

# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX1 Number 3 March 2005



# Editorial

"WHAT DO YOU THINK people write to the *Crier* about?" asked the editor innocently at a recent talk to Scouts. "To say how good the *Crier* is?" came the angelic response. But Scouts were shocked and appalled as the true state of affairs was revealed, and the school's data-projector focused onto this month's *Letters* in preparation where phrases such as "utter drivel" and "waste of space" loomed exceeding large.

Readers! Who'd have But they want us, 'em. (allegedly) and the Crier was much missed at a recent Tiger's inaugural meeting., as indeed were most of the rest of us horrible lot-sorry Tigers! The editors count of teamplaying young footballers in Prior is currently only TWO, not impressive, but Tigers are set to change all that, along with a lot more besides-all power to their elbow.

But the magazine is *staff* -*light* at the moment, with no photographer, and a PC



Desk not only singlemanned but doubling as roving reporter. VOLUNTEERS *PLEASE*, and if you don't want to do things on a regular basis, do consider taking along the trusty digital camera and sending us the odd snap.

Alas, this month sees the departure of Dave and Lorraine from the Red Lion. The editors had the task of conveying the bad news to a number of residents, all of whom responded "I'm sorry. *identically*: You just ruined my day". Congratulations to both for making our local into the enviable hostelry we all love, we will all be down to visit at the Five Miles in Upware, and meanwhile, Lorraine tells us we should not despair. Who is taking over? Aha.....

> See you Quizzing! Caroline Matheson

REGULARS
Letters 2
Our Reporter 6
Health, Safety & Insanity 10
Donations 12
CROSSWORD 20
Belated School News 23
Village Gardeners 24
WI 25
Allen Alderson 27
Ophir 28
FreeCycle 29
Sid's Top Tips No 1 31
PC Report 30
Simon Goddard 33 Church Services 32-34
Church Services 32-34
Mobile Library 33
David Lewis 34
Mothering Sunday 35
Diary 36
NEWS VIEWS REVIEWS
Dr Johnson on Smoking 8
High St Gets the Fidgets 9
Let the Bells Ring Out 10
Goodbye Gentle Giant 12
The Five Miles 13
Very Boring Talk at Scouts 14
Farewell Dave & Lorraine 18
What Future for POs? 28
EVENTS
Coffee Morning 11
Spud & Pud Evening 15
Ely's Eel Day 16
Reach Fair 19
Quiz Night 22
Cantilena Singers 26
FOUND
Key Ring 17

Red Lion as seen by Thomas Newbolt

Cover Picture: Jimmy's Bedroom Window, Lower End by Chi Fai Cheng



# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

# **Farewell to The Red Lion**

Many of your readers may wonder why we are leaving The Red Lion after 6 happy years. The reason is that the average stay of any publican is 5-6 years. After that we begin to need a new challenge. We will be very happy to see all our old customers – with money! – at our new location. The attraction of a Free House with a river frontage will, we hope, be difficult to resist.

Thank you for all your company and support.

Lorraine and Dave

Dear Editors,

## Village Lunch

Thank you very much to all those who came along to the first Village Lunch of 2007. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and it was good for everybody to sit down and have a chance to chat and catch up with each other's news. People were very generous too and £86.50 was raised through donations so thank you for your company and contributions. I do hope there is another lunch soon!

**Ruth Scovil** 

Dear Editors,

# **National Children's Home Donations**

I would like to thank the residents of Tothill Road who recently made donations to the National Children's Home during a house to house collection. A total of £40 has been passed on to the National Children's Home.

Thank you all once again.

Mary Cook

Dear Editors,

## Foreign Currency for the Arthur Rank Hospice

Thank you to all of you who have donated foreign currency to the Arthur Rank Hospice. It is much appreciated and they are very grateful. They are still collecting it so if you are tidying out some drawers or cupboards and come across some coins or notes please do put them through my letterbox. (The letterbox is in the front door, which is right round the driveway at the back of our house!) All the money raised from the sale of the foreign currency helps to fund the Hospice at Home fund. Hope you can find plenty of notes and coins - and thank you very much, in advance!

#### **Ruth Scovil**

Dear Editors,

# **That Tiger's Meeting**

I would like to register my disappointment at the non-appearance of anyone from the Crier at the excellent Burwell Tigers presentation in the Village Hall tonight.

They did a lot of work, laying on full colour brochures, teas and coffees, arranging chairs, greeting visitors and so on; only to get little support from Swaffham Prior as a village. I understand that the Crier only appeared today and the advert was placed towards the rear, but that does not excuse the Crier's total absence from the evening. If I were a Tiger's committee member, I would feel that the Crier bas, only, a marringly interest in the Decreasion Field.

has only a marginal interest in the Recreation Field development. I was ashamed to be there for such a poor turn-out for such an important event.

I would like to point out that two Parish Councillors attended the meeting and the Chairman sent his apologies. A member of the Sports & Social Committee attended and that Chair also sent his apologies. The Red Lion was represented, as were two local neighbours, with another sending apologies. The Parish Council Clerk and her husband were also in attendance and contributed much to the evening. Despite many posters (*"Many" as* 



*in non-singular?! Eds*) being displayed around the village for at least two weeks, nobody from the youth club, school, church (any of them), cubs (at any level), Village Hall committee or PTA attended, despite the oft-stated aim (in the Crier) of the Tigers to contribute (for free) the facilities available to those groups.

I found surprising that the Crier was so disinterested, considering that it was the Crier reporter at a Parish Council meeting that advised the Tigers to book the main hall in the first place because of the "likely large village interest"; thereby incurring them with additional unnecessary expenditure, as their original plan was to hold the event at the Lion, which I feel would have been much more successful in terms of coverage.

All is not lost, however. I have persuaded the Tigers Committee to contribute a monthly article to the Crier entitled "Tigers Diary" and I hope that this is given somewhat more prominence and attention than has been shown to date. The Lion has copies of the brochures for anyone to peruse and retain at their will. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for people willing to help in any way they can - from a local electrician to someone who can fix a mower, to someone who is willing to supply sheer "grunt" on a Sunday morning, to someone who will merely turn up with a flask of coffee for the workers.

Anyone who sees the brochure will realise that the Tigers are substantially relocating their whole operation to Swaffham Prior and making the field available to Swaffham Prior residents free of charge - from 7 year old school kids to 70 year old kite flyers. I sincerely hope that Swaffham Prior inhabitants will come forward now and show their willingness to pitch in - after all, the Tigers are only a youth football club, so they need all the help they can get.

As a final thought, there is a plan to install an artificial wicket in-between the

soccer pitches, so perhaps one day the "cricket field" can once again host a game of cricket.

### Steve Kent-Phillips

Well, we hope Steve can allay the committee's fears (Crier disinterest) with a copy of February's issue (Editorial lead, Back-cover Inside this Issue lead, article, advert, Our Reporter etc.) or indeed a reference to our web-site, where a further Browse Our Archives reveals 39 Tiger hits.

But the meeting-date fell awkwardly for the only-just-out Feb **Crier**, and given the list of in-the-know attendees it does seem likely that despite best efforts most AWOLs just did not know. The editors, with founder- and many-years-loyal Tigerplaying son would particularly have liked to be there, but were away. We would have gladly sent Photographers/ Sports Correspondent if only we had 'em,, and so we rely as ever on our loyal readers who will of course send us copy anyway, as indeed you have—ish! Roll on Tiger Diary! Eds

Mr. James Matheson Editor in Chief (Unless Caroline tells him otherwise!) Dear Eds,

# Lewinski v Everitt (The Shakespeare Saga)

I would very much like to air a suggestion as to how the above can be resolved and some points as to why it MUST be resolved.

#### The Issue

Whenever I read an article in our village rag, I am afraid there are three words which make me instantly loose interest in the subject, but only if two of the three are used!

The dreaded words are all surnames and they are Everitt, Lewinski & Shakespeare!



The "real" Shakespeare: spendthrift Edward—he had to flog Bulbeck's Michell Hall manor (500 acres) to raise funds

The pattern goes for me as follows: the title catches the imagination, followed a quick reference to the author, if either of the first two names appear, I generally read on, but as soon as I come across the latter, interest is lost! Am I alone in this?

I must say that I genuinely enjoy articles from both of these esteemed contributors, but I must ask this, is this subject of interest to anyone else in the village and does it have any relevance to community of Swaffham Prior? (Hardly, save that the disputed author was none other than local Lord-of-the-Manor Edward de Vere, Viscount **Bulbeck**, his greats-great grandma Isobel de Bolbec having founded some paltry little place in the back of beyond, um, **Swaffham Priory**. Eds)

As no one else has joined this debate I believe the answer to both these questions is a resounding NO In a age when being aware of ones "carbon foot print", I must ask you, how many trees have been sacrificed to vent differences of opinion on this matter, only to potentially end up a litter about which Contributor Lewinski ends writing even more about!

### **The Solution**

At the forthcoming Village Festival I suggest that our two noble agitators agree to settle their difference of opinion in a well proven manner for resolving such arguments.

I urge them to take up the Challenge of "Trial by Combat".

At a designated time and place, they can meet before the Village and fight it out. The winner's point of view will be considered the correct one, and there will be no more need for inclusion of any such articles in any future issue of our village magazine! (I would like to write here, upon pain of death, but upon pain of Editorial Exclusion would be more appropriate).

As duelling with swords or pistols is not allowed any more, they could box or wrestle, but it is up to them really, tiddley-winks perhaps. But whatever the challenge and whatever the result, never again would "that third surname" or reference to it, appear in an article written by either of them.

If any readers have suggestions for the nature of the "Challenge", I am certain the Editors and the readership, would be interested to know!

Love Kisses

### Tim Doe

PS: With regard to the Hockey Match, as A.A.M. could not work it out, this year I was dressed as "The Fairy from the Top pf the Christmas Tree"!

I thought the wig, tiara, wings and wand might just be enough of a clue! Shakespeare would have got it straight away!

Dear Editors,

## And More...

I have just received my spangly new Crier for February, and eagerly flipped through it. I am dismayed that despite several letters imploring you not to, you yet again appear to have wasted over two pages of the letters section to some absolute, total, complete and utter schoolboy drivel about a subject of which 99.99% of the village do not give one iota.

Can I please add my voice to implore you to stop encouraging these people by wasting trees printing this garbage. It is not big, it is not clever, and sadly it is not even remotely funny.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Are readers asking for Editorial CENSORSHIP?? We don't do that stuff. If we did, you might like it even less! Eds

# BUT ENOUGH CRIER ABUSE FOR ONE MONTH! MOVING SWIFTLY ON

# From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

OUR PARISH COUNCIL REALLY DOES EXCEL THESE DAYS. Apart from all the necessary business it provides a show which could rival our very own

Variety Show – and it's free. On the very day of the February meeting Ruth Kelly chose to appear on 'News at One' and, as is her wont, declared that too many local councillors are "WHITE, MALE, MIDDLE CLASS, AND OLD".

With Ruth very much in mind I took a good look at our Parish Councillors, and to some extent she was right. They were all white, all male that night (our two lady representatives couldn't make it), they all looked as if they might be middle class, and while no-one



was young I wouldn't have said they were all old. I thought the same as the interviewer of Ruth Kelly who asked "What does it matter if the job is done well?" Indeed!! Maybe we should get rid of all this racism, sexism, classism and ageism, and just get the best council possible.

The opening performance began in "Matters Arising" when Geoffrey Woollard took the stage with the interesting remark that people at ECDC "either had too much money or too little brains." In case anyone missed his drift he went on to say that "some officers were either illiterate idiots or idiotic illiterates." Well, that's a good start for any debate!

The reason for the outburst was the rash of new "High Street" signs which had suddenly appeared in the region of Swaffham Prior House. Over the last few months or so Michael Marshall had been debating whether the House was part of the High Street and querying where the High Street started. ECDC seem to have decided to settle the issue with a commando type raid. Overnight there appeared a new sign at the beginning of the slip road, another sign was placed to the left of the House gates so that there was a High Street sign on both sides. Having done this they moved up the road towards Bulbeck and another High Street sign was placed this side of



Abbey Lane, while on the other side of the Lane was a sign saying Green Bank Road, *Swaffam* Bulbeck (this is not a *Crier spelling error*).

Geoffrey presented this with his usual verve and colour, aided by 5 photographs and the meeting was highly amused. If he had had an overhead projector to show the pictures to everyone at the same time the whole house would have collapsed with laughter.

Then the laughter faded away,

"Who is responsible?" came the cry, and the answer was Karen Gough of Street Signs and IT at ECDC. There is of course sympathy for anyone so pilloried; Hazel may said the workman have misunderstood, Andrew Camps was sore that money could be found for the four new signs but they won't restore the broken sign at the top of Rogers Road, and Alan Alderson said that he had already asked for the costs of the four signs and the separate costs for putting them up.

That's where it stood at the end of the meeting on the 8th. Either on the  $12^{th}$  or  $13^{th}$  it became a game of musical chairs and all change. The original sign to the right of the House gates moved to the other side of the road, the signs each side of Abbey Lane moved to each side of the entrance to the Cambridge Deer Company. To keep Andrew Camps happy the sign at the top of Rogers Road was also replaced

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the top of Rogers Road was also replaced And that's how it stands at the time of writing. At the end of this report is a chart recording the changes.

Some normality returned to the meeting with Hazel Williams' clear account of the difficulties CCC are having with a rate increase which is too low to meet inflation let alone the cost of new houses. But surely new houses bring in more money – yes, eventually, but not for some years as no extra money is provided during building when more staff and services are required. Something has to be cut at the edges, and this could include £50,000 off the bus subsidy, the loss of two mobile libraries etc. Hazel also explained how the cross party Scrutiny Committee worked and it is to be hoped she does so in her *Crier report*, (WHAT CRIER REPORT!? Eds)

Alan Alderson has had a triumph with BT over the supply of a free Cambridge Phone Book available to all BT subscribers living in CB25 0LD. This is something people have been wanting for years. All you do is ring 0800 833400 and ask. The ECDC budget is to have a 2.5% increase and there will be no cuts. This has been achieved by greater efficiency and by both parties working together rather than trying to score points. Both Alan and Hazel, politically apart, were delighted how well everyone had worked together

Burwell Tigers' plans have been accepted though there was one objector to the small wind-generator supplying power to the new sports pavilion. The Tigers have decided not to waste time fighting it. Steve Kent-Phillips was discretion itself about the objector but he made clear it did not come from the Allix Arms area.

In the middle of this occurred a debate as amusing as the High Street signs, but

at the other end of the scale. The High Street sign issue is a one off, a possibly extremely eccentric way of resolving a problem, with elements of a small town farce which makes it very human and quite refreshing..

The other happening is more sinister -I think. During the previous month's meeting Hazel, and maybe Karen, had raised some doubts about some parts of the Parish Council's Agenda. It seems there will need to be changes if we want to become a Quality PC. It is deemed to be "GOOD Then the Agenda item "Any Other Business" came up again. You can't have that said Hazel....

PRACTICE" if "Declaration of Interests" appears as an Agenda item immediately after "Apologies". Our Pc asked why, as any interests are declared as the meeting proceeds – the answer was that having it second on the Agenda concentrates the mind and reminds people that there are conflicts of interest. Ok, that seems a bit picky, but no great harm done, and if it keeps those above happy so be it.

Then the Agenda item "Any Other Business" came up again. You can't have that said Hazel and gave as one reason that 5 years ago Burwell passed through the expensive drainage of the football field under AOB. Our PC said "Let's add "(*for information only*)" and this would prevent anything like the Burwell crime. "Nope" said Hazel, "You can't have that. What you must put is 'Items for the next agenda'". ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA! What bureaucrat thought that up, and why? Hazel did not give any reason for this requirement, not even an anecdote about some wayward council.

BUT, the *Crier* appears to be open to all kinds of debate and Hazel will I hope respond and say why "Any other business (*for information only*)" is disallowed and why "Items for the next agenda" has to be used. Or, why can't there be both? Bulbeck it seems used to end with "Village Business" (which appears to be a wonderful agenda item) but they had to remove that, said Hazel, with what appeared to be a little pride.

The sinister part of all this is that at the meeting our PC just lost patience, wanted to push the meeting forward, gave in, and accepted the wording passed down from on high. Not one (as far as I know) of the councillors agreed or understood the reason for the change. As red tape slowly uncoils to encircle our PC I begin to hear more and more phrases like "If you do that you can't become a Quality Clerk" and "if the PC doesn't do this it cannot be a Quality Parish Council". Is the day approaching when councils are told "Sorry, that funding is only available to Quality PCs"?

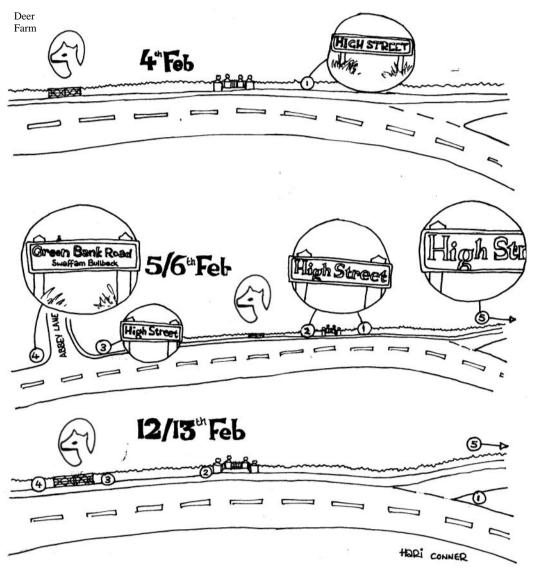
### Alastair Everitt

In about 1757 Dr Jonhson was overheard to say that "insanity has grown more frequent since smoking had gone out of fashion." Is there a link between H & S, PC awareness, Insanity and the smoking ban?

# **High Street gets The Fidgets**

The recent introduction and movement of the old and new High Street signs may be confusing. Hari Conner has done her best to illustrate and to record the quite remarkable changes which occurred over this short ten/eleven day period.

- Key: 1 The original High Street Sign
  - 2 3 5 The new High Street Signs
  - 4 The new Swaffham Bulbeck Sign



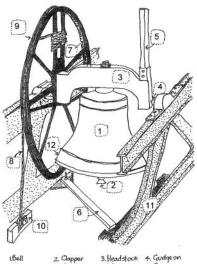
# LET THE BELLS RING OUT

FOR THOSE IN THE VILLAGE who enjoy our bells there is a real treat at the end of March.

Saturday 24 March, 10.30 to 11.30. Quarter Peel by a band from Over.

Tuesday 27 March. 7.30 to 9.00. Bell Practice. Saturday 31 March. 9.30 to 10.15. A visiting band from Fakenham.

Alastair Everitt



1. Bell 2. Clapper 3. Headstock 4. Gudgeon 55tay 6. Slider 7. Wheel 8 Rope 9. Garter hole 10. Rulley box 11. Frame 12. Sound boy

# Health, Safety and PC Insanity

RETURNING FROM FRANCE this week, not only was I relieved of my hair lacquer and three tins of anchovystuffed olives, but also a universal-size saucepan lid and a pair of nutcrackers. The mind boggles at the image of a lady of a certain age threatening an aircraft with a





saucepan lid and a pair of nutcrackers! Perhaps I should be flattered!

## Brenda Wilson

Dorset pre school play groups have been told that they can no longer use egg boxes and the inside of loo rolls for modelling—not safe! Has the country gone mad or what?

Margaret Joyce

All reader's contributions very welcome! Eds





10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007



# <u>BALDWIN BARN</u>

High Street, Swaffham Prior (entrance opposite the thatched cottage No. 73)



Bring & Buy

Jewellery

Produce Stall

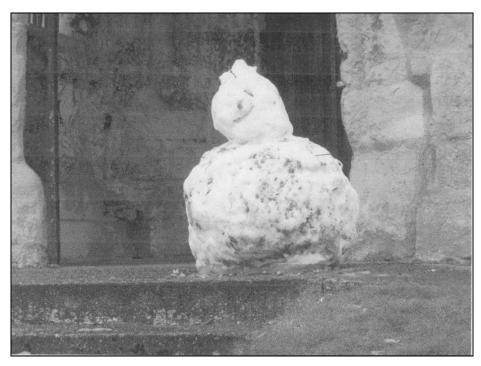
Raffle

Bargains Galore !



All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

# **GOODBYE GENTLE GIANT**

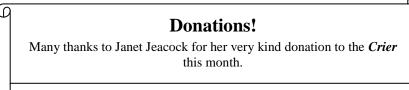


"GENTLE GIANT" DAVID FROST DIED THIS MONTH aged 64 and his funeral was on Friday  $9^{th}$  at St Mary's.

Brought up on Stocks Farm, David worked for the Botanical Gardens and was a well-known and much loved local figure, visiting everyone and often seen about the village where he took an interest in everything that was going on and became known as the "Gentle Giant".

He would have been delighted to know that on the day of his funeral, *another* gentle giant was waiting for him on the church steps, a gigantic SNOWMAN (the *Crier* can't find out who built it!), so gigantic, in fact, that Andrew Camps had to demolish it before the parish funeral bier could come through.

David will be much missed, and we very much hope to learn more about his life in a future issue.



**Dave & Lorraine** Welcome You To **The Five Miles** Upware **Offering A New And Extended Menu Catering For Parties Large** & Small With Occasional Entertainment 01353 721654

# VERY BORING TALK AT SCOUTS

ON WEDNESDAY, February 21<sup>st</sup>, in the School Hall, Scouts could hardly keep their eyes open as *Crier* Editor Caroline Matheson and long time "real boss" Ruth Stinton attempted to explain at some length all about how the *Crier* came about. Said one scout, "The talk started at 8 o'clock, but six hours later, I looked at my watch, and it was only quarterpast!".



set a world record for **world's most** boring speech. Natasha Jeacock and Molly Doe were sitting in the corner thinking about their make-up. Eliza Raja was falling asleep on Chelsea Oliver. James Hill was playing on his mobile and texting his mates. Abbie Jeacock was dreaming about little aliens on a different planet...

In the end, great fun was had by all, although time ran short and the photographer should have held onto his job more tenaciously — some excellent snaps were over-written at the last minute! Many thanks to Francis Reekes who chaired the meeting, Mandy Kingsmill, whose legendary proof-reading came in useful, and some very good-humoured reporters-in -the-making Scouts!



Things only looked up when Scouts decided to cover the meeting for the March *Crier themselves*, which, thanks to the very kind loan of the school's dataprojector, was there in preparation ready for uploading. Here it is: *Ryan Noyes was asleep in the corner while Ben Jeacock was in* 

corner while Ben Jeacock was in the girls toilets and Parker Hodge sat twiddling his thumbs. In all it



Indulge it at the Friends of Swaffham Prior School

# Spud and Pud Evening

Friday 9 March 2007 Reach Village Hall

Yes there's a healthy baked potato supper to start with, but that's just an excuse for the slide into decadence that follows: a huge selection of fabulously delicious puddings provided our most talented cooks, all waiting to be sampled.

# Come on - you know you want to!

Doors open 5.30pm, food served from 6.00-8.00pm Excellent value family tickets available. Bar for grown-ups. Contact: Clare Freeman (741316) or Catherine Wrench (742654)

# ELY'S EEL DAY

EELS, EELS AND MORE EELS will be the flavour of the day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April for Ely's Annual Eel Day. Starting at 12.00 noon from Cross Green (adjacent to the Cathedral) Ely's new 'Ellie the Eel' will be heading the carnival like procession along part of the City's Eel Trail Heritage Walk. Everybody is welcome to join in the procession which includes members of Ely's Lantern Studios and



children from Ely Barns Group who will be spending their Easter Holidays working with local artist John Lyons to help make the event's mascot. The procession is headed by Ely's Samba Band who will lead the line down to the Waterside and into Jubilee Gardens where a whole host of eel related activities will be held.

Also included in this year's procession will be 12 visiting Town Criers in all their finery, as part of Ely's first Town Crier's Competition. It was the city's own Town Crier, Avril Hayter's idea to host a competition as they bring so much vibrancy, interest and of course noise to a town! The 12 criers will gather on Palace Green for the first cry of the day at 11.00 am. Eight judges have been carefully selected from the local community and each one has a particular criteria to judge the criers performance on. The second cry of the day will be held in Jubilee Gardens at 3.00 pm and the winners will then be announced.

Each crier is being sponsored by local businesses and already The Cutter Inn, The Boathouse Restaurant, Food Skills, Ely Standard and the Lamb Hotel have signed up to sponsor a visiting town crier. In return, the crier is able to promote their business by performing a personal cry about the business.

Along with a full programme of arena including musical performances, events children's theatre and historical reenactments there will be lots of family participation opportunities. Can you beat the East Cambs record for Eel Throwing? Based on the wellie throwing idea, children and parents alike can battle it out to see who can throw the handmade eel socks the furthest. Other 'eel related' games are also on offer as are puppet making and pottery workshops.



Ely Lions, who have once again worked

closely with East Cambridgeshire District Council and ADeC to bring Ely this annual event, will be out in force helping steward the procession as well as manning their traditional Tombola. There will be displays from the Environmental Agency including a tank of real eels! Local eel catcher, Peter Carter will be on hand to show you all his catching equipment and there will be an opportunity to see how eel baskets are made and have a go at basked weaving yourself.

Experience life in years gone past with a living encampment showing the trades and wares of the time. Children have the chance to try on period costumes and play period games.

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

Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer for East Cambridgeshire District Council said: 'The day is all about celebrating Ely's culture and traditions and encouraging awareness and use of the Eel Trail. We hope to continue to build on this unique event each year and involve more and more businesses and organisations and further raise the profile of the Isle of Eels.

For further information about the day, contact Tracey Harding, Tourism and Events Officer at East Cambridgeshire District Council on 01353 616377 or email <u>tracey.harding@eastcambs.gov.uk</u> or check out the website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/tourism.

# FOUND AT OR NEAR THE VILLAGE HALL

A Ring with Keys was found inside or outside the Village Hall about 5 weeks or so ago. The Fob has a clear plastic picture of Mickey Mouse. If you have lost these keys please phone 742974.

# FAREWELL TO DAVE AND LORRAINE!

AFTER ALMOST SIX YEARS, Dave and Lorraine Nicholls will be leaving the Red Lion to take up residence in the No Hurry (now The Five Miles) at Upware. Their tenure has seen the Pub blossom into the sort of local most people can only dream about, and in this month's tribute, a Snug Regular tells us how it's been.

THE OWNERS OF THE LION begged Lorraine to manage the pub for a short period whilst they found a new landlord. Lorraine reluctantly agreed, whilst Dave was adamant that he would return home after six weeks, "come what may"; the six weeks are clearly over.

During their tenure the pub, and the community spirit it has engendered and supported, has flourished. The pub Dave and Lorraine leave behind supports a Ladies' Dart Team, a crib team, a lunchtime old timers club, a seriously hard card school, and a week-end debating and legislative chamber. There are probably many others at other times; the Tigers Youth football team forthcoming move to Swaffham Prior was fist plotted over a pint or two in the snug.

The Red Lion has become a favoured haunt of footballers, nature lovers, walkers, seriously hard cycling teams, gardeners and other serial bores, there is even a division bell, sounded for those Parish Councillors who occasionally nip out for a refresher during particularly prickly parish meetings. In the summer months, after dark, the public bar can rival any London club for fashion, gossip, and downright



'this joint is jumping' good time fun. In winter the pub represents a microcosm of all that is good about English village life, roaring fires, tales of shooting and fishing, country cooking, cheese platters, broad-armed ruddy faced men of the soil and sharp suited London accountants sharing a few glasses of port – all life is here. There have been jazz evenings and Halloween parties, New Year's Eve balls and (quiet) rock and roll concerts. The pub restaurant is popular with locals and townies alike. Lorraine's

Red Lion after Sunset

famous fish-supper, curry, and explosive chestnut nights will be long remembered.

Despite Dave and Lorraine's hard work not everything has been successful. During their tenure the packed bars have seen England's finest lose at football (2 world cups and Euro 2004); we have won and lost the Ashes, and we have won a rugby world cup. .... And Norwich have failed... again.

Many youngsters in the village have had their first experience of regular work, supervised by the watchful eye of Lorraine's family. Many of them stayed for some years, some are still there. The elegant and demure Sylvie has become as much part of the Lion as the hops in the beams, and the smoke in the snug. GOOD LUCK, Dave and Lorraine, we wish you all the best! The Red Lion has become a favoured haunt of footballers, nature lovers, walkers, seriously hard cycling teams, gardeners and other serial bores, there is even a division bell for Parish Councillors who occasionally nip out for a refresher....

A Regular



# Crossword Number 40

# Compiled by **NIBOR**

# Sponsored by The Red Lion

We have a straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 18th March 2007. 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.

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Name:
A d d r e s s :
Tel:

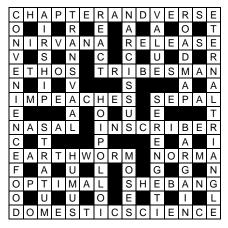
# Across

- 1 Seasonal message upset racist Mrs Chad (9,4)
- **10** Saw promotion before time (5)
- **11** Forfeiture of civil rights order I ranted at (9)
- 12 Meddle with internal revenue? Not Lauren (9)
- 13 Black, oriental and very thin (5)
- **14** Is able to say goodbye to oratorio (7)
- **16** Farm vehicle offers transport back to railhead (7)
- **18** Dirty internationalists cried about head of state (7)
- **20** Rural abode is a little over the top when in prison (7)
- 22 Stewing steak and fish (5)
- 24 He gets receipt in 26 across (9)
- 26 Devastation when I run into a wreck (9)
- 27 Pass out to centre forward in the near future (5)
- 28 Fully grown, we and a couple of students exploit an important journalist (4-9)

# Down

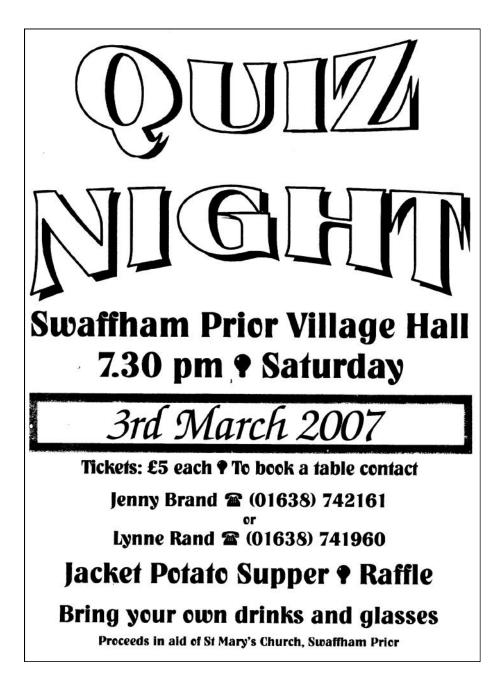
- 2 Encourage Teheran massacre (7)
- **3** Being drunk, Ian and Bertie were confused (9)
- 4 Initially the right attitude delivers exceptional business (5)
- **5** Get inside the chateau then tick the genuine article (9)

- 6 Reprimand for being concealed in church (5)
- 7 Art Deco adapted for old soldier (7)
- 8 Carries cubs in battered motor boats (5,8)
- **9** Settler catches leading rebels gathering for service (6-7)
- **15** Spirited existence then later long prison term (5-4)
- 17 Not in favour of tense love as an appetizer (9)
- **19** I'm in the animal shelter but not moving (7)
- **21** Made up one name for a flower (7)
- 23 Meal I regurgitated may be spam (1-4)
- **25** Small boat needed for ocean storm (5)



### Solution to crossword no. 39

We congratulate **Jenny Brand**, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honorable mentions go to Norah Galbraith, Dee Noyes, Bob and Julie Nunn, Hilary Sage and Shirley Wilkins.



# **School News**

Many apologies to the School—this report should have appeared in February's Crier.

THE CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS IN SCHOOL seem so long ago now (*Indeed they were! Sorry...! Eds*), but very fond memories of our pantomime, 'Strictly Come Panto', will remain with us for a long while. The



children all pulled together and put on a spectacular performance. It could not have been possible without the superb direction of April Cook, who put the whole thing together. We were also very lucky to have great support from some parents, whose carefully arranged scenery was out of this world.

The choir enjoyed giving a concert to the residents of Burwell Day Centre just before Christmas. They sang a range of old and new carols, ensuring that all of the residents were left with big smiles on their faces.

Thanks to Jen Holmwood from Reach, the school has been able to make some links with a school in Kenya. Some of the children in years 4 and 5 have developed pen pal links with Kenyan children and this has really helped them to see some of the differences and similarities between children's lives here and there. A video of our school has been sent over to the school in Kenya and we are eagerly awaiting one in return.

Our school playground has recently had a brand new addition. A very colourful climbing wall has been fitted to the end of the school building, thanks to FoSPS. The children are really enjoying playing on this at playtime and they are starting to respond well to the challenges set to them. For example, 'Can you get all of the way along by only holding the red and purple hand holds.' Believe me, it is quite tricky!

The school is getting fit this term! We have a variety of clubs happening throughout the week including dance, gym, skipping, nature, basketball and football! We are also encouraging some of our pupils to take part in Tennis lessons in Cambridge. As part of the school's travel plan we are also encouraging the children to walk or cycle to school if they can. We now have 15 children regularly coming to school on the bus from Reach and this has greatly reduced congestion outside the school.

Towards the end of February we are going to be (*presumably did! Tell us about these in next month's Crier. Eds*) holding a Puzzle Challenge day in school. This will also involve a family fun activity evening, so hopefully by the end of the day we will be champion puzzle solvers.

Also at the end of February some of our Year 5 and 6 children will be taking part in a geography quiz at Bottisham Village College. We have been working hard to improve their knowledge of the world and Europe, including doing lots of jigsaws in class. We wish them lots of luck.

> *Emma Vincent* Acting Head Teacher



# VILLAGE GARDENERS

WE BEGAN THE NEW YEAR WITH A "FIRST" FOR THE GROUP—a travelling theatre—a theatrical presentation by Mr

Geoff Hales, a Cambridge thespian, who has ventured into the field of presenting the lives of famous plant collectors and gardeners.

We were presented with the life of Ernest Wilson—"The Chinese Gooseberry Man"—as botanists will know—Actinidea Chinensii—the good old kiwi fruit, which was one of the first plants he found. He spent many years at the beginning of the 20th century in China, collecting



Chinese Gooseberry Man, Ernest Wilson

plants and seeds for the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and latterly for the Harvard Arboretum in Boston.

We, the audience, were a group of expatriate plant lovers in China, to whom he was bidding a final farewell and thanks for their support, before returning home to England. "No happier a group than plant lovers and gardeners."

"After humble beginnings as a gardener in my home town of Chipping Camden, via the Botanic Gardens in Birmingham and the R.H.S. gardens at Kew, as a newly married man in 1903, I was paid £100 per annum by the Veech seed company to go to China to collect plants for them. I initially found China a "botanical paradise"; Clematis, rambler and tea roses, magnolias, orange, peach, lemon and Camelias. I

Two of my great finds were the yellow poppy—Mecanopsis Integrafolia, which thrived in Yak dung at about 12,000 BC and the red poppy Punicea. This was greatly valued by the R.H.S. but described by the Times correspondent as a *red rag on a stick*! was to search for the Handkerchief Tree, first discovered by Pere David in 1869, which I successfully did, as well as Actinidea Chinensii. I accomplished this by proudly refusing to learn Mandarin, dressing as a native and carried in a sedan chair by my dedicated band of porters, who of course took with them a pharmacy of insect powder, brandy, quinine and opium. My only real companion was my faithful black spaniel, who spent a lot of his time strapped to my back in the awful terrain-especially on the sheer gorges along the Yangstze. Two of my great finds were the vellow poppyMecanopsis Integrafolia, which thrived in Yak dung along the Chinese border with Tibet at about 12,000 BC and the red poppy Punicea. This was greatly valued by the R.H.S. but described by the Times correspondent as a red rag on a stick!

I returned again in 1905 and discovered Primula Wilsonii although I was here to collect bulbs of Lillum Regale for the Harvard collection. On this visit I was less enamoured with the country—I caught malaria, stayed in some disgusting chinese inns and had to leave fairly rapidly when the death of the Emperor destabilized the country. I returned to Boston with my precious cargo of bulbs packed carefully in clay, but the majority of them had rotted so I made a final journey back in 1908 to replace them. I fell on this trip, breaking my leg very badly which left me with a permanent limp, though my life was saved by local doctors and opium.

This was to be my last expedition—my wanderings were over, though not before I'd collected 65,000 plant specimens and 15,000 different plants. I'd suffered emotions from wonder to despair during those years, but am a happy man."

Our next meeting is on March 20th when Richard Ford will talk about Ornamental Grasses. All welcome.

#### Margaret Joyce

A BIG APOLOGY! The Great Dixter Trip is on JUNE 30th rather than July 30th, as we reported in the January Crier.



# **WI Notes**

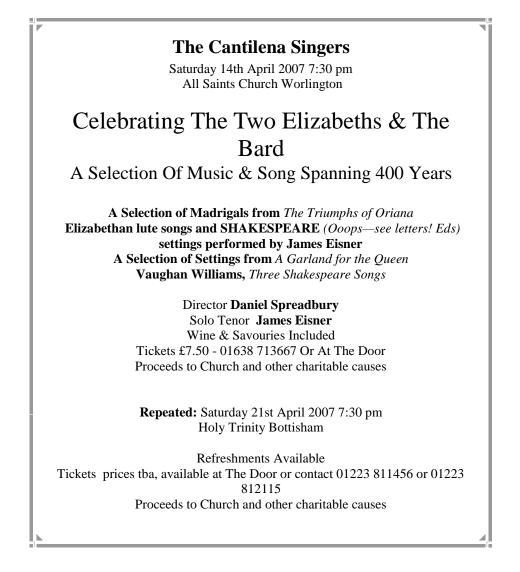
THE FEBRUARY MEETING was held on 19th in the Village Hall. During the business we were given an outline of the meetings planned for the next year. There is an exciting programme to look forward to, including some interesting speakers and a number of outings and parties. Our speaker was Linda Gascoigne who gave a very enthusiastic talk on 'Wild

Flowers and Wildlife Gardening'. Careful planting can make sure you attract wildlife into your garden – even if you are limited to a few pots on a small patio. While herbicides have been responsible for the loss of many wild flowers and improving grasslands has reduced the number of hay meadow plants – we are now finding new unexpected habitats on roadsides and verges where mixed wild flowers are being sown.

Linda had lots of stories and folklore about plants which was very interesting and informative. We also learned of the various uses of wild plants in pharmaceutical and cosmetic applications and other more sinister use (but no I am not telling you what Cripin used to murder his wife – after all I don't want to be blamed for any accidents in the village). Over refreshments we had the opportunity to buy some of Linda's plants (not the lethal ones!)

Next month will be the AGM and once the business is completed, we will hear about the work of a Vet from Burwell.

### Pat Cook





# From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL has now agreed this years budget. As in the last two years, there will be a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ % increase in Council Tax.

This is below the national average and has to be achieved by efficiency savings, not cuts in services. In fact we have budgeted to provide £240,000 towards various grant schemes plus providing substantial funding for the concessionary bus pass scheme. It should be remembered that a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ % increase only produces £84,500 extra revenue.



Ely's population now stands at 17,200—and is rising all the time. When you consider that nearly 3,700 new houses have been built in the city since the year 2000, it's not the least bit surprising there is a bit of a crush. And it has been

highlighted as one of the fastest growing cities in Europe.

"Anyone requiring a free [Cambridge Area] book should contact BT on 0800 833400 and state it is a BT press release"

Marrying the needs of newcomers with those anxious to preserve its magnificent heritage is by no means an easy task.

The city faces many challenges in 2007. Ely is not going to stay the same, it couldn't even if it tried to, so it's important we try to keep the good stuff and build on it.

It lacks some aspects of a good economy and there is an imbalance between shopping and restaurants. Ely has been lacking sufficient

infrastructure to support all its new homes as there have been no new shopping areas in the new developments.

British Telecom have once again supplied the residents of the Swaffhams Ward with only the Bury St Edmunds area phone book. I have contacted the customer relations manager at BT explaining that our centre for most services is Cambridge.

They have agreed to supply a free Cambridge area phone book on request to BT users in the CB25 0 postcode area, eg. CB25 0JF. Anyone requiring a free book should contact BT on 0800 833400 and state it is a BT press release.

I am still pressing BT to re-scope the phone books for the area, placing us back in the Cambridge area phone book.

Allen Alderson

# VICAR OF BRAY

WITH THE PROSPECT of a General Election looming, Skye correspondent and *Crier* poet Ophir Catling discovers an old newspaper cutting culled from the days he used to read newspapers.

"Young Conservatives - most intelligent."
"Young Liberals - too busy loving or fighting to have time for politics."
"Young Socialists - have the dreariest meetings, wildest looking young men, ugliest women and tepid cocoa."

Robert Cooke, Bristol Cons

and writes:

'I started in the Socialists, And went to every meeting; But found their women ugly And their cocoa needed heating.'

'And so I joined Tories, But their girls too were extreme; Politics was in their blood, They didn't have a sex-stream.'

'But when I joined the Liberals, There wasn't any doubt; They loved to fight, and fought to love, And Politics - was OUT!'

**Ophir** 

# What future for our Post Office network - HAVE YOUR SAY!

THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION on the future of the Post Office network was launched in December. The Government is proposing some big changes, including:

- Restructuring of the network, with up to 2,500 closures.

- Support for Post Office Ltd to open new Outreach locations to provide access to services for small remote communities including mobile Post Offices and Post Offices hosted in other locations such as village halls, community centres or pubs.

- New geographical access criteria for the Post Office network. These include criteria to protect vulnerable people in deprived urban areas and also in rural areas.

- Continuation of a new Post Office card account after 2010.

It is important for everyone who cares about the future of our Post Office network to respond to the Government's consultation. UKVillages, working with the Commission for Rural Communities, has designed an on-line response form for you to respond directly to the Government. You can submit your online response and find out more about the Consultation at http://aboutpoconsult.ukvillages.co.uk



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:
<ol> <li>large dining table (smoked glass top, cane base)</li> <li>Matching 6 dark cane dining chairs (velvet seat cushions)</li> <li>dining/lounge upright storage units, each with drawer and shelves, double cupboards below (one with glass shelves and doors for display)</li> </ol>		Angela, 812994 (Lode)
Hanimex slide projector and magazines		Robert Good, 812126 (Lode)
Still available: 5 newborn Pro -wrap nappy outers (6 – 10 lbs) – used for one baby for 3 months.	Play-doh cutters	Jun Thompson, 813362 (Longmeadow)

# Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

CHAIRMAN MR JOHN COVILL chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: Received from Sandra Gynn and Sandra Wilson. Minutes of Last Meeting: These were reported and agreed. Matters Arising (for information only)

It was reported that a working party for ECDC had erected additional road signs for the High Street at its western end. The meeting agreed that the additional signs were incorrectly positioned and/or unnecessary. When contacted, ECDC confirmed that the signs were needed to clearly mark the way for emergency services. Cllr Alderson was asked to look into the cost of these additional signs and the work involved.

#### CCC Report: Cllr Hazell Williams reported to the meeting.

ECDC Report: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported to the meeting. **CCC** 

East of England Plan – Proposed Changes

#### ECDC

Schedule of Certification of Street Numbering – *Deletion of property name* 

Update to Background Paper on Settlement Hierarchy

Chairman's Newsletters

#### General

Ely Police Sector - Newsletter & Crime Figures

School Newsletters

Postwatch – Post Office Network Consultation.

#### Amendments to Meeting Agenda Format

The item "Any Other Business" will be changed for "Items for the Next Agenda"

An item "Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on Agenda" will be added to the Agenda, following "Apologies". These changes were made to comply with "Best Practice" and to assist the Clerk with her Quality Status training.

#### The Wildlife Trusts – Renewal of Annual Membership:

This was agreed in the sum of £36.

**CALC** - Renewal of Annual Membership (Cambridgeshire Association of Local Councils):

This was agreed in the sum of  $\pounds 204-79$ .

### Accounts for Payment - These were agreed.

#### **Planning Applications Received:**

**Manor House, Lower End** – *alteration, extension to residential building, reroofing of cartshed and stallion box, conversion of part of stables into garage, alterations to entrance and erection of new gates. No objections.* 

With reference to the ongoing proposals by AWG Land Holdings for the site at the Water Tower on Mill Hill, the Clerk received an email from AWG with reference to the possibility of a "pocket park" at the front of the site for the use of the village. Objections to this proposal were reaffirmed noting that the Parish Council remained of the view that this "pocket park" would be of little benefit to the village and agreed that it was not presently willing to incur the extra costs involved by way of adoption of the area.

#### **Planning Approvals Received:**

Kents Hall, 3 Heath Road — *demolition of existing stable block, erection of new building for gym and hot tub.* 

The Windmill, 9 Mill Hill — construction of two storey dwelling (replacement dwelling).

### Any Other Business:

The damaged "Rogers Road" sign had been replaced. The grit bin is badly damaged. The Clerk is to find out cost of replacement.

The Clerk told the meeting that she was in contact with the family of the memorial noticeboard in the bus stop. They were hopeful that may be the noticeboard could be placed in the Village Hall. The Clerk told the meeting that this suggestion had been made in the past and it was felt that the Village Hall was not a suitable place. In the meantime, the family agreed to the noticeboard being removed from the bus shelter.

The Clerk was asked for an update with reference to the possibility of tidying up/ replacing the fencing around the substation at the bottom of Cage Hill. The Clerk is to follow up.

#### **Open Question Time.**

General discussion.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup>March 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King Clerk of the Parish Council Tel: 742358. Email: <u>karen.king5@btopenworld.com</u>

Introducing in this month's Crier, Sid Prince's very own column:

SID<sup>o</sup>S TOP TIPS NO. 1

"Hoe before they Grow"



# Lode Baptist Chapel

# CRY "FREEDOM!" (Part 2)

LAST MONTH I told you that Lode Chapel will be marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act with a community exhibition on the theme of 'Freedom'....

## 'CRY FREEDOM!'

# A **community exhibition** to celebrate 200 years since the abolition of the Slave Trade, and to raise awareness of the ongoing issue of human trafficking.

Individual or group contributions of photographs, paintings, sculptures or poems are requested from <u>adults or children</u> on the theme of **'FREEDOM'** for the exhibition that will be hosted at Lode Chapel from <u>10am – 4pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007</u>.

The exhibition will be launched at Lode Chapel with a special event starting at

# 6.30pm on Sunday 1st April 2007.

Contributions on the theme expressed in drama, dance or song may also be appropriate for inclusion on this occasion.

We've already had a good response from local schools and artists, but more contributions are still needed – so please get in touch, my details can be found at the end of this article.

Did you know that slavery still exists? It does – and you can do your own little bit to stop this by buying food that is fairly traded? For example, what sort of chocolate do you eat? One form of trafficking is the use of 12,000 children to harvest the cocoa beans on farms in Cote D'Ivoire. These children are likely to be working to make your chocolate as nearly half the world's chocolate is made from cocoa grown here. When we buy chocolate we have no guarantee that the chocolate we eat is 'traffik free' unless it has the fair trade mark on its wrapper. The only way chocolate companies will take action is if they see their sales drop – so why not buy a brand like Divine or another bar you are sure has been fairly traded.

Lode Chapel has recently become a registered Fair Trade church – which means we have committed to serving only fairly traded tea and coffee in our meetings. Why

not get community groups that you're involved with to register too (contact me for more details)? If every group in Swaffham Prior signed up (including the Parish Council) then the village itself could apply for Fair Trade status!

Lode Chapel has also teamed up with Traidcraft to make it possible for you to buy your fair trade food through us – why not give me a ring or visit our new website <u>www.lodechapel.org.uk</u> to download an order form now.

# Simon Goddard

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

Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School, except for the 4th Sunday of each month when we hold our monthly mini-holiday club at Bottisham Primary School.

For more information please contact: Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388 Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB5 9EW. Email: <u>simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk</u> Web: <u>www.lodechapel.org.uk</u>

# **Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

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

# **MOBILE LIBRARY**

Tuesday: March 13 and March 27 Cage Hill 15.05-15.45 Chapel 15.50-16.10

Book Club Requests welcomed. This wonderful service is under a GREAT THREAT!

Use it or lose it —sooner than you think!



# Church of England Services March 2006

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 4	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
Sun 11	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <sup>BCP</sup> <b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
Sun 18	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 25		<b>10:30am</b> Benefice Communion	

#### PASTORAL LETTER, March 2006

#### **Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

John Newton demonstrated powerfully that 'music is the food of love', and his hymns have graced our Church worship ever since. We will remember, in this year of the double centenary of the abolition of slavery, that it was John Newton who encouraged William Wilberforce in his great battle to convince parliament to bring in the necessary laws to abolish that loathsome trade.

Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought; but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought. *`Till then I would thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath; and may the music of thy name refresh my soul in death.* 

I, like John Newton, love singing hymns, and I want our five Churches to make the very best use of the considerable musical talent, that I know exists in our five villages, to worship God. If you are musical and want to join me in that great calling, then please give me a phone call or send me an e-mail and join me in proclaiming our love for Jesus 'with every fleeting breath'.

May God bless you all,

David



Join us as we celebrate Mothering Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March. The day when we give thanks to God for our Mother's love in Mother Church. Each child is given a Posey to give to their Mothers and Grandmothers during this **Family Service**.

Services are being held in your local Churches on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March as follows**:

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

# Dates for Your Diary March 2007

Tues	27	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 15.05-15.45, Chapel 15.50-16.10
Wed	21	Coffee Morning, Baldwin Manor, 10.30—12 noon.
Tue	20	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm
Mon	19	WI AGM, VH, 7.30pm
Sun	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	13	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 15.05-15.45, Chapel 15.50-16.10
Fri	9	Spuds & Puds, Reach Village Hall, 5.30pm
Thu	8	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Wed	7	Reading Group, 8pm (phone for location!)
Sat	3	QUIZ NIGHT, VH, 7.30pm

# Village Clubs & Societies

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
1 outil Club	Alan Badeock	142220	Thurs	7-10:00pm	