



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXX1 Number 3

March 2008



Editorial

RESIDENTS who are uncertain about the Wicken Fen/Don't Ditch Our Lodes Debate will now have the opportunity to hear the other side of the story. On Wednesday March 5 in our Village Hall, except....

10 days short of the event, the (doubtless) highly-paid consultants who are presenting the case on behalf of the National Trust haven't yet advertised it — *we rang them*. Consultants, consultants, don't you just love 'em, and if we adopt the Parish Plan—a great deal of unpaid work for *us* (see *Our Reporter*)—then there'll be even more highly-paid consultants: now how do *they* come up with these schemes? They consult consultants, silly!

Not that advertising an event in the *Crier* is necessarily always effective—punctuality is not our strongest suit these days. So in this issue, the editors have finally come out of the closet and are telling you like it is—please take note, we might need your help.

Fortunate is the person who does not have an elderly relative (or even not so elderly relative) afflicted by Alzheimer's these days, and in this month's issue, we learn how Pub-Quizzing Steve Kent Phillips and Graham Wiltshire have

helped raise £900 for the Alzheimer's Society. Congratulations both, and get quizzing all—last Tuesday in the month, Red Lion.

We can also read about the adventures of our brilliant festival openers *Coup de Grass* at Tamworth County Festival, Oz: “By end of third set room half-empty”—oh no! But things look up, aha—wait for next month's instalment!

Also in this month's issue, we are delighted to present a continuation of *John Norris Remembers* series of articles which John has been working on in recent months. These articles are our *history*, not to mention give everybody in the Red Lion Snug the chance to contradict: *No it didn't / no it was a different colour...* Thank-you John, and please keep it up!

And lastly, welcome to Helena Pumphrey, youngest *Crier* reviewer ever—read her opinions on the Bottisham Panto, and....we came THIRD in the Quiz. We didn't listen to our *consultant* about the beetroot! We could have won....

Caroline Matheson

REGULARS

Letters	2
Donations!	21
Our Reporter	6
Crier Profile: Tamworth	
County Festival	12
Let the Bells Ring Out	15
Ophir	21
Freecycle	24
The Reading Group	25
CROSSWORD	22
WI	26
PC Report	26
Simon Goddard	28
Church News	29
Church Swervices	29-30
David Lewis	30
Diary & Clubs	32

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Moveable Feast	9
Easter Lilies	4
Wicken Fen Meeting	5
Reach Fair	9
Spuds in Buckets	11
Bottisham Tennis	11

NEWS, VIEWS & REVIEWS

Pub Quiz raises £900 for Alzheimer's	11
Sleeping Beauty	19
John Norris Remembers	16
Gizmo Goes Home	19
The Timely Crier	8
Cambridge Building Society	
Community Support	20

LOST & FOUND

Keys	3
Gizmo	19

Cover Picture: *Ostrich on the March* by Brenda Wilson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Late Crier

It is difficult criticising voluntary work but my Crier is arriving later and later in the month - February's issue arrived on the 8th. One remedy would be to alter the dates for collating, editing and printing.

I am one who is missing out on life.

Betty Fox

Not quite as much life as we routinely miss every month trying to get your Crier out on time, Betty! Last month, there was an 11 day delay between the Crier going to the printers and it getting to your house. This is fairly disastrous for a monthly magazine. See "The Timely Crier" on page 8. Eds

Dear Editors,

The Windmill

I read with great interest the latest chapter in the history of Swaffham Prior's Tower Mill. However, I thought that the community would also be interested in the circumstances which allowed the present owners to build on the achievements of the previous owner, who had restored it to working order from a near derelict state.

Michael Bulleid purchased the Tower Mill in 1970, from Sidney Foster, who had last worked the mill in 1946. From about 1975, as time and funds permitted, Michael undertook the restoration, supported by his wife Gay and family. At that time funding from outside bodies was seldom available; at a late stage of the project he received a grant from English Heritage to assist with the construction of new sails.

The mill produced flour once again on 1 June 1991, and was worked regularly until September 1997, when progressing illness prevented Michael from continuing. But-during those six years Michael remained responsible for the costs of maintenance and repair, partially offset by the sale of flour and visitor donations.

Michael's work on the windmill received much admiration from individuals and groups working on similar projects far and wide, and he was often called upon for advice and help. The fact that in the last 10-20 years many more windmills, watermills and other examples of Britain's industrial heritage are now restored owes much to the efforts of Michael and others like him - often regarded as eccentrics! The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings took a particular interest in Michael's project and in 1995 awarded him a special Certificate in recognition of his work.

Michael died in May 1998, a few days after the sale of the mill, following a protracted negotiation period. He and Gay are buried in Swaffham Prior, their home for many years.

Gigi Crompton

103 Commercial End, Swaffham Bulbeck

Dear Editors,

Coffee Morning

I want to thank everyone who came and supported the coffee morning on January 30th at my house. As well as having an enjoyable time, a total of £245 was raised for the church.

Yours Gratefully

Juta Reeks

Dear Editors

Any Other Business

Hazel Williams has attempted to justify why “Any Other Business” is no longer allowed on the PC Agenda. She says that “no decisions should be made which are not clearly identified on the agenda, so that anyone with an interest or opinion can attend and speak.” Surely after all her experience she must know that not everything is, OR CAN BE, clearly identified on the agenda.

Mrs Williams goes on to say “This does not mean items cannot be presented for information and . . . as often happens, discussed during the meeting because items arise from a previous minute.” In other words, points not on the agenda can be raised though this may depend on the skill of a member to relate it to some other topic being discussed.

So why not have “Any Other Business – for information only” before “Items for the Next Agenda”? This surely would be the simple answer. For some reason ‘THEY’ will not allow this. But who are THEY? Is it the Government? Was it John Prescott? Is it the National Association of Local Councils? Has no one ever queried the new ruling?

Mrs Williams’ example of the dodginess of Burwell Parish Council twenty years ago is not very relevant. The “considerable sum of money” was not in the budget and therefore could not be spent and if members objected to the decision could it not have been revoked at the next meeting. Was it? Could it have been? Was there any further discussion?

I thank Mr Lewinski for his intervention and as usual he was (in his own words) talking “entirely theoretically” and without many facts.

Alastair Everitt

Keys Found near Church/Graveyard Path

On Tuesday 14th February, two house-keys, “Tiboorra N.S.W outback country” on key ring.

Please contact Barbara Doe, 01638 743656

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.



Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Recycling

As Swaffham Prior residents, we should be proud of our already high rate of recycling within the region and UK as a whole. However, I believe we could do more to emphasize its importance in waste management and us as a parish and district should be a beacon for the recycling initiative. Getting our local primary and secondary schools and sixth forms involved can be vital to influence all our residents in our local community of villages. We should raise awareness to the district and county councils about more they can do to help us achieve our recycling goals.

Campaigning for funds from central government at Westminster may be a path we'll have to follow to allow our local councils to provide more maintenance of recycling facilities, centres and services. It's desirable that more materials should also be added to our list of recyclables to reduce landfill waste e.g. plastic (which should be available soon shortly). Incentives are a big issue in this debate and personally I believe the carrot works better than the stick approach in waste management. I think residents will raise their game if financial rewards are encouraged and put into practise. This is of particular significance as our council tax is rising this year with the cost of living soaring so it would be nice to see our extra

work for our sakes and the environments being acknowledged in a beneficial way. At all political levels, councillors through to MP'S should consider this as a positive step forward concerning recycling in our country.

Jorge Monteiro

Dear Editors,

The Water Tower

I stumbled upon the Swaffham Crier Online, researching a local Water Tower... I am a water tower enthusiast! I read of the Parish Council debating the development of the water tower site.... I assume this is the water tower by the windmill? Please can you advise me if this tower has already been demolished or is there still a chance of me getting to photograph it before it comes down? Any information you may have would be most welcome.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Ferrers Young
Norwich

Still there when we last looked, Ferrers! Come and photograph it any time - can any readers help with more information? Eds

Thanks to some detective work by the *Crier* Editorial Team, we are able to bring you our reconstruction of the following invitation which should shortly be arriving from the National Trust (we have confirmation from them of the date and time but not the dress code).

The National Trust

Invites you to

The Wicken Fen Vision

7pm, Wednesday 5th March, Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Mosquito nets and waders may be worn

Fen boats at about 9pm

“The Wicken Fen Vision (<http://www.wicken.org.uk/vision.htm>) is an ambitious plan to create a new nature reserve covering around 56 square kilometres (22 square miles) between Cambridge and Wicken Fen.”

The area involved borders Swaffham Prior and concerns have been raised about a number of aspects of the scheme: loss of farm land which may be needed; lack of consultation with local experts (the NT are good at stately homes but fen land ...?); becoming part of a massive theme park; etc.

This open meeting should provide an opportunity to find out more and express your views.

Our Reporter *Not* at the Parish Council Meeting

HOW CAN YOU BE AT A MEETING when the date is changed at the very last minute [*Eds note: The Crier did have the new date but wasn't out in time for this to be much use! See letters and page 8*]. Our ECDC and CCC representatives were not told either so one wonders what went on and was voted through when the usual watchdogs were not in attendance. The rumour is that they all went off to the celebrated Parish Councillor's Valentine's Ball. I'm not convinced this is true.



Perchance, however, this is a blessing because it does allow me to take up a point raised after the January Meeting when the desirability of a Parish Plan was again proposed. I suggested that the Report on the Parish Plan which appeared in the February 2007 *Crier* "should be reproduced when copy is a bit short". Copy is short this month – so here it is.

"Parish Plans are holistic in scope..."

After the initial formalities Jo Fitzpatrick from ACRE addressed the meeting about "Parish Plans" – an initiative (gosh, how that word sends shivers down the spine) controlled by DEFRA (does this give any confidence) which "gives everyone a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting their community." Even better. "Parish Plans are holistic in scope." Well, that's alright then. There was a long discussion and while no report can give the full details, here goes.

A rural white paper was printed in November 2000 to help create "a vibrant countryside". Initially, so Hazel Williams said, many completed Parish Plans were just left on the shelf – well, that's a surprise. But all this has changed and there is now a big drive to complete as many as possible. It seems that just over a third in East Cambridgeshire have either completed or are completing the Plan. Lode and Bulbeck are just starting while the Burwell has had 80% of its completed Plan approved or actioned. Hazel was not asked what the items were.

DEFRA is going to hand out £1,500 to every participating village. Initially a village working party would be set up comprising a maximum of 2 PC members and representatives from a variety of organisations in the village. Hazel stressed that this would have to be a real working party and a lot of work and application was required. For £75 we would buy software containing up to 300 questions which would form a basis for a questionnaire circulated to the whole village.

Steve asked why the PC needed a Parish Plan if it is happy it represents village views. Hazel asked "how do you know this for certain?" She explained that the Plan would give an opportunity for those who never go to any event, who never take part in anything, who never read the local magazine, who are shy, or who just commute into Cambridge or elsewhere, drive home and never come out – it would give all these good people a chance to express an opinion. One example she gave was that 60% of Coton knew nothing about the Parish Council. Geoffrey jumped up

at this point and said the difference between Coton and Swaffham Prior is that “the Crier rams information about the PC down people’s throats.”

It transpires that the Plan will include all personal details such as the number of people living in each house, how many cars, age, and possibly such details as eating habits, sex, sporting activities – at which point a noticeable caution began to creep into the PC. We know the government would like an electronic tab on everyone and is this just a backdoor entrance? “So it’s a kind of census?” asked Sandra Ginn. “Sort of” came the answer.

Steve asked what the £1,500 was for and would it cover all the costs. It was intended to cover the printing costs and the approximate £1,000 for the analysis which was strongly recommended should be carried out by one of a number of professional companies. It was suggested that this would make the analysis impartial and make it much easier to obtain grants. I could not follow the argument here as we could well have someone in the village with the skills to do this. Probably DEFRA wanted the information in a format suitable for merging with all the other information the Government is amassing about us. Or was it just a gentle warning/threat – “Do as we say or you won’t get any funding.”

And so it went on. The PC would only be liable for 5% of the cost which under examination from Steve could be £3,000—£3,500. Geoffrey suggested leaving the decision until after the May election as it would give the new PC four years to reach a decision. Jo said the PC had only until March 2008 by which time any money from DEFRA will have had to be paid out.

After the meeting I read a handout provided by ACRE. As often with an offer there is a sting in the tail. There is probably enough money to fund 1,000 parish councils throughout the country and it is “first come first served”. Also it is a maximum of £1,500 and could be less. £1,500 multiplied by 1,000 could amount to one and a half million pounds and our Gordon could trumpet that the government had spent this amount on creating local “visions” for rural communities. Of this sum two thirds, or £1 million, would go to the information analysts which convinces me the whole scheme was drawn up by management consultants some of whom have been ripping off our public services for years.

The final sting is that:-

“Working with the community in the preparation of a ‘Parish or Town Plan’ is also one of the criteria needed to meet the new Quality Parish Council status developed to strengthen the most local tier of government.” Does our Parish Council know this?

Alastair Everitt

Editors’ Comment

- a) *We have more things to do in life than sit on working parties for Gratuitous Government Initiatives.*
- b) *We are not filling in 300 question questionnaires for anybody.*
- c) *We elected our Parish Councillors to make Parish Plans.*



The Timely *Crier*

OR NOT, AS THE CASE MAY BE! But once upon a time the *Crier* pretty much always arrived on time, and this is how it was:

Thursday before last Thursday in month: Editors start work on editorial pages. 24 man/woman hours anticipated (as in *we hope*, and not counting advertising work, which is a different story), so need weekend. Target: Sunday evening.

Monday 8.30 am: Distribution manager Ruth Stinton arrives, takes *Crier* to Burwell Print Centre, often with editorial/contents/diary to follow when finished.

Tuesday/Wednesday: Editors supply missing pages (sometimes quite a lot of missing pages) to Print Centre, who are fortunately very flexible.

Thursday Lunchtime: *Crier* printed, Ruth collects and takes to Village Hall.

Thursday 2pm: Hand collating in Village Hall by select group of volunteers organised by Ruth. *Crier* bundled up for each distributor, who take them themselves if present, come and collect, deliver to other distributors, and so forth.

Thursday pm onwards: Distributors distribute, *Crier* comes through letter box, frequently the same day.

Result: **HAPPINESS. But...**

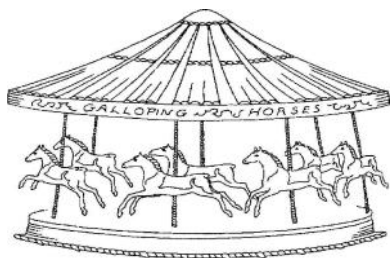
A dwindling team of collating volunteers, and only two villagers (Ron Prime and Peter Partridge) can master *Crier* stapler, especially with bigger *Crier* (yes, twice the size and frequency of Burwell Clunch, and that's the way we aim to stay) plus nobody's getting any younger, so when (2 years ago?) Burwell Print Centre offer to collate for us, we jump at the chance.

Editors now bask in new found freedom not to stay up until 2am in the morning, but alas, it is short-lived. Although up-to-date machines could dispense with our magazine in a couple of hours, the *Crier* is too big for Burwell's automatic collating, so it must be done by hand, which takes a long time. They have to run our adverts in advance to make that 4 day turn-around - the *maximum* we can cope with - but can't guarantee it and can't be flexible anymore. If anything is even slightly delayed or goes wrong (last month, advance reprint of adverts happened before we could supply corrections) this can lead to long delays, and then even longer since distributors never know when it will appear. Recently, the situation has become even worse because our Vista version of Publisher no longer prints properly on our printer, and there's an extra day to print the top copy in Cambridge.

Result: **MISERY. And so...**

We have a very good long-standing relationship with Burwell Print Centre, who are very much a Community print centre. We do not want to go elsewhere but we do have to reduce the delay between copy being ready and the magazine being ready for distribution. One answer would be to reintroduce collating in the Village Hall which

was also a nice social event. So **Anyone for hand-collating?** And could *you* master that stapler? Contact Ruth on 742641.



Reach Fair

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May 2008 - 12 noon
Grand opening by the Mayor of Cambridge

Traditional Fairground Rides

Music and Dancing / Country Crafts

Stalls / Arts and Crafts / Children's Entertainment

Hog Roast / BBQ / Bar.....Plus lots more

Car Park from Burwell Road £3.00

Registered Charity: 280601



MOVEABLE FEAST

Saturday 15th March

IF YOU HAVEN'T PARTICIPATED BEFORE make this year your first—three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. There will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course—nothing scary I promise.

Numbers are of course restricted and so it is on a first come first served basis. It is NOT "cliquish" —I participate for goodness sake!!!!

Profit is for the church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, loads of wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head??

Waiting by the 'phone for your call to book a place!

Janet Willmott
743472

PUB QUIZ RAISES £900 FOR ALZHEIMER'S



*Presenting a cheque for £900 to the Alzheimer's Society 17 Feb 2008.
(Steve is the big bald fat ugly one on the right.)*

ALL LAST YEAR, Graham Wiltshire and Steve Kent-Phillips ran quizzes at the Black Horse and Red Lion respectively and raised money for the Alzheimer's Society. The Black Horse ran a Christmas Draw and several other fund-raising events too. A combined cheque for £900 was presented to the Alzheimer's Society local reps at the Black Horse Quiz held on Sunday, 17th February.

Steve's quiz is held on the last Tuesday of each month in the Red Lion from 8.00 pm, for teams of any number up to five at a pound a head. There are multiple bottles of champagne for the winners and runners-up, plus "Steve's Spot Prize" of a bottle of pink champagne awarded totally at random. This year all the monies raised by both pubs will go to the Macmillan Cancer Support Fund.

Q: How do you tell the difference between a weasel and a stoat?

A: A weasel is weasely recognised, but a stoat is stoatly different.

Fred



Spuds in Buckets

10 March – 13 September 2008

IF YOU'VE NOT HEARD ABOUT THIS YET, this is a new fund-raising venture for St Mary's Church. In order to raise money to build a much-needed toilet in church – The Maryloo Project – we have devised a community-wide venture which we hope will appeal to all ages.

For a payment of just £5 a family or individual or group (Cubs, Youth Club?) will receive a bucket and seed potatoes. Buckets will be available from 10 March and purchasers then have until the Village Harvest Show on Saturday 13 September to grow the heaviest yield possible. Here's a challenge for a farming parish! Can you grow more potatoes than your neighbours? Can children do better than their parents? Are your fingers greener than those of the allotment holders? Is your home-made compost the secret of success? Can the farmers beat the office workers? Will we be beaten by growers from Reach or Burwell?

Don't miss out on Swaffham Prior's great Spud growing challenge!

To order a bucket, please contact

**Dee Noyes: telephone – 743864; email – noyeshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk
or Linda Evans: telephone - 741437**

Bottisham Tennis A Friendly Sort of Club



If you're looking for a local tennis club that is friendly, varied and suits all standards, then come to Bottisham! We share the courts with the school. There are three hard courts available at all times outside school hours and two floodlit astroturf courts available on club nights. We have a competition ladder, coaching, tournaments and matches.

Come on down and chat to the members and the committee on the opening day – Sunday 6th April from 1.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.. There'll be a sausage bbq (weather permitting), and a chance of a game, even a ladder match... so see you then at Bottisham Village College tennis courts (near the sports field). Alternatively, join the members any Monday or Friday evening after April 6th from 7 p.m. for a free taster at the club session on the Astroturf courts

For more information visit our website www.bottishamtennis.org.uk where you'll find details of our calendar, subscription fees and coaching classes or ring the secretary on 01223 812432. "

Crier Profile: Andrew Noyes

An excerpt from the Diary of a middle aged surveyor playing Bluegrass in Oz. Jan 2008 for *After the Treacle* (alias Keith Pearson's *Coup de Grass*) at **Tamworth Country Festival**



“WELCOME TO THE 36TH JANUARY COUNTRY MUSIC EVENT IN TAMWORTH. On behalf of the city and its nearly 56,000 residents of the Tamworth Regional Council area..... Something like 2,200 shows and concerts and about 4,000 individual performances with roughly 1,000 musicians. 70% of the gigs are free. More than 50,000 people are expected over 2,300 events at 100 different venues. Sponsored by Telstra and TRC put in over \$1.5m.”

Had long chat with Dave. He came to Oz from Kent when 18, went home again for a couple of years but then returned to OZ and never went back. Professional musician for 23 years.

Went in to Tamworth to have coffee, and collect K's 10 tonne weight – his banjo or tonjo – and then came back in the rain – it has rained a lot – to rehearse. We needed it – very scruffy. Hope I am good enough. I feel more nervous about playing things properly now than I have for a while. Glad I'm not the front man like Keith!

Conked out as predicted late afternoon. Slept, woke up pain in my chest and very hot. Better now – told by Dave who is very kind that the travel has caught me out probably. He is keeping an eye on me. Others worried I

suspect. I'll be ok.

From what I have seen Tamworth on Peel Street is like a glitzy Wild West town – Spanish in feel. I'll take some photos. Sure the Festival is good business for the town.

Friday morning 18th Jan 2008 – GIG no 1

The sleep pill Keith gave me made sure I went back to sleep. Restrung the guitar ready for his afternoon – blimey! am I really about to perform in my first residence/gig/tour thing?! Hope so, but a bit nervous – or is it the after effect of all that coffee yesterday? Chest pain and very tired. Went to sleep. What do shops put in coffee? Too much caffeine? Dave said his brother had a fit once after drinking too much Turkish coffee late one night after a heavy session playing and working. Must watch my intake. Didn't eat much yesterday either.

Apparently J and P have to go outside to the loo in the middle of the night –

where there are brown snakes lurking!
Glad I am here in this lovely house. So friendly and welcoming and it is no worry to them – no fuss, just all rub along. No ceremony just drift along. It's wonderful.

9.45 p.m. Gig today was our first and it went well. 3 sets 9, 8 and then 7 songs per set. Keith did a great job with his spiel. Prepared set lists went out the window however! Found t-shirts with our name on. Must buy one - Dee wants brown. We drove to the venue: the doorman recognised Keith, who is wearing exactly what he did the last time he played here – this costume stuff is very important visually. Our audience cleared out a lot at the end – we were offstage too long at the 2nd break.



After dinner we walked last night down the town centre to get a feel for the place. Very pretty with lights in trees, players under the canopies of the shops playing - one little scruffy bloke in his 50/60's playing a 12 string with a really good voice,. I drove home and went to bed. Knackered but feeling ok now. Bloody coffee in large doses!

Saturday 19th Jan

Its 5.30 a.m. – I can't sleep here either! And it's blowing a gale outside in the Lemon Gum tree. The band in the club near Macs play until 1 a.m. every night so I 'm going to have to take sleep pills to get through this!

8.30 – Just got back from hour's walk around the main road in to town. Good exercise. Not raining now. Sun trying to emerge from the clouds. Warm however. Amazing how quickly one slots in to the new weather. Tanned, and my finger nails are growing!!

10 p.m. home again after a busy day – we've only played 2 gigs, 8 more to go! Will I have a voice left? Standing all afternoon singing in front of an air con unit. Not good but nothing I can do on stage.

And the wind is a blowing in the Lemon Gum trees

And I can't get myself to sleep.

I'm all washed up and ready to split/fade

I'm walking (on/to) the edge of danger

Oh take me away to where the air is sweet

Where the land is full of song/to the land of the dried up/lonely billabong

Don't let me leave me alone, a sad old stranger

I'm walking near the edge of danger

Roads to recovery

May god make your miles safe ones

Spent the morning rearranging the set with K and typing it on this pc and then print out 4 copies for each of us. Then went in to town with K being grumpy about Jim! We will never change Jim but he is one seriously good harp player, no doubt about it. He adds enormously to what we do.

Got emails at Telstra tent and discovered I've got some work from Cambridge City Council. Played revised set with better results although the audience was thinner at times – lots of big gigs on at Wests today, lots of competition. Cheating Heart seems a winner – people love it. Thank goodness.

Went back to Wests after driving back here in pouring rain. Watched Aby Poole and the City Limits who were a make up band but very very good. Bought 2 T-shirts, chatted to audience who saw us. Must go and see Rod Lang the promoter here at Wests so we get back next year.

Sunday 20th. — GIG 3

Didn't sleep well again and had to take a pill at 2.30. The band playing at the Longyard pumps out music until 1 a.m. and I can't sleep with that going on – hopeless really.

Chest really bad – lots of coughing. In my vocal chords, not my throat. Sure caused by the air con blowing in my face when singing on stage, or maybe the plane.

10 p.m. I played the gig this afternoon but felt absolutely bloody awful; hated it but the show had to go on. We did 3 sets as usual Keith on from. We are beginning too relax and get better.

Lots of signing to do afterwards for the punters – famous!

Hope I feel better tomorrow. Can't stand feeling like this. Want to go home – first time I have felt like that.

Monday — GIG 4

Went hospital to check up – nasty bugs on planes and Dave said I should go. Only a virus, the nice lady doctor said. Went home, looked at theirs house for which they had roof problems. Played gig but zonked at end. Straight to bed.

Tuesday night — GIG 5

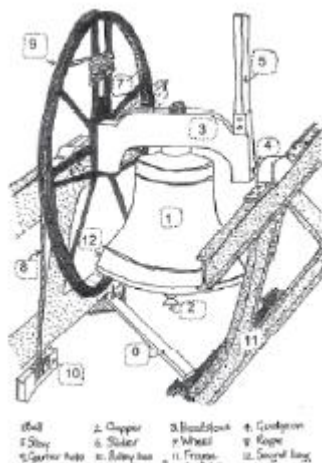
At last on the mend! Taken too long but getting there. Had a quiet morning here after yesterday afternoon's gig at the end of which I had had quite enough. Just shattered and washed out from coughing and the bug. However today was much better. GIG 5 out of 10. My voice held out although it's a bit low. Progress. However we are not sustaining an audience. By end of third set room half empty. People are not staying to listen to Keith rattle on about nothing in particular talking but lyrics. (Learnt some days later that lots of people have to get their internal town bus at 4 pm so that was why they leave!)



Continued next month ...

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

SOME WILL HAVE NOTICED there was no "Last Tuesday of the Month Practice" in January. This was because of an electrical fault in St. Cyriac's. Andrew Camps suggested alternative lighting based on his earlier ringing experience. See below for a picture taken in February 1883 of handbell ringers all muffled up, with no heating, and lit by a single tilly-lamp which can be seen on the left side of the picture. Andrew's kind suggestion was refused. The ringers in the picture, from left to right, are Geoff Lewis, Andrew Camps, Reg Webb, Peggy Stanier and Philip Sheldrick (Tower Captain).



A very exciting Band will be visiting and ringing from 2.00- 3.00pm on Saturday 8 March. This is the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths who ring at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square.

Alastair Everitt



John Norris Remembers ...

Repairs to St Mary's in 1963

Work on the repair of St Mary's Tower started in the autumn early in 1963 after my wife heard a loud crash early in the morning whilst she was hanging out the washing. We wondered where this noise could have come from, hoping it was not from our house ! I almost dismissed it, but thought it better to look around for trouble.



After finding nothing amiss at home, I went to the churchyard and found a large flint lying on the grass against the porch. This was the culprit, having fallen from the side of the tower, hitting the porch tin roof on it's way to the ground.

We had just experienced a very sharp spell of cold weather with frost both day and night which no doubt had penetrated the walls, and loosened this flint. Over the years much of the clunch (chalk) had weathered away in this manner, so that the whole tower surface was insecure. This action was the likely cause of the spire falling down in the late eighteenth century, it also being built of clunch. Both these churches have their origins in the distant past, St Mary's built about 1260, and St Cyriac's in 1299 according to the list of incumbents.

What to do next? The PCC under the guidance of Rev Francis Hicks sought help from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This resulted in Mr Bourne's partnership doing a survey, and recommending re-facing the tower and making good the ragged top. As with many things, what seemed a minor repair turned into a major project costing £15000, which in to-days money is £200,000 , and would take a year to complete.

Plans were prepared, and a model made, so that the design of the finish to the top could be studied. Several attempts were made, and finally the "Fleche" we see today was the preferred choice. mounted above a new arcaded final layer to the tower

Much thought was given to the cost, and how we could meet it. Rattee & Kett were the preferred contractors after their estimate of £15000 had been accepted., on the condition that only work that could be paid for was commissioned. The job of treasurer fell to me, and quite a worry it was. We were lucky in that funds had been slowly growing since the restoration in 1902, augmented by a gift from the Rev Fisher in the 1920s.

At this time, Brass Rubbing was very popular, especially with the Americans stationed at Mildenhall. It was so over subscribed, that we had a booking arrangement, both for a special day and time. The fees were set at £2 per person for three hours, and were enforced by my wife Marion. During 1964 nearly one

thousand pounds was collected. The double yellow lines made parking difficult near the church, as they extended much further than to-day,. The casual brass rubber (one who had not booked) was easily detected as they had to walk past our kitchen window, their shadow gave them away ! This interest continued for some time until the Brass Rubbing Centre was opened in Cambridge, where many replicas were available. Not the same as doing the real thing, but conservation of the old ones was ensured., but our little nest egg was removed.

With this money we were able to start work early in 1964. I had just purchased a cine-camera at the time, and resolved to make a record of the progress of the work. The opening scene is of the old building in a snow covered churchyard, and the end is the repaired church also surrounded by snow., just a year later.

The first sign of activity was the erection of scaffolding, surrounding the tower from top to bottom. Later workmen chopped away all the loose clunch and the remaining flint stones (not to be confused with the cartoon characters). The surface was replaced by Barnack stone , and small flints bound in by a mortar of lime and flint grit, so that the surface you see to-day is all of this century, and very different from the black and white of the original.

Whilst all this was happening, the fund raising activity was to seek out grant aiding bodies and inform them of our plight. This was quite successful, and together with the Brass Rubbing money, and local donations after updates in the press, we were able to keep the work progressing. As treasurer it was my duty to follow up any source of income, and press articles were very useful.

During the summer the newly carved arcading for the final course arrived, This was duly hoisted into position, and placed on a reinforced concrete ring cast over the top of the old work, to tie it in, and provide a firm foundation. This concrete ring also held the steel beams onto which the fleche was later fixed

At this time scaffolding was also erected inside the tower so that the remaining beam of the old bell frame could be removed. A pity really as it was so secure being fourteen inches square, and perfectly sound. It had to go so that the new ceiling could be seen uninterrupted. This scaffold also helped the workmen to raise up the steel beams

It was during the reconstruction of the upper parts that a gargoyle was found. It seemed that at one time there must have eight, one for each side. So, seven more blocks, some eight inches square were built into the stonework. These were to be carved later before the scaffold was taken away. by Mr Shuffleton the stonemason. He was given three days to carve an image on the seven new blocks. (the original one is directly over the porch) The Vicar suggested the seven deadly sins, but he was politely told that there was no time for any research, so faces of those who were at work there, or were passing by. were used as models The architect, the foreman, the Vicar, a director of Rattee & Kett, Mr Jim Sheldrick (the one with a lovely moustache,) one of the workmen, and myself.

My image is overlooking Anglesey House, on the south-west corner of the tower to keep off all intruders and cowans ! This selection was duly mulled over in the Red Lion, and accounts of the dissention reached the local papers. This also

appealed to the National press, as the choice may have been undemocratic. A cartoon by Emmwood appeared in the Daily Mail on 15th December 1964. This sparked interest from many places, well-wishers who had biked out to see the two churches when they were students, and many others, who sent ten pounds or so, saying well done

As beer and I do not mix, I was not a patron of the Red Lion, but tried to keep this story alive for the sake of the finances, “furrener” or not. We were beginning to get a small short-fall in funds, but the contractors said they were sure that in time they would be paid in full, so work carried on with the final phase of putting up the Fleche. The folk depicted in the cartoon are all identifiable, but the fifty year rule prevents me from naming them. (my image was a guess as I was not present).



Sleeping Beauty – The Review

FROM THE 24TH - 26TH OF JANUARY the Bottisham Players once again stunned all with their unforgettable panto of The Sleeping Beauty.

The two stars of the show, Princess Beauty (Minnie Willmott aged 15) and Prince Michael (Ryan Noyes aged 15) were brilliant, but one of the kisses was a bit *too long* for my liking!

The dame, Nanny Fanny Cranny, filled the stage and kept the audience entertained with jokes and a song about a worm which we all had to sing.....where in the original is that?!

The King's servant Pickles was a funny and bandy-legged character who made everyone laugh.

The wicked fairy, Carabos, was very scary, dressed in black with a spine-chilling laugh – BOOOO, HISS!!!!!!

Her enemy the Lilac Fairy sparkled & glittered glamorously and broke the evil spell cast by Carabos. HOORAY!!!!

The Chorus had some great songs and dances to show!! The youngest members, Olivia Wade-Gledhill and Henry Kingsmill (both age 10) gave a polished performance.

This panto was great and a lot of work was put in. Why don't you try it next year? As audience, or as a performer, either way you'll have fun.

Helena Pumfrey (age 10)

Picture from panto poster opposite of those featured from Swaffham Prior.

Gizmo Goes Home!

ANOTHER FEEL-GOOD STORY for those who believe there needs to be more good news stories in this publication...

Around 10pm on Friday night, 22nd February, in response to some strange cat sounds in our garden, Kaye and I encouraged into our living room a large but thin young grey-brown stripey moggy, instantly incurring the displeasure of our own rather more well-fed beast, promptly despatched to an upstairs room to jingle fretfully to itself. Evidently rather lost, this large kitten was carrying no ID so I set off on a tour of the telegraph poles in the village in search of one of the 'missing cat' notices seen in recent times. If anyone saw a shifty bloke in a black car driving up and down the High Street stopping to shine a torch at lamp posts and telegraph poles that night, it was I. (And aren't there a lot of planning application notices out there? I'd never have noticed otherwise. Is this the best way to inform people?).

Eventually I found one - probably the only one left, as they'd been put up ages ago - and called the number (at about half past ten, expecting to disturb some slumbering soul) and yes indeed, this fitted the description of Gizmo, missing for a

couple of months at least from the top of Fairview Grove. Chris, the long-lost owner, came down and provisionally identified him towards 11pm - he is a lot bigger at 7 months old than when last seen. It was the white socks and bib that did it. There had been sightings and possibly some kind people had put out food a while back, but the word was that he had gone the way of many moggies - missing, believed run over.

Neighbours of mine who saw a man heading up Fairview Grove late on Friday night with a cat basket guessed something was going on so yes, it was Gizmo going home.

But there's still some life in this end of the tale: on Saturday night while I was at the quiz, Gizmo reappeared in our garden to show off to Kaye his new reflective collar. I am reliably informed he has been home since, but he's clearly still got the urge to travel. If you see him much further than the bottom of Fairview Grove, do let the Wilsons at number one know. He may have forgotten the way back again.

My own mog is keeping constant watch for his return.

Mark Lewinski

Cambridge Building Society at heart of the community

Cambridge Building Society is pleased to report a record contribution – in terms of both money and time - to its local community in 2007.

Staff donated a massive 2,564 hours of their own personal time last year, to support a range of charitable events, from garden make-overs to high profile fundraisers. A total of 227 local charities benefited from the Society's efforts.

One of these is the *Press Relief* Appeal for Teenage Cancer Trust, which is currently raising funds for a special teenage cancer ward at Addenbrooke's Hospital. As well as holding the Appeal's account and organising a number of in-branch fundraisers, the Society was delighted to sponsor and take part in the first *Magical Moonlight Walk* and *In the Mood Charity Ball*.

Cambridge Building Society also put its support firmly behind annual disability sports festival Youth Games PLUS, by sponsoring teams from schools in the Huntingdon area, enabling more disabled children to take part in the event

The popular Sawston Fun Run benefited from the Society's efforts as major sponsor once again last year, and a total of £6,000 was raised for three local charities at annual staff fundraiser *Tour de Branch*.

The Society is always looking for new ways of supporting its local community. If you know of a charitable organisation that needs our help, please let us know! Either pop into your local branch, email enquiries@cambridgebs.co.uk or telephone the Marketing Department on 01223 727727.

Of the Society's contributions, Marketing Manager Carole Charter said:

"We are very proud of the support we give to local causes. Staff at each of our 23 branches are encouraged to get involved with community groups in their patch and are given a budget so that they can back local events. In addition, the Society enjoys showing its support of some of the more high profile fundraisers, such as the Teenage Cancer Trust Appeal."

For more information, please contact Miranda Steel on 01223 727663

Litterlouts' Outing

Let's go for a ride in the country;
One doesn't have to be rich,
To have a good time in the country:
We think we've found our own niche.

That bag of green garden rubbish,
That's very largely twitch;
We'll take it into the country
And fling it into a ditch.

That old and stinking mattress,
It lacks more than a stitch;
We'll take it into the country,
And drop it into a ditch.

And whilst we're there,
we'll pick some flowers
Some of the rarer kind;
We might just as well have a picnic
And leave all our empties behind.

There's the old TV console
With its dangerously faulty switch;
We'll take it into the country
And fling it into a ditch.

And the cheap paraffin heater
Condemned, by Consumers' 'Which',
We'll take that into the country
And hurl it into a ditch.

And whilst we're there,
we'll swing on gates
And let the dogs chase lambs
Who says the weekends are boring?
There's lots to do in Cambs!

We could take all this to the Council
tip
But that's not very far,
And I like a nice ride in the country –
Come on -- let's load up the car!

Ophir
landline: +44 001470521690

DONATIONS!

Many thanks to
Norah Galbraith for
her very kind
donation to the Crier
last month.

Donations such as
these make up a
crucial part of the
Crier's income.



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

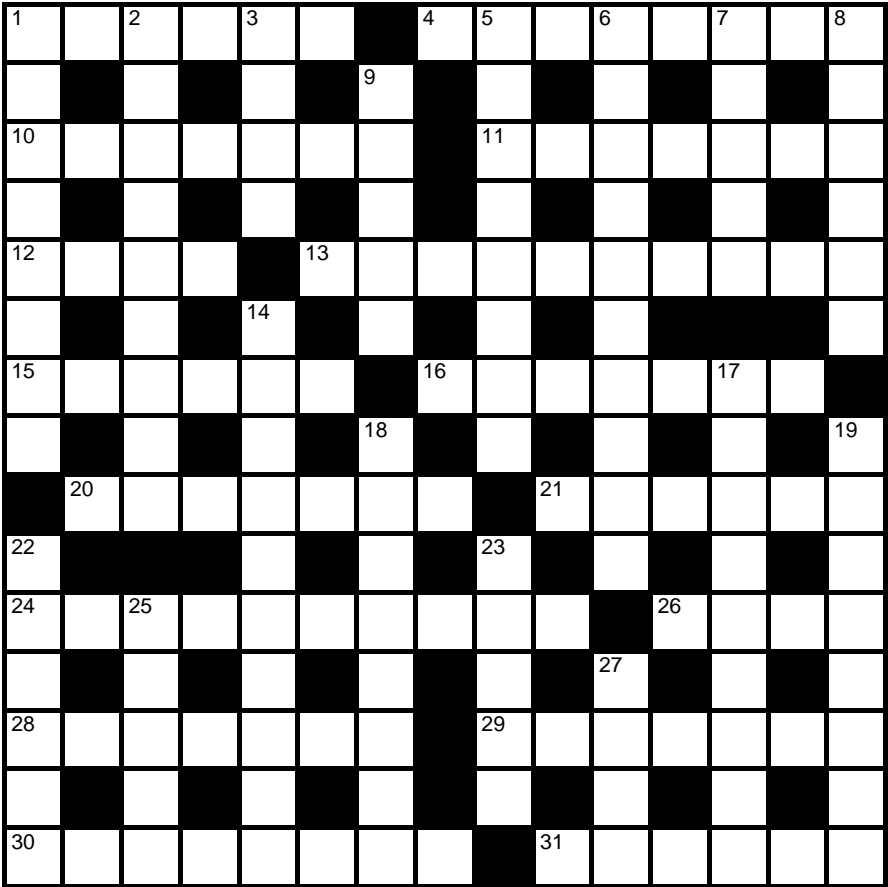
Crossword Number 50

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

A straight-forward cryptic crossword this month. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 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:.....

Address:.....

.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Fashionable rules may be found in families (2-4)
- 4 Irritable when given bad role in stylish surroundings (8)
- 10 Stories taken from soul-destroying material can be sinful (7)
- 11 Admitting sweetheart is terrible performer (7)
- 12 Challenge Dan maybe (4)
- 13 Feller finds tar on board (10)
- 15 Design shoddy articles as well (6)
- 16 Nuclear explosion is blurred (7)
- 20 Blend of aluminium found in rising molten lava (7)
- 21 Become hard initially, or set slowly in front yard (6)
- 24 Joker and scholar find a piece of old computer equipment (4,6)
- 26 Ruler of rats is confused (4)
- 28 Spades and clubs at card game. Delicious (7)
- 29 Aims gun drunkenly; how entertaining (7)
- 30 Confessions made in play-pen? ancestors would object (8)
- 31 Cold and hot runny nose - picked (6)

Down

- 1 Date first in a French swamp (8)
- 2 Would a beat sound find an exponent (9)
- 3 New ideas contain extensive meaning (4)
- 5 What a top group may be wearing (8)
- 6 Realistic philosophy sets real limits (10)

- 7 Religious cultist briefly becomes a star (5)
- 8 Arthritic beginnings can really exacerbate achy knees. Yes (6)
- 9 Messy ruptures contain sticky liquid (5)
- 14 Puny mortal upsets chicken trader (10)
- 17 In the centre of the vessel, amongst other vessels (9)
- 18 Get out of battered pearly gates and make powerless (8)
- 19 H for Henry? dog is confused (8)
- 22 Misbehaves, but not down after getting book (4,2)
- 23 American car for transporting Danes (5)
- 25 Repeat about the king - a French one (5)
- 27 Old Bob, you hear, goes to church so much (4)

Solution to crossword no. 49

C	O	U	N	T	E	R	S	U	N	K	I	S	L	E	S
I		O		M		P					H				H
R		V		U		A	D	J	U	S	T	A	B	L	E
C	A	R	I	L	L	O	N			R		R			D
U		C		S		N				C	L	I	P	P	E
L	I	V	E	W	I	R	E			E					
A				O		R		A	D	D	E	N	D	U	M
R			C		N			R			I				A
S		C	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	S	I
A			L			U				N		G			N
W	A	R	D	R	O	B	E		R	S					T
			C			A				E	S	T	I	M	A
A	N	T	H	I	L	L	S		V	I		I			N
N			I			L			E	X	G	R	A	T	I
G	L	A	S	S	P	A	P	E	R		A		O		N
L			E			S			S	T	W				C
E	X	U	L	T		T	A	P	E	M	E	A	S	U	R

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

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:
CTX computer monitor	**I have been a bit disorganised and managed to throw away the contact details of the lady who offered this computer monitor. There is a family who are interested – please could the offerer contact Pete (0797 973 8651). Sorry!	Jun, 01223 813362 (I was posting this on behalf of someone)
Teak upright Lindner piano: appearance almost as new but needs tuning.		Mrs Wilkins, 01638 741638
512MB DDR333 dual channel memory cards (2x256) suit DELL Dimension 3000.		Frank, 01638 744051
Fold-up bed with wood headboard + spring mattress		Mrs Stubbins, 01223 811069
Single mattress, blue/red, clean, no marks, little used. 3' x 6' Sewing machine, Toyota, Model 4031, working order Sunshade umbrella, cloth, two of. Computer monitor, Sony Trinitron Multiscan 14" 100SX		Robin, 01223 811632

The Reading Group Reads.....

The Nine Tailors

by Dorothy L Sayers



"The bells, the bells!"...unlike her contemporary Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers probably wrote *howdunits* rather than *whodunits*, but in this celebrated 1930's tale of Bell and Fen, the *who* and *how* are more than usually connected.

Stranded in deepest fen on New Years Eve after unsuccessfully negotiating one of those notorious fen-road Handbrake Turns, her upper-class hero-sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey stands in to help ring an overnight nine-hour peal in the parish church of Fenchurch St Paul after a ringer is taken ill. (*What?* Bell-ringers will chortle at Lord Peter's dexterity, but people will believe it. A close acquaintance tried a similar trick at the New Year millennium ring in St Cyriacs—but with more predictable results!)

Next day, the squire's wife dies, and the mystery-proper begins when, on the death of her husband later in the year, her grave is re-opened to find....

an *extra* body...ooo-er!

The great appeal of the book lies in the way that the bells and the peculiarly English practice of *change-ringing* (not for us the *effete* tunes of Continental Europe, but rather *mathematical progressions*) are so intrinsically woven into the plot, and the atmospheric effects achieved throughout:

"The air was so heavy with water, that not till they had passed Frog's Bridge did they hear the sweet, dull jangle of sound that told them that the ringers were practicing their Christmas peal; it drifted through the streaming rain with an aching and intolerable melancholy, like the noise of the bells of a drowned city pulsing up through the overwhelming sea."

The "nine tailors" of the title refers to nine strokes of the tenor bell rung on the



Sayers' church was believed to be modelled on the "Cathedral of the Marshes" at Terrington St Clement.

death of a male parishioner (six for a female) followed by one stroke for every year of their life. You had to stand and count to guess who it was. *This is still rung* (and you might have heard it!) but nowadays, we're told, mostly just for the death of a bell-ringer. One of the great parts of the book is at the end, when the bells must ring out urgent alarm of encroaching flood. The alarm call was a bing-bong bing-bong bing-bong (as opposed to ner-ner ner-ner-ner..) with highest and lowest bells—was this ever rung here, we wonder?

Although frequently described as Sayers' greatest book, and sometimes as one of the greatest books of the 20th century, by and large the reading group did not think much of it, rather agreeing with 1940s American critic Edmund Wilson: *I set out to read [it] in the hope of tasting some novel excitement, and I declare that it seems to me one of the dullest books I have ever encountered....* But he was American after all, and didn't live in East Anglia. And everybody liked the bells, some expressing an interest in the current campaign for new bell-ringers—urgently required if Swaffham Prior is to recover after Tower Captain Margaret Stanier's death.

Our next book will be *Cold Comfort Farm*, by Stella Gibbons, Yule House, 41 Lower End, 8pm, 5th March, and then *The Island* by Victoria Hislop, at 15 Mill Hill, April 2nd. New members always welcome — just turn up! **Caroline Matheson**



WI Notes

Following the usual business our speaker this month was Betty Prime - with her 'Tales of the Unexpected' which was a very interesting and amusing account of a special holiday in New Zealand to celebrate her 60th wedding anniversary. Despite very careful planning there can be unexpected pitfalls when you travel abroad - but Betty and Ron are nothing if not resourceful and with their usual good sense of humour managed to sort themselves out, have a great time and get back safely if a little weary to tell the tale. We ended the evening with refreshments, time for a chat and finished off with the raffle.

In March we have our AGM on the 17th at the usual time of 7:30 in the Village Hall. This will be followed by Wine and Nibbles and some entertainment.

If you are interested in joining our friendly group - give me a ring on 01638 742224 or come along to the meeting where you will receive a warm welcome

Pat Cook

Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

Unfortunately our Chairman was unwell and not able to attend the meeting. In his absence the meeting was chaired by Andrew Camps (Vice-Chairman) with 6 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the Public.

Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda: None.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were agreed.

Matters Arising (for information only): Further discussion with reference to a Parish Plan. As part of any possible plan it was suggested that a Development Criteria should be drafted for discussion at the next meeting.

Grasscutting Services: A further quotation had been received from S & P Landscapes. Following consideration of this quotation and the quotation held over from the last meeting from K H Services, it was agreed to appoint K H Services to carry out the grasscutting for the next 3-year period.

Road Safety Measures/Traffic Calming, Mill Hill: No further report.

High Street Signs & Naming: Latest proposals have been submitted to Andrew Killington of ECDC for consideration. Reply awaited.

Completion of Play Area Refurbishment: The main refurbishment of the play area had been completed. This work was paid for by a grant payment of £6,610 from ECDC through their Lottery fund. A final piece of new equipment in the form of a covered picnic table will be purchased in the new financial year. The frames of the equipment are to be painted.

The Lodes & The Fens: A further meeting between Parish Councils and the National Trust had been held. This took place on the 21/1/08. Geoffrey Woollard gave the meeting a brief summary.

Follow up re Affordable Housing: A letter was received from Northern Affordable Homes asking for the opportunity to organise a presentation on the possibility of providing affordable housing for the village. This was received with mixed views and it was agreed to defer any decision until the March meeting to allow for consultation with ECDC.

Correspondence Received: This was reported.

Accounts for payment: These were agreed.

Items for the Next Agenda will include:

The Lodes & The Fens

Mill Hill - Road Safety/Traffic Calming

High Street Signs & Naming

Neighbourhood Panels

Parish Plan.

General:

Street lighting: When a faulty light is reported to CCC's contractor this fault should be inspected and repaired within a period of 7-10 days. Over the past months, faults had been taking considerably longer – in one case more than 7-10 weeks! This has been brought to the attention of CCC and a reply is awaited.

Dog fouling: Please, please, please can owners clear up after their pets! (*WE DO! Eds*) I now have a new supply of 'poop' bags (1,000 in all!).

Open Question Time:

General clarification of points made.

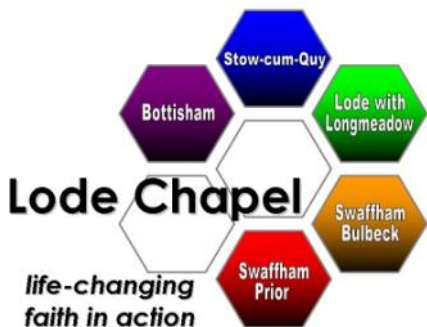
Should anyone require any further information on any of the reported items above, please contact me.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Karen King

Clerk to the Parish Council

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



What's Your Passion?

Recently I heard of a man who had taken football supporting to the next level. He was a Pompey fan and had changed his name by deed poll to Mr. John Portsmouth Football Club Westwood; and this in addition to the fact that his entire body is covered with tattoos of the PFC badge. Although I like my football too (just don't ask me how Reading are doing at the moment!) it seems a shame that John's

single-minded devotion is being directed towards something so relatively unimportant as football. But, of course, he's not the only one! There are 'fanatics' everywhere – people who spend their entire lives devoting themselves to collecting every 'Happy Meal' toy ever made or to attending Star Trek conventions all around the globe. Perhaps, though, that's how the general public look at 'religious' people (like me?) who seemingly spend their lives just going to church services and trying not to break too many rules.

On 16th March the first in a short drama series is being broadcast on BBC1. It's entitled 'The Passion' and over the next seven nights it will depict the events of the week that led up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday. At the centre of the story is Jesus – an amazing man, but by no means a 'religious fanatic'. In fact part of Jesus' problem was that he broke the rules and got into serious trouble with the religious authorities. His only crime was to heal people, to feed people, to educate people and to change people's lives.

In the society in which we live our passions are most likely to be self-indulgent – but the latin root of the word 'passion' is 'passus', meaning 'to suffer'. That is why the 'passion of Christ' is so powerful – Jesus was a man who not only lived with single-minded devotion for others, but someone who was willing to die for them too! If Christians are really to follow in Jesus' footsteps, then we too are called to be single-minded; but the Bible is clear, God isn't interested in empty religion and ritual. He calls us to be devoted to the cause of the oppressed, to standing against injustice, to feeding the hungry and to sharing good news.

Imagine with me what would be possible if we were all willing to be as passionate as that Portsmouth fan about these really important issues. The cross of Good Friday reminds us that there is a cost to such devotion, but the empty tomb of Easter Sunday is a sign of ultimate hope – that one day all that is wrong with this world will be put right! Our Easter Exhibition this year will be about 'Hope', and will offer some very practical ways of becoming part of the solution to the issues that our world is facing. There will be a fairtrade Easter Egg hunt for the children, as well 24 hours of prayer which is being organised by our young people. Do come and look around the exhibition or let us know if there are any situations that you would like us to pray for. We have a 'prayer box' in the Chapel, or you can call us, write to us, email us, or send a prayer request direct from our website.

Simon Goddard

Hope Easter Exhibition: Good Friday 2pm-5pm
Easter Saturday 10am-4pm
Easter Sunday 2pm-5pm
Easter Monday 10am-2pm
24 hour prayer from 3pm Good Friday to 3pm Easter Saturday

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).

Special Easter Sunday Club, 23rd March, with activities for all of the family, 10.30am at Bottisham Primary School.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Odds and Ends from St Mary's Church

We have introduced a **Family Communion** into our monthly rota of services. This is intended to be a half way house between the Family Service and the full traditional Communion Service; to make a bridge between the delightful informality and friendliness that has been built up in the FS and the rich traditions which take us back through the history of our Christian faith.

The first one was held at the end of January and was well received by those who attended. If you come to the Family Service, do try the Family Communion. It's on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11 o'clock, with the chance to chat over coffee afterwards. We look forward to seeing you.

Building a toilet in church, **The Maryloo Project** as it is termed, is finally getting going. The Diocesan Advisory Committee has surprisingly agreed to the outside option, saying that building an inside toilet in the northwest corner of church would destroy the layout and cause difficulties on some occasions. The Planning Authorities are open to the idea and have even suggested some cost-cutting features. So the barriers are now removed and plans can go ahead. Access will be from inside the church, near where the hymn books are kept. We have some of the money to pay for the project and there will be specific fundraising events to make up the difference. We expect the project to be completed in 2009. Not too long to wait now!

Don't forget to start looking out for things you want to get rid of for **The Village Garage Sales on June 14th**. The idea is to sell off things you no longer need either in individual sales at your own address or collectively in the field in front of Marcia Miller's place. More details later but mark the date and start looking now (and if you want anything storing before then, get in touch).

Brenda Wilson, Church Warden



Church of England Services

March 2008

	ST MARY'S SWAFFHAM PRIOR	ST MARY'S SWAFFHAM BULBECK	BOTTISHAM
SUN 2	11:00am Family Service	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Family Service
SUN 9	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Matins	9:30am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
SUN 16	11:00am Family Communion	9:30am Village Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Morning Prayer
SUN 20		9:30am Holy Communion	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion
MO 21		10.0am Good Friday Workshop	10.30am Open Air Service on the Triangle
TUE 22		6.30pm Easter Eve Service	
SUN 23	11:00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11:00am Family Communion
SUN 30			6.30pm Evensong

PASTORAL LETTER, March 2008

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you on a beautiful morning in February. Spring has come very early this year (and so is Easter). Although it is only mid-February the bulbs are really sprouting in my garden, there is already a wonderful show of

Snowdrops and early blossom and the bees are already hard at work.

I am reminded of a story about a little boy and his father, who were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in through the open car window.

Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he became petrified. The father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by him. His father saw his panic-stricken face. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his hand. There still stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he said. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you."

This is the wonderful message of Easter. We do not need to be afraid of death anymore. Christ faced death for us on the cross, and by His victory, we are saved from sin. Christ has taken the sting! St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians asks: "*Where, oh death, is your sting?*" (1 Corinthians 15:22)

When Christ's died on the cross he took the 'stinger' for us by making a sacrifice for all our sins, past, present, and future. Every sin that you will ever commit has already been paid for. All of our sins were in the future when Christ died two thousand years ago. There is no sin that you will ever commit that has not already been included in Christ's death.

Someone described sin as being the four 'selves': Self-sufficiency instead of faith; self-will instead of submission; self-seeking instead of benevolence; and self-righteousness instead of humility. You can sum all four of them up as being 'self-centred', which means:- being disobedient to God.

Jesus summed up God's commandments in this way: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37-39)

God's commandments are the very opposite of self-centredness. They are about us responding to his love for us by loving him and our fellow men and women. Our trouble is that we all fall short of those commandments because we are only human, and the four 'selves' so easily creep into our lives. That is why we all need the message of Easter. Through Christ's death on the cross, and his resurrection, God promises us that we can be with him in paradise when we die, even though we are not really good enough to be there. This promise encourages us to live out our lives in renewed obedience, faith, hope and love. Luci Shaw sums it up beautifully in these lovely poetic words:-

*But because he was once emptied I am each day refilled;
My spirit-arteries pulse with the vital red of love;
Poured out, it is his life that now pumps through my own heart's core.
He bled, and died, and I have been transfused.
He has risen! Fear is gone. New life is ours.*

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

David.

Dates for Your Diary

March 2008

Wed	5	WICKEN FEN OPEN MEETING, 7pm, VH Reading Group, 8pm
Sat	8	Bell ringing ay St Cyriac's 2-3pm
Tue	11	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm, Chapel 3.55-4.15
Thu	13	PC Meeting, 7.30 VH
Fri	14	
Sat	15	Moveable Feast
Mon	17	WI AGM, 7.30pm VH
Tue	18	Crier Copy Deadline Village Gardeners 8pm VH
Tues	25	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm, Chapel 3.55-4.15 Pub Quiz: 8pm Red Lion

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

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***