



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX Number 10

October 2006



Editorial

THUNDER, rumble, roar, whoooosh....what's this then? The M25? No! Our own Mill Hill at going-to-school time, with push-chairing Mums accompanying little kids on bikes having to wait ages before they can even think about crossing, let alone safely. Actually, forget *safely*, that's **right out**.

So just how long can this go on? Until the unthinkable happens (as it very nearly did last month) and a pedestrian crossing can then be "prioritised"? But did it take *any* squelched High Street cyclists to buy that daft cycle-path paraphernalia at the start of the High Street? Come on Councillors, lay off school-parking Mums (who can blame them) and turn up on the Mill Hill school-route at 8.30 am where the real scandal's happening and you too can try your luck at compulsory chicken.

Yes, it's October and the *Crier* is back with lots of news and some old faces. Firstly, the venerable Allix dynasty—200 years squires of the village. Many Priorites thought it vanished, but not so: it's just that the line continued through the *daughters* — read all about what happened and who the family is now in Michael Casenove's interesting communication to *Letters*.

Next, joy of joys, *Geoffrey Woollard* is back at the PC. Long-time readers

will know that Geoffrey has strong views on quite a lot of things—just how we like it in these pages—and since he went, *Our Reporter* has been flicking paper-clips and sharpening pencils, only waiting for this moment to arise. Ah yes, and what more appropriate time for the *Crier* to start republishing a few archive extracts of previous encounters for background: next month perhaps!

Music correspondent Jim Henderson returns with a review of Ian de Massini's magnificent September Bach in St Cyriac's, which incidentally *is* going to get a make-over, including among other things a KITCHEN and UNDERFLOOR HEATING (the LOO is going in St Mary's, we hear) — so more concerts all year round, we hope, and the continentally-challenged need *fear no more*.

And TILLAGE: read all about this huge National event on Prior's doorstep as James Wilmot reveals all. See you Halloweening!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *An evening at the Red Lion*
by **Thomas Newbolt**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Peter Allix

In Frank Readhead's report of the P.C. meeting in June he mentioned the death of a young officer in 1940, by the name of Allix, and commented that close relations living locally must remember this awful event, which would have had a profound effect on the family and village.

The officer concerned was my uncle, Peter Allix, and the only close relative still living who knew him is my mother who will be 89 this month.

My grandfather, Charles Allix, had four children, three daughters and then the long awaited son who would inherit the estate—sadly it was not to be. Peter left Eton at 18, then joined the Coldstream Guards and was with a small rearguard group protecting the Dunkirk evacuation when he was killed at the age of 21. His father never really recovered from that tragedy and its consequences.

It brought to an end the 200 years or so that the Allix's had lived in Swaffham Prior, with the estate passing, on his death in 1960, to his eldest daughter, Mrs. Hurrell, and subsequently to her son, Henry Hurrell. Because she died a mere eight years after her father, the estate suffered two lots of death duties in quick succession. The result of this was that many of the estate houses in the village had to be sold, so that the misfortune of the Allix family resulted in the good fortune of other families who were able to buy some of the lovely houses in our village. Among these are our house, Swaffham Prior House, Baldwin Manor, Goodwin Manor, Anglesey House and Rose Cottage. I wonder how different the village might be if Peter Allix, who could still be alive today, had not been killed.

My grandfather continued the tradition of having portraits painted of family members by having a posthumous portrait of Peter painted by the noted artist of the time, Oswald Birley. This now hangs in my mother's house with instructions that it is eventually to come back here to Swaffham Prior.

Michael Casenove

Dear Editors,

Street Lights and other Controversial Matters

I was delighted to read that 'special' street lights in the 'key part' of our Conservation Area are to be shielded for the benefit of nearby residents. It would be nice to know if this service could be extended to include distinctly shabby street lights in the more lowly part of the CA.

Did I detect a slight sniff of disapproval in the comment about 'too thin' curtains? The real problem is the inch-perfect precision of the offending lamp which is exactly at eye height and in a direct line from the pillow through any one-micron gap between the curtains. I suppose we could rearrange the room and put the bed at the other end..... There was a wonderful period of nearly nine months during which the lamp failed, and we switched on our (otherwise redundant) door light for the

benefit of passing pedestrians. Then someone shopped us. Never mind, the post is so rusted through at the top that the lamp will probably fall off soon (remind me to write to the PC about it).

While waiting for that to happen, I enjoy comparing the chimes of the village clock with those of my long-case, lovingly rebuilt by me a few years ago. I think mine keeps slightly steadier time, but it doesn't matter. Neither clock is really supposed to be looked at – just heard. The chimes are there to provide a gentle reminder of the passing day, and should be accurate enough to enable people to catch the afternoon stage, but not the Number 10 at 0657. The only time they are a problem is when they inform you that it is indeed 3 in the morning (more or less) and you can't get back to sleep.

They certainly don't merit any bickering, or oily rags at 50 paces. Or was it a joke??

(I had intended to write to you some time ago to complain about elliptical references by regular correspondents that relied on things we were supposed to have noticed and remembered from previous issues – and now realised that I have just done the same thing. Oh dear).

John Chalmers

Dear Editors,

Unused Foreign Coins

Many of you will have read that the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge needs to raise £175,000 in order to save the vital 'Hospice at Home' service. They have had much of their funding removed as a result of the NHS cutbacks. The charity is determined to save the service which enables people with cancer to be nursed at home if that is their wish.

One way that we can help is by sorting out old foreign currency notes and coins. It does not matter how old they are, they can still help to raise more money for this appeal. I am very happy to take any donations into the hospice as I work there as a volunteer flower arranger. So, if you have returned from holiday with coins that are too small for the bank to accept, just pop them in an envelope and put them through my letterbox. (Our letterbox is in the front door which is at the back of the house!) The address is The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior.

I look forward to receiving your donations!

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

I have recently taken over as Poppy Appeal Organiser for Swaffham Prior and urgently need Collectors for this vital work. Please help by giving up some of your time by acting as a House-to-House Collector any time during the twelve days preceding Poppy Day in early November.

Please contact me on 01638 742455. Thank You!

Barbara Falcon

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

WHAT A TO-DO THERE WAS AT THE START OF THE MEETING. The PC was thrown into disarray because for the first time for many years there were two volunteers for the parish council vacancy. The last time this happened was when Elaine Malster was selected against two other volunteers, one of whom was a recently arrived Mason in the village. Elaine and the Mason had the same number of votes and Elaine got in with the Chairman's casting vote.



So what was the problem this time? Quite simply it was a matter of procedure. Only one candidate, Geoffrey Woollard, showed up and Eric immediately proposed him because of Geoffrey's years as a parish, district and county councillor. "With that experience Geoffrey will save us from being flooded" said Eric. The meeting was reminded that you don't propose and second, you just have a vote. Having agreed that, there was then a debate whether it should be a secret ballot or a show of hands. By this time about five people had offered their twopennyworth on the correct procedure. Progress was being made until Peter Hart doubted whether "co-opted" was the right word. As he put it, there was a vacancy and these people were volunteers and were not co-opted. Explanations followed but no-one appeared satisfied. It took seven minutes before the procedure was agreed and I wondered what Geoffrey was doing outside the meeting. Was he getting involved with the Slimmers or had he just got fed up and gone home?

The vote went ahead, Geoffrey was elected and called in, he was "honoured and very grateful", and he asked whether he could sit where Henry sat (was this sentiment or ambition?). One thing is for sure, the village now has another very dedicated councillor.

Hazel Williams announced that from October 1st all pensioners with a travel card can travel free on both the service bus and the Park and Ride after 9.30am. The CCC has put more money in from a separate pot because the number of bus passengers has declined over the last few months and the CCC was failing to meet a passenger target and thereby losing money. If passenger numbers increase there will be access to other funding which means that CCC can recoup the extra money it has just paid out. I hope I've got that right.

Only one candidate [for a PC vacancy], Geoffrey Woollard, showed up and Eric immediately proposed him because of Geoffrey's years as a parish, district and county councillor. "With that experience Geoffrey will save us from being flooded" said Eric.

Everyone was in a twitch about the re-emergence of travellers. Always the CCC drags its feet before bringing proceedings and this constantly frustrates ECDC who are still trying to get a better working relationship

with the CCC. Alan Alderson did acknowledge the difficulties faced by the CCC and that the “Human Rights Act” enables the travellers to ask for the protection offered to any minority group. It seems that the travellers at the start of proceedings can always turn up with some old granny or suchlike who may die if moved. And later they use a smart lawyer who often spooks the judge by moving into the details of the Human Rights Act. Both Alan and Hazel stressed that it is essential to have a lot of confirmed anti-social evidence before CCC is entirely happy about going to court. Against this it was acknowledged that people are often frightened to give evidence and it was suggested it should be fed through the PC to conceal names.

“ Meanwhile the parking problem near the school is being tackled a ban on mums parking nearer than a certain point, and with the police attending and monitoring...”

The Parochial Charities have written to the PC to confirm that they have “smartened up” the “Waste Paper Lodges” which used to be the sheds for the eighteenth century almshouses which once stood nearby (see next month’s Crier for all the pictures.) Steve reported that the Sports and Recreation Club are providing the £2,000 needed for the Burwell Tigers’ legal fees, and, cross fingers, it may go ahead but Steve understandably wished to make no promises or firm predictions. Meanwhile the parking problem near the school is being tackled with more yellow lines, the coach position being moved, a ban on mums parking nearer than a certain point, and with the police attending and monitoring how the mothers park. This is going to be an interesting spectacle and I can imagine it attracting a huge crowd in the morning. I wonder whether the police will arrive in coaches, or how long it is before they require riot gear.

The Sports Club may also offer some money for a new surface under the swings – but only if the PC stops using tarmac and uses something more durable. This will be explored. Meanwhile there was great concern about the bird “litter” on the seats of the swings. How to stop this was discussed in the meeting and also in the open question time at the end. Three suggestions were made – put spikes on the top of the swings, put a thin piece of wire along the top, put a wide board over the swings so that the birds can do what they like without anything dropping on the seats. All seem pretty useful but I wonder whether the discussion could be thrown open to the whole village as I am sure there are other ingenious ways of stopping the birds from fouling the seats.

Across the road from our cemetery is about an acre of Parish Council land which is there as a burial site when our cemetery overflows. Meanwhile the land does nothing. Occasionally people try to cultivate it with limited success. There has now been an application from Alex Kirby and Mike Malster and it was agreed to rent the land to them for £50 a year. A member of the PC had been taken in to their confidence and announced that it was all going to be organic, there will be a surrounding border of wild flowers, the main crops will be asparagus, with soft and

hard fruit, and there will be no polytunnels. This is something for everyone to look forward to and maybe organized bi-monthly formal guided visits will be offered as work progresses.

It was in Any Other Business (AOB) that Geoffrey came into his own and repaid Eric Day's expression of faith in him at the start of the meeting. Geoffrey wanted the PC to condemn the National Trust's flooding programme and also the proposed Bridge of Reeds. He was very persistent, but Andrew Camps pointed out you cannot vote on any items in AOB and also that not every councilor attended the National Trust Presentation. But it will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Also in AOB Andrew said there had been a complaint that the hand lawn mowers in the cemetery could be a hazard for children. Sandra Ginn had recently visited the cemetery, had admired the neatness of it all with the line of watering cans and mowers for the use of people, and wondered that if there is a problem children should not be allowed in without an adult. It did all seem pretty ridiculous. Where is Health and Safety taking us? The PC said there was always a danger of trapping fingers in the gate. Who's children are they anyway. Grrrrh!! Also reported to Andrew was that a larger amount of rubbish was turning up in the cemetery fire cage with the allotments holders being the prime suspects. *Alastair Everitt*

Vandals Hit Churches

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, unwelcome visitors left their mark in the two churches. A window was broken in St Mary's and the visitors-book scribbled all over in St Cyriac's. Worse, St Mary's candles were lit, and one had burnt down to the wooden candlestick which was ablaze when found, fortunately before further damage was done.

Residents can easily see that the *St Mary's* visitors book for that day contains some rather *strange*, but of course possibly unrelated, entries.

Latest....

PLANNING APPLICATION AT THE WORKING WIND MILL

ON 26TH SEPTEMBER the PC met to consider a proposal to replace the flat roofed bungalow adjacent to the listed mill on Mill Hill. The meeting heard that the ECDC Conservation Officer had raised no objection and then enthused about the contemporary design for the new house and small visitor information area. The PC commented only that no neighbours' rights to privacy should be compromised, and that the prescribed response form from ECDC offers too little scope to commend exciting proposals like this!

Robert Frost Promoted to Major

MANY OLDER VILLAGERS WOULD KNOW ROB, son of Jack and Mina Frost (Fairview Grove). Robert Frost joined the army in the late 1970's and worked his way up through the ranks. He has seen active service throughout the world, and become a commissioned officer in 200. In July this year, he was promoted to Major and is currently based in Waterbeach.

Rest in Pieces

NEXT YEAR will mark the 50th anniversary of the sad demise of Swaffham Prior's fountain. What better way to celebrate the occasion than a *reconstruction* perhaps? Many thanks to Peggy Day for this contemporary press-cutting



“Just off to the Red Lion, Gaffer, to ask the Landlord to give the ol’ ‘orse a drop o’ water.”

St Cyriacs Forges Ahead

A PROPOSED NEW LIGHTING SCHEME, improvements to the electrics, improvements to the drainage, installation of a water source and basic kitchenette in the south transept, an optional screen to enclose the chairs in the north transept, installation of under-floor heating and repairs to the floor and wall surfaces are all improvements that the Church's Conservation Trust is planning for St Cyriac's and Jullitta's Church.

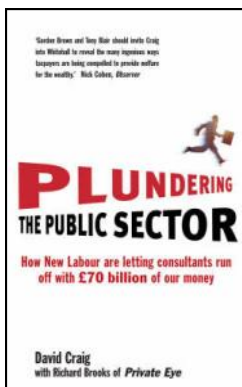
Their Conservation Manager wants to clarify that the kitchenette can only go in the south transept due to existing drainage provision and that the screen enclosing the chairs in the north transept is optional. The Trust has already revised its plans several times in line with the views expressed by local residents about the proposed work, but are now very happy with the latest proposals and feel confident that they reflect the village's wishes. Watch this space for more developments!

Verity Stroud

THE ONE BOOK THE READING GROUP DARE NOT OPEN

EACH MONTH the Reading Group considers a book which may delight, annoy, enrich, disappoint, etc, etc. What the Group does not want to do is to read a book which causes total depression and despair.

I'm talking about David Craig's *Plundering the Public Sector* (Constable paperback at £9.99) which has the highly contentious subtitle "How New Labour are letting consultants run off with £70 billion of our money". Published in February this year, it provides the reason why so many government initiatives have run into trouble, why PFIs can be a rip-off, why there will be an increasing number of articles and tv programmes exploring the failures which will gradually reveal the full horror of Labour giving a free hand to the "professionals".



Whether it's Defra, the Child Support Agency, Tax Credits, and now the very topical Labour flagship 'Connecting for Health', David Craig illustrates the power and influence of the management consultants, and why there have been so many blunders. Even more depressing is that one must wonder who is making the decisions, who sets new initiatives, who sets targets, who provides the always alluring cost savings over ten years. Even if you read and become dismayed, at least you will better understand why the government has constantly to make reassessments and changes in the health service, and why so many failures were inevitable.

Alastair Everitt

Swaffham Prior Village



CHRISTMAS

MARKET



Saturday, 11th November



**2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
in the Village Hall**



**Gifts ☺ Produce ☺ Tombola ☺ Cards ☺ Calendars
Raffle ☺ Children's Corner ☺ Toys
Jewellery ☺ Books ☺ Refreshments**

**Admission: 50p ☺ Children under 12: free
Proceeds to St Mary's Church**

THE HARVEST SHOW

“WHERE ARE THEY?” was the general cry as our awesome horticultural pair, Malster/Kirby, failed to make an entry. Maybe the £100 prize money is too meagre. But despair not, they are still about, and you’ll have to read this month’s PC Report to discover what they are up to. Their absence and that of others gave Peter Hart an almost clear field in the vegetable section and he did especially well. I bet this spurs others to oust him next year. Roger Pulvertaft, previous owner of Kent House, came in from the wings to scoop the outdoor tomatoes class against fierce competition

The cakes were excellent and, following Greg Cotner’s suggestion for a bit of variety, there were two of the most wonderful tarts on display. A pity Greg couldn’t come and enjoy them. The children’s “vegetable animals” each year amaze with their inventiveness and this year was no exception. June Wolfenden and her team made a small change with the cream teas which sold better than ever. They were so popular that people had to picnic on the front lawns.

Our thanks go to Jenny Brand and Janet Cooper for organising the Show, to June for the Teas, to Ruth Scovill for writing the prize cards, and to all those who helped, sent in entries and attended the auction. The proceeds were £177 and from this we will give our usual donation to Farm Africa.

Alastair Everitt

Christmas is Coming!

Village Christmas Market 11th November

Plans are well afoot be we need YOUR HELP on the day or by donating items in good condition which people will be thrilled to buy.

The following will be pleased to hear from you:

PRODUCE: Cakes, sweets, preserves, mince-pies etc etc.

Penny Walkinshaw 742542

Marcia Miller 741141

GIFTS: Anything which could be given as a present

Kate Child 743983

JEWELRY

Barbara Dennis 743939

BOOKS

In good condition, suitable for a present

Francis Reeks: 743693

Mark Lewinski

TOYS

Tricia Harrison 742850

TOMBOLA

Peter and Mary Hart 741681



Kate Child

HARVEST SHOW RESULTS 2006

	1st	2nd	3rd
Mixed vegetables (4 kinds)	-	P. Lachford	-
Potatoes	-	P. Lachford	-
Beetroot (round or long)	P. Hart	-	-
Carrots	S. Dodge	P. Lachford	-
A vegetable marrow	L. Whiteside	-	-
Courgettes	-	-	J. Lachford
French beans	P. Hart	-	-
Runner beans	P. Hart	J. Cooper	P. Lachford
Indoor tomatoes	P. Hart	-	-
Outdoor tomatoes	R Pulvertaft	C. Atherstone	S. Dodge
A cucumber	P. Hart	C. Lewis	P. Hart
The longest runner bean	P. Hart	J. Cooper	S. Dodge
Onions from seed	P. Lachford	-	-
Uncommon fruit or vegetable	A. Everitt	Pumfrey family	P. Hart
Pears	A. Tozer	-	-
Dessert apples	A. Everitt	-	-
Cooking apples	S. Napier	R. Scovil	A. Everitt
Plums	P. Hart	J. Cooper	A. Everitt
Raspberries	J. Cooper	-	-
Dahlias (3 varieties)	C. Whitely	E. Day	E. Day
Pom-pom dahlias	E. Day	E. Day	E. Day
Michaelmas daisies	A. Everitt	E. Everitt	-
Floribunda roses	A. Everitt	-	-
Vase of perennials	A. Everitt	-	-
Pot plant	E. Everitt	-	-
Basket of flowers	B. Prime	-	-
Miniature arrangement	B. Prime	C. Whitely	-
Jar of soft fruit jam	S. Wilkins	-	-
Jar of stone fruit jam	J. Reeks	S. Napier	R. Scovil
Jar of jelly	R. Scovil	J. Reeks	S. Wilkins
Jar off range marmalade	R. Scovil	E. Everitt	-
Jar of lemon curd	S. Wilkins	B. Prime	-
Jar of piccalilli or chutn ey	K. Child	-	-
Jar of honey	R. Bourne	-	-
Victoria sponge	S. Dodge	S. Napier	S. Wilkins
Flapjacks	K. Child	B. Prime	-
Shortbread	B. Prime	K. Child	S. Wilkins
Any sort of cake	S. Wilkins	-	-
Any kind of tart	S. Wilkins	B. Prime	-
Scones	S. Wilkins	R. Scovil	-
White loaf	R. Scovil	-	-
Bread (using a bread-making machine)	D. Noyes	C. Whitely	-
Tallest sunflower	L. Whiteside	Class 1, S.P. School	Class 2, S.P. School
Largest sunflower head	Class 1, S.P. School	-	-
Chocolate crispies	M. Dean-Tozer	G. Dean-Tozer	E. Noyes
"Happy Faces" iced biscuits	F. Thomas	L. Whiteside	T. Wrench
Garden on a plate	T.& A. Jost	F. Thomas	T. Wrench
Vegetable or fruit "animal"	H. Pumfrey	A. Wrench/T. Pitt	F. Thomas
Model (original)	G. Dean-Tozer	A. Jost	M. Dean-Tozer
Red wine (home made from natural produce)	S. Everitt	P. Latchford	-
White wine (")	P. Latchford	S. Everitt	-

Remember, Remember:

That THATCH In November

Yes, there are a great many thatched cottages in Swaffham Prior. Launch those rockets in a different direction!



The Triumphant Return of Colin

COLIN THE PARROT WENT MISSING, was presumed deceased in fact, for a whole week last month. That's it for Colin, thought Arksey family owners gloomily, as Colin failed to show up after much searching and hullabaloo. And doubtless this would have been the case for a less able bird and were it not for eagle-eyed local electrician Ralph Waters, who clocked him at work in the lush orchards of Reach. The resourceful Colin was picking apples at the time, nibbling through the stem, and then swooping down to eat the flesh when they dropped. Ralph rather thought he'd seen those feathered features somewhere before, and news swiftly reached the Arksey's. One fruitily-baited dog-cage later, and Colin was home again: *chauffeur-driven* of course: the dog cage needed a very big car!

Neighbourhood Police Officer Sue Loaker will be holding a Police Surgery at:



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

FRI 20th OCTOBER 7.30pm—8.30pm

TEL: 07921 938046

An Inspector Calls



Autumn
Production
2006

A Drama By J.B. Priestley, by arrangement with Samuel French

WHY WOULD AN INSPECTOR CALL on the Birling household one spring evening in 1912? A middle class family having a celebration! Is someone in the house hiding something? Has anyone committed a "Crime"? Who is inspector Goole and is he successful in his investigations.


The only way to find out what is happening in the Birling household is to make sure you buy your ticket and be a "fly" on the dining room wall.

Performances will be at **7.30 pm on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 19th, 20th & 21st October 2006** in the **Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.**

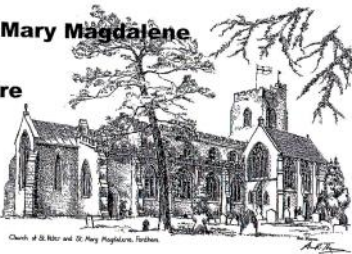
Tickets £7 (concessions £5). No concessions on Saturday. Available from **Lushers News**, Bottisham for personal bookings. Alternatively ring our separate advance booking line on 01223 811033. Tickets may be available on the door. The format will be a standard Auditorium with drinks available from the dinner hall in the interval..



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

A  **FRIENDS OF
ST. PETER'S
FORDHAM**

Presentation



Church of St. Peter and St. Mary Magdalene, Fordham

**SOHAM COMRADES
BAND**

In Concert

An opportunity to hear an outstanding local premièrship band enhanced by the glorious acoustics of St Peter's, Fordham

Conductor: **MATTHEW BROWN**

Saturday 18th November 2006

St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham

7.30 pm

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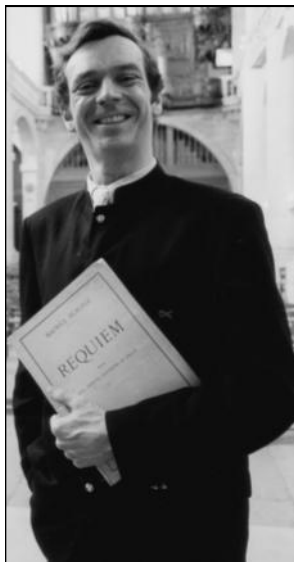
CONCERT TICKETS Unreserved £6 Concessions £5

From: Art & Antiques, 1 Lynn Road, Ely
Soham Books, 16 Crown Walk, Newmarket
D N Jenkins, 52 Carter Street, Fordham
Soham Books, 38 High Street, Soham
Telephone 01638 720328 At the Door £6 only

Ian de Massini Concert

10 September

ON A GLORIOUS SUNDAY in September Ian de Massini guided an appreciative audience in Saints Cyriac and Julitta's along some of the richest lodes laid down by Bach in his later years. Opening with the potentially, sternly Germanic, first movement of the Italian Concerto Mr de Massini's skilful and loving hands transformed it, from one of dialogue between "opposing forces", into something more like deeply satisfying complementarity between old and dear friends. Closing with the Fantasia in C minor he brought us, through the comparatively languorous voluptuousness of its harmonious beginning, safely back to the good, clean, energetic stimulation of the intellect which fits us for the robustness of our fenland paradise.



What treats we had between! First our ears had to adapt to the resonance released from the sparsely peopled hail by the powerful non-piano. But then, and much thanks also to de Massini's consummate musicianship, the wonderful melodic line in the Italian Concerto's Andante movement soared clearly above its non-orchestral accompaniment. It was really quite magical as were other passages when that combination of instrument and vessel surpassed pianoforte and fortepiano to approach the glory from a large organ in a great cathedral.

Mr de Massini's playing of the English Suite gave us an exploration of the A minor key to keep us on the edge of our seats. We may not have permitted dancing but stiff upper lips did quiver. The first of the Bourrées surely functions at least to warm the soloist's fingers so that a happy switch to A major for the second can always evoke, without tinge of painful irony in this usually chillier island, the life-giving sunniness of the latter. The addition of the Allegro movement at the end also thankfully prevents our being left with the desperately sad Sarabande as a final word on Englishness even if it was not Bach's. Instead optimism prevailed.

“The final Fantasia in C minor, ... beginning with an extraordinarily weird harmonic discovery of where Bach might have taken us had he lived on...”

The Chromatic Fantasia with its “blue notes” almost sapping the treble comments might also have left us a little dispirited, in these difficult times, had it not led, through the tentatively cheerful Fugue, to Mr de Massini's own explosively triumphant cadenza. Hope could be justifiably restored.

The final Fantasia in C minor, while beginning with an extraordinarily weird harmonic discovery of where Bach might have

taken us had he lived on, provided then a reprise of whence we had come. Not unthankfully that returned us to and left us in a state where the head can again take control of the heart but cheerfully replenished.

Swaffham Prior and its environs are singularly fortunate in keeping within our reach such a generous master of pedagogy and performance and one so thoroughly professionally endowed. Ian de Massini's Cambridge Voices have lately suffered two very sore bereavements. We grieve with him and them and hope that the memory of glories achieved together will begin to obliterate, for all, the sadness of this summer. His own brave, solo suite on Sunday enkindles prayers that so it will be.

Jim Henderson

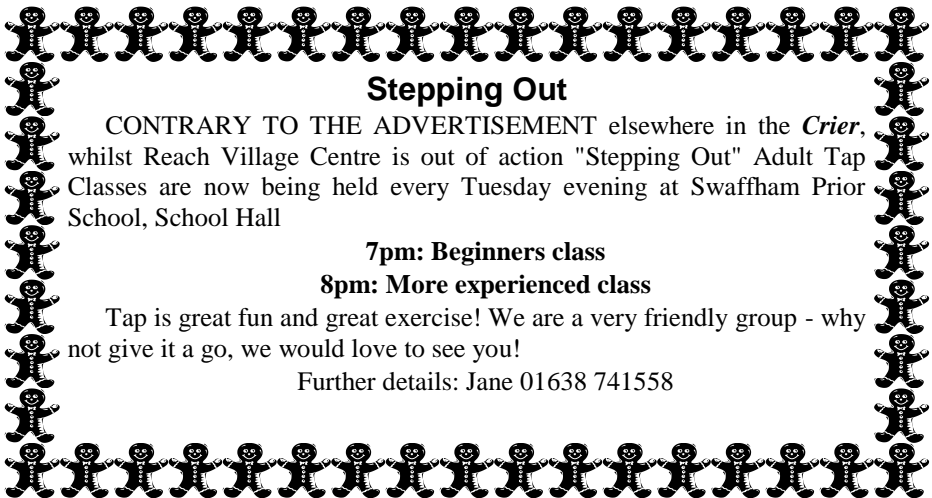
APOLOGIES

MATERIAL PUBLISHED in the June 2006 edition of the Crier alleged that Frank Readhead should have declared an interest with his (qualified) support of the planning application for a proposed extension at no. 5 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

This allegation erroneously assumed that Frank might have stood to gain some advantage from the success of this application. Further inappropriate comparisons with his position appeared in the Summer 2006 edition of the Crier.

However, it is now clear that Frank had absolutely no professional or commercial interest in the outcome of this planning application, and any belief to the contrary is entirely without foundation; his forthright views on planning and architecture arise solely from his passionate concern for the built environment.

Accordingly, we accept without reservation that Frank was under no obligation whatsoever to declare an interest when supporting this planning application and we sincerely regret any distress this misunderstanding may have caused.



Stepping Out

CONTRARY TO THE ADVERTISEMENT elsewhere in the *Crier*, whilst Reach Village Centre is out of action "Stepping Out" Adult Tap Classes are now being held every Tuesday evening at Swaffham Prior School, School Hall

7pm: Beginners class
8pm: More experienced class

Tap is great fun and great exercise! We are a very friendly group - why not give it a go, we would love to see you!

Further details: Jane 01638 741558

Burwell Surgery

Autumn Report

FIRSTLY we must thank all those donors and organisers of fund raising events for their generosity to the Trust. Donations and collections for the past year amounted to £1100. This enabled the Trust to buy a new wheelchair and contribute to the purchase of a state-of-the-art ECG (heart monitor) machine for the Burwell Surgery.

We understand that the defibrillator (which has saved a patient's life) at the Surgery is becoming obsolete and we hope to be able to help fund the purchase of the latest model shortly. Consequently all donations, great or small, will be most welcome.

Most of you will know that the Burwell and District Medical Trust is a charity and therefore enjoys certain tax benefits, in particular any donations from a tax payer can be increased by 28p for every £1 given. Partly for this reason the Burwell Nursing Aid Fund will be amalgamating with the Trust to enjoy charitable status and we welcome Sister Sue Evans as a Trustee.

The aim of the Trust is to promote the health and well-being of people living in the Burwell Surgery area i.e. resident within a four mile radius of the centre of Burwell. Requests for equipment etc. have come from medical and nursing staff but the Trust would welcome requests from anyone in the community. If you have any suggestions, could volunteer as a fund raiser or wish to make a donation, please contact Ruth Scovil (01638-743720) or any Trustee. The Trustees are Patrick Ridsdill Smith (Chairman), Terry Chalmers (Treasurer), Ruth Scovil (Secretary), Sue Hancocks and Sue Evans.

...And for this month:

I would like to focus on repeat prescriptions in this newsletter. We have 7,530 patients registered at the surgery and of those 3,080 are on regular medication that can be ordered on a repeat basis. In an average week the receptionists and dispensers process approximately 2,320 prescriptions, all of which are done with great care to avoid errors.

The Burwell Surgery is one of the few remaining surgeries who still accept requests for repeat prescriptions over the telephone. We are happy to continue to provide this service as we feel it is of great convenience and value to our patients, especially those who live in the villages or are housebound. However, there is heavy demand on this service, especially on Monday mornings.

To ease this situation, before ordering your repeat prescription please would you consider using one of the other options which are available to you and only use the telephone service as a final option:-

“ Recent donations have allowed Burwell Trust to buy a new wheelchair and heart-monitor. Now they need a new defibrillator.... ”

Post your request to us
Pop it into the letterbox at the surgery
Deliver it to reception
Fax your request on 01638 743948

If you are registered to use the internet booking service, this also offers the option of requesting repeat prescriptions. If you would like more information about the internet booking service or wish to register, please ask at reception.

Whichever method you use, please remember to always use your latest, up-to-date repeat prescription slip and to check that you are currently taking all the drugs listed. If there are any items on your slip that you are no longer taking please let us know. All old slips should be destroyed to avoid confusion.

If you are ordering medications early, ie because you are going on holiday, please make a note of this on the repeat slip.

If you have any problems with your medication, the receptionists or dispensers will be happy to help you.

Aileen Allen
Practice Manager

Captains of Industry 4

I'd like to spend more time at the Office;
Though I take breakfast from eight until
ten,
This leaves but two hours until luncheon,
And I'm reading the papers 'till then.

After lunch I'll be at the golf club,
Meeting with high-ranking friends;
They play. We meet at the nineteenth.
This is always where every game ends.

Then it's home and off out to dinner;
I keep busy, that's easy to tell.
And one thing I've learned in my lifetime,
It's vital to always eat well.

I call in at the Office on Sunday,
As a break in the trip to the coast;
It's so quiet in there on a Sunday
That I can leisurely read some of the post.

I wish I'd spent more time at the Office,
The attention I get here's not fun;
Though 'The Home' is quite well appointed
It's not home, when all's said and done.

Ophir

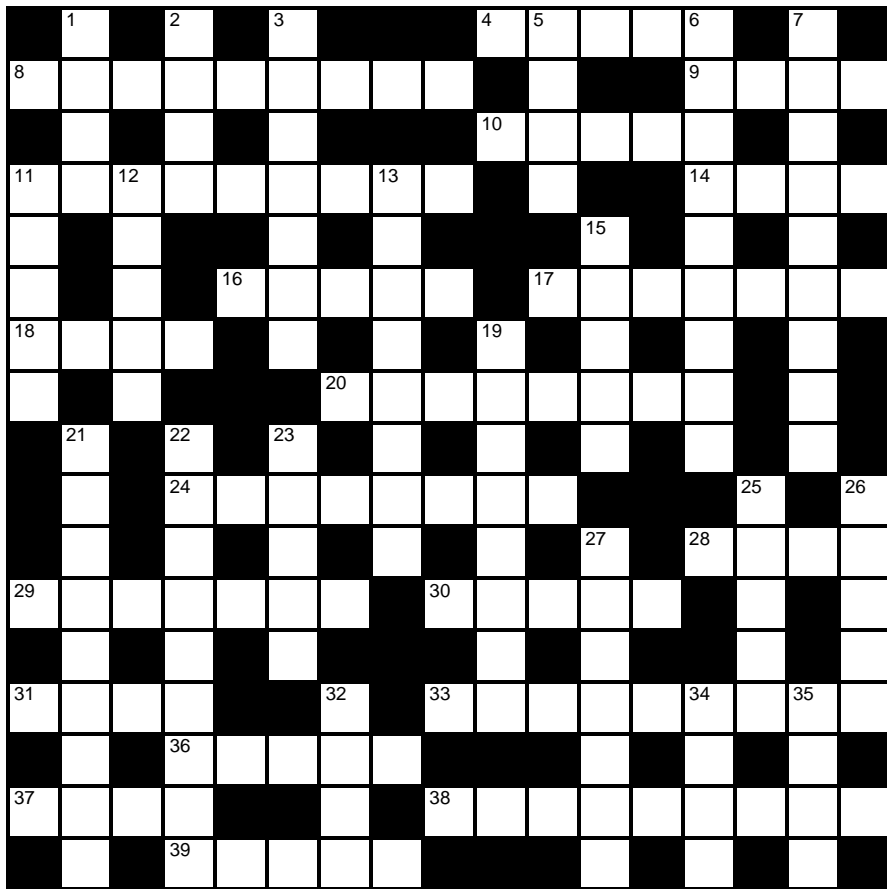
Crossword Number 36

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

OUNCE

A straight-forward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 21st October 2006. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Lorraine at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address.....

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

Across

- 4 Small measure gives glad expression (5)
- 8 Traders flummoxed by Ernst Mach (9)
- 9 Non-veggie fare in some Athenian restaurants? (4)
- 10 Short umpire follows many in bunch (5)
- 11 Doesn't forget about arms (9)
- 14 Secrete skin (4)
- 16 Cowboy from Oklahoma is not straight! (5)
- 17 Artist leaves psychiatrists for science (7)
- 18 A theologian's tots (4)
- 20 Organisations mix casein for example (8)
- 24 Element or tin returns to 37A (8)
- 28 New listening device close by (4)
- 29 Try abstainer embracing short-term worker (7)
- 30 Take-away revealed by Sam in usual manner (5)
- 31 Hundred lines almost or bird? (4)
- 33 Setter in exotic reagent resulting in harmony (9)
- 36 Strange type of gravity found in this country? (5)

- 37 Validate information when evil erased (4)
- 38 Latin smut fantastically exciting drug (9)
- 39 Sounds like controls? They are (5)

Down

- 1 Present place (4)
- 2 Area of foreign town? (4)
- 3 Unhappy Hour? Bar makes safe haven (7)

- 5 Muffin or footwear? (4)
- 6 Peculiar mishap; see stress (9)
- 7 Painting of Naples cad ruined (9)
- 11 Maladjusted mercurial mice lost in pasto (5)
- 12 Repairs people, five hundred before the beginning of September (5)
- 13 Niger oil as obscure mass opiate? (8)
- 15 Church music for committee head (5)
- 19 Last engines break down in allergic reaction (8)
- 21 Devious satyr eyed recent past (9)
- 22 Personal garments beneath question reportedly (9)
- 23 Checks organ knobs (5)
- 25 Capture oceans say (5)
- 26 Float aimlessly, dead over crack (5)
- 27 Hero exits summer-house and turns to British, Natural History and Science for example (7)
- 32 Ring enclosure is not shut (4)
- 34 Exploit baby-food (4)
- 35 Take nothing from no-one (4)

Solution to crossword no. 35

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

TILLAGE

By Our Farming Correspondent
James Willmott

MY APOLOGIES to everyone in the village who wondered what was going on last month in the fields off Heath Road at Cadenham. The article I had written telling you all about what was happening was intended for the September issue, which I hadn't realised didn't happen! So, in retrospect

As the road signs indicated, it was "Tillage". To explain, Tillage is a trade show



for arable farmers to come and see all things new (and in some cases old) in seedbed preparation. As you now know from reading previous articles, getting a good seedbed is fundamental to getting a good crop the following harvest, so as farmers we try our best to achieve this.

Tillage is a national event and nearly all of the major machinery manufacturers attend. Most of the stands have working displays, which therefore obviously necessitates a large area. Farm shows have evolved a lot over the last few years. Some of the more traditional shows have either gone altogether or evolved into country shows catering for the general public as well. For these shows the machines sit on static stands and we have to believe the spiel of the sales man (is that right Tim?) on its performance and capabilities. However, in the field at a show like Tillage, the machine is left to do the talking.

The Royal Smithfield show in London is now not going to happen, primarily because it was getting very expensive to put on and also because fewer people were attending. This in my opinion was the right way to go – who wants to go to London just before Christmas to see small stands at a half empty Earls Court? The money the trade has saved now goes in to these more specialised shows such as Tillage and Cereals. Cereals is the major trade show of the year giving the farmer the opportunity to go and look at the growing of crops and discuss all aspects of arable farming.

On the eve of the Tillage event at Prior we had 5mm of rain, which meant that on the day visitors had the opportunity to see which machines coped best with sticky conditions. It was interesting to observe that the operators on some plots spent a lot of time “fine tuning”, wasting time, to allow the ground to show the equipment at its best – you would not be able to see this at a static show!

The organisers of the show judged the event to be a great success with an estimated 2,000 through the gate (well, one by air!!) and we were delighted to have been asked to host it.

Back to everyday life, and harvest was only completed on the Friday before Tillage. We started so well, with the fine hot spell in early July, yields were good and quality was excellent in all the milling wheats. We mistakenly thought that we were going to be in for an easy harvest with no drying costs and an early finish. How wrong could we have been? As soon as the schools broke up for the holidays the rain started and went on and on. This delayed completion and due to the excessive rainfall we experienced some sprouting in the ears!! (Not as painful as it sounds – it is where the grain grows before we can thrash the corn due to water logging). The quality in these fields dropped and we will therefore get less money per ton for the grain.

However, overall the harvest has been good with prices looking better, but these will certainly be swallowed up by the higher fuel and fertiliser costs.

Thank you once again to everyone who has passed on such positive comments about these articles and if you have any specific farming questions please do not hesitate to ask either via the Crier or phone me directly and I will do my best to answer them.

James Willmott
01638 743472

...but a request from the Birds and Blackberries

THE TILLAGE FIELDS had a spruce-up before the Big Day with all the hedges being trimmed back neatly. ALAS, just when they were bursting forth with berries of all kinds, including some of the most luscious black-berries here-about. The *Crier* wonders if next year the exhibition could make do with the hedges as they are – extremely attractive at this time of year— and postpone the trim till later?

FreeCycle

I HAVE RECEIVED quite a few offers for the village freecycle scheme which is very pleasing, and much appreciated (so thank you to you all). I hope this encourages more of you to have a look through your house/garden for things that you haven't used in years. 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, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

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 or groups.yahoo.com/group/fenlandfreecycle.

Offers	Wants	Details:
24 hour Kingsheild immersion heater timer (unopened) Floormaster glue free laminate floor (beech), 2.21m ² .	Child's booster seat for eating in Toy pushchair	Jun/Andy Thompson (Longmeadow, 813362)
Lindam easy fit wood and metal stairgate (Excellent condition). Fits min 74, max 80cm (extensions of 7cm can be added up to width of 180cm). Child's rear bike seat (old but complete, will help to fit it on)		Fay (Hope Cottage, 6 Lode Road, 813663)
Rockery stones Once used patio slabs (small square) Large green water butt		Sarah Wormald (812084)
Canon Sure Shot Classic 120 (with instruction book) Nikon AF3 One Fuji Film Xtra 400 (24 shots)		Ken Watson (High Street, Lode, 812740)

School News



IT HAS BEEN A HAPPY START to the new academic year. We welcome our new reception children to Class 1 where they have settled in extremely well under the guidance of Mrs Jackson, Mrs Holt, Mrs Estall and Mrs Doe.

Little Windmills will be using the Village Hall on a temporary basis whilst the work to their usual base at Reach Village Hall is being completed. They will be using our playground during their time next door.

The school has had some minor refurbishments over the summer holidays – new floors to Class 1 and refurbished toilets for the girls. More obvious from the village, the hall exterior has been painted, giving the school a more cheery and welcoming appearance.

We are now ready to have a traverse climbing wall (low fitted foot and hand grips) fitted to the gable end of the school, opposite the elephant tree. This is being funded by our parents' association: FoSPS, as well as from a £500.00 donation from the Village Sports and Social Committee.

Whilst we wish good luck to all the Year 7s settling in to their new secondary schools, the cycle of the school year means that the process of applying for a reception place for September 2007 is underway. To start next September, your child will need to have been born between 1st September 2002 and 31 August 2003, turning five during the academic year 2007-08. If the school already has your details, families will automatically be sent an admissions' brochure. Otherwise please call the office on 01638 741 529 to arrange to have school prospectus and brochure sent to you. Visits to the school during the school day are warmly welcomed and can also be arranged by contacting the office.

All applications have to be with the school by 9th December 2006.

Joanna Lakey
Head teacher

Our Harvest service takes place 11am on Thursday 5th October at St Mary's.

Our grounds day is on 14th October from 1pm-4pm; work will take place on completing our nature garden, as well as the general maintenance of pruning and re-barking of play areas.



WI Notes

Ruth Killcullen from the Wood Green Animal Shelter at Godmanchester came to the W.I. in September to tell us about the work at the Shelter.

It opened in 1924 in a house in Wood Green, North London. We were shown a slide of the house, still there and much the same as it was in 1924. It looks after the needs of local pet owners.

Since then, the shelter has expanded, first to Heydon in Hertfordshire which now looks after mainly cats and other small animals. Then, in the 1980s, the much larger Godmanchester centre was opened. This has accommodation for 74 dogs, nearly 100 cats and various other small animals. It also has field animals such as horses, donkeys, goats etc.

When an animal is taken to the Shelter, the staff find out as much information as they can from the owner, all of which is passed on to the new owner. It would have a vet-check, a behavioural assessment and be de-flea-ed. They also like all animals to be micro-chipped.

165 full-time staff are employed at the three shelters and to help raise the £5,000,000 a year needed there is a Gift Shop, Thrift Shop and restaurant at Godmanchester. As many people may have noticed there is a wind-turbine. The electricity this provides is sold to the National Grid and brings in £30,000 in 3 years.

Ruth presented us with a very interesting talk and several members are planning to attend the Shelter's annual carol concert in December.

Betty Prime

Mobile Library

You can renew books or return them to any local Cambs library or ring:

0845 0455225

Local Enquiries: 742850

Buy: stamps, cards, children's videos. Free ordering of non-fiction. Book club requests welcomed.

Use it or Lose it!



VILLAGE GARDENERS

IN A NEW DEPARTURE for the Club this month, members enjoyed a self-help Gardeners Question Time.

With a little wine for encouragement and seated in a circle, everyone was easily drawn into a lively and wide ranging discussion.

We began by considering the problem of chlorosis in the Chairman's garden. From strawberries to laurel bushes, lots of different plants are affected though often only one or two in a row. The problem is not obviously related to soil pH and though heavy feeding might have helped this year, the response was not uniform. John Norris reminded us that in a previous life the garden had been a farmyard, one significant legacy from which would be soil compaction. There might be others.

Next under scrutiny, some of the problems inherent in green-house cultivation; whitefly, red spider mite and the control of tomato blossom end rot. Since the latter has been associated with irregular watering, the conversation turned naturally from there to cunning methods for water conservation and use in the garden.

A complete break from tradition, this was a forum where the hard won "wrinkles" from experience were shared between members. And the verdict? A successful experiment, thanks to Margaret Joyce whose idea it was. Let's do it again – and I'm sure we shall.

Roger Connan.

What's on at Bottisham Royal British Legion

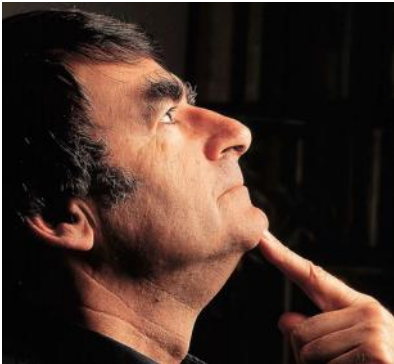
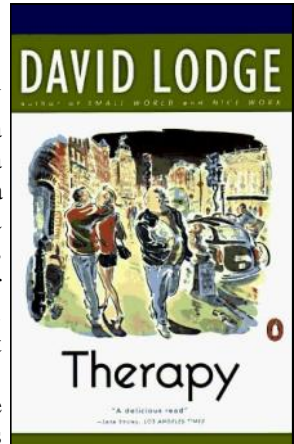
WE HAVE OUR USUAL BINGO sessions on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and Line Dancing every Tuesday, On Saturday 7th October we have Charlie Browns Soul Disco from 8 pm until late £3 for members and £5 for their guests. On Saturday 21st October we have Singer Rob Dean to entertain us and on Saturday 28th October is the family Halloween Disco from 6 pm until 11 pm.

The Poppy Restaurant is open for Sunday Lunches from 12 noon, Wednesday Senior Citizen lunches 12 noon - 2 pm, Wednesday Fish & Chips evening 6.30 pm - 9 pm and Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 pm . Catering is available for functions e.g. Weddings and children's parties at the Club. Telephone 01223 812063 or 07851364107 to book at table.

The Reading Group Reads....

Therapy by David Lodge

Tubby Passmore is a successful writer of a TV situation comedy series. He and his wife live in a substantial detached house in the suburbs of a metropolis and enjoy the good things in life – a ‘richmobile’, membership of a sports and social club, a flat in London. But Tubby is not happy. He spends much of his time indulging in one sort of therapy or another – psychotherapy, physiotherapy, aromatherapy. The first part of the book is a humorous account of part of his life, rather like a journal of events and thoughts; an exercise recommended by his psychotherapist. We learn about the other people in Tubby’s life, his anxieties about the present and future and his wistful memories of his youth. The second part is a series of accounts about what these people (wife, platonic mistress, work colleague and others) think of Tubby. In the third part of the book we find out that these accounts were actually written by Tubby himself and they provide more evidence of his neuroses as we witness what he believes other people think about him. The story ends with Tubby reaching a more contented place after the journey that the book has represented. This is a book full of witty dialogue and some comical situations provided by entertaining characters. We all enjoyed reading it and felt warmed by its human content.



Author David Lodge

This month the Reading Group are reading *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* by Marina Lewycka and we will be discussing it on Wednesday, 4th October, 8 p.m. at The Old School House, High Street, Burwell.

Ann Hollingsworth

CROSSWORD WINNERS

WE CONGRATULATE **BOB AND JULIE NUNN**, the winners of last month’s competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Runner-up, but fopiled by 10 acroos, was Shirley Wilkins.



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

NEW FARE BUS SCHEME FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH



TRANSPORT CHIEFS from across Cambridgeshire have joined forces to scrap an ill thought out Government bus pass scheme and replace it with a much fairer system.

The highly criticised current scheme, set down by Government, has meant people aged 60 or over, as well as those with disabilities, could only travel free in their own district.

Now County, District and City Council chiefs as well as bus operators in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have hammered out a deal to deliver a free countywide scheme - this allows eligible passengers to cross district and city boundaries in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for free.

Government distributed funding for the scheme to district and city councils rather than a central pot which led to a confusing system and many passengers out of pocket.

Cambridgeshire County Council led the negotiations which has meant Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire District, Fenland District, Huntingdonshire District, Peterborough City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils have agreed to join forces so bus pass holders can travel for free across their borders.

Despite getting no money from Government for concessionary bus fares the County Council has also agreed to cover any overspend.

This has been made possible because the County Council is on target to meet tough Government targets for increasing passengers on buses which will attract financial rewards.

Bus operators have also played their part in agreeing to financially back the new scheme which is due to be introduced in early October if not sooner.

Transport chiefs and the public have criticised the Government imposed scheme for the confusing way it was financed and brought in. Councillors have listened to the public, including a 10,000 signature petition organized by the Cambridge Evening News, to find a way forward.

All the Councils have agreed to carry on calling for Government to implement a much fairer system when the scheme changes to a national one in 2008.

The new system will mean bus pass holders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be able to travel for free across district and city council borders between 9.30am and to the last bus, Monday to Friday and all day at the weekend and bank holidays.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor John Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services Said: "I would like to applaud the district and

city councils and bus operators that have worked with us to introduce this new scheme. I would also like to thank the media for taking on the fight for a better deal for pensioners and continuing to urge Government to implement a much better thought out national scheme. This Government scheme was ill conceived and has made many people worse off.

Improving public transport is vital for Cambridgeshire's future prosperity
And I am pleased we have all worked together to find a much better solution."

John Hill, Chief Executive for East Cambridgeshire District Council, said:

"East Cambridgeshire is one the fastest growing areas in the country and it is extremely important that public transport improvements keep pace. This Government scheme was incredibly confusing and people saw it more of a hindrance than a help. The District Council is committed to improving transport which is why we have worked together with our fellow councils and the bus operators to agree this new scheme."

As this will also include free use of the Cambridge Park and Ride scheme it is certainly good news for the residents of The Swaffhams Ward.

Allen Alderson



From our Local County Councillor
Hazel Williams

DAVID GROOM from the Highways department was awarded the MBE for services to Local Government as part of the Queen's 80th Birthday celebrations. He has worked for the County Council since 1970 in East Cambridgeshire.

The decision to proceed with the Guided Busway was taken at the last full council meeting with Conservatives and Labour voting in favour and Liberal Democrats voting against. There is still considerable concern about issues which were outside the investigation and study into the Guided Bus. These include what will happen once the bus gets beyond the Science Park and into the city, where it relies on on-street running and is likely to get caught up in the congestion of the city centre.



Since the new Burwell Library opened 400 new members have joined the library bring the membership to 2,500. After consultation it has been agreed that the Cowley Road Park and Ride will be relocated to Butt Lane in Milton. This will put it outside of the A14 and easier to access. £3 million has been supplied by the government to provide a more modern facility and completion will be March 2008.

It now seems unlikely that Cambridgeshire will have to proceed with becoming a Unitary Authority as the Government has said it will only happen in areas where there is agreement to do so.

APPLE FESTIVAL 2006

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL is holding its fifth Apple Festival on Saturday 21st October on Palace Green, Ely in celebration of the great British Apple.

The popular Apple Café, run by Sue Ryder, is back where you can sit and relax in the Cathedral Centre and enjoy a variety of apple related refreshments. Further apple delights can be tasted at the Watergull Orchards marquee where a whole range of apples and juices are on offer, including varieties that you most probably have never heard of! There will also be a hog roast turning on its spit which will be served with applesauce, naturally, and could be washed down with a nice glass of apple juice.

The original idea of an Apple celebration in Ely was the brainchild of Dawn and David Fisher who are regulars at Ely's Farmers Market. They attended many other Apple Festivals in the region and thought it would be an excellent idea to do one in Ely. The event provides interest and intrigue for all sorts of people whether you are interested in the educational, environment or simply the fun angle of the day.

Our experts from a voluntary group in Norfolk will once again be in attendance to identify any apples that you care to bring along. Apparently, it is easier to identify if you can bring a long part of the stalk and/or leaf as well as the actual apple so if you have been mystified as to what kind of apples were growing in your garden all these years, bring a sample along.

There will be several competitions and activities running throughout the day including the ever popular longest apple peeling competition, apple and spoon races, plant your own apple seed, an apple shy and new to this year 'apple gifting'. Did you know that traditionally apples were given to people as a sign of friendship? Come along and make an apple gift to give to your favourite person. The competitions are being manned and run by Ely Lions.

Information stalls, a woodturner and folk music and dancing all add to the fun of the day which runs from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm.



For further information contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Babylon Bridge, Waterside, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4AU. Tel: 01353 616377 or email: tracey.harding@eastcams.gov.uk

Notes from the Parish Council September Meeting

Vice-Chairman Mr Andrew Camps chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were reported and agreed.

Parish Council Vacancy: 2 people expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Following a vote taken, Mr Geoffrey Woollard was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council and invited to join the meeting.

CCC Report: Councillor Hazel Williams reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Councillor Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – for information only

Budget summary - this was reported to the meeting.

Recreation Ground: progress by BTFC: The legal formalities were moving along slowly. The SPSRC agreed with BTFC a £2,000 loan to help towards the costs incurred. Advice was given by Martin Mead with reference to the drainage on the site and Ted Hurst with reference to the electricity supply.

High Street Parking/Traffic: Following a meeting with CCC Highways, Parish Council and the School. It was agreed that:-

A paved edge near the school entrance would be extended by a few metres, the aim being to prevent children slipping down the grassy verge when boarding vehicles particularly in the Winter months.

Yellow double lines would be extended from the corner on the Rose Cottage side by 10m and continue as a single line to a point opposite the School gate.

Double yellow lines around the corner opposite Rose Cottage.

White line markings to be re-painted to make drivers aware.

The possibility and effectiveness of deterring indiscriminate parking with double yellow lines on the High Street opposite the top of Station Road was discussed but put on hold for the time being.

Play Area Surfacing – quotes received:

The costs involved in repairing/replacing the surfacing under the swings proved to be very high. The options available are to be looked at further and discussed again at the October meeting. The Clerk is to look at possible opportunities for grant funding to help with these costs.

Maintenance item – footpath damage at back of Village Hall: This was reported to the Clerk by the School. Repairs are to be put in hand.

Clerk's Training (Quality Status) + Bursary Application: This was agreed. The Clerk will take the CiLCA training at a cost of £250 + £70 registration fee. As a Parish Council with an annual budgeted income of less than £25,000 an application

was made by the Clerk for a bursary. This bursary will contribute upto 75% of the cost of training to a maximum of £200.

Request to rent Parish Council land on B1102: Mr M Malster wrote to the PC asking to rent this land. This was agreed at a cost of £50 per annum.

Renewal of Insurance: The annual insurance premium of £643-04 was agreed.

Accounts for Payment - These were agreed.

Planning Application Received since July meeting:

25 High Street – *attached single-storey garage and store (replacement following total demolition of barn after partial collapse) and new glazed enclosure to dwelling. No objections. (Approval received).*

Swaffham Prior House – *proposed new single storey extension for indoor swimming pool extension to existing house, upgrade to landscaping and new railings to existing wall. No objections. (Approval received).*

Lower End House, 30 Lower End – *change of use to self-contained annex ancillary to the main dwelling. Objections were raised on this application.*

Any Other Business

Bus stop signs to be installed at the top & bottom of Rogers Road and The Beeches.

Dumped tyres and rubbish on Heath Road removed by Cleanaway.

It was reported that the fire basket in the cemetery was being used by other people to burn rubbish.

Wooden edging to cemetery path to be repaired.

Open Question Time.

Following a request from the School, Alastair Everitt asked if the PC had any objections to the installation of a gate at the end of the path at the immediate front of the Village Hall to stop children running out onto the Village Hall driveway.

Further discussion about damaged paving slabs at back of Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th October 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

“It was reported that the fire basket in the cemetery was being used by other people to burn rubbish...”

But not such a bad plan surely? Eds

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

Tel: 742358.

Email: karen.king5@bopenworld.com



Holiday Club – Now Once a Month!

HOLIDAY CLUB takes place once every two years – but now, due to the overwhelming response at this summer's 'Amazon Adventure' changes are afoot! All the fun of holiday club can be enjoyed during the morning of the fourth Sunday of every month.

The event, aptly named '**Sunday Club**', starts at **10.30am** and lasts for about an hour, followed by time for refreshments. Still packed with activities like songs, games and crafts, the only difference is that parents are invited to stay and join in – the morning is for **all of the family!**

The September event took place at **Bottisham Primary School** and this is likely to be the usual venue. It is possible for parents to drop their children (those aged 5+) at the club, but a one-off registration form needs to be completed first. Also, in order to help with planning and preparation, advance notice of attendance is requested (but not necessary). Another slight difference to holiday club – there is **no charge!**

The dates for the rest of the **Sunday Clubs in 2006** are:

Sunday 22nd October

Sunday 26th November

Sunday 24th December

The December Sunday Club will be a special '**Christmas Club**' with fun and festive activities for all the family – as well as an opportunity to sing some of your favourite Christmas carols. We look forward to seeing you.

To register, book or to check on the



venue please contact me:

on simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk or (01223) 812881.

Simon Goddard

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.
Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School. For more information please contact:

Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388

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

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

*St Mary's Church Swaffham Prior
Wanted*

*Organist for Sunday morning services
11 o'clock till 12 (approximately)*

*Remuneration available in addition to deep gratitude
Please call 01638 743937 for further information*

Soup Lunches

A SMALL GROUP that organises social village events throughout the year on behalf of St Mary's Church met recently and discussed the possibility of re-introducing *soup lunches* which we used to have several years ago. It would be an opportunity in the dark months of January and February to meet from say noon till 2.00pm to have lunch and a chat.

Ruth Scovil has kindly offered to have one on Wednesday 24th January at her house. **Is there anyone out there who would also like to host one?** Please let me know if you feel so inclined

Kate Child
743983

PS You don't have to have a big house to participate. I re-call sitting on the stairs with a lovely mug of home-made soup on one occasion: it was fun and very informal.



Church of England Services October 2006

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 8	8.00am Holy Communion 11:00am Harvest Festival	9.30am Holy Communion	11:00am Harvest Festival
Sun 15	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 22	11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion BCP 11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 29		10:30am Benefice Communion	

PASTORAL LETTER, October 2006

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

A MAN WAS PACKING a shipment of food contributed by a school for the poor. He was sorting through the gifts separating beans from powdered milk, and canned vegetables from canned meats. Reaching into a box filled with various cans, he pulled out a little brown paper bag. Apparently one of the pupils had given something different from the items on the suggested list. Out of the paper bag fell a peanut butter sandwich, an apple, and a cookie. Crayoned in large letters was a little girl's name, 'Christy -- Room 104'. She had given up her lunch for some hungry person.

As we celebrate harvest in our villages this autumn we will once again be giving thanks for the amazing generosity and love of a God who has put us in this wonderful world, and given us so much wonderful food to live on. Yet the

Bible tells us that we must never become selfish about the good things we have been blessed with. In fact it tells us not to build up our treasures on earth but to build them up in heaven.

The Bible tells us that '*God loves a cheerful giver*' (2 Corinthians 9:7) and '*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*' (Acts 20:35)

There is a classic example of that in the story of August H. Francke, the well-known German preacher of the 17th century, who founded an orphanage to take care of the homeless children who roamed the streets of Halle. One day when he desperately needed funds to carry on his work, a destitute Christian widow came to his door begging for one gold ducat. Because of his financial situation, he politely but regretfully refused. Disheartened, the woman sat down and began to weep. Moved by her tears, Francke asked her to wait while he went to his room to pray about the matter. Seeking God's guidance, he felt that the Holy Spirit wanted him to grant the request. Trusting the Lord to meet his own pressing needs, he gave her the money.

Two mornings later he received a warm letter of thanks from the widow saying that because of his generosity she had asked the Lord to shower the orphanage with gifts. That same day he received 12 ducats from a rich lady and two from a friend in Sweden. He thought he had been amply rewarded, but shortly afterward he was informed that Prince Lodewyk Van Wurtenburg had died, and in his will had directed that 500 gold pieces be given to the orphanage! Francke wept in gratitude. In sacrificially providing for that needy widow, he had not been impoverished but enriched beyond his wildest dreams.

I think it is so important to be generous at all times, not counting the cost but giving out of thanks for all the blessings in our lives. A little poem sums this thought up beautifully:-

*Go break to the needy sweet charity's bread;
"For giving is living," the angel said.
"And must I be giving again and again?"
My peevish and pitiless answer ran.
"Oh no," said the angel, piercing me through,
"Just give till the Master stops giving to you.*

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary: October 2006

Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:40, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Sat	14	<i>School Grounds Day, 1pm-4pm Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Mon	16	WI VH 7pm
Thu	19	An Inspector Calls, Main Hall, BVC, 7.30pm.
Fri	20	An Inspector Calls, Main Hall, BVC, 7.30pm. Police Surgery, High St, 7.30-8.30pm
Sat	21	Ely Apple Festival, Cathedral Centre, Ely An Inspector Calls, Main Hall, BVC, 7.30pm.
Tue	24	VG, VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3.05-3:40, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm

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

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***