



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXII Number 8

August/September 2008



## Editorial

**THE GREAT RED LION RESURGENCE!** Oh, what a lot has happened since last edition. The terrible tough times previous incumbents Ian and June daily experienced are now explained—Churchill's were probably selling up all along—but now...

New and enthusiastic owners (Clear Pubs), and great new LandLady/Lords (CAMRA members, no less) Sue and Pete, who, among other things, have most generously upped our CROSSWORD prize, TWO free meals, for winner and partner.

Now of course it is a complete coincidence that nobody (not even Bob & Julie, albeit they were in Greece) could correctly finish the crossword this month save for James Matheson, which would happily entitle ME to a free Lion meal. These are quite delicious, so we're reliably informed.

The *Crier* crossword, being cryptic, is completely unique to Village Magazines, and has Loyal Fans and Moaning we-can't-do-it Minnies in equal proportion. I myself did have a go at it in the Red Lion. It's all a doddle when you know how, I explained. For example, 1 Across, now that's.....um, oh well, never mind, 6 Down...ur, leave that for the moment...um, 10 Across,

drat..... A truly excellent crossword, and before we know it, it may not only be our correspondents who will be gallivanting off publishing the *Guardian*. Robin Scovil and Chris Carrington, take a bow!

The Great Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge did indeed take place, and you can read all about it in this issue. Congratulations Tim Doe and helpers, plus all the intrepid participators. A great idea so expertly executed, on no account to be missed when it takes place again and we will be entering our oil-free and consequently engine-free Audi, having successfully practiced all the way down Glen Coe...*Don't Go There!*

Much-loved Trevor the Postie is going, he will be sorely missed, and many apologies from the idling, slothful Eds who will probably not get this *Crier* out in time for his Going Away do Reach (yes, you'll see us out delivering leaflets for our sins..).

But now it is time for our HOLIDAYS!! We're off,

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see you in October!

*Caroline Matheson*

**Cover Picture: Poor Trees, by Thomas Newbolt**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Goodbye and thank you, Trevor**

Our popular postman Trevor is being transferred to Burwell, and many of us in Reach and Swaffham Prior would like an opportunity to say farewell.

Reach have kindly invited us to share in their celebration for Trevor and his wife Ann. It will be at Reach Village Centre at 7pm on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who'd like to go along would be most welcome, and those bearing a plate of eats or a bottle of wine will be doubly welcome.

We've been tipped off that Trevor and Ann are saving hard for the trip of a lifetime to Antarctica. With that end in view, there will be a box in the hall in which those who wish to do so can place a farewell donation.

Do leave us a message if you'll be attending, so that we can give Reach some idea of numbers.

**Gregg & Maggie Cotner - 01638 743891**

*Many apologies if we weren't in time for this! Eds*

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Dear Editors,

### **Stray Cats**

A number of stray cats have turned up in the village and seem to be congregating around Fairview Grove, where we live. During the last few months at least three of them have had kittens in the bushes along the Grove, and kind residents have been concerned about them.

I've managed to catch six kittens – in humane traps lent by the Blue Cross that don't hurt the animals – and have taken them into the sanctuary in Cambridge for vet care, neutering, and eventual rehoming.

I've set up a feeding point in our garden at number 28 where the strays feed regularly at night, removing the food from time to time and baiting the traps instead. Unfortunately many of the pet cats who live locally like the food too. Some of them have been trapped and turned loose so many times that they're completely relaxed about it.

Our aim is to get all the strays into the Blue Cross, who will NOT put them down unless they're terminally ill, or exhibit behaviour so violent or bizarre that they can't be placed with a family, and that's rare. Leaving the cats homeless and unneutered will result in the rapid growth of a feral cat colony, an outcome which nobody wants.

I'm grateful for the patience and tolerance of the Grove's residents, and rely heavily on any stray cat information they are able to give me.

**Elaine Malster 743894**

Dear Editors,

**WITH HEARTFELT THANKS**  
**from the family of Dr. Mark Towriss**

Mark would have been surprised, delighted and perhaps a little puzzled by the flowers, cards, meals, phonecalls and messages that followed his sudden departure. We, his family, have been warmed, heartened and utterly overwhelmed by the care and love extended to us, his family, by so many of his patients and friends. Please accept this small thank you as we will not be able to write to each one of you in person.

As a young man Mark sought to escape the Fen-edge (for he grew up in Lincolnshire) by emigrating to New Zealand. In the end however it was where he practiced as a village GP with joy and enthusiasm. It was also where he lived for all his married life, brought up his four children, and is now laid to rest in Swaffham Bulbeck, amongst many of his patients and close to his family's home.

*Ute, Catriona, David, Christopher and Anna.*

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Dear Editors,

**Tigers Football in Prior**

Here we are in the middle of summer, so time to think about football and the long awaited arrival of Burwell Tigers in Swaffham Prior.

If you've been down Station Road you will have seen new grass and preparations for car parking, and in September three of our colts teams (U11, U12 and U13) will start to play matches. This is a big moment for the club, so many thanks to all those who have made it possible.

Fundraising and grant applications are going ahead, slower than hoped (it is always thus) and we are looking forward in the following season to having the new pavilion, but for the moment it just feels great to be playing. So if you want to see some high quality football on your doorstep come down on a Sunday afternoon in September and enjoy the game.

If you have a child aged 7 to 14 who wants to play football please contact Steve O'Rourke on 01638 743696. We welcome players of all abilities.

More information about the club and fixtures (when they are available) can be found at [www.burwelltigers.co.uk](http://www.burwelltigers.co.uk)



**Malcolm Grimshaw**  
Burwell Tigers F.C.

Dear Editors,

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 26th September, 2008**

This year's Coffee Morning will be the fifteenth that I have hosted and many of you have attended! Over the years we have raised a total of £5,416 which is a fantastic amount for a small village. In the past four years we have raised £400 - £500 on each occasion. It would be wonderful if we could reach the £6,000 total this year.

We will have the Raffle and, of course, the ever popular Cake Stall. If you are not a baker then please buy one or two of the delicious home-made cakes, buns or biscuits.

All the money we raise goes to our local branch of Macmillan for the benefit of local people.

I look forward to seeing you all - regulars and newcomers, young and old - on Friday 26th September from 10.30 am - 12 noon at my house, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Swaffham Prior.

*Ruth Scovil*

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Dear Eds,

## **Soap Box Challenge Report**

At first it seemed that the difficult choice was whether the entrants should opt for wet weather tyres or just go out and buy a canoe!

But by 11-30am, the skies cleared and out of the houses came all manner of folk! At first it may have been their wonder at seeing a burning ball in the sky against a back drop of blue, but no, they had ventured out to watch the spectacle of the first ever (as far as I know) Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge.

The three classes were entered by a total of one team each: Connor & Reece Jones in the U11s, Thomas Pumfrey & Will Kingsmill in the Intermediates and Joshua Willmott in the Adults.

Surprisingly only one entrant made it to the finish line, despite the line being moved from outside Granta House to opposite the Bus Shelter!!!

Connor & Reece had built an appropriately fashioned Recovery Lorry style soap box, which one of them managed to roll over half way down the hill on the first run!

Tom & Will had a two man soap box, hand painted blue WITH BRAKES!!!!

Joshua had something that only James his father could describe, since he built it! Motor Cycle wheels to the rear, an office chair for accommodation and a couple of bicycle wheels for steering!

For about an hour and a half the noble triumvirate pulled their chariots up the hill so that they could ride them down again, much to the delight of a crowd which at one point may well have numbered 30!

Each entrant won a bar of chocolate for their trouble, but the glory was all Tom & Will's as they completed every run, their last starting at the top of Cage Hill!

Along with the first spill from the youngsters the other excitement came when Josh had to retire due to a wheel falling off!

## **Thanks & Acknowledgements**

This all started about a year ago in the pub when after a few beers some friends and I thought it would be a “good idea” to do something like this. Unfortunately they were unable to take part due to work commitments, but I need to thank Hen & Dodge for their inspiration!

The services of Peter Jost & Gerry King as Marshalls (denoted by their day glow jackets) made certain that traffic & soap boxes never met.

Formula One has a safety car, we had a “safety moped” as Joseph Arksey couriered messages up & down the hill, until James Sheldrick brought his two way walkie-talkies!

Doreen Robinson kindly lent some straw bales to use as crash barriers which fortunately never came into use.

John Taylor of Trinity Farm Fordham, who runs the Car Boot Sales & Bank Holiday Markets (and Newmarket Hat Hire) kindly lent the traffic control signs and cones. I promised John a plug although one was not sort!

I must not forget my wife, Barbara, who acted as official first aider.

I gave her two plasters and a triangular bandage for a first kit, but she insisted that this was not good enough, so she prepared the kit herself for the anticipated range of injuries.

Finally to the residents of Cage Hill and the High Street who parked their cars elsewhere! Without you doing this, the event could not have happened.

## **The Future**

If there are enough entrants for next year I will be doing this again and judging by the level of interest, there will be a Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge 2009!

Date to be confirmed around the same time of year but NOT clashing with the School Summer Fair.

Please register your interest with me officially as soon as possible.

This year’s entrants will get automatic entry for 2009.

E-mail : [stalkynorman@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:stalkynorman@swaffham-prior.co.uk) or call 743656

Book now to avoid disappointment!!!!

Thanks



*Tim Doe*

Dear Editors,

## **SWIMMING POOL APPEAL THANKYOU**

Elsewhere in this magazine the Head of Swaffham Prior School has thanked everyone for the generosity of their donations for the school swimming pool appeal fund. We would like to endorse this! The door-to-door collections that followed the letter in the last edition of *Out Of Reach* and the *Crier* raised over £1,500 (from both Swaffham Prior and Reach).

Many of you have also generously sponsored the team of seven parents who cycled from Cornwall back to the school – also to raise money for the new pool. Reach Parish Council, Swaffham Prior Parish Council, Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities and Swaffham Prior Foundation Trust have also generously contributed to the swimming pool appeal. Local personal and corporate contributions have been extremely generous.

This support for our local school is fantastic and the response to our fundraising efforts has been phenomenal. Many of your families have clearly benefited from the pool in the past, and those of you with toddlers are anticipating the future benefits of this local facility!

If there is anyone who was not ‘reached’ by the door-to-door collection and would still like to make a donation, you can do so at [www.justgiving.com/fosps](http://www.justgiving.com/fosps) - or contact the school directly on tel: 741529

Your support and generosity has been much appreciated.

*Di Collier*

Chair of Friends of Swaffham Prior School (FoSPS)

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Dear Editors,

## **Church Path Worms and Other Wigglers**

It was quite a surprise to see so much activity going on in the path from the stile to the cemetery gate. For several years now I have noticed, indeed felt the piles of gravel stones which make walking uncomfortable to say the least, which are gathered up by worms of all creatures.

It may be that the stones gather up heat and make their damp homes more comfortable, or perhaps it is added protection for the hunting beaks of the birds. In the past I have taken my large rake and levelled these heaps out, only to find that next day they were back again.

Last week, returning from a visit to the cemetery in the evening I noticed another unusual sight. Many of the holly leaves, which do not rot away very quickly, were standing upright in the ground, rather like small sails. On closer examination, I could see that these leaves had been pulled into the worm holes, and quite firmly anchored. What was the reason?. There was no sign of them being eaten, or even nibbled, and besides they were very hard and sun baked, hardly the type of food for a worm.

So the mystery remains, but it is quite a queer sight, and worthy of an inspection if you can find time.

I am pleased that the Parish Council have had an inspection of the Cemetry, and are now aware of the work that could be done there. Once started it will not be too arduous a task, it is the thinking about it, and the unfamiliarity of the work that worries those who's task it is to delegate. I trust we shall have a favourable decision soon.

Last week, the middle of July , whilst clearing the reeds from my pond, I disturbed a very long grass snake, which swam gently away to hide under some bushes. I have seen these creatures every year now for quite a long time, but only once or twice a year, they are very secretive. I do not know where they spend the rest of the year, perhaps I only see them when they are passing through to fresh pastures!

As a final non-sequitur, I have received a letter from Ophir Catling, a former resident of this village. He questioned the amount of water in the inlet pipe of the old pump at Upware, mentioned in a previous article, and did some mathematical calculations, and came up with the answer of five tons. Even this amount is quite heavy to lift by suction, and does not include the amount of water in the pump itself. My guess was considerably more than this, but did try to explain the difficulties of the pump inefficiencies. I am grateful to Ophir for his interest, and for taking the trouble to write and tell me. I shall be more precise on the future.

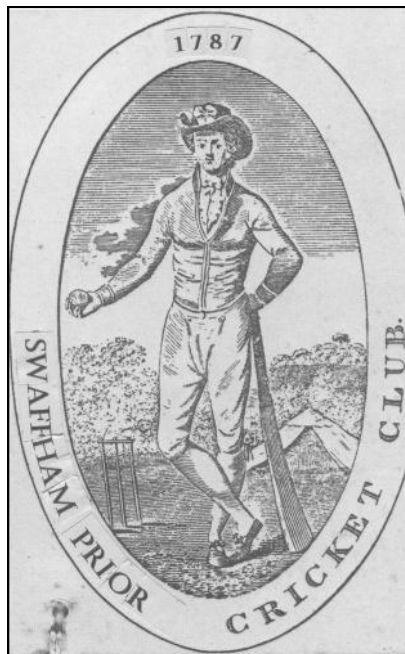
*John Norris*

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## Cricket

**The Prior/Bulbeck cricket  
match just failed to take  
place**

**But as an incentive for next  
year's game we reproduce  
a piece of memorabilia from  
Swaffham Prior's "Glory  
Days".**



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

BEING EIGHT MINUTES LATE I was delighted to find the meeting had already reached 4b – report from Cllr Allen Alderson. Yippee, should be away by 9.30 tonight. O silly man to have had such a stupid thought.

Both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had some garbage collection grievances which gave the meeting a very rural flavour, especially when Allen described what will be the workings of the new Landbeach Recycling Plant when it opens. The end product appears to have few attractions. And neither does the sewer problem with blockages and overflows in Tothill, Greenhead and Adams Roads with the problems all coming together under one house. Martin Meade is exploring it and the PC sympathised without being able to help apart from offering the suggestion that ECDC may have some responsibility.



At 8.27 we moved back from 5c to 4a as Cllr Hazel Williams had been delayed at a Bottisham Village College Governors' meeting. She arrived with sad news from the College but do read Hazel's report for an account of it. The traffic calming at Quy continues to cause wonder and dismay. What are the odds of it surviving in its present form?

The now famous Bee Orchid poked up its head and Hazel reported that Paul Butcher, the chief verger, had not been told not to cut and that as the verge is on a bend two swathes needed to be cropped for safety reasons. This caused one of those deliciously light touches of humour for which the SP PC has long been famous. John Covill wondered whether the grass could be cut to just twelve inches "because not many cars are that low." This was matched later when the state of the Pound was discussed. A working party was proposed and Sandra Gynn said they would need a stepladder for some of the weeds, at which Peter Hart, an avid gardener, asked "Why, are the weeds that high?" I may have been the only person who laughed but I thought it very funny.

Time had rolled on and at 8.50 we had only reached item 7 out of 18. No chance of getting away at 9.30 now. Item 7 concerned the PC's response to the four fairly simple questions asked by Northern Affordable Homes following their presentation last month. The first question was "Is there a need for a small scheme of affordable housing?" Normally a quick and simple "yes" would have been sufficient, especially as the PC had long indicated there was a need. John Jordan (JJ), who was not at the last meeting, wanted more debate, wanted a 20 year plan, thought that an hour was needed to discuss it fully, and what ought to have been fairly quick – at this stage of discussions on the four questions - was not finally completed until 9.20. Someone whispered to me that old French proverb "He who misses a meeting is always in the wrong." However it was agreed to include in the agenda of the next meeting a "debate on whether an hour long debate on affordable housing is desirable." – or something along those lines. Steve asked to be informed when such a meeting is to take place as he will certainly miss it.

One of the questions concerned possible sites and the Deal Hole was rejected



## **The now famous Bee Orchid poked up its head ....**

because it would commit the sin of shunting low cost housing to the edge of the village (people without a home may not mind). And next to Ivy Farm (or rather next to the old police house) was also rejected. Many – nay, most – at the meeting learned for the first time that this land used to be called Gutteridge Close, and I later learned that Ruth Stinton, when a young gal, used to lead the cows from Corona Dairy down the path past Home Farm twice a day, and that because of the cows in the Dairy her family used to dry their washing on Gutteridge Close, which used to have a moat in the middle.

Andrew Camps reported on the recent Neighbourhood Panel Meeting and Geoffrey Woollard, having attended several, had doubts about the value and wondered if it was just “only another talking shop.” Hazel thought it was the fault of the parishes and the public as she herself was disappointed in the range of subjects raised, Geoffrey had noticed that there always appeared to be about 10 policemen present (better than filling up forms?) and Allen advised that the Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambs are the only ones in the whole country not to be chaired by a policeman. Make of that what you will.

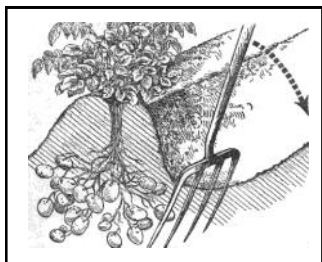
Everything now rattled along and we reached item 14 – “Parish Plan”. It was agreed to shelve all thought of a parish plan and JJ said he was putting up a white flag – “at least for the time being”. He also noted that at the Village Assembly the people of the village had said they had voted in the PC to make decisions and he said that this is what the PC would now do. Maybe I just look under too many stones but there was the possible hint that if the village doesn’t want to be actively involved then they will have to put up with whatever the PC decides – whether the village likes it or not.

The discussion seamlessly slipped into a discussion about the village’s “infill only” status and Geoffrey regretted this and thought it restricted development in the village. Of course this is exactly why people come to the village and why residents like it. Geoffrey of course lives four miles out of town and would not be affected. However, just as very child knows about Bob the Builder so residents twenty years ago knew Geoffrey as a keen Developer. After all he was a leading light behind the substantial proposed development at Nine Mile Hill, and also once owned the Dencora Field which he wanted to develop. We all have our weaknesses and Geoffrey’s only one is that he likes to fill empty spaces with buildings.

A new member of the public attended the last meeting. This was a fine young man from Melbourne, Australia, who now lives in Joan Rest’s old house opposite Gutteridge Close. He was naturally interested in the PC decision and left the meeting a happy man. He sat through the whole meeting and occasionally I think I heard him mutter something like “unbelievable”, “tragic”, “weird”. Before he left he asked, in “Open Question Time”, why so many of our councillors live so far out of the village. It was explained that there are only three out of the nine who do not live in the village. Is this an indication of who talk the most?

*Alastair Everitt*

**World Champion Triathlete Juliet Vickery from Reach, holding the gold medal she won at the Vancouver Age Group World Championships this June. Juliet was competing in the 44-49 year age group for the first year, and had previously won the European championship in April.**



## **Spuds in Buckets: The Reckoning!**

The Spuds in Buckets competition commenced on 10 March and the challenge is to grow the heaviest yield of potatoes possible from one seed potato in the regulation bucket by the time of the Grand Weigh-in on :

**Saturday 13 September.**

If your potato plant has survived the rain and wind and – ever the optimist – scorching summer sun, please bring your bucket and all its contents along to be weighed at the **Village Hall** between **10am and 12noon**. Scrupulously honest adjudicators will be there to lift and weigh your potatoes and the winner will be announced at the Village Harvest Show that afternoon. The victor will receive all that is required for a sumptuous roast dinner – to go with their home-grown roast potatoes. (And the lucky winner of the children's competition will receive a "Saturday night supper" goodie bag).

Should your bucket be so laden with spuds that you will have difficulty transporting it to the weigh-in, please contact Janet Willmott on 01638 743472 and collection will be arranged.

We look forward to seeing you on 13 September for the nail-biting conclusion of this contest!

St Mary's Church is grateful to all those undertaking this challenge – all monies raised will go towards the Maryloo project to build a loo in church.

*Dee Noyes*

**The Swaffham Prior  
Annual Harvest Show  
Saturday 13th  
September  
From 3.00pm**

*Special Attractions Include:*

- \* Cream Teas \*      \* Children's  
Refreshments \*  
\* Fun Competition \*

**GRAND AUCTION OF  
PRODUCE  
4.00pm**

**Classes for the Children include:**

- \* Happy Faces Biscuits \*    \* A Vegetable or Fruit Animal \*  
\* An Original Lego/Knex (or similar) Model \*

*See page 12 for Full Entry Details*



# THE HARVEST SHOW

HARVEST TIME IS IN SEPTEMBER

ON SATURDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup>

THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE, you can enter as many classes as you like, and you do not have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the show. There are no prizes (except for the children's class) but the prestige of showing your vegetables, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and 'vintage' wines in a friendly, yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**.

All you have to do is to bring your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 9.00am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards take place behind closed doors, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea and then join the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction Starting at 4.00pm**. A contribution from the Show is always made to Farm Africa

It's all great fun so do come along and join the grand gathering of the village at Harvest Time.

With no September *Crier* the list and entry forms are not included in the magazine. Nearer the time we will give a list to all those who entered last year and to others we think may be interested. If you think you have been overlooked, forgotten or ignored please contact:-

**Maggie Cotner (743891) Jo Pumfrey (741376)**

**Alastair Everitt (742974)**

**PLEASE PUT SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER IN  
YOUR DIARY**

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## Swaffham Prior Parish Council 110 Years Ago

"Swaffham Prior Parish Council was having trouble with the School Board, because a vote of censure upon the Board was proposed for its discourteous treatment of a letter from the Clerk requesting a statement of accounts for the year ending 29<sup>th</sup> September 1898. An amendment was proposed that the letter be sent to the Chairman of the Board as 'the clerk is very old and feeble and the letter might have been mislaid.' This was approved by four votes to three with one abstention and 'was declared carried amid deafening cheers'!"

(Source: K.C.Batcheler's *A Century of Cambridgeshire Parish Councils 1894-1994*)

***St Mary's Church would like to invite you  
to this year's***

# ***Harvest Supper***

On Saturday, 4 October, starting at 6pm

In Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Food and Entertainment included in ticket  
price

£7 per adult; £6 concessions (OAPs/under  
16s);

£4 children (11 and under)

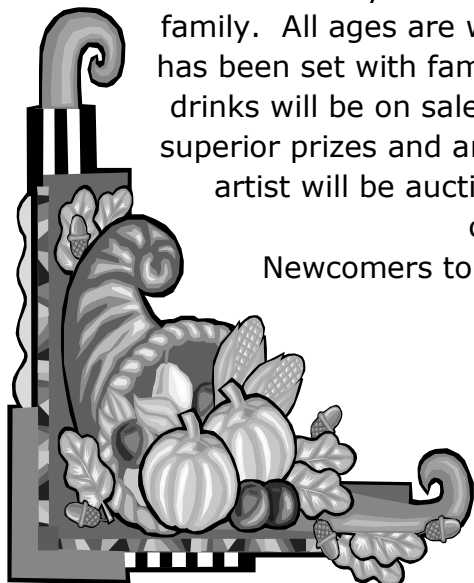
**Bar, Charity Raffle and Auction of  
Painting by Local Artist**

Don't miss your chance to buy tickets for this ever-popular annual event. The organising team has planned a delicious repast, featuring local produce, and luxurious puddings.

This will be followed by entertainment suitable for all the family. All ages are welcome; an early start time has been set with families in mind. Wine and soft drinks will be on sale, there will be a raffle with superior prizes and an original painting by a local artist will be auctioned. Vegetarians gladly catered for.

Newcomers to the village are especially welcome.

*Tickets available from:  
Barbara Dennis – 743939  
or Dee Noyes – 743864  
from 14 September 2008*



# Ditched in the Rape

YES, THERE REALLY WAS A LIGHT AIRCRAFT IN THE FIELD NEXT TO ADVENTURERS FARM, and no we are not seeking planning permission for a landing strip as has been rumoured!



As parents of a teenager hosting a birthday party at the farm for a friend last month James and I were on hand in case there were any "problems". We had covered use of the pool and bouncy castle by partygoers, all looking amazing in their fancy dress outfits, but had not anticipated a "gate crasher" from the skies. Hadn't done a risk assessment for that eventuality.

At just after 9pm Clive Riggs rushed up to the house, we mistakenly thought he might be about to "comment" about the music—but it was to inform us that a plane had crashed into the rape field the other side of the hedge to the party. Whilst most of the 80 or so revellers were blissfully unaware that the flight that had just flown over at a ridiculously low height above them had come to an abrupt stop, no less than three fire engines had been mobilised to attend the scene.

The pilot, who had taken off earlier in the evening from a small strip near Ely had reportedly got LOST and then run out of fuel. With the whole wide Fen to take his pick from to land he apparently circled several times perilously close to the pylons before deciding to crash over the nearest property. Luckily the pilot emerged unscathed, although somewhat shaken and a bit put out on being informed that his plane would remain in the field until the rape had been combined so as not to cause any further damage to the crop.

The rest of the evening went really well!!

***Janet Willmott***



# Back to Basics — Help for the Back

## Why Yoga? Anna Pledger, who is running classes in the Village Hall on Wednesdays, explains....

A department of health study showed that an incredible 40% of adults have had back pain and 15% are in continuous pain, truly a pain in the you know what! Is it possible that in our evolution we went from being on all fours to standing on two legs too quickly? Put on top of an ambitious evolution the fact that we are far less active than our mammoth hunting ancestors it is no wonder than problems with the backs are so common. Yoga can help by strengthening the abdominal muscles and increasing the spines flexibility, here are a couple of ways.

### Bridge

The Bridge position helps to increase spinal mobility and also opens the shoulders helping to release tension. Lie supine on the floor, and if necessary, place a thickly folded blanket under your shoulders to protect your neck. Bend your knees and set your feet on the floor, heels as close to the sitting bones as possible.

Exhale and, pressing your inner feet and arms actively into the floor, push your tailbone upward toward the pubis, firming (but not hardening) the buttocks, and lift the buttocks off the floor. Keep your thighs and inner feet parallel. Clasp the hands below your pelvis and extend through the arms to help you stay on the tops of your shoulders.



### Cat



This is a wonderful stretch that increases spinal mobility. Start on your hands and knees in a "tabletop" position. Make sure your knees are set directly below your hips and your wrists, elbows and shoulders are in line and perpendicular to the floor. Center your head in a neutral position, eyes looking at the floor.

As you exhale, round your spine toward the ceiling, making sure to keep your shoulders and knees in position. Release your head toward the floor, but don't force your chin to your chest. As you inhale bring up the head and the buttocks and let the belly hang down

(its all paid for after all). Repeat this 6 times each day and after a while enjoy being so much more flexible.

Anna Pledger is a Yoga teacher qualified through the British Wheel of Yoga and was the Deputy County representative for a couple of years. Anna teaches at the Swaffham Prior Village Hall on Wednesdays 12.15pm-1.45pm.

*Anna Pledger*



# Relax and Find Your Balance With Hatha Yoga



For all levels  
**Swaffham Prior Village Hall**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008**  
**Wednesday 12.15pm – 1.45pm**

**Drop in classes available**  
**To book a place either phone Anna on 07871 189474**  
**Or contact [anna.pledger@hotmail.com](mailto:anna.pledger@hotmail.com)**  
**Anna Pledger BWY qualified teacher**

## CEILIDH

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**At**

**Downing Farm**

**Swaffham Bulbeck**

**7-00pm – 11-00pm**

**Outside Bar and Food available**

**Music from: Pigeon Toes**

**Entry Tickets: Adults £8**

**Children £5 ( Under 4's free )**

**Available in advance from:**

**Rachel Holt 811512**

**Jun Thompson 813362**

**Or on the door**

**Swaffham Bulbeck PSA**



## ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AT BURWELL LIBRARY

For 2008, the Summer Reading Challenge takes a sporting theme to encourage children to get active and get reading.

How does it work?

1. Children sign up for the challenge and get their much-coveted 'moving image' membership card.

2. The scheme encourages children to read up to six books over the holidays, working their way through bronze and silver stages to go for gold. The books don't need to be six chunky novels, they can be any type of book - fact books, joke books, audio books or picture books.

3. Children are given stickers along the way to encourage them to complete Team Read.

4. All children who finish the Team Read are presented with a certificate and medal.

5. Activity sessions are held in Burwell library (next to Burwell Village College, The Causeway) every Tuesday morning between 10.00 and 12.00, from the 29th July until 26th August. No need to book a place, just turn up!

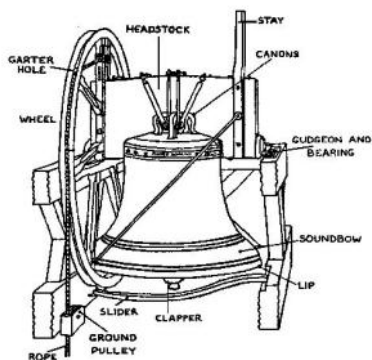
Children need to be members of any Cambridgeshire library, mobiles included (it's very easy to join), and younger pre-school children can take part in the Team Read Book Crawl.

The Team Read (and joining the library) is free, and starts on Saturday, 1 9th July. For more information, go to [www.enjoyreading.co.uk](http://www.enjoyreading.co.uk). There's also a dedicated Team Read website with games, activities and author blogs. Go to [www.teamreading.co.uk](http://www.teamreading.co.uk)

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## LET THE BELLS RING OUT

After several months of silence the bells rang out again at a practice on 24 June followed a few days later by announcing Evensong on Sunday 29 June. On Saturday 12 July we had a most interesting visiting band. This was the Eastern District of the Ladies Guild commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first All Ladies peal in the Eastern Counties. And jolly nice they were too. The village is in for a special treat on Thursday 25 September when a band from Crediton in Devon will be ringing from 4 – 5.00pm.



# WHAT'S WRONG WITH PARISH PLANS

## PART TWO

Surely no person can possibly object to quotations from a report commissioned by Defra.

The report in question is

### *INTEGRATION OF PARISH PLANS INTO THE WIDER SYSTEMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT*

which was researched by SQW Consulting  
and published in July 2007.

The section references from this 200 page report are given below.

2.3 *"Parish plans [hereinafter PPs] were introduced in 2000 to enhance community participation in the planning process."*

3.18 *"Unfeasibility of mainstream service providers direct involvement with the preparation of all PPs was generally acknowledged. This being said, there still remained a need for them to have an input in the plans and an awareness of their development."*

[NOTE. Mainstream providers cover education, health, transport, planning, police, environment, youth services etc].

3.22 *"... a PP will only be incorporated into planning documents if it is consistent with existing policy".*

4.23 *"It is difficult for local planning authorities to adopt holistic plans as they cover such a wide range of issues."*

4.48 *"At the moment there is no easy or systematic way with which to incorporate PPs into the mainstream process at timely and opportune moment .... Also, only about one third of communities have produced plans [as at July 2007]."*

4.53 *"The planning system is characterized by national policy prescription .... Communities often believe that PPs will give them a substantive voice, but national and regional policies and objectives, rather than PPs set the priorities of local authorities. The number of targets that local authorities are required to meet also divert time and resources away from working to integrate parish planning in the planning system."*

4.54 *"Furthermore, few PPs are 'fit for purpose' in that they do not conform to what is required under the rules applying to LDFs [Local Strategic Partnerships], for example, often not meeting sustainability criteria."*

4.55 *"In 2004, Supplementary Planning Documents [SPD] superseded Supplementary Planning Guidance [SPG]. In order to be adopted as an SPD, parish/community plans need to include a sustainability appraisal. Sustainability*

*appraisals are proving to be both complex and expensive, and the requirement means that PPs are not “adoptable” without a significant commitment from parishes and/or mainstream providers.”*

OR, AS SUMMED UP IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORT:-

*“A planning system which is characterized by a ‘top-down approach’ to policies and priorities, and the absence of any statutory responsibility to heed the demands of PPs, means PPs are not seen as significant documents in the planning system and therefore wield little influence.”*

*“Case study consultees highlighted that there had been a lack of ‘quality’ guidance....[which has] led to the production of ‘wish lists’ and ‘NIMBY statements’ that meant that PPs had (and have) a poor reputation among professional planners.”*

With the example of the supposedly ‘model’ Haddenham PP discussed last month, and the critical DEFRA report quoted above, one wonders why our own ECDC councillors are so supportive of PPs.

Perhaps District Councillors Allen Alderson and Hazel Williams, together with Parish Councillors John Jordan, David Almond and Peter Hart will say why none of the above was mentioned at the presentation at the Annual Village Assembly. It is very much to be hoped that they will make a comment in next month’s *Crier*.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## **Electoral Registration forms**

Electoral Registration forms are being delivered over the next few weeks to homes throughout the District. It is important that these forms are filled out and returned immediately as the register will enable you to use your right to vote. If you are not on the electoral register you may be refused credit.

The forms will arrive pre-printed. If the entries are correct all that is needed is to sign the form then return it, alternatively there will be an option to use either a free phone service or by logging on to the internet.

If occupants’ details need to be changed, simply cross out the old information and enter the correct details. Please remember to include 16-17 year olds, as they should also be added to the form. All the instructions for completing the form are printed on the reverse side.

If you are moving before 15th October you should leave the form for the next occupants to fill in. If you will be in residence at the property on the 15th October but are moving after that date, you should still complete the form at your current address, then contact electoral services at East Cambridgeshire District Council to request an absent vote application form.

If we do not receive a response a canvasser may call to obtain this information between 1<sup>st</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> October.

If you have not received a form by 17th September or if you have any queries that are not answered on the form please contact the electoral services department at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, on 01353 665555

All the fun of...



...the  
Fair!



# That Soap Box Challenge

**So far so good,  
Joshua plans his line  
of attack into the High  
Street turn, while  
carefully counting the  
remaining wheels...**



**The Formula One  
Class Act,  
Will and Tom's  
Pumfrey-Mobile  
corners with style**

**Connor &  
Reece  
storm to the  
finish:  
Lewis  
Hamilton,  
eat your  
heart out...**





## School News

The school year has ended with a flourish. The fabulous performance of Robin Hood really made the end of year special and the children really performed well. The singing was fabulous and the acting splendid. We are already thinking about what we will do next year!



The children in Years 5 and 6 had an action packed residential trip to the Mepal Outdoor Centre. They took part in a variety of activities including rock climbing, sailing, kayaking, snorkelling, archery and orienteering. The children managed to overcome their fears and get stuck into all of the activities with enthusiasm. They were certainly tired when they got home!

We have had a very sporting half term with all of the children being involved in a variety of sports. We had our Sports Day in June and it was a lovely day. We took the theme of the Beijing Olympics with many of the events having a Chinese theme. The Year 2 children took part in a Multiskills festival at Bottisham Village College, where they tried a variety of different games. All of Key Stage 2 went off to Ely to take part in the very first Youth Games. They competed against other schools in the sports of Hockey, Cricket, Tag Rugby and Netball. Finally we sent a team of year



Nearly £200 worth of Pennies for the Pool collected by the children

5/6 children off to Netherhall School to compete in a Basket ball tournament. They did very well, coming 5<sup>th</sup> out of thirteen teams.

Raising money for our new swimming pool has gone extremely well this year, thank you very much for all of the village support. We are at the stage where we will hopefully be able to have the pool installed in February next year, ready for use next summer. The whole school took part in a sponsored swim event in June to help raise further funds. The children set themselves a swimming target and we took them all to Bottisham pool, where they were able to achieve their swimming goal. It was a really good morning.

The whole school went on a visit to Wisbech on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July. We went to take part in a Children's Our World Festival to develop the children's understanding of the multi-cultural world we live in. They saw lots of exciting things including, Bhangra dancers, Indian story tellers, Samba dancers, Romany caravans and Polish dancing. Many of them have been trying out the moves at school!

We are continuing to work hard to achieve the targets set in our school Travel Plan. The bus service that the children use from Reach is certainly very popular and has definitely cut down on the number of cars being used in the mornings. Our Walk on a Wednesday scheme is very popular with nearly the whole school getting their achievement badge each month. We would still like to see more children walking on the other days of the week as well. When the children are asked, they would really like to be able to cycle to school more often. We need to look at our provision for cycle storage in order to enable this to happen. The area outside the school on Station Road can become very congested at the end of the school day, so we are still encouraging parents who drive to park in the village hall car park and walk through the path with their children.

Our school field is a great resource for the school and also the community. We don't mind people using the school field and playground out of school hours, but we do ask that the grounds and school equipment is respected. Recently we have found a lot of litter on the school field and some canes in the gardens have been broken. We have also found a lot of dog excrement on the field and do ask that people do not allow their dogs onto the field.

The new Reception children who are starting school in September have really enjoyed their visits to the school, especially the seaside picnic. We are looking forward to welcoming them as permanent members of the school community on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

*Emma Vincent*  
Headteacher



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

There has been no increase in the hiring charges of the Village Hall since December 2005. Some increase is now inevitable and a new simplified price list will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Copies will be available by the end of September,

## **John Norris Remembers....**

### **Fenland Drainage**

BURWELL DRAINAGE SYSTEM involved a tunnel under Wicken Lode to take their water to a wheel on the other side of Reach Lode, the north side. This building is now a house, but the outline of a pumping station remains. The Burwell main drain was diverted into a tunnel under Reach lode nearer the highland, and the water pumped out by the Swaffham engines. There is a tale about that tunnel which I may recall when I have the energy !

As the fens were drained, the spring winds dried out the land to such an extent that the top surface would blow away, and the dust clouds were quite a feature of the nineteen sixties. To counteract this clay was dug from the sub-soil, and spread over the peat to anchor it down, and to provide some minerals, sadly lacking in the raw peat. Shortly after the war this need for minerals was realised, and was achieved by a dragline, (there were no hydraulic diggers then), digging a trench down to the clay, and spreading the bucket loads either side of the trench as far as it would reach. After ten feet or so this trench would be filled with top soil, the offending peat, and the process repeated, so that in time a thin layer of clay could be mixed in. Later on in the eighties, a powerful tractor would pull a two foot wide sloping blade through the ground, so that a continuous ribbon of clay came to the surface, and brought up much more clay.

These lumps of clay were very difficult to incorporate unless we could wait for a frost to break them down, but even then it was a rough ride the first time over. We had just purchased a crawler tractor which made the job easier. These young folk who think this fen is only good for badgers and newts, have no idea of the trouble we took to reclaim this land for food production, and the vast amount of money spent in doing so. It seems to me to so wasteful to reduce this very fertile land to the level of an unkempt area for naturalists. Even Wicken Fen is false in that the water level is constant, far from the circumstances that created it, but it is a wild place creating a special character of it's own, and very popular for a day out.

During the past thirty years, the rainfall has declined, and abstraction from the chalk by the water companies have both helped to reduce the water coming from springs. In the sixties the spring water was quite a problem, and in spite of careful routing of the drains, much of it had to be pumped. The massive spring at the end of the grass drove leading to the old station, has dried down to a trickle, and the one in the wood near Swaffham Prior House has stopped altogether. Another example of the dearth of water is the well at Cadenham Farm. This used to have a rest level of some twenty feet below ground level, to-day it is bone dry eighty feet down, the full depth of the well.

To make up for this short fall of water, and consequently the poor flow



resulting, potable drinking water is flushed now and again down the water gardens of Swaffham Prior House, to help dilute the effluent from the sewage works, and help prevent pollution of Reach Lode. All very difficult in these times of washing machines, showers in every bedroom, and a general disregard for water conservation.

As a postscript to this, I mentioned the difficulties with authority of construction a tunnel under Reach Lode, or more correctly improving and repairing the old brick one. The River Authority, or the Navigation

Section of it demanded that traffic down the load should not be interrupted during the work. Demonstrations by boat owners were held most weekends that summer to reinforce the point. So the engineers developed a scheme to bore the tunnel under the Lode. A large pit was dug near the river and a series of jacks was used to push the concrete pipes along. Men then crawled into the tube and dug out the soil, or clay mixture. Later a rail track was used as the distances grew greater to carry a tub on wheels.

All went well until they were half-way across when leaks started to appear, small at first then quite serious, so that digging had to stop. What do we do now, was the question of the day. The answer was clear right from the start, this boring idea to placate a few holiday boaters, and the Authority, was impracticable, and had to stop.

To cut a long story short, the Lode was dammed up both sides of the working, the water pumped out, and the pipe laid by hydraulic cranes. The work only took two weeks to complete, whereas the tunnelling exercise had been going on for over a month. There is a similar waste of time caused by Authority in the events of letting the new railway of 1884 pass over Bulbeck Lode. Here the Authority insisted that the track was high enough over the water to allow barges to travel to the mill and other outlets. This was done at great expense, but the first train ensured the demise of river traffic for ever. On the close of the track in 1968 this bank was removed, and now forms the subsoil of the houses built on the site of Tillotsons factory

This short history of the Fen Drainage, and other matters, is only part of my idea to write down what I remember of these past fifty years living here. Very little seems to have been recorded, **so if you have any memories of public affairs, then please write them down** (*or get in touch with the Crier and we'll send our Reporter to write them down—Eds*) Even Parish Council, or Church Records have very little personal interest recorded, especially of comments made at the time by those involved.

**“These young folk who think this fen is only good for badgers and newts, have no idea of the trouble we took to reclaim this land for food production, and the vast amount of money spent in doing so.”**

**John Norris**

## P. MARSH ELECTRICALS AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE (Kitchen and Bathroom refits)

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Honor: 07941 107 321

(Based in Burwell)



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Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it. Essential Mortgages is an appointed representative of Mortgage Broking Services Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority FSA No 306012. We also provide advice on non-regulated products which are not authorised by Mortgage Broking Services Ltd.



We should all welcome the news that our Post Office at Swaffham Bulbeck is not included in the latest list of closures. We can all play a part in its viability, it really is a case of USE IT OR LOSE IT. The Post Office and Stores provide an important service for many members of our community, particularly the elderly and those without transport.

The inclusion in the recycling round of the bag for plastic bottles is proving to be a success and is being much used.

Following my request, **further areas in the Fen Area of the ward have been included in the recycling round.** (*Eds bold type — Fen collection was specially requested at the Swaffham Prior Annual Village Assembly earlier this year—Eds*).

East Cambs District Council offers an assisted lifts Scheme for those elderly or disabled people who experience difficulty in putting out their refuse or recyclables for collection. Anybody wishing to be included in the scheme should contact Waste Management Services at ECDC for further information.

The first round of the process to find a new company to run the Maltings, the historic centre for conferences, exhibitions and banqueting in Ely, has been completed with seven companies short-listed for the next stage. The seven short-listed companies, which were unanimously agreed at the Policy and Resources Committee, will now have 50 days to submit their full tender for a final decision to be made so the building can be reopened later this year. The cinema will be reopening as part of the contract.

Ely's Jubilee Gardens has, for the fourth year in a row, won a prestigious Green Flag award for being amongst the best parks and green spaces in the country. Opened in 2002 by Prince Phillip to mark the Queen's Jubilee, the gardens were judged to be welcoming and well-maintained with the support and involvement of the local community.

Oliver Cromwell's House in Ely showed further improvements through 2007/8. There were an additional 5,500 visitors to its tourist information centre, higher admission attendances, a 50% increase in Guided Tour income, and also an increase in profit on retail sales of 15%.



## HERO, STRIP, COMIC

I'm a hero in a so-called comic  
strip,  
And quite frankly chum, it's giving  
me the pip!  
I don't know if you've noticed, but  
every single week  
No matter what I do before, at the  
end my future's bleak.

It's always that last picture that's my  
undoing, so,  
I'll be on the next steamboat to  
China, be it fast or slow.  
I'll get a job there with a difference,  
this time I'll be winning  
.beginning the to back go and end  
the at start They

**rihpO**

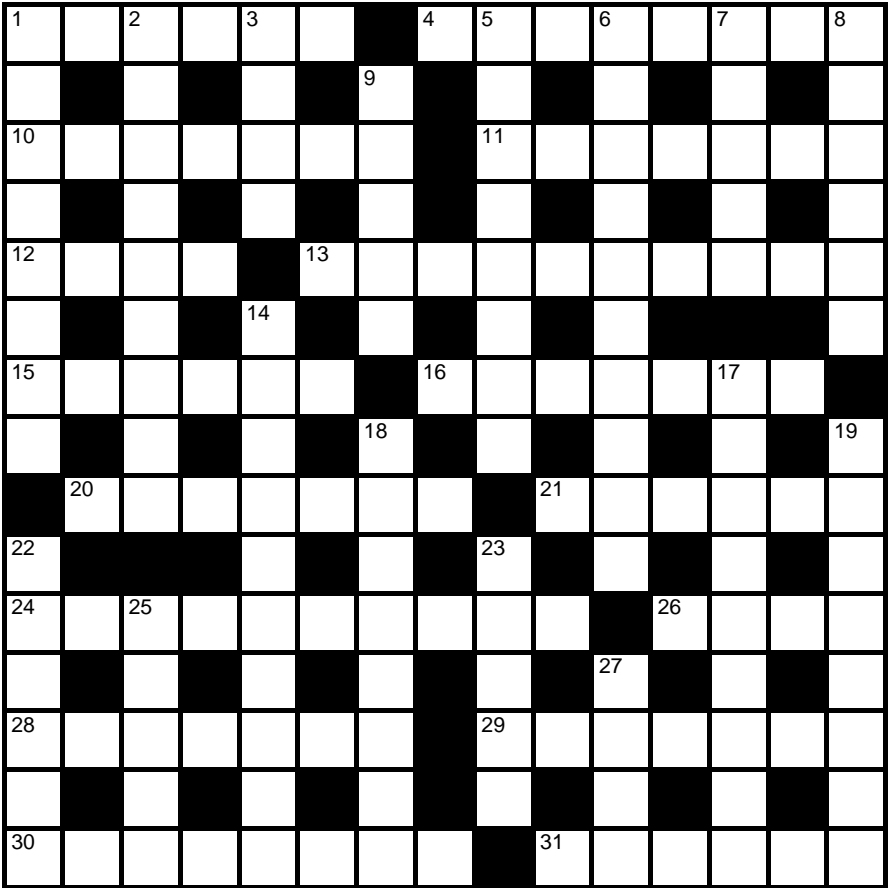
# Crossword Number 55

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**NIBOR**

Extra time this month as there is no September edition of the Crier. Send your answers to the editors by 18 September 2008. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



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

## Across

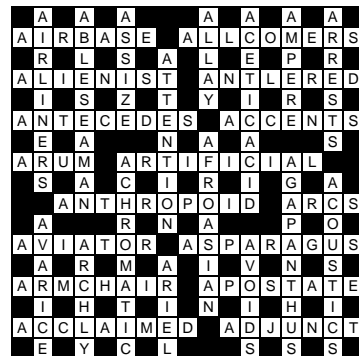
- 1 Drunken passenger loses pan on way out (6)
- 4 Some people, like Alice, take to early retirement at first, then make a splash! (8)
- 10 Champion in bed finds cigar (7)
- 11 Tackle election fraud (7)
- 12 So enthusiastic inside (4)
- 13 Fierce rebel lumbers in to deliver a brain part (10)
- 15 Soldiers need a friend; honestly (6)
- 16 Initially, Tom, Robert and Ian meet group; then split into three (7)
- 20 We take two articles to railhead. Elements? (7)
- 21 Maiden perhaps, going to a party, might exaggerate (6)
- 24 Unusually, NHS uses tin to make storage units (6,4)
- 26 Emperor found decomposed rats (4)
- 28 Break leg, stir cartilage (7)
- 29 Facial hair is intellectual says the Cockney (7)
- 30 Horribly tear-stained, sir left to go further back (8)
- 31 Top rewards were in before 1939 (6)

## Down

- 1 Arrange cassette recorder without red cross and so on (2,6)
- 2 Brainwash a cute deer somehow (2-7)
- 3 Smut from two ducks in the street (4)
- 5 Leave and go astray with sweetheart in the garden (8)
- 6 Hostile egg savers I disturbed (10)

- 7 Team leader will make cloth (5)
- 8 I object to UK and US soldiers forming an administration (6)
- 9 Potter loses money but finds furry animal (5)
- 14 Abused and not well cared for (3-7)
- 17 Guard goes to Irish City to get bottle-opener (9)
- 18 Break the ice on the street but get very irritable (8)
- 19 A follower or sculler? he may be in debt (8)
- 22 It's a puzzle so get me a gin cocktail (6)
- 23 Anaesthetic is there, doctor (5)
- 25 Spile for a wading bird (5)
- 27 Scorch injured ears (4)

**Solution to crossword no. 54**



We congratulate James Matheson, the winner of last month's competition, who should award himself a prize certificate. An honourable mention goes to Jenny Brand.

## Neighbourhood Panels – the public take centre-stage

JULY SAW THE LATEST ROUND OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS in East Cambridgeshire, where residents, Councillors and representatives from other organisations (such as Sanctuary Hereward (Housing), the Office of Children and Young People's Services and Cambridgeshire Constabulary) have their say on the important issues facing their communities, and set priorities for **action**.

The South Panel met on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at Bottisham Village College with 49 people present, and Cheveley Ward Councillor Carl Poole chairing the meeting. The agenda had been organised to enable full involvement of the public from early on in the meeting.

Councillor Carl Poole, who chairs the Panel, said "It was encouraging to see new faces in the audience at our last meeting. I am pleased that by introducing an 'Open Public Forum' right at the start of our meetings that we have strengthened residents' involvement and re-set the balance. We are now well into this extended pilot and I am pleased that our Panel is forming its own identity and style: Our work is broad and our approach is inclusive. It is right for our residents to be fully involved in the process and I hope this message spreads, so that even more people attend and contribute next time."

Feedback was provided on the action taken on *all* of the issues of concern identified

fly-tipping, speeding and consultation on proposed changes to airspace (NATS), but the priority issue for policing was identified as

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Burwell

A priority for the District Council (with Veolia) is to improve the refuse and recycling collection service, with the promise of providing a detailed report to the next Panel meeting.

In Swaffham Prior, fly-tipping and the illegal travellers' encampment had been identified as priorities for action within the community. Action has been taken to tackle these issues, with bailiffs due soon at the encampment and other measures to ensure that there is no repeat action within the village. Speeding in Swaffham Bulbeck and on Mill Hill remains a problem and there is still some fly-tipping on the fen.

Many Parish Councillors are enthusiastic about the Speedwatch initiative. They were asked to consider being involved (together with volunteers from the Parish) in an extension of the Speedwatch scheme which has been piloted in the Soham and East area for the past 3 months.

Councillor Joe Pattison in giving feedback to the Soham and East Panel on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, outlined that the team of volunteers had agreed to be involved in the Speedwatch pilot mainly on the basis that 'speed kills'. He stressed that more volunteers are needed.

In selecting which equipment should be used, there was an advantage to using a display screen (rather than a gun) for educative reasons. A crucial aspect of the pilot was the effective use of publicity to inform local people of the detail and purposes of

the pilot. Articles appeared in the Ely Weekly News and the Cambridge Evening News and a feature on 'Look East' (on BBC1).

The first use of equipment by the volunteer team after their training had been at Mereside. This indicated that there was a great deal of speeding in excess of 37mph (in a 30 mph zone).

The volunteer team worked in different locations at different times of the day – early in the morning, at lunchtime and at the end of the day, just after the rush hour (which slows traffic naturally). By mid-June, 29 sampling checks had been made in the towns and villages within the area, recording 2105 vehicles in 30 mph speed restricted zones. 14% of those vehicles were travelling between 33-37mph, while in addition a further 10% were travelling 37-40. 67 vehicles were travelling 41-45mph, 20 vehicles between 46 -50 mph and 4 vehicles over 51 mph.

In all, 298 vehicles (14%) were driving in excess of 37 mph, which overall indicates that approx one in three drivers was speeding in a 30 mph zone (this included all types of vehicles and all ages of drivers) !

High proportions of speeding were identified in Mereside (Soham), in Chippenham Road, Snailwell and in North Street, Wicken.

Observations from the Speedwatch team are;

Easy to set up and operate

High visibility to speeding motorist

Positive response from the local community

No restrictions (cf. police) on where to operate

Educational effect stops all speeding

Clear identification of 'hotspots' and times, so that police can target their enforcement campaigns

Follow-up letter to the 298 speeding motorists: very effective (in showing 'teeth') 10% of these have received speeding tickets.

In conclusion, Cllr. Pattison highlighted the need for more volunteers from each village and parish, so that checks can continue to be made on a regular basis. The checks have an impact in reducing the speed of traffic on both sides of the road.

From the experience of the pilot, it was advocated that equipment should be purchased, volunteers be identified and trained and the scheme to be operated as soon as possible.

The issue of speeding was identified as a problem in the following parishes: Ashley, Brinkley, Cheveley, Dullingham, Lode, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Woodditton, Kennett and Wicken, and several more specific areas.

Parish representatives were encouraged to consider possible involvement of volunteers from their area in Speedwatch and whether to purchase equipment to help identify the timing and specific locations of speeding in each locality.

A Newsletter summarising the outcomes from the Panel meeting will be published in mid-August, together with an invitation to (even more) members of the public to come to the next meeting on

**Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 7.0 – 9.0 pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall**

A revised Neighbourhood Panel webpage is now available in the A-Z section of

the District Council's website [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk), including the local police Neighbourhood Profile (showing statistics for crime and anti-social behaviour in the area), the Minutes of the Panel and Action Group (7<sup>th</sup> July) meetings and you can receive more information directly from **Alan Williams**,

ECDC Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator

tel 01353 616349

email: [Alan.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Alan.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk)

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## **IT'S ALL ON AT OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE**

**29, St Mary's Street, Ely. CB7 4HF.**

**01353 662062**

**Every Saturday (subject to availability) at  
2.30 pm (1 hour) from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Guided tour of OCH with guide in costume.

Hear the story of how the Cromwells came to live in Ely and let the story of their stay come to life with our experienced guides. No booking necessary. Normal admission price applies. Tours operate on a first come, first served basis with a maximum of 25 per tour.

**Every Sunday (subject to availability) at 2.30 pm (1½ hr) from 4<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Guided walking tour around city. Learn about the history of this beautiful city with one of our guides. Meet outside Oliver Cromwell's House. £3.50 per person. No booking necessary. Tours operate on a first come, first served basis with a maximum of 25 per tour. Tickets available from Oliver Cromwell's House.

**City at Six – Every Wednesday throughout July and August, at 6 pm until 7.30 pm**

Guided walking tour around city. Learn about the history of this beautiful city with one of our guides. Meet outside Oliver Cromwell's House. £3.50 per person. Booking essential. Tickets available from Oliver Cromwell's House.

**Summer School Holidays - 30<sup>th</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> August**

Lions, crowns and helmets! What have you got on your coat?

Free craft activities for visitors to Oliver Cromwell's House. Discover the origins of the coat of arms, design your own and have a go at composing your own family tree! Oliver Cromwell will set you an example... Normal admission price applies.

**Summer School Holidays - 20<sup>th</sup> August to 2nd September**

Mrs Cromwell is feeling green : recipes from a fenland kitchen

Free craft activities for visitors to Oliver Cromwell's House. Eel pies and grand salads, discover some unusual ingredients with our memory game and add some colour to your own garden. Normal admission price applies.





## **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Lecture on the Life and Times of Cromwell, 7-9 pm**

Lecture on one of the most famous men in British History. Find out such things as how Cromwell came to live in Ely, why he did not take the title of king and why he banned Christmas.

£6.50 per person, booking is essential. Price includes a glass of wine and nibbles and tour of House.

## **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September – Commemorate Cromwell , 10-4 pm**

Ely turns back the clock to the 17<sup>th</sup> century to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Oliver Cromwell in 1658. Activities for all the family with the re-enactment of the English Civil War on Palace Green. Chance to participate in period dancing, discover food and cooking of the time and meet civil war soldiers. Encampment showing a variety of craft demonstrations such as cloth dying and candle making. Special appearance by Oliver Cromwell on horseback! Inside Oliver Cromwell's House, children will be able to listen to 17<sup>th</sup> Century stories from a master storyteller and discover medicine from a period Barber Surgeon. All events on Palace Green are free, normal admission price applies to Oliver Cromwell's House.

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## **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 [jun.thompson@tesco.net](mailto:jun.thompson@tesco.net), phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

| Offers   | Wants | Details:                       |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|
| Complete set of<br>Encyclopaedia Britannica<br>(23 vols + index)<br>Britannica Book of the<br>Year. Events of 1963 – 74<br>(12 vols) |       | Helen or Steve 01223<br>812683 |
| 3 Miele vacuum cleaner<br>bags, type MI 30 /H-0050   |       | Nicole 01223 812363            |
| 1 dark brown draylon arm<br>chair, with removable<br>cushions. Very<br>comfortable.<br>1 21 inch parchment<br>standard lampshade     |       | Teresa 01223 811517            |
| Meddings 6ft, freestanding, 3<br>-phase pillar drill (comes<br>with 1 phase motor)   |       | Andy 01223 813362              |

## Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Chairman John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public.

**Minutes of June Meeting:** These were agreed.

**Reports:** CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams  
ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson

### **Correspondence Received:**

#### **CCC**

Post Office Closures In Cambridgeshire – *short-term strategy for Post Offices in Cambridgeshire – July-December 2008.*

#### **ECDC**

East Cambridgeshire District Council – Performance Plan 2008.

"Chairman's Chat" – newsletter.

#### **General**

Ashwell Developments – *confirmation of contribution towards traffic calming on Mill Hill.*

School – *newsletters*

East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership – *questionnaire*

### **Discussion re Affordable Home Scheme for Village following**

**Presentation by Northern Affordable Homes:** Simon Drummond-Hay of Northern Affordable Homes left the Parish Council 4 questions for reply following his presentation at the June meeting – replies were agreed as follows:

*Is there a need for a small scheme of affordable housing?*

The simple reply here was 'Yes'.

*Who should a scheme be for (occupancy criteria)?*

People with Swaffham Prior links such as family or work.

*Is either site a suitable site? Is there a better site?*

There was considerable discussion about the two suggested sites; one at 'Deal Hole' and one on Lower End. The meeting was split on which site would be most suitable. For the second part of this question, it was suggested that a small development on the 'Dencora' field as previously put forward by Flagship Housing would be a better site for such a development if available.

*Would you want to be involved in village exhibition?*

It was agreed that the Parish Council could not favour one developer by being involved with such an exhibition but had no objection to NAH organising this on their own part.

There was discussion about the merits of a policy outlining what the Parish Council would consider suitable development for the Village. There were mixed views on this and it was agreed further consideration should be the topic of a separate meeting.

### **Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements:**

*Further discussion re Traffic Calming Measures for Mill Hill – successful bid 2008/09.* The draft proposals put forward by CCC Highways were agreed

but it was to be emphasised to CCC Highways that the final scheme should be open to enhancement at a future date particularly with the confirmation that Ashwell Developments will be contributing towards work.

*Confirmation of Application for 2009/10 Bid:* To follow on from the above, an application will be submitted for the continuation and enhancement of current proposed measures to give safe crossing of Mill Hill for pedestrians.

*Agreement to Parish Contribution for 2009/10:* As required with any successful bid, the contribution of £1/elector was agreed.

### **Summary of Neighbourhood Panel Meeting 1/7/08:**

Andrew Camps and Geoffrey Woollard reported on this meeting.

### **Ongoing Cemetery Maintenance:**

Some overhanging vegetation had been cut back. This is ongoing. It was suggested that perhaps a team from the Probation Service could help with the work.

### **Tidying of The Pound, Cage Hill:**

The Clerk reported that the above was badly in need of weeding and general tidying up. A working party was set up to carry out this work on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**Parish Plan:** It was agreed to 'shelve' this for the time being.

### **Planning Approval:**

South Lodge, 88 High Street.

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

### **Items for the Next Agenda:**

Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme

Update on Cemetery Maintenance Works

Final Review of Asset Register

The Lodes & The Fens

### **Open Question Time:**

Alastair Everitt confirmed that the work to secure the Village Hall oil tank was ongoing.

Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that a small gate had been installed in the back fence of the play area.

The Clerk confirmed that the installation of the barrier at The Beeches was complete.

The Clerk also confirmed that two correct road signs had been installed for Green Head Road.

*Should anyone require further information on any of the reported items above, please contact me.*

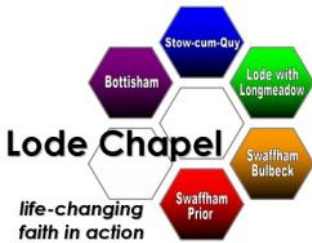
**There will not be a Parish Council meeting in August (unless called).**

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

*Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council*

Tel: 742358, Email [Karen.King@btopenworld.com](mailto:Karen.King@btopenworld.com)



## All Revved Up and Ready To Go?

This Summer, on Saturday 9th August, I'm being ordained. The formal training is over (although I still have plenty to learn!) and the Baptist Union are happy to recognise me as one of their accredited ministers. But it's going to be a bit strange having a 'Rev.' in front of my name... I don't know about you, but when I think about what it means to be a Reverend,

someone like David Lewis comes to mind. His wisdom and maturity, his calmness and serenity – these characteristics all seem to fit so well with the dog collar and the 'Rev.' label. But me...?

There are about a dozen or so young people of secondary school age at Lode Chapel who make up our 'TGI Friday' group (Thank God It's Friday). We recently purchased some hoodies with the group's logo on the front and a nickname on the back. I help at the group (it meets fortnightly on a Friday night as well as weekly on Sunday mornings) and, since watching the film 'Evan Almighty' together one week, I have become affectionately known as 'The Weirdo with the Beardo'. So guess what they got emblazoned on the back of mine!

The truth is that I'm much more comfortable wearing my TGI hoodie than wearing my dog collar – somehow I'm more at ease with what it says about me. The collar seems to point to conformity and tradition – but I feel like someone who doesn't quite fit the mould. You could say I'm a good Baptist as our heritage is about non-conformity, but like most types of church, even Baptists have developed their own traditions and particular ways of doing things. And I'm not so sure that I want to conform to them either!

Thankfully the Regional Minister (sort of the Baptist equivalent of a bishop) who will be ordaining me has agreed to use the phrase 'pioneer pastor' to describe the type of ministry that I am being called into. Leaders in all denominations are recognising that although the values and truths underlying the Christian faith do not change, the way we do church in the twenty-first century has to find fresh and relevant ways of communicating the gospel message. That's the thinking behind things like 'Sunday Club' and 'Re:new', and it's great to be able to work with Jonathan Dowman (the Anglican curate) in these and other 'pioneering' activities.

This Summer we're working together on the 'Waste Watchers' holiday club, and it is during the celebration event at the end of the week that I will be ordained. Along with the loud and lively children's songs there will be face painting, a bouncy castle and all sorts of fun not normally linked with an ordination. It is my intention that this formal start to my ministry will, in fact, have quite an informal and relaxed feel to it – indeed, I can't wait. I'm really looking forward to being 'all revved up and ready to go'!

*Simon Goddard*

### August Services:

Sunday 3rd: Joint Holiday Club Commissioning Service at Holy Trinity, Bottisham (11am)  
 Sunday 10th: Holiday Club Praise Party at Bottisham Primary School (10.30am)

Sundays 17th/24th: No Chapel Services  
Sunday 31st: Reflective Service led by Phil & Fleur Routley (10.30am)  
**Services from September:**  
Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Crèche & Sunday School...  
except Sunday 21st September, when the church family  
are going on a weekend away together,  
and the fourth Sunday of the month (28th September) when there is  
a 'Sunday Club' at Bottisham Primary School.

**For more information please contact:** Rev. Simon Goddard.  
1 Hall Farm Cottage, Lode Road, Bottisham, CB25 9DN.  
**Tel:** (01223) 812881  
**Email:** [simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk)

**Reverend  
Jonathan  
Dowman, curate  
of the Anglesey  
Benefice, after his  
ordination at Ely  
Cathedral on  
Saturday 28 June.**



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

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



## Church of England Services

### August 2008

|                   | <b>ST MARY'S<br/>Swaffham Prior</b> | <b>ST MARY'S<br/>Swaffham Bulbeck</b> | <b>Bottisham</b>  |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sun<br/>3</b>  | <b>11:00am</b><br>Family Communion  | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion       | <b>8:00am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><b>11:00am</b><br>Family Service |
| <b>Sun<br/>10</b> | <b>11:00am</b><br>Holy Communion    | <b>9:30am</b><br>Holy Communion       | <b>11:00am</b><br>Holy Communion                                    |
| <b>Sun<br/>17</b> | <b>8:00am</b><br>Holy Communion     | <b>11.00am</b><br>Benfice Communion   |   |
| <b>Sun<br/>24</b> | <b>11:00am</b><br>Matins            | <b>9:30am</b><br>Morning Prayer       | <b>11:00am</b><br>Family Communion                                  |
| <b>Sun<br/>31</b> | <b>6:30am</b><br>Evensong BCP       |                                       |   |

#### PASTORAL LETTER, August 2008

#### Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

On the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> August we have the privilege of receiving a visit to the Anglesey Group of Parishes from Bishop Hilkiah Omino the Bishop of Mara in Tanzania. The Bishop is coming over to England for the Lambeth Conference and wants to visit us to thank us for our support of his Diocese in 2007.

In 2007 we organised a special appeal for his diocese to help fund the purchase of bicycles for some of the clergy there. We managed to raise a total of £1500 for the project, which enabled us to buy 20 bicycles for the clergy.

The Diocese of Mara was created in 1985. It covers the administrative region of Mara in Tanzania, which stretches from Lake Victoria in the West to the Serengeti National Park in the East, and from the Tarime highlands

bordering Kenya in the North, to Mwanza region in the south. Mara Region has a population of 1.4 million and includes the four districts of Tarime, Musoma, Bunda and Serengeti.

*The central office of the diocese is in Musoma where the new Cathedral was opened in 2000, and the new offices officially opened by the Archbishop of Tanzania in April 2003.*

*The first Bishop of Mara was Bishop Gershom Nyaronga, and in 1994 Bishop Hilkieh Omindo was chosen for this position and continues to this day. The Diocese now has 4 archdeaconries, 22 deaneries and 68 parishes with more than 200 churches. There are approximately 60,000 baptised Anglicans in the Diocese.*

*The diocese is committed to holistic mission, and this mission is delivered through several departments. Some of its main activities include an AIDS awareness programme, working with disabled people and helping farmers of fruit and vegetables improve the quality of their production and find new markets, especially in Serengeti National Park tourist hotels.*

Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries. It has few exportable minerals and a primitive agricultural system. As of 2006, the estimated population was 38,329,000, with an estimated growth rate of 2%. Tanzania has more than 126 tribes and each ethnic group has its own language. No language is official, but Swahili is the de-facto official national language, used for inter-ethnic communication and for official matters.

The Diocese of Mara includes the Serengeti National Park, one of the world's most famous game sanctuaries. This park occupies a vast area of grasslands and woodlands and is home to thousands of wild animals. It has also been declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. It attracts close to 150,000 tourists every year. The sanctuary is home to more than a million wildebeest, 200,000 zebras and 300,000 Thomson's gazelles.

Road conditions Mara are extremely rough. Clergy have very large rural parishes to cover, and bicycles have proven to be a practical and reliable way of enabling them to get about their parishes.

The Bishop's visit will, I am sure, offer a fascinating insight into a way of life very different from that of our own. It will also enable us to see the way that the Christian Church in that country is seeking to meet the needs of its people and share the love of God with them.

The Bishop will be speaking to us at a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August at Quy Village hall (tickets £7 from the Vicar) and at a special service for the Anglesey Group of Parishes in St. Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 11am, followed by a Barbecue (tickets £5 from Swaffham Bulbeck Church). You are very welcome to join us.

May God bless you all,

*David*

## ***Dates for Your Diary September 2008***

|      |    |  |
|------|----|--|
| Tue  | 9  | Mobile Library, 13.15-3.50, Cage Hill, 3.55-4.15 Chapel              |
| Wed  | 10 |  |
| Thu  | 11 | PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm   |
| Fri  | 12 |  |
| Sat  | 13 | Harvest Show, 3pm, VH  |
| Thu  | 18 | Bell Ringing, 4-5pm, St Cyriacs<br><b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b> |
| Fri  | 19 |  |
| Sat  | 20 | 7-11pm, Ceilidh, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck                      |
| Tues | 23 | Mobile Library, 13.15-3.50, Cage Hill, 3.55-4.15 Chapel              |
| Wed  | 24 |  |
|      | 25 |  |
| Fri  | 26 | Macmillan Coff4ee Morning, 10.30-12, The Oaks, Mano Farm Court       |
| Oct  | 4  | Harvest Supper, VH, 6pm  |

| <b>Club</b>                | <b>Contact</b>           | <b>Tel.</b>   | <b>Date</b>                         | <b>Time</b>         | <b>Place</b>          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>FOSPS</b>               | <b>Clare Freeman</b>     | <b>741316</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term</b>   | <b>8pm</b>          | <b>Village School</b> |
| <b>Baby &amp; Toddlers</b> | <b>Nicki Webb</b>        | <b>605705</b> | <b>Fri</b>                          | <b>9:30-11:30am</b> | <b>Village Hall</b>   |
| <b>Jamsing</b>             | <b>Jo Pumfrey</b>        | <b>741376</b> | <b>Tues (term)</b>                  | <b>9.20-12</b>      | <b>Village Hall</b>   |
| <b>Cubs</b>                | <b>Andrew Noyes</b>      | <b>743864</b> | <b>Weds (term)</b>                  | <b>6:00-7:30pm</b>  | <b>Village School</b> |
| <b>Reading Group</b>       | <b>Brenda Wilson</b>     | <b>743937</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Weds of month</b> | <b>8:00pm</b>       | <b>(See Crier)</b>    |
| <b>Scouts</b>              | <b>Andrew Noyes</b>      | <b>743864</b> | <b>Weds (term)</b>                  | <b>7:45-9:15pm</b>  | <b>Village School</b> |
| <b>Village Gardeners</b>   | <b>Margaret Joyce</b>    | <b>744390</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of month</b> | <b>8:00pm</b>       | <b>Village Hall</b>   |
| <b>WI</b>                  | <b>Margaret Phillips</b> | <b>741495</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of month</b>  | <b>7.30 pm</b>      | <b>Village Hall</b>   |
| <b>Youth Club</b>          | <b>Alan Badcock</b>      | <b>742228</b> | <b>Tues</b>                         | <b>7-8:30pm</b>     | <b>Youth Club Hut</b> |
|                            |                          |               | <b>Thurs</b>                        | <b>7-10:00pm</b>    |                       |

## ***Village Clubs & Societies***