for me any more. I’ve got people coming to look round. But the estate agent says they won’t push me to move if I haven’t found anything. We’ll have to see.

*Mark Lewinski*

From an interview with Meryl Moore

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## **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. 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? If 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.*

# DOWN WITH THE FAG

**The Overseas League Tobacco Fund did not agree.** Incorporated by Royal Charter and registered under the War Charities Act, 1940, its aim was to provide fags for our troops and it publicised its aim widely. I have come across one of its 1943 bookmarks with “A THANK OFFERING TO THE FIGHTING MEN” and an appeal to donate to the Tobacco Fund:

## OUR FIGHTING MEN

*They long for a Smoke*

Just ten shillings will send 500 good Cigarettes, duty free, to the Fighting Men – not forgetting the Wounded in Casualty Clearing Stations and Base Hospitals overseas, and in Hospitals in this country – and help to cheer them up.

## Don't they deserve it?

*A Commanding Officer writes:-*

“Many thanks for your cigarettes. They have gone to the Wounded at The Salerno Beaches.”

There is one picture of Monty handing out fags to his troops and another showing a red cross man lighting up for some of the wounded. This was organised by no hole-in-the-wall group. All contributions were sent to Over-Seas House, St. James's, London, S.W.1. So it was almost as famous as the War Office the address of which was “London S.W.1.”

*Alastair Everitt*

*Happy Days! Eds*

## A THANKOFFERING to the FIGHTING MEN

from (Name) .....  
*Block Letters*  
Address .....

I enclose £ : : to provide the comfort and good cheer of Cigarettes for the Fighting Men and the Wounded.

*Please send your donation direct to the :-*

**OVER-SEAS LEAGUE TOBACCO FUND**

*(Incorporated by Royal Charter)*

*(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940)*



Over-Seas House, St. James's  
LONDON, S.W.1

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

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

**BULBECK AUCTION**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Downing Farm  
Swaffham Bulbeck**

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

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

Selling starts at 10am.

Commission Fee 25%

Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772

***Village Clubs & Societies***

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



## WI Notes

THE APRIL MEETING was an open one and we welcomed a number of guests to listen to our speaker who was Sue Elliott, an outreach worker from the Cambridge and Ely branch of the Alzheimer's Society. Sue first gave us some background information on the history of the Society and then discussed the different types of dementia, how these were diagnosed and current help and support available to patients and carers. She then went on to explain how the Society works with families to provide long term support as the condition of the patient deteriorates.

We heard that although the incidence of dementia is increasing in our ageing population, the places in residential care are decreasing and future funding of the drugs to help manage the symptoms is in question. Sue was kept very busy with all the questions that these issues raised and we closed with a reminder of the importance of keeping minds and bodies active and eating our greens.

The next meeting will be on May 15 at 7:30 in the Village Hall when we will be discussing the WI resolutions on 'renewable energy' and 'sport for a healthy nation' followed by entertainment by Hilary Sage. If you are not already a member, why not come along and give us a try – you will be most welcome

*Pat Cook*



### THE NATIONAL TRUST

## The Great Anglesey Abbey Compost Giveaway & Compost Corner

A One Stop Shop for Everything Compost Related

10th May 2006      10.30 am to 4 pm

at

Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill, Quy Road, Cambridge, CB5 9EJ  
01223 810085

**FREE** Compost Giveaway with Donarbon      **Children's Activities**

**Behind the scenes** tour of the Gardens: see how we compost

Find out about the **Black Gold Project**

**Learn how to compost** with the HDRA Master Composters

**Goody Bag giveaway**      **Organic Gardening with Garden Organics**

See a range of **Compost Systems** including:

**The Rocket**

**The Roly pig**

**Compost Bins**

**Wormeries**

**The Rotasieve**

**Garden Shredders**

No extra charge

Registered Charity Number 205846



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

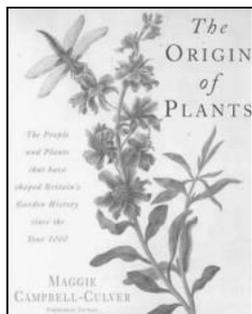
OUR SPEAKER Peter Walker, started his talk to us by saying that he was "not an expert", having originally been interested in wild plants, then garden plants and, in retirement with the aid of some globe trotting, had finally linked the two. We were therefore treated to a very interesting hour, entitled "Ancient Ancestors and Distant Cousins of our Garden Plants and Their Wild Relatives".

There were practically no garden plants before 1500, when the first plant hunters started their remarkable travels. Herbs were some of the first plant brought back to the British Isles, used by Apothecaries and to this day can be found in the Chelsea Physic Garden at the Royal Hospital.

Our current garden plants, including vegetables, all have foreign or wild (I could say *roots*—but I won't!) ancestors and as Peter Walker said, it's important to work with nature and not against it. Remember where plants originate.

**“There were practically no garden plants before 1500....”**

Pelargoniums from South Africa; Wisteria from China; Narcissus and Tulips from the Orient; Gentians from the Alps—"the original rock garden"; Lewisias from Montana; Hebes from New Zealand; potatoes and tomatoes from South America and cucumbers from North Africa. Wild plants have of course been modified over the centuries for consumption and decoration—sea peas, wild parsnip and carrots, Meadow Clary, Fen Violets, wild gladioli, to name but a few. These and the different plant groups were all very well illustrated by slides.



Two books that he recommended on this topic were: "Plant Hunters" by Charles Lyte and "The Origin of Plants" by Maggie Campbell Culver.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 16th May- 8.00pm at the Village Hall, when Lamorna Thomas will be talking to us on "What plants. Where and Why". Everyone very welcome.

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## What's on at Bottisham Royal British Legion

ON FRIDAY 5TH MAY we have a Darts Night with Ronnie Baxter, the No. 3 in the world. The doors open at 7.30 p.m. and the ticket price is £3.00.

We have Bingo on Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th and Sunday 21st May.

There is a Country and Western evening with Fools Gold on Saturday, 27th May from 8.pm until late, so put on your stetson and join in the fun.

*Jacky Cameron*

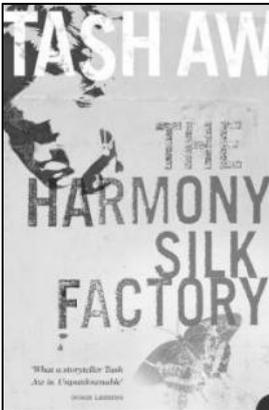
## The Reading Group Reads.....

# The Harmony Silk Factory by Tash Aw



A LAST MINUTE CHANGE of venue found us in rather closer proximity than usual but none the worse for that - hope you recovered quickly, Janet. The nibbles were excellent, the wine and the discussion flowed.

An enigmatic book this; it was quite fascinating what different people got from it. The central character is seen through the eyes of three different people: the son; the wife; and the friend. Set during the second World War, with the Japanese about to invade Malaysia, it tells the strange and elusive story of Johnny Lim, a talented, inventive and ambitious man. The man plays a significant part in each of their lives, and we see that view. But how much of the man do they see? How much of the man do they know? Each draws their own conclusions. But how much of what they see is the real man? Is their judgement justified? Are they fair to him? What we come to understand is that their perceptions colour their view of him. And are we any nearer to understanding the whole man from having the advantage of their different views? Can someone ever be known completely?



This is the skill of the writer and the cleverness of the book, for he makes us question our conclusions, our own perceptions of people. How accurate are our judgements of people? How fair? What better justification of a novel's worth?

A fascinating book, well worth reading, but even more worthwhile talking about it afterwards. An invaluable discussion.

**Our next book is "The Time Traveler's Wife" (American spelling) by Audrey Niffenegger. Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kent House, on the High St (opposite the children's playground for new members) and the June book is Middlemarch by George Elliot at 2 Heath Rd.**

*Brenda Wilson*

## Donations!

Many thanks to the Lode Chapel for their kind donation to *Crier* funds this month. This is greatly appreciated.

# Deciding the future of the district!

## The new East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE will continue to grow over the next 15 years, and the District Council needs to try and plan to manage this growth in a sustainable way. We need to decide where, when and how new development should take place — and to ensure that there are sufficient services and infrastructure in place to meet the needs of local people.

The District Council has started work on a new Local Plan, which will decide the future strategy for development of East Cambridgeshire. It will identify sites for housing, employment and other types of development, and will set out policies against which planning applications will be judged. The new Local Plan will be known as the **Local Development Framework** and will plan for growth up the year 2021.

The District Council has started work already on the new Local Development Framework, and consulted the public last Summer on a series of issues and options relating to the future development of East Cambridgeshire. We are due to carry out further consultation in May/June this year, when we will be publishing a series of consultation papers. One of these documents will be looking at strategic and policy issues, whilst the others will be looking to identify specific sites for new development. If you are interested in the future of East Cambridgeshire you are encouraged to get involved in the consultation process, and to have your say. **The consultation period will run from 15<sup>th</sup> May until 26<sup>th</sup> June, and we will be seeking your comments in a series of questionnaires.**

The documents and questionnaires will be available on the Council's website [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk) from 15th May—or can be obtained by phoning Katie Child, Team Leader, Forward Planning on 01353 616 245. You can also find out more by visiting one of our manned exhibitions across the district:

Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2006	Stall on Newmarket market
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Stall on Ely market
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Stall outside the Co-op in Soham
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2006	Stall on Ely market

The new Local Development Framework has to undergo several stages of public consultation, and the final documents should be in place by mid-2009. Further information on the production process and timetable can be found on the Council's website at [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk).

If you have any questions, please phone Katie Child, Team Leader Forward Planning on 01353 616 245, or email at [Katie.child@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.child@eastcambs.gov.uk), or write to Katie Child, East Cambs District Council. The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs CB7 4PL

# F.B.A? WHAT'S THAT?



REGULAR USERS OF THE NUMEROUS BYWAYS which wind around the village of Reach will have noticed that the hedges with their tenacious thorny tentacles have had a haircut! Not only have the straggly ends been trimmed, - a few places have received a “short back and sides”! Walkers, cyclists, horse riders and (of course) carriage drivers can now venture safely around these pretty lanes, side by side, without the risk of laceration, or loss of eyesight!

The job was undertaken by a group of equestrian enthusiasts known as the FENLAND BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION (FBA), many of whom live locally, and make regular use of the safe circular route, away from main roads and traffic.

The FBA was formed in 1997 and covers the areas around Bottisham, Burwell, Lode, Reach, Upware, Wicken and The Swaffhams as well as outlying villages.

Its aims are:

- To increase the length and number of trails which are accessible to horses, for the safety of riders, horses, and the road users who would otherwise encounter them.
- To ensure that these trails are maintained in a rideable condition.
- To encourage, and teach riders to be safe and considerate towards other users of highways, byways, bridleways and the countryside in general.

During last year members of the group formed a working party, and with the aid of a tractor and flail, (partially financed by the FBA) spent several hours of one weekend clearing scrub and cutting back the hedges and those lethal briars, which were encroaching into the path of the users of the byways.

Andy Davidson, the County Council Rights of Way officer said “We (the Council) appreciate the work done by the Fenland Riders in clearing the byways and working with council officers to improve the network for other users.”

It is important that byways and bridleways are kept clear of obstruction, and are not lost. What can you do to help? By joining the FBA, you are seen to be representing an expanding group of people who love to spend their leisure time safely with their horses in the countryside. These people are dedicated to maintaining the access and condition of safe riding areas, opening up new linking routes and encouraging other horse riders to be safe and considerate to other users.

In addition, you will be able to take part in organized activities such as talks/lectures, outings, pleasure rides, jumping opportunities, carriage driving, and access over trails open only to FBA members (this is a current project, hopefully for the near future).

Anyone interested in joining the FBA should contact Joy Fuller (Membership Secretary), Westmere Farm, Upware, Cambs. Telephone: 01353-720288 (leave message and your contact number please).

*Jane & John Covill*



YOU MAY REMEMBER seeing an article in which I proposed a village freecycle scheme. Well, here it is and I am hoping that I will be receiving contributions to the scheme. This list of offers and wants will also be posted in next months' Lode Star (Lode and Longmeadow).

As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please have a look through your house/garden for things that you haven't used in years – take this opportunity to free up some vital cupboard space! It really can be anything from plants, home produce, unwanted presents to books..... If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on [jun.thompson@tesco.net](mailto:jun.thompson@tesco.net), or phone me on 01223 813362 before the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month.

If you would like more information on how this scheme works, please visit the official Freecycle website for this area: [groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle) or [groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle). Thank you.

Offers	Wants	Contact details
Flymo microlite hover mower White tear-drop shaped ceramic vase (~30 cm tall) Casino Royale DVD Sum of all fears DVD (region 1)	Potty Child's booster seat (preferably with tray)	Jun/Andy Thompson (Longmeadow, 813362)
Autolok gear lever lock with two keys Steering wheel lock (1 key)		Susan Swannell (Lode, 811584)

*Jun Thompson*

### **Mobile Library**

Requests from Book Clubs are welcome. Dates are Tues, 9th and 23rd of May and 6 June, 3.05-3.45 opposite old post office, 3.50-4.10, Zion Chapel. Books can be returned to any local library if that is easier. Non-fiction requests are free, and you can also purchase greetings cards and stamps.

***USE IT OR LOSE IT!***

## Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 2 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.

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

a) *The Pound-Fire Engine:* It was confirmed to the meeting that the Fire Engine is now on display at Burwell Museum. This is on a 5-year loan basis with the option to have the Fire Engine returned at any point during that period. ACRE Insurance Services have confirmed cover for the Fire Engine whilst at The Museum.

The renovation works to the Pound are now complete. Once the work has been inspected by Rosie Burton, ECDC Conservation Officer, the grant towards the cost of this work will be paid.

b) *End of Year Budget (2005/06):* Copies of the financial spreadsheet were circulated to the meeting. It was noted that overspend on the 2005/06 budget was largely due to the costs incurred in evicting the travellers from the Recreation Ground.

### **Confirmation of Annual Village Assembly Date/Agenda**

The AVA was to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 but the Village Hall had already been booked for this date, so it was agreed that it will be held on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.30pm**. Apart from the usual reports/accounts, etc., from various groups within the Village, it is hoped that a representative from the National Trust will give a short presentation on their plans for the Fen areas. The Police Community Beat Officer will be invited to attend and respond to any concerns or questions that might be raised. Cllr Alderson and Cllr Williams will report to the meeting.

### **Village Maintenance – Bus Shelter**

This shelter continues to deteriorate and it was agreed that repairs were now becoming quite urgent. One estimate was received for the repair works needed and it was agreed that two further estimates should be obtained for comparison and carried forward to May meeting for further discussion.

### **Play Area – replacement climbing net**

In light of the time it was taking to process the insurance claim submitted following the vandalism damage to the climbing net, it was agreed not to wait but to go ahead and place an order with Anglian Playground Services (the suppliers of the climbing frame) for the fixing of a new climbing net at a cost of £265-00 + VAT.

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

### **Planning Application**

25 The High Street (LBC) – total demolition of barn after partial collapse. There were no objections to this.

### **Planning Approval**

20 Green Head Road – single storey rear extension.

**Any Other Business**

Damage to road edges on Lower End was reported and will be repaired by CCC Highways.

“Passing Place” signs still awaiting CCC team to carry out work.

A request to re-site a grit bin was received. This was discussed but it was generally felt that the grit bin should stay in its current position.

**Open Question Time** - No questions.

**The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

*Karen King*

Clerk of the Parish Council, Tel: 742358.

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH  
SWAFFHAM PRIOR

**SUNDAY 4 JUNE**

**at 6.30pm**

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

ALL WELCOME

To choose a favourite hymn  
for this service please collect a selection slip from the  
back of the church  
and return by 14 May

St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire

**TOBE & POLISHED BRASS**

Two Outstanding Brass Quintets  
First Performance: **Echoes of Fordham**  
Light, Accessible Music for Summer  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 7.30 pm**  
**Tickets £6 Concessions £5**  
**Ring 01638 720328**

**ART EXHIBITION**

Paintings **PETER WELCH**  
Photographs **NIGEL BLOXHAM**  
Art-Work from Primary Schools  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 to 4.00 pm**  
**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 to 5.00 pm**  
**Admittance Free**



# Lode Baptist Chapel

## Mayday! Mayday!

### When's my next Payday?

DID YOU KNOW that 16th May is World Debt Day? In 2005 the major focus throughout the year was the burden of debt on the world's poorest countries – and I was one of the more than 200,000 people who went to Edinburgh seeking to persuade the G8 to 'Drop the Debt'.

But debt is also a problem in the UK. In 2005 nearly 70,000 people became insolvent, the highest since records began. At the same time home repossession orders were also rising sharply. Apparently Britain's personal debt is increasing by £1 million every four minutes and the interest we pay on that debt is running at £6 billion every month. The average owed by every man, woman and child in the UK is £17,000.

One in five people are borrowing money just to pay household bills, one in four are struggling to meet bills and credit repayments. That makes six million families who are struggling to keep up with their credit commitments. This means that many of our neighbours will be facing the reality of debt – maybe even you.

If you are in debt, a course called **The Money Secret** may be your first step on the journey to financial security. If you feel that nobody could understand the sheer loneliness of financial pressure, then The Money Secret (produced by Care for the Family) could become your friend. The course is packed with insight and practical advice and is likely to be start at Lode Chapel in the middle of May. Please contact me if you would like more information – my details are below.

#### Dates for your diary:

**Sunday 14th May** – 'Money, money, money', a family service for World Debt Day.

**Sunday 28th May** – 'Hurry, hurry, hurry', a special service on Time Management.

**Sunday 11th June** – 'Hope and Glory', a family service to mark the start of the World Cup (we will be showing the England matches on a big screen in the Chapel – more information next month).

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

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30 with Sunday School.

For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

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

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

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

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

### **St Mary's Notes**

THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING will be held at 7pm in the School Hall. As well as catching up with the many developments this meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to thank the people who keep our village church going. One such person is our verger Andrew Camps, who carries out many of the tasks which facilitate well run services in his own quiet and efficient way.

The April Family Service was brilliant, focusing on love, life and death illustrated by excellent dramatisations of relevant passages from Harry Potter. The children put in a lot of effort, read beautifully and are ably supported by dedicated parents. If anyone would like to help with the costumes, reading practice or anything else please step forward. You will be very welcome. A special thank-you to CAROLINE FOR PLAYING THE ORGAN (that's me! Ed).

*Tricia Harrison*



### **A PENTECOST PICNIC!**

**IN ANGLESEY ABBEY GROUNDS  
FORDHAM AND QUY DEANERY**

**SUNDAY 4 JUNE 12.30 3.00PM**

**FREE ENTRANCE ALL**

**WELCOME**

**BRING A SEAT AND YOUR PICNIC**

**THIS IS A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR  
THE DEANERY CHILDREN'S PARTY ON JUNE 3**

**PLEASE MAKE A DONATION**



## Church of England Services

### May 2006

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 7</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 14</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>BCP</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>12:00 noon</b> ROGATION SERVICE At Adventurer's Farm	<b>11:15am</b> Rogation Service	<b>9:45am</b> Rogation Service
<b>Thu 25</b>	<b>7:30pm</b> Holy Communion (Ascension Day)		
<b>Sun 28</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service

**PASTORAL LETTER, May 2006**

**Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on Easter Saturday and, as with many of us, looking forward hopefully to warmer weather.

The key word here is 'hopefully'. There is an English proverb that says: '*If it were not for hope the heart would break*', and that is so true. We all need hope to enable us to face the challenges and difficulties that life inevitably brings.

The Christian faith is founded on hope. As someone once wrote: '*Life with Christ is an endless hope, without him a hopeless end.*'

# imagine!



A Party in the Park for 5s  
to 11s, with GenR8 at  
**Anglesey Abbey**  
Saturday June 3  
Make a note for your diary  
not to be missed!  
Invitations available soon  
from your local school or  
church.

On a cruise from Mexico to Hawaii in 1979, Los Angeles lawyer John Peckham and his wife, Dottie, put a note in a bottle and tossed it into the Pacific. Three years and nine thousand miles later, Vietnamese refugee Nguyen Van Hoa leaned down from a tiny, crowded boat and plucked the bottle from the South China Sea and was amazed to find a name and address, a dollar for postage and the promise of a reward. "It gave me hope," said Hoa, who had escaped from a prison camp in Vietnam.

Safe in a UN refugee camp in Thailand, Hoa wrote to the surprised Peckhams. For two years they corresponded; during which Hoa married and had a son. A short while after the birth the Peckhams agreed to sponsor the emigration of Hoa, by then thirty-one, and his family. A few months later, they arrived in Los Angeles for an emotional meeting with the Peckhams and to start a new life. The hope that the note in the bottle gave Hoa was then fully

realised.

For Christians the resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope for today. It is our assurance that we have a living Saviour to help us live as we should now, and that when, in the end, we set forth on that last great journey, we shall not travel an uncharted course, but rather we shall go on a planned voyage from life to death to eternal living. We believe that Jesus Christ will be our constant companion on that journey - guiding us, teaching us, strengthening us, and supporting us; and, when we arrive at our final destination in heaven, we shall have the joy of meeting him face to face.

Alexander Pope sums up the Christian hope beautifully:

*Hope humbly then; with trembling pinions soar;  
Wait the great teacher death, and God adore.  
What future bliss he gives not thee to know,  
But gives that hope to be thy blessing now,  
Hope springs eternal in the human breast;  
Man never is, but always to be blessed.*

May God bless you all,

*David*

# *Dates for Your Diary*

## May 2006

Thu	4	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House, High St
Fri	5	Police Surgery, 4-5pm, High St Bottisham Legion, 7.30pm, Bottisham
Tue	9	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm Recycling
Thu	11	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Sat	13	<b>VILLAGE FEAST, 2pm VH</b>
Sun	14	<b><i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	15	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	16	Village Gardeners, 8pm VH
Thu	18	Bottisham Players Funny Money, 7.30pm, BVC
Fri	19	Bottisham Players Funny Money, 7.30pm, BVC
Sat	20	Bottisham Players Funny Money, 7.30pm, BVC Bulbeck Auction, 10am, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun	21	<b>Rogation Barbeque Lunch &amp; Service, 12 noon, Adventurers Farm</b>
Tue	23	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm ECDC 15 Year Plan, Newmarket Market Recycling
Wed	24	<b>ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY, 7.30pm VH</b>
Thu	25	ECDC 15 Year Plan, Ely Market
Fri	26	ECDC 15 Year Plan, Outside Co-op, Soham
Jun	3	Party in the Park, Anglesey Abbey
Jun	4	Pentecost Picnic, Anglesey Abbey, 12.30-3pm