



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 2

February 2009



## Editorial

February, and the first “genuine” edition of the New Year, January being *fake* of course, necessarily going to press before Christmas. And what better way to shrug off the increasingly outrageous slings and arrows of the Bigger World than start off than with our very own Prize Literary Quiz?

Turn to our Boxing Day Hockey report, where Tony Bowers has excelled himself with his Odyssey account of our famous victory. At the same time, our What’s On section is stuffed with further entertainments: Jason Webster’s Tapas & Talk, the Soap Box Challenge, Cath Coombs Singing, Catherine Gould’s card school (see Letters) to name but a few. Stuff the credit crunch! We’ll get through, we’ll get through....

Meanwhile, a very Big

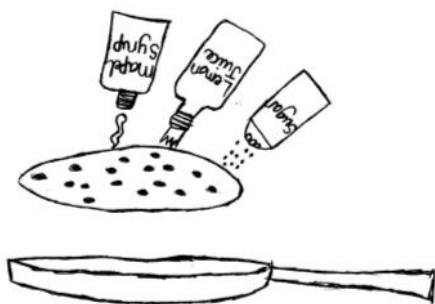
Thank You to all those who have already helped the Crier weather the storm by their very kind donations, yes, a *very* big thank-you!

Now, the great thing about living in this village is that all of us make our mark, in one way or another: its the *sum of its parts*. And in this edition, we celebrate the 87th birthday of Eric Day, erstwhile Parish Clerk and long-time Councillor: Happy Birthday Eric, this village would be a lesser place without you!

. See you  
Quizzing!

**Caroline  
Matheson**

Don't forget 24  
February —  
Pancake day!  
*Picture by  
Martha Dean-  
Tozer*



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**Cover Picture: Happy Valentine's Day by Alice Lingley**



# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

## Bus Business

After everyone had finished fighting to save services on the No 10 bus service an astonishing statement was made by the Managing Director of Stagecoach.

In the *Cambridge News* of 25 November, Andy Campbell said “**Services do occasionally run late due to things like roadworks, but as for services not running at all, that’s just not something that happens to be honest.**”

Everyone who uses the bus, whether frequently or infrequently, knows that buses sometimes do not turn up – to be honest.

Mr Campbell would like more facts. If you are a bus user please let the Editors know your own experience and it matters not whether you live in Reach, Burwell, Bulbeck or Prior. Just a brief note with your name and village would do, and especially useful would be the date and time of the missing bus.

This is also a chance for the seriously aggrieved to rant and rave in a longer letter.

**Or is Mr Campbell correct in what he says?**

*Alastair Everitt*

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Dear Editor,

## Anyone for Cards?

Do any readers enjoy playing card games? Would they be interested in a regular get-together with other card players?

I'm not looking for a league or anything heavy, rather an evening centred around playing cards with a bit of chat, couple of drinks and a few nibbles.

I would be particularly interested if anyone who would like to make up a four for Canasta, but am happy to play other games (though I might need to learn some of them!).

If this sounds like something you might like to do give Catherine a call on 742489 or e-mail [Catherine@e-mail.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Catherine@e-mail.wanadoo.co.uk).

*Catherine Gould*

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Dear Editors,

## Coffee Morning 15th January

A Big Thank-you to all those who helped and those who came and supported our annual coffee morning. All agreed it was one of the best ever. A special thank-you to Caroline Matheson who made us all so welcome to her home. It was a goods opportunity to meet up with villagers, especially those who have recently joined us and on top of that we made a profit of £205.

*Kate Child*

# ERIC BURT DAY

The Parish Council of Swaffham Prior would like to celebrate the fact that Eric Day has served the Council for over 55 years, the majority as a councillor, but including 17 of those years as clerk.

We are thankful, as indeed all the village should be, for his untiring work to improve village life. He has not only attended virtually every council meeting, but has done a great deal of practical work to maintain the facilities. He regularly volunteers to attend work parties to clear undergrowth, repair play equipment, and indeed help clear the playing field after it had been invaded and had rubbish dumped on it.

We feel proud to have Eric serving on the Council and look forward to Eric continuing his illustrious career with us.

Signed

John Covill

9<sup>th</sup> January 2009

as chairman of and on behalf of Swaffham Prior Parish Council

We would also like to wish you A Very Happy 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Today!



*Councillor Eric Day accepts a congratulatory bottle from PC chair John Covill on the occasion of his 87th birthday . Many Happy Returns from the Crier, Eric!*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I THOUGHT I WAS JUST ON TIME for the last PC meeting but they must have started very sharply because by the time I'd opened my note book they were already on "Correspondence received". There wasn't much as December had been a quiet month, Hazel and Allen were not there, nothing was raised in "Matters arising" and we shot on to "Cemetery Maintenance". Steve reported that while examining the work a little old lady had come out of the gloom and demanded to know who he was and what he was doing. He confessed all and she told him that the cemetery was "the best it's looked for fifteen years." That is very gratifying and the PC acknowledged the good work of the contractors and also the contribution made by the probation service people and also the efforts of Steve. Just two more cemetery tasks need to be completed but these may be left until the next financial year.



It appears that the PC will pay a £80 contribution towards the cost of the equipment and training for the Speedwatch venture, even though there are no volunteers from Swaffham Prior. Makes you wonder how much of a regular speeding problem we have, especially when you remember that it cannot be used on Mill Hill.

There was great excitement when the sign to the "Football Ground" was discussed. Mr Andy Caruana of the County Council had submitted a design which was 3 feet 5 inches wide and 2 feet high and which would be fitted to the existing post which would be extended. This design is reproduced below. All agreed the wording was incorrect because Upware does not have a football team. The cost is £175 (who is to pay?) and the PC was told it was cheaper to have one sign rather than two. Some thought it "madness", others that the village should not be "cluttered with huge road side furniture". All the village had wanted was an extra sign, about 5-6 inches high, saying "Football Ground" and fixed underneath the current Upware sign. Surprisingly Geoffrey wanted the sign to be as large possible so that no-one would miss the way to Upware. But of course he wouldn't have to walk past it everyday. The voting was carried for a single small sign.

At last some sanity is being introduced to some part of the Agenda and PC meetings. A year or so ago the PC was told that it could not have "Any Other Business" on the Agenda and that it had to specify at the end of each meeting what was to be on the Agenda for the next meeting. This was absolute lunacy and made it difficult for Councillors to raise villagers' concerns and other matters. Karen King



proposed that at the end of each meeting there should be a Clerk's Report followed by any Parish Councillor's report. Karen said this worked very well at Bulbeck (where she is also Clerk). Everyone approved and voted for the motion which would now allow villagers' news and views to be presented. "Items for the Next Agenda" was also thrown out and everyone began to feel human again. One could well wonder what goes on in the mind of anyone who could propose and impose and support the previous advice/ruling. John Jordon thought the change would be fine providing the Chairman is able to prevent some councillors talking too much.

A big offer has come in inviting members to attend a series of Councillor Development Courses. What an opportunity for our elected members! There are three sessions – in Feb, May and Sept – costing £20 a time. There were no takers and one member said he been to one and (I have softened up his words) "it was not very helpful."

In Open Question Time the PC was asked for its views on the "NO BNP" scrawl on our village sign. Most had not seen it. However they felt they could not make any comment until they knew the intentions of the writer. Was he/she:-

- 1) opposing any BNP members coming to the Village
- 2) regretting that there were no BNP members in the Village
- 3) deploring the existence of BNP members in the Village following the publication of the BNP membership list.

It was left at that.

Right at the every end of the meeting Geoffrey – who has a fine sense of local Right at the every end of the meeting Geoffrey – who has a fine sense of local



*Why don't we do it in the road?* Many thanks to John Covill for this picture of recent advances in fly-tipping down on the Fen.

history – paid a tribute to Eric Day for having been more than 55 years on the Parish Council, the majority as a councillor, but including 17 of these as Clerk. When asked how he became Clerk Eric explained that “two members of the WI were doing it and they weren’t very satisfactory.” Geoffrey had chosen the January meeting for the celebration rather than the Annual Village Assembly because Eric was going to be 87 on the very next day. Even though not common knowledge, Geoffrey had heard that Eric was partial to an occasional glass of Bristol Cream sherry, and a large bottle was presented by Chairman John Covill, accompanied by a thunderous round of applause.

What a fine end to the first PC meeting of the year.

**When asked how he became Clerk, Eric explained that “Two members of the WI were doing it and they weren’t very satisfactory.”**

*Alastair Everitt*

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## Help change Emilia's life

Ten-year-old Emilia Hubbard, of Swaffham Prior, needs your help. She has a severe blood disorder and needs a bone marrow transplant, but has yet to find a matched donor.

Emilia has to have regular transfusions at Addenbrooke's Hospital. She can't go to school, play with all her friends or do many of the things most 10-year-olds love to do.

You could change her life for the better - by registering as a bone marrow donor with

the Anthony Nolan Trust or the National Blood Service. A simple blood test is all it takes to join. And one day you might be a match for Emilia, or a patient like her. Please get in touch today:

Anthony Nolan Trust

020 7284 1 234

[www.anthonynolan.org.uk](http://www.anthonynolan.org.uk)

National Blood Service

08457711 711

[www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

To register with the Anthony Nolan Trust you must be 18-40 years. With the National Blood Service it's 18-49: Register first as a blood donor and then ask to join its bone marrow register. If you don't qualify you can still help —by spreading the word. Don't delay! You could change Emilia's life and that of her sister, Alice.

JOIN US! Emilia's family will hold an Anthony Nolan donor clinic in the village where you can register. Look out for details.



# QUIZ NIGHT

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall**

**7.30 pm ♣ Saturday**

*28th February 2009*

**Tickets: £5 each ♣ To book a table contact**

**Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161**

**or**

**Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960**

**Jacket Potato Supper ♣ Raffle**

**Bring your own drinks and glasses**

**Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior**

# FROM FENLAND FLAT TO SPANISH MOUNTAIN

ACCLAIMED AUTHOR of three books on Spain, Jason Webster, who spent his youth in Swaffham Prior, returns to the area this month to speak on his new book, *Sacred Sierra*.



From Swaffham Prior, Jason went to Oxford, took a degree in Arabic and then moved to Spain, where he found the inspiration for his books:

*Duende* - nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and read as Book of the Week on Radio 4; *Andalus* - dramatised for Radio 3;

*Guerra* - a thought provoking return to locations of the Spanish Civil War and currently the subject of much attention in Spain due to its first Spanish translation.

*Five's* - Andalusia: The Legacy of the Moors.

This latest book, *Sacred Sierra*, which brings Jason back to his family home in Swaffham Prior, vividly describes an almost forgotten (and gradually disappearing) way of life he and his wife, Salud, discovered when they bought a mountain and moved to an

abandoned farmhouse in Castellon province, north-west of Valencia.

Jason's work also includes TV documentaries, one filmed in Cordoba with Rageh Omar and Channel, and articles for the national press, such as the Observer, Guardian, Sunday Times and New Statesman.

*Duende was greatly enjoyed by Swaffham Prior Book Club, and details of his talk at Topping's of Ely can be found opposite and a promotional film of the book can be seen on Jason's website at [www.jasonwebster.net](http://www.jasonwebster.net). Interested readers can contact Karole Webster (01638 742855) for further information, or if they are interested in sharing transport. Eds*

## Donations!

Many thanks to James and Janet Willmott and the Village Hall for their very kind donations to the **Crier** this month. This year, the **Crier** will need to raise extra funds, and donations are particularly appreciated.



## Tapas & Talk

### Jason Webster

will be talking about his new book

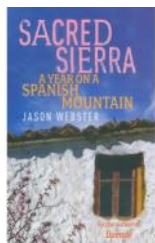
### *Sacred Sierra*

On Thursday, 26th February

At St. Etheldreda's Church

Egremont Street, Ely

7.00 for 7.30pm



'Tapas and Talk' with Jason Webster will be a ray of sunshine in these long dark days. Jason, author of *Duende*, has lived in Spain for several years with his partner, the dancer Salud. They recently moved to a deserted farmhouse clinging to the side of a steep valley in the eastern province of Castellon, near the sacred peak of Penyalgosa. With help from a twelfth-century Moorish book on gardening, Jason set about creating his dream. We can't promise the warmth of the Spanish sun, but we can promise delicious tapas and a warm welcome.

Tickets 6.00 (redeemable against book on the evening).

## St Mary's Concert

*dedicated to the memory of*

### **Dr Mark Towriss**

**Saturday 7th February 2009**

at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck

**St Mary's Singers and Players**

directed by Matthew Rudd

Handel: Chandos Anthem No. 9 *O praise the Lord with one consent*

J.S. Bach: Concerto for Oboe and Violin in D minor

Handel: Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 5 in D major  
and music by Mozart and Purcell

Interval refreshments

Retiring collection

Proceeds for St Mary's Church Restoration Fund and a charity

Who will challenge the successful pairing of Pumfrey & Kingsmill, Swaffham Priors answer to Mercedes McLaren for this year's prestigious honour?

## Help Needed!

We need marshals to make this event safe and run smoothly.

Volunteers can be of any age. Adults are needed to control traffic, keep the course clear & control the soap box runs. Younger ones can assist with above.



**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>  
June 2009**  
**First Run 11.00am**  
**Last Run 1.00pm (approx)**



## The Entrants...so far

If you do not see your name below or are not associated with someone named below with a soap box and you want to enter please get in touch. If you are listed below, give your team a name and advise me accordingly.

Pumfrey & Kingsmill (2008 Champions)

Josh & James Willmott

Connor & Reece Jones

Ted Hurst

Robert Hollingsworth

Dave Jackson

Charlie Fletcher

Tony Dodge

Simon Jeacock & Andrew Greenhill

Entries will be limited so register your interest with me, Tim Doe, on either:  
[stalkynorman@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:stalkynorman@swaffham-prior.co.uk) or 01638-743656

**Last Year's  
Winners:  
the triumphant  
Pumfrey-Kingsmill  
Mobile**



# PAMPERING EVENING



**Friday 6th March 2009**

in Reach Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 pm

£6 per ticket, includes glass of wine and mini treatment

*Limited spaces*

Please call 01638 742671 to reserve a ticket or for further information

All proceeds to Swaffham Prior School

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## **It Couldn't Happen in the Crier**

“A certain Richard Timney has taken to writing to his local newspaper, the *Redditch Advertiser*, extolling the virtues of the constituency MP, Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary. Mr Timney's letters also extend to defending controversial policies such as ID cards and to launching vigorous attacks on the Conservatives. Well it's a free country and lively political letters are meat and drink to local newspapers.

“It's just that Mr Timney also happens to be not only the Home Secretary's husband, but also her £40,000 a year 'senior researcher/parliamentary assistant'.”

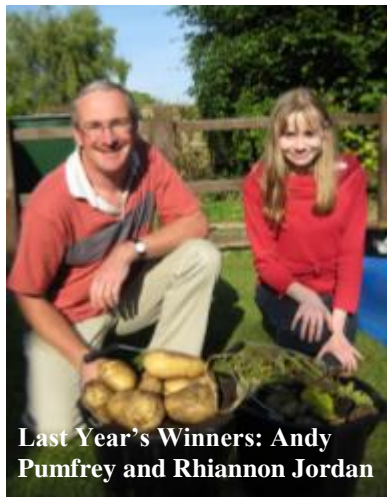
(Source: *Daily Telegraph* 21.12.2008)

# 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?



**Last Year’s Winners: Andy Pumfrey and Rhiannon Jordan**

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.

To order a bucket, please contact Dee Noyes:

**Telephone – 743864; Email – [noveshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:noveshome@swaffham-prior.co.uk);**

**Post – 1 Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior**

**FAIRHAVEN  
AND WOODS LTD**



**SPECIALIST CRAFTSMEN IN STONE**

## **BURWELL CLUNCH FOR SALE**

We have 6 bags of clunch stone suitable for repairs to local clunch buildings – approx. 1 tonne per bag. Price £100 (+VAT) per bag.

Please contact 01223 812555 for further information.

e-mail [office@fairhavengroup.co.uk](mailto:office@fairhavengroup.co.uk)





*Compère Alastair Everitt*

# FESTIVE SINGING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

THIS YEAR Carol Singing in the Village Hall was even better than ever with a very gratifying showing of cubs and scouts. I was told “We have our full complement of eighteen in both groups and soon we are starting Beavers”. How well and how successfully the scouting organisers have worked with what appears to be an ever increasing number of leaders and assistant leaders.

There were so many new faces as well as those old favourites such as the Primes and the Wilkinses – the phrase “regular troopers” comes to mind. This especially applies to Betty Prime who admonished the band and compère over our rendering of *O Christmas Tree* – “**If you are going to sing it, then sing it properly. Now try again**”. And we did. And we sang it “properly”.



*:Lead Singer Tim Doe*



*Andrew Noyes and the Band*

Andrew Noyes had dragged himself from his sick bed to lead his band and for the first year for some time Dave and Sue Jackson had to work hard to maintain the supply of mulled wine.

**Photos: Dee Noyes**

The singing was excellent. Tim Doe gave a rendering of *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* which would have made Bing turn in his grave with envy. As always *The Twelve Days of Christmas* produced its stars with Oliver Ginn being an appropriately rich contented partridge, Tina Jost and her girls were sensational five golden rings, while a group of the scouts gave a most lusty rendering of seven boys a-singing.



*Alastair Everitt*

*.....and the Village Chorus*

# BOXING DAY HOCKEY

IT WAS APPROPRIATELY A FINE AND VERY COLD DAY. This year Prior suffered the loss of many stalwart males, some still suffering from injuries incurred two years ago. A new scout, Sue Wade, was brought in, and she introduced the young, many of whom were females. This was a break with tradition as previously we just fielded the odd token girl. But they all played magnificently and at one time Bulbeck were overheard to say “C’mon, we’ve got to beat this lot, they’re only a bunch of girls.”

Well, not entirely, there was some new male talent as well as some older regulars under this year’s captain Nathan Wade. How he led from the front. He scored the only goal of the match. Bulbeck, as is their wont, took him out with a serious inside knee injury. A fully trained therapist on the touch line soon put that right and back he went, only to be pole-axed twice more, and only to bounce back both times.

Both goalies were magnificent and the Bulbeck team under new manager David Towriss were a formidable opposition. With two excellent umpires this was the cleanest match ever –possibly because of the presence of the girls? Sue Wade provided the mulled cider, £50.52 was raised for Magpas, and with all this new talent we now have a range of riches to select from for next year’s match.

Now follows the **Report from Our Special Hockey Correspondent**. This year it is all in verse. In the style of a variety of poets Tony Bowers covers every aspect of the match. Try reading it aloud.

There is a **prize of a good bottle of wine** to the person who can identify the largest number of poets and the poems/sources which have been the inspiration.

## **The Game’s Afoot (again) or The Return of the Hockey Wars**

An expectant buzz on the field of play  
Goals to score and a match to win,  
A bumping pitch, a frosty day,  
An hour of war, let trial begin!  
And not for the sake of silver tokens  
Or the selfish hope of a season’s fame,  
But a pint of ale or a glass of coke and  
Play up! Play up! And play the game.

Oh! Bulbeck’s Bulbeck, Prior’s Prior  
And ever the two shall meet



As long as rival villages  
Each other wish to beat.  
It matters not to either side  
What sort of breed or birth  
When two bold teams stand face to face  
Upon the muddy turf.  
They jog about, they laugh, they joke  
And stamp their booted feet  
Until the umpire whistles them  
To glory or defeat.

And gentlefolk in Swaffhams still abed  
Shall find themselves dismayed they were not there  
And hold their loyalties cheap when mention's made  
Of hockey played upon Saint Stephen's Day!

Play!  
They clashed their sticks and hacked at shins  
And bashed the orange to all quarters  
And strove their hardest for a win  
And feared to take a high ball on the chin  
And greeted umpire foibles with a grin  
And battled though the cause seemed dim



With hugger and mugger  
At times more like rugger  
Surged on the attackers, the defenders  
dug in.

Along the touchline fervent fans  
Urged on the favourites of both clans,  
While two girls bore mid mud and ice  
A banner with this proud device  
Swaffham Prior!

Hark! 'Bulbeck' was the cry  
Of some, of others 'Prior',  
As both sides tried  
To snatch the triumph of the hour.

No one heard the rebeck sound,  
But there were youths and there were  
maids

Running in the chequered shade,  
While young and old were heard to say  
It was a jolly Boxing Day!

The crucial contest witnessed either end  
Teams keen to raid or desperate to  
defend.

Both rival forwards struck a post,  
Both goalies kicked the ball when all  
seemed lost.

Was there to be no victor in this war,  
A game of stalemate void of any score?  
The strife seemed Sisyphean after all  
And then the perky Priors scored a goal!  
The Bulbecks vowed to hit back and to  
win,

They were determined,  
Prior's margin thin.  
Black shirts stormed the line, could  
white shirts hold,  
Would Bulbeck triumph  
plucky Prior fold?

At last the whistle blew to great delight  
For those who'd gained advantage in the  
fight.

Now everybody cheered the team  
Which this fine fight had won  
And hoped the fixture would remain  
And never cease to run,  
For which all hope and long to see.  
Ah! 'T' was a famous victory!

*Tony Bowers*





# Singing Workshops For Fun!

are still being held in  
**Swaffham Prior Village Hall on  
Monday evenings 7.30-9.00pm**

They are open to anyone who fancies singing. The emphasis is on enjoyment and developing the confidence to bring out hidden or stifled ability.

According to workshop leader Cath Coombs, people are often too inhibited to sing as much as they'd like:

"So many people sing their hearts out when they think they can't be heard, like in the bath, say, or while they're driving, but never do it at any other time. These workshops give people who love to sing the chance to meet up behind closed doors and really let rip."

Workshops involve work on breathing and warming up the voice as participants are taken through a series of fun, loosening up exercises geared towards being able to sing more freely. As Cath explains:

"People regularly surprise themselves at what they can do once they let go and relax."

A variety of songs are learnt by ear and there is also the opportunity to sing harmonies. People are welcome to bring their own suggestions for songs to sing too.

No previous experience of singing is necessary, and participants don't need to be able to read music. There is a unique beauty to be found in everybody if only they are given a chance.

For more information, contact Cath Coombs on 0781 01 465 01 or [c.coombs@talktalk.net](mailto:c.coombs@talktalk.net)



*Workshop leader Cath Coombs singing with her much-acclaimed band: The Awesome Soul Collective*

## FOUND

Black and White Male Cat wearing a blue collar.  
Please ring 01638 741876 for further details.  
Thank you.

***R. Riggs***

**A great deal has changed in the world of agriculture since now retired local farmer John Norris first negotiated the road from Upware to take charge of his new farm. In this month's edition, John tells us about .....**

## Fertilisers

OVER THE PAST FIFTY YEARS the fertiliser industry has had many changes, especially in the way they are applied. I well remember when I was at school, the playing field had patches of daisies everywhere, and the trick to remove them was to use sulphate of ammonia. We were issued with a small bag of the stuff, and told to drop a few crystals on the centre of every plant, usually at playtime. This chemical had two effects, it burnt out the centre of the daisy, and fertilised the surrounding grass, so that it soon covered the spot. I mention this because there was no other way of applying it selectively; indeed no other way without investment in machinery. We boys were numerous and cheap.

On a farm scale most fertilisers were in the form of ground crystals, very dusty and prone to get damp and clog up into lumps. In my memory they were usually delivered in paper bags, the inner layer being sprayed with a plastic film to keep out any moisture, and to prevent any chemical sticking to the paper. These bags weighed one hundred-weight each, and had to be man-handled. They originally came via the railway, which involved much handling; out of the railway truck onto a farm trailer, then unload into a storage shed, later to be reloaded and taken to the field to finally tipped into the spreader. This system was improved by the use of a lorry train. In the 1960's the ICI firm would deliver an hundred ton order in one day ! A group of six fifteen ton lorries ( a little overloaded) would arrive, the first at eight o'clock in the morning, and take it's load to the appropriate shed. All my staff would be on hand ( nobody wishing to be excused this mammoth task!), to off load these bags, and make a tidy stack. It did not take long, and as there was usually another waiting to be unloaded, we just got on with it.

We did this for two years until Chafers, a spray chemical firm developed a system to deliver these plant nutrients in liquid form. This required adapting the spraying equipment, and providing suitable storage tanks. But, the advantages were clear. No carrying heavy bags, at any time. No involvement in accepting deliveries, and especially at the time we used the fertiliser, no hard work in spreading it. At this time the rail network was being overhauled by Dr Beeching, and in addition to rail closures many wagons were declared obsolete.. The old oil tankers were far too small for use and were scrapped. I purchased two to these, one at each of the farms. They arrived on lorries, loaded by a heavy duty crane , but little thought was given as to how to unload them We were told they weighed three tons each, and that a tractor front end loader could mange it. Well-- my equipment did not make any attempt to lift the thing off, chiefly because there was a considerable amount of crude oil in the bottom. I had not realised how complicated these tankers were, as

inside was a collection of heavy steam pipes to keep the oil warm and so liquid. The tanks we received were loaded with thick gluey oil three feet thick.

In the end we found we could not lift even one end. We had to hire a crane to lift them off, and place them on the wood cradles we had ready for them. Later we lit fires under the tank; thinned the oil, and I'm afraid to say let it run out into a trench, and burned it. Not quite such a terrible thing to do, as it would have been burned anyway, either in cars, or industry. At this time it was common to burn much farm rubbish. Fields of unwanted straw and other crop wastes were set on fire. I don't think our small very seasonal pollution activities did much harm, but nowadays it would not be tolerated.

So being set up with tanks the fertiliser business was easy. Many types of liquid were soon available for use on the different crops, indeed I had to purchase another larger tank for the land near the Reach farm, but I was one jump ahead of the supplier, in that the contract was to install the tank on footings I had prepared, so no lifting problems. This new tank was painted green, and looked very smart. The old rail trucks looked very shabby but did have SHELL written on them. I was sorry that logo had to go to give a smart appearance to the farm-yard.

Whilst this new system was going on, changes were also in progress in the solid fertiliser business. The prill was invented, and eventually the paper bag was replaced by a polythene one holding one ton. This meant that all the handling was done by machinery, and the larger quantity reduced the loading time. Today most fertiliser is delivered this way, although I do notice the large liquid tanks are still around. My two rail tanks have since been cut up and sent away as scrap metal. The prill is a system of heating the mixed chemicals, and adding sufficient water to make them flow. They are then poured down a tower like rain, and solidify as they fall. These round balls are then sorted and the correct size bagged up, the odd bits go through the system again. This makes it easy to measure accurately the amount put on the land.

So the fertiliser manufacture has had many changes, and I am certain there are more to come. The method of applying them has changed also. In the early days, the horse drawn spreader would cover eight feet or so, and worked by flicking the granules off a revolving plate. This plate was half outside, and half inside the box of fertiliser with a shutter to regulate the amount let out. This idea lasted many years until power was available. Today the chemicals are measured out in the centre of the machine, and blown by air down pipes on to the ground. These pipes can be almost any length, so thirty foot spreaders are common. Power also enabled high speed revolving discs to fling the granules over a considerable distance, whilst another idea was a steel tube waving back and forth at speed, again involving a sort of flicking action.

All these changes have enabled the farms to be run by very few staff these days. High output, modern techniques, even satellite navigation to get the rows straight, or to alter the rate of application to suit the soil conditions; just type in the requirements, burn the disc, place it in the slot, and away we go. Oh yes, and don't forget to put on the radio!

*John Norrris*

## **JUMBLE SALE 14<sup>th</sup> March**

Spring is just around the corner so now is the time to start thinking about de-cluttering your home.

We have not had a jumble sale in Prior for several years, so here is a wonderful opportunity to bring along anything which you think some —one might like to buy [kindly take unsaleable items to the recycling depot]. Items can be brought to the Village Hall from 10.00a.m.-12noon. The sale will be from 2.00-4.00.p.m.

There will also be a magnificent TOMBOLA with some unbelievable prizes!

## **GARAGE SALES 6<sup>th</sup> June**

To save you transporting large items there will be another opportunity to de-clutter and at the same time you could make some profit. By request we are repeating last year's first ever GRAND VILLAGE GARAGE SALES, where you put items for sale on your drive or garage or have a pitch [for free!] on the meadow opposite the thatched cottage in the High Street, and just sit back and wait for the buyers to come to you. You fix the price and it is suggested you keep half and donate the other half to the church.

**START SORTING NOW — GOOD LUCK!**

[More details in the crier nearer the time]

*Kate Child*

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## **Dinner & Race-night 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009, 7.30pm**

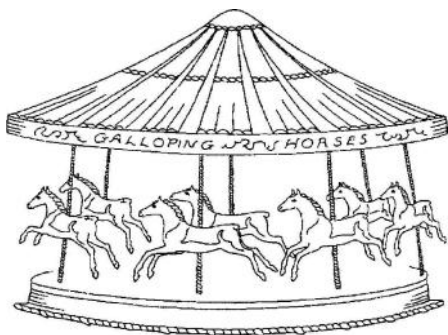


**Come and enjoy a night at the races at Swaffham Bulbeck  
School Hall**

**This will be a sell-out event, so get your tickets early!**

Adults only: Tickets £4.50 (incl Jacket potato + filling). Bring your own drinks + glasses. Tickets from Claire C. 813736/School Office/Lode + Bulbeck PO.

*Proceeds in aid of Swaffham Bulbeck C of E Primary School PSA*



# *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**

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“Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives.”

## **Great British Fish and Chip Supper**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 Ex. 229 or email [fishandchips@spinal.co.uk](mailto:fishandchips@spinal.co.uk) or visit [www.spinal.co.uk](http://www.spinal.co.uk)

# Wicken Vision

The Wicken Fen Vision marks its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, a good opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved during the past decade. Land under conservation management has more than doubled to 755 hectares with significant progress being made to the re-creation of a mosaic of fenland habitats for wildlife and people to enjoy. Public access to the countryside has been significantly enhanced and the development of a spine route linking Waterbeach and Anglesey Abbey to Wicken Fen is on course to be completed in the next year or so. Wildlife highlights include return of Otter, Water Vole and Bittern's one of the UK's most



elusive wetland birds breeding at Wicken Fen, the first time since the 1930's. Whilst much has been achieved it must be remembered that the Vision is a long term project and is expected to take at least another 90 years to implement in full.

The inaugural meeting of the Wicken Fen Vision User Forum was held in early December. The forum is an advisory group made up of representatives of User groups such as walkers, cyclists, horse riders, bird watcher's and anglers. The

forum will look at plans and proposals from the User's perspective to help make sure that new facilities and infrastructure, such as way marked walks, bridges, gates, meets the needs and requirements of as many different users as possible. Subjects discussed at the first meeting included, the provision of additional gateways to Tubney Fen, the design for a new bird hide on Tubney Fen, the design and provision of mounting blocks for horse riders and access across Guinea Hall Farm. The Trust is keen to hear from the public and would welcome suggestions for items to be considered by the forum. Suggestions should be submitted to David Dench, Countryside and Community Manager at Wicken Fen – Tel 01353 720274 or e-mail [david.dench@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:david.dench@nationaltrust.org.uk)

The wonder of Wicken Fen has recently been captured on six short video films which can be found on the Wicken Fen website [www.wicken.org.uk](http://www.wicken.org.uk). The films cover topics such as the Wicken Fen Vision, management of the Fen, the extensive grazing project and the wildlife of Wicken Fen. The videos can be viewed by clicking the link on the Wicken Fen homepage.

The team at Wicken Fen are always available to give illustrated talks on Wicken Fen and the Vision. If you would like to arrange a speaker please call in or telephone the Visitor Centre 01353 720274.

It maybe cold but it's a great time to wrap-up warm and enjoy the wonderful walks and wildlife Wicken Fen can offer at this time of year. Don't forget to call in at the Visitor Centre for Trail Guides and reports on the latest wildlife sightings.

Hope to see you at the Fen soon.

# School News



The new term has started well and all of the children have new topics they are learning about. The children in Mercury and Mars Class have the topic title, 'Eureka!' They are going to be looking at Inventors and Inventions from the past 100 years. They started off the term with a visit from Denny Abbey, where they learned all about Washdays 100 years ago. They all agreed that it is much easier now! Saturn and Neptune Class are studying, 'Glad to be Me!' As part of our involvement in the Cambridgeshire Safer Routes to Schools programme, they started off their project with a visit from the Road Safety Team who challenged them to use the Carbometer to see whether walking or driving to school was better for them and the environment.

There are lots of sporting activities taking place this half term. The Year 4 children have taken part in a Racket Festival at Bottisham Village College and the Year 5/6 boys did extremely well at the Football Festival. We are also working with Cambridge United Football Club at the moment, they are coming in to give the Year 5/6 girls extra football lessons. We have a Tag Rugby specialist working with Saturn Class as well. Our very popular High 5s (netball) team are taking part in some league matches later this month, so we wish them well for that.



*Denny Abbey — the children visited the old washhouse.*

We have definitely got a date for the installation of the new swimming pool; it is going to be put in at Easter. We would not have been able to have the pool put in so early without the hard work of FoSPS and the generous nature of the local community, so thank you once again. We were also very pleased to have our application for a lottery Awards For All grant accepted at the end of last year. This means we will be able to offer swimming lessons to those children from more disadvantaged backgrounds and also pay for a lifeguard to enable the pool to be used more by the local community on selected weekends.

As it is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin this year, we will be celebrating with a Darwin day in the Summer term. We have it on good authority that he used to come looking for samples on Swaffham Prior Fen when he was a student at the University. If anyone has any information about Charles Darwin and his connection to Swaffham Prior we would love to hear from you.

The CC Café continues to be held at the school once every half term. All members of the local community are very welcome to come and join us for a coffee and slice of homemade cake. The next two dates are: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30-3.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Emma Vincent**  
Head Teacher

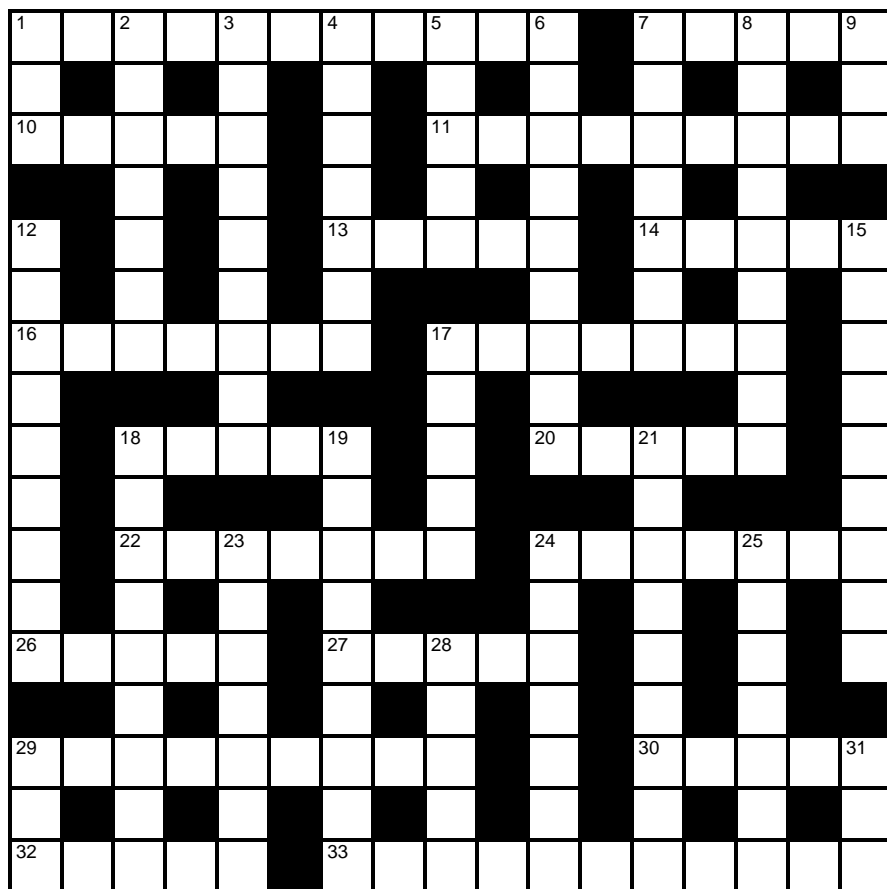
# Crossword Number 59

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

**OUNCE**

Looking forward to warmer weather, clues marked with \* refer to Spring flowers and have no other definition. Send your answers to the editors by 18 February 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:.....

Address.....

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



## Across

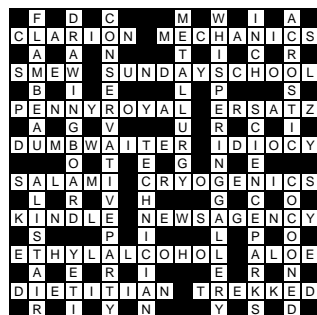
- 1 \* Helena comes adrift (11)
- 7 Christie's crime-solver loses right to syrup (5)
- 10 31D for instance, \_\_\_ed in Spring for fleece (5)
- 11 Celebrating big cat, I perform vocal number (9)
- 13 One in fifty and five hundred fastened shoe for example (5)
- 14 E.g. saint, abandons brightest at start of new life (5)
- 16 \* Frenzied faeries (7)
- 17 Crests for Doctors or Thugs? Quite the opposite (7)
- 18 Fundamental in precis abstracted backwards (5)
- 20 Is it essential to find places within? (5)
- 22 Release snake tailing short relation (7)
- 24 100 Rand for crumpled hat? What a game! (7)
- 26 Boast about clog (5)
- 27 \* Jacks and ensigns (5)
- 29 Tiny part of silly Tim on hill (9)
- 30 Wear away 'Arriet's poem (5)
- 32 Seasonal builds for 19D, for example (5)
- 33 \* Choke "Ely Sun" in other words (11)

## Down

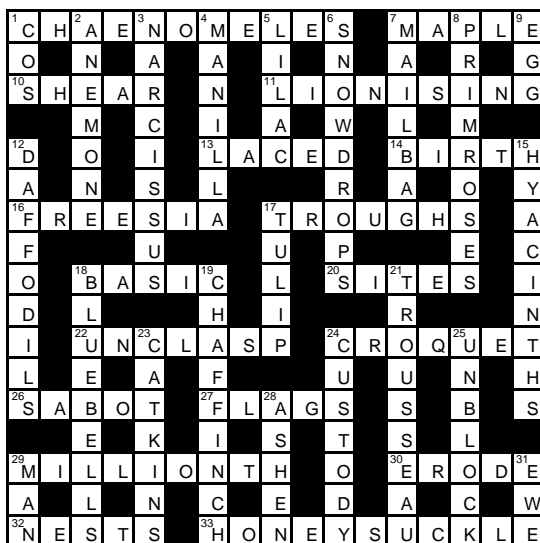
- 1 Green salad in bowl that Coco snatches (3)
- 2 \* Emigrants leave senior management deranged (7)
- 3 \* One with a beautiful reflection (9)
- 4 Paper makes him less well we hear (7)

- 5 \* Lavender is likely as colour of this originally (5)
- 6 \* Downs prose endlessly translated (9)
- 7 Carried by deliveryman upset when perambulating punter disappears (4-3)
- 8 \* Impress or go berserk (9)
- 9 Produced by 19D for example in 32A (3)
- 12 \* Unusually loud theologian fails nothing (9)
- 15 \* Itchy Hans staggered (9)
- 17 \* Unspoilt son removed and spoilt (5)
- 18 \* Sad ringers (9)
- 19 32A builder; unwanted husks on Scottish island (9)
- 21 Bridal outfit sautes our concoction (9)
- 23 \* Ounce and lion some of these? (7)
- 24 Held by police in Damascus to dynamite rebels (7)
- 25 Remove bearing from protective skin cream to remove obstruction (7)
- 28 Pale like a chicken? (5)
- 29 Three-legged island male (3)
- 31 One to be 10A-ed is eye opener for bridge partners (3)

## Solution to crossword no. 58



# Solution to crossword no. 59



We congratulate Margaret Beckley, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Bob and Julie Nunn, Chris Whitehead and Shirley Wilkins.



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

## Tell us if your collection is up to standard

From January, residents of East Cambs only need one number to call about their recycling and rubbish collection. The District Council is using its most recognisable number, 01353 665555, as a helpline for anyone who has a query, comment or complaint about their waste collection. Whether it be when their sack wasn't delivered or a compliment about the service, then there will be specially trained officers on hand to help.

The helpline is staffed from 8.45 to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am to 4.30pm Friday, and the Council is committed to responding to queries as soon as it can.

## The Credit Crunch

On January 8th, the Council held an important Members Seminar on the impact of the Credit Crunch on the Council and the local economy. The event followed the publication of a special review by the Chief Executive of East Cambs Council that was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee last December.

The Seminar, which was included elected representatives from neighbouring



South Cambridgeshire, focused on what the Council could do to minimise the impact of the economic downturn on our local community. Many of the contributions focused on provision of affordable housing, transport and support for Citizens Advice Bureaux and other voluntary groups offering help and guidance. All these, plus other ideas, will be incorporated into an Action Plan which will be presented to Policy and Resource Committee.



## From our Local County Councillor Hazel Williams

1. Local representations were successful in the decision of the County Council **to retain the evening and Sunday buses (10 and 10A)** in this area of the county. They will however be looking again at the Sunday buses in the summer. The reason that the direct service (12) from Cambridge to Newmarket, which has now been cut, was not consulted upon is because this was a Stagecoach commercial service and not a subsidised one. The last two buses of the day, although following the 10/10A route in this area will now be numbered the 12.



2. Cambridgeshire – the fastest growing county in the country - will receive an increase of 1.9% (£1.71 per person) in **Government Grant** next year compared to a county council average of 4.2%. As a result Cambridgeshire County Council will need to find savings of around £19 million. This compares with Essex receiving £3.47, Suffolk which will get £8.87 and Norfolk who benefit by £12.88 per person.

Cambridgeshire's below inflation increase will have to meet the cost of any increases in road maintenance, social care, respite care for children and libraries at a time of rising unemployment, when spending in the public sector is being expected to support the economy.

**3. Adult Social Support Services** provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and its partners have been given a two star rating by Government inspectors – up from the previous year's one star rating.

**4. The new Milton Road park and ride** is located south of Butt Lane just off the A10. The new site provides customers with improved facilities including over 500 car parking spaces with room to expand to 1,000 at a later date. The Cowley road site is now closed. The buses will depart every 10 minutes on weekdays. For all route and timetable information for Milton Park & Ride log onto [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/parkride](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/parkride) or call 01223 845561.

**5. Home to School Transport charges** are due to go up on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents and students will be advised of the eligibility criteria when making choices about post 16 transport. This is because Stagecoach have put up their charges by 10% so the current rate won't cover the Authority's costs for 2009/10.



## WI Notes

At the open meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup> an enthusiastic audience listened to John Norris describe the Village as it was when he first came here fifty years ago. John took us on an imaginary walk from Rogers Road right along the High Street with recollections involving the various shops, pubs and tradesmen that made up the community at that time. It was a fascinating wander down memory lane with lots of audience participation and we are very grateful to John for taking the time to share his memories with us.

Our next meeting is on 16<sup>th</sup> February when our speaker will be Anne Datsun when we will learn about the craft of serviette-work.

If you are interested in becoming a WI member then come along to our friendly group - or give me a ring on 01638 742224 .

*Pat Cook, President*



## The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union Group had its final Meeting of the year on December 11<sup>th</sup>. As usual we met in Lode Chapel but at a slightly earlier time, as this Meeting took the form of a Bring & Share Lunch! It was a lovely way to "round off" our year with much relaxed fellowship shared in pleasant cosy surroundings. Some of us brought our husbands to this Lunch and 28 of us sat down to a very tasty meal, all of which was provided by ourselves. It is amazing how such a tasty meal can come together in this way and we enjoyed cold meats, quiches and all sorts of salads, followed by a sumptuous selection of desserts! We decided that we have some hidden secrets in the form of cooking talents in our villages!

Wyn Norton was presented with gifts to say thank you for all her dedication and work as Branch Leader for Mothers' Union. For many years she was the Branch Leader of the Swaffham Bulbeck Group and for the last two years she has been Leader of our recently amalgamated group – The Anglesey Group. She felt that after many years of service, she would like to step down from this role. We are very grateful to Wyn for all the work she has done and we presented her with a gift of a pen and Poinsettia plant to show our sincere appreciation.

Our afternoon was ended with some Carol Singing and a short "Thought" from David our Vicar in the form of a story which illustrated perfectly the true meaning of Christmas. We then wished each other "A Merry Christmas" in musical form and made a very joyful noise in Lode Chapel with our singing!

I would like to say thank you to all who came and all those who helped beforehand, as this very pleasant afternoon was a good way to "Set the Scene" for Christmas.

Our next Meeting will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. "Town Pastors in Newmarket" sounds an intriguing subject and we will be learning all about this new scheme. Do come and join us – you will be most welcome!

*Pauline Lewis*

## A Wee Verrse Parody for Burrn's Nicht!

Wee, slickit, tim'rous beastie,  
Ane's a digit 'at's a leastie;  
Twa is mair a'tho' ye ken  
On o'r way tae caunt tae ten.

Should auld acquaintance be  
forgot  
We'er we tak' a lik' o' not?  
We'er the dee be bricht o' foggy,  
I wad stoop doun 'n fastna ma  
broggie.

'Till a' the seas gang dry my dear,  
Thre' is ane a' twa, my dear;  
Whilst yet ano'er ane mak faw.  
Tae cum ye in, kek a' the daw.

Ane = One. Twa = Two  
Thre' = Three Faw = Four  
Fastna ma broggie = Buckle my  
shoe  
Kek a' the daw = Knock at the  
door

*Ophir, With Apologies  
To the Scots*

purchase the ticket - nothing could be simpler. The House is full of incredibly interesting features which you don't often see on just one visit to see us so this ticket will be ideal for anyone who wants to get a bit more out of the House. We are not the only ones who offer such a great deal - lots of visitor attractions do in Ely - which means you don't have to go far to broaden your horizons "

For more information for the residents pass at Oliver Cromwell House contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01353 662062. Prices start at of £4.30 per adult, £3.85 per concession, £3.00 per child and £12.50 for a family ticket.

Resident's passes are also available for Ely Cathedral, Ely Museum and Stained Glass Museum for further information please enquire at the individual attraction.

## PAY ONCE TO CATCH UP WITH OLIVER WHENEVER YOU LIKE

This year, local East Cambridgeshire residents calling into Oliver Cromwell's House can take advantage of a great special offer.

For a one off Adult admission price of £4.30, residents can buy a yearly pass to let them to visit Oliver Cromwell's House as many times as they like.

As well as being ideal when family and friends are visiting, there are other benefits to the pass these include receiving details on in advance on Oliver Cromwell and other family events, Heritage Month information and monthly newsletters.

Tracey Harding, Tourism Team Leader at East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "In these difficult economic times, we know how important it is to get the most from your money and your leisure time. This is why we reminding people about our resident pass at Oliver Cromwell's House. For the price of a normal admission you can visit the House visit again and again for free which is really useful for event days or when you have friends and family to stay.

"All you have to do is present proof that you are resident in East Cambridgeshire and then



# Notes from the Parish Council Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Chairman John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the Public.

**Minutes of Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008:** These were agreed.

**Correspondence Received:** This was reported to the meeting.

**Completion of Cemetery Maintenance:** The work to clear the access adjacent to the cemetery and the tidying of the trees on the front boundary was completed by Ben Hudson. Also the Probation Team had completed their work inside the cemetery. Some further work is needed to cut back the higher branches of trees on the cemetery boundary. This work is to be assessed before further instructions to contractor. The removal of the spoil heap was considered not urgent and will be dealt with in due course.

**Report on Neighbourhood Panel Meeting:** John Covill and Geoffrey Woollard reported on the meeting.

**Confirmation of Contribution to Speedwatch Scheme:** This was confirmed at £80. *A separate notice is included in the Crier inviting volunteers for the Speedwatch Scheme.*

**Tothill Road Footpath – outstanding maintenance:** It was brought to the attention of Andrew Camps that when the two Poplar trees were removed some time ago, the footpath was not adequately repaired. It was suggested that the Clerk contact CCC footpaths to ask them to inspect this area and advise on repair works.

**Change to Upward Sign (additional info for Football Ground):** The suggested layout and size of a new sign was considered unnecessary and costly at approximately £175. The PC felt there was no need to take down current “Upware” sign but just to add a second small sign beneath directing to “Football Ground”. The Clerk is to discuss further with CCC Highways.

**Parish Path Partnership – application for 2009/10:** This is to be carried forward to next meeting.

**Final Confirmation of Precept for 2009/10:** This was confirmed at £14,500 with no increase on last year.

**Planning Application Received:**

Zoar Baptist Church, Rogers Road – *change of use of Chapel and School Room to residential. Ref's: 08/01058/FUL & 08/01142/LBC.* There were no objections.

**The Lodes & The Fens:** It was reported that the corner on Whiteway Drove (near Highbridge Farm) was extremely icy and it would be useful if a small grit bin could be placed on the verge in this area. This was to be discussed further at the next meeting.

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

**Items for Next Agenda:**

Cemetery maintenance

The Lodes & Fens



Sign for Football Ground

Parish Path Partnership

### **Open Question Time:**

The graffiti on the road sign coming into the village was discussed. The Clerk to contact CCC Highways.

**Note:** It would be of great assistance if, as Spring approaches, people could check that hedgerows, etc., on property boundaries are kept trimmed back to ensure that they do not overhang any public footpath or right of way. Thank you for your help.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 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

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## **SPEEDWATCH SCHEME**

Is organised by the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership through their Neighbourhood Panel Scheme. It is for those wishing to take the initiative to promote speed reduction and prevent speeding within the parishes.

Funding to purchase the equipment needed (hand held speed cameras) is being provided by a combination of monies from the County Council, the Constabulary and District and Parish Councils.

A successful pilot scheme has been carried out in the Soham and East panel area and details of this can be found on the Neighbourhood Panel webpage at; [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk).

Groups of volunteers are needed from the parishes. Volunteers are trained by the Police to use the Speedwatch equipment and run the scheme. Volunteers do not have to stay in their own parish but can help with the scheme in other parishes.

Several people have already come forward to volunteer and the first training session is already in place.

If you would like to get involved with the above or would like further information, please contact Karen or a Parish Councillor.

## **Mobile Library**

### **Dates for 2009**

**Cage Hill: 3.15-3.50**

**Chapel 3.55-4.15**

### **February**

10<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

### **March**

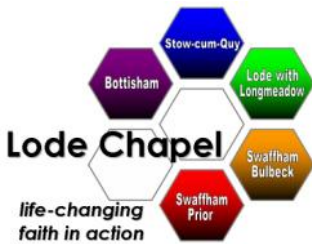
10<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>



Do feel welcome to use this marvellous service. Greetings cards and stamps for sale. Videos to rent.

***Use it or Lose it!***



## In the midst of a busy life – find some ‘Sacred Space’...

Is your life hectic and busy? Do you worry sometimes that the ladder you’re so frantically trying to climb might be leaning against the wrong wall? Do you crave some occasional peace and quiet – and a sanctuary from the numerous demands upon your time and energy? Well, a new type of service, called ‘**Sacred Space**’, might be just for you...

During summer last year, when I was away on holiday, one of the church members, Phil Routley, led a contemplative service, the basis of which was an hour of guided silence. Whilst some people, perhaps more used to a ‘normal’ church service, struggled to cope with the silence, a number of others found it a particularly refreshing experience.

So now ‘**Sacred Space**’ has become a regular part of our programme. It takes place on the first Sunday of the month, from 5.30pm until 6.30pm (although the Chapel doors open at 5.00pm when refreshments are available). The hour is split into three parts – and each part is initiated with the same short phrase. The details of the next two services are:

**Sun 1st February** – *‘Be still and know that I am God’ (Psalm 46:10)*

**Sun 1st March** – *‘Consider your way of life’ (Haggai 1:5)*

There’s a story in the Bible about a guy called Elijah – he’s going through a tough time and he longs to hear God’s voice. As he sits depressed in a cave, a hurricane rages outside. Then there’s an earthquake, and after that there’s a forest fire. But in the midst all of these loud and dramatic events, Elijah is unaware of God’s presence. But the hurricane, earthquake and fire are followed by a gentle whisper – and it is in the quietness that Elijah is able to hear God speak to him. (See 1 Kings 19:9-13 for the whole story).

In church – even if the music is modern and exciting, and the preacher’s talk interesting – it can sometimes seem like a one-way conversation where we do all the talking, and God is unable to get a word in. The silence of ‘**Sacred Space**’, however, gives us an opportunity to do a bit of listening, and perhaps to hear that still small voice as we seek God’s comfort or guidance.

All are welcome to attend these events – nothing will be expected or asked of you except from sitting in silence for an hour – so feel free to just turn up. If you’d like more information, however, then please contact me (details below). Phil, who is leading the services, has very helpfully put together some information about ‘**Sacred Space**’ and I would be happy to pass that on to you.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month).



February RE:NEW dates...

RE:NEW Bulbeck – 10.30am, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

RE:NEW Bottisham – 10.30am, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

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

For more details about RE:NEW visit [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)

**For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.**

**Tel:** (01223) 812881

**Email:** [simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk)

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## FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me 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.



Offers	Wants	Details:
Extending fireguard, bronze colour (Argos Cat No: 375/2393) Stairgate (Argos Cat No: 375/5493) Fisher Price baby booster seat (Tesco Cat No; 203-2802)		Frank 01223 812890
	Pallets for woodburner	Andrea, 01223 812412
Graco rear-facing infant car-seat and Graco universal base. 4.5 years old, no accidents.		Jun, 01223 813362
Adult bicycle, step through, good order, green		Anne 07908 116 562 or <a href="mailto:annekilby@gmail.com">annekilby@gmail.com</a>
19" colour TV (Bang & Olufsen) with stand, freeview box + video recorder Apple Computer Powermac 5500/275 with software Mac OS 8.5, printer + scanner		David & Marilyn, 01223 811888

Dear Friends,

February is always remembered as the month of love because of Valentine's Day. According to legend, the valentine takes its name from a young Christian who once lived in ancient Rome. The Roman soldiers did not want to leave their homes to fight the emperor's wars. Emperor Claudius II ordered the young men not to marry. He thought that if they did not have homes, they would be willing to go away and fight. Valentine felt sorry for the unhappy young men and their sweethearts and so he married many of them secretly.



Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine was imprisoned because of his faith. Often and longingly he thought of his loved ones, and wanted to assure them of his well-being and his love. Legend tells us that beyond his cell window, and beyond reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some heart-shaped leaves and pierced them to spell the words, "Remember your Valentine," then sent them off by a friendly dove. On the next day and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the valentine have its beginning. On Valentine's Day, people of all ages remember those they love by sending valentines.

God invented love, and, in the love that couples share in their relationship, they get a glimpse of His love for them. Someone once wrote this about marriage '*A perfect marriage is a marriage of three persons: a man, a woman and God.*' That statement says a great deal about the role of God in marriage.

I find that Couples are often very unclear in their minds about the legal position of getting married in a parish Church. As a Church of England Vicar I am in the very privileged and responsible position of being appointed both the Minister presiding over a marriage ceremony and the Registrar making a legal record of the marriage. This is because the Church of England is still legally recognised as the established Church of our country.

One of the happy implications of being the established Church is that couples needn't be baptised members to be married in their parish Church they simply have to meet the residential qualifications. Normally the legality of the marriage is established by the reading of banns for three consecutive Sundays, but it can also be established by the issuing of a licence or a special licence (although in the case of a special licence at least one of the parties needs to be baptised). During 2008 the Church of England agreed that many more couples can avoid the necessity of applying for a Special Licence if they can demonstrate a strong personal or family connection with a particular Church, even if they no longer live in the parish. The banns are read in the normal way with the addition of the statement that the person/persons have a 'qualifying connection' with the Church.

In recent years the Church of England has softened its approach to the remarriage of divorced persons in Church. It is still regarded as the exception rather than the norm, but, if a couple can demonstrate that their relationship is free from the burdens of past mistakes and not the cause of the divorce, then we are happy to welcome the

remarriage of divorced persons in Church. We recognise that God is about forgiveness as well as love, that He understands our failures and weaknesses and wants to help us to come to terms with the burdens of the past. He wants to help us to rebuild our lives and to find new happiness and the loving companionship of a new relationship.

My task in helping a couple prepare for their wedding day is to guide them through the proposed ceremony, and to help them make it a truly memorable and special occasion. This means making the service personal for them by helping them choose readings, music and hymns that are special to them, advising them on the role of friends and family in the ceremony and helping them to prepare the order of the service. I also help them to understand the full implications of what they are entering into, and we often have lively discussions on the issues of communication in marriage, sharing decision making, dealing with money and coping with conflict and disagreements.

The liturgy of the Church of England provides for a standard form of vows to be said by the couple. This is the focal point of the service, and represents a public declaration of the love that the bride and groom have for each other. These days the majority of couples exchange rings, reminding them of the equality that exists in the marriage relationship today, and this is also emphasised by the bride no longer being required to ‘obey’ her husband.

Getting married in Church is surprisingly inexpensive by comparison with all the other costs often associated with weddings, and with the setting of a wonderful mediaeval building, the bells, the music and the flowers there cannot be a more perfect setting for a marriage ceremony. So, if you are considering getting married, talk to me about the possibility of getting married in your local parish Church.

May God bless you all,

*David*

	<b>ST MARY’S Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Sun 1</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion
<b>Sun 8</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 15</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 22</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins

**Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish**

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FEBRUARY 2009

Sat	7	Mark Towriss Memorial, 7.30pm, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	14	Valentine's Day
Mon	16	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	18	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Thu	19	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm Lode Chapel
Tue	24	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	26	Tapas & Talk, St Ethelreda's Church, 7 for 7.30pm
Sat	28	Quiz Night, 7.30pm, VH
<b>Mar</b> <b>Sat</b>	6	Pampering Evening, Reach VH, 7.30-9.30 Dinner & Race Night, SB School Hall, 7.30pm

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
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	Andrew Noyes	743864	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	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	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