



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 12



## Editorial

AT LAST, THE DECEMBER CRIER! We're a bit late, but one Good Thing about this is that it means we'll have a *genuine* New Year's Crier (usually we have to pretend, since we need to put it together just about now). So copy date is Christmas Day, and we won't go to print until January 4th.

Another Good Thing is that it gives us the opportunity to say goodbye to Red Lion publicans Bob and Wendy, who've just found out that their last night in charge of the pub will be **Thursday, December 10.**

As readers will know, Bob and Wendy stepped in just before Christmas last year, seamlessly took up the reins and have done a great job ever since in maintaining a warm and welcoming Red Lion through all the rollicking financial ups and downs that have seen off far bigger concerns. New owners (Batemans) are a Lincolnshire brewery, and have a very high reputation for their beer and also the standard of their pubs, so we're hoping, we're hoping! But we're going to miss Bob and Wendy, who did a brilliant job when no-one-else could: here's wishing them all the very best for the future!

See you Adventing next week, and Village Hall Carolling the week after (don't miss this!) starting here, of course:

We Wish you a Merry Christmas,  
A Very Merry Prior Christmas  
We Wish you a Merry Christmas  
At the End of the Year!

Happy Christmas from all the *Crier* team!,  
*Caroline & James Matheson (Eds), Ruth Stinton (Distribution), Mike Phillips (Treasurer) and Pat & Peter Cook (Advertising)*

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Cover Picture: *Nativity* — after Martin Schongauer by Clare Newbolt

# **CAROLS AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Wednesday  
16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
AT 7.00PM**



**Enjoy Mulled Wine  
with a few mince pies  
while you sing**



**TO  
ANDREW NOYES  
AND HIS QUITE  
REMARKABLE BAND**

***A Splendid Time is Guaranteed For All!***

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## **S.O.S. for Honey Bees**

The W.I. and Village Gardeners are having a joint meeting on Tuesday January 19th at 8.00pm the village hall .The speaker will be a local Bee Keeper talking on the "Ins and Outs of the Honey Bee" and in particular, about the alarming decline in the species.



The W.I. as a national body,has lobbied the government, to fund more research into what is killing the honey bees, their health, well being, including diseases, disease resistance, management of hives and availability of food for bees-flowers!

Please come along and learn more on the topic. Some of you might even have the urge to start keeping bees, or at least to grow more plants that they especially like.Every one is welcome.

***Margaret Joyce.***

# VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

On

**SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm**

in

**St Mary's Church**

**Swaffham Prior**

ALL WELCOME



*Hear the Christmas story  
Sing the traditional Carols*

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**MINCE-PIES**

**ADVENT BY CANLDLELIGHT**

**13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

It is customary for mince-pies and mulled wine to be served after this festival. Once again I am asking residents of Swaffham Prior to help supply the mince pies, we usually serve in the region of 200.

It would be really appreciated if you could let me know how many you can donate, not later than Friday 11th. This year there is ample warning. (*Ahem. Eds*)

**Kate Child**  
743983



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

IT WAS THE SAME OLD MIX ON THE AGENDA AND THE MEETING WENT ITS USUAL WAY – *up to a point, Lord Copper*. This time some fundamental issues arose which villagers may like to consider. But I'll get on to that later.

The preliminaries passed without incident, Paul Latchford was welcomed as a new representative. David Brown reported that the CCC/City will be applying for the new huge traffic improvement funds, that discussions on the Quy traffic calming continue, and that some improvement may be made at Lode cross road, and he revealed that the East Cambridgeshire Regional Assembly will no longer exist after next March. This led to a stunned and delighted silence as the PC had always objected to the secret nature of this quango – “who are they?” – “who elects them?” We look forward to more information from David.



Allen Alderson spoke about the new Ely masterplan for which a new southern link road was essential – if the money becomes available. Without a new link road he foresaw traffic chaos after the introduction of a new developed railway freight service. At present the Ely railway crossing gates are closed for 25 minutes in every hour. But once the freight levels increase it is projected the gates will be closed for 55 minutes in every hour. Horror! The tail back from lorries will block the roads both sides of the gates leading to almost a constant blockage.

The “Good Works” section of ECDC is at it again and is offering three separate opportunities for “Code of Conduct” training. No-one was keen though David Almond did suggest that Eric should go. Eric appeared not to be sure whether to feel pleased and flattered at being proposed.

Now to the trees in the churchyard. As many know a petition containing 39 names was made to the PC asking that the clock and tower be seen from the High Street. Geoffrey and Steve had always opposed the need to see the clock, and at this meeting they were joined by Paul Latchford forming, for want of a better phrase, a Gang of Three. At the October meeting and again at this November meeting the validity of the Petition was questioned – “how many people said no?”, “what percentage if the village is this?”, “how was the survey conducted?” Then, and subsequently, the Gang of Three appeared to be giving the thumbs down, or the other two digits sign, to all 39 signatories. The only way to shut them up was to challenge them to get 39 names saying they didn’t want the clock to be seen from the High Street.

All this contrasts so sharply with the City of Cambridge. After the last round of May Balls there were complaints from 19 Cambridge residents – just a few more than the previous year. The Balls (not all on the same night) are staged from Jesus Green, through town, and quite a long way up the Huntingdon Road. Only 19 complaints from the whole of Cambridge City – not bad you might think. But, the City Council has taken it seriously and has issued an 80 page handbook setting out the rules, regulations and restrictions. What would have happened with a 39 name

petition?

Mind you it was only the Gang of Three who disregarded the Petition because the rest of the PC treated it as a legitimate appeal. At the October meeting the PC agreed to raise the issue with the Tree Officer again. The then Gang of Two abstained. *Remember that no-one has ever proposed that the Coppice Lime be cut down.*

And now things went wrong – though no-one is to blame. The Tree Officer suddenly found she could be in Swaffham Prior at short notice and offered a time. Karen emailed the PC and copied me in. I was away and therefore not one of the other 38 people was able to attend. As usual the PC did brilliantly in getting out members as they often have to do with CCC, ECDC, Anglia Water representatives etc., so there is no complaint there. Five members turned up. The snag was that the Gang of Three was out in force together with the quieter Andrew Camps and the open-minded Peter Hart.

What joy it must have been for Cathy White to be met by the converted, who would have given little nods of approval to everything she said. It was like having three ardent Wicken Vision supporters, together with Andrew and Peter, representing the village when meeting with an engineer to discuss the acceptability of the proposed bridge over the Reach Lode. The engineer would have said that it was the best design and the best location and the majority of our representatives would have agreed. How Geoffrey would have yelped and leapt about and thumped the table if this had happened.

The result was that Cathy said she would not touch the lime tree. “Why?” “She said she would not touch it” That was it. As far as I understand she said the weedy cedar hid more of the clock and tower than the coppice lime and she was happy to cut this down. This is a little debateable. But cutting down the cedar would be right at the very end of a long queue, at least two years down the line, would cost £3-400, and she has ‘Elf and Safety’ (as they say in Lavenham) tree requirements to consider. Paul explained most of this and proclaimed that for his part he wouldn’t spend a penny on the tree as all the money ought to go to ‘Elf and Safety’. He also pronounced that, as it was an “expert” who had made the decision, so we must accept it. Of course it is “experts” who designed the Quay traffic calming – and the bridge over Reach Lode for that matter. And it is the experts who constantly play around with the curricula of schools. And do experts always agree? As all this was reported by the Gang of Three I detected a certain amount of glee, and who can deny them the triumph – they had routed the enemy – up to a point, Lord Copper.

On the recommendation of the Tree Officer other members proposed that the weedy Cedar be cut down. All voted for this apart from the Gang of Three who became tight lipped, stared straight ahead and abstained.



So, there it is. Someone suggested fund raising to cut down the cedar. But later Steve revealed that we had £15,000 of our money in reserves. Maybe the PC could consider using some of this for the purpose though I can imagine all the squawks of indignation if this was proposed. This really would be

something for the general public to witness.

Towards the end, in ‘Parish Councillor’s Reports’, John Covill reviewed the recent correspondence following John Chalmers’ report on the ‘Bridge over Reach Lode’ about which a NT employee, Chris Soans, questioned some of the facts. John Covill worked out that the correct length of 188 metres still came to about 600 feet or just over 200 yards which would make it nearly an eighth of a mile rather than the quarter of a mile reported by John. This is still a long way, especially if you try to run 200 yards. Whatever the details even Mr Soans would have to admit that it is going to look HUGE in that landscape. And there was also discussion about just how high the bridge is going to be, but I didn’t catch the details. From the picture it looked pretty high – I hope it’s safe to safe that. When John Chalmers reported, relatively cold to the details I suspect, he would have had to rely on the integrity of the comments made by the local “experts”. The reporter can only report and interpret what is said. Geoffrey joined in this discussion with John Covill because, as we all know, apart from not wanting people to see the church clock, his other *bête noir* is the Wicken Vision.

***Alastair Everitt***

*Ed’s Note: For readers who (like me) had not come across the phrase “Up to a point, Lord Copper” before, it is from Evelyn Waugh’s Scoop, and is what the lowly staff of the Daily Beast (modelled on the Daily Mail) had to reply to its proprietor when not even the wildest stretch of imagination might enable the required response of “Definitely, Lord Copper”.*

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## **HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING**

Hurrah! For the first time for ages we have full numbers and do not need additional hockey players – unless they are national or county players. Sixteen years ago we regularly fielded England players but those glory days are long gone. Now we have a more balanced team which continues to achieve the correct result by winning. But Bulbeck must not be underestimated. Following their excellent victory in the summer cricket match Bulbeck have at last enjoyed the taste of victory and are anxious for more. It will be a worthy match.

As usual it will take place on Boxing Day, on the lovely Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck, starting at 11.00am.

There will be mulled wine, and a collection for Magpas. Please bring some money as well as yourself.

***Come and Support your local team!***

***Alastair Everitt***

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 13th**

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**4.00pm:** *The two churches  
of SWAFFHAM PRIOR*

# Cambridge Voices

with readers from the parish  
Music by anniversary composers

Handel Haydn  
Purcell Mendelssohn  
Carl Rütti  
Ian de Massini

£6 Admission (children free)  
*in aid of EMMAUS*



**A  
D  
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T**

*by*

***Candlelight***



# COFFEE MORNING



10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010

ANGLESEY HOUSE

59 High Street, Swaffham Prior

Cake Stall

Bring & Buy

*Unwanted Christmas presents most welcome!*

*All proceeds to St. Mary's Church*

## First Swaffham Prior Cubs & Scouts Annual Report 2009

Over 2009, we have seen some changes within our Committee and additions to our team of leaders, progress with our field development has been made and our youngsters have had a full programme of activities.

Our Cubs & Scout numbers are stable and at as high a level as we can accommodate, with about 20 youngsters in each section.

Due to our success, our District Commissioner has targeted us to have a Beaver Colony (for 6 to 8 year olds) but this is in the early development stages.

### The Committee & Leaders

Early in the year, Andrew Noyes stepped down as Group Scout Leader and Lindsay Raja as secretary after many years of service. On behalf of every one, a big thank you to both of you for everything you have done for 1<sup>st</sup> Swaffham Prior which has helped make it what it is today.



From an appeal for helpers made at the Village Assembly in May, we found our new secretary, Karen King, and a willing pair of hands from Michael Limb. I have yet to find a "job" for Michael, but I assure you, I will find one for him!



Also, earlier this month (November), Lynn Rayner from Swaffham Bulbeck, joined our Committee. The opportunity should not pass to mention and thank Mandy Kingsmill (Chair) and Isabel Hill (Treasurer), without whom the Group would not operate.

In March, I took on the role of Group Scout Leader in addition to being Scout Leader. Without the input and enthusiasm of Steve White and Francis Reeks as Assistant Scout Leaders, I would not have been able to do this, and neither would the Scouts have such a varied programme of activities.

Anna South continued to work hard throughout the year as Cub Scout Leader without a regular Swaffham Prior assistant, but with the help on Ronnie Clarkson (1<sup>st</sup> Newmarket) & Ian Braybrooke (District Cub Commissioner) and regular parent helpers their programme has been full. I am pleased to say that thanks to Becky Pitt, Anna will have an ACSL in the New Year. Becky's husband, Will, is also set to join our team of leaders in some capacity yet to be determined.

### **Out & About**

Throughout year, the Cubs & Scouts venture out. They took part in the Saint George's Day Parade in Newmarket and in November, attended Remembrance Sunday Service at St. Mary's.

In February, the Scouts visited the Arts Theatre in Cambridge and were given a "behind the scenes" tour. This followed up the Troops visit to the Theatre in December 2008 to see the Christmas Pantomime.

In June, as part of the Community Challenge, they painted the Town Close Play Area fence and cleared ivy from trees in the same area. Steve Lang can always be relied upon to find a task for the Scouts.

### **The Scout Field**

In April, the Scout Field was ploughed and prepared for re-seeding. The ground was uneven and peppered with small bush stumps, so to avoid injury to Scouts and damage to equipment, we decided to re-seed. The dry weather in May meant the grass was slow to emerge, when the rain came, weeds grew quickly and overshadowed the young grass. There were concerns that the grass would die, but once the weeds were mown, the grass came through and is now well established.

In October, work on the long awaited shelter in the Scout Field began. Funded in part by the Sports & Social Committee, the Swaffham Prior Festival Fund, the Parochial Charities Committee and a youth fund from Cambs County Council, this shelter will enable us to use the field throughout the year whatever the weather. Our thanks go to those bodies for their donations.

Thanks also to Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd for the donation of a secure container as we now have a safe place to keep some equipment on site.

The field is an invaluable asset for the Group and it is down to the kindness and generosity of Mr. Henry Hurrell of Newton that we have the use of it.

We are also fortunate to have a vigilant "field" neighbour in Simon Whiffen who ensures that we get no unwelcome visitors.

Throughout the year, parents have turned up for "working parties" to clear

brambles and help build the shelter, thanks to all of you too numerous to mention by name. Mick Hill should get a mention as “Shelter Building Team Leader”, organising materials and skilled labour to get the job done well.

As a facility, the field gives the Cubs & Scouts a venue to engage in outdoor activities on a regular basis. Over the last six years we have gradually cleared away brambles & bushes and with the shelter, the container and re-seeding we are now entering a new era. Rather than just being a rough outdoor area in which to learn outdoor skills in the summer, we will be able to use the field all year round for such sessions and more. We aim to designate areas of the field for certain activities: such as clear grass for camping and wide games, undisturbed long grass, hedges & tress for wildlife, we will regenerate some of the woods which will get the youngsters involved in hands on conservation.

### Camps

In June, the Cubs took part in the Newmarket District Camp held at Bradfield Combust near Bury St. Edmunds over a weekend.

In July, both Cubs & Scouts took part in what we called the “International Camp”. We joined a group of German Scouts for four days of their week long camp at Two Mile Bottom near Thetford. Our guests were led by Jan Petersen, who was an exchange Pastor staying in Swaffham Prior about six years ago. Many villagers I am sure remember him. It was through his friendship with Francis Reeks that our joint camp came about. Francis led the organisation of this fantastic camp and did a superb job. Leaving me to sit back and do the cooking along with Rachel Levitt, Isabel Hill, Anne Zeid and Jane Currie. (Thanks must go to you ladies). Jan’s group are called Pfadfinder (Pathfinders) and are associated with his current church in Joldelund in northern Germany. I leave it to Chelsea Oliver, one of our Scouts, to tell you about the camp.



### An Appeal

**If anyone has any surplus or unwanted fencing panels, gates, hedge or tree saplings, they may well be of use to us for the development of the field. Please contact me to arrange collection.**

In closing, on behalf of all at 1<sup>st</sup> Swaffham Prior, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

*Tim Doe*

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## DR MARGARET STANIER

On Saturday 24 October an interesting Memorial Service was held in King’s College Chapel. This was for people who had donated their bodies to the Anatomy Centre. Our very own Dr Margaret Stanier was one of these people. This donation option was not covered by Victor Meldrew in his absorbing television programme reviewing death and funerals. If the programme had appeared in Margaret’s lifetime I am sure she would have put him right by writing one of her famous letters to him.

A.E.

# Something to Remember

**ON 20 JUNE 2007** Gordon Brown was the main speaker at the Mansion House Dinner. At last he had achieved his ambition and was to become Prime Minister within two weeks. This was his final speech as one of the most successful Chancellors of the Exchequer.

There was a great air of celebration at the Dinner. Gordon was on a high and congratulated everyone for their wonderful success. He delivered a eulogy to globalisation, free markets and the British economy. He was proud of himself and said:

*“In 2003, just at the time of a previous Mansion House speech, the Worldcom accounting scandal broke. And I will be honest with you, many who advised me including not a few newspapers, favoured a regulatory crackdown. I believe that we were right not to go down that road which in the United States led to Sarbanes-Oxley [draconian regulations] , and we were right to build upon our light-touch system through the leadership of Sir Callum McCarthy [Chairman of the FSA] – fair, proportionate, predictable and increasingly risk-based.”*

Gordon thought that non-intervention and light-touch regulation were an essential interpretation of free-market economics **and actively encouraged all the risk-taking.**

Against this you need to place Gordon’s current moral indignation about the bankers and financiers. Remember that in July 2006, and again in April 2007, Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England, had issued warnings about easy credit increasing “the vulnerability of the system”. He was ignored.

**ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2007**, Northern Rock had to be bailed out by the taxpayer.

*An Honest Broker*

## Available to rent: double room in shared house

**From Jan 09**

*The room is furnished and the rent covers all bills except telephone. Broadband access and sky TV available. Rent to be paid in advance, either weekly or monthly. Shared kitchen and bathroom plus downstairs toilet, dishwasher and washing machine available to use. All bedding supplied. Plenty of off road parking. For additional information please contact Sandra on 07525808485.*



# Problems with the Church Clock

Last week, the middle of November, I noticed that the church clock had stopped. It may have been out of action for several days, as it is not very noticeable being behind so many trees. I had not had any comment, so I presume others had not noticed it either.

On climbing the winding stairs and entering the clock-room, it was clear that something was amiss, absolute silence. On opening the cupboard that protects the mechanism, I could see that the whole clock had moved some three inches to the left, and had dropped off the end of the trestle it stands on. The electric winding gears too were out of alignment with the electric motors that drive the mechanism. How it got in this mess I could not fathom immediately.

As the whole clock is too heavy for one person to lift, I called on Sidney Hewitt for assistance. We were able together to replace the clock in the centre of the trestle without too much trouble, but getting the chains back on the proper cogs was more tricky. There were two pieces of wooden lath in the clock -room, which with care and luck enabled us to lift the fifty six pound weight so that the chain could be replaced on it.

So much for the restitution of the parts, but there was still more trouble waiting in the wings. The first job was to restore the night silencing which was seriously out of timing. The mechanism for this, is behind the clock face, and can be set for any time of day or night. It was our bad luck to find that it was eleven hours out of it's proper place. So after switching it off, the hands were turned through the eleven hours, Sidney holding up the rod that makes the bell ring, we did not want to disturb the neighbours.

That put things sort of back in order, but we were not happy that a complete repair had been accomplished. How did it get in this situation in the first place. How was the clock lifted so that it could move? Vandals were ruled out, so it must have been something to do with the elements. Perhaps the high wind. I think the answer lies up in the bell chamber. When the clock tries to lift the hammer to strike the bell, an arm travels downwards, and pulls the cable attached to the hammer, so lifting it ready to dropped and strike the bell.

If something prevented the hammer raising then the clock could be lifted up instead, as there is plenty of power to do just this. As there is plenty of rubbish around the bells , this could be a cause.. I looked at the place where the bell is struck, and all was clear, but it could have fallen off after the damage was done. It was a pity that the proper clock bell is not used , and is standing by it's self on the floor. It will be very difficult to use it again, as it was lowered through the louvres when the tower was covered in scaffolding, easy at the time, but out of bounds to-day.



Having got things in order we started the clock and went home, quite pleased with our afternoons work. Next day on looking at the clock it was twenty minutes fast. Oh dear, what

has happened ? I have taken much trouble to get the “ rate “ of the clock correct, so that Marshall’s clock and ours are reasonably in step. I think that when the mechanism dropped off the trestle the pendulum was jarred so that the heavy bob dropped on it’s shaft, thus making the pendulum longer, and so slowing the clock down. As the correction for this entails climbing a ladder in the ringing chamber, and getting access through a small trap door to raise the pendulum back to the proper length. Indecently the tick of the clock is only forty beats a minute, rather than the customary sixty of most clocks.

I have been in touch with the TCCT clock man, Mr Colin Walton, who is coming over to fix it, so I shall stop the timepiece for the time being and await the experts to restore order. It illustrates the old adage that thing often go wrong it groups, rather than just one fault.

I must now add a postscript, as there were other things going on as well. The fact of lifting the heavy clock still worried me until yesterday when I stopped the striking movement, as the bell ringing at random times is annoying. It appears that the cog driving the “going train” has moved on the old wooden barrel and comes into contact with the electric winding gears. As this old barrel is far from true it can catch on other gears, which is not good , but harmless unless they are moving. Again bad luck struck again, and the gears collided and lifted the clock. As there was plenty of power, this cog climbed up the other, lifted the mechanism, and pushed it off the trestle.

This event is not easy to describe, but I hope your readers can follow it, and that Mr Walton will fix it soon.

*John Norris*

**South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association  
THE SWAFFHAMS AND REACH BRANCH**

**Invites you to**

**THE NEW BRANCH LUNCH  
Goodwin Manor**

**Station Road, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG**

*by kind permission of Mr and Mrs John Harrison*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010 - 12.00 noon**

*Guest: James Paice MP*

**Please reply to:**

**Marcia Miller 01638 741141**

**Lunch £17.50 each**

**Valerie Hill 01223 813611**



## News from Wicken Fen

As the year draws to a close its time to reflect on a successful year for the fen. Over the summer we welcomed over 35,000 visitors to the fen, 36% higher than in the previous year. In May we celebrated the achievements of the first 10 years of the Wicken Fen Vision, with hundreds of people enjoying a day of celebration on the fen, whilst in July our National Dragonfly Centre opened.

A fantastic year for wildlife was topped off by the first ever breeding of Avocets on the reserve. Other highlights included Stonechats breeding on the reserve for the first time in over 70 years, and at least two pairs of bearded tit. The list of species recorded at Wicken Fen grew to an amazing 8230 species. New to list this year are the Squacco Heron, 4 species of moth, 43 species of lichen and on the smaller and perhaps more obscure side, 35 species of nematode worm.

If you are interested in archaeology, the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group will be leading a walk over Hurdle Hall, near Reach, on Sunday 13 December. A similar walk over Oily Hall to the south of Swaffham Bulbeck Lode last winter recovered 430 struck flints together with seven shards of pottery. The quantity and quality of the finds has raised considerable interest amongst archaeologists with a general consensus that the struck flints are late Mesolithic (8500 – 4000 BC) or early Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) with the pottery dating from the Neolithic period. To join the walk please meet on Reach Village Green at 1000. Children under the age of 18 should be accompanied by an adult please. For further information please contact Community Warden, Emma Shepherd on 01353 720274

To help you get into the festive spirit we would like to invite you to an evening of **Lantern-lit Christmas Carols, Crafts and Chestnuts at Wicken Fen** on Friday 4 December, 1630 -2030 (free admission). Enjoy a magical lantern lit stroll around the boardwalk, warm yourself up with hot punch and roasted chestnuts, browse the craft stalls and shop for Christmas presents and sing along to some traditional Christmas carols with the Wicken Fen singers.

Father Christmas has promised to find time in his busy schedule to visit Wicken Fen on Saturday / Sunday 12, 13, 19 & 20 December, at 1030, 1115, 1300, 1345 & 1430 (£6.75 – Suitable for children aged 3-12 years). A Christmas Trail around the Boardwalk will lead you to Father Christmas in his secret grotto. Advanced booking is recommended – contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274



Don't forget Wicken Fen is open every day from Boxing Day to New Year's Day over the festival holiday for beautiful winter walks. What better way could there be to shift those extra Christmas pounds.

*Howard Cooper*

# Christmas Services

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

A celebration of the Christmas story in words and carols on **SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER**

St. James Church, Lode	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Quay	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior:	4.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham:	6.30pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	6.30pm



## CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB

A celebration of Christmas in words and Carols for all the Family on Christmas Eve

St. Mary's Church, Quay	3.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior	3.00pm
St. James' Church, Lode	4.00pm
Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham	4.00pm
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck	4.00pm



**Sat 12th December 2009,  
Bassingbourn Parish Church,  
7:30pm**

**Sun 13th December 2009,  
3:00pm, St John's Church  
Little Wilbraham**

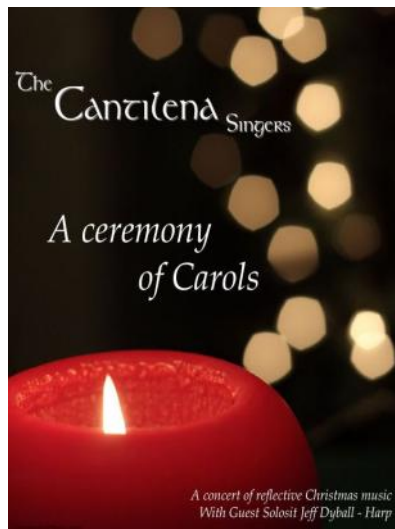
The Cantilena Singers  
- director Daniel Spreadbury  
Jeff Dyball - Harp

A concert of music associated with the Christmas period. The major work will be Britten's Ceremony of Carols. In addition to this we have a variety of more modern lyrical pieces which should provide an

enchanting atmosphere and also be a change from more traditional Christmas fayre.

**Tickets £7.50 (£2.50 children) available on the door or in advance from Susan Lee (01223 813335) or Susan Tilbrook (01223 811036)**

[www.cantilena.info](http://www.cantilena.info)



*I thought perhaps more recent residents in the village would like to read the following article which my Aunt Doris Osborn (nee Nash), who died in November at the age of 93 years, wrote for the **Crier** several years ago.* **Ruth Stinton**

## SOME PERSONAL MEMORIES OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR

I first came to Swaffham Prior from the Royston area in 1920 when my father Tom Nash (an agricultural steam engine driver) came to work for Mr Charles Woollard (a local farmer). Father and eldest brother took up lodgings in the village.

The journey I remember was made sitting on a wagon with all our worldly belongings, drawn by two farm horses, and moving into 'Beech House', now known as the 'White House' - a home that went with the job. As a young girl I remember there were two large walnut trees, several greengage, apple and plum trees and a well outside the back door. Interestingly my father took up beekeeping. When the bees started to swarm, we had to ring a bell, which motivated them to 'stay at home'. It really worked.

Like other villagers, we later kept chickens. Our family circle was also expanded by two dogs, cats and even included pigs and a tame jackdaw.

As Mr Woollard had another farm at Gt. Wilbraham, my father had to take the steam engine with threshing tackle trailing behind through the village (en route) to leave the threshing tackle there for several days. They would take my brother Charles' motor bike with them - so it would be an early start every morning (about 4 am) with brother Arthur driving and father sitting on the back holding their day's 'dockie' and a special rush basket for our dog 'Rose'. Lots of little boys loved to run behind.

Wild flowers seemed to be everywhere, white, pink and mauve violets and the smell of sweet briar as it mingled with the wild roses along the Heath Road.

Devils Dyke proved an ideal place for summer picnics, and when relations visited, father would harness his horse to a light cart, put a board across with a blanket and we would go riding down the fen (no road in those days). This was a real highlight for us all.

Twice a year a 'Hat Man' would arrive from Luton with many 'Hat Shapes'. My mother would cover some for local weddings. These 'shapes' were carried in a huge basket shaped like a gigantic hat box.

In those days the village had 3 butchers, 1 baker and several grocers, 4 public houses, 2 carpenters (one of which was also a wheelwright), 1 undertaker, a vet, a post office, a blacksmith, a dairy and of course Mr Foster's windmill.



Mother opened a small sweet shop at Beech house. Next door were several 'condemned' cottages, one of which was used as a place for fish and chips for about two evenings a week.

In the 1930's the combine harvester began to be used, and father was made redundant (resulting in a move to a cottage known as 'Mount Pleasant'). After his decease, mother moved



to the old arms houses at Town Close (now no more), spending her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday as the eldest living village resident. Later moving to Ely and living until 97 years.

Of course, my special memory was my wedding in Swaffham Prior Church (St. Marys) in 1952 with a reception in the old reading room.

My father was not in good health when I married so we were a little concerned in his 'giving me away'. I arrived at the church with friends waiting to take photos when I was asked 'where is your bouquet? The vicar was waiting and the organist (Mr Ton Cooper) was repeatedly replaying music again and again, whilst a friend (who had arrived late) rushed home to find it. Apparently my mother had placed the bouquet behind a settee on a stone floor to 'keep it cool.'

Sadly my father passed away a few months after the wedding.

No one could have asked for a nicer location, or so many friendly folk whose good wishes still remain with me to this day - some 50 years on.

*Doris Osborn (nee Nash)*

## **FOUND**

### **Better Broadband!**



**from RaSP - your local broadband provider**  
no longer the only broadband in the village but still the best

- ✓ Soon to be even faster (up to 10Mb/s in both directions)
- ✓ No increase in price for the extra speed, and no download limits
- ✓ Local service: by people you know, not an overseas call centre

For more details

website: <http://www.rasnet.co.uk/news>

email: [support@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:support@swaffham-prior.co.uk)

phone: 07005 800 991 (not an 0845 in sight!)

# Crossword Number 67

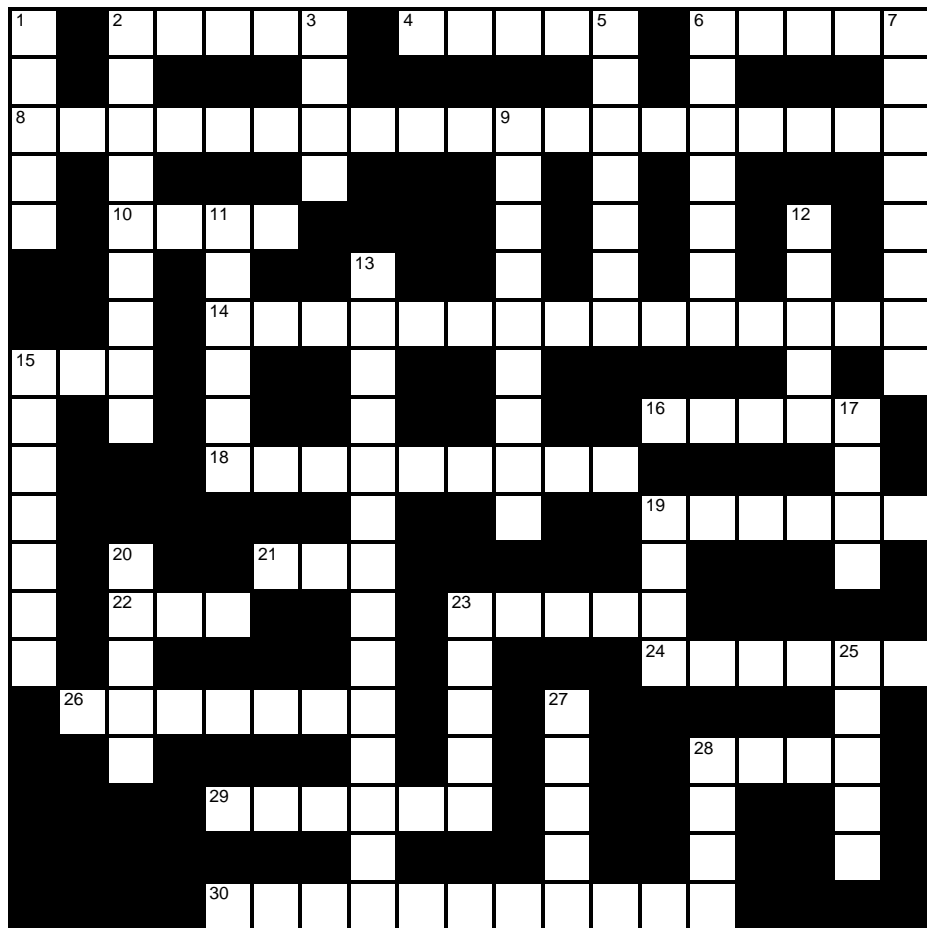
Sponsored by **The Red Lion**



Compiled by

**NIBOR**

Your Seasonal Crossword for December and January. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 2010. 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:.....

Address:.....

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

## Across

- 2 But I rather think he originally gives rise to 1 (5)  
4 How the turkey may be when in decay (5)  
6 Rings for errant Liberals lacking air (5)  
8 Carol should bear in mind the kilt we ordered (2,3,5,9)  
10 Title held by earl or duke (4)  
14 Vegetables might be served with 4 (8,7)  
15 Spies abandon ship to find a tart (3)  
16 Gullible on the golf course (5)  
18 Man from Gdansk is on top of the world (5,4)  
19 Silent fracture on the Xmas tree... (6)  
21 ...Tree found in Russia originally (3)  
22 Stop colouring (3)  
23 Gay, like 24 (5)  
24 23 across chap with 22 outfit bringing 19 down on 29 (2,4)  
26 Lights about 550 sticks (7)  
28 29 small light emitting diodes (4)  
29 28 across say it's murder (6)  
30 New Year refrain but signal was so distorted (7,4)

## Down

- 1 Host leaves crumpled dishcloth for youngster (5)

- 2 Liz found the French border in West Bank town (9)  
3 Divine alcohol? yo-ho-ho! It's inside (4)  
5 I'd be into things, but not headfirst, that's the news (7)  
6 He pulls a 29 with 15 down for 24 (7)  
7 Amazement at get up on Pru's back (8)  
9 I meet lots madly kissing under its influence (9)  
11 Rabbit on sadly at missing decoration (6)  
12 See 20  
13 I spotted a number of vessels whilst singing this (1,3,5,5)  
15 Drunken carpenters set out to get 29 puller (7)  
17 Back Leon for the season (4)  
19 24 brings these playthings to younger siblings first (4)  
20/12 Roll served with impudence and seasonal 4 (5,5)  
23 Perfume found in my posh car on her head (5)  
25 Vehicle carries journalist to the wood (5)  
27 Jokers may send these in December (5)  
28 Carol takes small gin cocktail (4)



Your compiler humbly apologises for the cruciverbal catastrophe last month. There was no solution to the crossword and so there are no winners or honourable mentions to announce this month. There will be no crossword in the January edition of the Crier so you have until 18 January 2010 to submit your entries for this crossword.



## WI Notes

At our November meeting we were very pleased to welcome Marilyn Crossley who demonstrated four amazing winter flower arrangements. Of course she made it look so simple and although many of us were fired with enthusiasm to raid our gardens and have ago, we appreciated the many years of experience and artistic flair that go into these wonderful displays. Four lucky people went home with the arrangements which were raffled at the end of the evening. On December 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having our usual Christmas Party for members with food, drink and entertainment.

In January it will be a new beginning as we are enlarging with Swaffham Bulbeck WI and will become The Swaffhams WI. We will continue to meet in the Village Hall here in Swaffham Prior and on January 18<sup>th</sup> we have Bev Briggs telling us about her work as a personal shopper. As always new members are always welcome.

Pat Cook  
President 01638 742224



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our November meeting we welcomed Mr Bill Morris who talked to us about Species Pelargoniums with which he first became fascinated as a young teenager - as he said, 'a very long time ago!' He shared his great knowledge of the subject and wonderful illustrations with us and I am sure we all learnt a great deal about these intriguing plants. The first pelargoniums were introduced into this country in 1680, so they have a long history here. There are well over three hundred species pelargoniums, many of which originate from south and east Africa and southern Australia, so are desert plants with a great tolerance for drought but do have to be kept just frost-free. In this country they grow slowly during winter and burst into flower during the early spring, ready for pollination by the equally early 'bee-fly'. Mr Morris noted that many of the flowers can be used in cooking and the mashed up tubers (presumably cooked first!) are said to cure the 'runs' and some intestinal worms! More certainly, pelargonium syrup was used with great success for coughs and is actually proven to be an effective remedy for T.B. Our speaker was full of unbounded enthusiasm for these plants and possibly may have encouraged some of us to have a go at growing them for ourselves.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19 January at 8pm in the Village Hall, to be held jointly with the W I, and is a talk on Bees and Bee-keeping to which everyone is most welcome.

*Mary Hart*



## The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

"Floral Arrangements for Christmas" was the subject for our Mothers' Union Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> and Pauline Miller from Burwell came to demonstrate how we could create these.

What an inspiring afternoon we had! Pauline is a very gently spoken and creative lady and she demonstrated how we could make 4 arrangements for Christmas, making it all look so easy! A beautiful Advent Ring was created from mainly greenery that can be found in our gardens and other arrangements used very few flowers and she showed us how, with a little imagination, striking arrangements can be created by using very simple materials. It was intriguing to see how a Wreath for the door was so easily created from stripped Clematis twigs and she made this all in a matter of minutes. We had a lovely afternoon and I'm sure that even the less creative among us were inspired to "have a go" at making a simple decoration at home.

At the time of writing we are preparing to have our Christmas Lunch on December 10<sup>th</sup> and this year we are catering for 40 people – this includes some husbands! By the time you read this we will I am sure have enjoyed a sumptuous lunch in convivial company.

We look forward to the New Year with our Service on January 21<sup>st</sup> at which we will be enrolling at least one new member to the Mothers' Union. We have a very varied and interesting Programme planned for 2010 and everyone is very welcome to come along to any of the meetings especially if there is a subject which is of particular interest to you. Programme Cards for 2010 are at the back of all our 5 Churches so please do take one if you haven't already got one and would like to see the Programme. All our Meetings are on Thursday afternoons and take place in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm.

We look forward to 2010 – please come along!

*Pauline Lewis*

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## LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College. We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 9<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> May (no dance in April).

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: [www.letsdanceclub.org.uk](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)



## Could You Use £1,000 This Christmas?

How would you like to win £1,000 and support your local hospice at the same time? Well, the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House is delighted to be able to offer you the chance to do just that by joining our weekly lottery. With 33 prizes, ranging from £1,000 to £10 you are 15 times more likely to win £1,000 in



the Hospice lottery than you are the National Lottery, while supporting the provision of vital care throughout Norfolk and the Fens. "Our lottery is an excellent revenue stream for the Hospice as it brings in a regular and consistent income, but more than that it allows the Hospice to give something, in addition to our care provision, back to the community who support us so generously" said Hospice Fundraiser Andrew Lawn.

Friday is draw day, and what better way to start your weekend than receiving a phone call from our lottery department informing you a cheque for £1,000 is heading your way? Join our Hospice Lottery today and Fridays will never be dull again. Also with our new 'Lottery Gift Vouchers' why not give a friend or loved one the chance of winning £1,000 this Christmas? A great gift for the person who has everything and for whom you can never think of anything original as a gift ~ The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House Lottery is the answer.

For more information please contact The Norfolk Hospice on **01485 542891** or visit [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk)

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## READING GROUP

DECEMBER-CATCHER IN THE RYE-J.D. SALINGER  
JANUARY-THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PIE SOCIETY-  
MARY ANN SCHAFER  
FEBRUARY-THE LOST SYMBOL-DAN BROWN

### OTHER BOOKS SUGGESTED

THE BOOK THIEF-MARCUS ZUSAK

THE HEART OF THE WORLD-ALAN EREIRA

IN THE SHADOW OF CROWS-DAVID MANNERS

WIVES AND DAUGHTERS-MRS GASKELL

THE GLASS BLOWERS OF MIRANO-MARINA FIORATA



*Kent House, 8pm, First Wednesday in Month*



### **Oliver Cromwell's House**

It is nice to be able to start my report with some good news. Oliver Cromwell's House in Ely, which is run by East Cambs council, has won the prestigious best tourist information centre award for the east of England.

The centre and its staff beat off strong competition to take the award and progress to the national finals, which are to take place in April 2010.

Oliver Cromwell's house has had a successful year, as has Ely's markets which are also run by the council, and Jubilee Gardens which again this year won a green flag award.

### **Reach Lode Bridge**

The National Trusts application for a bridge over Reach Lode to take the last stage of the cycle route from Anglesey Abbey to Wicken fen came before the council's planning committee in October.

There has been a lot of local opposition to the construction of the bridge on environmental grounds. I attended the committee meeting to propose an alternative route for the cycle way. It would not have needed to cross Reach Lode; therefore the bridge would not have been needed.

I was not allowed to put my case for a revised route and the planning committee approved the national trusts application.

### **Business waste recycling**

To help businesses recycle more of their waste, East Cambs District Council is now offering practical advice on the best ways to reduce rubbish sent to the landfill. The community recycling officer from the council will visit firms to look at their waste disposal services to see if their costs can be reduced as well as less waste going into landfill.

### **Ely southern link road**

Officers at the District and County Councils are looking at options for major improvements to the A142, principally the southern link road round Ely. Work on plans for the road are moving forward, with funding from Cambridgeshire horizons and the government housing growth fund. They are looking at a link between Stuntney causeway and Angel Drove.

We are working with English Heritage, who are concerned that the route chosen will have the least possible environmental impact.

As we move towards the end of 2009. I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas. I look forward to working on behalf of all of the residents of the Swaffams ward during the coming year.



*Allen Alderson*

# REACH & SWAFFHAM PRIOR COMMUNITY NETWORK

## November Newsletter - *announcing a major bandwidth upgrade!*

At the recent AGM, we agreed to invest in a bandwidth upgrade, so all users will get up to 10Mbps/sec. in both directions using their existing hardware and at no additional cost. The practical works are under way, and we hope to have it up and running by the New Year.

This means that your local Community Broadband System will soon be providing better bandwidth than anything available in practice from other suppliers in our area, with unlimited usage, at an unchanged fee of £20/month. And don't forget that with RASP you get a 'symmetrical' service, so down- and up-loads are both at the same speed (try that on an ADSL connection...). And of course support from someone within a five-mile radius.

Meanwhile, spread the word - the more clients we get, the more bandwidth we will be able to afford; the new bearer will have a capacity of up to 100Mb/s, so it will be easy for us to buy further upgrades as we can afford them.

For those who are interested, the minutes of the AGM will be found on the website <http://www.raspnet.co.uk/meetings>



## Your Mobile Library Timetable



Swaffham Prior	Cage Hill	15:15	15:50
Swaffham Prior	Chapel	15:55	16:15

Tuesdays: Jan 12, 26; Feb 9, 23; Mar 9, 23

- The service is **free** to join, use and is open to everyone
- Our up to date fleet of mobile libraries carry stocks of books, videos, DVDs and Audio books for children and adult
- The vehicles are connected to the Library Service Catalogue so we can offer many of the services you would get from a static Library
- We do charge for **Video/DVD** hire - £2.50 for 2 week hire
- You can **request** books, videos, talking books, CDs and DVDs, held by any library in Cambridgeshire free of charge. There is a £3 charge for requesting books not in Cambridgeshire libraries
- Any books borrowed from The Mobile Library can be





**returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library** and you can return books from other Libraries to us

- You can **renew and order books online**, please ask on board for your 'PIN' to get you started
  - Books are issued for **4 weeks** and you can renew for up to three months
  - Unfortunately we do charge for items that are returned late
  - For further information you can contact us by telephone on 0345 045 5225 or at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)
- 



## **Bottisham Village College Community Education**

Start the New Year with a new skill!

We are offering the following courses starting in January 2010:

Salsa  
Sculpture  
Garden Design  
Soft Furnishings  
Thai Cookery (5 weeks to half term)  
Vegetarian Thai Cookery (5 weeks after half term)  
Introduction to Counselling\*

\*(requirement for 'Certificate in Counselling' course in September 2010)

There are also still places available on our continuing courses. Please see our website for further details [www.bottishamvc.org/commed](http://www.bottishamvc.org/commed) , or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372, email: [commed@bottishamvc.org](mailto:commed@bottishamvc.org).

Can't see the course you want? Please contact us with your interest and we will do our best to help.

# Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting–12<sup>th</sup> November 2009

*John Covill chaired both meetings with 8 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public attending.*

**Public Participation** – new agenda heading as agreed at October meeting. The purpose of this new agenda item is “to allow up to 10 minutes for any members of the Public and Councillors declaring a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting”.

There were no matters raised on this occasion.

## Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

## Correspondence Received:

CCC

Future Cambridgeshire – Response on the Regional Strategy

A & B Road Speed Limit Review

Cambridge Core Traffic Scheme – Stage 4 News

HCV Issues and Countrywide Advisory Freight Map

ECDC

Newsletter – Local Development Framework

Alan Dover, Principal Development Control Officer – recent changes to planning legislation

Mobile Play School

Core Strategy DPD and Proposals Map (Adoption Statement)

General

Moore Stephens – signed Annual Audit Return

CPALC - Autumn 2009 Bulletin

CPALC – Information pack for AGM on 21/11/09

Care & Repair East Cambridgeshire Ltd – Home Improvement Agency

COPE – Newsletter No.61

## Matters Arising from Previous Minutes *(for information only)*

There were no matters arising.

**Repairs to the Pound, Cage Hill:** Following a meeting with Rosie Burton, Conservation Officer for ECDC, a further report and proposed specification for the work was received from the Structural Engineer. Following discussion it was agreed to obtain quotations for the work as described in the specification. The Clerk was to ask Rosie Burton’s advice about suitable contractors for the work.



## Clearance of Undergrowth from Ditch & Field Bank, Lower

**End:** Andrew Camps reported that the hedgerows and vegetation on the boundary of the field with the ditch were very overgrown and that some clearance work was required. The Clerk was to write to the landowners and ask for this work to be

carried out.

**Removal of Cedar Tree in Churchyard:** A further meeting was held between Parish Councillors and Cathy White, Tree Officer for ECDC. Cathy reiterated that she was not willing to approve any work to the Lime trees but agreed that the smaller ‘weedy’ Cedar could be removed. The cost of this would be approximately £300-£400 and Cathy White said she was willing to add it to her list of future work but noted that this would not be a priority. It was agreed to accept the foregoing. The Clerk was to write to Cathy White asking that she adds the Cedar to her list for removal in due course and thank her for her help and advice.

**Consideration of Planning Application for St Cyriacs and St Julitta Church, High Street** – *new lavatory and tea prep facilities to interior of Church, with new floor finish to south transept and general joinery.* Ref: 09/00779/LBC. There were no objections.

**Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2010-11:** Following discussion the draft Precept figure for submission to ECDC was set at £14,500 with no increase on current year.

**Accounts for Payment:** These were agreed.

**Clerk’s Report:**

The new grit/salt bin for the Village Car Park has been received and will be placed in the Car Park once the salt has been purchased.

CCC Highways closed a stretch of the Fen road to through traffic on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November for one day for resurfacing work (from Reach crossroads to Chapel).

The School confirmed that their working group had cut back branches overhanging the Village Hall roof and tidied the School Garden boundary at the footpath access in the Village Car Park. The Councillors recorded their thanks to the School for their assistance.

The loose bus stop sign at the top of Rogers Road has been refixed by Stagecoach.

**Allotment:** If anyone is interested in renting the large allotment known as the ‘lower allotment’ on the B1102, please contact the Clerk for details.

**Parish Councillors’ Reports:**

Peter Hart told meeting that he had met with Karen Whymark, CCC Parish Paths Liaison Officer with reference to Footpath No.11 from the village car park. Karen Whymark said she would check on route of footpath and depending on outcome will speak with the landowner.

John Covill confirmed that the new salt/grit bin on Whiteway Drove had been filled ready for use.

Geoffrey Woollard asked about the possibility of a ‘Car Service’ for village.

**Open Question Time:**

The meeting was asked for clarification of the “Public Participation” agenda item.

Meeting told of a suitable contractor for the works to the Pound wall.

Further discussion with reference to the issue of the Lime trees in the

Churchyard.

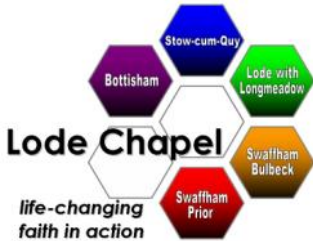
If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**All are welcome to attend.**

***Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council***

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## **The Perfect Christmas Gift**

The news headlines tell us that there's one 'must have' present every year – and apparently for Christmas 2009 it's the 'Go Go Hamster'. According to the blurb it's an interactive, realistic, artificially intelligent, talking, moving electronic pet. They're supposed to retail for £10, but supply and demand means they're now on sale for many times that – and if you want to buy the specially designed habitat as well, there'll be very little change from £100! Now don't get me wrong – like anyone else, I will be buying Christmas presents for my family and friends. The trouble is that by this time next year the Go Go Hamster will be forgotten and pester power will have been redirected.

I'm of the opinion, however, that the perfect Christmas gift is not to be found on a supermarket shelf, and although I'll be going down to London this month, it won't be a trip to Oxford Street looking for bargains. Instead, on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, I'll be wearing my blue clerical shirt and collar, along with a curly blue wig, and joining thousands of others marching around the capital's streets as part of 'The Wave'. During December world leaders are meeting in Copenhagen for the UN climate talks and the purpose of the march is to urge them to come up with a deal that sets clear targets for tackling climate change and puts the needs of the world's poorest people first.

In twenty, thirty or forty years time, our children's generation, and the generation that follows them, won't be asking us why we didn't get them a Go Go Hamster for Christmas, they'll be asking why we didn't stop damaging the environment and oppressing the poor. Climate change and global injustice are problems which, without action, are only going to get worse – causing more and more migration as people seek out the scarce resources which they need to provide for their families. We won't remove people's fears about immigration by tighter border controls – the ultimate way to reduce immigration is to make the world a fairer and safer place.

Why not give the children in your life the perfect gift this Christmas by becoming part of making the world we hand onto them better, rather than worse, than we received it. You may want to join the march or get involved in some other sort of campaigning – but you can make a difference practically too. Why not visit

[www.musthavegifts.org](http://www.musthavegifts.org) or [www.ethicalsuperstore.com](http://www.ethicalsuperstore.com) for some gift ideas that show that you really do care. I'm going to have some festive fun in my curly blue wig – but in the true spirit of Christmas, and inspired by the one whose birth we celebrate – I also want my life to make a difference.

*Simon Goddard*

### **This Month's Services**

6<sup>th</sup> – Morning Worship (10.30am)

& 'Sacred Space' contemplative service (5.30pm)

13<sup>th</sup> – RE:NEW Kids Club at Bottisham Primary School  
with café for the adults (10.30am)

19<sup>th</sup> – RE:NEW Live Nativity at Downing Farm Barn,  
Swaffham Bulbeck (4.30pm)

20<sup>th</sup> – Family Carol Service (10.30am)

25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Morning Worship (10.30am)

27<sup>th</sup> – Morning Worship with Communion (10.30am)

## **Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

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

# **FREECYCLE**



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month on [jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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**

Black & Decker hedge trimmer; White serving dish for whole fish (length 24 inches); "Mini-Trimmer" – a simple manual exercise machine usually for legs but can do arms. Ken 01223 812740.

Well kept mix of golf clubs (ladies + mens), bag + balls. Doreen 01223 811622.

Childs table top billiards game with cues and cue rest but no balls; Home made farm yard board (70cm x 50cm approx) with animals, fences, tractors, etc. Fay 01223 812231 or [nic.bawtree@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:nic.bawtree@tiscali.co.uk)

### **Wants**

Lego in good condition, for a 12 year old boy. Elizabeth 01223 352240

## PASTORAL LETTER, December 2009

Dear Friends,

As we prepare for Christmas once again we look forward to our celebration of the birth of our Saviour, the 'Prince of Peace'. Yet, in a year that marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of that terrible 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, in which millions upon millions of lives were lost, we still find it difficult to look forward with any confidence to a peaceful future. Instead, there are still far too many countries around the world struggling under the yoke of war, and too many brave soldiers have died this year in the continuing conflict in Afghanistan.

When Christ was born, the angel declared to the frightened shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests." But the world has seen very few years of peace since Christ came. I recently discovered this fable on peace, which challenges me.

*"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a sparrow asked a wild dove.*

*"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.*

*"In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story," the sparrow said. "I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard - no, just like in a dream, without a sound, and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch, nothing more than nothing, as you say, the branch broke off."*

*Having said that, the sparrow flew away.*

*The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for awhile, and finally said to herself, "Perhaps only one person's voice is lacking for peace to come to the world."*

Anne Frank, that young heroine of the second world war, wrote these famous words that will always touch our hearts: *'In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the ever-approaching thunder, which will destroy us too. I can feel the sufferings of millions, and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquillity will return again.'*



Pope John Paul VI once wrote: *'The soul of peace is love, which ... comes from the love of God and expresses itself in love for men.'* Our Lord Jesus Christ said: *'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.'* Surely therein lies the key to peace. That is

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Sun 13</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>4:00pm</b> Advent by Candlelight
<b>Sun 20</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>4:00pm</b> Carols by Candlelight
<b>Thu 24</b>	<b>3:00pm</b> Crib Service
<b>Fri 25</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Benefice Communion
<b>Sun 27</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Mattins

*With conservation in mind, it behoves one to think seriously of the Yule Log'.*

*There's a verse by the well-known and much quoted, 'Anon' about log fires, whose idea I borrowed.*

Beechwood fires are bright  
and clear

If the logs are kept a year.

Birch fir logs burn much too fast,

Blaze up bright and do not last.

Oak and maple, if dry and old,

Keep away the winter's cold.

But ash wood wet, or ash wood dry,

A king shall warm his slippers by'

*Anon*

### **Christmas Conservation and The misuse of Exotic Yule logs**

Arbutus wood fires are dull and drear

Babassu fires are worse I fear.

The Kahikatea and the strange Pinaster

Are but one step from a disaster.

The Macrocarpa and the Sanderac,

Wellingtonia and the Tamarack

Are best avoided, as are too,

The Kawakawa and the Pyinkado.

The Haemtoxylon and the Cade

With the Cryptomeria, never make the  
grade;

But when you need to dispel the chill

The lighter Hevea and Cudgerie will

But it's immoral to use exotic trees

Just to relieve a minor freeze,

They'd make an appallingly pricey pyre....

So strike a Pine match, and light the gas fire.

*Ophir*

why Jesus Christ is called the 'Prince of Peace' because He offers us the key to peace – love.

In that wonderful Gospel reading that we read at our Christmas Midnight Communion Service are those words which make our hearts leap as we hear them once again: *'Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.'* To be born 'of God' is to begin to take on those 'Christ like' qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It is these qualities that will ultimately bring about peace in our world.

As Henry Van Dyke once wrote: *'To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars - to be satisfied with your possessions but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them - to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice - to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts - to covet nothing that is your neighbour's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners - to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ - these are little guideposts on the footpath to peace.'*

So, let us make a resolution this Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. Let us resolve to be obedient to Christ's command and love each other. Let us resolve to live out our lives as Henry Van Dyke suggests, and then perhaps we shall be the 3,741,953<sup>rd</sup> snowflake, and make a vital difference to the peace of the world.

Pauline and I wish you a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

God bless,

*David*

## ***Dates for Your Diary* December 2009**

Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	13	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	16	Carols at the Village Hall, 7pm VH
Sun	20	Village Carol Service, 4pm, St Mary's
Thu	24	Crib Service, 3pm, St Mary's <b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Sat	26	Hockey on Boxing Day Morning, 11.00am, the Denny, S Bulbeck
Tues	29	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15

<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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***