



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXII Number 6

June 2008



Editorial

June 2008, and it's a NOT The Swaffham Crier Festival year! As the complete absence of banners and flags will indicate, Not The Festival is about to get into full swing...

This month is pack full of delightful fringe events not to be missed. Everything from the Great Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge to Art Exhibitions, Sing Your Heart Out, Open Gardens, The Windmill, Coup de Grass, the Great Garage Sale, you name it, we've got it. PLUS, The Official Festival is now booked in for next year, and you can read all about its history and founders, the sinisterly mysterious *Festival Committee*, in this issue.

Last month was pretty good as well, as you'll notice from our 40 page *Crier*. The Cyclists cycled (how did they do it?), the Feasters feasted (see our Cover) with charming Merriweather Shakespeare to follow, the Lunchers lunched, the Village Assemblers assembled and the playground got finished, to mention but a few.

But alas, all these goings on have put considerable pressure on the *Crier*, which is consequently late. Hang on, it's been late all year, readers might wonder? Yes, but not because it wasn't ready on time, but rather a variety a

extremely frustrating further problems that have foiled all our best efforts (last month, it was the email).

While the editors, who routinely resign every edition, still cling to the belief that sustaining a monthly magazine of this size and coverage on voluntary effort (the *Crier* is quite unique in this respect) *should* be possible without entirely shredding the volunteers, there are re-organisational things (such as reintroduction of Village Collating) they urgently need to do.

But they're stuck in a vicious circle! On the eighth day of this month's labour, which has included the twice-yearly review and refangling of all our ads, we can confidently say that flattened donkeys don't make for bright-eyed, bushy-tailed reorganisers. We'll call a meeting, we will, we will....

But some great news — St Mary's has received a Legacy. Next month's issue should definitely not be missed when David Lewis will be telling us all about it.

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *The 2008 Village Feast*, by **Tine Jost**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Sirs

***Crier* Inaccuracy?**

Whilst I fully recognise that the *Crier* Reporter's accounts of the Parish Council meetings are supposed to be a witty commentary on what is usually a long and sometimes a very dull evening, there are times when some of the frequent inaccuracies have to be addressed.

I normally ignore all the drivel that is written, but in this case, I feel I ought to put one small inaccuracy right that was reported in the May *Crier* as it applies to my duties as a Parish Councillor. I have in fact attended a few Annual Parish Assemblies, not "never attended one". I have spoken on behalf of the Sports and Social Committee at least twice and once on behalf of the Burwell Tigers, as Mr. Everett might have recalled as he was present on every occasion. How else could I determine that they are the most boring meetings I have attended in my entire life ?

I am frequently accused in the back bar of the Red Lion of speaking "complete and utter bullshine" - or something close to that. I usually reply "never let the truth get in the way of a good story". It would appear that the *Crier* Reporters abide by the same maxim.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Ed's Note: Whatever exactly was said at last month's Parish Council Meeting, Steve is definitely wrong about the Village Assembly being boring, this year at least. He missed a REALLY GOOD meeting - John Jordan, take a bow.

And what DO they say in the Red Lion? Any good quotes to report?

Dear Editors,

Mattress in Rogers Road

I thought I would write to the *Crier* to thank the person(s) who very kindly dumped a mattress at the top of Rogers Road.

Did they think when they woke up that morning "I know, today we will put the mattress in the car, ride to Swaffham Prior and find a nice spot to dump it"

No doubt they had to drive to Rogers Road to drop off the mattress whereas they could very easily have driven to the tip and disposed of it that way - free of charge.

Still I guess whoever did it thought it might make Swaffham Prior a more attractive village with a bit of decor.

It makes my blood boil.

Regards

Sandra Butcher
7 Rogers Road

Copy for the Crier

Four days into this month's Crier and the end still nowhere in sight ... Push-Button Publishing the **Crier** is not, and one of our problems has always been Word poster-style adverts attractively and carefully laid out with a variety of font sizes, embedded images, further ornament and so-on.

For ease of publication, this copy needs to be the right *size*. Although you'd think resizing for **Crier** A5 would be a doddle, this isn't the case. All font sections must be individually "proportionately" resized (guess a font-size, guess another...how does it look? Rubbish, start again...) images and ornament rejigged, and the whole layout refangled often changing considerably in the process because it just won't work at half-size.

Contributors will know how long it took to make their original layout look good, and may well be disappointed to find it perversely shredded. At the same time, we often get requests "Please make this a full page advert", and refusal can offend! An A5 Crier page is quite expensive, and if it's filled with white space and not a lot of content, unlikely to escape editorial shredding (it's that or we get shredded by the Treasurer!). So please don't be tempted to make a half page ad into a whole page ad on the grounds that readers will be more likely to notice it this way. In fact, a smaller article with an eye-catching header/image can be much more effective

Eds

Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair

Saturday 5 July 2008

12.30 pm to 3.30 pm
at Swaffham Prior School

Bouncy Castle * Bar * Pony rides
Barbeque * Maypole dancing * Games
Craft corner * Stalls * Cakes

There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the
Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

LET'S BASH OUR COUNCILLORS appeared to be the order of the day at the last meeting as our ECDC and CCC representatives came in for quite a hammering. Hazel announced that an important meeting about the Travellers was to be chaired by the new CCC Chief Executive Mark Lloyd and that all the important players would be attending. She herself had to be at a conference on the south coast but all the key ECDC people would be attending. Geoffrey was incandescent and said that while he did not wish to be rude (which probably means he was going to be), he thought Mrs Williams had too many jobs and that she should drop everything and stand up for Prior. Hazel bridled and said that what she did with her life had nothing to do with Geoffrey. I was reminded of the constant spits and spats between Margaret Cook and Geoffrey Woollard when they were ECDC and CCC councillors a decade ago. They were like two cats prowling around each other ready to give a quick flick of paws not always with the claws withdrawn. Is a similar "situation" developing?



I would not have reported that except that Allen Alderson received a similar roasting. He announced that the ECDC recycling publicity had been so successful that far more than anticipated had been put out for recycling. Because of this the new contractors occasionally fell a day behind in the collections. If you believe and hope that this will hold back "climate change" it should have been good news. Not a bit of it. All the hard-nosed complaints poured out - If the contractors fail to meet their obligations etc etc they ought to be penalized, etc etc., and what was ECDC going to do about it. The PC eventually allowed Allen to speak and calmed down when it heard that this has only happened a very few times and never in Swaffham Prior. I bet Allen wished he'd never mentioned it. It might even make him stick to Ely parking problems.

Sitting next to me was John Richards who had accompanied Kevin Hall (Area Traffic Engineer for CCC) who had come to talk about traffic calming on Mill Hill. Kevin had already incurred the wrath of the PC when he had written that he would be happy to talk again to the PC on site providing it was only two or three members and not the crowd he had previously met. I had a picture of a group like Millwall football fans (some of the roughest on the London scene) gathering at Mill Hill. How the PC had jumped up and down at the previous meeting - "who does he think he is?", "if we tell him he has to come he's got to come", etc.

So Mr Hall turned up with a minder, and a very professional one too. John Richards gave a general picture of costs, probable speed rule changes, etc which did form a very good background for the discussion. He then handed the meeting to Kevin Hall who laid out a scheme. Mr Hall was asked what affect the scheme would have on the speed of cars. He estimated "A reduction in speed of between 0 to 5mph". Some members of the PC were amazed. "What! Surely you can do better than that with all your years of experience", with comments equivalent to "Call yourself a 'traffic engineer'". But Kevin stuck to his guns - the anticipated speed reduction is "0 to 5mph".

The PC was uncertain how to move on so Hazel said it should be on the Village Assembly agenda. The PC was reluctant. Hazel suggested it again. Again reluctance. From the public gallery Mrs Williams received encouragement – “C’mon on our Haze, suggest it again.” At the fourth attempt the Mill Hill traffic scheme made it on to the Annual Village Assembly agenda.

The PC also had a go at our councillors for giving information which is of little interest to people living in Swaffham Prior. There can be a point here regarding Ely because, even though it has the largest number of monastic buildings still in daily use in Britain, it is a long way away and a continued discussion about parking problems in Ely is of limited interest.

This is not so with Cambridge County and Cambridge City affairs. There are many people who do wish to know about the Cambridge Public Library, the congestion charge, the bendy bus, the closure of Hills Road, the re-organisation of Social Services, the affect of the new Chief Executive. It was Geoffrey who disliked any Cambridge information and I am not sure how many PC members shared his view. I hope it is few in number.

Alastair Everitt

SCOUTS HELP SUMMER ART

The Art Exhibition Screens have been repainted by the Scouts ready for a Summer Art Exhibition. Here are the screens all lined up in St. Cyriac’s waiting to dry.



THE VILLAGE FESTIVAL - Next in 2009

RECENT ARRIVALS IN THE VILLAGE may not be aware of the existence of the Festival Committee. We thought we should set out its history and activities. The members of the committee are Hilary Sage, Elisabeth Everitt, Francis Reeks, Thomas Newbolt, Alastair Everitt and Ian de Massini.

It all started in 1988 with a proposal that the bells in St. Cyriac's tower should be restored to allow regular ringing. Six thousand pounds was needed and various fund-raising events took place including a 1990 "Open Weekend" in the village, which contributed £1,000. In 1992 there was another "Open Weekend" which raised money to restore an organ for use in St Cyriac's. Two years later, in 1994, we held the first week-long Festival, which, together with the 1992 funds, paid for the organ's restoration. (In hindsight this was a mistake—but that is a separate and colourful story).

The 1996 Festival raised £2,300 towards the Village Hall refurbishment and extension. A Summer Art Exhibition in 1997 was made possible by the purchase from Festival funds of much needed display screens. The restored organ in St Cyriac's having turned out to be not fit for purpose, the aim of the 1998 Festival was to raise funds for a very good keyboard as well as for a public address system needed by the school and the village hall. The keyboard was bought for £2,200 (which included £550 donated by the various musicians) and is regularly used for church services and concerts. The public address system was in the end privately donated and continues to serve the village well. Further summer festivals took place in 2000 and 2002 to raise funds for St Mary's Church, followed in 2003 by a weekend of music and painting called Colour and Sound. Tina and Peter Jost organized a Festival last year.

The Festival Committee has always been quietly active while keeping a low profile. It has always encouraged and supported art and music events when possible and, when asked, has provided reasonable seed corn funding. Comfortable padded chairs for St Cyriac's (from the Zion Chapel) have been purchased and more will be bought if the opportunity (at the right price) arises. "Spark in Judea" by R.F.Delderfield was produced in St Cyriac's for Easter 2006 and recently the drama of "Merriweather. A Life in Shakespeare's Theatre" was supported and encouraged. The exhibition screens have been repainted with the help and co-operation of the Scouts. The Committee negotiated with the Churches Conservation Trust for the removal of the unfortunate organ and was prepared to pay for this (though it was not asked to). Meantime money is being kept in the account for the replacement of the keyboard when this becomes necessary. The keyboard is now such an important item for village events, for the church and for raising money for various charities that we must be able to replace it fairly immediately should it fail to function.

All the people of the Festival Committee mentioned at the beginning of this report will be organising the Swaffham Prior Festival 2009. Donations from the proceeds will be made to both the Maryloo Project and the School swimming pool.



Although there is no Swaffham Prior Festival this year,
there are plenty of village events in June 2008.....

Saturday 7 June 7.30pm

After their sell-out gig at the 2007 Swaffham Prior Festival and 2008
Australian tour..... **KEITH PEARSON'S COUP de GRASS**

Saturday 14 June 10am – 2pm

GARAGE AND TABLE-TOP SALE

Sunday 22 June 2 – 6pm

**OPEN GARDENS, MILL with TEAS, TOMBOLA and
NEARLY NEW SALE OF LADIES' SUMMER FASHIONS**

The Village Gardeners will be organising its popular Open Gardens event. Buy your £3 ticket from the Village Hall and tour eight beautiful village gardens and Foster's Mill – the working windmill. Return to the Village Hall for tea, cakes, and some wonderful bargains at St Mary's Church's quality Nearly New Sale of Ladies' Summer Fashions.

Full details of all these and other events are in ads
elsewhere in this month's *Crier*

Notice - Changes to Emmanuel Street 21 May 2008

As part of the Council's ongoing changes to Cambridge City Centre there are major changes to Emmanuel Street, Drummer Street and St Andrews Street bus interchange. Should you have any questions about the changes please contact Cambridge Projects on 01223 814498.

Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge



In association with Swaffham Prior Primary School Summer Fair

Saturday 5th July 2008

On the Grid at 11.00am until approx 1.30pm

Junior Class to start to allow time for children to be at school for
the Summer Fair

Senior & Adult Classes to follow

Presentations at the Summer Fair

Each Kart – Best Time of at Least 3 Runs

3 Classes include:

Juniors - Swaffham Prior Primary School Pupils, 8 years old or over

Seniors – Any Village Resident of Village College Age

Adults – Must be Swaffham Prior or Local Village Resident

“Build It – Ride It”

Enter at your own risk.

E-mail Tim Doe to register your interest at

stalkynorman@swaffham-prior.co.uk

CRICKET

PRIOR V. BULBECK

The date has been fixed for Sunday afternoon on 6th July.
No-one has volunteered to become a leader of men and to
meet some very nice Bulbeckians to decide the details.

Someone is bound to come forward.

In the meantime will all those who want to play please
phone me (742974).

It will be first come first selected.

Alastair Everitt

Swaffham Prior
Grand Garage Sales
Saturday 14th June
10.00a.m - 2.00p.m.



Your final reminder

This is the day when you can have a table-top/garage sale on your own drive or in the meadow in the High Street (Bulbeck end) opposite the thatched cottage. Please let me know a.s.a.p. if you are participating so that arrangements can be made to put out arrows directing the customers. It would be helpful if participants were to put up balloons as an indication.

Please encourage others to come and buy.

Proceeds 50% to sellers / 50% to MaryLoo Project
[Loo in St.Mary's Church].

Kate Child 743983

That Village Assembly

The annual Village Meeting was better attended than the last one I went to (three years ago, I think - oh dear). They even had to put some more chairs. A good start.

Proceedings started with the PC report, which in turn started with a group photo on the large projection screen (a welcome technological advance) to help us identify the current PC members (the usual suspects.. plus some newer blood). Alas, the naming did not progress logically from one side to the other, so I'm still a bit confused about one or two. Never mind - attend more PC meetings, and get to know them.

They seem to have done their usual excellent job throughout the year, and dealt with a wide range of routine matters including: The Play Area (improved, new attractions, got a grant, thank you Steve), granted money to good causes (school pool, Village Hall oil tank), street signs (Highways Dept still bonkers, Jonathan Cook making a new post for the bottom of Rogers Road), planning applications (Chapel conversion approved, water tower site sold on to another developer). Then we get on to the more serious stuff - Affordable Housing - Hastow, who gave an interesting presentation last year, haven't found a site in the village, but another organisation may have done - the PC are pleased, but only if it turns out to be in the right place (can't have them putting up these things just anywhere, you know). There's a bit of village policy for you - make a note; it comes back later in this report..

Then the big one - Mill Hill traffic. Pressure from the PC and the CC has succeeded in getting a £30,000 grant to the Highways Authority for traffic calming on Mill Hill, and there were plans on display. Residents of Mill Hill were not impressed, and a lengthy discussion ensued. It became apparent that £30k really won't go very far, and various regulations seem to make the obvious solutions impossible. For reasons that must make sense to someone we cannot a) reduce the speed limit, b) widen the road to allow for Six Mile Bottom-style chicanes, c) have a pedestrian crossing or d) big nasty speed bumps. Geoffrey made a big thing of the proposed island in the middle of the road, but it turns out to be narrower than the average pedestrian. The only practical suggestion was to use the £30k to buy, tax and insure a number of old bangers and leave them badly parked at awkward intervals along the kerb. It is a shame that all the effort that people have put into this still can't make the lives of Mill Hill pedestrians any safer.

On to the National Trust's 'Wicken Fen Vision' plan, which would swamp most of the land between here and Cambridge, as picked apart by (who else but) Geoffrey. From his perspective it really doesn't make sense, destroying good food-growing land and abandoning the lodes. According to

the National Trust's
'Wicken Fen Vision'
plan ... doesn't
make sense ...
don't forget to fill in
the questionnaire.

him there are plans for a big car park for the wildlife tourists beside the water just beyond the Allix Arms on Station Road, and the Vision will be obscured by huge clouds of insects. If you think as he does, don't forget to fill in the questionnaire on the back of the brochure recently delivered to you by the NT, and hunt for the very little box that indicates that you don't like it. The PC certainly don't.

Hazel Williams presented a report from the County Council - she wasn't impressed by the diligence of some of her colleagues, who can't be bothered to show up for Road Safety meetings. The most interesting fact was that new criteria for funding branch-line loops of the bus service (e.g. Reach and Lode) may lead to improvements in the service, and the most curious is the entry "not serving tea" in my notes about the guided bus service - now what on earth can that have been about?.. She was quizzed about recycling and waste disposal procedures, and happily pointed out that the CC was only responsible for the far end of the chain and any views on the collection should be addressed to Allen. They were. Another little

the Scouts - now a
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source of happiness was that whilst the County had to pay for free bus trips by senior citizens into Cambridge, the City had to pay to ferry them out again. Tee Hee.

There followed a welcome bit of light relief in the form of the Scouts - now a happy band of some 16 or more who seem to get up to the most wonderfully incorrect things in this day and age, under the influence of Tim Doe and his assistants, who must take great credit for encouraging things like night hikes, making your own shelter to sleep in, cooking on real camp fires and getting wet in rivers. Right on.

Back to ECDC business with Allen - who started off by reading a prepared script in the manner of the speaking clock - I lost track at the third stroke - but then got ambushed by queries about rubbish collection and recycling. Did you know that houses 'down the fen' only have their black bags collected once a fortnight? Not many people knew that, including Allen, who was probably regretting his earlier confident statement that ECDC was one of the few remaining councils who always collected on a weekly basis. The other beef was the limit of four brown recycling sacks provided free on the doorstep; he pointed out (quite reasonably, I thought) that at a time of diminishing budgets it was not a great hardship, particularly as one could always pay for more, or use cardboard boxes instead.

Back on track, he pointed out (as had Hazel) that the rate support grants they received were ridiculously low (£66,000 total for ECDC, doesn't buy many brown bags). He confirmed that the council was 100% in support of his and Hazel's objections to the Environment Agency's plans to abandon the Lodes, and then went on to mention the Neighbourhood Panel. Eh? What's that? (*They're in the Crier this month. Eds*) Apparently some inter-committee committee - perhaps the one that wants us to have a Parish Plan - should have paid more attention.

Second last on the evening's bill was The Village Hall itself, which has good rate

of use (and is presumably a going concern as a result), but still relies on good old-fashioned volunteer labour for such things as spring cleaning. Nowadays one must use an expensively-hired scaffolding tower to do the upper bits, and it has to be dismantled and reassembled each time to pass between the ceiling trusses, so the whole thing is a bit of a chore. They only want to hire it for one day, which is 26 May, so mark it in your diary and be prepared to roll your sleeves up.

And then finally the closing number - **The Parish Plan** - a process which every parish is invited to embark upon. The case for doing this was ably presented by John Jordan from the viewpoint of a recently-elected Parish Councillor - when debating Affordable Housing and asking what the village's general opinion is about it - apparently nobody knows (except that it needs to be in the right place...). So far, so good - it might indeed be useful to have a consensus about what 'the village' thought about all sorts of things. But then it all started to get complicated, and cool was lost (including mine - never will learn to keep my mouth shut).

An early questioner asked who would make use of the plan - the PC?? Well, yes. But isn't the PC elected to represent the parish? So why do they need it?. At this point Allen stepped in and assured us that ECDC made good use of it - and added that Bulbeck produced a plan several years ago, and their views had therefore been taken into consideration for the Structure Plan. We haven't, so ours aren't. And what's more, there's not much time left so we should get a move on.

Outrage. Cries of Blackmail. Study of some of the handouts available show that it's ECDC who are promoting the idea, and producing lengthy leaflets describing the process. In summary, you establish a committee of committed people who are not already on the PC, who can design questionnaires that stand up to statistical scrutiny, are prepared to pester their neighbours with them, are fluent in GovSpeak, and have a year or two of free time on their hands. The more accessible of the helpful brochures lists a mere 49 bullet points for primary actions.

The workload implied by this far exceeds the reasonable expectations of a Parish Council, and we can't always fill the posts on that. Sorry to sound negative, but there is not a snowball's chance in hell of recruiting and organising these sorts of resources in this parish. So we are likely to remain unconsidered by the ECDC's committees - unless of course our elected representative could make our case for us? After all, he attends the Parish Council meetings, so will know what the village thinks.....

John Chalmers

“In summary, you establish a committee of committed people who are not already on the PC, who can design questionnaires that stand up to statistical scrutiny, are prepared to pester their neighbours with them, are fluent in GovSpeak, and have a year or two of free time on their hands. The more accessible of the helpful brochures lists a mere 49 bullet points ... ”

SWAFFHAM PRIOR
**OPEN
GARDENS
AND
FOSTERS MILL**

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2-6PM
ADMISSION £3-00

Tickets, Teas, Tombola & other stalls at the Village Hall

Do you sing in the bath?

Do you sing in the car? Do you enjoy singing? If so come and join us for a fun afternoon. Find out what you can do.

No expertise necessary (but if you have, don't be put off - join us anyway)

***Sing
Your***



Out

When? Saturday 14th June

Where? Swaffham Prior Village Hall

What time? 1.45 for 2.00 – 5.00

How much? £5

Information and tickets from Brenda Wilson [Tel:01638](tel:01638743937) 743937

RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY NOTICE

Informal Tenders are invited for an Annual Farm Business Tenancy for 18 acres of arable land at Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck from 29th September 2008. The Charity is not bound to accept the highest or indeed any tender.

Informal tender forms are available from the Clerk, and are to be returned to the Clerk before 5.00pm on Friday 11th July 2008.

Enquiries and Tender Forms to:

Mrs Cheryl Ling,
Clerk,
Relief in Need Charity,
43 High Street,
Swaffham Bulbeck,
Cambridge. CB25 OHP
Telephone: 01223 811733



RED2GREENHOUSE

At Bottisham Village College

Reg Charity No 1112429

We are a local charity working with adults with learning difficulties and pupils from Bottisham Village College.

We can offer you a range of locally grown fresh vegetables, and a selection of plants for all seasons.

Also home made jams and pickles.

We are open Tuesday - Friday 9.30am - 3.30pm

Saturday - 10.00am - 12.00pm

We are behind the College, just follow the signs.

Telephone 01223 813650

We Look Forward To Seeing You

SINGING WORKSHOP FOR FUN!

You don't need experience - If you want to sing, just come and sing!

Singing together in a relaxed environment for the pure enjoyment of it

Mondays 7.30-9

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

(Please call/email to double check venue)

High Street, Swaffham Prior

For more information contact Cath on 07810146501 or at

c.coombs@talktalk.net

John Norris Remembers....

The Fenland

Swaffham Prior parish is some five thousand acres and about half of it is in the low lying fen area. The history of this low area is bound up with the melting of the ice age, thousands of years ago, when the Wash and fen were created by the thawing glacier, leaving behind large freshwater lakes.. Much chalk had been pushed up into the east end of the Chiltern hills, and left the sedimentary clay sub strata covered with water. In time this fresh water lake grew reed and sedge in vast quantities, which were of no use as fodder or even harvested due to the primitive circumstances of the time. The remains of this growth just fell to ground and rotted, forming the black deposit some of us remember as peat.

Not all areas grew this peat, for nearer the sea, the tides deposited silt on the low places and built up the ground level. The rivers too originating in the west and north of the fen land deposited their suspensions when reaching the salt tides, thus in time making a barrier at the coast. My family farm near Wisbech is on a silt bank which is quite high towards the sea, but fades away as one goes inland. There are deposits of other types of marine life to be found. At Upware there is a ridge of coralline rag consisting as the name suggests of marine coral trapped in the ice until it thawed.

As I understand it, it was the Duke of Bedford, who so many years later tried to bring this vast area of boggy land into productive use, and to make it possible to get across it. Vermuyden, the Dutch engineer, was given the task of surveying the land and producing a scheme of drainage. Much has been written about his activities, and are not relevant here, except to say how they were to be financed.

The land was to be called the Bedford Level, and funded by a group of financiers known as the Adventurers. Their money allowed the work to start, and they hoped that their largesse would in due time produce valuable assets, whether of minerals, turf as a fuel, grazing for cattle, plane agricultural land, or in the worst scenario worthless marsh. Considering most of this work would have to be done by hand, and the lack of communications, it surely was a mammoth task. The main drain started at St Germans, on a silt bank and travelled south west across the silt lands towards the black fen many miles away. The excess water was pumped over this bank and discharged into the river Ouse, and thence to the sea.

In our part of the world, the South Level, the drainage works started by improving the banks of the river Cam to prevent most of the flooding, and constructing four Lodes or Banked rivers leading from the chalk highland and discharging into the Cam. The most important of these were the Burwell Lode, the two Swaffham Lodes, and one though Quy. Today these lodes have a diesel pumps or more likely electric ones to lift the water into the river if the levels are such that it cannot flow directly. But the original system did not have pumps until

much later. It is probable that wind pumps lifted the water from the local dykes into the lodes.

I can not find a date for the layout of the south level drains which exist to day, but a good guess would be early Victorian, as the main artery is dead straight, an equal distance from the high land and the river Cam. At the time this would seem to be logical, as the land level was likely to be flat, but as the water was drained the underlying levels which were far from level emerged. Today the engineers are re-routing the drains through the lowest land, to catch the water easily. It is the huge capacity pumps which enable this to work, and being automatic, and electric requiring no operator as the diesel and coal fired steam pumps did.

As the water drained away the extraction of the peat could go ahead. The turves were cut and dried in the summer, and transported to Cambridge on barges pulled up the lodes and then along the river Cam. Have you ever counted the chimneys on the Cambridge Colleges? Hundreds of them, all burning peat until the railways arrived in the mid nineteenth century. These barges were pulled by horses walking down the middle of the river when they reach the Cambridge colleges. On the edge of the fen but previously under water, is a layer of calcium phosphate, or coprolite. This mineral is the fossilised remains of animal dung which was lying on the sea bed before the ice age. To extract this mineral was hard work as there was an overburden of several feet which had to be removed by hand, and then the prize emerged. Trenches were dug some ten feet wide, the coprolites dug out, and the trench filled with the over burden of the next trench.

Today (May 2008) the price of phosphate has risen dramatically to over £500



Google Satellite Map showing line of old railway and other digging markings?

a ton, being in such short supply, and could re-open the value of these buried treasures. There is a vast deposit still lying underground, but knowing the difficulties of getting permission to almost anything new I doubt if any extraction will ever take place

An aerial photograph taken in 1963 clearly show the extent of these diggings. Interestingly the Google Map of today does not show much, as the ploughing these days is so much deeper than the old Ferguson tractor could manage, and the outlines of the trenches are almost gone. Another reason is that ploughing had not been going on much before the second world war, as the chief crops were rough hay, peat, and sheep and cattle grazing. On the corner of Black drive was the remains of the last trench in a field called Daniel's Cut. The Google map shows this has now been filled. Very sad, as this was a piece of history, and its existence did not affect the balance sheet at all. One of these old moats on Gutteridge Close in the village had the same fate several years ago, but I can remember it being there, and was the home for many frogs and toads. The conservation voice is not loud enough, as I fear the moat behind the school may be in jeopardy also. I am getting very near to the time when I first drove through the fen, and was amazed that such a large area of land could be in such a derelict state. The War Ag Committee had done great work in putting down the concrete roads, but sadly ran out of steel reinforcement shortly after passing the station !! This deficiency has proved costly as the concrete cracked and had to be broken up, crushed, and used as a base for the flexible tarmac road we see there to day.

The road into the Fen is called Whiteway Drove, due most likely to the amount of chalk used to make a hard surface. Black Drive was obviously just the raw fen soil, whereas Split Drove was one of the droves going north-south, as the main droves went east west straight towards the river. It was the War Ag that connected them near the river bank, and made a through road to Upware. Previously these droves ended at a ferry, and gave an outlet to Waterbeach Fen, and so on to Cambridge.

The chief reason for the poor crops, or one of then, was the inability to control fungal diseases. Mould of one kind or another affected wheat and barley, sugar beet, potatoes, carrots, and could not be controlled successfully until Dithane and its derivatives arrived. The fen used to be covered with mushrooms in the autumn, acres of them all glistening white against the black fen soil; but not today. The profitability of the farms is now great, as the crops now grow well especially as the trace elements question has also been addressed. The only problem now is political, and related to the global affairs and super- market domination. All the fields, at least those under my jurisdiction had names. I fancy that to day they are classified by O.S. numbers, nowhere near as romantic. Daniels Cut, already mentioned, Harts ground, Swan Lake, now that is a name from the past, the double dolver etc. A dolver was seven acres, so the double dolver would be fourteen! Mebblies, Bush Ground, Horse Ground, and Low Bridge Hole, Headlake drove, Swan Lake, to name a few more.

John Norris

NEARLY NEW SALE OF LADIES SUMMER CLOTHES

SUNDAY 22 JUNE
2.00 pm — 6.00 pm
Swaffham Prior Village Hall

~ All sizes ~
~ Wonderful Bargains ~

All profits will go to the Marylou Project, which is raising funds to put a much-needed toilet in St. Mary's Church.



MOLLY DESPAIRS

Molly featured on the August/September 2007 *Crier* cover when she bemoaned that human people wanted to use her food to fuel motor cars. Molly knew what a joke this was. And now, barely eleven months later, the experts are worrying about the adverse effects of biofuel which may result in people starving. Who would have thought that - apart from Molly.

Molly sees another problem. There are too many people in the world. Molly knows what would happen if there were too many Mollies. Quite a dilemma for us Molly thinks, and she wonders if you have thought.



WANTED

Child's car seat

to borrow or buy

We need a car seat for our youngest grand-child, aged 1 year,
for occasional visits from Dublin.

If you can help, please ring Ruth Scovil on 01638 743720

Sonnet to a
TOBIAS GEORGE SMOLLETT (1721-1771)
Front Loading Type Washing Machine.

Pure stream, in whose transparent wave
My soiled clothes, I'm wont to lave.

No stains resist thy fluid force,
No socks impede thy programmed course:
Revolving like a whirlpool lake
A charming maze thy waters make.
Cleansing by Ariel or Bold
And water that runs HOT and COLD.
Within thy flanks of gleaming white
My numerous shirts and socks delight
And wait the Timer's switched 'AVAIL'
To tumble out, and into pail.

Now heart's resolved and iron prepared
To polish the poetry we have shared.

Ophir

With apologies & thanks to TGS

**ART EXHIBITION BY THE FOUNTAIN GROUP
IN THE CHURCH OF ST CYRIAC & ST JULIETTA
SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

**TWO WEEKENDS:
SATURDAY JUNE 28th - SUNDAY JUNE 29th
AND SATURDAY JULY 5TH – SUNDAY JULY 6TH 2008
OPEN 11 AM TO 6PM daily**

We are a group of twelve regional artists, exhibiting together in
and around Cambridge.

Free entry and a warm welcome to everyone

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

After their sell-out gig at the 2007 Swaffham Prior Festival
and 2008 Australian tour



KEITH PEARSON'S COUP de GRASS

4-piece bluegrass band

Featuring ex-World Champion Harmonica player

Return to Swaffham Prior Village Hall on

SATURDAY 7th JUNE

With support from local performers

7.30pm

Drinks at the bar

Tickets £7.50/£5 children Parking at the rear

Tickets from: Andrew Noyes 01638 743864;

noyeshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk

New CD - **"After the Treacle"** - now available:

www.keithpearson.co.uk

Town Close Playground Refurbishment



After-school visitors and passers-by cannot fail to be impressed with the recent development that has taken place in Town Close Playground. This was a £7,500 project part-funded by £6,100 from the Big Lottery Fund, which was supposed to take a year, but much to the credit of all those involved, managed to get finished in only 9 months.

The work was co-ordinated by Steve Kent-Phillips and Michelle Burrell, ECDC Play & Physical Activity Co-

ordinator, ably assisted by Karen King who did all the administration (which was an awful lot!). The new developments are considerable, and include general refurbishment and repair to existing equipment, much painting by Scouts, addition of the famous “anti-poop” devices, (see Criers passim), cutting back of the trees, and various additional to health-and-safety aspects: new “safefall” netting underneath the grass, a self-closing gate and ambulance access.

But the star additions must be the new and completely unique picnic table (its lower height permits safe access to the roof, and



a seating area exclusive to primary age children) together with the delightful fish motif on the new “softpour” grounding. Both of these were designed by our own primary school children.

Many congratulations are due to Steve Kent Phillips, Karen King, Tim Doe and Steve White (scouts), Pam Waters (SP Charities) and Headmistress Emma Vincent on a great project so ably executed.



Not Swimming but Cycling

The “Saddle Sore Seven” – parents of children at Swaffham Prior Primary School - have raised more than £5,000 following a 300-mile cycling challenge.

The avid cyclists, from Swaffham Prior, Reach and Burwell, raised the cash by cycling from the Eden Project in Cornwall to Swaffham Prior in a two-team relay ride, with each group cycling for 30 miles before handing over to the other.

The organizer, Helen Oliver, was joined by Mandy and Phil Kingsmill, Tim Doe, Adam Collier, Andy Tozer and Graham Lingley for the two-day challenge. Despite a lot of training in the flat Suffolk countryside, Mrs Oliver said nothing had quite prepared the teams for riding through the Cornish hills. Nevertheless, they completed the trip on time and were welcomed back to the village by school children waving flags, and church bells ringing.

The school has now raised £15,000 towards repairing the school swimming pool and can begin to apply for grants to subsidise the estimated £25,000 cost. Anyone wishing to donate to the fund should contact the school office on 01638 741529.



Braving the Elements

Just after midday today (Saturday) Team A prepared to do the first leg

Team A having finished their first leg, at ten to five on Saturday, team B were ready to set off on their first leg. Reports are that going is tough- the hills around Swaffham Prior they've been training on aren't much in comparison to Dartmoor!!

At least they secured some nice accommodation to rest tonight!



Go, Swaffham Prior Seven, go! Nearly £5000 for the pool is riding on this!

The White horse at Westbury - and everyone still smiling!

Team B got held up by a herd of cows at some point this afternoon, and Adam's phone was low on power, so low on news to report today - but the BEST news is that, after a struggle yesterday over the virtually mountainous terrain of Dartmoor, and finishing almost



twenty miles off target - today, our intrepid teams have made up the lost miles, and are back on target to see us at school at 2:30 tomorrow, as planned!

Ask Not for Whom the Bells Peal...

On the approach to Swaffham Prior, the weary cyclists were spurred on by the ever-nearer clamour of St Cyriac's church bells. This was due to John Norris and Andrew Camps in the tower, and part of the welcome laid on by the village. But the cyclists didn't know this. Why were they ringing? When they heard it was for *them*, there was some emotion!



The 2008 Village Feast

What a jolly occasion the Village Feast remains. None of the Reach or Thriplow multitudes. This is best illustrated by a couple who set out from Bottisham to buy a home made cake. They saw the Feast signs (thanks Steve) and thought they might find one there. They did. And much more. They moved to the book store and could not resist the wide range which met their every need. Then to the luscious plant stall. Afterwards one of those famous Village Hall Cream Teas. After which they sat on the grass listening to the music, watching the astonishing contortions and grimaces of the eaters of buns at the end of a string, and ended by saying “We get nothing like this in Bottisham”.

The weather was superb and £823 was made for Village Hall funds.

Alastair Everitt





Bulbeck Gilbert & Sullivan

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre, now in its 27th year, will be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's **Yeomen of the Guard** from Wednesday 4th to Saturday 7th June 2008 at Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck. Evening performances start at 7.30pm and on Saturday there is a matinee at 2.30pm. There is a licensed bar at evening performances and tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided at the matinee. Ticket prices are £7 for Wednesday and Thursday evenings, £8 for Friday and Saturday evenings and £4 for the matinee. Tickets will be available from Kari Karolia, 133 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0LX, tel: 01223 813655, e-mail: kari.karolia@gmail.com from 28th April 2008 and from the Country Stores, Swaffham Bulbeck from 12th May. See also our website www.sbstgands.co.uk

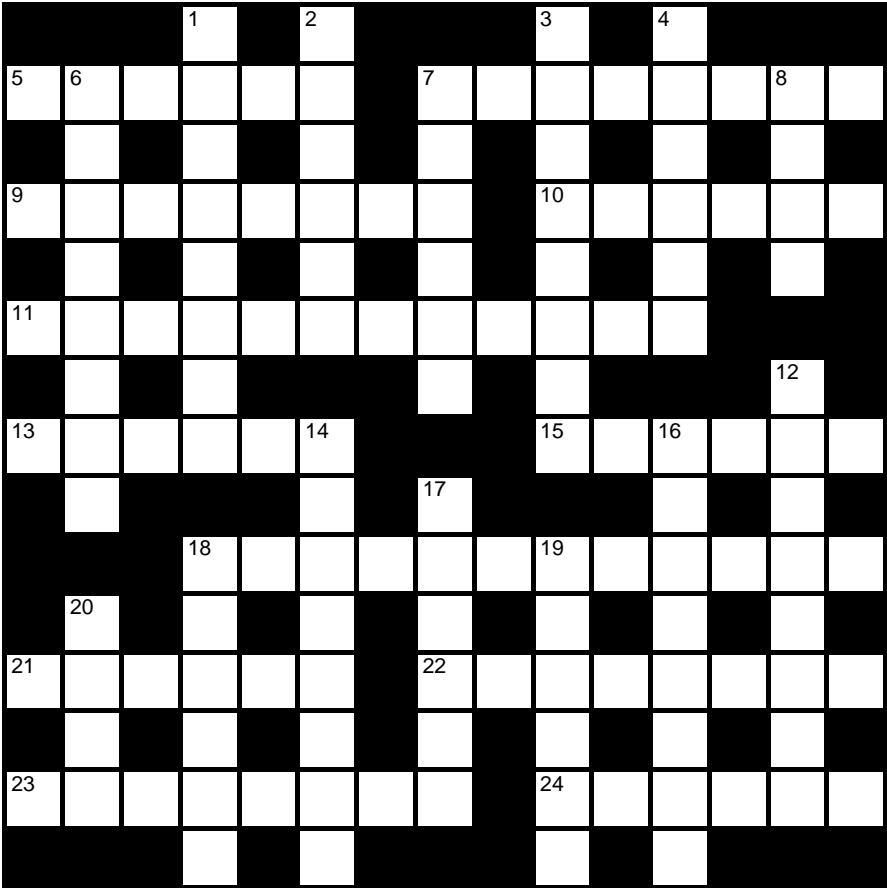
Crossword Number 53

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 June 2008. 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.



Name:.....		
Adress.....		
.....		Tel:.....

Across

- 5 Get old boy to say thank you at home (6)
- 7 Indicate chamber where goods might be displayed (8)
- 9 Abduct a man in the city (8)
- 10 Responds when soldiers are brought to book (6)
- 11 Choose a petrol mixture and coat with metal (12)
- 13 Fool may laugh about a good man (6)
- 15 Larger catafalque about childish horse (6)
- 18 Shake out brown rat I found in the water (7,5)
- 21 First big insect on the island could be alive (6)
- 22 Gift from party people (8)
- 23 Percussion instrument used in two-sided rumba (4,4)
- 24 Surge on grass (6)

Down

- 1 Dado may win Ascot possibly (8)
- 2 Secure African chorus-girls inside (6)
- 3 Do arm job around frame (8)
- 4 Circle ships at eastern end. Very elaborate (6)
- 6 Having been around the cargo area, felt morally obliged (8)
- 7 Thin air surrounds young rascal (6)
- 8 Promise a hot stew (4)
- 12 Cloudy like an interstellar object (8)
- 14 Track mail used to get cheap fares (8)
- 16 Moving around to find mangy rat or yak hiding (8)
- 17 I remain married and in the same place (6)
- 18 spilt retort produces stinker (6)
- 19 sift through and make a profit at once (6)
- 20 Fruit for the bird (4)

Solution to crossword no. 52

C	H	E	E	R	S		M	O	R	P	H	I	N	E
A		M		E			I		O			N		U
F	R	I	D	G	E		O	L	D	L	A	T	I	N
F		S		I		I		Y		Y		O		U
E	A	S	T	S	I	D	E		R	U	S	T	I	C
I		I		T		A		U		N		O		H
N	E	V	E	R	T	H	E	L	E	S	S			
E		E		Y		O		U		A		S		A
				R	O	M	A	N	L	E	T	T	E	R
S		O		F		N		A		U		P		B
T	Y	P	I	F	Y		S	T	A	R	G	A	Z	E
U		I		I		B		E		A		R		S
C	H	A	N	C	E	R	Y		S	T	R	A	I	T
C		T		E		A				E		T		O
O	V	E	R	S	T	E	P		A	D	D	E	R	S

We congratulate Julian Luttrell, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Paul & Elly Catling, Shirley Wilkins and Bob & Julie Nunn.

Rogation Lunch 2008 at Adventurer's Farm



Following a service in the stables with three horses in attendance, 40 people sat down for a traditional lunch of roast beef and Yorkshire puddings...



Delicious

.....followed by fruit pie and custard or trifle, and coffee. Thank you to Janet Willmott for her wonderful cooking hospitality...



Too full to move



....and to Hannah and friends for looking after us so well. In spite of the rain it was a wonderful event!

Dee Noyes

Thank-you, Janet and team!

School News



THANK YOU SO MUCH for the fabulous response we have had for our swimming pool fund raising door drop envelopes. With your help we have managed to raise just over £1500 from this alone! Other fundraising ideas are going well. Our fantastic seven parents have completed their sponsored cycle ride from St. Austell to Swaffham Prior and managed to raise over £4000 doing this. We have currently raised about £10,000, so we are almost half way there. Thank you once again for your continued support.

The children are all taking part in a sponsored swim on 26th June to raise further funds. This will take place at Bottisham pool and should be great fun. We also have our annual Summer Fair on 5th July and hope you will be able to come along.

We started off this term with an INSET day involving members of the whole school community; staff, children, governors and parents. The aim was to re-write our school vision and write a new motto, and here they are:

Our School Vision: Swaffham Prior C of E Primary School promotes a sustainable, challenging and Christian ethos which is at the heart of the community. All adults and children are responsible, caring and friendly. We communicate and work together effectively, showing respect for each other and our environment. Everyone is encouraged to be motivated, happy, confident and independent learners able to meet future challenges.

Our new motto: Learning, working and growing together.

All children have had 1:1 Learning Meetings with their class teacher this term. Each child had a special 10 minutes with their teacher to discuss their learning, what is going well and what their next steps should be. This new venture has gone really well and the children really valued being the centre of attention for a whole 10 minutes, so we are going to do it each term.

Class 4 have just completed a Personalised Learning Week. The children were given the opportunity to choose what they wanted to learn about for a week, but they had to plan and organise it all themselves! The topics varied from Fashion Design, Photography, Being a Flying Groom, Stunts, Go-kart building and Chemical Reactions. The children organised visits to Cambridge Regional College Fashion and Photography departments, Darley Stud and Wicken Fen. They also worked with specialists from the stunt world and chemistry teachers. The week was great fun and we all learnt a huge amount.

Rehearsals are currently under way for the Key Stage 2 summer production, Robin Hood. The children are busy learning their songs and words for the show which is being held on 15th July @ 1.30pm (dress rehearsal), 16th July @ 7pm and 17th July @ 7pm. Please call into school if you would like to see a performance.

Emma Vincent
Headteacher

THE PUMPKINS ARE BACK

Last year Pumpkins returned to the Autumn Show's list of exhibits. There is still time to nurture yours for this year's show on **September 13th**. The class is for the Largest Pumpkin.

Neighbourhood Panels

Local action and improvement in your area

This April saw the latest round of Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire, where residents, Councillors and representatives from other organisations (such as Sanctuary Hereward (Housing), the Office of Children and Young People's Services, and Cambridgeshire Constabulary) have their say on the important issues facing their communities, and set priorities for action.

The South Panel met on Tuesday 1st April at Ditton Lodge First School, Crockfords Park, Newmarket with 52 people present, and Councillor Carl Poole chairing the meeting.

Several issues were raised, including Youth Provision in the area, fly-tipping, speeding and consultation on proposed changes to airspace (NATS), but the priority issues for policing were identified as

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Burwell
- Inconsiderate parking across the whole of the Panel's area which creates safety issues outside schools, churches and a College.
- In Swaffham Prior it is intended that there will be a multi-agency approach to the issue of fly-tipping and the encampments of travellers.



Councillor Peter Cresswell, Chairman of Community Services, said: “East Cambridgeshire District Council made a pioneering decision to extend Neighbourhood Panels across the district but they can only be successful if we all participate in them. It has often been said that we need to prove that we are more than a talking shop and happily I think our work is showing that already.

The Panels have made great strides in dealing with the issues that have been raised so far in our area. However, we need everyone’s support to make a difference, which is why we would encourage anyone with an issue to come along to the relevant meeting and see how we can deal with it.”

A Newsletter summarising the outcomes from the Panel meeting will be published in mid-May, together with an invitation to (even more) members of the public to come to the next meeting (in which we hope there will be increased public participation) is on

Monday, 1st July 7.0 – 9.0 pm at Bottisham Village College.

A revised Neighbourhood Panel webpage is now available in the A-Z section of the District Council’s website www.eastcambs.gov.uk and you can receive more information directly from Alan Williams,

Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator

t: 01353 616349

e: Alan.Williams@eastcambs.gov.uk

Please let Alan know if there are other links which you would find useful from the webpage.



WI Notes

At our meeting on May 19th, we dispensed with the normal practice of having a speaker and entertained ourselves.

We spent some time debating National Resolutions which WIs throughout Great Britain will be voting on in June., and which hopefully you will hearing more of during the year. Charlotte Dickenson taught us about the dangers of *bottom-trawling* (ie trawling for fish on the sea-bed) , and Margaret Joyce spoke on the inappropriate imprisonment of the severely mentally ill. Both resolutions were carried unanimously after lively discussion.

Two member — Pat Airey and I — then gave potted histories of our lives so far, which caused a lot of laughter and unseemly catcalls from our normally polite audience!

Next month, we have an outing to Abbots Ripton Gardens on June 21st, meeting at the Village Hall at 10.30am.

If you are interested in joining our friendly WI, give Pat Cook a ring on 01638 742224.

Shirley Wilkins

Want to help make Cambridgeshire safer?

Cambridgeshire Police Authority (CPA) would like to hear from people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who want to help make the county safer.

The Authority has launched a recruitment campaign to attract applicants for four of its Independent member posts. They want to hear from people who can represent a broad range of local communities and have the ability to challenge accepted views in a constructive way. Successful candidates will make a positive contribution to the Authority's core role: ensuring that Cambridgeshire has an effective and efficient police force.

The Authority is made up of local people, eight of whom are 'Independent' members – selected from the community – who, together with nine councillor members, aim to ensure the safety of Cambridgeshire's thousands of residents by maintaining an efficient and effective police service. The Authority is looking for applicants with the relevant skills, experience and knowledge (detailed on its website or available by telephone) to help achieve its aims.

Applicants must be over 18 and live or work within the area covered by Cambridgeshire Police Authority. A commitment of around eight hours per week is required, for which an allowance and expenses are payable upon appointment in October for a period of four years. For more information, and to apply, please visit www.cambs-pa.gov.uk/vacancies.cfm or call 0845 345 4335. Closing date is 3rd June.

"Live your Best Life" Exhibition -

Drop into a free Life Coaching and related Therapies Exhibition on Saturday 5th July 2008, 12.30pm-4.30pm at Michaelhouse Centre, Trinity Street in Cambridge. For more information visit www.daydreamzzz-coaching.co.uk/exhibition.

Experts in a wide range of coaching and therapies will be on hand to talk to, answer your queries, provide taster sessions and demonstrations. Talks on some of these tools will be scheduled during the afternoon. You can also find out how you can learn and develop these tools and techniques for your own benefit. Drop in during the afternoon where you will find it an informative and welcoming event.

Reunion Party

Were you a pupil in the year group 1975-1980 at Bottisham Village College? There will be a Reunion Party for ex-pupils and teachers on Saturday 7th June 2008 at Bottisham Village College, 8 – 12pm. Please contact Karin Fitch if you wish to come on 01954 251700 / karin.murphy@hotmail.co.uk . We hope to keep entry cost down to £5 per person (depending on final numbers coming). Please bring a bottle and a few nibbles.

Come and revisit old times and old faces; the more, the merrier!

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, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

Offers	Wants	Details:
70W Fluorescent tube (length 1800mm, diameter 26mm. 12 plastic hangers		Charlotte, 01223 813 452
Hotpoint Built-in double oven (Novelle 6172 deLuxe) Hotpoint Ceramic Hob (Speedglo/Speedglo plus 6372) Neff extractor fan (white), 900mm wide (to fix to wall duct) (All thoroughly cleaned and in good working order. Will be available from early to mid July)		Liz, 01223 811233
Very comfortable rocking-swivel chair, adjustable and with matching footstool. Grey brown faux leather. 22inch willow log basket 21inch standard lampshade		Mrs Ransom, 01223 811517
Hitachi Portable Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder.		Ken Watson, 01223 812740
	Wooden ladder – garden Bunk bed	Lucy Wells, 01223 811192
Variety of children's videos (Pingu, Postman Pat, Wild Thornberrys, Learning numbers with Sooty, Beatrix Potter "Tale of.." series etc)	Teeny weeny bicycle for 3.5 year old Scooter for a same child	Jun, 01223 813362

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman:

John Covill was unanimously elected as Chairman and Andrew Camps was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Parish has a full Parish Council of 9 members. They are:

Mr John Covill (Chairman)

Mr Andrew Camps (Vice-Chairman)

Mr David Almond

Mr Eric Day

Mrs Sandra Gynn

Mr Peter Hart

Mr J Jordan

Mr Steve Kent-Phillips

Mr Geoffrey Woollard

Confirmation of PC Representatives for Village Committees/Groups:

Peter Hart – Village Hall Management Committee

Steve Kent-Phillips – Sports & Recreation Committee

Eric Day, John Covill & Andrew Camps – Parochial Charities

Confirmation of RFO & PCRF:

John Covill - RFO (Responsible Financial Officer)

Steve Kent-Phillips - PCRF (Parish Councillor Responsible for Finance)

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were agreed.

Reports: CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson

Traffic Calming Measures for Mill Hill – *presentation by Mr John Richards & Kevin Hall of CCC Highways.* A draft scheme was presented to the meeting. This was discussed and it was agreed that the residents of Mill Hill should be consulted on the scheme and as the Annual Village Meeting was on the 13th May, it was thought this would be an opportune time for people to view the draft plans. A letter was to be sent to all residents of Mill Hill. Kevin Hall explained to the meeting some ideas for traffic calming such as white line marking (hatching), narrowing of the road in places using kerbing or ‘blisters’ and possibly a kerbed island. He explained that their suggestions were in draft form and subject to a further site visit to confirm such things as vehicular accesses to properties and drainage, etc and local consultation.

Finalising of Agenda for Annual Village Meeting (14/05/08): A new meeting format was agreed to encourage parishioners to attend and put their views forward. John Jordan showed a Powerpoint presentation to be used at the meeting. This highlighted agenda items such as – a Parish Plan, Traffic Calming on Mill Hill, The National Trust – “Wicken Vision”, Refurbishment of the Play Area. The agenda included reports from village groups such as the Village Hall Management Committee, The Parochial Charities and the Scout Troop with their Leader, Tim

Doe. A display of School Activities & Plans was to be on display.

Parish Plan for Village: There continued to be very mixed views on this item. It was agreed that to consult with parishioners at the Annual Village Meeting as noted above.

Play Area: RoSPA had carried out their inspection of the Play Area but their report had not to date been received. This will be reviewed at the June PC meeting. The last piece of play equipment, the covered picnic table, had been erected and the painting of the equipment was imminent. This will conclude the refurbishment of the play area. Everyone congratulated Steve Kent-Phillips for his efforts and hard work.

Shaping of Trees to Cemetery Entrance: Areas needing attention were reported to the PC. These were;

The Yew trees at the entrance to the cemetery are badly in need of trimming and shaping. This work will need to be carried out by a professional contractor.

The stock-pile of chalk earth at the 'bottom' of the cemetery needed to be removed and the area tidied.

Some levelling work was also needed.

It was agreed members of the PC would look at the cemetery and see what was required and this would be further discussed at the June meeting.

Contribution to Replacement of School Swimming Pool for Community Use:
A donation of £1,000 was agreed.

The Lodes & Fens: Ongoing

Planning applications including:

Planning applications including:

Goodwin Farm, 1 Heath Road – *proposed extension and Alteration.*– No objections.

Kent House, 9 High Street – *replacement of boundary fence with new wall to match existing.* No objections.

Kent House, 9 High Street – *replacement of existing concrete tile roof by slate roof to match the rest of the property, make good roof line continuous for this section of the building, repair gable end, roof timbers and other woodwork.* No objections.

South Lodge, 88 High Street – *removal of internal wall to bathroom to enlarge kitchen. Extension to provide for new bathroom, cloakroom and rear lobby + alterations and extension to Listed Building.* No objections.

Approval of Annual Audit Return: Following approval by Internal Auditor, this was approved by the meeting for submission to External Auditors, Moore Stephens.

Accounts for payment: These were agreed.

Items for the Next Agenda:

Traffic calming – Mill Hill

The Play Area – RoSPA inspection

The Lodes The Fens

Items arising from Annual Village Meeting

Review of Assets
Review of Financial Risk Assessment
Cemetery Maintenance Work

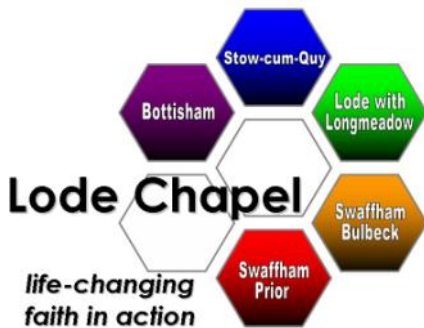
Open Question Time:

General items of discussion.

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

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th June 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@bopenworld.com



Lode Baptist Chapel

Exams – A Test of Love?

This is the time of year when people are sitting exams and handing in coursework – and I'm not just talking about children and young people who are taking SATs,

GCSEs, A-Levels and NVQs. Now, with the advent of things like online courses and the University of the Third Age, learning is a lifelong pursuit. Indeed, I have my own essays to write and exams to sit as I complete my three years at Spurgeons College where I have been training for the Baptist ministry.

When you are in the midst of the assessment process, you can quickly become overwhelmed with the pressures of what success or failure might mean for your future – you think everything is resting on the outcome of a few hours work. It is very easy to lose perspective, which is why it is important that friends and family help to put things in a proper balance for you. This is the time when you most need to hear that their love for you is unconditional, and not dependent upon what grade you get or whether you've got a higher mark than somebody else.

Although we are often well meaning, sometimes the messages we give can be unhelpful. For example, if we wait until the exam results are in before taking somebody out for a celebration meal or giving them a present or a card, then we're subtly reinforcing the fact that it's the results which matter and not them as a person. Why not take them out just before the exam or just afterwards – this communicates to them that you're aware of it being a stressful time and that in your love for them you want to give them an opportunity to unwind and relax. In an atmosphere of

unconditional love and support the fear of failure disappears and the desire to succeed increases.

When we perceive ‘tokens of love’ as a reward for achievement rather than signs of unconditional appreciation we can carry the message this gives us into later life. I speak from personal experience because I realise that often in my work life I have pursued success not in its own right but as a way of ‘earning’ the love of my parents – and I suspect I am not the only one who has done this. Some people also carry this sort of mindset into how they see God – thinking that they can earn His approval by doing good things rather than enjoying a relationship with Him that is based on His unconditional love for them. In such a relationship, you still want to do good things, but out of love, rather than because of duty or out of the fear of disapproval and rejection.

I am pleased, therefore, that even before they have received the results of my study at Spurgeons, the members of Lode Chapel have decided to ask me to stay on and become their full-time minister (I was only part-time before). This means that I am likely to be around in these villages for at least another three years – and I look forward to all of the new opportunities this will present. If you are taking any sort of test or exam this month, I pray that you too will know the love and support of those around you at this stressful time.

Simon Goddard

For more information please contact:
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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’, 22nd June,
with activities for all of the family,
10.30am at Bottisham Primary School.**

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).



Church of England Services

June 2008

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Sun 8	11:00am Family Communion 3:pm CHCT Thanksgiving (Cambridge Historic Churches Trust)	9:30am Holy Communion 11:00am Renew (in Primary School)	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 15	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Morning Prayer 3pm Carers Service
Sun 22	11:00am Family Communion	8:00am Morning Prayer 9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 29	11:00am Benefice Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	6:30pm Evensong

PASTORAL LETTER, June 2008

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

On the 15th June we are putting on a special service in Holy Trinity Church Bottisham to give thanks to God and to pray for carers.

My own father cared for my mother after she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in 1982. Although my mother could manage perfectly well for the first 15 years after she was diagnosed, for the last 10 years of her life she really struggled, and I saw my father increasingly burdened down with the task of caring for her. Particularly so in the last few years of her life, when all sorts of side effects of the drugs brought great difficulties, especially at night, and my heart went out to my father for the sheer exhaustion that he often experienced as he strove so lovingly to

care for her needs.

There is no doubt that carers are our nations unsung heroes and heroines, particularly those caring for disabled, ill or incapacitated loved ones. It is estimated that 5.7 million people in our country are carers, in particular 24% of the 45 - 64 age group. Often their task is lonely, exhausting and debilitating, and carers often struggle with stress, money worries and feelings of guilt.

“ There is no doubt that carers are our nations unsung heroes and heroines”

As one lady recently wrote “My husband suffers from Alzheimer’s and we are both in our 80s. Luckily and gratefully we receive support from Ealing Crossroads, Ealing Social Services and a loving family. As a carer, I neglect my own health requirements because they may entail regular appointments eg dental / eye care. I also worry about getting older and perhaps experiencing ever increasing disabilities associated with aging. At the present time I can’t imagine how anyone else can take on my necessary everyday household duties, as well as the various practical and medical demands of my ailing husband. I am sure that this story is repeated by thousands of others in similar circumstances – the future does not bear contemplation.” It is right and proper, therefore, that we should recognise and value their sacrifice, their burden and their unselfishness.

Caring is a noble and honourable profession, and lies at the very heart of the Christian ethic. Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan to remind us all that it is simply not good enough to mouth words about caring, like the priest and the Levite, and then pass by on the other side of the road. The story of the Samaritan’s genuine human kindness and concern for the poor unfortunate, who lay at the side of the road after being attacked by robbers, shocked the people who first heard the story, because the Samaritans were supposed to be unprincipled and self-centred enemies; people who were regarded as traitors and turncoats.

But in the story, Jesus tells of the Samaritan, not only stopping and rescuing the poor victim, but also making himself vulnerable by putting the victim in the care of the innkeeper and promising to pay whatever it cost to care for him.

Essentially that is what carers do, they make themselves vulnerable as they give of themselves as much as is necessary to care for loved ones. It is that vulnerability that we must support and care about and pray for. As Jesus said *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

Maybe you are a carer, or you know of someone in your family who is a carer. If you would like a prayer said for you or them don’t hesitate to let me know, or perhaps you would like to come and join us in the service, which will be at 3pm on 15th June.

David

Dates for Your Diary

June 2008

Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15pm
Wed	4	Gilbert & Sullivan , Downing Farm, 7.30pm (to Saturday—matinee 2.30pm)
Sat	7	Coup de Grass, 7.30, VH BVC Reunion Party, 8-12pm, BVC
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	14	Grand Garage & Table Top Sale, 10am-2pm Sing Your Heart Out, VH, 1.45 for 2-5pm
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15pm
Wed	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	21	WI Outing to Abbots Ripton. Meet 10.30am, VH
Sun	22	Open Gardens, Foster Mill, Teas + Tombola, Nearly New Sale, 2pm-6pm
Sat	28	Fountain Group Art Exhibition, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's
Sun	29	Fountain Group Art Exhibition, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's
July	1	Neighbourhood Panel Meeting, 7-9pm, BVC
Sat	5	School Fair Cage Hill Soap Box Challenge, 11am-1.30, On the Grid Fountain Group Art Exhibition, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's Live You Best Life Exhibition, 12.30-4pm, Michaelhouse Centre, Trinity St. Cambridge
Sun	6	Cricket, Bulbeck Denny, Afternoon Fountain Group Art Exhibition, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's

Clubs (last update, April) will be back as soon as we start having fewer events!