



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXI Number 1

January 2007



Editorial

HERE WE ARE IN NEW YEAR with fond memories of the Christmas roast pheasant and bowls of delicious Brazil nuts to be cracked around the fire afterwards.....NOT! No, Brazil nuts have been banned because eating the shells (who does this) could be *very toxic*, and as for pheasants...

Well, they might be toxic too, if purchased from a shoot—who's to tell they haven't eaten something nasty, so our local shoots can't sell them any more. Yes, as we contemplate 2007, we look forward to such a *safer year*.

Prior parents can already be secure in the knowledge that when their daughters recently went to a sports event at Bottisham, neither teachers nor parents were allowed to escort them to the loo (not qualified lavatory attendants?), and small businesses happy that for the derisory sum of £300 a month or so, they can *keep safe* all the time, because this is the sum

specialist consultants charge to wade through monthly new Health & Safety legislation and find the stuff that affects them.

How fortunate we are to have such conscientious guardians, and how delighted we all will be when we finally *get them against that wall*, that it will doubtless be a very safe and secure wall, not likely to crumble under even the most mountainous hail of ammunition...

New Year for the *Crier* means new adverts—we are indebted to our loyal advertisers who, barring some gratefully received donations, wholly finance the magazine. Take a look at them this month, *especially* April Cook's, who if her alternative therapies are a patch on her stunning alternative school panto, should be well worth having. Many thanks to correspondents, distributors,



Evil Panto Demon Ben Snaith & Goblins

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computer-maestros (Simon & James) and *Crier* helpers all — HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Another New Year's resolution bites the dust* by NL



Letters to the Editors



Dear Eds,

That Rubbish

No, I didn't pick up the litter when I did my Burwell to Swaffham Prior survey back in August. There was about half a rubbish truck load of it and all I had was a clipboard and a pen. Besides, how does one pick up a well-decomposed badger (or small bear)?

Mark Lewinski

...But there's more...

PS If that Mr Everitt starts up about Shakespeare again, don't believe a word of it. Those Elizabethans and Jacobean were everlasting trying to make each other think there was a conspiracy afoot, not just to generate a bit of advertising hype to sell a few more First Folios, but also to brighten up their not-eventful-enough lives. Not like nowadays, of course....

PPS since only about half the original print run of the Shakespeare First Folio survives, I think it's quite reasonable to assume the rest was pulped. There were never enough pictures in it to jazz it up for the not-so-erudite and not enough people could read at the time anyway; so the hype failed. It would have made a good coffee table book but unfortunately coffee didn't take off properly for the best part of another century or so. I rest my case, and pass more of that mulled wine. Merry Christmas!

PPPS ...And if you think, oh yes, that's that Mark Lewinski going off on one again, just remember this, eh? That William Shakespeare, he died in 1616, right? well, they didn't bring out the Complete Works, the First Folio, till 1623. Seven years after a big celebrity dies is about as rubbish a time as possible to publicise his complete package, isn't it? I mean, take the biggest hits of a few decades back: the Beatles split up in 1969, 1970 - I know it was then because I was in Poland at the time and it really meant something there...well, you don't find much Beatles in the charts around 1975, and another one, Elvis - he wasn't exactly big in the mid-eighties, was he? I taught a lot of students then who didn't know what Elvis or the Beatles even sounded like. So, same deal - it's not surprising if Shakespeare wasn't a big hit in the 17th century for a while, is it...

That Paul McCartney, though, he might be selling better if he'd died a bit younger, especially if it'd been before he wrote the Frog Chorus, so it's not exactly a general rule...

...pass the champagne, and Happy New Year to all you readers out there....

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

The Two Bills

During the past nine months or so there have been some passing references in the *Crier* (*principally from the Lower End Quarter of the Village*) to the Shakespeare authorship question. I have resisted any response until now. It is only fair to tell the few remaining interested in the question that I have given up my support for the Earl of Oxford.

Even though there is no evidence that William Shakespeare went to school, could read Italian, French, Greek and Latin, had any legal knowledge, had any military or naval experience, ever travelled to Italy or anywhere else abroad, learned anything about the aristocratic sports, possessed any books, or had any relatives (wife, children, or grandchildren or their families) who claimed he was a writer — in spite of all this, **yes in spite of all this**, I have been convinced that William Shakespeare of Stratford is the one and only writer of the plays.

The person who has persuaded me is William Brown, more famously known as Just William. Just William relates how an old boy of his school, Mr Welbecker, came to give a lecture on Shakespeare. Mr Welbecker considered himself quite an expert on Shakespeare, especially as he thought Bacon had written the plays. Being an author and playwright himself Just William (the only one listening in the class) took up the cudgels and asked “How could they be? How could this man Bacon write them if Shakespeare wrote them?”

Welbecker started to explain but our William shot him down with some critical analyses — the sort coming out of our universities on the authorship question—“If this man Bacon wrote them they wouldn’t have put this man Shakespeare’s name on all the books.”

There you have it — Just William solves the problem.

Alastair Everitt

Postscript: The full answer of course is to be found in the First Folio published in 1623. Anyone who has a copy should be able to discover what really occurred especially with a copy of the amended Will at the elbow.

CROSSWORD APOLOGIES

MANY APOLOGIES to Shirley Wilkins, whose victory in last month’s crossword was unforgivably overlooked by the editors. Also, to correspondents caught out because we further omitted to mention the early copy-date for January’s edition (alas, the **10th** of December).

Of course, this inconvenient copy-date has always meant that reader’s can’t do the Christmas crossword *over Christmas*. So this year, we’re omitting the January crossword, and the deadline for Christmas solutions becomes January 18th. But Shirley already has her entry in....

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

WITH THE *CRIER* needing copy by the 11th December and the PC Meeting being on the 14th there is an obvious problem. I could take the risk that the magazine goes to press a little late and report the December meeting — or ignore it and give space to a momentous happening. I decided not to take the risk and to write on the latter.



Over the last decade the PC has made two vital decisions. In 1996 it agreed to give the Village Hall Committee £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the hall and this encouraged major funding from the Lottery and also from ECDC. The result has been of benefit to the village though there is some doubt whether all this outside funding would occur today as there has been an increasing emphasis on **Priority Groups. These are those who are “aged 16 or over and defined as people with a physical or mental disability, people from black or minority ethnic groups, and people in the C2, D and E socio-economic groups.”**

Arguably, important as the Village Hall grant was, an even more important decision was the PC’s resolution to hold on to the Recreation Ground in spite of the expensive problem with travellers, the hundreds of voluntary manhours spent clearing up the mess, the outlay on grass cutting for no apparent real purpose, and the urge from many people to get rid of it, and good riddance. The PC resisted all this and eventually its commitment to the future has paid off.

At last, on December 11, the final part of the agreement was signed which transfers the lease to Burwell Tigers. The PC has been magnificent and in particular the whole exercise was pushed through by the enthusiasm and tenacity of Steve Kent-Phillips. Apart from its immediate impact the success of the scheme does affect a much wider area in the district

In January 2006 ECDC published a paper on “Sports Facilities, Play Areas, and Informal Open Space” and this was presented to our PC during its September

meeting. We learned that the whole of the ECDC area had been divided up into 7 “Football Subgroup Areas” and that Prior had been linked with the usual suspects as well as Burrough Green, Brinkley, and Westley Waterless (no-one knows what to do with these three villages and they probably feel out on a limb). The current shortfall for this area was “4 new junior pitches and 2 new mini pitches”, and this shortfall were projected through to 2021.

Suddenly, behold, our Recreation Ground will contain 2 junior pitches and 1 mini pitch. At that final important

“ Suddenly, behold, our Recreation Ground will contain 2 junior pitches and 1 mini pitch. At that final important stroke of the pen on 11 December the area need has been halved. It is a great triumph for the PC, a wonderful new amenity for the young...”

stroke of the pen on 11 December the area need has been halved. It is a great triumph for the PC, a wonderful new amenity for the young, and a great saving for the PC as no longer does any of our money need to be spent on the ground.

Now that I have mentioned the ECDC report on Sports Facilities etc it is worth looking at other parts of the village they examined, especially as the report illustrates the dangers of approaching everything by ticking boxes. Some say we are now a box ticking society, but we are not naturally so. It has been forced upon us over the last ten years. Take the comments on the “Sports Field” at the Primary School. The report notes that there are **“No changing facilities, no parking and no pitches.”** I am sure the school could make some acerbic comments on this.

The report then moves on to the Play Area near the Youth Centre and it reports **“Equipment predominantly old, and poor quality. No rubber matting underneath junior swings, no hard paths, cycle racks or disabled access, poor maintenance of planting and enclosure and some litter.”** Some comments are fair but it has obviously been written by a townie who does not realise that a bit of rustic ambience is appreciated here. It would be interesting to hear the views of the users.

Now we come to the Open Space at Greenhead Road. The report says **“Poor quality/maintenance of paths. No benches, dog bins, car parking, cycle parking, disabled access or public art.”** Again it would be useful to hear the views of local residents and I only want to comment on the **lack of “public art”**. Coming up to the Millennium a suggestion was made to commission a piece of public art as a village celebration. No, no, no said the PC – it will be vandalized, we know what the locals are like. In vain was it pointed out that Brixton Railway Station has had a number of wonderful bronzes for at least fifteen years. And Liverpool has always excelled in wonderful public statues. In both places the Public Art has survived and has not been vandalized. I know the two fires in the bus shelter will be quoted but is Swaffham Prior really more unruly than Brixton and Liverpool?

I think the idea of a new piece of Public Art is worth considering again. In the School’s wild life section there is a wonderful piece of timber sculpture which must inspire some of the children and mothers as they pass. Perhaps as an experiment we could look with fresh eyes at the small electricity substation at the bottom of Cage Hill. The expansion of conceptual and installation art has shifted the boundaries a little and if those three pieces of machinery are looked at with an open mind they could be seen as very pleasant objects. The views of Sir Anthony Caro are needed. One has to see through the dirt and imagine them painted in various colours and



Bronze Statue of man waiting for train at Brixton. We could have one of these at the bus-stop. A bronze skeleton perhaps?...

suddenly they could become a feature of the village. But before going too far down this road we would need to have the views of the wide range of artists in the village – appreciating of course that no one person's views are definitive and that one person's loved design is another person's poison.

At the time of writing I do not know whether mince pies and a glass of port will be passed around to all at the December meeting but I hope so, if only to celebrate the Recreation Ground success.

Alastair Everitt

The Swaffham Prior Festival is Coming!

Make a note in your diaries for 2007:

Friday 22nd June

to

Sunday 1st July

There will be something for everyone...



THE NEWSPAPER SHED

OUR APOLOGIES to all those people who deposit newspapers in the Newspaper Shed for the benefit of the Village Hall. A couple of years ago the sheds were in some disorder and last summer the Charities paid to have them

brought up to standard and new doors were fitted. This was all very nice in the summer but when the rains came the tightly fitted doors swelled and could not be opened. This will be put right in due course but in the meantime an solution will have been found by the time you read this.

Many thanks indeed to those who pile the papers high and to those who have achieved another interim solution. We realise it has not been easy for anyone and hope it will not dissuade you from depositing newspapers.

Village Hall Management Committee

VILLAGE LUNCH

12 noon – 2.00 pm 🍞 Wednesday

24th January 2007

Come and join us for a



**BREAD
AND SOUP
LUNCH**



Everybody welcome at
Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks 🍞 Manor Farm Court
Lower End 🍞 Swaffham Prior

Donations in aid of St Mary's Church



"An' Oi reckon, furriner or not, wi' a face loike yourn, you ought to be up on that ruddy steeple!"

This cartoon depicts the Red Lion interior and was published in the national press *some years ago*. What was it all about? Any answers published in next month's *Crier*.

TREASURER TRUSTEE VACANCY

GATEOPENER is a Newmarket based charity providing free information, advice and support to people with disabilities, their families and carers, in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. It is governed by a Board of Trustees (all are volunteers, most of whom either have disabilities or are carers themselves) and is entirely dependant upon grants and donations. We aim to improve the life opportunities for disabled people, particularly children and young persons, by providing the information to access appropriate resources, equipment and services.

We have a vacancy for a Treasurer - a vital and developing role, providing budgeting and financial planning, as well as ensuring on-going support for the Charity through seeking nationwide funding. In fact the submission of grant applications could be treated as a separate role if a second willing volunteer could be recruited.

We are currently receiving a grant from the Big Lottery and Forest heath District Council and looking to build on our ten years experience by extending our services to a wider catchment area and to minority groups.

We would like to invite those interested in this worthwhile and exciting opportunity to contact us for any further information they may require.

Fay Bawtree

Chair of Trustees, Gateopener tel. 01638 667614



Toddler Group

THE VILLAGE TODDLER GROUP has now moved from Tuesday afternoon to Friday morning.

Please join us with your pre-schoolers in term-time from 9.30-11.30am in the Village Hall. We have lots of toys, puzzles, coffee, biscuits, chat, and a craft corner.

Looking forward to meeting you.

Fleur Routley and Sarah Whiteside

(Tel: 01638 743992 for more information.)

Dates for your 2007 Diary

Social and Fundraising Events

St Mary's Church Social Working Group

24th January: Soup lunch at Ruth Scovill's house. Noon-2pm.

3rd March: Quiz evening in the Village Hall. 7.00-10.00pm.

April: Coffee Morning at Baldwin Manor (Date to be announced)

25th April: Moveable Feast. From 7pm.

7th May: Reach Fair. Noon-4.00pm. Raffle of two Food Hampers.

13th May: Rogation Sunday. Lunch at the Willmott's Farm.

22nd June-1st July: Swaffham Prior Festival. Details nearer the date.

22nd September: Quiz Night, Village Hall. 7.00-10.00pm.

13th October: Harvest Supper, Village Hall. 6.00pm-9.00pm.

17th November: Village Variety. Village Hall. 7.00-10.00pm.

2nd December: Advent by Candlelight—in the two churches (to be confirmed in August).

If you have any bright ideas or would like to offer help on any of these occasions please let me know.

As you will see, one of the first events will be the SOUP LUNCH on 24th January (see advert elsewhere in Crier). I would welcome offers to host one of these lunches in February or March — any date that suits you, any size house, the smaller, the more cosy! I hear rumours of snow after Christmas, so we might all be thankful for some hot soup.

Kate Child (743983)

John Norris Remembers

Take us back to the 60's! What a vibrant place Swaffham Prior once was, what a pale shadow we seem now. But in this installment of John's memoirs, you might read about what *your* house was like then, before it got *pushed up*...

WHEN I WALKED ALONG THE HIGH STREET, starting at the thatched cottage on the corner of Cadenham Lane, I first came to Mutton Row. Here lived John Boddard who in my time did useful work on the estate. Much of his time was spent in cutting down ivy from the bigger trees, a very necessary job if the tree is valued at all. The next two cottages were much as they are today. Next to them were three cottages built close to the road being pulled down. On my first visit they were complete but empty, on the next only the skeleton timbers were standing. Eventually Mr Sheldrick built the present house himself. When the cottages were removed it was possible to see the end of Anglesey House for the first time for many years, and the pargetted plaster was revealed.

On the other side of the road stood the chapel and next to it the thatched cottage of the Synonds family. I well remember later Mr Day pulling off the thatch into the drive of Mr Low's house. I was surprised how much there seemed to be, a huge pile.



Pre-World War I picture of Asbee's shop, (see 2003 Crier Online)

“One place that has changed is the cottage opposite. In this dilapidated place lived David Godfrey. His one obsession was to make sure his roof was "tardid" every year. The front of the house was untidy, the doors patched and daubed with paint and all the windows blocked up so that one could not see inside...”

This roof was then covered with asbestos. Not a pretty sight I'm sure, but practical.

The church and cottages opposite have not changed much. The shop was of course open and very busy. The Asbee sisters were very old and had delegated the running of the shop to the Sheldricks. Everything was sold there; coffee, lamp wicks, bacon, nails, buckets and spades! Even the smell of the place was interesting. It was only when the house was occupied by the Waters family that I got any idea of the size and interest of the

garden. Next door again was the Sturgess butcher's shop: again, hardly any alteration during the past fifty years according to the old photographs.

One place that has changed is the cottage opposite. In this dilapidated place lived David Godfrey. His one obsession was to make sure his roof was "tardid" every year. The front of the house was untidy, the doors patched and daubed with paint and all the windows blocked up so that one could not see inside. The other half was occupied by Mrs Clarke, and looked a little better. As David was the landlord of them both, repairs here were crying out to be done. One interest to the children were the steps, much as they are today, providing a run up and down exercise.

Cooper's shop and house together with the corner house where Mrs Dowdeswell lived have not changed at all. All these properties had gates and fences where necessary as sheep were regularly driven along the road, and if your barricades were not up to standard you could get many visitors!

The school grounds extended to the porch down Station road, and across to the Reading Room. The loos were against the gate, rather primitive affairs, and the site of much scholastic fools' play. All the school activities were carried on in the "old" building.

Behind the school was Mr Ambrose's stack yard. Here were several very old ash and elm trees, huge specimens which had all been struck by lightning at some time. Indeed, most of the trees in this area have a sizeable dead trunk in their middle with regrowth on either side, showing the effect of an electric storm.

The field surrounding the school and reading room was called Camping Close and had clunch walls down station road and along the High Street. The hard winter of 1963 crumbled these walls so that they were not cattle proof any more. We then cleared away the clunch and put up a post and rail fence, some of which is there today.

The entrance to Camping close opposite Byes Yard (or, more recently, Knights Manor) was the way in for the fair people. After Thurstons had been to Reach Fair they

came to Swaffham Prior, and set up their stalls in Town Close, after towing their living vans to Camping Close. Mrs Thurston always asked for permission and gave five pounds to the church funds.

Going across this field was the water supply to the Hall and the sewage works down Station Road. This plant served the houses on Greenhead Road, the rest of us being on our own septic tanks and soakaways. This was not too bad as the village is on quite a hill, and the water soon drained away; indeed the septic tank at Anglesey House was not emptied in either mine or the Kitchens' time! To get on, the next house I saw was the new one built by Mr Day and just occupied before our first visit.

As so many repairs had to be done to Anglesey house, we called on Burt Day to see what he could do. Nana Day was most hospitable, and welcomed Marion and I into her new house where we enjoyed a glass of her speciality Elderberry wine. The repairs were discussed and a time table arranged for the work. Mr Day's staff consisted of two very reliable workmen and himself. Bill and Ben we called John Wartnaby and Mr Harry Bradford. They struggled with rotten stairs, floor boards and clunch walls, furred water pipes and a very leaky roof. These matters I shall deal with in another place.

Opposite to the Days' is the village blacksmith. At this time it was in going gear, Mr Bailey tending to the Ambrose string of horses, and repairs to the old bits of machinery such as harrows and duck-foots. His business stopped as soon as the Ambrose enterprise stopped. Next door to the smithy was the Adams' old house. At this time there were two front doors, and no additions at the back. These were added by Miss Ozanne shortly after the calor gas man had left. (I forget his name!)

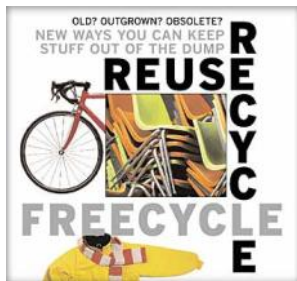
Bondgate House on the other side of the road was now occupied by Mr Eric Day, who had moved across the road from the old end-on cottage. This house was at one time the post office as well as being the headquarters of the carpenter's business. The old buildings in which were housed the band saw, and mortising machine, which were ancient, together with a new planner had that old world atmosphere which has now disappeared.

Proceeding further down high street we come to the almshouses. These were pulled down in the early sixties as being too far gone to repair. They consisted of four dwellings of two rooms each, converted from an old large farm house. The bedrooms upstairs were in a different direction to the ground floor rooms, so that part of the bedroom was over the next door neighbour's. As was common with so many houses of this period the loos were in lodges across the drive to Hall Farm, and are now used as a store for paper. The wash house containing a copper boiler(made of iron) and a place for the inevitable mangle, was further down the lane in the belt of trees. Part of the tile floor can still be seen near the swings, and the gardens still bloom with alyssum.

John Noriris

FreeCycle

HURRAY! At last we are getting some “wants” and continue to have offers every month. Thankyou to all those who have taken part in this scheme so far – it’s much appreciated. Please continue to look through your house/garden for things that you haven’t used in years. 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.



Offers	Wants	Details:
Murder Mystery Dinner Party Game "Death in Venice" (6 -8 players) a single quilt and 2 pillows	Any other Murder Mystery games	Peter & Margaret 5 Tothill Road, Swaffham Prior, 01638 744327
MORPHY RICHARDS deep fat fryer. Little used. Good working order.		Nic Bawtree, 77 Longmeadow, 01223 812231
Unused baby photo album		Jun Thompson, 23 Longmeadow, 01223 813362

The Nut Tree

I had a little nut tree
Nothing would it bear,
But a glass of Guinness;
An avocado pear.
A plate of huge escargots;
A pot of caviar;
A large ripe foreign cheese,
In fact,
Nowhere was its par.

Such a fare it bore me
Made me smack my lips:
But in the end I cut it down —
It wouldn't bear me chips!

Ophir



Strictly Come Panto!

OH YES IT WAS! The school Christmas production this year was a pantomime written and directed by April Cook (see April's Alternative Therapies). The whole school contributed to two fantastic performances with such obvious enjoyment it was a treat to be in the audience.

The usual pantomime stars put in an appearance: a very handsome prince (Ben Jeacock) turned up to wake Sleeping Beauty (Eliza Raja) who then celebrated with a stunning solo performance of When You

Wish Upon a Star; the comedy roles were played by Bangers (Gwilym Davies) and Mash (Harry Doe) with perfect timing; Aunt Bessy (Henry Kingsmill), complete with wig, was a great comfort to all the villagers but sadly did not manage to catch the eye of the handsome prince; nastiness came in the form of the evil demon (Ben Snaith) and his band of goblins who were seen off by the Fairy Queen (Charlotte Elston) and her sparkling fairies.

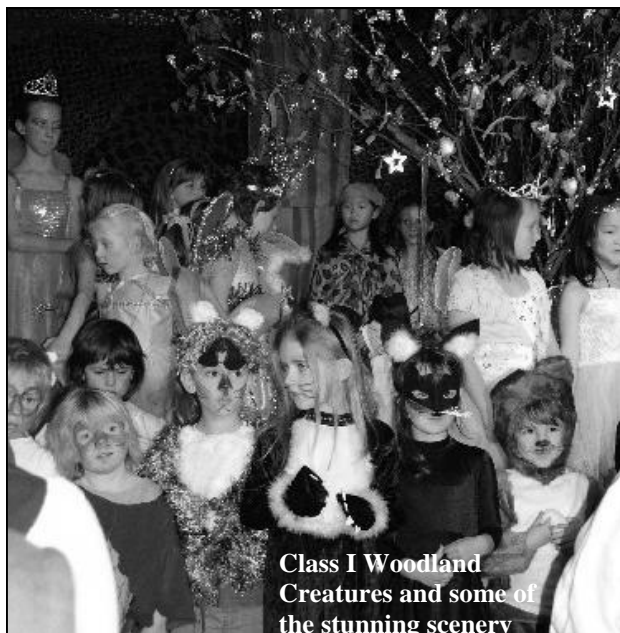


**Writer and Producer
April Cook**

However, this was a *whole school effort with everyone* contributing to the final show. The children all sang with enthusiasm throughout, and Mia Blanks and Maddie Lewinski both sang beautiful solos. The scenery was made by 3 parents (Liz Tabecka, John Cane and Fiona Terrington) and really captured the woodland scene to perfection; a lot of time had also been spent preparing the costumes, especially Class 1's woodland creatures and a fearsome dragon. Everyone had obviously worked very hard in rehearsals which led to seamless scene changes, even when getting 100+ children on and off the stage.

This was a great production and congratulations are due to April, the staff, and of course the children for putting on such a memorable Christmas show.

Mandy Kingsmill



**Class I Woodland
Creatures and some of
the stunning scenery**

Mash Gwilym Davies



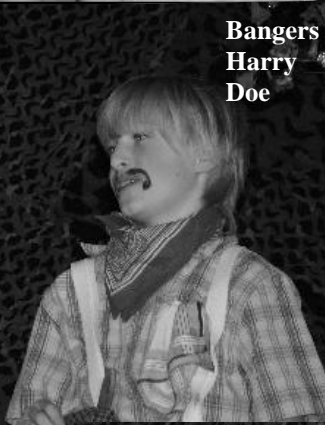
Soloists Mia Blanks & Maddy Lewinski



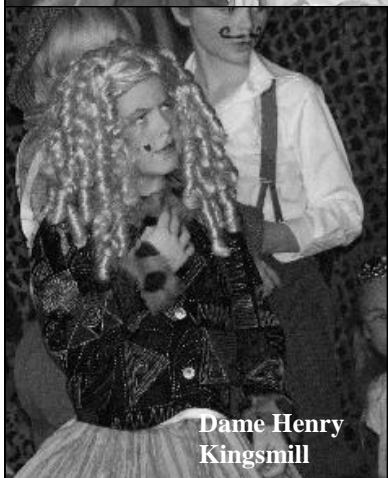
Fairy Queen Charlotte Elston and her fairies



Bangers Harry Doe



Dame Henry Kingsmill



Sleeping Beauty Eliza Raja



Prince Ben Jeacock



**Hansel and
Gretel**



**Panto
2007**

Bottisham Players: Hansel and Gretel

Main Hall Bottisham Village College

Traditional Panto with Dame, principal girl and boy, a forest scene, a witch and a fairy. What else can you ask for—come and enjoy the magic.
www.bottishamplayers.org. Box Office: Lushers Newsagents, Tina's, North Street, Burwell, Tel: 01223 811033

Thursday 18 & 19 Jan: 7.30 pm

Sat 20 Jan: 2.30 pm & 7.30pm.

£7/£5 concessions

LOCHS & GLENS 5 DAY HOLIDAY COACH FROM BURWELL TO LOCH TUMMEL HOTEL SCOTLAND

Half-board, excursions, entertainment

Saturday 7th April 2007

All for £179.00



GRAND HOTEL, SCARBOROUGH COACH FROM BURWELL

Half-board, 1 day excursion, nightly entertainment

Friday 21st September to Monday 24th September 2007

All for £145.00

£30 deposit please when booking each holiday

Janice 601613

Solution to crossword no. 38

	1	A		2	D		3	B		4	D		5	L		6	M		7	A			8	S
9	A	D	H	E	S	I	V	E	T	A	P	E				10	D	E	C	K				
		R		C		C		C		R			11	T	E	D							I	
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We congratulate Shirley Williams, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Bob and Julie Nunn.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our final meeting in 2006 was most interesting. Peter and Angela Nunn came from Cambridge and shared with us their extraordinary knowledge of Clematis—a species that grows all over the world in every continent and most geographical conditions.



The gardens at Great Dixter

To complement their finely illustrated talk, they brought along plants, seeds and literature and gave us some useful suggestions on cultivation in general. No fancy foods—just good old bone meal!

We are planning a visit to their garden in the summer to see some of the 200 varieties they grow. Watch the Crier in the spring for the date.

We have what promises to be a good variety of topics for next year—from a Chinese plant hunter (January) to the Tradescant Museum of garden history. There will be too of course a number on

specialist plants.

An important date for your diary—SATURDAY 30TH JUNE: VISIT TO GREAT DIXTER IN SUSSEX.

BOOK CLUB BOOKS 2007

January

The Ponds of Kalambayi, Mike Tidwell

February

The Egg and I, Betty MacDonald

March

Arther + George, Julian Barnes

April

Untold Stories, Alan Bennett

May

The God of Small Things, Arundati Roy

June

Duende, Jason Webster (local boy!)

8pm First Wednesday in month. Next Meeting Wednesday January 10, Kent House.

The Reading Group Reads.....

The Name of the Rose

by Umberto Eco

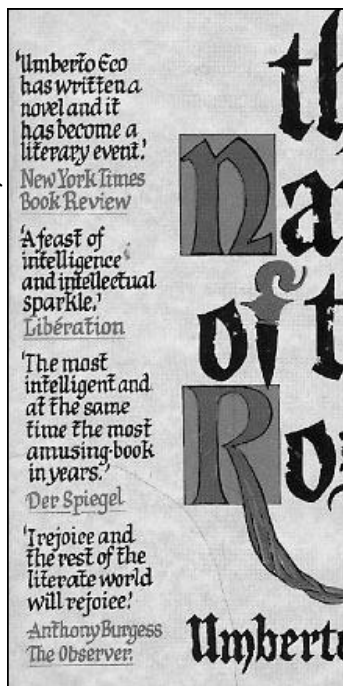
OR POSSIBLY NOT! You see, we'd most of us already read *The Name of the Rose* twenty or so years ago, and definitely remembered it was a very good book. The only thing was, other than this, none of us could actually remember anything else. Not to worry (we all thought) everyone-else will have read it, and then everything will come flooding back...

But no! Memories remained irresolutely blank, and even those who'd read it really recently (as in the night before) weren't that certain, so in the end we watched the film instead, thoughtfully brought along for the occasion by Rob Hollingsworth, who anticipated well in this respect.

This didn't stick much to the book much either (could the director remember what happened?) but the general gist of things is that it's a Middle Ages Murder Mystery, set at a Dominican Abbey somewhere in the wilds of Italy, but where the famous magnificently-stocked library is strictly off-limits, because it has books in it *ordinary people* shouldn't be exposed to; books that think humour is a good thing. This turns out to be the key to everything in the end, although not before the library burns down, the scribe loses his virginity (this took some time in the film) and the visiting Inquisition has seen off a few monks and peasants in its usual fair and even-handed manner. Clearly philosophical in some respects, quite a bit of this philosophy was in (untranslated) Latin. A brief exchange in the film raised the comment "That was 20 pages in the book" only to be smartly contradicted "NO! 200 pages..." Why did we all like it so



Brother William of Baskerville (Sean Connery), with scribe Adso (Christian Slater) : another murder...



Some of the rave reviews....

much (see above)? Um....

We had an excellent Christmas Party with some brilliant Christmas fare, of which it has to be said that the most excellent *Mexican Wedding Cakes* specially manufactured for by Chris Carrington, played a starring role.

Why don't YOU come book-clubbing next year? See our programme opposite. 8pm Kent House, January 10: The Ponds of Kalambayi by Mike Tidwell.

Caroline Matheson

But there's more! See over....

And now for something completely different ...

The Second Review

AS ONE OF THOSE who read the book 20 years and actually liked it (Caroline never did!) I remembered enough to think of something to say when suddenly asked by the aforementioned Caroline at the start of the book club meeting to start the discussion. It's a book that draws on many familiar themes: mediæval murder mystery, hidden knowledge (Dan Brown etc.), burning buildings (remember Manderley), the Inquisition (though here everyone does expect them), and perhaps less familiarly a treatise on heresy and sin generally.

It is probably on this last but least familiar and maybe least popular theme that it works best. The story contains a rich variety of sin: murder (of course); sexual (mainly by monks!); gluttony (monks again); and heresy. Of these, it is heresy which is treated as the most serious by the inquisitors and there is a strong implication that much of their dislike of the central character, William, is that he is friar and as such follows a simple and abstemious life which threatens their own very comfortable existence.

The film of course has a greater emphasis on the familiar and popular. Does it miss the point?

James Matheson

The Advent Concert

THANK-YOU TO Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices for a joyful celebration of the beginning of Advent. Evocative readings aptly read, wove through the music. Thank-you to those who came, and to the team supplying deliciously warm mince pies and mulled wine.

An amazing **£684** was raised for Emmaus, a very worthwhile cause.

Tricia Harrison

PS. The REVIEW will follow in the next edition. Particularly enjoyed by the Eds was Mozart Piano Concerto (for Piano & Piano) — specially arranged and brilliantly executed by Maestro Ian de M. Eds.



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION of the new concessionary fares scheme thousands of residents have been travelling free on buses.

The scheme, introduced across the county in October, has seen more than 2000 people apply for bus passes in a single month— that is nearly 1500 more than in the whole of October and November last year. The new concessionary scheme, a joint initiative between ECDC and the Cambridge County Council, provides free travel on local bus services within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for those aged 60 and over, or eligible people with disabilities.



David Archer, executive director for development services at ECDC, said “The number of people who are using buses in our district has been rising last year, but the increase since we implemented the new scheme in October is staggering. We would encourage anyone else who is eligible to come forward.”

Information about the scheme can be obtained from Cris Beer on 01353 665555.

ECDC is running an additional trial for fortnightly waste collection in the district. It will cover Bottisham, Lode and Longmeadow. The trial will follow on identical one in Witchford, where villagers recycled 77 per cent of their waste over the summer.

Under the fortnightly scheme, normal rubbish is collected in black bags one week, while villagers put out a bag for garden and food waste, and a black box for bottles, cans and paper the following weeks. Before the trial begins in February 2007, officers from environmental services will be meeting with residents, businesses and schools to explain the scheme. There will be public exhibitions, visits from the recycle bus, and other opportunities for residents to ask any questions they may have.

Councillors on the environmental and transport committee have agreed the purchase of a parcel of land at Angel Drove Ely, near to Tesco's for a 180 space car park for rail commuters. It will be pay and display and its purpose is to draw long term commuter parking away from the town centre car parks, freeing them up for people working in Ely.

A Saturday park-and-ride scheme will operate from the new car park.

Once again, rural post offices are under the threat of closure./ In the last few years we have lost our post offices at Reach and Swaffham Prior. Rural communities need convenience stores and post offices, they are of particular use to the elderly and those without cars.

We are lucky in that in Swaffham Bulbeck we have an excellent store and post office. So as I said in the past, it really is a case of *Use It or Lose It*.

Notes from the Parish Council December Meeting

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

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were reported and agreed.

CCC Report: No CCC report.

ECDC Report: Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising – for information only

a) *Recreation Ground – summary:* Steve Kent-Phillips reported to the meeting that all was now in place for the Burwell Tigers Football Club's Scheme to progress. It was hoped that clearance work such as cutting back of vegetation, etc., would be going ahead in the near future. BTFC will be inviting village residents to a presentation evening to outline their plans.

Mill Hill – Traffic Calming Measures: This was discussed at length and it was agreed that action was urgently needed to reduce the speed of the traffic and make the road safer for pedestrians when crossing. This has been a problem for several years and despite the installation of the interactive signs, drivers were still travelling too fast. Additional measures suggested included the reducing of the speed limit to 30mph, installation of road islands, pedestrian crossing with traffic lights and possibly a roundabout at the top of Cage Hill. The Clerk will write to Cambridge County Council to request their advice and action.

Development at Water Tower Site – Mill Hill: Savills, on behalf of AWG Property Ltd., had written to the Parish Council confirming that a new planning application was soon to be submitted for 7 dwellings on the site and asking the Parish Councillors for their views on the draft plan provided. Following discussion it was concluded that previous objections to the scheme were still valid and the majority of the Parish Council members opposed the scheme.

Clerk's Annual Gratuity: This was agreed.

Damage to Noticeboard and Litter Bin in Bus Shelter: It was reported that both these items had again been vandalised. The Clerk was instructed to order a replacement metal litter bin and contact the family connected with the memorial noticeboard and ask what they would like to do in view of the repeated damage to the noticeboard.

Village Hall – Footpath Maintenance: Two further estimates were received for the work needed to repair the footpath running at the back of the Village Hall. After consideration it was agreed to instruct Simon King to carry out the work. The cost will be split between the Parish Council and The Village Hall Management Committee.

Accounts for Payment - These were agreed.

Planning Applications: No applications were received.

Planning Approval Received:

Land to West of Pumping Station, Lower End – *Change of use of arable land to grazing paddock, along with the construction of stable block, muck bunkers,*

workshop, ménage, access road and associated site works. (Retrospective).

The Vicarage, Green Head Road – *Conservatory to side.*

Any Other Business:

As well as the damage to the Bus Stop, damage to the telephone box was noted.

The Clerk contacted CCC with reference to the missing directional arm on the road sign at the bottom of Rogers Road. CCC replied noting that funds were not available for such work and as the sign was not a standard sign, perhaps the Parish would be better able to deal with this.

The new bus stop pole & sign promised for the top of Rogers Road (B1102) should be in place by the end of January.

Open Question Time.

The continuing problem of hedgerows and vegetation encroaching on the footpath on Lower End making it difficult for pedestrians to pass was brought to the meeting's attention.

With reference to the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Mill Hill to 30mph, it was suggested that the speed limit through the village should be 20mph.

There was some further discussion about the proposed development on the Water Tower land.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 11th January 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King – Clerk of the Parish Council

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

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

Saturday 3rd of Feb 2007, 7.30 pm

Director Martin Gent

Bach Magnificat in D

Choral Works by Bardos

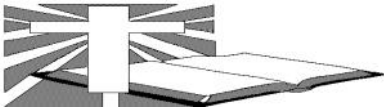
Orchestral pieces

Retiring collection

Refreshments available

contact Bob/Sylvia Thomson

sylviathomson@btopenworld.com



Lode Baptist Chapel

Hopes and Dreams?

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES and dreams for the New Year? Perhaps you are longing for a promotion or an entirely new job? Or how about a new home or a planned extension to the one you already have? Or are your hopes pinned on winning the lottery this year? Or do all of these personal hopes get drowned out by fear and anxiety – about terrorism, about climate change, about injustice and oppression around the world?

I used to be a primary school teacher and one thing that really struck me was the strong sense of hope within children – in the eyes of a child anything is possible! They also seem to have a built-in understanding of right and wrong – they know we should take care of the planet and when they are told about the way two-thirds of the world's population live in poverty they dream of making the world a better place.

So what happens? I believe as most of us lose hope because we grow up surrounded by people who have given up on ever achieving their own big dreams. We are surrounded by people who think they can't make a difference to the world, people who have settled for smaller and often more self-centred dreams like earning lots of money and buying lots of things.

Sometimes our lives can seem so insignificant. We start swimming in the right direction but the tide seems to be going out and the currents seem to be so strong. Sometimes it seems easier just to go with the flow.

One day, an old man was walking along the beach in the early morning and noticed the tide had washed thousands of starfish up on the shore. Up ahead in the distance he spotted a boy who appeared to be gathering up the starfish, and one by one tossing them back into the ocean. He approached the boy and asked him why he spent so much energy doing what seemed to be a waste of time.

The boy replied, "If these starfish are left out here like this they will bake in the sun, and by this afternoon they will all be dead." The old man gazed out as far as he could see and responded, "But, there must be hundreds of miles of beach and thousands of starfish. You can't possibly rescue all of them. What difference is throwing a few back going to make anyway?"

The boy then held up the starfish he had in his hand and replied, "It's sure going to make a lot of difference to this one!"

Why not make 2007 a year to rekindle your own childhood dreams of making a positive contribution to the world around you? And why not make a start by encouraging the children and young people you know to keep their hopes and dreams alive?

***“Everything is possible for him who believes” said Jesus.
“I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!” came the reply.
Mark 9v23-24***

Simon Goddard

DON'T FORGET:

***Our monthly mini-holiday club on the fourth Sunday
of every month at Bottisham Primary School.
Next club – Sunday 28th January. All welcome!***

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).

PASTORAL LETTER, January 2007

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

It seems rather strange having to write my new-year message to you right at the beginning of December, when we are still getting ready for Christmas. We all look forward to Christmas. We look forward to the merry-making, the presents, the tinsel, Christmas trees and lights; not to mention the Turkey and Christmas pudding. Yet when it is all over, the hangover is subsiding, the gaudy decorations have been put away for another year, and the presents put away in their cupboards, many will be asking - what was achieved? Apart from an inch or two on the waist, a much smaller bank balance and some disgruntled relatives – not much I may hear you say.

That is why people often find themselves asking some down-to-earth questions of their lives when the dust of Christmas has settled. What is my life really about? Surely there must be more to it than this?



Church of England Services

January 2007

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 7	11:00am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Family Service
Sun 14	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 21	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 28	11:00am Benefice Communion		8:00am Holy Communion

It was a question Gladys Aylward asked of herself in the 1920s. She had grown up in very humble circumstances, had a very poor education, and all she seemed able to aspire to was the role of a very humble parlour maid. On top of all that, she was a woman in an age when women were seen but not heard. But one thing she did have was a sure and unshakeable faith in God, and one day she attended a revival meeting at which the preacher spoke of dedicating one's life to the service of God in the mission field overseas. For Gladys the message seemed to be a personal call to her to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in China – but how could a poor parlour maid ever be able to aspire to such a demanding position?

At the age of 26, against all the odds, she became a probationer at the China Inland Mission Centre in London, but her poor educational background wreaked its toll when she failed to pass the examinations. Undeterred, she took on other part-time jobs, saved her money, and kept looking out for an opportunity. Finally it came,

when she heard of a 73-year-old missionary in China, Mrs. Jeannie Lawson, who was looking for a younger woman to carry on her work. Gladys wrote to Mrs. Lawson, and was accepted if she could get herself to China. She had not saved enough money for the ship

fare, but did have enough for the train fare, and so in October of 1930 she set out from London with her passport, her Bible, her tickets, and two pounds ninepence, to travel to China by the Trans-Siberian Railway, despite the fact that China and the Soviet Union were engaged in an undeclared war. She arrived in Vladivostok and sailed from there to Japan and from Japan to Tientsin, and thence by train, then bus, then mule, to the inland city of Yangchen, in the mountainous province of Shansi, a little south of Beijing.

The Chinese distrusted them as foreigners, and were not inclined to listen to them. But Yangchen was an overnight stop for mule caravans that carried essential goods on six-week or three-month journeys, and it occurred to the two women that their most effective way of reaching out would be to set up an inn. The building in which they lived had once been an inn, and so they repaired it, and laid in a supply of food for mules and men, and when the next caravan came past, Gladys dashed out, grabbed the rein of the lead mule, and turned it into their courtyard. It went willingly, knowing by experience that turning into a courtyard meant food and water and rest for the night. The other mules followed, and the muleteers had no choice. They were given good food and warm beds at the standard price, and their mules were well cared for. There was also free entertainment in the evening - the innkeepers told stories about a man named Jesus. After the first few weeks, Gladys did not need to kidnap customers - they turned in at the inn by preference. Some became Christians, and many of them (both Christians and non-Christians) remembered the stories, and retold them more or less accurately to other muleteers at other stops along the caravan trails. Gladys practiced her Chinese for hours each day, and was becoming fluent and comfortable with it.

Gladys' story was immortalised in the film that portrayed her life and that inn - 'The Inn of Sixth Happiness', in which she was played by Ingrid Bergman. One could write pages on her achievements in China, especially the moment when she saved about 100 orphans from the guns of the invading Japanese by walking them to safety through hostile and dangerous country for 12 solid days.

Gladys Aylward discovered something so important and significant - that in God's eyes each one of us is precious, regardless of background, education or gender. She discovered that, if we respond to Him with openness and honesty, He will be true to us. God wants us all to achieve our true potential, and we can truly do that if we learn to really trust in Him. With prayer and dedication anything is possible. So don't despair in those gloomy day after Christmas. God loves you. God is with you. God values you so much - and he knows your true potential.

Pauline and I wish you a very happy and blessed new year.

“What is my life really about? It was a question Gladys Aylward asked of herself in the 1920's...”

David Lewis

Dates for Your Diary: January 2007

Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm
Wed	10	Reading Group, Kent House, 8pm
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH.
Mon	15	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:05-3:45, Chapel 3:50-4:10pm Village Gardener's, 8pm, VH
Thu	18	Crier Copy Deadline To Sat 20 Jan. Hansel & Gretel, BVC, 7.30pm. Saturday matinee 2.30.
Wed	24	Village Lunch, 12 noon--2pm. The Oaks, Lower End.

Village Clubs & Societies

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Toddlers	Fleur Routley	743992	Fri	9.30-11.30am	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	