



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXII Number 5

May 2008



Editorial

The merry month is here again, with Merriweather's Shakespeare Bonanza to round off a May-Pole Whirling Village Feast, a very merry Village Assembly to look forward to, and for the Primary children, that time of year when the School Pool would normally be opening for the Summer.

No pool this year—£20,000 needed for its replacement—BUT the Crier hears that FosPS have already raised a magnificent £1500 from their Village Collection, with a further (so far) £3000+ anticipated from the forthcoming sponsored bike-ride.

Well done village and well done them! The large number of East Anglian School Pools originally came about (so we understand) because so many children were coming to grief in the Lodes. Since then, over-regulation has seen many of them close, and it is to the credit of Swaffham Prior School that they've managed to find ways through the "safety conscious" red tape so our pool continued. We very much hope that when the new pool is built, further avenues might be explored so that 11+ village children leaving primary education no longer have to wave a compete goodbye to the little pool they grew up with and learned to love. Do we hear

there's some investigation? We hope so!

Tigers are signing on (see page 32) and some readers might like to compare our very visible spanking brand-new football ground and rapidly rising pool funds (not to mention Mary-Loo funds) with the sumptuous blurb and piccies of the many Parish Plan Brochures they might easily find on the Web, especially if they are planning to attend the Village Assembly and vote on the issue. Instead of these footling achievements, we could have been Raising Awareness and Liaising At All Levels—need we say more?

And if you're wondering shall I/shan't I go to Reach Fair this year it'll-probably-be-the-same-as-last-year, there are alternative venues. Burwell RHUBARB Festival, and Simon Goddard offering to wash your car for free at Bottisham Primary School. Hmmm.....see you somewhere-or-other!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Chartres Labyrinth, A Model of the Universe and the Journey of the Soul

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Swimming Pool Fund

I would like to say a big Thank You to everyone who has donated to our appeal. At the Crier's copy date we are still collecting, but look out in the next issue for an update on the total raised from our recent door-to-door envelope collection. (*Eds Note: We think this was a staggering £1500*)

We have tried to visit all houses, but if we haven't managed to collect your envelope, and you would like to make a donation, then please drop it into the school, or contact Catherine Gould (tel. 742489; email catherine_gould@yahoo.co.uk), who will arrange to collect it.

Thank you again for your support. With your help our children will all be enjoying swimming at school again next summer!

Di Collier (Chairman, FoSPS)

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MAY 2008

VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM

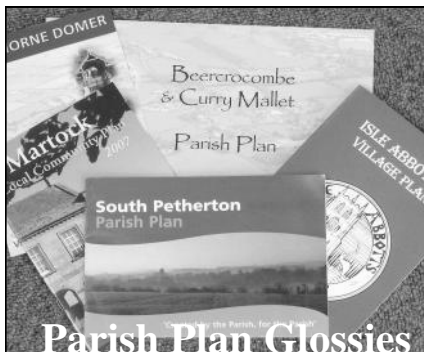
This is your chance to put your views, ask questions or just find out more about what is happening in *your* Village or even more importantly what you would like to see happen in your Village! This could take the form of a

Parish Plan

– do you want one? Come along and have your say!

You make the agenda, so please let your Clerk know of any subject you would like to be included before the 8th May 2008.

Karen King



To Plan, or not to Plan, that's the question to be decided. John Jordan will present the case FOR at the Village Assembly.

The Village Feast 2008

Saturday 10 May

at

2.00 pm

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of
fun and games including

Maypole Dancing *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy*

Bowls *Children's Play Area* *Lucky Dip*

Egg Throwing *Raffle*

Teas & Home-made Cakes *Ice Creams* *Beer Tent*

****Stalls Galore****

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants

Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

Admission 30p. Children Free

Your Feast Help is needed...

As usual we are seeking donations to the **CAKE STALL**.
Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received –
cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers
to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

Books, and MORE BOOKS – if you want to make space
by clearing out some of your books, just give a ring
to Alastair Everitt (742974) .

But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac**
please phone Elisabeth Everitt (742974)

We shall also be collecting or the **Bottle Stall** and will
be calling in early May for anything you can offer.

Thank you for your usual generous support

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

OCCASIONALLY I think I'm being set up by some members of the Parish Council. At the last meeting, as I walked in, Geoffrey Woollard said "The best head of state we have ever had is Cromwell – a local boy. Discuss." I am resisting any comment here.

There are two corrections to my last report. Geoffrey was quite right in asking Hazel to write to the top man, the new Chief Executive at CCC. It seems he was surprised to hear how long the travellers in question had been allowed to remain on site and will be looking into it. Hazel then repeated her previous complaint, with her usual refreshing honesty, that the people at CCC who take action on travellers do not have any travellers living nearby and therefore I suppose see no reason to show any haste or concern. Something may now happen.



Hazel in her turn was quite right that ECDC bus passes would arrive on time but the Post Office man was equally right in that it is South Cambs who have failed to send them out. Interestingly ECDC used local firm Payne Ltd while South Cambs used the "Government recommended" supplier Fujitsu. With the government's atrocious record on new computer systems that should have been a warning! But worse may happen. Hazel said that CCC is introducing a major new computer system, which it hopes to sell to others, and that the supplier will be – you've guessed it – Fujitsu. I hope the bus pass fiasco is not a bad omen.

Returning to ECDC, not only did it send out the bus passes exactly on time, but it introduced a very slight haze on the photographs which hides all the wrinkles, the scraggy necks, the rings under the eyes, and produces pictures which make people happy and over which they do not need to slip their thumb when showing. Another quality of ECDC is that the people there always make you feel important and that you matter when you phone up. You may not always be pleased with what is decided but at least you have been taken seriously.

Back to the CCC, and Hazel announced that it is setting up a new procedure to deal with petitions. Amazingly it appears there is nothing in place apart from sending a "Thank you for your petition" response. It is being proposed that all petitions must now be considered and that some meaningful comment be made. Who would have thought that?

The Annual Village Assembly was the item which took up most of the time and, being on the agenda, a date could be chosen. This is a VILLAGE assembly, which is organized and chaired by the PC on behalf of the village, and it is not a PC meeting. I am not sure that John Jordan (hereinafter JJ to distinguish from Chairman John Covill – now JC) has ever been to a Village Assembly before and he asked the purpose of the meeting, whether it should be looking forward to the future rather than just a record of what has happened, whether it should be more constructive, and whether it can be livened up. Everyone must admit that meetings can have dull moments or just be dull, but, as Hazel admitted, SP has an excellent record for turn out compared to other villages. And, once past the often lengthy, boring and



*Parish Council Meeting in Session, June 2001.
Another publicity shoot is planned for next month..*

necessary CCC, ECDC and PC reports, which are usually preceded by sometimes a patience testing guest speaker, there are lively and stormy moments.

But the PC is still concerned about the numbers attending and David Almond suggested using the *Crier* to the full and appears to be in awe, even admiration of the Magazine and its Editors. Others suggested a notice through each door. Geoffrey, who has attended a huge number of meetings in various guises, hoped the scouts would again attend and provide the “home grown entertainment” and was sure there would be some “spats” There was an after-meeting suggestion that free liquor should be provided to increase the fury of the spats. I doubt this will be taken up.

JJ is introducing a blast of fresh air into the PC. He is asking useful questions but his principle aim appears to be to persuade the village that it ought to have a Parish Plan. Supported by David Almond he has been so resilient and persuasive that it is proposed he should open the Village Assembly meeting with a talk on this. He will give a PowerPoint presentation with Bullet Points to focus (or numb as some people think) the mind. It will be a very professional presentation and for those who haven’t seen a PowerPoint presentation before it could be one of the best you will see. Just for this alone you ought to come to the meeting. **MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU OUGHT TO COME SO THAT YOU CAN HELP TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE DECISION WHETHER THIS VILLAGE NEEDS A PARISH PLAN.** One of the aims of a parish plan is to involve the whole village. Is this the way to do it or is it just an expensive charade? Come and hear both sides enthusiastically aired, and state your own opinion if you have one.

The meeting will raise questions about how a village works, how it can work better, does it work well enough already, is there a better, more efficient, more flexible, and more cost-effective way of discovering views except through an expensive elaborate box ticking system drawn up by people getting paid for a lengthy over detailed answer and who have probably never sat on any local committee. It will be a very useful exercise and is probably the first time the Parish Plan will have been DISCUSSED IN SUCH DEPTH ANYWHERE– PROVIDING ENOUGH PEOPLE ATTEND.

“ After the Parish Plan presentation it is proposed that Geoffrey Woollard gives an update, in his usual calm analytical style, on the Wicken Fen Vision and its implications for the village...”

Other suggestions from JJ included that there should be only short written reports from the various societies etc which could be left around for people to read if they want, or, should anyone be allowed to speak, that person should be restricted to a maximum of three minutes. David thought it useful to see the human face behind organizations but I don't think this cut much ice with JJ.

Steve Kent-Phillips announced that he had never been to a Village Assembly and that he didn't intend to begin now. He also said the Sports and Social Club and Burwell Tigers will not be submitting reports. This is both sad and astonishing. Steve is so effective on the council, has important views, has information not so well known by others, controls the accounts and could be essential for some questions. Equally the non-information about the above two societies could be seen as slap in the face for the village and could lead to a loss of interest. What would happen if all societies adopted that attitude? And is the PC going to amend its announcement about the chance to “find out more about what is happening in **your** village!”?

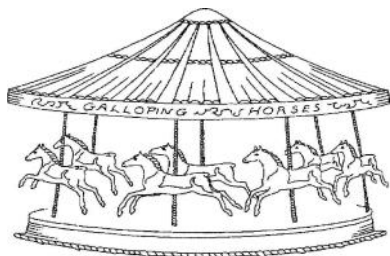
After the Parish Plan presentation it is proposed that Geoffrey Woollard gives an update, in his usual calm analytical style, on the Wicken Fen Vision and its implications for the village. Just to stay away and say “why bother if nothing will happen for 100 years” is like saying there is no need to vote at an general election – at least go along and spoil a paper. As my grandmother would say “You need your bottom spanked” if you don't go to this year's Village Assembly.

So, all in all, that's not a bad evening for free, with a lot of information and exchanged views, and some almost guaranteed shouting and stamping of feet. And if you have any grouses or questions bring them along – they will be heard and answered as best possible.

OTHER POINTS. Ashwell has sold on the plans and site at the Water Tower and it is not known whether the promised £10,000 for Mill Hill traffic calming still exists; the worst is feared. Reach is worried about the increasing number of Deer and wondered if Deer Signs are needed. Our PC will consider this together with “Low Flying Owls” warning signs as barn owls are also on the increase – perhaps Marshall's airport could be consulted. It seems the acoustics in Reach Village

Centre are not so good. There has been an agreed solution to the High Street and Naming issue. Allotment rents are to have a savage 500% increase from 1 April 2009. At the next meeting the PC will have a group photograph which will be displayed at various locations with the necessary permission. Its last photograph was taken in 2000 and appeared in the June 2001 issue of the *Crier* – see page 5 for another showing. The PC will request that a complete list of names and contact points of all members be included in the *Crier*. The end of year accounts had been balanced and finalised in double quick time – Steve gave Karen all the credit, Karen said it was all Steve, and the rest of the PC were relieved to be out of it. The PC is making a generous donation to the School Swimming Pool Fund which put out an excellent appeal. I bet the Parish Plan enthusiasts are gnashing their teeth because if they had been able to include this in a Parish Plan they could have pointed to it as justification for a Plan and a major triumph – equal to moving a bus stop 50 yards. Incidentally I couldn't see the Swimming Pool "transparently" on the agenda.

Alastair Everitt



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

AN EASTER EVE RECITAL AT ST. MARY'S

THE WEATHER MAY HAVE BEEN MORE SUITED TO CHRISTMAS THAN EASTER, but it did not prevent an appreciative audience enjoying the recital given by the Cambridge Voices on Easter Saturday in St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior.

Directed by Ian de Massini with all his usual verve, the choir gave a performance full of the quality and sensitivity we have come to expect from these musicians. The programme contained examples of sacred music across the ages, from a plain chant setting and pieces by early masters such as Tallis and Allegri, to an arrangement of Bach by de Massini himself, 20th century works by Poulenc, Messiaen and others, as well as contributions from contemporary composers. Incidentally, the Bach arrangement was being given its first performance in Holy Week.

If the inescapable chill of the church affected the choir, immaculate in their evening dress, it was not evident in the singing: nor were de Massini's fingers frozen in his beautiful interpretation of Messiaen's haunting *Chant d'extase*. The use of spatial effect enhanced the elegance of the singing in some pieces where separate groups of voices were placed in different parts of the nave.

If I were to make a critical observation, the programme, particularly the first half, lacked contrast to some extent. The inclusion of a Negro spiritual and perhaps something from the repertoire of South American church music would have added a different sound dimension. Nonetheless, it was altogether a fine performance on what can be a sombre day in Passion Tide.

Tony Bowers

How opinions differ. I thought the programme beautifully balanced.

GBS



Burwell Museum Rhubarb Festival Monday May 5th

This is an annual event which is celebrated at various centres throughout the world and something which Denis of Grunty Fen supported wholeheartedly. Indeed there is an area of the Museum devoted to Denis and his works. It will take place on Monday 5th May at the Museum from 2 - 5 p.m.. **Please bring your rhubarb!** It should be a fun afternoon for everyone.



Grand Village Garage Sales 14th June

10.00a.m.-2 00p.m.

I hear that quite a few people are gearing up for this new event, and beginning to sort out, attics, garages, sheds etc. It really would be very helpful to know how many households will be involved. Would you kindly let me know by 17th May if you would like a pitch reserved (FREE) on the meadow opposite the thatched cottage in the High Street (kind permission of Marcia Miller) or if you will be using your own drive or garage. This information is needed so that the hordes of punters that you all encouraging to come will know where to find you there will be arrows put up directing people, it is also suggested that you put up a few balloons as an indication.

Remember that the seller sets the price, and gives half of the takings to the Mary Loo Project (N.B, the much needed toilet in the church).

The Plant Stall At the Feast

This year the Village Hall will be running the Plant Stall. If you have any plants of any size or shape to offer please bring them along on the morning of the day or take them to Elisabeth Everitt (742974) at Anglesey House.

RASP SPAM

APOLOGIES TO ANY RASP USERS who were suddenly inundated by a load of *spam* (unsolicited emails promoting dodgy products and services). The company which provided RASP's spam filtering has changed the way it prices this service and it is no longer economical for RASP to use it. RASP is looking at various alternatives and hopes that replacement spam filtering will be in place before this edition reaches you.

Viagra

The *Crier* is certainly aware how valuable this RASP's service is, even though we do have some Outlook spam filtering after we receive our email!

Make Megabucks

Do you want an IQ less than 60?



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

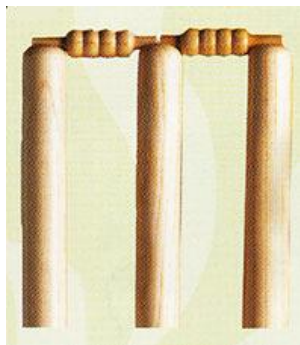
3 Classes include:

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”



CRICKET

PRIOR V. BULBECK

Swaffham Bulbeck are very keen to challenge us to another **Twenty Twenty Cricket Match**. They have a new manager and what is wanted from Prior is also a new manager who will discuss and agree details such as team selection, date, etc. The obvious candidates are not available so the position is being thrown open to the whole village.

If you want to be responsible this year please get in touch with me (742974). Help will be available – it just needs someone to hold the reins.

Alastair Everitt



BURWELL TIGERS
SIGNING ON EVENING

21st May 2008
Burwell Sports Hall
6-8pm.

**Come and register your players for
season 2008-2009.**

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:

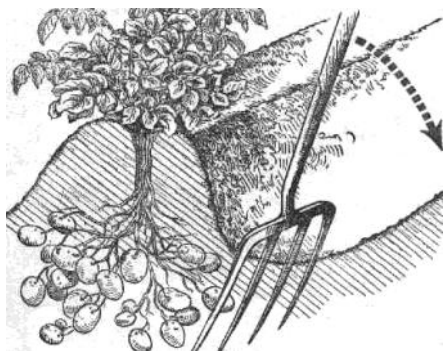
www.keithpearson.co.uk

Merriweather A Life in Shakespeare's Theatre

St Cyriac's
Feast Saturday 10th May, 7.30pm

Interval Refreshments

Don't Miss it!



Spuds in Buckets

You may have noticed various bedraggled women* running around the village in torrential rain and gale force winds on Monday 10 March? If so, you would have seen that they were carrying uniform black buckets, that they stopped at certain houses and handed over the buckets and a small potato....

A strange new ritual has come to Swaffham Prior – and 106 households have signed up to it. The Spuds in Buckets competition commenced on 10 March, and between that time and 13 September the challenge is to grow the heaviest yield of potatoes possible from one seed potato in the regulation bucket. And what a competition it will be – will the crafty quilters beat the yoga class's meditation tactics? Will the potato farmers stand a chance against the school children? Surely, it won't be one of those outsiders from Soham, Quy, Burwell or Cambridge that takes the prize? All talk is of chitting, plunging and banking up, and I now have *more than enough* information on the contents of people's compost heaps!

St Mary's Church is grateful to all those undertaking this challenge – all monies raised will go towards the Maryloo project to build a loo in church – it seems appropriate, somehow!

Dee Noyes

** Thanks to those windswept women – Kate Childs and Linda Evans – for their help in delivering, and to Ryan for labelling, 100+ buckets.*

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

Yeomen of the Guard

This operetta, first performed in 1888, breaks away from the topsy-turvy farce of its antecedents, and presents a coherent and dramatic story of wit, gravity and pathos. Sullivan wanted something more like serious opera from Gilbert and the plot enabled him to put more of his musical talent on display. Set in the Tower of London in Tudor times Gilbert uses old English dialogue and the costumes reflect that era. The only twist that the audience is asked to believe is that the prisoner Colonel Fairfax can be unrecognisably transformed into Sergeant Meryll's son Leonard, merely by shaving off his beard and dressing in a Tower warder's uniform.

Fairfax has been falsely condemned to death in the Tower. As a last wish he is secretly married to Elsie, the travelling jester Jack Point's merrymaid. She marries him for a purse of money with Jack Point's approval, on the assurance that he will be dead in half an hour. She is blindfolded and cannot see his face. But Fairfax's old friend Sergeant Meryll, aided by his daughter Phoebe, helps Fairfax to escape and hide amongst the warders, and the blame falls on the gormless jailer Wilfred. In the second act Elsie, believing that Wilfred, goaded on by Jack Point, has shot Fairfax dead escaping across the river, in turn falls for the wooing of Leonard (alias Fairfax). Fairfax is portrayed as a rather devious character throughout and does not attract much empathy. The plot crystallises to everyone's satisfaction at the end, when Fairfax is reprieved, except for poor Jack Point, who has nurtured a lifetime of love for his travelling partner Elsie.....



Continued from Last Month:

John Norris Remembers ...

The Renovation of the Two Churches



To complete the description of the churches, the church yard needs attention. In 1960 there were no handy grass cutters, let alone ones that would work on a slope. Grass cutting machines usually were usually of the cylinder type, quite unsuitable for our job. The solution was to let the grass grow to maturity when the stalks would be very stiff, and suitable for cutting with a scythe.

I can not remember who did this, but only the front of the church yard was cut. The back or East side was left to decay naturally, as there were too many trees and brambles to do any cutting. This pertained for a year or so until I purchased an Allen Motor Scythe. A petrol engine drove reciprocating blades, and also propelled the thing along. It was heavy to manoeuvre, but did cut the grass.

After another year or two, we tackled the trees, cutting down many ash, beech, and elder, together with one row of holly trees. The idea was to remove the hollies on one side of the path, plant some smaller ones ,then do the same on the remaining trees The first phase went well until we came to dispose the roots.

Early one morning I heard a tractor working; it would be about 4am. I got up to enquire what was going on, and went up to the church yard, and found Ted Saddler digging a huge hole with his bull-dozer. Not the huge things we see today, but a handy little one that could spin around in a very small circle.. The hole was very deep and bones lay all around. His excuse was that the roots had to be buried somewhere, and that when he had finished nobody would know. But someone did!!

I reminded him that this might seem practical, but it was really not allowed.

Today it is all history; a low place is now level and all is well with the world. At this time many broken grave stones were buried in a culvert down the fen road, whilst the best were stood up against the east wall of the churchyard. The flymo was the saviour of the mowers, it being very light and adaptable. Geoff Lewis and I had one each, and for the first time the grass was mown when it was young, and did not need clearing up or burning. The final machine was the ride on mower we see

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today and which has transformed the upkeep of the churchyard.

During the sixties St Cyriac's was in a bad state of repair. The bell gantry on the top of the tower, had a cracked leg and was unsafe, so the was unceremoniously pushed over the side, to crash to the floor.. The bell was fixed to the arcading at the top and made to ring as usual. Many of the panels of the side pews were removed to build a porch in the chapel at Reach upon which Colin Washtell, placed the organ pipes. The design of these very nice panels was the same as the present balcony. In 1971 the Churches Conservation Trust took over the management of the church, and commissioned many repairs. A new roof, repairs to the floor, and much refurbishment of the exterior walls; very similar to the work done on St Mary's.

An interesting site in the steps to the top of the tower merits noting. As the steps rise up the tower, small windows were cut in the outside wall to give light. As there was no glass in them, the air for the prevailing wind blew on the centre column. The soot and industrial smog has turned the surfaces opposite these windows black. On going up higher, round the corner, the wall are brilliant white, only to appear black again at the next window.

It is worth commentating on the level of the floor under the tower. To-day there are steps just inside the west door, and the whole area inside the church is level. This was not the original state of affairs, as the, entrance to the tower through a small door, is three feet lower, indicating that the present day floor has been raised.. Was the whole church at this lower level, and the altar as it is now?. I think the idea of an high altar was regarded by many as a Roman Catholic feature, which of course all churches were until Henry VIII had his way, and tried to abolish roman practices.

The restoration work on St Cyriac's was to restore the building as near to the original condition as reasonable. Most of the north side was covered with ivy, with all of it's roots firmly embedded in the brickwork. We had cut all the roots we could find, but the plant had roots everywhere. The description of the structure was "carpenters gothic" in view of the wooden pillar inside, and the mullions in the window being made of oak. It was these mullions that caused a small deviation from the original plan, because stone was cheaper than oak to-day. So, some of the windows now have their window glass in stone frames, unaffordable in the original structure. The bells were re-hung after being



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

turned through ninety degrees which necessitated new headstocks, as the bell crowns were not symmetrical,

Just before my arrival here the clock had received a new face. The initiative of Sidney Hewitt on seeing the old wooden face lose its numbers, and the hands looking very untidy, was the spur to do something about it.. Accordingly a new face of four aluminium sheets clearly painted and numbered were screwed to the old wooden one. The operation required much courage, as Sidney was lowered from the top in a Bosuns Chair, and did the work suspended on ropes. This lasted for many years until the Conservation Trust did their restorations

Today the cedar trees have outgrown their allotted space, and have become a hazard to the gutters and drains.. Thought is being given to this matter, and commentators in the future will know the outcome. of our present deliberations; some current thinking is that they should be cut down, and perhaps small new ones planted.

The walls round the churchyard have had a chequered history.. On the north side, adjacent to Shadworth House, the wall is now cast concrete some eight feet high when originally built after the original one fell down in the twenties, after an explosion !

The garden of the Red Lion had a row of huge sycamore trees which needed removing, as they had become unsafe due to the shallow soil. Mr Godfrey who lived next door and who was connected to the gunsmith family, Gallion, who had a store in Bridge Street Cambridge. knew the answer ! A tin of black powder placed under the large stumps would easily remove them, and probably split them up as well. The huge explosion did the job; many near by houses had logs of wood dropped on their roofs, whilst several windows were shattered. A day later an almighty crash, and the churchyard wall had fallen over. A twenty yard length had landed in my garden. I have not been able to find out who repaired it, but it was a job well done, as it is standing today. The wall was so high that a row of sheds were built against it.

The East wall suffered from the shaking of the digger laying the new sewer to the houses on Tothill road. That too fell over after the contractors had gone , and is still in ruins today. Going further round to the south side, the large Yew Trees have pushed this wall to almost breaking point. Large bends have appeared against each trunk, and it will surely fall into Anglesey House garden unless something is done soon. Nearer the road a section of clunch wall fell after the 1965 frosts, and this too needs replacing, as churchyards must by law have a continuous fence

We have now reach the west, or road side where the two schools were standing, one built before the enclosure map of 1807, and another, the boy's school probably built in the 1860s (The British Schools). There is a lovely photo taken by Tom Cooper showing these buildings, the Red Lion, and the John Bull public houses in a view of the High Street. These buildings were in use until 1929 when the old part of the present school was built. The site was cleared and the iron fence erected, but this land was never part of the churchyard, unless the church wardens gave permission to build these schools so near to the derelict St Mary's. At this time St Cyriac's had been rebuilt, and was in use. It had long been assumed that Squire Allix and the

congregation did not fancy going to church between the schools and looking up at the ruin, so that they made themselves a new path by taking some of Anglesey House garden, making a way straight up to the church. I now know this is incorrect, as the ordnance survey map of 1890 shows the land still with Anglesey House.

At the top of this new "path" are two vaults with the remains of members of the Allix family interred therein. It is a pity all the male members were christened Charles; a James or Arbuthnot now and again would have helped historians. The latest interment was in 1922, when the wife of, who else but Charles, was buried there. Halfway down the path is a stone cross marking the place where the bones from under the altar have their final resting place.

So the repair to St Mary's is still waiting to be done, the schools are still there, and St Cyriac's is falling into disrepair. All this makes the tale told to me by John Goddard even more relevant. Apparently during the building of this wall, progress was not fast enough for the Squire; the flints did not arrive in time or in quantity. They were gathered from the gravel pit up the Heath Road and transported in a cart to the churchyard. Young John used to get six pence to help load and unload these heavy flints, and overheard the instructions to bring bigger loads, and more quickly. The builders obeyed this instruction to the letter.

Cage hill at this time, perhaps just before the first world war, was not a very smooth surface, and being steeper than it is today proved quite a hazard to horse drawn vehicles, especially those with no brakes.. The punch line to all this is that the cart wheel broke, shedding flints all over the place, and instead of speeding up the operation succeeded in slowing it down even more. John told me this tale several times, and the smile on his face grew broader with every telling.

We have pictures of three different buildings on St Cyriac's site. The last one built with brick, but the previous one of other materials. This may account for the churchyard site being so much higher than the surrounding land, for where did the remains of the former ones go? Perhaps spread around, as there is much evidence of quarried stone about the village, or just built upon. It was a pity that the outline of the old roof was not left in place on the west side of the tower; during the recent renovations, it was quite clear and gave an interest for the archivists. The story continues.. But another question remains unanswered, why was St Mary's built in a hole? Apart from the tower entrance most of the building is below ground level, some eight feet at the east end. St Cyriac's has the prime site on top of the hill, why build another for such a small community.?

Progress was not fast enough for the Squire, who gave instructions to bring bigger loads, more quickly. Cage hill was not a very smooth surface, and being steeper than it is today proved quite a hazard to horse drawn vehicles, especially those with no brakes... The cart wheel broke, shedding flints all over the place.

John Norris

NO MORE GOLF BALLS

I popped round to see my father the other day. On arrival, I realised that he already had company. I cracked on preparing his supper but from the kitchen I couldn't help overhearing their conversation. His chum was telling him about a work-colleague who had discovered this revolutionary golf ball that you could never lose.

If it fell in the water it would emit a trail of bubbles, if it fell in the rough it would give off a sonic tone and if the daylight should fall towards the end of your round it would give off an incandescent glow. My dad was intrigued and asked his guest where the guy had bought the ball from, his reply was that his colleague didn't buy it, he'd found it ! ! !

Pierre

Reunion Party

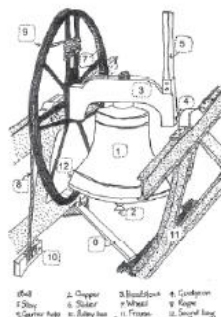
Were you a pupil in the year group 1975-1980 at Bottisham Village College? There will be a Reunion Party for ex-pupils and teachers on Saturday 7th June 2008 at Bottisham Village College, 8 – 12pm. Please contact Karin Fitch if you wish to come on 01954 251700 / karin.murphy@hotmail.co.uk . We hope to 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!

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

On Saturday 3rd May the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers will be holding its Striking Competition on Six Bells from 6.00 to 8.00pm in St. Cyriac's Tower.

Alastair Everitt



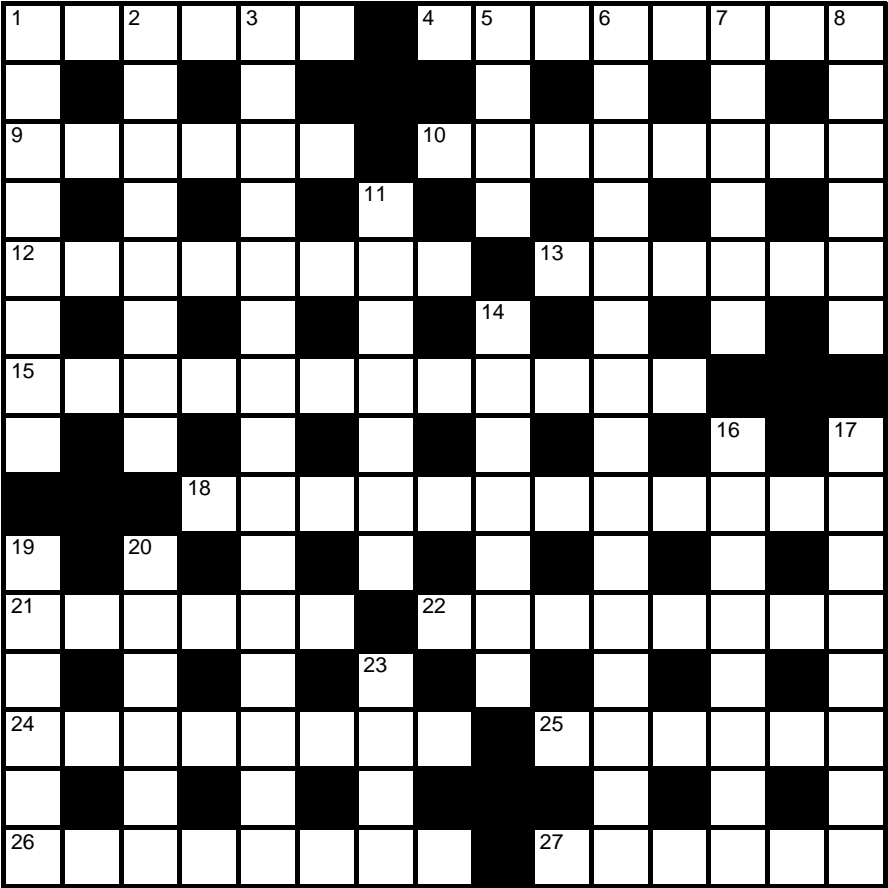
Crossword Number 52

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 May 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 Gives encouragement, thank you (6)
- 4 Get painkiller from Greek character at noon, in Rome strangely (8)
- 9 Cold place for starters: French rice, Italian dates, Greek eggs (6)
- 10 18? Poor Linda; lot of erstwhile words (3,5)
- 12 It might be set aside in Manhattan perhaps (4,4)
- 13 Listen: are you a holy man? I see, reportedly from the country (6)
- 15 Not always the most, however (12)
- 18 Eternal storm rages round font (5,7)
- 21 Represent the first of the young people in France? Yes (6)
- 22 Dream about Tzar's age (8)
- 24 Court gives opportunity to rugby wingers (8)
- 25 Channel hiding dangerous traitors (6)
- 26 Transcend finished part of dance (8)
- 27 Vipers found in summer sun (6)

Down

- 1 Get coffee or face fine anyway (8)
- 2 Sending out letter to sweetheart (8)
- 3 Decorates cake after record cancelled. Get your certificates here (8,7)
- 5 Greasy boil you'll find hidden (4)
- 6 Fatty chemical produced from type A ultrasound (15)
- 7 As a whole, appoint otologist from within (2,4)
- 8 Diminished man, a French one in the European Union, goes to church (6)

- 11 Strange aid Noah got from US statesman (7)
- 14 Shout in Honolulu later on (7)
- 16 Break up chair that's about average, note (8)
- 17 Boss eats strange heat-resistant fibrous mineral (8)
- 19 Plaster glued we hear to duck (6)
- 20 Type of drug found in oat pie mixture (6)
- 23 Takes in zebra eating grass on Scottish hillside (4)

Solution to crossword no. 51

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

We congratulate Bob and Julie Nunn, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors

ARTHUR RANK HOUSE

Voluntary Services Office

We are always looking for new volunteers at Arthur Rank House.

Duties are varied, ranging from Flower Arrangers, Drivers (particularly based in the City), Patient Volunteers, etc and we are currently much in need of Tea Bar volunteers.

If you feel that you have a few hours to spare and would like to volunteer please contact:

The Voluntary Services Office

Tel: 723145 / 723146

More information about Arthur Rank House can be obtained from our website:

www.arthurrankhospicecharity.co.uk

Open letter to

The Whirling Dervish
Rotary Clothes Line Co.
FAO.: Customer Relations Dept.

Dear Sirs,

I bought your clothes line
and installed it as directed,
but I think you should not sell these things
until they are perfected.

Perhaps I should just make it clear
I think your claims are sound;
the structure's very strong, yet light,
and it does go round.

Last week my wife hung out the wash
then stood back and admired it,
when suddenly a breeze sprang up
that apparently inspired it.

Since then, it hasn't stopped nor slowed
(my wife's begun to fear it),
it turns at such a rate, you see,
that no-one can get near it.

And so, though it may dry the clothes –
tho' as yet we cannot prove it,
PLEASE will you send an engineer
to stop it and remove it?

Yours Sincerely,
Ophir

The Reading Group reads...

Cold Comfort Farm

by Stella Gibbons

“THE EDUCATION BESTOWED ON FLORA POSTE BY HER PARENTS had been expensive, athletic and prolonged; and... in her twentieth year, she was discovered to possess every art and grace save that of earning her own living.” Thus begins the classic tale of how flora travels to Howling in deepest Sussex and begins the civilisation of the Starkadders of Cold Comfort Farm.

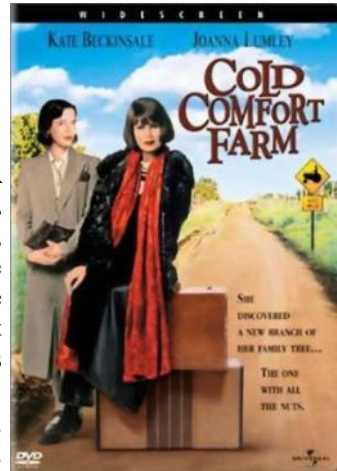
Many of the group had previously read this book; some had even encountered it as a set book at school, as it is now considered to be a modern classic. It is also full of marvellously quotable phrases; most people know “I saw something nasty in the woodshed”, but there are many other gems, “‘Tis all one,” “one o’ they Ford vans” “and my own favourite “it was a black day for me when I took up with Agony Beetle”. It is essential to remember when reading this comic novel, that it is a parody of the rural novels of Thomas Hardy, D.H. Lawrence and, in particular, Mary Webb. (It is alleged that Stella Gibbons, who was then a journalist, was motivated to begin *Cold Comfort Farm* on being given yet another novel by Mary Webb to review.) As it is a parody, most of the characters are stereotypes. There were some who felt that this belittled the “peasants”, but the Town, Literary and County characters are equally succinctly-summed up; Flora’s assessment of the young Squire, Richard Hawkmonitor for example, is that as he is a member of the hunting gentry, “Like most other ideas, the idea [of seducing Elfine] would simply not have entered his head.”

Stella Gibbons was born in 1902 and brought up in a family that temperamentally was not too dissimilar from her fictional Starkadders, which probably explains the deeply heartfelt passage:

“Storms were what they liked; plenty of rows, and doors being slammed, and jaws sticking out, and faces white with fury, and faces brooding in corners, and faces making unnecessary fuss at breakfast, ... Oh, they *did* enjoy themselves! They were the sort that went trampling all over your pet stamp collection, or whatever it was, and then spent the rest of their lives atoning for it. but you would rather have had your stamp collection.”

Above all, the book is tremendous fun, from the wonderfully apposite names of the characters, human and animal, to the towering passages of purple prose (kindly indicated by the author with one, two or three stars) which descend abruptly into bathos whenever the primitive, passionate Starkadders attempt to browbeat the coolly civilised, and frankly disinterested Flora.

Chris Carrington





VILLAGE GARDENERS

We have had two excellent talks in the last two months. The first in March was given by Mr George Thorpe who's Head gardener at Trinity College. With his obvious considerable knowledge on climate change and global warming he gave his talk on this and the associated planting.

With the aid of his slides he illustrated what he can experiment with at Trinity, by way of planting and micro climates, provided by the great variation of gardens within the bounds of the college. This was particularly with plants that flourished in hot dry conditions-and yes, there really were banana palms amongst the geraniums!

All the evidence suggests that over the next century, summers will get hotter and drier and winters will be wetter and milder. There will be double the amount of CO₂ in the air—a third currently coming from forest burning and from places like China , where there is a huge rise in the number of coal fired power stations being built. Methane in the atmosphere will also increase from landfill sites and from the gradual thawing of the frozen Tundra.

With the warmer weather there will be a rise in pests and plant diseases, such as Honey fungus and weeds, the great chancers in the plant world, will certainly take advantage of the warmer weather. Extreme events such as flooding , hurricanes and frequent temperatures over 30c may well increase too.

BUT—it's not all bad news-there are things we can do! Compost and composting were top of his list. It holds moisture, it adds organic matter to the soil and it improves the soil infiltration rate. Trinity makes alot of their own but also use the stuff from the Denarbon depot on the A10—it's good and cheap. Increase the use of water butts and other water collection methods. It need not be painful changing what you plant; use plants that are naturally hardy, that like dry conditions and that are drought resistant- including trees hedges and shrubs. They will all have a longer growing season. Plant long term shelter to protect plants from high winds and storms and create shade and ground cover when planting. Last but not least- have a pond that will benefit wildlife. So you see there is still hope!

Our speaker in April, was Mr Richard Eyres-the retired head gardener from Anglesey Abbey, although the "retirement" bit turned out to be a bit of a misnomer. He seemed to be al ot busier than when he "worked"—involved in the creation of the new garden (from fields) at Kirtling Towers, for the present owners, Lord and Lady Fairhaven; in the restoration and management of the Gibberd garden at Harlow - originally owned by the late Sir Frederick Gibberd, who was the inspiration behind Harlow new town; and also in the creation of his own small but beautiful colourful garden in Lode-which will be open with others in June and July for Lode "open gardens".

His father was head gardener at Anglesey Abbey during the forties and fifties and he started working there in 1956, when he was offered a 50% pay rise to leave the Fen farm where he was. This meant a weekly wage of

£5.00—an offer not to be refused. He took us on a brief photographic tour of this

98 acre estate with it's 104 statues. He still clearly loves it and is very proud especially of the winter garden that he created-despite the fact that the National Trust were very sceptical about anyone wanting to visit a garden in winter.

He is still in retirement so obviously creative and continues to love a gardening challenge.

Our next meeting is on 20th May when Janet Hall from Reach is going to give us a gardening (probably difficult!) quiz. Every one welcome

We still have some tickets for our outing to Beth Catto's garden on June 7th. Contact Roger Connan on-742182 if you are interested.



The Lode Anglesey Abbey —right on our doorstep

Margaret Joyce



WI Notes

The speaker at the April meeting was Chris Winter and what a great evening we all enjoyed. Chris who works as an undertaker had us laughing throughout his talk on the subject 'where there's a will there's a relative' with wonderful anecdotes and observations on life. We heard how when on holiday he loves to explore old graveyards and has collected some very interesting epitaphs from previous centuries which he shared with us.

At next months meeting on May 19th we will be discussing and voting on our two national resolutions concerning a ban on bottom trawling and inappropriate prison sentences for the severely mentally ill. We have also persuaded two members to talk to us on 'This was my life' so it looks like being a very interesting meeting - why not come along?

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

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:
Quantity of white cotton sheets suitable for use as dust sheets. Large quantity fancy net curtains, ex. condition. Assorted sizes for 12 windows Kenwood white 2-slice toaster, nearly new Sony 14" portable colour TV. Full working order. Hitachi Microwave. Old but in working order. Brown/cream. Internal capacity W13.5" H10" D14". Panasonic HiFi stereo radio/CD player, silver/grey W19" H6" D10"		Nic, 01223 812231
Metronome (Taktell Junior) pack of ten Microdisks 3.5" IBM formatted to offer		Ken Watson 01223 812740
CD Jewel cases - mostly standard single CD size, but a small number of slimline single cases also. Padded envelopes - sizes vary from small (CD) to A4. Have been used but can be reused (too many for me).		Jacqui Green - 01223 811190
Good quality black office desk 1800 x 840 x 720 Executive, Grey fabric swivel office chair		Ian Cannie - 01223 811169
Dell flat screen computer monitor 16", Dell keyboard and Logitech PC speakers.		Meleena 01223 813775
Pine bunk bed (no mattress) Child's bike in good condition (up to 7yr)		Inge, 01223 811959
	Digital display clock	Jun, 01223 813362



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

David White joined the Council on April 1 as the Waste Strategy Officer, replacing Martin Stacey. Dave's responsibilities include Recycling, Refuse Collection and Fly Tipping. His email address is dave.white@eastcambs.gov.uk.



The Council's waste contractors are experiencing some teething problems with the new waste contract. Due to the increase in dry recycling being put out for collection at the kerbside, the recycling vehicles the recycling vehicles are having to make additional trips to Donarborn, and this is having a knock-on effect with the dry-recycling rounds sometimes not being completed on the allocated collection day. Any recycling not picked up on the allocated day will be collected on the next working day (that would include Saturday). The issue will soon be resolved.

In April, we have our second meeting of the South Area Neighbourhood Panel.

The panel is a valuable way of highlighting neighbourhood issues and concerns and is proving an effective means of increasing communication between Parish, District and County Councils and the local Constabulary.

The next meeting is on July 1st at Bottisham Village College at 7pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend and are able to raise issues that are of concern.

The Council is proceeding with the MasterPlan for Ely, Soham and Littleport. The question has to be asked—What needs to be done to make it possible for a higher proportion of our growing population to live and work locally enabling them to participate in the local community and enjoy more family and leisure time?

The multi-faceted answer to this question could only be addressed by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of each township in turn and attempting to map out a better and more coherent future. In many ways, this process is not dissimilar to the development of Parish Plans, a process that has been used by a number of our local villages and settlements.

The review process for Ely involved listening to expert advice, over 60 local organisations, a Visioning event attended by nearly 90 representatives of local interested parties together with a Seminar for District Councillors.

It rapidly became apparent that for Ely to reach its potential as a significant market town serving the needs of the local community then we should seek to grow to a population of 26-28,000. At this level there would be sufficient market scale to attract investment by a very broad range of retail, service and leisure providers. A higher level of localised employment would then be possible. The Masterplan addresses how to mass these activities to enable viable development to take place whilst financially supporting the development of the necessary infrastructure. In

addition, the Masterplan addresses the many "quality of life issues" in relation to how movement in and around the city works, together with the new housing in a country park setting.

Over the next few months the development sites indicated in the Masterplan will come under the spotlight and detailed plans will be produced. Already, increased interest in commercial development is being stimulated by this process. Significant support has been gained through Cambridgeshire Horizons and we are working with them to provide agreement and support by government to our proposals.

The task is now to repeat these processes and develop Masterplans for both Soham and Littleport. The Ely Masterplan plays to the city's strengths of current scale on which to build for greater value, together with the Cathedral, the river and the rail network. In a similar fashion the Masterplans for Soham and Littleport must play to the strengths of their own communities. We need to recognise what makes these communities unique and work with local people to help realise a better more localised future.

If we can achieve a clear understanding of the "sales" points for each of our townships then we can develop a District-wide policy for promoting localised employment development to an audience both within and beyond our borders in order to fulfil our desire for more of our residents to live and work within our District.

This seems to be coherent for all of the District north of Fordham, but does not do a great deal for those communities who look toward Newmarket and Cambridge. Nevertheless, there are benefits: more relatively local choice of retail, leisure and sporting facilities with ready access to a greatly improved riverside and Country Park at Ely. More employment opportunities, travelling against the flows to Cambridge and London. All very largely financed by the developments and economic massing themselves supported by a modest seed-corn contribution from within the existing Council Tax that will be recovered many fold by the taxes and Rate Support Grant brought by the increased population.

I firmly believe that the Village Plan, Masterplan approach are valuable tools in achieving a better quality of life and we should all work on developing them across the District.

It's All Happening At...

Oliver Cromwell's House

Saturday 3rd--Mon 5th May (Bank Holiday Weekend) Free craft activities for visitors to Oliver Cromwell's House around the theme of Eels.

Join us for some eel fun. Ellie the eel has become the mascot for our annual Eel Day Procession. At the end of your tour of Oliver Cromwell's House (where you will see an eel ready to be made into a pie!), come and draw an eel and give it your own name. Normal admission prices apply.

Saturday 3rd--Mon 5th May (Bank Hol Weekend) A Good Feeling About Ely -

Fun Walking Trail.

Visitors to the Tourist Information Centre (housed within Oliver Cromwell's House) can pick up a trail and 'Get a Good Feeling' about Ely. Call in to collect your trail and then follow our route around the city centre stopping at various points where you will be asked to 'feel' the answers. Using the paper and pencil paper provided, rub where you think the answer are.



Return to the Tourist Information Centre to enter into the prize draw for a goodie bag. 50p per child, suitable for all ages. Booking not required.

Wednesday 14th May, 10 am to 12 noon: Cookery Lecture: Calling Chocoholics Calling all chocolate lovers. Join us for the first of a series of chocolate cookery lectures. Find out why Sara Fowler from the Cuddly Wuddly Chocolate Company loves chocolate so much and see just what you can do with it - apart from eat it! See Sarah make some truffles and of course have the opportunity to try some. Recipe cards will be given out to take home. Price is £10 per person and booking is essential. Opportunity to purchase from her extensive range.

Monday 26th May - Meet the Cromwell's, 10 am until 4 pm

We invite you to our official launch of the newly refurbished Oliver Cromwell's House. Spend some time with Mr and Mrs Cromwell and their servant as they draw you back to the 1640's and demonstrate what life was really like. See our newly presented rooms and exhibitions with free children's activities at the end of the tour. Normal admission prices apply.

Tuesday 27th to Sunday 1st June - Half Term Free craft activities for visitors to Oliver Cromwell's House. Having seen how children dressed in the 17th century and perhaps tried dressing up yourself, see if you can dress our cut out figures correctly. Normal admission prices apply.

Every Saturday (subject to availability) at 2.30 pm (1 hour) from **May 3rd to 27th September**

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

Every Sunday (subject to availability) at 2.30 pm (1½ hr) from 4th May to 28th September

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

Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

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

Minutes of March Meeting: These were agreed.

Reports: CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson

Date & Agenda for the Annual Village Meeting: The date for the AVM was agreed for Wednesday, 14th May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. There was general discussion about how this meeting could be revamped to encourage people from the village to attend and take an active interest in their parish. One important item for the agenda was the creating of a Parish Plan and its benefits or otherwise to the Village. *Please see notice in Crier.*

Road Safety Measures/Traffic Calming, Mill Hill: The Clerk received an email from Kevin Hall stating that Swaffham Prior had been successful in its bid to the JFHMI but also stating that the funds available were limited and may not cover all the suggested items. A meeting with Parish Councillors was also requested to discuss the measures available within the budget. The Clerk was to ask Kevin Hall to attend the next PC meeting to discuss the scheme.

High Street Signs & Naming: A further reply was received from Andrew Killington of ECDC. Following discussion it was decided that this whole matter had got far too complicated and that there was little benefit in continuing to resolve the issues. As such the Parish Council resolved to take no further action and leave road signs, etc., as they currently are.

Parish Plan for Village: There was further discussion on this and there continued to be mixed views. It was agreed that full consultation with village residents was needed and (as noted above) will be included on the agenda for the Village Annual Meeting.

Play Area: The work to this area is almost complete with just the painting of the equipment outstanding. This is to go ahead shortly. Now we are into the new financial year, the last piece of play equipment (covered picnic bench) can be ordered. The annual inspection is to be carried out by RoSPA sometime during the month of April.

Request to Rent Vacant Allotment: It was agreed to let the available allotment to Mr G King. Whilst on the subject of allotments, the annual rent payment was discussed and it was agreed to raise the rents to £5/annum from April 2009. Notice is to be sent to all allotment holders.

The Lodes & Fens: This is ongoing. There was a further open meeting at Reach with reference to the National Trust plans.

Planning applications including:

60 High Street – *construction of conservatory to rear. Ref: 08/00315/FUL.* There were no objections.

End of Year Financial Summary: Steve Kent-Phillips reported to the meeting. With reference to the Precept for 2008/09, this is unchanged.

Accounts for payment: These were agreed.

Items for the Next Agenda:

Traffic calming – Mill Hill

Confirmation of Agenda for Annual Village Meeting (14/5/08)

The Play Area – final items plus RoSPA inspection

The Lodes & The Fens

School Swimming Pool

Open Question Time:

Some cutting back of ivy on Village Hall driveway required.

General 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, 8th May 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Plus:

**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 14TH MAY 2008
AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council

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

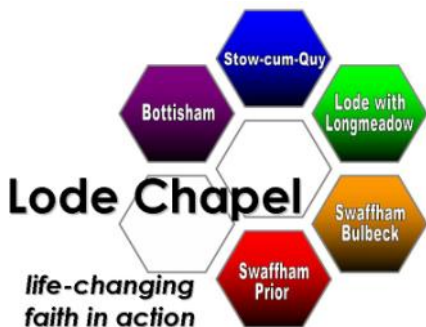
Bottisham Primary School: New Clerk Required

We are looking for a new Clerk to the Bottisham Primary School Governing Body. Your job will be to provide administrative support to the governing body and its four subcommittees. There are about 18 meetings a year, held mostly in the evening at the school, between 6 and 8pm. In discussion with the chairs of committees you will draw up and circulate agendas for meetings. You will attend meetings, take minutes and circulate these to the governors. You will organise and keep records of committee papers for future access. You will attend training and be able to make use of the ongoing support provided by the Cambridgeshire Governor Support Service. Following training you will be able to offer advice to the governors about relevant issues.

You will have a good standard of organisational skills, be able to work from home and attend meetings at the school. You will have access to your own computer. You will deal with any matters to do with the governors in strict confidence. The successful applicant will be required to complete an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure.

Pay is £250 per term.

For more details please contact the school secretary, Mrs Power, tel 01223 811235 or email office@bottisham.cambs.sch.uk"



Be a part of the ‘HOPE’ Challenge!

Have you seen the film ‘Evan Almighty’? Or what about ‘Pay It Forward’? Both films incorporate the idea of doing something helpful for somebody else without expecting anything else in return – a so-called Act of Random Kindness. Even something small can make a very big difference, restoring the recipient’s hope in

humanity and creating a story of hope that is remembered and retold again and again.

We don’t need an excuse to do something kind for somebody else, but this May I want to give you one. Why not be part of our local ‘HOPE’ Challenge? On one of the Bank Holiday weekends why not take some time to carry out your own Act of Random Kindness? Here are some ideas...

- Invite the new people in your street to join you for dinner,
- Offer to mow your neighbour’s lawn,
- Ask your elderly neighbour round for a cup of tea and a chat,
- Help someone to finish that DIY job they’ve been putting off for weeks,
- Or even be kind anonymously – leave a box of chocolates or a bunch of

flowers on a neighbour’s doorstep, knock their door and run away!

The wonderful thing about acting like this is that you feel good doing it! So both parties benefit, and often the effect is multiplied many times over, as the person on the receiving end of your kindness is in turn kind to somebody else! Ghandi once said “You must be the change you want to see in the world” – if we long to live in a place where people are kinder to one another, then it’s up to us to get the ball rolling... And that means me too – which is why I’m teaming up with people from Lode Chapel and the local parish churches to offer our own Act of Random Kindness:

2pm-5pm, Bank Holiday Monday 5th May
Bottisham Community Primary School
Free Car Wash with Free Refreshments While You Wait
(or just come for the Free Coffee and Cakes if you want!)

I look forward to washing your car, and to hearing how other people have responded to the ‘HOPE’ Challenge. My contact details are below if you want to tell me your story.

Simon Goddard

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.
Morning Worship every Sunday at 10.30am with Sunday School,
(except for the 4th Sunday of each month).

**Next ‘Sunday Club’, 25th May,
with activities for all of the family,
10.30am at Bottisham Primary School.**

Also, why not try **re:new** at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School.

New monthly event starting Sunday 11th May, 10.30am.

For more information please contact:
Simon Goddard on 812881 or Peter Wells on 812388
Lode Chapel, High Street, Lode, CB25 9EW.
Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk
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).



Something new at Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham!



“C by C”

Come and join us for candlelit meditative night prayer,
preceded by a glass of wine.

Wednesday May 7th at 8 pm



Church of England Services

May 2008

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	Bottisham
Thu 1	7.30pm Holy Communion	— Ascension Day —	
Sun 4	11:00am Family Communion	9:30am Holy Communion	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 11	11:00am Holy Communion	9:30am Holy Communion 11:00am Renew	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 18	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service	9:30am Village Communion	11:00am Morning Prayer
Sun 25	11:00am Matins	9:30am Morning Prayer	11:00am Family Communion

PASTORAL LETTER, May 2008

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

In 1633 the villagers of Oberammergau were facing the onset of both invasion by the Swedes and a devastating attack of the plague. The villagers turned to God for help, and promised Him that they would perform a play depicting the passion of Christ every ten years if He would spare the village from both threats. The village was spared, and so the villagers kept their side of the bargain, and the passion play was produced. From 1680 the play was indeed produced every ten years, with the exception of 1770 when the local Baron banned it, and 1940 when the 2nd world war intervened.

The Passion Play has remained an integral part of the village life ever since. It is performed exclusively by amateur actors, who were either born in Oberammergau, or have lived there for the past 20 years. In the year 2000, some 2,200 of the 5,300 or so inhabitants were involved either on stage or backstage, 550 of them children.

The performances initially took place on a simple wooden construction erected in the cemetery alongside the church, but the site of today's theatre has served as the venue for the play from 1830 onwards. The stage, which has been constantly rebuilt and technically improved, was given its present



The Oberammergau Passion Play

monumental structure in 1930. In 1900, a roof was added to the auditorium, which has seats for some 4,800 spectators. The terraces rising towards the back of the auditorium ensure a good view from every seat of the open-air stage, where the play is performed whatever the weather. The Passion Play Theatre was given a new façade and its technology brought bang up to date as part of a general renewal and refurbishment carried out in preparation for the Passion Play 2000.

The basis for the present-day script originally came from Othmar Weis, a Benedictine monk, and was revised between 1850 and 1868 by the village vicar of that time, Joseph Alois Daisenberger. A special feature of the play is its living tableaux: colourful scenes from the Old Testament, which are woven into the story of the Passion in the form of still-life pictures. The music, which, with choral and prologue performances, considerably determines the character of the play. Between 1811 and 1820, Oberammergau's teacher and church musician Rochus Dedler wrote a sensitive score which has accompanied the Passion Play ever since.

It is this unique performance continuity over more than three centuries that has made the Oberammergau Passion Play the greatest and best known in the world. The audience's emotional response to the play, and the ten-year cycle, has made it a rare and much-demanded event. This success story would have been impossible, however, without the willingness of the entire village to make a mammoth community effort to play out the story of the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth, as a story of hope and redemption for the world, once every ten years.

I am keen that the Anglesey Group of Parishes offers the opportunity for folk from our five villages to have the opportunity to experience this unique event in 2010. You can take in the play and stay in the village for 2 nights and return home, or take in a linked tour of the Austrian Tyrol – the choice is yours. The main thing is that we all see the play together. The cost is likely to be from £500 per person for the two-day trip, to £1100 for an 8-day tour. As soon as you read this article, if you are interested, let me know by e-mail or 'phone, in order that we can gauge the likely level of interest. May God bless you all.

David

(Tel: 01223 812367, e-mail: revdavidhlew@msn.com)

Dates for Your Diary

May 2008

Fri	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat	3	Bell Practice, 6-8pm, St Cyriacs
Mon	5	Burwell Museum Rhubarb Festival, 2-5pm, Burwell Museum Free Car Wash, 2-5pm, BVC REACH FAIR
Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 15:15-15:50 Chapel 15:55-16:15
Wed	7	<i>C by C</i> , Bottisham Church, 8pm Reading Group, 8pm
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Sat	10	Merriweather, A Life in Shakespeare's Theatre, 7.30pm, St Cyriacs VILLAGE FEAST, 2pm, VH
Wed	14	ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY,, VH, 7.30pm 10-12noon, Chocolate Cookery, Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely
Sun	18	<i>Crier</i> Copy Deadline
Mon	19	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 15:15-15:50 Chapel 15:55-16:15
Wed	21	Burwell Tigers Signing On, 6-8pm, Burwell Sports Hall
Mon	26	10am-4pm, Meet the Cromwells, Cromwell's House, Ely
June	4	Gilbert & Sullivan (to the 7th), 7.30pm, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck
Mon	7	Coup de Grass, 7.30pm, VH BVC Reunion Party, 8-12pm, BVC

**Club Board returning in next issue — apologies, no room
this month**