



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXII Number 1

January 2008



## Editorial

HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL! Alas, it is nothing like New Year for the editors (who haven't even got the Christmas tree up ) practicalities and printing deadlines dictating., and every year, this unfortunate turn-of-events always takes us completely by surprise.

People often suggest we could dispense with the New Year issue completely, because in practice it means two issues in quick succession, with an extra load for us in the new advert pages. But No New Year Issue? That doesn't seem right either. So here is a leak (Gordon Brown Style). What if the magazine *always* came out mid-month, as opposed to only sometimes when it's a bit late, albeit this happens hardly ever. That would mean a doorstep issue on Dec 14 and Jan 14 much more seasonal—opinions please.

Many, many thanks to all our contributors, distributors, websters and advertisers—take a look at their new pages—who have supported us so loyally and so well throughout the last year. No thanks whatsoever to Microsoft VISTA, and apologies to all for

continuing reproduction problems (last month's headlines) and a host of other problems not wholly unconnected.

Also apologies to the minister's wife, who thought her husband had been dolling up his copy with glamorous ladies (it was the editress wot done it—last month's Airbrushing Lode Chapel!) , but Boos and Hisses to Swaffham Bulbeck, who have taken away their bat and ball—the pitch actually, they say it's *unfit*—and won't play Boxing Day Hockey with us this year. Yes, well we're thinking it's their team that's unfit. Come to think of it, there *was* a little overly-enthusiastic tackling from our team last year.....

This month's issue is *quality* stuff. Absolutely, and by far the major part of it is in verse.

**Caroline Matheson**

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**Cover Picture:** *Happy New Year* by J.R.



# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

## Fun Crier

At first I would like to say how much I and my family enjoy the *Crier*, and have done for many years. Apart from the occasional Greeting Card it's the best thing that ever comes through my letterbox nowadays, the articles from our local clubs and societies are always well put together and informative and I find them the perfect way to keep up with what's going on and what's to come.

The amount we learn about local personalities in the "Crier Profiles" has to be my favourite section. However, when it comes to the "letters" I find myself 'self censoring' by checking the writer before I read the letter. We are always interested in what's happening in our lovely village but I don't believe that the *Letters* section should be dominated by constant moans and groans, these should, and I'm sure will continue to be printed but all can say is, that this should be balanced with more good news.

As I talk to local people on a daily basis there are many positive, funny, nice things that we can all share with the village. When I'm in the local pub and we start reminiscing over a pint of beer, some of the stories are unprintable but many of them are great fun and should be shared with everybody, not just half a dozen locals in the snug.

With that, I urge the people of the village to restore the balance and put pen to paper to help make the "CRIER" as much FUN as it is informative.

*"Pierre"*

*Peter Arksey*

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Dear Editors,

## Parcel Delivery scam

I've just been reading through the December crier. I was somewhat disappointed to see the article about the Parcel Delivery Force scam.

This was a chain letter which has been doing the rounds for at least two years (I've received several copies, mostly by email over that time). Although there was a tenuous grain of truth in the original letter, all of the details are sensationalist additions and the original scam was very quickly shut down.

A search for "parcel delivery force scam" on Google shows plenty of sites giving the true history of this letter. The most complete is probably:

<http://www.snopes.com/fraud/telephone/pds.asp>

I'm all in favour of the distribution of genuine warnings to genuine threats, but would hope that in future a cursory investigation might be in order before contributing to the general level of public hysteria.

*Simon Andrews*

Eds note: It's a fair cop, we probably should have spotted this one but there's a lot involved in producing the *Crier* each month so there's a limit to what we can do. We're thinking about recruiting some online proof-reading assistance and Simon has expressed a willingness to help so there's hope.



# **COFFEE MORNING**

**10.30 AM — 12.00 NOON  
WEDNESDAY  
30TH JANUARY 2008**

**AT  
THE BARN  
44 HIGH STREET  
SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

**CAKE STALL, BRING & BUY,  
RAFFLE, LOTS OF FREE CHAT  
AND A FEW SURPRISES!**



**All proceeds to St Mary's Church**

## From our Reporter almost at the Parish Council Meeting

As the Editor of the *Crier* always maintains “*We have our means*”. So, even though a reporter did not attend the meeting, we still provide our readers with an accurate report, albeit short because copy date was one day before the meeting.

Following last month’s report, at the top of everyone’s minds must be **The Hurdle Hall Farm Affair**. Has there been some hanky panky? Are we faced with yet another CCC scandal? Are there villains at work?



You may remember that Mrs Hazel Williams was angry and dismayed when she was first told about the sale, and promised to investigate. In a written statement presented to *The Crier* Mrs Williams tells us:-

*“The sale of Hurdle Hall Farm is being carried out under the Environmental Policy of the County Council, which allows those with an environmental interest in the area to have priority (land has been sold to the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust under the same policy). There is a similar policy in place for Parish Councils. It was valued by the District Valuer and Cheffins independently and the higher valuation used. The land (100 acres) has no farmhouse attached to it and the sale is in line with the disposal of smaller, uneconomical, pockets of land by the council.”*

Geoffrey Woollard could hardly contain his excitement when he announced that the matter had already reached Westminster – though not through him.

Nothing more of the same note was discussed, so, with spare space available, I again repeat my request to know why any item not on the agenda cannot be discussed and voted on. It appears ridiculous that there is no slot for any other business. Instead if anyone wishes to raise a new issue it can only be put into “Items for the Next Agenda” and discussed in four weeks time. Of course like all stupid laws it is there to be broken if possible. Come Mrs Williams, please Mrs Williams, do please explain.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## LIFE

THE THIRD WEEK of November, and there it is again: the same familiar breath of nutty sweetness that comes every year about this time. It is a bonfire of fallen leaves. I catch the smoke on the warm evening air as I walk past the well-ordered people in my quiet street. For a moment I’m a child again and everything is before me.

*M.E.*

# THE LAST LAUGH

BACK IN THE LATE SEVENTIES, early eighties this village was blessed with having its very own rock band made up of local lads who would practice every Monday night in the village hall and would play locally for various parties and charity events.

The band were called WISP and although not perfect, always raised a smile when seen playing. It wasn't long before the loyal fan base realised that the name WISP was short for 'WORST IN SWAFFHAM PRIOR' but that didn't matter to us or them.

To cut a long story short, one year we were asked to play a one hour slot at the Village Feast evening party. Unbeknown to me, my father had turned up to see us play for the first time and not wanting to put any of the band off he chose to watch the (incredible) performance from the entrance lobby. Whilst in there he was approached by a very angry Village Hall treasurer who couldn't understand that the band hadn't been vetted more closely as in his opinion we were just a group of noisy idiots. My dad then very proudly explained that I was his son and that although it wasn't his cup of tea at least they were playing for fun and for NOTHING.

Two weeks later, following a Village Hall meeting, I was approached by the committee member that booked us and thanked me for our efforts but because of a few complaints from certain people on the committee, he asked me if there was no alternative for next year's party. I agreed to sort something out.

You should have seen the look on the treasurer's face the following year when he saw and heard the very same noisy band with one subtle difference, we had changed the band's name to NO ALTERNATIVE. Priceless.

*Pierre*

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## THOSE \*\*\*\*\* BIKES

It's time, I think, to save some face  
And, dare I say it, save some space,  
By admitting; with a modicum of grace,  
That a Decimal Point was out of place.



Quoted numbers must take a dive.  
One wonders how one could arrive  
At such. And how could cycling survive?  
The numbers stolen should have been 4 Point 5.

*Ophir.*

# Lock Up Your Oil!

THE RECENT BREAK-IN and theft of all the Village Hall Oil, coupled with the further news that now Bottisham has lost its lead, has caused one correspondent to comment:

“..So it's not only your wives and daughters which need to be locked up.”

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## A CALL TO ALL POETS

READERS WERE OFFERED the opportunity to add another verse to that old favourite *I'm dreaming of a White Christmas*, with the enviable chance of having it premiered at the Village Hall Carol Singing. Here's one hopeful entry from Skye:

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,  
With holly and some mistletoe.  
Whilst Christmas trees get dearer,  
As Christmas Day gets nearer  
Snow still is both cheap and white; so--  
I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,  
With every mince pie that I bite.  
May your pastries turn out sweet and light,  
And may all your Christmas cakes be white.

*Ophir*



**The Windmill as was: which  
of us remembers when its  
surroundings were like this?  
Not so long ago?**

# Advent Poetry

One of the things that happened at this years delightful Advent by Candlelight (of which more in next month's edition) is that two poems were read in memory of Margaret Stanier which she herself had chosen to read at the same event in 2004. Margaret was a much loved and respected member of our community, a most effective bell-captain, and an expert on sundials, but nobody realised she had talents in another direction: detective work by Elizabeth Everitt has revealed that this poem is not a Belloc poem, but rather a Belloc compilation by Margaret herself.

## Hilaire Belloc On Sundials

I am a sundial, and I make a botch  
Of what is done far better by a watch.

Save on the rare occasions when the Sun  
Is shining, I am only here for fun.

Here in a lonely glade, forgotten, I  
Mark the tremendous process of the sky.  
So does your inmost soul, forgotten, mark  
The Dawn, the Noon, the coming of the Dark.

How slow the Shadow creeps: but when 'tis past  
How fast the Shadows fall. How fast! How fast!

In soft deluding lies let fools delight,  
A Shadow marks our days; which end in Night.

Stealthily the silent hours advance, and still;  
And each day may wound you, and the last shall kill!

The not so poetic editors can add another Bellocism: *I am a sundial, turned the wrong way round. I cost my foolish mistress fifty pounds.*

# BULBECK BADMINTON



Need to work off the Christmas excesses?  
New Year resolution to take more exercise?  
Then why not come and join our friendly, local badminton club on  
Monday evenings.  
No experience necessary.

## **Open evening:**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 8pm  
Sports Hall, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School,  
High St, Swaffham Bulbeck

Look forward to seeing you then!  
For further information please contact:

Clare Welton 01223 811501  
David Turner 01223 811350

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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. As a quick reminder, everything is free and nothing is expected in return. If you have no success with your offers and wants locally, please try the county version on yahoo.



Offers	Wants	Details:
<p>All the following need some attention -</p> <p>Sony video camera recorder (Handycam). Not digital, with accessories</p> <p>Minolta Vectis camera (not digital)</p> <p>Mitsubishi video recorder (not digital)</p>		<p>Ralph Hones, 01223 811925</p>
<p>Unopened Epson printer cartridges: numbers T0441 (black), T0453 (magenta), T0452 (cyan), T0454 (yellow). They come in a multipack with an umbrella on the front.</p>		<p>Janet, 01638 743472, 0783 396 0678</p>
<p>Ladies bicycle (needs TLC but in good working order)</p> <p>Photocopier (B &amp; W copies up to A3 and smaller than A5). Document feeder and manual side feeder for card etc. Toner cartridge has probably over 2000 copies remaining.</p> <p>Priority to community/ charity group but any requests considered.</p>		<p>Jacqui Green, 01223 811190</p>
	<p>Garden Gnome (just one please)</p>	<p>Jun Thompson, 01223 813362</p>
<p>Flatpack wardrobe, width 1000mm / height 2000mm / depth 470, with shelves and drawer, light wood, very good condition. Carefully dismantled, labelled and with original instructions</p>		<p>John, 01223 811722</p>
<p>Teak-framed wall mirror - 17" x 21" in excellent condition</p>		<p>Peter or Margaret Beckley, 01638 744327</p>
<p>12 scaffold boards 4ft 8 x 1ft. Would make ideal raised veg beds.</p>		<p>Mel Walsh 01223 813972</p>

# Life Coaching

Get your Life, Body and Mind in tip top condition for 2008. Life Coaching Exhibition, Saturday 19th January 2008, 1pm - 5pm at Bourn Community Centre. .

A new year is traditionally a time when people think about improving their health and well being or a time when people think about new life directions. So start 2008 with a chance to discover first hand what Coaching, NLP, EFT and other personal development techniques and therapies are all about at a free community exhibition. There will be practitioners in Life and Sports Coaching, EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique), NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming) and other therapies all on hand to answer your queries, provide taster sessions and demonstrations. You can also find out how you can learn and develop these tools and techniques for your own benefit. Drop in for an afternoon of exploration, where you will find a welcoming reception.

For more information visit [www.daydreamzzz-coaching.co.uk/exhibition](http://www.daydreamzzz-coaching.co.uk/exhibition)

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## Dates For Your Diary 2008 Calendar Of Social and Fundraising Events For St Marys Church

Each event will be published in detail nearer the date, however it might be helpful if new events were explained now so that you know what you are in for!

### **Potatoes To Be Grown In Buckets**

This is a fun way of fundraising. Buckets and potatoes will be available for collection the week beginning 10th March, at a cost of £5 per bucket and potato, they are then taken home and grown by a family or individual and brought to the Village Autumn Show in September, where the grand weighing in ceremony will take place. The winner will be the owner of the bucket with the heaviest yield, who will receive a handsome prize.

### **14th June Garage Sales In The Village**

To save people the trouble of taking their items which they wish to sell to a central point, on this day anyone is invited to have a garage sale, in their garage, drive front lawn etc. However if you feel you live off the beaten track and customers may not find you, Marcia Miller has kindly offered the meadow facing the High Street (opposite No.73, the thatched cottage) for you to drive your car on and have a sort of car boot sale. As with all sales of this type the vendor fixes the price and collects the money. It is suggested that half is given as a donation. We are an honest lot in Swaffham Prior so no problems are envisaged! This is a wonderful way of decluttering your home, so start thinking about it now there could be cash in your attic.

Ideas for fundraising are always welcomed.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2008

<b>JAN 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>COFFEE MORNING [10.30.-noon.]</b> <b>At 44 High Street</b>
<b>FEB 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>QUIZ NIGHT</b>
<b>MARCH 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PANCAKE SUPPER</b>
<b>MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup></b> <b>IN</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION OF POTATOES TO BE GROWN</b> <b>BUCKETS</b>
<b>MARCH 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>MOVEABLE FEAST</b>
<b>APRIL 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ROGATION SUNDAY at the Willmott's Farm</b>
<b>MAY 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>REACH FAIR.</b>
<b>JUNE 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>COUP DE GRASS</b>
<b>JUNE 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GARAGES SALES in Village</b>
<b>JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>OPEN GARDENS, TEAS in V. Hall</b>
<b>JULY 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS</b> <b>In St. Mary's at 4.00.p.m.</b> <b>Cantilena Bells, Flowers, Teas.</b>
<b>SEPT.27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>QUIZ NIGHT</b>
<b>OCT.4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HARVEST SUPPER</b>
<b>NOV.15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CHRISTMAS MARKET</b>
<b>NOV.22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>VILLAGE VARIETY</b>
<b>NOV.30<sup>th</sup> or</b> <b>DEC. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT</b> <b>4.00p.m. in St. Mary's Church. To be confirmed.</b>

*Kate Child*  
743983

### Donations!

Many thanks to the Everitts for their very kind donation to the *Crier* last month. Although largely funded by advertising, the *Crier* could not do without donations such as these.

# Crier Profile: Brenda Wilson

This month, Brenda tells us about the events that lead to her becoming headmistress of Swaffham Prior School, and the happy days during which our little primary school was rated top of all of East Anglia.

INFANT TEACHING is the only form of teaching I've done that's kept me awake at 4 o'clock in the morning worrying about the responsibility. I was there for 11 years, in the end.

What I didn't appreciate for a long time was that the teacher who had left had had issues with the Head teacher and had left without notice. The head was the only child of a head teacher, single, a very unhappy woman. For her parents, no man had ever been good enough for their daughter; she appeared very jolly on the surface, but she couldn't bear anybody to go on to better things, and nobody had, not in the 17 years she'd been there. I didn't find out until about five years later when I applied for a deputy head job.

I knew I had a strong application, but I didn't hear anything. I didn't think anything of it until later when another deputy job came up, and the school secretary said, 'why don't you go down to the school and introduce yourself, and let them see what you're like? And I said 'why? Why should I?' I dragged it, very reluctantly, out of her that when I had applied for the first job, the other Head teacher had phoned my head and asked about me, following up my application, and my Head had said 'Well, Mrs Wilson's a married woman with three children, and you know what married women are like, don't you?'

And that was it. I was incensed. I'm quite passive about lots of things, but I am very honest and I was shocked that she could be so untruthful. I'd never had a day off in the entire time I'd been there! So I went to the Chief Education Officer and

said look, this is not right. It's not true, and she shouldn't have done that. And it must not happen again. And I want my reputation back. Education is quite a closed world. He said okay, I'll see to it. After that I was a little less open with her. Five years later the same job came up again, and she came bounding in to tell me about it: I thought okay, perhaps she's trying to make up for what she's done, and so I applied for it again. And the very next day, I learned that the husband of my colleague from the reception class, who was in the immigration service, was being moved. And it meant uprooting the family – so she was going to apply for another job. My alarm bells

**“ Well, Mrs Wilson's a married woman with three children, and you know what married women are like, don't you? ”**

started ringing. I thought, she's not going to like us both going, something's going to happen. I didn't hear anything. Neither did the reception teacher; but then while we were outside the head's office, with the secretary, the reception teacher asked her 'have you heard anything? (from the school she'd applied for) and the Head said 'No, I haven't heard a dickybird, you neither, Brenda. I can't wait to tell them how good you are.' The way that it was posed, I could tell something was going on. It turned out that they had caught her out in a lie – she had received a phone call, and implied that Doreen was a ditherer, and found it difficult to make decisions. Then it turned out the head from the school I'd applied to had also phoned; this time she'd said that I was an *aggressive and assertive woman*. By this time we were all members of the same union, PAT, and I was on the local committee. I was telling our chairman what had happened, and she said Brenda, you've got to do something about this so I went for advice to our union solicitor – lovely man. We arranged a meeting with the Chief Education Officer, the reception teacher, myself and the Head. It was eventually agreed that this was the first stage of grievance procedure. But the head had still not admitted that there had been a second phone call about me. And I felt wronged, my character maligned. I left it with the Chief Education Officer to find out about that call – because, if there had been, it was proof that she had lied. It was an awful time but eventually he phoned and said that there had been a second call. I felt vindicated. He went on to suggest that I might like to take a sideways temporary job at another local school, to ease the situation. I said 'No way, if I leave and she stays, it'll look as if I was in the wrong. I'm not going!'

So I stayed put; the very next job I applied for, I got an interview, and got the job as a deputy. I was there five years. During that time my marriage broke up after 24 years, and once I felt strong enough, I started looking around for another job. One of my friends said, 'Bren, the world's your oyster, you don't have to stay in Kent.' The boys had grown up by then, one of them was married. This was just the encouragement I needed. I saw this job in Cambridge and applied. It was one of those odd things: a couple of summers before, I'd been with a friend to the Mildenhall Air Show and we drove through this area. And between Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior, I had the strong, strong feeling that I could live here. I remember it very distinctly : I can still see the cemetery railings in my mind. Eighteen months later I saw the job at Swaffham Prior job, I applied and I got it. Fate!

I came for interview on the Wednesday but I decided to go to the Red Lion for a meal the night before, and I walked through the streets seeing not a soul, thinking it was like an out of season French town! It was very different seeing it the next day. I talked to the children and looked round the school – it had a good feel about it. They

**“ I decided to go to the Red Lion for a meal the night before my interview, and I walked through the streets seeing not a soul, thinking it was like an out of season French town! ”**

obviously asked the staff what they thought, because David said afterwards – “you were the only one that talked to the children!” They took a very long time to decide but I got the job, and I was delighted. The Vicar, Norman Young, asked me back for a cup of tea and I think I went to an exhibition with them in Cambridge – and I think I stayed the night with them too. Norman was a lovely man.

When I started in January 1991 I lodged with the vicar for ten days; then I rented Elspeth Firebrace’s flat in Commercial End for about a year. The school had had a period of change – it was very unsettled. I was the fifth head teacher in seven years. There’d been a trouble-shooter head in post for two years prior to my coming, to bring it all together but there were still problems; one class particularly had had a lot of teachers over the years caused by intermittent and long term sick leave. But there was a core of good staff: David Hunns had been appointed as temporary deputy

the term before; Sue Jackson had been employed as a SATs co-ordinator, part time, to oversee these new tests. It was obvious that she was a very good teacher and I wanted to keep her. David wasn’t appointed as permanent deputy because the head – me - wasn’t in post at the time of his appointment but he was very good. I felt we had to formally have a proper interviewing process, so that everyone would know he was the best person for the job. We had a lot of applicants. David showed himself the best. He was great. A bit bolshy, but proud of it – “well, you know where you are with me.” We did some changing around over the next few terms: David went into Class 4; Sue into Reception; I worked with Sue – she was part time, so I taught the time she wasn’t there—and a new teacher in class two, Chrissie Davies, who was an inspirational teacher...so really, we changed a lot of the staff, and produced a strong team. It was a happy time. OFSTED inspection in 1995 was excellent our SATs results were 100% which put us in a very good position in the league tables, on paper it looked absolutely fantastic and attracted a lot of publicity. We came out as the top school in East Anglia in the Sunday Times Parents’ Guide– we were the only school on their map – but in fact, it shows how statistics can be manipulated because yes, we did come out with 100% but we only put in six or eight children that year! But we did have a good team.

We also tried to get evening classes going – there was a lot of talk but the support was really not very great, but we kept it on for a while – Claire Newbolt gave an art class, and she was brilliant, but the junior size chairs and things were not really suitable for adults. Then...we kept a fairly stable staff for a few years and it was good – a good time. We had a reputation. The children sent off to Bottisham carried that reputation, and the school expanded and numbers grew.



*Where Brenda ended up. The school website is always interested in any photos of Swaffham Prior School readers may have. Contact [clare@luttrell.co.uk](mailto:clare@luttrell.co.uk)*

**Mark Lewinski**

From an interview with Brenda Wilson

## The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
"I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree"

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard,  
As we tucked into our turkey, a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas we had people from next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four, relations came to stay, poor gran is looking old,  
We finished up the Christmas pud and ate the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes flurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, we ate the turkey curried.

On the sixth day, I admit, the Christmas spirit died,  
The children fought and bickered, we ate turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave a wince,  
When we sat down at the table, we were offered turkey mince.

Day eight, our nerves were getting frayed, the dog had run for shelter,  
I served twenty turkey pancakes with a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On day nine our cat left home, by lunch time dad was blotto!  
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

By the tenth day the wine was gone, except for our home-made brew.  
As if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas the Christmas tree was moulting,  
The mince pies were as hard as rocks, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, dad smacked his lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too. We dined on fish & chips.



# **St Mary's Concert**

*dedicated to the memory of Frances Morrill*

**Saturday 2nd February 2008**

at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck

**St Mary's Singers and Players**

directed by Matthew Rudd

**Brandenburg Concerto No 3: JS Bach**  
**Concerto for Flute & Harp: WA Mozart**  
**Requiem: G Fauré**

Interval refreshments

Retiring collection

Proceeds for St Mary's Church Restoration Fund and a local charity

## **Health, Safety & PC Insanity**

Baa-baa Black Sheep is now a **banned** nursery rhyme at Swaffham Bulbeck school. Just so it won't be eradicated from our fold-memory, here's a refresher:

Baa Baa Black Sheep,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.  
One for the Master and one for the Dame  
But none for the little boy who cries down the lane.

where readers will note the original (so we understand) last line. The rhyme appears to have been a comment on the dire effects of the Enclosures on the general populace, the sheep bringing no benefit to them, instead destroying their livelihoods and way of life.

So are we to think that the only thing that's changed is that now all the sheep work in Education?



## School News



WE HAD AN ACTION PACKED END to the year at school. The Nativity play performed by Class 1 and 2 was brilliant. They re-told the traditional Christmas story through the eyes of the star. Here are some photos, showing part of the performance Other Christmas festivities included our annual Christmas Fair which was



The Shepherds

very well attended. FoSPS organise this event every year, but this year it was much bigger and better and included our popular CC Café serving mulled spiced apple drinks with mince pies. Father Christmas also made a visit to the school during our Christmas parties on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Our Christmas Church Service had the theme of Christmas

Around the World.

We have had

to make a very sad decision this year to close our outdoor swimming pool, as the repair bill was going to be so huge. However, we feel that the pool is such a valuable resource for the school and the



The Gigantic Star and the other Stars.



The Three Wise Men

local community that we are retying to raise the money for a new one. It is not going to be cheap, somewhere in the region of £25,000. We are looking for any local businesses who would be willing to make a donation towards the cost of a new pool, or any ideas you may have for fundraising. The pool really does serve our children and families well, if you feel you can help in any way, please contact me on 01638 741529.

**Emma Vincent**  
Head Teacher



## **Village Gardeners Programme for 2008**

THE PROGRAMME may have a familiar shape but we have enlisted some excellent speakers on topics which we hope you will find both interesting and appealing. To the summer events we have added a Village Gardens Open Day in June. We would love to hear from anyone who would like add their garden to those already committed. Contact Margaret Joyce or Roger Connan.

Visitors are always welcome to all events.

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Dr Twiggs Way “An incentive to early marriage; the social history of the allotment” |
| <b>Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b> | Mr H Cotton “Climbers and wall plants”  |
| <b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Mar</b> | Mr George Thorpe “Climate change; associated planting”                              |
| <b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Apr</b> | Richard Ayres “Gardening in retirement”   |
| <b>Tue 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> | Janet Hall Quiz night   |
| <b>Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>  | All day visit to Beth Chatto Gardens  |
| <b>Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Jun</b> | Evening visit to Childerley Hall, Dry Drayton                                       |
| <b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun</b> | Open Gardens in the village   |
| <b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Jul</b> | Evening visit to Swaffham Prior House   |
| <b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Sep</b> | Mr Geoff Peck “Ponds, bog gardens, etc.”  |
| <b>Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</b> | AGM   |
| <b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Nov</b> | Mr Geoff Hales “Reginald Farrer; plant hunter”                                      |

Indoor meetings: 8.00pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of summer visits will be confirmed later

Membership: individual £15, family £20

Visitors and new members always welcome: £3 per evening, including visits

### **Contact Numbers**

Chairman: Roger Connan 01638 742182

Secretary: Margaret Joyce 01638 744390

Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681

## New Times for Mobile Library

The mobile library van will be arriving in Swaffham Prior on:

**15th January**  
**29th January**  
**12th February**  
**26th February**  
**11th March**  
**25th March**



at new times:

<b>Cage Hill</b>	<b>15:15</b>	<b>15:50</b>
<b>Chapel</b>	<b>15:55</b>	<b>16:15</b>

Any enquiries, the number to call is 0845 045 5225.

***Karen King***

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## WI Notes



At the December meeting we enjoyed our annual Christmas Dinner. All the food was prepared by members and was delicious. After the meal we had a quiz, a raffle and finished the evening off with a game in which everyone received a present. Our January meeting will be on 21<sup>st</sup> when we will hear about the work of a magistrate.

The committee will also be meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January to plan the programme for the year. If any members have any suggestions for speakers or outings they would like to be considered please contact a member of the committee before the meeting. New members are always welcome - please contact Pat Cook - 01638 742224 for more information.

***Pat Cook***

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## Reading Group....

Will be at 41 Cage Hill, Margaret Joyce's House, on Wednesday 9 Jan, and the book will be *Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy. New members very welcome!



## Lode Baptist Chapel

### 2008 – A Year of Hope?

AT THE START OF A NEW YEAR many of us become a bit more optimistic – a bit more hopeful about what life is going to be like for us, and for the world around us. So, before the positive outlook wears off, I wonder what your hopes are for the year ahead? Perhaps they're grand hopes, like wanting wars to cease and injustice to end; or perhaps they're much closer to home, hopes for change in yourself, or in your family.

You know, in such a cynical world, someone who has real hope stands out like a beacon amidst the darkness of despair. So, are you one of those people? Do you want to be...? I mean, what's the alternative... Do people gain some sort of perverse satisfaction in being one of the doomsayers, or are they perhaps comforted by putting their head in the sand and pretending things aren't really happening?

The Bible describes this pessimistic perspective on life when it quotes those who say: *"Let us eat and drink... for tomorrow we die!"*. These words, uttered hundreds of years ago, seem somehow familiar in a nation plagued by obesity and binge-drinking. Perhaps we're suffering from a collective lack of hope...

Across the UK churches are getting together in an initiative called 'Hope08' to tackle this very problem (for more details visit [www.hopeinfo.co.uk](http://www.hopeinfo.co.uk)). One of the ways they will be doing this is by seeking to make positive impact in their communities – this is a key part of our vision at Lode Chapel, and we seek to make a difference throughout the year. We are, however, particularly setting aside one day (a bank holiday Monday in May) to serve the local villages in one or more community projects.

But that's where we need your help... are you aware of a need that we could meet?

- A community building that needs a touch of paint?
- The garden of an elderly neighbour that could benefit from a bit of work?

We look forward to hearing from individuals (and the parish councils) with any ideas, my contact details are below. We are also keen to hear from people who may want to work alongside us in such a project.

As Christians we believe in the *"God of hope"* and we are called to share that hope with others – not just by communicating the reason for our eternal hope, but by being a bringer of practical hope to the world and to those around us. Perhaps 2008 will be a year of hope for you too?

***Simon Goddard***

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.  
Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School,

(except for the 4th Sunday of each month).

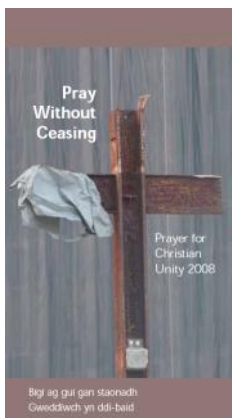
**Next Sunday Club, 27<sup>th</sup> January,  
with activities for all of the family,  
10.30am at Bottisham Primary School.**

For more information please contact:  
Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388  
Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB25 9EW.  
Email: [simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk)  
Web: [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://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).

## **SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2008**



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY  
2008 6.30pm**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



## Church of England Services

### January 2008

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<b>Bottisham</b>
<b>Sun 6</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>9:30am</b> Family Service	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 20</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Village Communion <b>6:30am</b> Christian Unity Service	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Morning Prayer
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion	<b>9:30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion

#### **PASTORAL LETTER, January 2008**

#### **Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

A new year is about to begin, and to a number of new and exciting initiatives are about to be launched in the Anglesey Group of Churches. Our five Churches have been concerned about the way that they may appear to the outside world. They have recognised that their task must be to offer support to all who need comfort; open arms to all who want friendship; a smile to all those who desire acceptance; sensitivity to all who want sheltering love; forgiveness to those who sin and need a Saviour; and to whosoever will come they should open wide their doors, and in the name of Our Lord say, **WELCOME!**

There is a lovely story that illustrates this. One day a new child joined a Church Sunday School. The little boy had one arm missing, and since he arrived a bit late, the teacher had no opportunity to learn any of the details about the cause or his level

of sensitivity. She was very nervous and afraid that one of the other children would comment on his handicap and embarrass him. There was no opportunity to caution them, so she proceeded as carefully as possible.

As the class time came to a close, she began to relax. She asked the class to join her in their usual closing ceremony. "Let's put our hands together to make our church," she said. "Here's the church and here's the steeple, open the doors and there's..." The awful truth of her own actions struck her. The very thing she had feared that the children would do, she had done. As she stood there speechless, the little girl sitting next to the boy reached over with her left hand and placed it up to his right hand and said, "Davey, let's make church together."

We want as many people in our villages as possible to feel free and able to join us to 'Make Church together'. In attempting to do this, we recognise that we should ensure that our services are not exclusive by nature. Our **Family Services** are one way in which we are seeking to make this happen. They are informal and relaxed on one hand, whilst also being interesting and stimulating on the other. Each Church has a **Family Service** every month. Bottisham's is at 11.00am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, Lode's is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9.30am, Quy's is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00am, Swaffham Bulbeck's is at 9.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and Swaffham Prior's is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 11.00am.

Our Churches have also looked at their Communion services and have recognised the need for a more accessible and welcoming style of service. Accordingly, Bottisham have introduced a **Family Communion Service** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11.00am, Swaffham Bulbeck have a **Village Communion Service** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.30am and from January Swaffham Prior are introducing a **Family Communion Service** on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

At the same time we have recognised that not everyone is able to take Communion, and Family Service is not everyone's cup of tea. Accordingly we are introducing a new series of **Morning Prayer** services starting in January. Bottisham's will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11.00am, Lode on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.30am, and Quy on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 9.30am. We are also launching a **BCP Evensong** at 6.30pm on the last Sunday of the month.

All these changes are designed to be more welcoming and friendly, but they do assume that folk are prepared to come to Church in the first place. Another initiative, that seeks to take Church to the people rather than expecting people to come to it, will be launched in May 2008, when we begin a radical new service in **Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School**. It will not be 'church' in its traditional form. It will be designed for people of all ages and will offer a much more interactive approach to teaching, worship and prayer. So there is much to look forward to, and above all we see our priority as being to offer you a very warm WELCOME!

I wish you a happy and blessed 2008.

*David*

## ***Dates for Your Diary***

### **January**

Wed	9	Reading Group , Margaret Joyce's, 8pm
Mon	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Tue	15	Village Gardeners: Dr Twiggs Way, 8pm, VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50, Chapel 3:55-4:15pm
Fri	18	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	21	WI, VH
Tues	29	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50, Chapel 3:55-4:15pm
Wed	30	Coffee Morning, The Barn, 44 High St, 10.30—12 noon.
FEB	2	St Mary's Concert in Memory of Frances Morrill, 7.30pm St Mary's, Bulbeck

<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>Fleur Routley</b>	<b>743992</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>Pat Cook</b>	<b>742224</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***