The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXII Number 12 December 2008

Editorial

VOTE VOTE VOTE for Prospects Trust! They're on television on Thursday, November 27th, can the *Crier* make it in time? Meanwhile, it's Christmas again—apologies for our *sexist* cover!—and time for our eagerly awaited *Best of Christmas* FREE DVD, an excerpt:

"On Summer's Day, the Council said,
We'll drop a Bombshell on your head,
Your buses in and out of town,
Well, we've decided we'll cut them down,
But NEWS, NEWS!
Would you believe it, it's true
THEY JUST WENT
And changed their minds!

On Autumn's Day, the Village Hall said
We'll drop a Bombshell on your head,
The Children's Club's got too much stuff,
And we've decided enough's enough
But NEWS, NEWS!
Would you believe it, it's true
THEY JUST WENT
And changed their minds!

On Christmas Day, the *Crier* said,
That's enough Bombshells this year. Ed.
We'll put up our feet and take a cup,
Sit by the fire and drink it up.
NEWS, NEWS!
Bringing you all of the news,
AND SEASONS BEST
From all of the Team!"

Rodger Connan, Mike Phillips, Ruth Stinton, Caroline & James Matheson Kittens

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Cover Picture: Christmas— A Time to Relax Again



Letters to the Editors



Hurrah, hurrah for the buses....

As many people in the parish will know by now, the threat to the 10/10A evening and Sunday bus services has been removed, at least for the short term.

Our understanding is that Cambridgeshire County Council will continue to subsidise those services which Stagecoach regard as uneconomic. But their support for the Sunday services will be reviewed next July.

This announcement was greeted with a great sense of relief by the many users and their families along the route. A lot of people wrote letters, sent e-mails, signed petitions and lobbied influential bodies and/or individuals to gain the favourable decision made by Cambridgeshire County Council. To those individuals, we owe our thanks. We also recognise the help of and wish to thank our Parish Council, our District Councillor Allen Alderson for his hard work, our County Councillor Hazel Williams for her great effort and encouragement and our MP James Paice for his support. We understand that all the representations to the C.C.C. Passenger Transport Communication Team helped win the day for the 10/10A services when pleas for services on other routes were less successful or failed.

For villages which have lost services we feel sorry. But be aware, we must justify a need for our services. This means using them or we may well lose first the Sunday services and who knows what after that.

Michael Limb

The **Crier** will be doing it's bit!. Bus timetables delivered to all in next month's issue! Eds



HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING

AFTER the disappointment last year both Prior and Bulbeck are pawing the ground to get at each other in the annual great inter-village challenge match.

Bulbeck has signed the brilliant David Towriss as its new manager. Pah!, let's see how this youngster gets on. I hear he reckons he's already picked the winning team.

Meanwhile I am starting to put together the Prior team. If you are new to the village and want to show off your hockey skills phone me on 742974. And if you feel you've been overlooked please do likewise.

As usual the match will take place on Boxing Day, on the lovely Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck, at 11.00am.

There will be a collection for Magpas, and there may even be some mulled wine, so bring some money as well as yourself.

Come and Support your local team!

Alastair Everitt

CAROLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Wednesday 17th DECEMBER AT 7.00PM



Enjoy Mulled Wine with a few mince pies while you sing TO TO ANDREW NOYES AND HIS QUITE REMARKABLE BAND and with The Incomparable HII ARY SAGE



Having moved from Anglesey House we will not be cutting and selling Holly this year.

Even if we had remained at Anglesey House we would not have continued with the Holly. Increasingly it is going out of fashion. Last year we had to work very hard to shift our harvest. We phoned, we waved down passing cars, and accosted innocent visitors to the village.

This year, with the permission of the Vicar, people are welcome to cut their own holly at £2.50 a bunch. Please place the money in the donation box within St. Mary's Church.

If any of our favoured customers from the past are really unable to manage the physical cutting, please phone us on 742974 and we will cut and deliver.

Elisabeth Everitt

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

He wasn't there.

Read in this *Crier* Karen King's "Notes" on the meeting for the important decisions. But for an excellent full account read her Minutes which are posted on the Village Notice Board in due course.

Alastair Everitt

Eds Note: Apologies from us! Alastair asked for a volunteer reporter for this meeting last month, but his article was accidentally curtailed in the setting of the magazine, as too the Harvest Supper Report. "Proceeds will go to the Diocese of"! This should have continued: "MARA in Tanzania to support their food security project. Mandy Kingsmill, Jo Pumfrey, Ann Zeid and Dee Noyes"

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

On

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st at 4.00pm

'n

St Mary's Church Swaffham Prior



Hear the Christmas story
Sing the traditional Carols
The Service will be candlelit, and the School Choir will be
leading the Carols

Swaffham Prior Christmas Market

big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this such a success stall holders, helpers, refreshment ladies, those who baked, moved tables, washed up, cleared up and of course all those who came and spent their money. As a result of everyone's hard work we were able to hand over £832 to St Mary's Church Funds. A brilliant effort and well done to you all.

Pat Cook

COFFEEMORNING

10.30 - 12.00 Noon

Wednesday 14th January 2009



KENT HOUSE 9 High Street, Swaffham Prior



Free Chat Bring & Buy **Produce Stall** Raffle



All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

en years ago the Village Hall re-opened after its major refurbishment and extension. At our last Committee meeting in April 2008 it was decided not to have any ten year celebration but to treat it all as done and dusted.

In the event something better occurred. This was the setting up of the After School Group which started in September. As many in the village know there were many teething problems some of which appeared to be insoluble. The scheme's future was to be debated at the November Village Hall Meeting. Inevitably there was a lot of Jaw-Jaw and the affairs of the Village Hall hit the top of the gossip columns. "I could tell you a thing or two about him (or her) – AND I WILL." Our Editor thought it was all a clever wheeze to raise interest in the Village Hall and its need for new volunteers.

As many people already know it was openly and frankly discussed at the last Village Hall meeting, the problems were identified, there was increased understanding and some solutions offered. With more than 350 events/happenings taking place in the Village Hall just from January to October this year it was almost inevitable that there would be, and may still be, congestion and difficulties requiring the greatest co-operation. The important thing is that the After School Group is here to stay and it joins Jamsing and Mothers and Toddlers as another important local asset for parents and children.

But that is not the main reason for this Village Hall News.

As mentioned in a previous *Crier* I will not be standing again as Chairman. Neither will Elisabeth Everitt as assistant Treasurer or Barbara Dennis as Bookings Clerk. So volunteers are required for these and other positions.

Barbara Dennis has just moved to Reach and anyone who has hired the Village Hall knows just how considerate and helpful Barbara has always been. As an interim measure all future enquires will be made to, and keys collected from, Elisabeth Everitt at 5 Lower End (742974).

At the last meeting I was asked to make one point absolutely clear in the *Crier*. This is that UNLESS VOLUNTEERS COME FORWARD it will be proposed at our next meeting in February that NO MORE NEW BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Without a satisfactory organisation in place to take over at the end of April it would be irresponsible to accept any booking which cannot be properly serviced. Of course the Committee will have to approve the proposal.

That is the worst case scenario. **The Good News** is that three of the younger generation have already agreed to become officers in some shape or form. These are



Catherine Wrench, Nathan Wrench and Brett Scrivener. More are needed so please think it over and please contact me or any of the three above – and you do not have to be a youngster to qualify.

Alastair Everitt

Cantilena Singers

A traditional Christmas concert.

Sat 6th December 2008, 7:30pm, All Saints Church Worlington

Director Daniel Spreadbury Programme to include:

- 12 Days of Christmas
 - The Gift
- The Yorkshire Wassail
- Ding Dong Merrily on High
 - O Magnum Mysterium
 - Cannon for 3 Choirs
 - In dulce Jubilo Coventry Carol

Tickets on the door; proceeds to church and charity

Contact: R. Braun 01223 812115; email simon.andrews@bbsrc.ac.uk; web www.cantilena.info

MISSING CAT

He is white with dark grey/black tabby markings and his name is "PUSSCAT". He went missing Thursday evening 6th November and lives in the village at Carters Cottage 19 High Street.

We would be very grateful if you could check your shed and outbuildings.

If you have seen him in the last few days please telephone Yvonne or lan 01638 741183.



Advent by Candlelight 2008

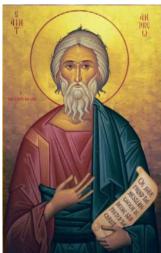
St Mary's and St Cyriac's
4.00pm, Advent Sunday, November 30th (St Andrew's Day).
Admission by programme at the door, £6 per person.
All profits go towards the work of the locally-based charity

Emmaus.



ne of the most popular events regularly staged in Swaffham Prior, and the only one to incorporate both of its neighbouring historic churches, is the annual concert of music and readings that celebrates the season of Advent, the harbinger of Christmas.

As always, the readings will be presented by residents of Swaffham Prior and those living nearby, whilst the choral music will, as ever, provided by the dynamic *Cambridge Voices*, one of this country's finest chamber-choirs, directed by their ever -flamboyant conductor and founder, Ian de Massini. As well as readings of prose and poetry interleaved with a host of varied choral items, the concert always includes audience participation within the seasonal advent hymns, including the great *O come, O come, Emmanuel*. Over its many years of existence, this unique event has formed itself into an organic entity that satisfyingly straddles the division between the sacred and secular, whereby the profound Christian poetry of former Swaffham Prior resident Edwin Muir can lie comfortably side-by-side with the wordly wit of Noel Coward and Oscar Wilde.



This year's concert will mark the feastday of St Andrew and also the 90th anniversary of the Great Armistice.

Complementary music spanning 1,000 years, from the plainsong of Abbess Hildegard to the polychoral complexities of Sir John Tavener, come to life in the venerable vaults of both St Mary's Church (perfect for fast-paced items) and of St Cyriac and St Julitta's (which, with its cathedral-like acoustics, is perfect for great canvases of sound surrounding the whole audience). The climax of the event is undoubtedly the giving of the Advent Blessing followed by the collective singing of Lo, he comes with clouds with descending for full organ, choir descent and audience. The joyous effect is utterly spine-tingling and sends one away with a suitable spring in one's step back down to St Mary's church for mulled wine and mince pies, the perfect community gathering that brings this great event to a close.

This year's event will include two distinct themes. The first, to be marked in St Mary's church at the beginning of the concert, is St Andrew, patron-saint of Scotland, whose feastday falls on November 30th, the very day

that we are holding this year's *Advent by Candlelight*. To mark this occasion, Ian de Massini has specially composed a dazzling, show-stopping arrangement of one of Scotland's most well-known folk-hymns, *Amazing Grace*. Also, the concert will begin with another beautiful Scottish ballad, *Oh my love is like a red, red rose*, with words by the Scottish bard Rabbie Burns and arranged especially for *Cambridge Voices* by their director. There'll also be dedicatory motets to St Andrew from two of the greatest Renaissance composers, Palestrina and Victoria.

The other theme, this year, will be the 90th anniversary of the Great Armistice that brought the awful ravages of World War I to a close. To mark this, the final choral item, to be sung in the darkness

To mark this occasion, lan de Massini has specially composed a dazzling, showstopping arrangement of one of Scotland's most well-known folk-hymns, *Amazing Grace*.

and growing cold of St Cyriac's church, will be De Massini's haunting musical reenactment of the Christmas Truce during W.W.I - We will remember them - and will include poems and songs composed during that war, including the now-famous poem about the Poppies of Flanders that has forever coloured our Acts of Remembrance each year.

The central portion of our *Advent by Candlelight* will of course examine the religious heart of the season of Advent. For this, *Cambridge Voices* will provide us with a great variety of music, from the exuberance of Zelenka (contemporary of Bach) to the unbelievable eccentricity of double-murderer Gesualdo, alongside the transcendent beauty of Josquin and the magnificence of double-choir, 10-voice brilliance from St Mark's, Venice with music by Gabrieli. As always, the choir have commissioned a new work for *Advent by Candlelight* and this year it will be De Massini's elaboration of Mozart's only piece for double-choir, *Venite populi*. De Massini has re-worked the piece so that an accompanying orchestra is no longer required, which is just as well as St Cyriac's Church is usually filled to capacity for our annual *Advent by Candlelight!*

If you are new to the village, or have never been to this event in the past, why not make this your first time?! The atmosphere is unique, and no religious affiliation is needed: the variety of music and word will feed your hear and mind for weeks after! As ever, we like to charge for the programme (£6) which gives one person admission to the concert and, once the minimal expenses are paid (hire charge of the two churches, material costs for the mulled wine and concert programmes, candles: note that the choir and readers offer their services for free), all profits go then directly to the locally-based charity, *Emmaus*, a very well-run institution based in Landbeach and who organise work and shelter, and a step back into the harsh reality of life, for those who have run into difficult circumstances. I hope to see you there! P.S. Don't forget to bring a coat!

Ian de Massini

Director of Cambridge Voices and resident of Reach

Your December *Crier* will do well to arrive in time for this November Television Programme, but just in case...



Please Help Make Our Dream Come True! The Prospects Trust has been selected to appear on The People's Millions

The Prospects Trust has been short listed to appear on The People's Millions on ITV on Thursday 27th November as part of the regional evening news programme.

They are appealing to the public to vote for them so that they can buy a new tractor. This will provide new opportunities for people with learning difficulties and help the farm become more sustainable.

The staff at the Prospects Trust say:

"Many people with learning difficulties do not get the opportunity to learn to drive. If the Prospects Trust wins the People's Millions we would be able to buy a new John Deere Tractor. The tractor has a specially designed control panel in the cab to enable us to teach people with learning difficulties how to drive it."

The co-workers (adults with learning difficulties) who work at the farm are very excited about the prospect of a new tractor:

Anna says, "I would really like to learn to drive a tractor."

Michael says, "If we get a new tractor we can grow more and that would be good for everyone."

Kevin works at the Prospects Trust 4 days a week. He asks everyone to vote for us. "Everyone should vote for us, because if we got a tractor then I could learn to drive it and it would be my dream come true."

The Prospects Trust has been running for 20 years now as an organic market garden, providing training and work experience opportunities for people with learning difficulties in horticulture skills. The farm covers 18 acres of land and grows a wide range of organic vegetables and herbs, both in the field and in polytunnels. These are supplied locally to restaurants, shops and organic box schemes. Having a new tractor would also enable the land to be farmed more efficiently, helping the farm to become more sustainable and provide a better range of vegetables to local outlets

Please help us all make our dream come true by voting for us

The programme will appear on ITV on
Thursday 27th November
You can vote for The Prospects Trust on that day
Lines will be open 9am – 12 midnight
The phone number will be in the Daily Mirror and on
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/peoplesmillions

Dates For Your 2009 Diary

I understand some people like to have these dates before starting to plan their holidays to make sure they are here either to support or participate in the events. Without such people village life and the community spirit would disappear, they give so much in so many ways.

A wide range of events have been planned, hopefully to suit various ages and interests. Details of individual events will be advertised nearer each date, in the Crier and posters on the telegraph poles throughout the village

			2
January	14t ^h	Coffee Morning	Kent House 9 High Street
February	28^{th}	Quiz Night	Village Hall
March	14^{th}	Jumble sale	Village Hall
March	28^{th}	Coup de Grass	Village Hall
May	4^{th}	Reach Fair	Reach
May	17^{th}	Rogation Sunday	Adventurer's Farm
June	6 th	Garage Sales	Village
July	12^{th}	Strawberry Teas	Commissoner's Farm
September	19 th	Moveable Feast	Village
October	17^{th}	Harvest Supper	Village Hall
November	14^{th}	Quiz Night	Village Hall

Kate Child



Kittens

Good home required for kittens. Tel: Elaine Malster, 01638 743891





WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE RURAL BUS SERVICES

Some bus routes which were ear marked for substantial changes or to be withdrawn have been saved or partially saved following consultation between the County Council, bus users and bus operators.

The new revised services which will come into operation in January, will mean that passengers will still be able to travel home late into the evenings from Cambridge to Newmarket, go to work throughout the week from Fen Ditton and be able to travel to Ely on market days.

The consultation brought in over 200 responses from the public and three petitions which formed the basis of discussions with the bus operators as the Council worked to save as many routes as possible.

In particular, Stagecoach have decided to run some journeys on service 10 on a non subsidised basis. The 18:30 and 19:00 journeys from Cambridge were identified through the consultation as being key journeys and Stagecoach have responded positively by agreeing to continue running these journeys. They will also continue to run the Sunday services and have revised their evening network to accommodate the journeys threatened with withdrawal.

Councillor Matt Bradney, Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure, said: "When we started this process I did not think we could save the number of routes we have. This has been a very difficult task to try and provide as many routes as possible while also making the financial savings which we have needed to make. This process has been helped enormously by the feedback we have received from the public and the co-operation we have had from the bus companies. I would like to personally thank them for this.

"We have managed to ensure that no village has been left without a service and the vast majority of routes which people were concerned about have been saved in one form or another. For example, the evening routes on the 10/10A service have been saved as has the 115-117 service. This forms part of our commitment to support local communities and help them access the services beyond their towns and villages.

"The key now is for the public to support the services which have had a history of low passenger numbers. Travelling by bus is far greener and cost efficient than it has ever been and we should all give it a try to see how it has been improved. I am sure we will have difficult choices in the years ahead but I assure residents that we will think very carefully about future cuts, especially to those services which are shown to be the most popular or most important to the welfare of the local community."

See Over for the List of Changes

The results of t discussions mean:

10/10A	Route Saved			
Cambridge –	The 18:30 and 19:00 journeys from Cambridge will be retained			
Burwell –	as will Sunday journeys, although the latter will be subject to			
Newmarket	review in July 2009. In the evenings Stagecoach have combined			
	journeys between Cambridge and Newmarket so instead of four			
	journeys (two direct and two via the villages) there will now only			
	be the two journeys via the villages.			
196	Monday-Friday Services retained			
Waterbeach	Saturday journeys will be The Complete Bus			
Fen Ditton	withdrawn Story from the			
Cambridge				
X14	Withdrawn			
Huntingdon	There are alternative services			
Cambridge	available			
Science Park				
436	Partially Saved			
Somersham	Stagecoach will retain the journey in from Somersham, Colne,			
Huntingdon	Earith, Bluntisham and Needingworth to St Ives. A connection is			
	then possible to Huntingdon.			
2 Cambridge –	Off-peak journeys withdrawn			
Hardwick –	Peak time journeys continue to be operated on a commercial			
Caldecote	basis.			
115 – 117	Route Saved			
Gold Hill	There will be no changes to services as this would have left			
Corner/ Wardy	villages without any bus services			
Hill/ Upware –				
Ely				
WHF Wisbech	17:20 from Wisbech Withdrawn			
Holbeach	Other journeys will continue to be operated on a commercial			
Drove	basis.			

213 Ely – Bury St Edmunds	Withdrawn There are services available to alternative destinations
46 and 47	Partially Saved
Ashley -	This will be reduced to one peak time bus and an off-peak
Dullingham -	shopping journey on a Tuesday after suggestions proposed
Newmarket	through the consultation.

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing



Offers	Wants	Details
Wooden garden seat - could use some TLC, about 4'6" long. 3 large pallets and random lengths of wood, ideal for wood burner.		Chrissie 812970
Jungle bowling (6 soft jungle animal skittles with a soft jingly ball) – Almost new, comes with packaging)		Jun, 01223 813362
Gold fish and pond snails - approx 30 fish up 6 inch in size in perfect health. Lots of pond snails varying sizes. Happy to let them go in batches. Garden pond being dismantled! Pond pump and outdoor connector - Hozelock Easy Clear with sponges and instructions		Meleena 01223 813775
	Refridgerator, working order, doesn't have to be pretty.	Sheila. 07711992223 Or sheila.coxall49@bti nternet.com

Crossword Number 58

Compiled by **OUNCE**

Sponsored by The Red Lion

You have extra time to solve this month's crossword as we do not publish a crossword (or crossword solution) in January. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 2009. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal at the Red Lion—See the manager at the pub for full details.

	1	2	3			4		5	6	7	
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10			11								
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Name:	41
Address	
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Across

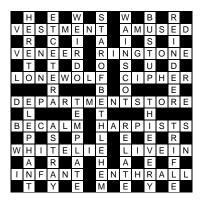
- **8** Provincial VIP leaves in chaos to get medieval instrument (7)
- **9** Mischance scatters grease-monkeys (9)
- 10 Small cat's cry for small water-bird? (4)
- 11 Chaos soundly sorted for weekend with group of fish (6,6)
- 12 Herb for girl and two boys? (10)
- **13** Oriental Tzar's cook? Poor imitation (6)
- **15** Bermuda wit warps silent servitor? Or small lift (10)
- 17 Initially I declined inviting Oliver Cross. Yes, stupidity! (6)
- **18** Sausage discovered during rehearsal, amid decorations (6)
- **20** Scream, "Zero gravity!" wildly since study extremely cold? (10)
- **22** Group of kittens start fire (6)
- 23 Wire service? "Yes, Gwen can translate" (10)
- **24** Intoxicating agent in lethal concoction with hard company ring (5,7)
- **26** Greeting we hear from succulent Vera (4)
- 27 One thousand five hundred leave when intimidated badly by nutritionist (9)
- **28** Made a long and difficult journey, then chased king and knight up into chestnut, for example (7)

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

Down

- 1 Flaming torch! Loud young sheep needs french water for it (8)
- **2** Barnard wig do is crooked. Back to this (7-5)
- **3** Private sector navy scrambled in blue shindig (12, 5)
- **4** Ugly armlet made by studying copper for example (10)
- 5 Wry Phil mixes ginger ales in St Paul's (10-7)
- **6** Move slowly hiding when chamberlain challenges (4)
- 7 Ray abandons aristocracy. What a puzzle (8)
- 14 Cocker spaniels run round technology centres when long lead and ring are lost (7,5)
- **16** Canine itch working at 14D (10)
- 19 Man, perversely, it's a liar! (8)
- 21 Enclosed Edward follows Ms Chanel embracing love (8)
- 25 Legendary snowman concealed by Admirality etiquette? (4)

Solution to crossword no. 57



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College. We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.



Dates for 2009: 10th January, 14th February, 7th March, 28th March and 9th May Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

£5 per person including interval tea/coffee You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159

Christmas Services CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A celebration of the Christmas story in words and carols on SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

St. James Church, Lode	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Quy	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior:	4.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham:	6.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	6.30pm
	_



CHRISTINGLE

Join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ, the light of the world, whose love shines in the darkest depths. Each child is given a traditional Christingle.

Sunday 7th December

St. Mary's Church, Quy	11.00am
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior	11.00am
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham	4.00pm
Sunday 14 th December	

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck 11.30am
(Christingle Workshop in the Primary School from



10am) CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

A celebration of Christmas in words and Carols for all the Family

on Christmas Eve	
St. Mary's Church, Quy	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior	3.00pm
St. James' Church, Lode	4.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham	4.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	4.00pm



School News

This half term we have been thinking a lot about helping other people in our local community and further afield. The children and their families have done a marvellous job making Christmas Shoeboxes full of toys and clothes for children in less fortunate circumstances. Also, the School Council arranged a fantastic day of fund-raising for Children in Need this



year. They organised an art competition, a dress your teddy up competition and a fun run at lunchtime. Overall the children managed to raise £90.79.

On Monday 17th November we held our annual Anti-bullying event. The children came to school wearing blue clothes, as this colour represents the Anti-bullying movement, and took part in a whole day full of activities which promoted the Anti-Bullying message. We work very hard in school to reinforce the 'Staying Safe' ethos and the younger children were making blue handprints out of paint to help them remember 5 people they could ask for help if they were feeling unsafe. Each child is a member of a mixed aged 'Learning Circle' in school. These meet once a month to discuss issues about school. On Anti-Bullying Day the discussion was all about including people who are different and may get left out. The children came up with lots of ideas which are displayed in our hall. The day was great fun, but also reinforced a very important message.

We are starting to think about our Christmas Performance in school. As you may be aware, we like to do something different each year. Over the past three years we have done a Pantomime, a play of the Snow Queen and a traditional nativity. This year we are working with Jo Buffery from Cambridge Community Arts and we will be putting together an arts performance involving the whole school. We are not quite sure what this is going to look like yet as the children will be developing the main idea during our special Christmas Performance working days in early December.

We will be holding our annual Christmas church service on 19th December at 11am. We would love to be joined by members of the community, so come along if you can.

May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS 2009 DEADLINE REMINDER

We are now accepting applications for Reception places for September 2009.

If you would like an admissions form or to have a visit to our school please contact us on 01638 741529 or just pop in.

Applications need to be in by 5th December.

Emma Vincent Head Teacher



WI Notes

The Speaker at the November meeting was Mrs Paula Dolan who entertained us with amusing stories and her own poems relating to her holidays - from childhood to more recent events. In December members will enjoy a Christmas extravaganza organised by the committee and including a christmas meal, wine and entertainment, a competition, prizes and a free raffle. This

will take place on 8th December 7:15 for 7:30pm.

On January 19th we shall look forward to welcoming John Norris who is going to talk to us about old Swaffham Prior. Partners and friends are welcome to this open meeting (cost for non-members is £3)

If you are interested in joining our friendly group - give me a ring on 01638 742224.

Pat Cook

BURWELL SURGERY NEWSLETTER IMPORTANT CHANGES REGARDING REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

In line with good practice procedures as recommended by the Health Authority and adopted by all other surgeries in the area, we will not accept repeat prescriptions via the telephone as from 5th January 2009.

I appreciate those of you who use this method to order your prescriptions will find it strange to begin with, however, there are other ways to order your prescription. You will need to keep your repeat list and tick the boxes of the items you need. This list can be:

Posted to the surgery.

Hand delivered to the surgery and put in the red box in reception or in the outside post box if we are closed.

For those of you who have access to a fax machine, the list can be faxed at any time on 01638 743948.

Requests can also be ordered via the internet. Please see reception if you wish to register for this service.

Also, Lloyds Pharmacy in Burwell will order your prescription on your behalf. Please ask Lloyds for more information on their "Express Repeat Prescription Service".

Please remember we will still need 48 hours (2 working days) to process your prescription so you will need to allow extra time when posting your request. If anyone has genuine difficulties with this, please let me know and I will be happy to discuss the issues with you.

CHRISTMAS: The surgery will be closed at 6 pm on Wednesday 24th December and reopen at 8.30 am on Monday 29th December. If you need a doctor during the Christmas holidays please telephone 01638 741234 and your call will be diverted to Take Care Now which was formerly Suff Doc.

Aileen Allen

Practice Manager

Neighbourhood Panels – a growing reputation

The next South area Neighbourhood Panel meeting is due to take place at the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell on Tuesday, 6th January, 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

The meetings are participative and it would be good, particularly if you have issues which concern you about your locality, for you to come and have your say. From our experience to date, action will be taken to address the issue(s)!

900 people have attended Neighbourhood Panels in the 5 Panel areas within East Cambridgeshire during 2008. Audience feedback from the meetings indicates that the meetings are dealing with the issues which are important to each Neighbourhood Panel area.

The feedback (from 149 Audience and 85 Panel members) also indicates that the panels serve a worthwhile function in providing a forum for discussion of issues, with every expectation that effective action will be taken, although it has often been too soon to assess whether a positive impact has been widely-perceived in localities. Very few people who have attended a panel meeting have left with a negative perception, in fact almost everyone has been highly positive!

At the meeting on 6th January, feedback will be provided on the action taken on *all* of the issues of concern identified at the last meeting (on 7th October) including the priority issues of combating Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Burwell, combating burglary in the area, fly-tipping in specific areas (including the Fen at Swaffham Prior) and a review of speed limit zones in several villages.

The Parish Council have given their backing to involvement in the Speedwatch scheme to further address the issue of speeding. Volunteers from the Swaffhams are needed, with a view to their training taking place in late January.

A Newsletter summarising the outcomes from the last Panel meeting (in October) will be published by mid-December. If you have previously attended a Panel meeting, a copy of the Newsletter will be sent to you. If you haven't yet attended a meeting and you would like a copy of the October-January Newsletter, then please contact Alan Williams (The Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator).

A revised Neighbourhood Panel webpage is now available in the A-Z section of the District Council's website 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 (October 7th) and Action Group (October 13th) meetings and you can receive more information directly from Alan Williams,

Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator, ECDC, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4PL,

tel: 01353 616349

Alan.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk



From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

10 and 10A Buses

I am sure we will all be pleased on the positive outcome of the consultation process on the proposed bus times cuts. Services to be retained are:

Mon-Sat: The 18:30, 19:00, 21:00 and 23:00 from Cambridge.

Mon-Sat: The 18:30 Ely to Cambridge will replace the 18:52 Newmarket to Cambridge.

The present Sunday services will also be preserved.

This is excellent news and illustrates what can be achieved when local councillors, Parish Councils, the District Council and the Neighbourhood Panels work together on behalf of their communities.

Cambridgeshire Together

On November 10th, I attended a meeting at the Grange of Cambridgeshire Together. It examined the role of Parish, Town and City Councils in Cambridgeshire and Local Strategic Partnerships.

Presentations were given by Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambs District council, the National Association of Local Councils, Cambridgeshire ACRA, and Alan Williams for the Neighbourhood Panels.

The partnerships are working together to improve the quality of life of those who live, learn, work and travel in Cambridgeshire with priorities of:

Managing Growth, Creating Economic Prosperity, Environmental Sustainability, and Safer and Stronger Communities.

I felt that the evening highlighted many ways in which these polices could benefit a rural community like the Swaffhams.

The Wicken Fen Vision

East Cambs District Council's Strategic Development Committee received a presentation on the Wicken Vision from the National Trust at its meeting on November 11th. Although there are advantages to the Wicken Vision, it has become increasingly apparent that there is significant local concern in the area envisaged for the vision. ECDC has a duty to consider that concern on behalf of local people.

The committee passed the following recommendation: "It reserves this council's support for the development of the Wicken Fen Vision subject to further detailed consultation of interested parties, including local residents, the farming community and countryside user groups. And continuing community engagement and involvement in shaping this vision, together with any detailed comments that councillors make in the context of the outcome of the recent consultation by the National Trust."



Ely Markets Gain National Recognition

Ely market has been declared one of the most environmentally friendly markets in the UK by a national body.

Ely came runner-up in the Southern region section of the National Markets Traders Federation "How Green in Your Market" competition.

Ely market was recognised for recycling a huge 70% of its waste, having a large mixture of stalls including many organic and local sellers as well as promoting demonstrations of traditional crafts.

I feel this is a justifiable recognition of what is a popular market.

This December there will be a special Christmas Market on Tuesday 23rd December combining the Farmers and General Market from 8:00am to 3:00pm with seasonal entertainment.

Christmas at Wicken Fen

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend our recent User Drop-in sessions at the Fen. The sessions were well attended, particularly by the horseriding fraternity and provided plenty of useful feedback and suggestions. Details of the User Forum consisting of representatives of the various User Groups that regularly use Wicken Fen and the wider Vision lands will be announced shortly.



Development of the Wicken Fen Spine Route continues with the appointment of Peterborough based

consultants Royal Haskoning to design and supervise the construction of the new Reach Lode Bridge. Construction is expected to commence next Summer and when completed will enable unbroken access from Wicken down to Anglesey Abbey or Waterbeach. Discussions are progressing with the Environment Agency over the modernisation or replacement of the Burwell Lode Bridge. Ideally agreement can be reached for the bridge to be permanently in the down position in order to assist access for cyclists and horesriders. A grant has recently been received from the Environment Agency which will allow the path across Guinea Hall Fen from Monk's Lode to Priory Farm to be upgraded.

Button, a Konik pony foal made an unexpected entrance to the world on 18 October. His mother had not displayed signs of being pregnant and it is relatively unusual for foals to be born this time of year. Regretfully young Button was rejected by his mother and is now being cared for by the World Horse Welfare charity in Snetterton, Norfolk. Button should be able to return to Wicken Fen when he is able to look after himself in roughly 6-8 months time.

Christmas is fast approaching and Father Christmas will be visiting the Fen on 7, 13 and 14th December. A Christmas trail around the boardwalk will lead you to his secret grotto, where he will have a present for every child.

Stuck for Christmas present ideas? - The Visitor Centre has an impressive

range of books, children's toys and games, bird feeders and local crafts. For that special present why not give a year's membership to the National Trust providing unlimited access to over 300 historic houses, gardens and other countryside attractions. Memberships can easily be arranged at the Visitor Centre.

Howard Cooper



From our Local County Councillor Hazel Williams

1. Another petition about the possible cuts to 10/10A bus has been handed in to the appropriate Cabinet member. However, when I asked a question about it at the full county council meeting in October and the Cabinet member did not agree with me that cutting the buses would mean an increase in the number of cars travelling in and out of Cambridge!! We now have the good news that all of the buses will be saved and continue as at present. However, the Sunday buses will be looked at again in the summer, for numbers travelling on them



- 2. Shredded used car tyres are being used for part of the base of the guided busway to help provide good drainage between the rails.
- 3. For the first time for ten years the weather was freezing in October and gritters were sent out on the roads on four nights.
- 4. The Cambridgeshire Compact is a countywide partnership agreement between statutory bodies such as councils and the voluntary and community sector. It is designed to improve relationships and provide a framework within which there is an understanding of what to expect from each other.
- 5. Views are still being sought about the forthcoming priorities, budget and level of Council Tax. You can have your say by completing the survey on the county council web site.
- 6. A list of cycling improvements costing around £7.2 million will be delivered over three years in Cambridge and surrounding villages, as Cambridgeshire successfully bid to become a national 'Cycling Demonstration Town'. £3.6 million will come from the government. As well as physical schemes other things such as better cycle training and publicity will be included.
- 7. The new Deputy Chief Fire Officer is called Chris Strickland and he started on November 1st. One of his responsibilities is to encourage more people to come Forward to volunteer as retained firefighters.
- 8. There has been a meeting at Ely to explain the importance of the Local Area Agreement. The LAA is a way for local authorities and partner agencies to work together to improve services in the area. The board is called Cambridgeshire Together.

The Cry of the Reindeer

All this is mainly about Christmas Eve,
(And it's all true, so I'm led to believe.)
When the cry of the Reindeer may be heard overhead,
Providing you lie quietly in your cosy bed.

Some reindeer are critics and with good reason too, So they grumble a bit, but still see their job through. They find Post Codes to be completely illogical; As a guide to locations, they are diabolical. Flight paths currently, are selected with care, In case the sleigh is RADAR detected and causes a scare. And street lights in general are so glaringly bright, It's not easy to see where to land in the night. They also think chimneys now are too small, And some houses don't have a chimney at all. But no house with children is ever excluded. Whether on an estate or very secluded. Toys, (batteries included) are often bulky, Though a Clause in their contract, forbids them being sulky. So you see it's not easy being part of a team, Which some people think of as 'only a dream'.





Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

Chairman John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the Public.

Minutes of Meetings: These were agreed. Reports: CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson

Correspondence Received:

CCC - Passenger Transport Team. The outcome of the

consultation re bus services – routes 10 & 10A. This resulted in a positive outcome with minimal changes to services.

The Parish Council would like to thank both Cllr Hazel Williams and Cllr Allen Alderson for their support and hardwork in campaigning against the changes to our bus services.

Traffic Calming Measures for Mill Hill: Andrew Carauna of CCC Highways had confirmed that the work was scheduled to start in January 2009 and that a letter would be sent to all residents of Mill Hill before the work started. (*If anyone would like to see the full details of the proposals, please let me know*).

Community Contribution from Ashwell Developments: With reference to the promised £10,000 contribution to a community fund, Ashwell Developments had confirmed that this payment would be made once the sale of the Mill Hill site was complete.

Cemetery Maintenance: Further quotes were obtained for the cutting back of trees, vegetation, etc., plus the removal of the spoil heap. These were considered. It was agreed to ask the Probation Service to help with the cutting back of vegetation on the inner boundaries to the cemetery and Ben Hudson to carry out the clearing works to the adjacent 'lane' to allow access to the spoil heap and also to trim the trees to the front boundary and entrance.

'The Little Chapel in The Fen' – support for grant application to Donarbon Community Fund: It was agreed to support this project.

Sports & Recreation Committee – report from PC representative: Steve Kent-Phillips gave a brief report following the annual meeting.

Completion of Play Area Refurbishment: Signs were now in place as required. These were kindly donated by Longstart Ltd. The Parish Council recorded its thanks. Burwell Tigers Football Club: The Club had asked for a sign at the top of Station Road directing people to the recreation ground and asked if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute to the cost of this sign. Following discussion it was agreed that a sign saying 'Football Ground' should be erected under the Upware sign opposite the top of Station Road and that the Parish Council would contribute 50% of the cost to a maximum of £100. The Clerk was to confirm approval and cost for the sign with CCC Highways.

Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2009/10: Following discussion a draft Precept figure of £14,500 with no increase on last year was agreed.

Planning Approval: 70 High Street - one and a half storey pitched roof extension

(part demolition of existing flat roofed extension) along with associated internal and external alterations to building and demolition and replacement of existing garage. Ref: 08/00891/FUL & 08/00894/LBC.

Planning Appeal: Goodwin Farm, 1 Heath Road. Following consideration by The Planning Inspectorate, this application was approved.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Items for Next Agenda:

Traffic Calming Scheme - Mill Hill

Cemetery maintenance

Clerk's expenses for use of office at home

Asset register - ongoing review

The Lodes & Fens

Maintenance items – refurbishment of noticeboards.

Open Question Time:

Some general discussion.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, $11^{\rm th}$ December 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.



Karen King
Clerk to the Parish Council

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

Worried about the current mortgage market?

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Join the Advent Journey

Go to www.lodechapel.org.uk to download your own

Jesse Tree kit

The weeks running up to Christmas can be hectic for many of us. As we count down to the big day our emphasis is on the lack of time remaining as we struggle to complete our list of 101 Christmas jobs. It

can easily be our busy-ness and anxiety which increases day by day, rather than our anticipation of the special event. Some people use an advent calendar to think about the meaning of their Christmas preparations, but in many homes and churches an

alternative Christian custom is being revived. The Jesse Tree dates from medieval times and involves the tradition of decorating a bare branch with symbols that represent the different people in Jesus' family tree. The Jesse Tree acts as a visual reminder of key stories in the Bible, each leading up to, and in some way pointing towards, the birth of Christ.

We've prepared a Jesse Tree Kit with a booklet and 24 symbols for people to cut out and hang, either on a bare branch, or on their ordinary Christmas trees. These packs have been so popular with the families who come to Sunday Club and RE:NEW that we have



decided to make them available for free on our website so that others can download and use them as well. If you don't have internet access, then give me a call (01223 812881), and I'll try and get a kit to you (a donation of £1 would cover the cost of photocopying).

This tradition gives families an opportunity, amidst all of the frantic activity, to sit down together to talk and reflect upon the meaning of Christmas. For each day of advent the booklet contains a short Bible reading, a brief reflection, a conversation starter and a very short prayer. But you can use the Jesse Tree however suits you and your family best - perhaps using it as an opportunity for the family to gather together at a particular time each day, with somebody cutting out the symbol, another reading the reflection, and so on.

The family tree of Jesus (you can find it in Matthew 1:1-16) is also the stimulus for the sermons in our morning services at Lode Chapel during Advent. Some people try and keep quiet about some of their relatives for fear of embarrassment, but in Jesus' genealogy we find a number of interesting characters. These include, for example, Rahab the prostitute, who is commended for her faith. Seeing such a woman in Jesus' list of descendants could be a shock for those who think church is a place where only 'respectable' people go! The truth is, however, that those whose lives are already perfect have no need for the 'Saviour of the World', the one whose

coming we celebrate at Christmas. So if you feel your life is in one way or another 'less than perfect' you are particularly welcome to join us for any of the events listed below – there is no better Christmas present than the offer of new life found in that Bethlehem manger.

Simon Goddard

Carol Service – 10.30am, Sunday 21st December "Unlikely Women, Amazing Gifts" - 10.30am, other Sundays in Advent. There is no Sunday Club in December, but there are groups available for children and young people each Sunday at Lode Chapel.

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
Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

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Church of England Services December 2008

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 7	11:00am Christingle Service	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Morning Prayer 4:00pm Christingle Service
Sun 14	11:00am Holy Communion	10:00am RE-NEW 11:30am Christingle Service	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 21	4:30am Carols by Candlelight	9:30am Village Communion 6:30am Carols by Candlelight	11:00am Holy Communion 6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols
Wed 24	3:00pm Crib Service	4:00pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion	4:00pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion
Thu 25	10:00am Benefice Communion		
Sun 28	11:00am Matins	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

PASTORAL LETTER, December 2008

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

Pauline and I have been overjoyed at the arrival of our first Grandchild on 22nd September. The only downside with the arrival of little Izaac is that he lives in Liskeard in Cornwall, and so we can't get to see him as often as we would like. Fortunately our daughter-in-law is very good at keeping us up-to-date with the latest

news about his progress by text messages, including lovely photos. The latest one shows him cuddling up to his favourite soft toy, which makes him smile and gurgle. It is wonderful to think of him starting to take notice of the things around him and to react happily to them.

Mind you, like all babies, he is quick to let everyone know when he isn't happy, by letting out a loud howl!

I am reminded of the story the grandfather who found his grandson jumping up and down in his playpen, crying at the top of his voice. When Johnnie saw his grandfather, he reached up his little chubby hands and said, "Out, Gramps, out."

It was only natural for the grandfather to reach down to lift him out of his predicament, but as he did so the boy's mother came into the room and said, "No, Johnnie, you have been naughty --so you must stay in."

The grandfather was at a loss to know what to do. The child's tears and chubby hands reached deep into his heart. But the mother's firmness in correcting her son must not be taken lightly. But love found a way. The grandfather could not take the grandson out of the playpen, so instead he climbed in with him.

In that story we get an insight into the meaning of the Incarnation. God was so concerned about the state of us, the pinnacle of His creation, he decided to do something wonderful to help us. He climbed in with us. The Bible says, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is "The Word", and, on that first Christmas night, long ago in Bethlehem, he came to live amongst us "full of grace and truth." That is the meaning of Christmas. That God gave us the greatest Christmas gift of all. Delphia Freeman in her lovely poem expresses the true meaning of Christmas this way:-

When the hustle and bustle is over And the last of the gifts has been wrapped, And the cookies and cakes are all ready For the big Christmas plans you have mapped; When the children are quiet and dreaming Of the presents Saint Nick will bestow, And the fire on the hearth burns less brightly, And the clock has struck twelve long ago; You relax by the embers and ponder On this happiest evening of all— On the meaning of Christmas to mankind By Christ's birth in the low cattle stall. In the giving of gifts upon Christmas, People pattern the Father above Who, in giving His Son, gave His best gift— So the meaning of Christmas is love.

Well, love came down at Christmas, and has been with us ever since. So why not reach out and grasp God's love in your hearts this Christmas time.

Pauline and I wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

David

Dates for Your Diary December 2008

Nov	30	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm, St Mary's and St Cyriac's
Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Sat	6	Cantilena Singers, 7.30pm, All Saints Church, Worlington
Sun	7	Christingle, 11am, St Mary's
Mon	8	WI Christmas Extravaganza, 7.15, VH
Wed	10	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	17	Carols at the Village Hall, 7.00pm
Fri	19	School Church Service, 11am, St Mary's
Sun	21	Village Carol Service, 4pm, St Mary's
Thu	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Fri	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 11.00am, The Debby, Swaffham Bulbeck
Tues	30	NO MOBILE LIBRARY

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Fleur Routley	743992	Tues	2:30- 4:00pm	Village Hall
Messy Play	Julia Turner	742688	Thurs	2.00-2.45	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	6:00- 7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45- 9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth
Touth Club	Badcock	142228	Thurs	7-10:00pm	Club Hut

Village Clubs & Societies

