

#### The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX1 Number 5 May 2007



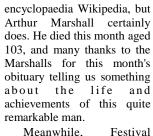
Regulars

#### **Editorial**

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, we lived round a delightful village green on which we played football, cricket, rounders and all the rest of it until bad light (as in pitchblack) stopped play. In those days, the green was beautifully kept, surrounded by gardens only competing to burgeon the best, but oh what a sorry sight now! Deserted, Unkempt, and in the middle a Notice announcing...

world-wide

**NO BALL GAMES.** No room any of that noisy dangerous stuff in today's perfect world. although actually I don't recall a single window ever broken... But is this what we want for our own Cooper's Green? Probably not. Read Lisa Arksev's letter in month's Crier, and maybe take this issue up at the Village Assembly (DON'T FORGET: MAY 16). At a time when BVC has caved in and closed off a large chunk of their playing fields because of neighbours complaints about noisy children (!!), perhaps Prior can take a

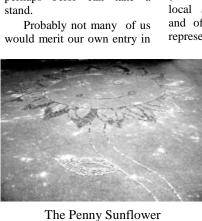


online

Time is upon us again, and this one is going to last 10 days. You can read Jost's article in this month's issue to find out how you can participate. Tina is also standing in the forthcoming District Councillor elections (Lib Dem) as is another Prior local Sandra Wilson (Lab) and of course our current representative Allen Alderson

(Con) from Reach. What does the Crier think? Vote for the person, not for the party, and who ever wins, please send us regular copy — how can we vote sensibly if we don't know what you've been doing for us?

See you Feasting! Caroline Matheson



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**Cover Picture:** The May Dance of the Valkyrie by Claire Warren



#### Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

#### Playing on Cooper's Green

I am hoping that some will be able to find out what is Cooper's Green supposed to be used for!

Is it just for walking through to the pub/church? The reason I am asking is that on many evenings and days my children have gone to play on the green, on a couple of occasions with a cricket bat, stumps, and a soft sponge ball ready for a game of cricket. I escorted them there one afternoon and placed the stumps in the middle of the green, but only ten minutes later the children came home having been told to "Go away, you will break a window"! Even when play football they get told by a lady to go away.

Are they allowed to play on Cooper's Green?

This is as bad as the man complaining about the Church bells when you live next to the church.

If you live next to a village green, surely you should give and take children playing?

Lisa Arksey

Couldn't agree more Lisa, and we suggest the next time you are approached in this way, you refer any complaints to the Parish Council. This would make a suitable item for discussion at the Village Assembly, and we are forwarding it to Karen.

Dear Editors.

#### **PC** Insanity

We have just received the April `Crier'. I see on the Parish Council Notes page, (p32) a cry of "budget cuts". On the same page reports of wrong signs being scattered about the village like free-range eggs.

At the bottom of the page, in the same article is mention again of budget cuts stopping a bus stop sign, but this time coupled with the good news that there is about to be a new member of staff.

Is he/she to be a voluntary member?

On the next page is a paragraph by Francis Reeks. Why go outside the village for strange thingies?

**Ophir Catling** 

#### **KITTENS!**

Three Black
Two Ginger
One Tortoiseshell
Ring Karen King (742358)

# The Village Feast ROLL UP! ROLL UP! COME AND ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AND GAMES

on

### Saturday, 12 May at 2.00pm

\*Maypole Dancing\* \*Bouncy Castle\* \*Can Shy\*
\*Bowls\* \*Children's Play Area\* \*Lucky Dip\*

\*Egg Throwing\* \*Raffle\*

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

\*\*Stalls Galore\*\*

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants Bric a Brac and Collectibles and more..... Admission 30p. Children Free

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### Your Feast Help is needed...

As usual we are seeking donations to the **CAKE STALL**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received – cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

Books, *and* MORE BOOKS - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give a ring to Alastair Everitt (742974).

But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Elisabeth Everitt (742974)

We shall also be collecting or the **Bottle Stall** and will be calling in early May for anything you can offer.

Thank you for your usual generous support

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting Never Mind!

AFTER THE USUAL 'APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE' Geoffrey Woollard turned to our CCC representative Hazel Williams, said he sympathized with Hazel's husband, Alan Williams, and that he thought Mr Williams had made a mistake because one "should never resign on principle". That's a statement that needs a bit of thought.

The Alan Williams in question is a leading Ely magistrate who resigned because he refused to impose what he called a "morally wrong" surcharge of £15 on minor offences fines to help the victims of crime. Hazel gave what was in effect an *exclusive interview* (via the PC) to the *Crier* by revealing that Mr Williams was happy to uphold the law but he wasn't going to collect taxes for the government. Incidentally, though the money raised is intended to help victims of crime, there is nothing in the legislation requiring it to be

Hazel also revealed that while 21 days notice of any change in law had to be given to magistrates, the that first Ely magistrates heard about it was the day they went to court. The government is reported to have said "we know it ought to be 21 days but never mind." "NEVER MIND!!!" and this from a government which continues to impose meddlesome restrictions and requirements on all levels of society. "Never

used that way. What do you think will happen to the money – Olympics?

Mind" indeed.

As soon as "Matters Arising" came up Geoffrey launched himself into the High Street Signs Affair like a steam rocket. Pressure had been applied to ECDC - and the ECDC Chief Executive together with Mr Hobbes, Chairman of the Council, had made a visit to look at the Signs. No-one from the PC attended but Geoffrey recounted what he had been told by an interested third party. There is always the danger of third hand reports becoming Chinese Whispers, so the following must be treated with some caution. The ECDC Top Brass agreed there had been a muddle,

...the first Ely magistrates heard about it was the day they went to court. The government is reported to have said "we know it ought to be 21 days but never mind."
"NEVER MIND!!!"

and they also considered or agreed to removing what the PC thought were three surplus signs. The PC had also noted several road numbering anomalies (including Laundry Cottage and the Station) and demanded these should be sorted out at the same time. If anyone thinks that she or he is an anomaly please let our Chairman John Covill know and he will do his best to sort you out.

Recently, over the last seven weeks, I have come across a more relaxed view of road numbers in other villages. I was delivering to some-one in Bulbeck and asked for the house number. "Oh, I don't bother with one" and told me how to find him. The same happened with another Bulbeck resident — "I don't have a number." "What's the name of the

house then?" "That won't help you either" and told me how to find him. Bottisham was no better. I needed the address of an institution for someone else to write to, and asked for the number and street name. "Oh, we don't do those – just put Bottisham".

Geoffrey, always anxious to make Karen earn her money, proposed writing a "letter demanding that the surplus signs be removed and an enquiry made into the numbering anomalies." You can't, he was told, as 'Matters Arising' is for information only. The only way a letter could be proposed and

"Hazel Williams reported that the National Trust wanted to put cattle grids on Straight Drove in Reach to keep in the Konic Ponies and Highland Cattle which the NT wants to introduce..."

written was to include it in "Items for the Next Agenda", discuss it again at the next meeting and then send it. The government of course would have said "NEVER MIND, just send it now."

Allen Alderson saved the day by saying he would be briefly mentioning the Signs in his report and the letter could be proposed at that point. Thank goodness there is no war on.

In her CCC role Hazel Williams reported that the National Trust wanted to put cattle grids on Straight Drove in Reach to keep in the Konic Ponies and Highland Cattle which the NT wants to introduce. There are objections from local people – not only horse riders , but also walkers, dog owners and parents as there are few who wish to tangle with the above beasts. Geoffrey, who as we well know has residual doubts about the vision of the NT, said he appreciated that the aim is to "make it like it used to be", but to do this by importing Konic Ponies from Poland and Highland Cattle from Scotland was "Potty". The Chairman who on the whole supports NT ambitions thought the NT this time was going too far, as did Allen in his ECDC report who proposed that the NT should bend and erect fencing to contain the animals.

A few tit bits. There are only eight candidates for our Parish Council so yet again there will be no election – the Treasurer was delighted as this saved £750, but there will be a fierce contest for the ECDC election as three exceptional candidates are standing; the Lode Star Festival may not happen, the Water Tower site was sold prior to the auction, there may be a new 'Model Code of Conduct Order' (petty bureaucrats must be kept employed), and the Year-End Financial Summary was presented with 100% accuracy by Steve Kent-Phillips who passed around his spreadsheets - which amazed all. Geoffrey confessed to not having a clue saying that in his earlier career it was all written out by hand. "So it is today" said Karen, as she whisked out her huge beautifully hand-written ledger. A great feeling of peace and security settled over the meeting, knowing that this at least remained the same.

Alastair Everitt

### ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006 THE VILLAGE HALL. 7.30PM

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

If there is any item you like included on the agenda, please let your Clerk, Karen King, know before the next Parish Council meeting — 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Your Village needs you!!

As there will not be a house to house collection in your village this year,

#### MARCIA MILLER

would like to invite you and your friends to a

#### RED CROSS WEEK COFFEE MORNING

at

BALDWIN MANOR, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007 10.30 – 12.30.

Bring and buy stall for Home Produce.
Plants. Raffle.
Pretty Clothes and Accessories by Leopardi.

ENTRY: by donation, to include coffee and biscuits

## FESTIVAL HELP NEEDED!

### 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July

We are URGENTLY looking for Volunteers to help with setting up, participating and helping with ALL the Village events – please contact Tina Jost as soon as possible to let her know how you can help.

Thank you so much!



Tina Jost

Art Exhibitions (Adult & Childrens)

Art Auction (Adult & Childrens) "Combertones" Dixieland Jazz Festival of Flowers

Village Market Stalls Scouts 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dis-

play School Production of "If the World were a Village" plus

World were a Village" plus
School Choir,

A Musically Entertaining evening with "Coup de Grass" and "Cage Hill Hillbillies"

Cream Teas Working Windmill Village Cage & Pound Old Forge Songs of Praise Art in Action

"Stepping Out" - Tap Dancing

"The Good Old Days" - Piano, B& W Photos, Traditional Film Evening of Village Life

Worship Tonight (WOW) and "A Note for a Child" – Beautiful Music

"The Lighter Side of Village Life" - Comedy Evening for all the family

Summer Fair of Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

"Handel's Messiah" Cambridge Voices & the Orchestra of the Age of Reason directed by Ian de Massini

Arrangements with Bach Piano Recital – Ian de Massini The Big Raffle Draw

### Swaffham Prior Festival 2007

Every four years or so, Swaffham Prior holds a Festival to celebrate the talent of our very own Village People – with a little help of some friends (see Page 7— your help is needed!). Here it is again, and organiser Tina Jost tells us how it will be.

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL will last for ten days raising money for Charity!

There is something for everyone. Families who will be most welcome at all the events. The Festival will start on Friday  $22^{nd}$  June with music by the Combertones

Dixieland Jazz Band welcoming you to a wonderful Art Exhibition & Art Auction in St Cyriac's Church. This Redundant Churches Trust building is famous for sharing its churchyard with St Mary's Church and for its renowned acoustics. On Saturday, we can all share in the Children's Music Concert. Children's Artwork will be also be Exhibited and Auctioned, with Cream Teas in the Village Hall. A Quiet Room for people just wanting to relax will be provided – hand, foot or even Indian Head Massage to rejuvenate you. In addition, we have a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Year of the Boy Scouts movement. A real collection of

" During the week, there is something every night – Art in Action, Tap Dancing, The Good Old Days with Black & White Photos & Films of the villages...."

vibrant Market Stalls will be open, including Make-up, Clothing and Food amongst other things, and loads of fun filled activities! Swaffham Prior Primary School will be producing the colourful and imaginative show "If the World were a Village" including their very own Choir. The evening finishes off in the Village Hall with the talented Bluegrass group Coup de Grass and the Cage Hill Hillbillies – lots of music and fun including a Bar. On Sunday, come for a guided walk through the village and enjoy Cream Teas. You will discover The Old Forge, The Windmill, the Cage & Pound and the fragrance of beautiful flowers that will be decorating St Mary's for the whole weekend. In the evening, join the Rev. David Lewis for Songs of Praise and sing your favourite hymns.

During the week, there is something every night – Art in Action, Tap Dancing, The Good Old Days with Black & White Photos & Films of the villages, WOW, the critically acclaimed group Note for a Child, The Lighter Side of Village Life – a Comedy. On Saturday, the Summer Fair at Swaffham Prior Primary School will be filled with merriment. That evening, Ian de Massini will be directing Cambridge Voices & the Orchestra of the Age of Reason with "Handel's Messiah" and the fol-

lowing evening "Arrangements with Bach" Piano Recital, also with Ian de Massini. The Big Raffle Winners will be announced at the close of our Festival. Do find time for yourself, family and friends to come and enjoy Village Life as it used to be and still is – today....

Tina Jost

#### **Pennies From Heaven?**

On Friday, 20th April, children at Swaffham Prior School outlined a giant sunflower with small change to raise money to buy plants for the school nature garden and to donate to Milton Hospice. The grand total? £104.86!



#### SIR ARTHUR MARSHALL

Sir Arthur Marshall OBE DL, who was one of Britain's aviation pioneers and whose Cambridge-based aircraft engineering and automotive business grew to become a major force in the UK Aerospace industry, and one of the largest privately-owned companies in the country, employing about 4,000 people in the region, including a number of Swaffham Prior residents, died in his 104<sup>th</sup> year on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007. He was born on 4th December, 1903, just 13 days prior to the first manned flight by the Wright brothers. He retired in 1989 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Michael, who has lived at Swaffham Prior House since 1983.

ARTHUR GREGORY GEORGE MARSHALL was the eldest of eight children of David Gregory Marshall, a local Cambridge businessman, and Maude Edmunds Marshall (née Wing). Arthur Marshall's father, David, founded Marshall of Cambridge in1909 as a car hire and motor business. Arthur was educated at The Perse School for Boys, Tonbridge School and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he obtained a First Class Degree in Engineering. Whilst up at Cambridge he also gained a Running Blue for the quarter mile and was subsequently selected as a member of the British team at the 1924 "Chariots of Fire" Olympic Games in Paris. Having obtained his pilot's licence in 1928, he and his father bought their first aircraft, a de Havilland Gipsy Moth in 1929 which they based on land, alongside the family home in Newmarket Road on which they opened Cambridge's first aerodrome which was known as "Fen Ditton Aerodrome". Arthur combined his work in the garage with giving flying instruction in his spare time, and an expansion of the aviation business led to the purchase of land just outside Cambridge in 1935 on which the present Cambridge Airport was developed.

Arthur played an important role in the development of flying training, particularly for the RAF. He started giving flying lessons after completing only 70 hours himself, and he was made a Master Instructor by the Guild of Air Pilots in 1931. His first pupil was Norman de Bruyne, who subsequently developed specialised glues and bonding for aircraft such as the Mosquito; his Duxford-based Aero Research business was later absorbed within Ciba-Geigy.

From his own experience Arthur was convinced that selected pupils would make the best flying instructors in contrast to the accepted RAF practice that only the more experienced pilots could perform this role. He therefore recruited suitable pupils for flying instructor training; after gaining their flying licences, they went on to achieve 150 hours of flying within five months to qualify as flying instructors. Arthur Marshall's scheme was eventually adopted across the Royal Air Force, and still continues in use in the RAF today.



With eldest son Michael at Jesus College 1999

Arthur Marshall also initiated the incorporation of his company into the Government's Civilian Repair Organisation. During the course of the War, Marshall repaired over 5,000 aircraft of types such as Whitley, Oxford, Albemarle and Mosquito. Completed aircraft were test flown by the Company's full-time test pilot, but Arthur Marshall would arrange to relieve him on alternate Sundays when he would fly any aircraft which became due for test.

Arthur Marshall became Chairman of the Company on his father's death in 1942, and remained in this position for the next 48 years, until his retirement in 1989. Fol-

lowing the War, Arthur Marshall established a vehicle body building division of the Company which, as Marshall Specialist Vehicles, grew to become a substantial supplier to the Ministry of Defence. He developed the aircraft business, Marshall Aerospace, into a major maintenance and repair business which is, today, one of the most highly regarded companies in its field. In 1960, the Company designed and built the complex droop nose and retracting visor for Concorde. Later, it designed and built a high precision medical research sled for use on the space shuttle "Challenger" which flew 121 orbits of the earth in

"In 1960,
[Marshall's
Aerospace]
designed and
built the complex
droop nose and
retracting visor
for Concorde."



Arthur with a vintage De Havilland Tiger Moth, restored with the support of Marshall Aerospace, at the War Museum at Duxford.

1985. In 1965, Marshall of Cambridge was appointed as the first Lockheed Service Centre in the world and has supported the RAF's fleet of C-130 Hercules aircraft ever since. The Motor business, started by his father, which was further developed by Arthur's son Michael, is now one of the country's largest privately-owned garage groups.

Sir Arthur Marshall, who was knighted in 1974 for his services to the aircraft industry, was immensely proud of the employment and skills his company has brought to the region. also very proud to be a Cambridge man and was awarded an Honorary Law Degree by the University in 1996.. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 2004, when The City of Cambridge conferred the Honorary Freedom of the City on Sir Arthur, he was the oldest person at the age of 100½ to receive this unique honour In 1939, he founded No 104 (City of Cambridge) Squadron of the Air Defence Corps, which subsequently became the Air Training Corps, and remained Chairman of the Squadron until 1974 when he was succeeded by his son, Michael.

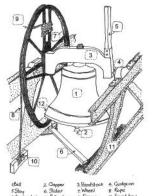
He was married in 1931 to Rosemary Dimsdale whose tireless support was a huge ingredient in

his success and who died in 1988. He is survived by his two sons, Michael, who succeeded him as Chairman of the Company, David, and his daughter Judy, eleven grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren.

## LET THE BELLS RING OUT

On the morning of Saturday 12 May a band from the Dockland Ringing Centre (ringers from Limehouse, Bermondsey and Rotherhythe) will be ringing in St. Cyriac's from 10.45 to 11.45. Later in the month on Tuesday 29 May, the usual monthly ringing practice will be held from 7.30 to 9.00.

Alastair Everitt



#### Friends of Burwell Museum

## Josh Miller Magician and Tea Party for under 8 year olds

Sunday 10th June at 3 pm

AT BURWELL MUSEUM
Tickets £4 from Burwell Post Office & Tina's North St.

#### Friends of Burwell Museum

THE FRIENDS OF BURWELL MUSEUM would like to thank everyone in Swaffham Prior who supported us during 2006. We were able to hand over £3,000 to the Trustees for the maintenance and development of the Museum and also purchased some very sturdy gazebos for use at events at the Museum. This year's fundraising is well under way and we hope all who came to the Minden Band concert in April enjoyed themselves. Our next big event will be our Summer Fete on 29 July and we are having a Ceilidh at Burwell Village College on 28 September. If you would like to become a Friend of the Museum please contact our Treasurer on 01638 742030 - membership is £6 per year and entitles you to free entry to the Museum throughout its opening period (Easter to end October).

If you have any queries please contact me before 23 April (holiday looming). Many thanks.

Ann Gilbert (Secretary,

### SID'S TOP TIPS

NO. 3

One Year's Seed
is
Seven Years' Weed

#### **Crossword Number 42**

#### Compiled by

#### Sponsored by The Red Lion

**NIBOR** 

A straightforward cryptic crossword for you this month. Send your answers to the editors by 18 May 2007. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion – See Michelle at the pub for full details.

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| 29 |    |    |    |    | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |

| Name:  |
|--------|
| Adress |
| Tel:   |

#### Across

- 1 Convert from code a month before internet protocol gets her (8)
- **5** Posh, black and fit (6)
- **9** Find directions from computer interface to hop (8)
- **10** Seal gets in a mess (6)
- 12 I'm given a cue by team leader at youth centre to ad lib (9)
- 13 First to have old soldiers ejected? Not these (5)
- **14** Lies about piece of land (4)
- **16** Chiromancer shows his hand first (7)
- **19** Lounger excluded from chaotic rough-and-tumble (3,4)
- **21** Fuel upsets a pet (4)
- **24** Abrasive on the golf course (5)
- 25 Old age seems strange yet loving (9)
- 27 Legislates for key new beginning to book (6)
- **28** You go, we hear, to back Val about southern European (8)
- 29 Delicacy for some bird first (6)
- **30** Being undefeated he was not punished (8)

#### Down

1 Barker finds pig's tail eaten by calf (6)

We congratulate Claire Everitt, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert & Julie Nunn and Shirley Wilkins

- 2 Walkers might put them in packets, chipped (6)
- 3 Scotsman enters post office quietly (5)
- **4** Fugitive found in St Ives, cape employed as disguise (7)
- **6** I can still make a little bit (9)
- 7 I'm in good French house; such friendliness (8)
- **8** Appeal for lunch perhaps in the doorway (8)
- 11 Odd copper gets behind (4)
- **15** Western Italian might eat it (9)
- 17 Greet men drunkenly coming out (8)
- **18** Indian bird looks after the general (8)
- 20 Some whalers are healthy (4)
- **21** Type of biscuit for an emperor maybe (7)
- 22 60 + 50 point to the first flower (6)
- 23 Funny, sly camper perhaps from the woods (6)
- **26** Be passionate about everyone moralising over the environment first (5)

#### Solution to crossword no. 41

| С | Α | D | _ | ┙ | ┙ | Α | С |   | ٧ | Α | J | Х | Τ | Α | L | ┙ |
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| Т |   | Ε |   | Υ |   |   | ٧ |   |   | С |   | Е | G | 0 |   | U |
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| Α |   | Е |   | J |   | S | L | Е | Ρ | Т |   | Ν |   |   | Е |   |
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| Α | U | S | Т | Ι | Ν |   | Т | Ε | Α |   | Е | S | Т | Α | Т | Ε |
|   | R |   |   |   |   | F |   |   | L |   |   | 0 |   |   |   |   |
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|   | Ε | J | Е | С | Т | 0 | R |   | 0 |   | М | 0 | Ν | D | Е | 0 |
| D |   | Α |   | Т |   | R | Α | S | Н | Е | S |   |   | R |   | R |
| R |   | G | Ρ | 0 |   | Е |   |   | 0 |   |   | Т |   | Е |   | S |
| Е | М | U |   | R | Е | Ν | Α | U | L | Т |   | Н | 0 | Ν | D | Α |
| Α |   | Α |   |   |   | С |   |   | - |   |   | Е |   | Α |   | - |
| М | Ε | R | С | Е | D | Ε | S |   | С | Н | R | Υ | S | L | Е | R |

#### **AMERICA?**

I'd like to visit the Promised Land Where everything is Very Grand. They have the Best of Everything And all the Good that Science can bring.

They are the World's Premier Power And have 1 murder, 10 muggings, 5 burglaries,

every hour

I like to think that I could be One of the millions who daily see The Tallest Buildings, Longest Bars And miles of Glittering Motor Cars.

They are the world's Premier Might And have 8 murders, 80 muggings, 40 burglaries, every night. I like to think I would go there
If only I could raise the fare.
The only drawback I can see
Is there are too many people there,
for me;

On second thoughts, I'd rather stay They have 16 murders, 160 muggings, 80 burglaries, every day.

And so you see, I am still here, Nor think I've sold adventure dear. I have dismissed it from my mind Preferring life of a quieter kind.

In Cambridge there's the peace I seek

They have but 4500 bicycles stolen,

every week. **Ophir** 

#### **FREECYCLE**

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 <a href="mailto:jun.thompson@tesco.net">jun.thompson@tesco.net</a>, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

## Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre presents HMS PINAFORE by Gilbert & Sullivan

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre proudly presents "HMS Pinafore" by Gilbert and Sullivan on  $6^{th}$ ,  $7^{th}$ ,  $8^{th}$  and 9th June 2007 at 7.30pm with a matinee on Sat  $9^{th}$  June at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £7 for the Wednesday and Thursday evening performances. £8 for Friday and Saturday evening performances. Matinee tickets are £4. All tickets include a programme.

The performances take place inside a barn which has been adapted to create a theatre. There is a licensed bar. Toilet facilities (including disabled) are available and there is off-road parking.

Performances will take place in The Barn, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck (6 miles north-east of Cambridge on the B1102).

For tickets or further information, please contact Kari Karolia on 01223 813655 or email <a href="mailto:kari.karolia@gmail.com">kari.karolia@gmail.com</a> Visit our website at <a href="www.sbstgands.co.uk">www.sbstgands.co.uk</a>

## Reach Fair



#### Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2007 - 12 noon

The oldest Fair in England since 1201

Many activities and displays throughout the day.

Come and see Medieval Knights, Music & Dancing

Traditional fair rides and games, Arts and Crafts stalls,

Children's Entertainment and hands on activities.

BBQ, Hog Roast, Salad Bar and Beer Tent

and much, much more

Registered Charity: 280601



#### **WI Notes**

AT THE APRIL MEETING the speaker was Mrs Annette Bond who came to talk to us about her quest to find the grave of a family member, Alice who died in Bangkok in 1899. In the first part of the talk we heard how Alice had been invited to go to Bangkok by the King to set up a school in the palace for his daughters. Annette's daughter dressed in Victorian costume gave

a delightful account of the journey to Bangkok aboard the P&O ship SS Formosa by reading extracts from Alice's journal which the family had preserved and through letters home to relatives. We also saw photographs from the time which were very interesting. Sadly Alice died after only a short time and was buried in the Protestant Cemetery in Bangkok.

The second part of the talk described how Annette managed to find the grave while visiting Bangkok last year and the kindness of the local people who helped her in her search.

Next months meeting will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May when we will be discussing the resolution urging the government to stop the closure of community hospitals which will be voted on at the AGM in London in June. Following the discussion we are having a 'This is my life' session where a few members will entertain us with interesting stories from their past! As always anyone thinking of joining is welcome to come along and give us a try.

Pat Cooke



#### The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

MR. RON MALTBY came to speak at our March Meeting and we spent a most interesting afternoon looking at some of his prints. As you know, Ron is a well known local photographer, and he guided us through looking at these prints from a different perspective. We

looked at them from a "technical" viewpoint and learned what makes a good print and what detracts from an otherwise very good print. Some of these had won competitions and some had not. The judges' reasons (when known) were shared with us, and we all enjoyed a most informative and illuminating afternoon.

We are especially grateful to Ron coming to speak to the Group as it was at very short notice. Hilary Sage was unable to come as planned, and he stepped in valiantly at the "eleventh hour"! Hilary will be coming to our next Meeting on 19th April when we look forward to "A Bit of Fun", and on 17th May we will be welcoming a speaker from Romsey Mill in Cambridge who will be telling us about the work that is done there.

Pauline Lewis.



#### VILLAGE GARDENERS

#### March's Ornamental Grasses

MR RICHARD FORD, an R.H.S. medal winner and judge, from Park Green Nurseries in Suffolk, gave us a very high-tech presentation on his great interest-Ornamental grasses.

There are 9000 species of grasses which amount to one fifth of the world's vegetation. They grow more or less anywhere and our speaker said he specially liked them because of their perfect "fit" and their graceful movement. They are lovely by water and in containers (don't mix them with other plants)

Grasses are primitive plants and rely on wind to pollinate them. Not good for Hay Fever sufferers! There are various families-Sedges, Rushes, Cat's Tails and Bamboo. There are 70 varieties of Pampas grass which thrives in lots of organic material. Miscanthus-Zebra grass is especially good in gardens and has a variety of colours over the season.

Mr Parker recommended Pensthorpe, Hyde Hall and Bressingham gardens in Suffolk as all having very impressive displays of grasses.

He had lots of plants for sale-so if you look carefully you should see a sudden increase of this species growing in the village this summer!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th May, when the topic for the evening is Roses. Every one welcome.

N.B. PLEASE REMEMBER OUR TRIP TO GREAT DIXTER ON THE 30TH JUNE.

Margaret Joyce

#### **April's Campanulas**

'ROSES ARE RED, CAMPANULAS ARE BLUE' - well, actually not, as was ably demonstrated by our April speaker, Mrs Margaret Lynch from Meldreth. In her beautifully illustrated talk on border campanulas, Mrs Lynch showed us a huge variety of form and colour from the traditional blue to all shades of blue, pink and white to creamy yellow and all sizes from the five foot tall campanula lactiflora to the tiny campanula planiflora at only 2" high. Campanulas are a traditional garden flower which look well with old roses, pinks and other cottage garden plants. Mrs Lynch suggested giving the campanula lactiflora the 'Chelsea Chop' - that is, cutting them down to knee-high around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show at the end of May and they will flower later in the season and on a more compact stem. I think we all learnt a great deal about campanulas and are inspired to try growing new varieties for ourselves.

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday 15 May when Miss Margaret Waddy will be talking to us 'About Roses'. Visitors are always welcome.

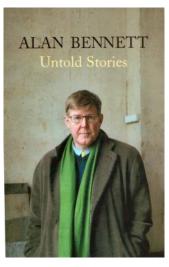
Please remember too, our main annual outing this year is on Saturday 5 June to Great Dixter house and gardens, until his recent death the home of plantsman Christopher Lloyd. If anyone would like more information or to join us on the day please contact Roger Connan (742182) or Margaret Joyce (744390).

Mary Hart

## The Reading Group reads.... Alan Bennett's Untold Stories

Alan Bennett's "UNTOLD STORIES" was the reading group's choice for April-our third biographical book in a row. Unsurprisingly, we all found it a wonderful read; funny, compassionate, sad, humane, insightful and clever, set at a measured and thoughtful pace, even if a bit long.

Alan Bennett decided to write this mixture of autobiography, diaries, lectures and reviews, ("I could have sorted them out, but am happier with them jumbled together") in 1997, when he was diagnosed with cancer and given only a 50-50 chance of survival. "A



death sentence means tidying up has to be done." He really expected some of the book to be published posthumously; very few people knew of the diagnosis—" cancer is not a career move and I kept quiet, which since I'm still here, turned out to be the right thing to have done, otherwise I might have died of embarrassment."

The first part which was every one's favourite, is a poignant family memoir, of his childhood in Leeds,( he was born in 1934) centred around his parents' relationship with each other, with their sons and extended family. His mother who was "funny, loving and full of life", suffered from recurrent delusional depression which meant frequent admissions to psychiatric hospitals- the reason for enormous distress for the family. His father, whom the author said he had always disappointed, was very sensitive, musical and had taught himself the violin. He was put to work in a butcher's shop aged 12, by a hated stepmother, who's funeral was "an occasion of undiluted joy."

His parents' one wish was to keep themselves to themselves and not be noticed by anyone; their shyness was a social affliction which left them with very little self confidence. There was however a lot of love in this family and fun too with his mother's two sisters and lovely grandparents and twice weekly visits to the cinema, though the whole story is tinged with sadness. It was years before Alan and his brother learnt that their maternal grandfather had committed suicide when depressed about family finance.

Alan Bennett describes himself as a late developer, who as a "clever" boy was put up two years in school and who suffered for it. He was a "fervent Christian" and becoming aware of his sexuality which made him so lonely and unhappy hoped it was "just a phase." He talks about his homosexuality in the book, in no great detail, but it was not until he was in his fifties that he found a partner ( not actually living with him until he was ill) and "counted himself blessed."

His diaries written between 1996-2004 are a random collection of entries about his beloved Yorkshire, his interest in old churches, travels in Italy, France and the

USA, his life in Camden town and his greatest honour of being made a trustee of the National Gallery "because he represented the man in the street." When he writes about literature, the theatre and plays, he knows and meets almost every one of any importance in that sphere. One is left in no doubt as to who he respects an who he doesn't. He is cutting ,critical, complementary and compassionate.

He talks about his undergraduate years in Oxford again in no great detail. He says he never really felt part of it and has no nostalgia for it; he worked very hard and did" not have a first class brain";he says he would have much preferred a first class body. He got a first but his mother not really understanding the system asked if "he had come top of the class." He turned down an honorary degre from the university because of the Rupert Murdoch chair in Language and Communication. Not a man he approves of.

He talks lovingly and at some length about Flora Hird , for whom he wrote several parts on television and from her memorial service says "she had a long and happy life and took her place amongst the best we have."

The penultimate chapters are wonderful lectures given to the Trustees of the National Gallery - one called "Going to the Pictures" about galleries and pictures in general and the other about paintings for schools called "Spoilt for choice"

The last group of chapters are very personal and called "Ups and Downs" He is maliciously attacked in Italy whilst walking with his partner Rupert, and even after hospital treatment and every one he tells saying "oh well"" finds it very difficult to understand that his sexuality can be the reason for such violence. He finally talks in more detail about his reason for the book's being—his diagnosis of colon cancer—what he calls "a real bummer in every sense of the word." The size of the tumour the surgeon said, when asked was the size "of the average rock bun" which the author found paradoxically quite re-assuring. He gets through the horrible treatment and survives— "more than anything that I have written or otherwise achieved in my life, against all sense and logic, I feel pride in having come through, or come this far...........I am one of the many who are here when they did not expect to be here. Take heart."

Read it, or buy the BBC audio book, of the first part, read by the author.

Margaret Joyce

Next book for May is "The God of Small Things" by Arundhati Roy. We'll meet on Wed 2nd at 8.00pm at Kent House

#### **Donations!**

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

#### **Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting**

Chairman Mr John Covill chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the Public.

**Apologies:** Sandra Wilson & Kevin Glennon

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** These were agreed following minor amendment.

**Matters Arising:** 

High Street signs & numbering: Geoffrey Woollard told the meeting that with the help of Cllr Alderson, a visit to the Village by Cllr Richard Hobbs & Mr Andrew Killington of ECDC had taken place to inspect and discuss the problem of the siting of High Street signs. At this meeting it was recognised that the situation with the signs did need rectifying. Also at the meeting the subject of High Street numbering was also raised, noting that there appeared to be some numbering anomalies. The Clerk wrote to Mr Andrew Killington of ECDC to confirm the Parish Council's views as previously reported and requested that the Parish Council is kept fully informed of progress.

**Reports:** CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting

**ECDC** – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported.

**Footpaths – Overhanging Vegetation:** It was noted that vegetation on some of the footpaths & pavements in the Village needed cutting back to allow for easy access. The Clerk was asked to contact residents with property boundaries on footpaths or pavement and ask for their assistance in ensuring hedges, etc., are tidied.

#### Maintenance/Repair Items:

Road sign, Rogers Road: The Clerk was asked to obtain estimates for replacement of the missing 'arm'. It was agreed that the complete sign would need a full inspection before repair.

Damaged grit bin, Rogers Road: It was agreed to replace the grit bin.

**Agenda for Annual Village Assembly:** Items for the agenda were discussed. See separate notice inviting suggestions from residents.

**2006/07 Year-End Financial Statement:** Steve Kent-Phillips gave a summary of the year end accounts. Anyone wishing to view the year end accounts will shortly be invited to do so through the annual audit process.

**Employee Salaries – Registration with Inland Revenue:** It was reported that due to recent legislation all future employee salaries would be registered for PAYE.

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

**Planning Applications:** 32 Cage Hill – *conservatory to side of property.* No objections.

#### **Planning Approvals:**

Commissioners Farm, SP Fen – replacement barn with brick and timber frame. (Demolition of existing agricultural storage barn).

The Manor House, Lower End – alteration, extension to residential building, re-

roofing of cartshed and stallion box, conversion of part of stables into garage, alterations to entrance and erection of new gates.

#### Items for the Next Agenda will include:

Follow up on High Street signs/numbering

Follow up on Mill Hill road safety issues

Follow up on repair works to sign on Rogers Road

Annual inspection of play area by RoSPA including replacement of play area surfacing

Approval of completed accounts for 2006/07

**Open Question Time** – general discussion.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday,  $10^{th}$  May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council,

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

## THE ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A LADIES LUNCH

at

**QUY VILLAGE HALL** 

on

TUESDAY 22nd MAY 12noon for 12.15pm GUEST SPEAKER



## Fiona Castle O.B.E. 'LIVING SIMPLY'

'Learning to de-clutter your life' **DETAILS AND TICKETS (£5) FROM PAULINE LEWIS 01223 812367** 



#### Lode Baptist Chapel

#### Mid-Life: Crisis or Opportunity?

This month I will celebrate my 35th birthday, which, if I'm blessed with three-score and ten years, means that I'll be half-way through! Whilst my wife (who's a few years older than me) insists that neither of us is yet middle-aged, I've nonetheless been reflecting on what this midway marker might mean. In purely numeric terms, 35 years is equivalent to 12,783 days, 306,792 hours, 18,407,520 minutes or 1,104,451,200 seconds, but clearly this is a totally inadequate way of assessing my life!

Perhaps I should instead think about the certificates I've gained, the jobs I've done, the places I've lived or the 'stuff' I've accumulated? Or alternatively the tasks I've failed, the times I've messed up and the relationships in which I've let people down? Whether I'm trying to bask in the glory of achievements now past, or weighed down by the regrets of things unsaid or undone, I've found that looking back often holds me back. I guess it's like trying to drive with just the rearview mirror.

Whilst we must learn from the past we need to keep our focus on the present – to be 'aware' of the open door ahead of us now. Having a hope for the future is important too, but the only way we move towards that destination is by the steps we take today. It doesn't matter if we're 15, 35, 55 or 75, today offers us new opportunities, and the successes and failures (especially the failures) of yesterday become the training programme that we've just completed.

Winston Churchill became prime minister in 1940 at the age of 64. He had known success and failure, popularity and political obscurity, but as he reflected on his role in World War II he said "I felt as if I were walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour." Moses similarly had eighty years of preparation (forty years of privilege in Egypt and forty years of exile in the wilderness) before God called to him from the burning bush and informed him that he was the one who had been chosen to lead Israel out of slavery.

I recently found this prayer and I want to share it with you in case you are looking at your life and wondering where it's heading. As you pray, and offer your situation to God, He help you turn your 'crisis' into an opportunity.

#### Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

#### A PRAYER FOR 'MID-LIFE' OPPORTUNITY

Lord, help me now to unclutter my life, To organise myself in the direction of simplicity. Lord forgive me for the mistakes of the past, And help me to know and to do what's right. Lord, teach me to listen to my heart; Teach me to welcome change, instead of fearing it. Lord, I give you these stirrings inside me, I give you my discontent, I give you my restlessness, I give you my doubt, I give you my despair, I give you all the longings I hold inside. Help me to listen to these signs of change, of growth; To listen seriously and follow where they lead, Through the breathtaking empty space of an open door. Amen.

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. Next club – 10.30am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May. All welcome!

#### VIVA THEATRE COMPANY Alan Bennett's "Habeus Corpus"

Vivo Theatre Company are in the thick of rehearsals for their forthcoming production of Alan Bennett's "Hnbeus Corpus" -Although not a farce in the true sense of the word, the play has the usual mistaken identity problems, secret passions and a vicar who drops his trousers. But, amidst the bawdy goings on (involving a randy doctor, his frisky wife, their hormonally challenged son and a pompous prosthetic

salesman!), Bennett manages to strike a note of real tenderness - and even sadness -beneath the frantic surface action; a hint to gather your rose buds while you may! Come along and enjoy a healthy dose of belly laughter and a wonderful night's entertainment!

24th-28th May, 7.30pm LODESIDE HALL @ SOHAM VIL-LAGE COLLEGE TICKETS: £6/£5

PHONE: 01353 722228





#### Church of England Services May 2007

|           | St Mary's<br>Swaffham Prior                    | ST MARY'S<br>Swaffham Bulbeck               | Bottisham                                          |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sun<br>6  | 11:00am<br>Holy Communion                      | 8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service | <b>11:00am</b> Family Service                      |
| Sun       | 8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Rogation Service | 10:30am                                     | 11:00am                                            |
| 13        |                                                | Rogation Service                            | Rogation Service                                   |
| Thu<br>17 | Ascension Day 7.30pm Holy Communion            |                                             |                                                    |
| Sun       | <b>11:00am</b>                                 | <b>9:30am</b>                               | 8:00am Holy Communion BCP 11:00am Family Communion |
| 20        | Holy Communion                                 | Village Communion                           |                                                    |
| Sun       | 11:00am                                        | 9:30am                                      | 11:00am                                            |
| 27        | Matins                                         | Holy Communion                              | Holy Communion                                     |

PASTORAL LETTER, May 2007

**Bottisham Vicarage** 

Dear Friends,

All of the Churches in the Anglesey Group are planning Baptism Anniversary services this Summer. Baptism is so important to the Christian faith, and it is essential that we take time to celebrate its importance through a special celebration in Church. I love baptising babies, and hardly a week goes by without a parent contacting me to arrange the Baptism of their baby. So I thought that I would take the opportunity of sharing with you something of the significance of Baptism to the Christian Church.

There is a lot of 'mumbo jumbo' associated with the rite of Baptism. Some see it as a rite of passage – which it isn't. Some see it as a 'naming' ceremony – which it isn't. Some see it as a thanksgiving for the birth of a child – which is not it's prime purpose. Some see it as a device to ensure that the child can be buried in consecrated ground – which it isn't. Some see it as ensuring that the child can be married in

Church – which it isn't.

Baptism is as old as the Christian faith itself. The Christian Church began when 3000 people were baptised in response to an electrifying sermon by St. Peter 2000years ago. St. Peter was being obedient to his Lord Jesus Christ, who commanded his disciples to baptise his followers "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Jesus taught that Baptism is a sign of cleansing from the 'dirtyness' of our sinful lives. You may not think you are very 'dirty' in a moral or ethical sense, but by comparison with a God, who is the perfection of goodness and love, all of us inevitably fall short. Yet, despite our 'dirtyness', God wants us to be able to stand tall in his presence, and for us to be able to benefit hugely from a day-to-day loving relationship with him, and the opportunity to be 'in paradise' with Him in heaven. Consequently, God devised a plan of salvation. He decided to make a sacrifice that would overcome our 'dirtyness'. The sacrifice needed to be hugely significant to stand the test of time, and to be sufficient to meet the needs of billions of human beings. The only sacrifice that could have the necessary impact to achieve this was the sacrifice of His son. So this is what he did at the first Easter.

God gave salvation to us as a freely offered gift. It costs us nothing, but it cost God a great deal indeed. As with any gift, it only becomes real when it is valued and accepted in the manner in which it was intended, which is where Baptism comes in. Baptism is our way of responding to the free gift of salvation. The cleansing act of baptism reminds us of the saving work that Christ has carried out for us by his suffering and death on the cross, and we emerge from the waters of baptism as 'new' people. The 'old 'dirty' person has been washed clean to become a 'new' person who is acceptable to God.

Now, all this argues for the Baptism of adults, who can understand and participate in the meaning and importance of the rite, and our non-conformist brethren understand it that way. However, once the Church and state became intertwined into 'Christendom', it has been understood that a newly born baby in 'Christendom' can be assumed to be brought up as a Christian and can be Baptised into the Christian faith.

However, we no longer live in the realm of 'Christendom'. We no longer assume nowadays that everyone born in this country is naturally a Christian. So, when we Baptise a baby, we appoint Godparents, whose task is to watch over the child, and pray for them, with a view to guiding them into an understanding of the Christian faith. At the same time the Church seeks to act in partnership with the baby's parents and godparents to work with them to help the child grow up in the faith. That is why we are so keen that Baptism takes place within the context of the Church's main act of worship, allowing the congregation to welcome the child, witness the Baptism, and commit themselves to work in partnership with the parents and Godparents. A Baptism Anniversary Service is an ideal way in which that continuing sense of contact between the Church and the child can therefore be maintained. And every Church has a monthly Family Service where the children can start to learn about the faith into which they have been Baptised.

So, if you would like your child Baptised – don't hesitate to contact me. And, if your child is already Baptised, but doesn't attend Church regularly, look out for details of a Baptism anniversary service in your local Church, and come along and celebrate your child's Baptism with us.

May God bless you all,

#### Dates for Your Diary: May 2007

| Wed | 2  | Reading Group, Kent House, 8pm                                                                     |
|-----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon | 7  | Reach Fair, 12 noon                                                                                |
| Tue | 8  | Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm                                            |
| Wed | 9  | Red Corss Coffee Morning, 10.30-12.30, Baldwin Manor                                               |
| Thu | 10 | PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH                                                                             |
| Sat | 12 | Village Feast, 2pm VH                                                                              |
| Sun | 13 | Crier Copy Deadline                                                                                |
| Tue | 15 | VG, VH, 8pm                                                                                        |
| Wed | 16 | Annual Village Assombly, 7.30pm VH                                                                 |
| Mon | 21 | WI, VH. 7.30pm                                                                                     |
| Tue | 22 | Ladies Lunch, 12 noon, Quy Village Hall<br>Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm |
| Thu | 24 | To 28th: Habeus Corpus, Lodeside Hall, Soham Village College                                       |

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

Village Clubs & Societies