



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 4

April 2009



Editorial

Where would a village magazine be without Doggie-Dooos? Like *Hello! Magazine* without celebrities, some might think, but in this month's edition, the tone of debate is considerably upped: *it's all in verse*. That's because this is a *superior* village magazine, and...

...not only that, we have a leading veterinary parasitologist to give us the low-down on those Health Issues we all keep hearing about, but are not quite sure what they are. Are *they* sure? Well, one thing for sure, parasitology is a *science*, unlike, um, *fly-tipping*, for example, although, had you attended the course Geoffrey Woollard went on this month, you might have wondered!

There's much to read in this month's **Crier**, despite the fact that many of our correspondents have yet again been moon-lighting in the Nationals. The **Crier's** recent abject failure to keep track has lead to a number of wholly unfounded suggestions that the Editress does not actually read her chosen National, purchased at great expense, I may add. How rubbish is that! Anyway, this month the National Trust Vision has been hitting the headlines as I read ~~last night on the web~~ at the time in my morning newspaper, and people round here have had a few things to say, as well they

might.

Goodbyes and many thanks are due to Alastair Everitt, outgoing chair of our Village Hall and the last of the *Gang of Three* that did it up. He will be greatly missed and a very hard act to follow. Welcome and all the very best to Nathan Wrench, who has (bravely!) stepped into Alastair's shoes..

Last but by no means least, many, many thanks to friends and neighbours for their kind enquiries and who helped out so much last month, sent cards, sent food, and, and, and. Buoyed by all this help, we're now both pretty much recovered and appreciate more than ever how good it is to live in Swaffham Prior. And also not forgetting friends over the border in Bulbeck!

Pat and Peter Cook, take a bow, they even *finished the Crier and sent it to the printers*: no-one has ever taken it off our hands before.

See you in St Cyriac's, Cambridge Voices, don't miss it!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Daffodils by Tina Jost

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Singing is Good for You

It is said that singing is good for your health and choirs are springing up everywhere, but not in Swaffham Prior.

There are lots of people in the village who are musical and can sing, is there no one who feels competent enough to get them together and form a little choir?

Betty Prime

Dear Editors,

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the quiz on the 28th February, we hope everybody enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to the winning team, BOING. Thanks to those who donated raffle prizes, especially to Pru and Clifton yet again for the lovely hamper full of goodies. Total raised was £363. Please come and join us again for the next quiz which is on 14th November. Hope to see you there.

Lynne Rand and Jenny Brand

Dear Editors,

Annie

I admire Annie's letter, and it is very understandable she wants to be anonymous. Even today we women are easily mocked.

It is also an insult to women that a writer like D.H.Lawrence is still allowed to be read in schools. I have seen a man, in this very village, openly reading a Lawrence novel as he walks along the street. This is the Lawrence who wrote the poem "*All I Ask*". What sort of a person is it who could write:

"All I ask of a woman is that she shall feel gently
towards me
when my heart feels kindly towards her,
and there shall be the soft, soft tremor as of unheard
bells between us.

It is all I ask.

I am so tired of violent women lashing out
and insisting on being loved, when there is
no love in them."

How dare he. And it doesn't even rhyme. I can be as gentle as anyone, but if a man needs reprimanding so he should be, and that's only right.

Shirley

Dear Editors,

As Easy as This!!

*If your dog should get caught short
While you're out upon a walk
Don't let it lay there in the street
In a smelly steaming heap
Take a bag a put it in it
Then all you need to do is
BIN IT!!!!*

THIS IS NOT A JOKE THIS IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!!!

The Nunn Family

Dear Editors,

Doggin' around

If we are to believe the Press
Prior's submerged in dog mess.
But it is with some relief
I can say the belief
Is an exaggeration, no less.

Ophir

Dear Editors,

Village Daffodils

How nice it is to see the daffodils coming into bloom around the village, brightening it up, especially after the cold and dismal winter. That is why when out walking with Jenny we were so disappointed to see some person or persons had strewn daffodil heads along Mill Hill near the water tower. Do these individuals realise how long it took the W.I to plant all of these bulbs. They are for the enjoyment of everyone, not for the enjoyment this person gets out of decapitating flowers. Some people may think, they are only flowers, but when you think how much hard work it has taken to make the village look nice I hope these persons will think before performing this act again.

Lynne Rand

FOUND KEYS

Two keys were found in Swaffham Prior this month —
please contact Simon Goddard (01223 812881) if you
think they might be yours.



Recently, Guardian columnist George Monbiot accused the National Trust of creating a “sanitized tea-towel history”. This provoked some debate, including this letter from Prior resident Sue Wade.

A Letter to the Guardian

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to read Fiona Reynolds’ (the director general of the National Trust) reply to George Monbiot. Reynolds is also concerned that the National Trust presents a sanitised tea-towel history. In her response she agrees that the wider story of Stowe should include the history of the land and the “village cleared to create the deer park; or about the eviction, imprisonment, transportation or execution of those who lived there.”

I live in Swaffham Prior Fen, Cambridgeshire. The National Trust have a “Vision” for our community that does not include the community. The National Trust want to remove the current owners from the land and flood it to create their 10,000 acre “Wicken Vision.” This is very reminiscent of the much maligned clearances of the past and the removal of the village at Stowe to create a deer park. Those of us who live in the Fens are given the option of moving or living in a swamp. Our home and family is one of many in the ten thousand acre area which will be affected. I wonder how history will look back on these modern day “clearances of the fens” in a hundred years time?

Local resistance to this Vision is strong and growing. One of our neighbours, Geoffrey Woollard has drafted an E-petition which can be viewed and signed at petitions.number10.gov.uk/SaveOurFens/.

The very foundations of our homes will be in jeopardy when the water rises. The swamp will bring unwelcome pests such as mosquitoes etc. Our existing farming community, and our friends with families (many of whom have lived on the land for generations) who fill our schools and churches will have to leave their working farms as the land is bought up. Small surrounding villages like Swaffham Prior, Reach and Upware will not be able to cope with the onslaught of traffic and the National Trust Theme Park mentality. A recent “Snow Drop” day at Anglesey Abbey, a National Trust House in the neighbouring village of Lode, swamped the village yet again with parked cars unable to park in the National Trust car park. Although the National Trust car park is of a considerable size it regularly overflows into the adjacent village.

In meetings between our community and the National trust they have openly admitted that they have made no provision in their Vision for the huge numbers of cars that will arrive. Far from “experiencing tranquillity” the local villagers will experience an invasion of city dwellers in their cars looking for the Disney experience of “Theme Park National Trust”. Once the villages are completely swamped with cars, then the National Trust will have to “pave paradise and put up a parking lot”.

Our rural corner has been managed successfully for generations by local people who do not want to be flooded. For example the farm we live on has won awards for managing the land in a wildlife friendly manner. It is already a very open area for the public with many paths and tracks. Leave well alone. Our community is not ready to throw in the towel yet.

Susan F Wade

The Guardian's comments came with the National Trust's recent announcement that it would be creating 1000 allotments on its land. This led to further comment from another resident:

A Letter to the Telegraph

Dear Editor,

Food of Flood

The National Trust, while encouraging us to grow more vegetables, wants to buy up and flood, or allow to grow wild, thousands of acres in Cambridgeshire of the best vegetable-growing fenland.

Geoffrey Woollard

Eds Note: Readers wishing to sign Geoffrey's petition, should go to:

petitions.number10.gov.uk/SaveOurFens

It is not too late.....

Spuds in Buckets 2009

14 March – 12 September

OVER 100 PEOPLE OF ALL AGES took part in the first village “Spuds in Buckets” competition last year. The winner of the adult section – Andy Pumfrey – grew 2.782kg of potatoes from a single seed potato in his bucket, and Rhiannon Jordan took the children's prize with 0.368kg of potatoes. Successful growers got to keep and eat their delicious potatoes, and the winners got a full Sunday roast or Saturday night supper to go with their spuds.

By popular demand we are running this competition again starting on Saturday 14 March. For a payment of just £5 a family or individual or group (Cubs, Youth Club?) will receive a bucket and seed potatoes. Can you beat Andy's yield? Will the weather be kinder to us this year? Can you grow more potatoes than your neighbours? Will children do better than their parents?

Don't miss out on Swaffham Prior's great spud growing challenge! All proceeds go to the Maryloo Project, to provide toilet facilities for St Mary's Church.

Buckets and spuds still available; please contact Dee Noyes:

Telephone – 743864; Email – noyeshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk; Post – 1 Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior

Coming soon:

Fair Trade Hamper Raffle and Reach Fair – ticket sellers and buyers required! Please contact Linda Evans -

Wanted:

A vacuum cleaner for church cleaning – any good condition donation considered. Please contact Linda Evans -

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Once a month I have the good fortune to move from watching the excellent Channel 4 News to going to the Village Hall for the monthly PC meeting and it is a seamless shift, in flick of an eye, that John Snow becomes John Covill – without the tie.

In his ECDC report Allen said ECDC had received a windfall payment from the government - for what we were not told. Some of this will be given to Newmarket CAB, which is a very good use for it.



The PC has been so very effective over the problems created by the illegal entry of vehicles on top of the flood defence banks down the fens. The PC approached the Environment Agency which agreed to erect any gates supplied by the PC. At first look the cost of the gates is considerably more than anticipated and more research is needed. How admirable the PC action has been. Within 4 weeks it has resolved the issue apart from the need to raise one or two thousand pounds or so.

Now what would the Neighbourhood Panel (hereinafter NP) have done? In his report Allen had spent a considerable time extolling the virtues of the NP. It reminded me of the time when he stood up at the last Annual Village Assembly and stated that our views would be ignored if we did not complete a Parish Plan. Subsequent investigation published in the *Crier* exposed Parish Plans as being complete baloney - a complete waste of time and money.

Meantime our ECDC representatives have gone very quiet on Parish Plans and NPs are the flavour of the month. Geoffrey Woollard who has attended most if not all NP meetings considered them to be just “another talking shop”. ECDC has taken up the challenge. The local NP took a full page spread advertisement in the Newmarket Weekly News (and perhaps others also), takes up space in the *Crier* (why not all the other local mags?), issues a 4 colour newsletter which it distributes throughout 15 villages (how much does that cost?), and in the March *Crier* Alan Williams set out his case for not being just a “talking shop”.

So what is his case? For months they have been going on about a Speedwatch. Our PC has given £80 towards it, but no-one in Prior has offered to become a volunteer. Is this the people voting with their feet, especially those in Mill Hill who have been so exercised about speeding. So, no popular support or interest in this village – any in Bulbeck?

Then Alan Williams quotes the hooligan problem in Burwell. Burwell has always had this problem. Talk to almost anyone in Burwell and they know about the latest version of the problem, where the rowdies congregate, where they go etc. The greatest advance was when a 16 year old ring leader left the village and then received an Asbo not to go back to Burwell. Reach has had problems round its bus stop – and they went away. Prior has also had past problems – they went away. We all know they will come back. But for their solution no NP was necessary. Why do all the various villages have to be constantly lumbered with Burwell’s local

problems especially as its PC meets twice a month, and they have a community police person all to itself. It has been suggested it might help if the Sports Centre was improved and the Gardiner Memorial Hall refurbished. I am not criticising Burwell but with its elaborate Parish Plan already completed and with its assets I just wonder what need they have for a NP to solve its problems. Surely this is what its PC is for.

To my mind the NP blatantly jumped onto the bandwagon with the possible cuts in the No 10 bus service. Hazel Williams enjoined people to attend a NP meeting to make their voice heard. When CCC/Stage Coach capitulated the NP hailed it as its triumph. Nothing of the kind. ECDC were effective, the PCs were effective, and many others. The NP was not necessary other than the more voices there are the better.

It is now adding the Wicken Fen Vision to its agenda. And, do you know what is being introduced in the 1st April (this is not a joke) meeting – “the economic downturn.” Perhaps the results will be rushed to the G20 meeting which begins on the next day.

The worst of all is that Alan Williams reported “On the basis of the increasing success of multi-agency Panels, they [NPs] are being introduced across the whole of Cambridgeshire.

At what cost? Come on Mr Alderson, now that you are on the “South area Panel” you should be able to tell us the cost of it all, how much money ECDC is receiving from the Government for pushing yet another of its schemes. And Mr Alderson please tell us which of the “Neighbourhood Issues” listed on the 4 colour handout require a NP for a solution. If only there was space in the *Crier* it could be reproduced to prove my point. Maybe it will be distributed at the Annual Village Assembly?

So why bang on about Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Panels? Because it is only on local pseudo quangos supported by ECDC that we can make any effective comment. There is nothing we can do about the bureaucrats interfering with education and hospitals, or about the billions wasted on failed computer schemes. But we can ask our ECDC representatives to prove the value and justify the cost of these local schemes which have been devised to “allow our voice to be heard”. Mr Williams’ article in the *Crier* does not do this.

New members of the Village Hall Committee had raised their concern about the condition of the Village Hall Car Park in icy weather and the pot holes in the driveway. Eric Day thought he remembered Martin Mead giving a 20 year guarantee for his previous work on the car park and the whole PC became very excited about this until they noticed the twinkle in Eric’s eye. David Almond suggested that just as the Cemetery was last years project so the Village Hall Car Park may be the project for 2009/10. Mind you, the pot holes in the driveway would not have been repaired when Trevor Jones was chairman. He maintained it was the only way to prevent mothers racing up and down the driveway. I was reminded of Trevor the other day when, at the Village Hall, I had to leap out of the way as two young mothers raced off for other duties. But they both waved and gave the most

dazzling smiles. So who is complaining.

Now that the work on Mill Hill has been completed – “OR HAS IT?” was the cry. Where are the extra chequered lines which appeared on the initial plan? Anyway, Andrew Caruana of CCC says that they will carry out a speed survey on Mill Hill once they have found the speedgun which has gone missing. Peter Hart asked if a survey had been carried out before the “improvement”. Otherwise, he rightly pointed out, with what will the new survey be compared? This rather flummoxed the meeting and was left unresolved.

What really threw him was....when everyone wrote things on bits of paper and stuck them onto a board. “Ah! Brainstorming” said David Almond...

In Parish Councillor’s Reports (what a good addition to the Agenda!) Geoffrey Woollard said he had been persuaded by the Chairman to attend an ECDC Workshop on **FLYTIPPING**. Part of the first page of the Rand Europe Memo on this is reproduced on page 22. See what you make of it. Rand Europe is based in Cambridge, is part of the American parent company, specialises in problem solving, and has many major clients.

Geoffrey attended together with a PC representative from another village, 4 ECDC officers and 3 Rand Europe staff – Chris van Stolk, Jan Tiessan and Claire Celio. Geoffrey’s conclusion was that it was “not entirely a waste of time” though he did leave half way through and felt that he might have been escorted to the door. What really threw him was, what he called the “Party Games”, when everyone wrote things on bits of paper and stuck them onto a board. “Ah! Brainstorming” said David Almond who is obviously well-versed in such matters. And there it was, listed on the second page of the Rand Europe Memo – “40 minutes of brainstorming”. No wonder Geoffrey left – it must have been absolutely exhausting for him.

Our Parish Council is intent on making the Annual Village Assembly both entertaining and informative. John Jordan will present his now popular Power Point Show and for this he needs material including photographs. One special number could be Geoffrey describing his experience at the Rand Europe Workshop, followed by Hazel Williams and Allen Alderson explaining what it all means. Copies of the Rand Europe Memo should be distributed. This could be the hit of the evening. Let’s hope it finds its way onto the Agenda. As this is a meeting for the people we must hope that a Rand person is not wheeled in to give a well-oiled presentation (I doubt if our PC could afford it!).

The problem with our current PC is that **it gets things done**. There have been times in the past when the same old subject was chuntered on over and over time after time. So it was easy to report – you just selected the new, if any. Now there is almost too much activity. So, if you want to know about everything else which was discussed you will have to read Karen’s full minutes report on the village notice board. Or maybe even attend a meeting. Or maybe even report the meeting in May? Any Volunteers? It’s all Free.

Alastair Everitt

PRIOR RESIDENT CELEBRATES 103RD BIRTHDAY

THERE WERE BIG CELEBRATIONS on the weekend of March 13th when Mrs Bessamy Wilkins, who lives in Adams Road with her son John, celebrated her 103rd birthday. Mrs Wilkins celebrated with two party lunches, one for family and the other for friends.

She has lived on farms all her life and comes from a long-lived family where many live to over a hundred.

She said the fact that she fell over her wheelchair and gashed her leg has absolutely nothing to do with the champagne, but because the birthday was on Friday 13th!



HAPPY 103RD BIRTHDAY, MRS WILKINS!

THE FESTIVAL OF 2009

Arrangements for the Festival are being finalised and full details will be available shortly.

The dates are 26-28 June and 3-5 July.

IN THE MEANTIME

There are two events which involve contributions and participation.

These are:-

Come and Sing "Messiah"

On Saturday 27th June in St Cyriac's Church

There will be a rehearsal under

the musical directorship of Ian de Massini from 2.00 to 5.00pm.

The performance, with orchestra, will be at 6.00pm.

Bring your own refreshments and scores (a few may be spare)

The charge for singing is £6.00 and the performance is free with a retiring collection.

The better the singing the more people give.

Art in St Cyriac's

We would like the artists among you (and your friends) to make a contribution to an exhibition.

It should be inspired by or related to St Cyriac's Church and its surroundings.

Paintings, drawings, photos, poems, collage, needlework or some other medium.

Work can be for sale or not, as you prefer.

**For further details phone Francis Reeks (743693)
or Elisabeth/Alastair Everitt (742974)**



Would you make a good School Governor?

Can you spare some time?

Do you enjoy working with other people as part of a team?

Are you interested in serving your community?

The Governing Body at Swaffham Prior CofE Primary School are looking to appoint a new Local Authority Governor.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role and what it involves, please contact the school on 01638 741529 or email office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

The Village Feast 2008

Saturday 16 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.....**

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2009

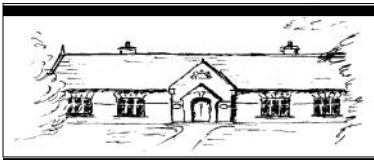
THE VILLAGE HALL.

7.30PM

**This is your chance to put your views, ask questions
or just find out more about what is happening
in *your* Village!**

**If there is any item you like included on the agenda,
please let your Clerk, Karen King, know before the next
Parish Council meeting — 9th April 2009.**

Your Village needs you!!



Village Hall News

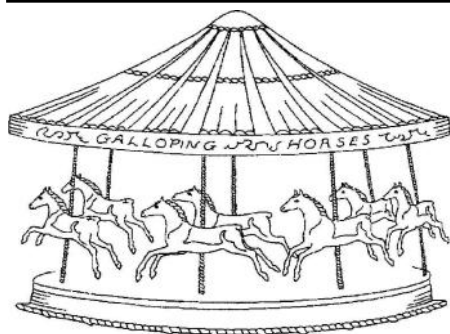
The Village Hall Management Committee is holding its AGM on Wednesday 2 May at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to come and express an opinion. If all goes to plan it will see the election of Nathan Wrench as Chairman and the confirmation of Mary Charlesworth as Booking Clerk, Mike Charlesworth as Assistant Booking Clerk, and Chris Carrington as Assistant Treasurer.

A meeting of the Management Committee will follow the AGM.

If there are any questions please ask Janet Cooper, Secretary, on 741326.

Alastair Everitt

Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee



Reach Fair

Since 1201

Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2009 - 12 noon

Grand opening by the Mayor of Cambridge

Traditional Fairground Rides

Music and Dancing / Country Crafts

Stalls / Arts and Crafts / Children's Entertainment

Local Archaeology / Raptor Foundation

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

Entrance and Car Park from Burwell Road £3.00 per car

Registered Charity: 28060

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

Collectibles or Bric a Brac –

Please bring to the stalls on the day, or phone Nathan on 742654.

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

The Mikado

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre proudly presents “The Mikado (or the Town of Titipu)” by Gilbert and Sullivan on Wednesday - Saturday 3rd 4th 5th and 6th June 2009 at 7.30pm with a matinee on Saturday 6th June 2009 at 2.30pm.

Performances take place in The Barn, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck (6 miles north-east of Cambridge on the B1102) The barn has been adapted to create a theatre. There is a licensed bar. Toilet facilities (including disabled) are available and there is off-road parking.

For ticket prices tickets or further information, please contact Kari Karolia on email kari.karolia@gmail.com or visit our website at www.sbstgands.co.uk

Midday Meal Supervisor Vacancy

Could you play games with children, encourage children to play together, help out with First Aid? Then we need you!

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Meal Supervisor. The hours are 12-1pm, Wednesday to Friday. The hourly rate of pay is £6.57 (minimum). We would like to employ someone as soon as possible.

Application packs are available from the school office on 01638 741529 or email office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk



DOG WORMS

“DISGUSTING NASTY THINGS”. No, not the neighbours children but the usual response to those large round worms which infect dogs and cats: they are rather unpleasant, but nevertheless they are fascinating creatures. A veterinary parasitologist would say that though wouldn't he?

Whatever people may have thought of them in the past, the worms were given no public health significance until in 1952 a larva of the dog worm *Toxocara canis* was found in the eye of a child. That finding led to the revolution of much more than just our attitude to “poos” in public places but to the understanding of the biology of the parasites too.

T. canis and *T. cati* belong to a large group called ascarids, the best known being *Ascaris*, the large round worms of humans, (the oldest among us may remember when it was quite common in Cambridgeshire villages) and pigs and *Parascaris* in horses. However, we see now that the biology of these species is not typical of the group, most of which are very specific as adult worms, in dominant carnivora, mammals including marine mammals, birds and reptiles.

The worms of humans, pigs and horses have direct life cycles. After the infective egg is swallowed the larva migrates through the body and finally reaches maturity in the intestine. All the others have indirect life cycles. The larval worms must first develop in one or more of a wide variety of animals (intermediate hosts) through which they progress by serial predation, before at last reaching the final host, again through predation.

Toxocara species having the best of both worlds, are wonderfully adapted for the niche they occupy. Cats are most commonly infected indirectly when they prey upon small rodents and birds which themselves are infected with the larval worms in their tissues. However, the cat can also be infected directly by ingestion of eggs. Once in the cat the larva may reach adulthood in the intestine or it may travel to the tissues and there lie quiescent as it would in an intermediate host. Now, should the cat be a queen and she becomes pregnant, some of those larvae will migrate to the mammary gland and be transmitted to the kittens in the milk. *T. canis* is similarly flexible although predation is not a usual route of infection for the domestic dog. However, like the cat, dogs carry larvae in their tissues and these can persist for years. Again like the cat the larvae are activated during pregnancy, presumably by a hormonal stimulus but this time the majority reach the pups through the placenta and only a few in the milk. The placental is much the most important route of infection in dogs and unless they are given appropriate medicine, it is best to assume that both the pups and their mum will be passing eggs of *T. canis* from three weeks after birth.

Since *T. canis* larvae were shown capable of causing disease in humans several other ascarids have been incriminated too: parasites of raccoons in mid west USA, of fruit bats in S E Asia and of seals in Japan and Europe. Until the biology of the latter was understood and steps taken to prevent it, it was not uncommon to see its larvae coiled in the flesh of white fish like cod. All these are interesting and they confirm



T. Canis, and we've all gone off spaghetti

that ascarid larvae are catholic in their tastes and opportunists by nature but these cases are rare and of no significance to us here. *T. cati* on the other hand are common so if my garden is anything to go by it's fortunate that its larvae are less persistent in tissues and have not been associated with disease in humans.

Where does all this leave the question of public health and “poos” on the pavement?

At joint meetings of doctors and vets during the 60s and 70s it was doctors who were asking questions about *T. canis* but 10 years later in Cambridge a paediatrician asked “What’s all the fuss about? I’ve never seen a case in my 20 years! Clinical infection in the UK is rare.

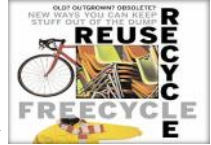
T. canis is essentially a parasite of puppies and nursing bitches. Some resistance develops with age and the infection declines. However, any responsible breeder will treat their animals before 3 weeks of age and at least once more before sale. Nevertheless, if you’re buying a pup, always have it checked by your vet.

The potential for infection will always be greatest where young dogs are kept, as in breeding kennels and training establishments and a search would find eggs of the parasite in the soil of exercise pens. Probably the same is still true along dog walks in public parks and although the hazard is small, dogs should be excluded from play areas/fields. Clinical infections are most common in but not exclusive to young children so if there are children and dogs in the same household it makes sense to clean up the garden. But would you not pick up the “poo” for aesthetic reasons anyway? And for common courtesy, do the same on footpaths too?

One final question we are often asked is “Is it safe for dog trainers/obedience classes to use the community hall?” If the floor is of a standard that it is normally clean and dry and after its use it is left visually clean, the answer with respect to this problem is absolutely yes. The eggs are killed by drying and they require at least one to two weeks to become infective. None will do so under these conditions..

Roger Connan

FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month on jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Should you be unsuccessful, please try your offers/wants on <http://freebiefreakz.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle/>

Offers

- Size 10 maternity clothes (white shirt, short sleeve top, black trousers). Jun 01223 813362
- Routers: Thomson SpeedTouch 546(i) v6 multi-user, 4 port, ADSL2+ Gateway (Jan 2008); Belkin 4-port (Aug 2006); D- Link DI-604, 4 port (pre 2004). Frank 01638 744051
- Apple Power PC Performa 6200 with Relysys 17" Monitor and Apple Laser Writer 4/600 PS. 01223 811316
- HP deskjet 940C computer printer. Nick 01223 812634

Springtime for the Apathetic Misanthrope.

Loveliest of trees, the Cherry; now
Is hung with kite along the bough;
And stands below, a little boy
Who is no more suffused with joy.

For as the child is only nine
All he can do is tug the line,
And although he tries with all his might
His efforts do not dislodge the kite.

So, while I just watch, you must assume
I'm not impressed with trees in bloom;
And would far rather have the sight
Of the Cherry, hung with kite.

Ophir

With apologies to A.E. Houseman. 1895 – 1936,
and the unknown child. (2000 --)

Neighbourhood Police

Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck community Police surgeries will be held together on the first Friday of every month from 3.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Surgeries will be held by PCSO Maria Green at the village green in Swaffham Bulbeck. Surgeries give the local residents the opportunity to talk to the local PCSO about any concerns or issues.

You can ring your neighbourhood team on 0845 456 456 4. We welcome your feedback and we will aim to get back to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that responses may take longer at times of high demand. Alternatively, you can In an emergency, when a life is in danger or there is a risk of violence or serious injury or when a serious crime is being committed please call 999.

For all non-emergencies, general enquiries and to report crime please call 0845 456 456 4. To give information anonymously about crime, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

PCSO Maria Green

Cantilena Singers

**Sat 11th April 2009, St Mary's Church,
Stow cum Quy 7:30 pm**

A concert of music and readings to celebrate the refurbishment of St Mary's church. This concert will coincide with the completion of the refurbishment of the Church. It will feature both traditional Easter music as well as a range of celebratory anthems.

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Tickets on the door. Details on our website www.cantilena.info or ring 01223 812115

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

EASTER FAIR

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 11am TO 3pm

AT

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A VARIETY OF STALLS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

GUESS THE WEIGHT AND WIN A HOME-MADE EASTER SIMNAL CAKE
NEARLY NEW JEWELLERY STALL ** BRIC-BRAC CRAFTS ** ART WORK ITEMS OF
INTEREST ** LOVELY HAND MADE KNITTED ITEMS ** CAKE STALL
TOMBOLA WITH EASTER EGGS INCLUDED

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING HOT X BUNS

TO HIRE A STALL FOR THE DAY CONTACT

Julia Green 01223-811467 or Cindy King 01223-811220

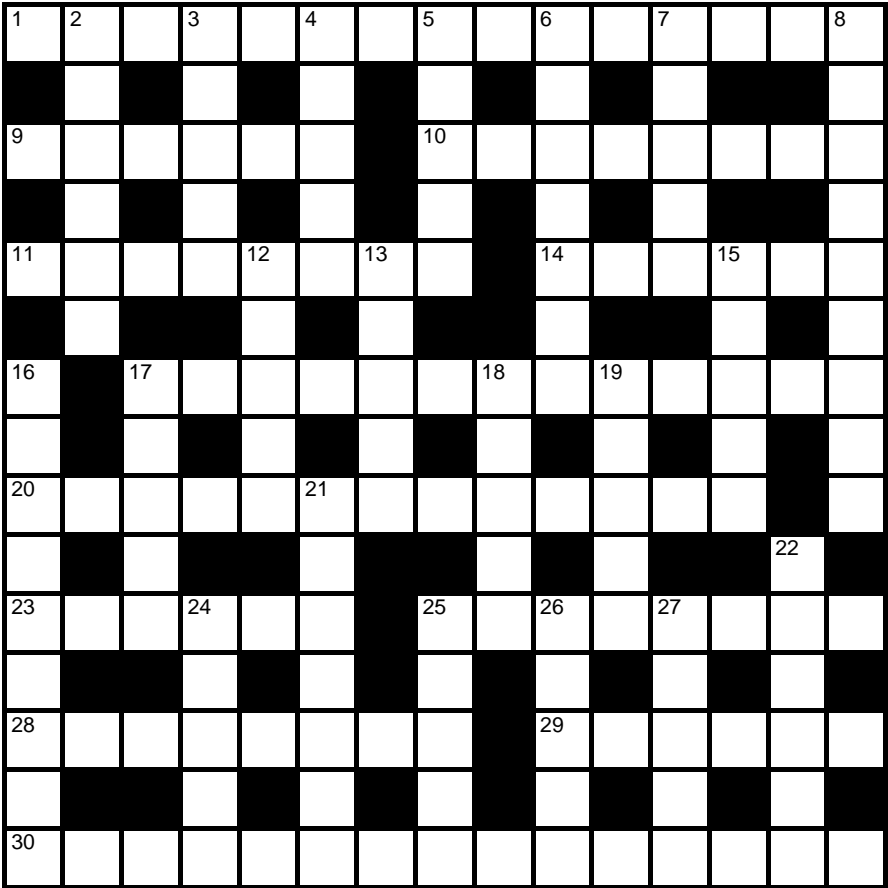
Crossword Number 60

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 2009. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



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

Across

- 1 Shriveling knot I unravelled to reveal wallflower (9,6)
9 A first class pub back in the middle east (6)
10 New growth produced from one's palm (8)
11 Twist briar into a breathing tube (8)
14 Involve hospital department with trouble (6)
17 Find balance or rely, say, on people with little time (4,9)
20 Conservationists are strangely not naturalist (8,5)
23 Please stop organ (6)
25 Rules of conduct for semi-pro to collect are inside (8)
28 Chats about Chinese dynasty jokers (8)
29 Tired, but peels back the end of pasty (6)
30 Law officer may patrol in front of artist (6,9)

Down

- 2 I wonder where Ingrid sheltered? Not out there (6)
3 Fix, then initially it might be easily done (5)

- 4 Colour of vehicle opener we hear (5)
5 Catholic maybe, nowadays (5)
6 Fierce new leader in purple clothing (7)
7 Grow lettuces inside flyer (5)
8 Office workers stay around late. They're models (9)
12 Play about post office worker (5)
13 Tapas maybe, or Italian food (5)
15 Spy is a short man (5)
16 500 to one this French pointed hat is a mark of disgrace (6,3)
17 Journalist goes on strike and is suspended (5)
18 A steroid that contains a flower (5)
19 Rejoice at having seen old flame last month (5)
21 Ran back to sneak, point and tell (7)
22 The Spanish go to Swaffham Prior first. It's the truth! (6)
24 Boredom of children; nuisance isn't it? (5)
25 Poets compose saucy stuff (5)
26 Haven from strange video nasties not evident (5)
27 Greek gets letter at last (5)

Last month's crossword was even more difficult than usual because we accidentally omitted the clues for 18 to 27 down. But unlike the Guardian when they get it wrong, usually by printing the wrong grid, we didn't get a larger than usual entry.

So here it is again but this time with the missing clues. We hope!

BACH ST JOHN PASSION

CAMBRIDGE V · O · I · C · E · S

with the Orchestra
of the Age of Reason

Directed from the keyboard
by Ian de Massini

Good Friday 10th April 2009 at 4pm
St Columba's United Reformed Church
Downing Street, Cambridge

Holy Saturday 11th April 2009 at 4pm
St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church
Swaffham Prior

Audience participation in the
Passiontide Chorales

Admission by programme
at the door £6



by kind permission of the Churches Conservation Trust

BULBECK AUCTION

Saturday, 9th May 2009

Viewing from 9am. Selling starts at 9.30am.

Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs D. Turner

Goods received between 5pm – 8.00pm on Friday 8th May

Space is limited so the organisers may not be able to accept all goods brought!

Commission Fee 25%. Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772

Promoted by

St. Mary's Church. Swaffham Bulbeck.

Little Windmills Pre-School

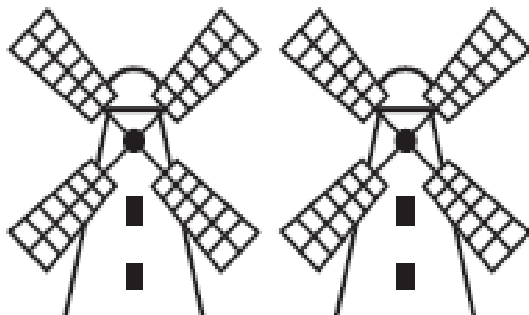
Reach Village Centre

Please join us for a cup of tea / coffee and a slice of cake., an opportunity to see how our Pre-school is run and a fun morning for your child (ren) guaranteed!

If you would like to visit us, please give us a call and we can find a date convenient for you to visit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tania Verdonk on:

07811 379491



PSEUDOSCIENCE-SPEAK

Would you believe it, this article is about FLY-TIPPING! One of our Parish Councillors (Geoffrey Woollard, see Our Reporter) attended this course. We hope his matrix-algebra was up to it.

Summary of research

The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) has commissioned RAND Europe to undertake a study into the impacts and outcomes of Local Authority Regulatory Services (LARS). As part of this study, RAND Europe is also helping to equip LARS with a tool to assess the impact they have on local communities. This tool should both explain to interested external stakeholders the impact of LARS and help to improve the delivery of LARS.

This study is being conducted in 3 stages:

1. **Stage 1** -- Mapping impacts and outcomes of LARS. This stage was informed by key interviews with selected Local Authorities, national regulators and other national agencies and by a literature review. The interviews and literature review helped to create an impact evaluation matrix with details of the inputs, impacts and outcomes of LARS by type of regulatory services (i.e. trading standards, environmental health etc) and by stakeholders (i.e. local community, the NHS, children etc).

2. **Stage 2** — Identifying and simply describing the main links connecting what LARS do to the wider costs and benefits and organising these within a 'Logic Model'. This stage will include the analysis of pathways, using both logic modelling and process mapping. These pathways will be tested at a series of workshops at the local level.

3. **Stage 3/Final stage**— Development of a toolkit to assess the impacts and outcomes of TARS. This stage will build on the research and outputs from Stage 1 and 2.

Objectives of the research

The objectives of the research are to further understand the impacts and outcomes of LARS and to produce a toolkit that will enable Local Authorities to assess, communicate and improve these impacts and outcomes for local communities.

Mobile Library

Dates for 2009

Cage Hill: 3.15 - 3.50

Chapel : 3.55 - 4.15

April 7th & 21th

May 5th & 19th



Do feel welcome to use this marvellous service. Children's section, greetings cards and stamps for sale. Videos & audio books to rent.

Use it or Lose it!

*Some say it was because Eric Day got them on the **cheap**, but John Norris tells a different story. How did Swaffham Prior come by*

Those Motorway Street Lamps

I may have written about the development of the street lighting before in these pages, but the subject was mentioned in conversation a day or two ago. When I first became a member of the Parish Council many years ago it was explained to me that street lighting was to enable folk on foot to safely progress through the village at night. Cars and vehicles had sufficient lighting to pass along our streets without any extra lumination, but the pedestrian could only manage a torch.

How was this to be achieved? The thinking at the time was that the statuary lights were only markers, and were placed at strategic places so that a pedestrian could always see the next one. So that on a straight section the lamps could be many yards apart, the only criterion being the brightness. Here again, as long as the light could be seen, then the responsibility was discharged.

I believe there were six lamp posts in the village, most of them in High Street. It was the use of our road as part of the by-pass for Newmarket that prompted a new look at our old tested system.

Traffic on the two main roads that pass through Newmarket meet at the new Stetchworth round-about, and pass in front of the golf club and then descend into the town. The passage through the High Street is hampered by pedestrian crossings and parked cars; a round about and then after a mile or so divides into the two roads again. One south to Felixstowe, and the other East to Norwich.

It was in the sixties that the dock at Felixstowe increased their traffic in containers to, and from the continent. This extra traffic needed larger vehicles, and so the container lorry so common to-day was adding to the traffic through Newmarket. The first, and easy solution was to divert some of these lorries through the villages, and we were one of them.

At Quy there appeared a sign showing a route bypassing the bottle neck of Newmarket, going through the Swaffhams, Burwell, and on to Fordham. Here the traffic divided the Norwich vehicles going on through to Mildenhall, and then onto the Norwich road,. Whilst the Lowestoft traffic turned into Newmarket, but missed the centre of the town, joining the old road near Waitrose .

All this meant that the heavy vehicles, who's passage was through the villages needed better street lighting, both for their safety, and more importantly, for the safety of the village pedestrians. The experts decided that motorway lights were required, and that these should be spaced according to the standard regulations, not the Parish council idea of things.

We were very well lit after the improvements, but rattled by the amount of traffic through the village. The road at the base of Cage Hill had to be altered, as the bend had a negative camber. Not important for the previous users, but these juggernauts required a surface free from unwanted slopes. The wall of Stocks Farm gives an idea of how much infilling was necessary, as the courses of bricks were

parallel with the ground. It was the spillage from a liquid container that caused this to happen; perhaps a little less speed would have achieved the same result.

Four years ago, when the conservation area was being examined, it was thought proper to remove these awful lights in the section in front of the church. So we now have four of the new more appropriate lights, and an arch light over the steps to the church. All this due to the construction of the new A14 bypass of Newmarket. Even our very own bypass, would never have been built had the Cambridgeshire County Council known what the government had in mind. In many ways the bendy road though Swaffham Bulbeck really needed as much attention as our through road, but we must not complain, as our high street is free of most traffic; the juggernauts do still pass through here, even if it is only to the Fens.

John Norris

Peter Pan

We would like to thank all our supporters who came to watch Peter Pan the panto in January. We had some great reviews & feed back. This year we had some new faces, Simon Goddard from Lode Chapel took on his first Panto principal role, & Matt Brown from the Bike sheds joined us also taking on a principal role. Both did a fantastic job along side the regular actors/actresses of the Bottisham players to make it a great show.



John Humphreys & his wife are a regular fixture in our audiences, & often a joke or two may pop up in Panto about John, he always takes it in good spirit. We would like to thank you John for your regular reviews of our shows in the Cresset & appreciate your constructive comments.

Our next production is in May & is a Hilarious comedy written by Ray Lawrence called 'It's on It's off'. This will take place on May 14th/15th/16th. This is being directed by Sophie Wilson & all the cast will be familiar faces. More on this next month.

The Bottisham Players are sad to hear about the death of Lawrie Clarke. He was a valuable member of our group & will be sadly missed by all. Chris & Lawrie Clarke have been members of the group for many, many years, with both taking on acting parts as well as behind the scenes work. Lawrie for years & years has been responsible for making many a props for our performances. Our thoughts & condolences go to Chris, Liam, Kieran & the rest of the family.

If you would like to hear more about the Bottisham Players & what we get up to, including pictures of recent shows go to our website, www.bottishamplayers.org.uk. You never know you might want to come along & join in, on stage, back stage or front of house, you will be welcome.

If you would like to advertise in our programmes, business or any events please contact Alistair White on Alistair.white@sky.com or ring on 01223 293423, we charge £60.00 for a full page advert, £30.00 for a half page & £18.00 for a quarter page. For this you can advertise in the programme at all our performances.

Alistair White, Publicity Officer

News from Wicken Fen Vision

Representatives from Swaffham Prior recently participated in a workshop organised by the National Trust to assist in the development of a sustainable Visitor Travel Plan for the Wicken Fen Vision. Sustainable travel is about creating access to the countryside in a way that will not affect people, wildlife or the landscape detrimentally.

Delegates attending the workshop were asked to consider three key challenges;-

How can the National Trust ensure that additional visitors to the Wicken Fen Vision area do not have a negative impact on local communities and the conservation interest of local sites.

How can visitors to the Vision area, both from the local area and further afield be persuaded to use “greener” travel options.

What alternative means of transport could be made available within the Vision area that adds to the visitor ‘experience’.

Encouraging visitors to leave the car at home and travel by more environmentally friendly means, such as foot, bicycle, bus, coach or train is a key element of a sustainable Visitor Travel Plan. The challenge of tempting people away from cars is highlighted by a current lack of public transport options available to visitors. Anglesey Abbey can be accessed by bus from either Cambridge or Newmarket, which has limited services on Sundays and bank holidays, whilst the nearest bus service to Wicken Fen calls at Soham, a distance of 3 – 4 miles away.

Suggestions discussed at the Workshop included provision of a shuttle bus service to and from the Network Rail station at Ely linking to communities bordering the Vision area. Such a service would not only assist visitors but could be used by local residents whose access to public transport in some cases is limited or non-existent. The provision of water taxis from Cambridge with access via Waterbeach or Upware making the journey to Wicken Fen a key part of the overall visitor experience was a popular suggestion.

The movement of people within the Vision area received considerable attention with suggestions including the development of cycle and canoe hire and pony trekking offering visitors not only the potential to explore the Vision area, but providing healthy exercise and opportunities for economic development and employment opportunities for local communities. A detailed report from the workshop will be available in April.

A few weeks ago pupils from Waterbeach Primary School spent an afternoon planting a new hedgerow on White Fen. A key element of the Vision is community involvement and it was great to see the children enjoying their time in the countryside helping to create a habitat that wildlife and visitors will be able to enjoy whilst at the same time getting some healthy exercise. We are always keen to hear from schools or clubs and societies who would like to be involved in similar projects.

The Wicken Fen Vision celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and we would like to invite readers to join us for a day of celebrations on Friday 1 May at the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre. As well as free admission to Wicken Fen, there will be a range of



The National Trust's new bridge over Bulbeck Lode with its neat, gravelled "Yellow Brick Road". Are they "tea-towelling" the Fen?
See *Letters*.

free events from early morning bird ringing demonstrations, guided walks, boat trips to minibeast hunting and pond dipping.

Throughout May the Wicken team will be holding a series of information roadshows, where we will be presenting the latest information on the new paths and bridges and staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have on the Vision. We will be at Swaffham Prior Primary School on 16 May (10am -1pm). We hope to see you there.

Spring is with us and Wicken Fen will be hosting a range of events of the Easter holiday period. Why not have an egg-tastic day out and head to the Fen for the annual Wicken Fen Easter Egg Hunt from Friday 10 to Monday 13 April. All contestants who complete the Easter Trail will receive a chocolate prize. Other Easter events include, 7 April - Easter crafts (4-10 yrs, 10.30 and 14.00) 9 April- Prancing Ponies and Hairy Highlands (4-10yrs, 10.30 and 14.00) 15 April - Fairies, Pixies and Water Sprites (3-8 yrs 10.30 and 14.00) 17 April – Wildlife Detectives (5 -12 yrs 10.30 and 14.00). The ever popular Pond Dipping sessions will be held on 6, 14 and 16 April from 12.30 – 15.30. For further information and bookings please contact the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274

Hope to see you at the Fen soon.



WI Notes

In March we had our annual meeting in the Village Hall. Having approved the finances and elected the committee and President for 2009 we were able to move on to the main event - a fish and chip supper and social time together. There could have been a serious uprising when it was discovered that we were one supper missing (mine) but WI discipline prevailed and soon we were happily sharing.

For our April meeting we are going for an evening viewing at Newmarket Hat Hire in Fordham - well you never know when the invitations for Henley and Ascot might start flooding in - and some of us are lucky enough to have a wedding to go to this year.

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to know more about our programme for 2009 - give me a ring on 01638 742224.

Pat Cook
President



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The club has enjoyed two successful meetings since the last report. In February Rodney Tibbs described the restoration of his own cottage garden. He first outlined the evolution of the traditional garden from its origin as a source of food for its peasant occupier with pigs, chickens and vegetables, to the village jewel we like to think of it as today. This part of his talk he illustrated with photos of paintings by Helen Allingham. He then went on to describe the wasteland of concrete and buried foundations which was his garden when he took it over. Step by step he took us through its restoration until it reached its present form with a productive vegetable plot in front of the cottage and a beautiful flower garden with views under trees to stud pastures, behind.

In March, Richard Ayres returned and we had "Fun with herbaceous plants." With his slides he showed beautiful portraits of his subjects while describing the particular merits of the plants he grows, as well as the demerits of those he has given up! He has a delightful enthusiasm by which he carried us all along. I'm sure most of us gathered a wealth of wrinkles during the evening and all of us left determined to be more ambitious in our efforts (For example, what about eight foot delphiniums and five foot lupins).

The next meeting will be on 21st April when Mrs Nimmo-Smith will speak on "Hardy ferns to grow in East Anglia" and don't forget to put in your diary our visit to Hyde Hall (RHS) on Saturday, 13th June.

Roger Connan



Volunteers needed

Cambridgeshire Mencap is seeking volunteers to support young people with learning disabilities.

You could assist someone to go to the cinema, attend a youth club, go swimming, play sport, or do any number of fun activities. Your support could help develop the young person's self-confidence, social skills, and level of independence in the community.

If you are aged between 16 and 30 and can spare a few hours every fortnight then you could do something new, or something you already do and enjoy, whilst making a BIG difference in a young person's life.

Interested? Find out more by contacting Robert Wallace, Volunteers Support Coordinator, by

Phone: 01223 883140, Text: 07835101621,

Email: robert@cambridgeshiremencap.co.uk

The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union



At our February meeting Robin Hardy and Tracey Dove came to talk to us about "Town Pastors In Newmarket". We spent an interesting afternoon learning about this new scheme which will be put into action on Saturday 4th April. Robin is the coordinator of "Town Pastors In Newmarket", a scheme which involves volunteers from 10 Churches in the Newmarket area, going out in pairs onto the streets of Newmarket between 10.00pm and 4.00am on Fridays and Saturdays to befriend, support and help people who they find to be in trouble of any sort. To date there are 22 volunteers who will do this work. By participating in this admirable scheme, the volunteers work alongside the Police and their aim is to diffuse trouble by being there for people and standing alongside them in a non-judgemental way. This scheme is already in operation in Bury St. Edmunds and as a result crime rate there has been reduced markedly. Robin and Tracey stressed that the most valuable thing that people like you and I can do is to offer them Prayer support in this work. It is encouraging we felt to know that the Church is actually getting "out there" to do something about the increasing trouble in the streets at night. If you would like to know more about the Town Pastors Scheme www.newmarkettownpastors.org provides a wealth of interesting information.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th April at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel when Wendy Lovell will be speaking about "Women's Aid". Wendy has become an "old friend" of ours over the years as she has been to our Mothers' Union Group twice before speaking on different subjects. She is a very good speaker and this time comes wearing her "Chairperson of Northamptonshire Women's Aid" hat and we very much look forward to hearing what she has to say. As I always say – everyone is most welcome. If you would come as a visitor or a potential member, please do come along. We look forward to seeing you!



EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

East Cambs District council is using a special windfall payment from Central Government to reduce its council tax increase to help the whole district in these dire economic times. After receiving £39,500 from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant, we have decided to use the money to cut this year's council tax increase to 4.5%, which works out at 10p a week on a band D bill.

In recognition of its importance to many residents in the south of our district, we have also decided to provide an additional £10,000 to Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureaux over the next two years. This is on condition that it is match funded by both Cambs County Council and Forest Heath District Council.

As this has now been agreed, Newmarket CAB will be receiving £30,000 over the two years.

We are also giving Ely Citizens Advice Bureaux £20,000 this year and £14,000 next year. The CAB's are proving critical to many of our residents in these testing times, this funding will help them to continue their excellent work.

We also felt it was important to see what could be done about local transport from community dial-a-ride to local buses. This is why we have decided to do a detailed review of transport to see what we can do to make sure that those who live in very rural areas are not left isolated.

From February to June 2008, NATS (national air traffic control) ran a consultation on proposals to redraw its aircraft route map. This would have involved extra stacking of planes over an area of East Anglia that would have directly affected the area around Newmarket. There was public concern at this proposal, and the issue was taken up by our south area neighbourhood panel.

Following feedback, NATS is to undertake a second consultation later this year on revised proposals. I am confident that the clear approach that the panel took in responding to the original plans, plus additional meetings with NATS and the involvement of ECDS Environmental Service made a very real impact. This is another example of the neighbourhood's panels influence and value.

I would like to finish on a lighter note. On Saturday march the 7th a UKTV crew were in Ely market to film for a future programme in the series 'Your Brilliant Britain.' Peter carter, the last eel catcher in the district, and the well known wood turners Robin and Vanessa Fawcett had stalls that day and were interviewed. I understand that the programme is to be screened on Tuesday the 14th of April. Following on from that, BBC 2's 'Escape to the County' visited Ely the following week to film episodes, due to be televised this coming summer.



Notes from the Parish Council Meeting – 12th March 2009

Chairman John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public.

Minutes of Meeting 12th February 2009: Were agreed.

CCC: Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting

Correspondence Received:

CCC: Notification of payment for grasscutting (£640.45).

Country Access Issues – notification of a number of programmes to support access to the countryside and invitation for local feedback.

ECDC: Copy of Tree Preservation Order for owners of Zoar Baptist Church, Rogers Road.

Copy of approval for tree works at 44 High Street.

Neighbourhood Panel – dates of meetings and newsletter.

General:

School Newsletter

The National Trust – ‘Wicken Fen Vision’ February Newsletter

Notification that RoSPA will be carrying out annual inspection of play area during April.

Timetable of planned roadworks, March – May, from Highways Agency (if anyone would like a copy of this, please let me know as I have plenty of copies!).

Confirmation from ICO of Data Protection register entry.

Minutes Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only)

Unauthorised access of the River Cam flood bank by drivers of vehicles. A very useful meeting was held with the Environment Agency and riparian owners. The Environment Agency agreed to install suitable gates and fencing to stop unauthorised users but allowing access to those authorised. The costs of gates, etc., are being looked into but in the meantime temporary barriers are in place.

Fairview Grove – road maintenance: A reply was received from Paul Butcher of CCC Highways in which he confirmed that he had visited site to inspect the road and agreed that some minor patching work would be of benefit mainly towards the bottom end at the turning area. It is hoped that the patching work will be carried out in the new financial year as part of CCC’s routine patching programme.

Heath Road – passing place for vehicles: The Clerk had formally written to CCC Highways confirming the Parish Council’s support for a passing place and is awaiting a reply. With reference to the general condition of Heath Road, Paul Butcher of CCC Highways confirmed that temporary repairs had been carried out to the road as a short term repair until a more permanent repair could take place. Further patching work is to be carried out in the new financial year.

Footpath running from Village Car Park to Station Road: This footpath has now been cut back by the owners of the field making it easier for people to use.

Footpath on Station Road: Although contacted on several occasions over the past year or two, Anglian Water had still not fully cut back the hedges/vegetation on the boundary with their treatment works. The Clerk is to follow this up.



Change to Upware sign: A new sign is to be erected to include direction for football ground and Upware. The cost of this sign is to be shared with Burwell Tigers Football Club.

Request for Maintenance to Village Car Park and Driveway: A request was received from the VHC through the PC representative for resurfacing work to the car park and driveway. It was reported that during recent bad weather the car park had become very slippery. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would ask Martin Mead of Mead Construction for advice and an estimate of cost to tarmac the driveway and resurface the car park area with stone or planings. This will then be discussed further at the April meeting. A request was also received for a grit/salt bin in the car park.

Purchase of Grit Bin for Whiteway Drove: CCC Highways agreed to the placing of a grit/salt bin subject to location being agreed with them prior to installation. The purchase, installation and maintenance are to be the responsibility of the PC. The Clerk will place order with supplier and liaise with CCC.

Date/Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting: The date for this is **Wednesday, the 20th May 2009 in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The agenda was discussed in outline with an invitation to all parishioners to get involved and let the Parish Council know of any matters they wish to raise or suggestions for the agenda. Please let the Clerk know by the April meeting.**

Planning Applications including:

Regent Farm, 7 Heath Road – *change of use of existing storage building and yard to storage building and yard with parking/turning area for tree surgery business.* No objections.

The Cottage, 32 Mill Hill – *demolish existing single storey cloakroom, extension to form ground floor bathroom, and kitchen, first floor study.* No objections.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Report:

Community Police Surgeries: For information, the Swaffham Prior and Swaffham Bulbeck Community Police Surgeries have been combined and will take place on the first Friday of every month from 3pm-4pm at The Recreation Ground in Swaffham Bulbeck.

Speed Survey – Mill Hill: CCC confirmed that a speed survey is to be carried out following the works on Mill Hill.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Peter Hart told the meeting that there was some fly-tipping at Barston Drove consisting of an old lawn mower, large sheets of plastic, etc.

Geoffrey Woollard attended a fly-tipping workshop at ECDC's offices and gave the meeting a brief summary.

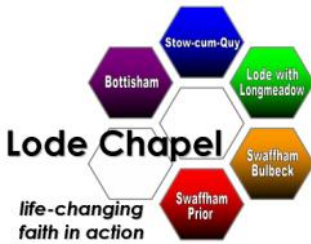
John Covill attended a National Trust meeting which discussed the proposals for a bridge over Reach Lode. He showed the meeting outline plans for this bridge.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 9th April 2009 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



The Challenge of Easter...

Last year it snowed on Easter day, and for this reason, as I welcomed people to the service that morning, I almost greeted them by saying 'Happy Christmas'! The two festivals, though, are very different, and to many Christians, Easter is the more important celebration – it is the events of that first Holy week which are at the heart of our faith. For the general population, however, whilst many people enjoy going to a Christmas carol service, very few see Easter as much more than a long weekend and an opportunity to eat chocolate eggs.

Despite the grittier aspects of the nativity story (how often do we hear the bit about King Herod killing all the children in Bethlehem?), it is still possible to airbrush the Christmas scene to make it fit for public consumption. But how on earth do you make the pain and suffering intrinsic to the Easter story more palatable to the masses? We'd rather not be reminded of this darker, yet no less real, aspect of our human experience.

I think that this is part of the reason that so many people have objected to the very public way that Jade Goody has struggled with cancer. The reality of suffering and the inevitability of death are things that we'd prefer not to have to think about. And yet, as a minister, when people share with me the big questions that they struggle with, it are these very things that they ask me about. But I don't have any easy answers – in fact, I also have lots of questions of my own.

For instance, last month I ministered to a mother at Addenbrooke's Hospital as she and her daughters gathered around the bedside of her 11 year old son, helpless as they watched him die. And in my own family, a condition known as Huntingtons Disease has led to the suffering and premature deaths of two aunts and an uncle, and as a hereditary condition, may still go on to effect other relatives of my own generation.

Where is God in the midst of this pain and sorrow and grief? Whilst we may never fully understand why we and our loved ones face the suffering that we do, there is one helpful truth at the centre of the Easter story, and at the heart of the Christian faith. The God we worship is not one who is distant from our experience, but is instead a loving God who, as a human, came and experienced for himself the full extent of the suffering that exists in our unjust and messed up world.

Where is God in the midst of our pain?

*Betrayed and abandoned by those he loves, he hangs alone,
nailed to a cross, slowly dying.*

On the cross Jesus not only enters into the pain that we experience, he also offers us forgiveness for the pain that we cause. But that, of course, is only half of the story. What Christians celebrate on Easter Sunday is that Jesus, having died, came back to life. Through death comes resurrection, out of the darkness shines a light, and in the midst of the sorrow and grief are glimmers of hope. It is by believing and

trusting in the historic truth of Jesus' resurrection that we are able to find hope in a life after death. That's the challenge of Easter – if it's just a story, the hope of heaven is nothing more than wishful thinking; but if it's real – so is the amazing promise of a place where one day there'll be “no more death or mourning or crying or pain”.

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 the 4th Sunday in the month).

April RE:NEW dates...

RE:NEW Bulbeck – 10.30am, Good Friday Special - 10th April

RE:NEW Bottisham – 10.30am, Sunday 26th April

These events are held in Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham Primary School halls.

For more details about RE:NEW visit www.re-new.me.uk

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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



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 Rd, or Ruth Scovill'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 Scovill

Dear Friends,

There is a story of a British soldier in the First World War who lost heart for the battle and deserted. Trying to reach the coast for a boat to England that night, he ended up wandering in the pitch black night, hopelessly lost. In the darkness he came across what he thought was a signpost. It was so dark that he began to climb the post so that he could read it. As he reached the top of the pole, he struck a match to see and found himself looking squarely into the face of Jesus Christ. He realized that, rather than running into a signpost, he had climbed a roadside crucifix. Then he remembered the One who had died for him - who had endured - who had never turned back. The next morning the soldier was back in the trenches.



Easter inevitably brings us looking squarely into the face of Jesus. We cannot escape the reality of the cross. There is more historical evidence that Jesus Christ was crucified than of the existence of Julius Caesar. As Malcolm Muggeridge put it: *"One thing at least can be said with certainty about the crucifixion of Christ; it was manifestly the most famous death in history. No other death has aroused one hundredth part of the interest, or been remembered with one hundredth part of the intensity and concern."*

Yet the cross of Christ is much more than merely an historical fact. It is the greatest expression of love the world has ever seen.

As C. S. Lewis put it in his poem:-

*Love's as hard as nails,
Love is nails:
Blunt, thick, hammered through
The medial nerves of One
Who, having made us, knew
The thing he had done,
Seeing (with all that is)
Our cross, and his.*

The cross seems so deadly, so awful. On one occasion Michelangelo turned to his fellow artists and said with frustration in his voice, "Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the one theme of Christ in weakness, Christ on the cross, and most of all, Christ hanging dead?" he asked. "Why do you concentrate on the passing episode as if it were the last work, as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted only a few hours. But to the unending eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!"

Michelangelo was right. Even though the cross is vitally important because of the

	Swaffham Prior Church Services
Sun 5	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 12	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 19	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun	11:00am Matins

redemption Jesus accomplished for us there, we must not emphasize His death to the exclusion of His resurrection victory, and there is sufficient evidence of his resurrection to stand up in a court of law. Christ's resurrection confirms the victory of the cross, and also his status as the Son of God. Most of all it is a sign of hope. As William and Gloria Gaither put it so eloquently:-

Because he lives I can face tomorrow,

Because he lives all fear is gone.

Because I know he holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because he lives.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

David

Rogation Sunday 17th May

THE SWAFFHAM PRIOR ROGATION DAY SERVICE will be held once again this year at Adventurers Farm, at 12 noon. Please allow yourself enough time to get to the farm from the village and park. Everyone is welcome to attend this short service and you are warmly invited, if you wish, to stay and enjoy lunch afterwards at the farm. Whilst confirmation of your attendance at the service is not required, you are requested to purchase a ticket(s), payable in advance, to participate in the fully catered for meal. Please contact Janet Willmott to book your place, by no later than Monday 11th May, adults £7.50 and under 12s £4.50. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior.

Janet Willmott

01638 743472 / 07833 960678



40 people tucked into Rogation Lunch at
Adventurer's Farm last year

Dates for Your Diary April 2009

Sat	4	Bottisham Easter Fair, 11am-3pm, Royal British Legion
Tue	7	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	10	Good Friday Cambridge Voices St Columba's United Reform Church, Cambridge, 4pm
Sat	11	Cantilena Singer, St Mary's Church, Stow-cum-Quy, 7.30pm
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel
Sat	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15 Village Gardeners, VH
May	4	Reach Fair, 12 noon, Reach
	11	Rogation Sunday Lunch, Adventurers Farm

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd 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***