



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 1

January 2009



Editorial

THERE WAS A TIME, so only our Treasurer recalls and so definitely in the *dim and distant past*, when Village Institutions that use the **Crier** gave it regular donations in return, just as the **Crier** itself used to donate to the Village Hall when it collated there.

Well, we were wondering if that tradition could make a *comeback*, and at the same time very much thank those organisations who, with advanced warning of this appeal, have already most generously responded?

If you are new to the village, you should know that the **Crier** is put together and distributed absolutely *free*, it is only printing costs (+stamps and envelopes!) that we need to cover. We are asking because the cost of our higher quality print (you may have noticed this in the last few editions) can not be covered by advertising revenue this year.

Many thanks to our advertisers, new and old, who nevertheless *almost* completely fund the **Crier**, and we hope our readers will take this opportunity to glance through our new advertising pages for 2009.

And speaking of advertising, can we take this opportunity to offer a great many thanks to business manager **Roger Connan**

who, after 7 years of doing a superb job, is finally hanging up his hat? And offer a big welcome to **Pat Cook**, our very first Advertising *Editor*, and **Peter Cook**, who will be taking over from Roger on the business side.

Now all we need is a Local Info Editor! Yes, **Crier** local info (on the inside of our Cover) can be woefully deficient, and all too frequently reflects the dim and distant past. It needs overhauling and updating. But it's quite a job, keeping up with who's the latest local Bobby and who to ring in *different sorts* of emergencies. Volunteers?

Meanwhile, a very Big Welcome to our new Publican at the Lion, Bob, and his daughter Wendy! One thing has become clear over the last few months: this must be *the most challenging job* in the whole village — our very best wishes to you!

As usual, pre-Christmas print deadlines have caught people on the hop, and this edition is a Slim but Quality Magazine!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL!

Cover Picture: *HAPPY NEW YEAR!* by S. A. Outspan

Caroline Matheson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors.

Amazing Advent

Hurrah for Swaffham Prior. When visiting family in the village recently I was delighted to find that the latest edition of the Swaffham Crier had just been delivered - always a good read. I was even more delighted to note that the village had taken the decision to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent in a Scottish vein, it falling on St Andrew's Day.

As an 'adopted' Scot, to see St Andrew's Day being marked in this way in an English village filled me with pride. However, I was less than sure about the choice of *Amazing Grace* as a key hymn. So I did a small bit of research to confirm my suspicions.

The words to *Amazing Grace* were written in the late C18th by John Newtown of Wapping in collaboration with William Cowper of Olney. The song later became a favourite in the United States during the civil war. As far as I have been able to find out the connection with Scotland didn't start until the 1960s when it became popular with Highland bagpipe bands. So rather than being one of Scotland's most well-known folk-hymns it is indeed one of England's, with a long history in America.

I am happy to be corrected as I have relied on the internet and Scottish friends for my information, but, Swaffham Prior it is 10/10 for effort and 5/10 for accuracy!

Clare Malster

Dear Editors,

Open Churches

Simply to thank all the kind people who make time to keep the churches open every day. There is a rota of eleven people. Weekly, each person opens and shuts the churches daily.

It would be lovely if more people could join in, to lessen the load. You would be very welcome. Easy to fit with dog walks!

Patricia Harrison

742850

Ah, is this a hint? But we'd always be forgetting.... Eds

Dear Editors,

...and there's more....

Visitors often comment on how nice it is to find a church open throughout the day. We very much hope to keep it that way. We have become aware of a few small incidents of vandalism, and suspect that children are going into church on the way home from school.

We have mentioned it to the Community Police Officer, but do not want to be heavy-handed. If we are all vigilant the problem will go away. So, please, if you are passing, do pop into the church to see all is well. Thank you.

Dee Noyes, for St Mary's PCC

Dear Editors,

The Information we Informed you with....

We were informed that the late night journeys at 21.00 and 23.00 from Cambridge to Soham operate as service 10 journeys. Consequently we forwarded this information to you.

We have been informed that this information has now changed. The 21.00 and 23.00 journeys will now operate on the service 12, and not the 10.

Please update your parishioners with this latest information. Copies of the new service 10 and 12 timetables can be obtained by calling Stagecoach on 01223 423578 or going to www.stagecoachbus.com/cambridge

Passenger Transport Team

Oh, so that's another 360 timetables for us to hand out then! Eds

Mark Towriss Concert

A February Concert will be given in Swaffham Bulbeck by St Mary's Singers and Players in memory of Swaffham Bulbeck's much-loved community doctor, Mark Towriss, who tragically died last year at a far too young age.. See page 10 for details.



MISSING CAT

He is white with dark grey/black tabby markings and his name is "PUSSCAT". He went missing Thursday evening 6th November and lives in the village at Carters Cottage 19 High Street.

We would be very grateful if you could check your shed and outbuildings.

If you have seen him in the last few days please telephone Yvonne or Ian 01638 741183.

Pusscat is still missing (15th Dec). Eds.

Donations!

Many thanks to St Mary's Church for their very kind donation to the ***Crier*** this month. This year, the ***Crier*** will need to raise extra funds in order to cover the costs of its higher print quality, and all donations are particularly appreciated.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

A MULTITUDE OF HAPPY LAUGHING PARENTS AND CHILDREN POURED DOWN THE HIGH STREET as I made my way to the Parish Council Meeting. What a joyous throng! I later learned they had been to a school play. It must have been a sell out.

The same could not be said of the PC Meeting with three members missing. But both district/county councilors were there together with the usual two loyal members of the public.

All appears to be going exceptionally well on the local scene. At present there are no travellers in Swaffham Prior; the cemetery tidy up is moving ahead rapidly following John Norris raising the need not so many months ago; work on the speed control aid at Mill Hill will begin in January; and the buses have been reprieved though no-one was quite sure of all the details and you might need to "go to the website" for the latest thoughts. One thing is clear – all those bus timetables recently distributed need amending, otherwise they are almost valueless. Stagecoach must have been so pleased to have got rid of them!



COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday
14th January 2009

KENT HOUSE
9 High Street, Swaffham Prior



Free Chat
Bring & Buy
Produce Stall
Raffle
Bargains Galore !



All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

That is the good news. Less fortunate is that the CCC is only having a 1.9% increase of the government grant compared to the County Council average of over 4%. Hazel broke the news that the government grant per person in Suffolk is £8.87, in Norfolk it is £12.88, in Essex it is £3.47, and in Cambridgeshire it is a mere £1.73. Geoffrey appeared to know the reason and separately he might inform us in the *Crier*. ECDC reported equally dire news and it seems that any spare money may go towards the Country Park in Ely.

A surprise item was the announcement that there is a planning application for a change of use of the Zoar Chapel and School to residential purposes. This is a shame because this

wonderful little building has a special place in the hearts of everyone who attended a Cambridge Voices concert there in September 2001. Now in some disrepair and of limited usage it appears there is no alternative.

Times are all a-changing. Since New Labour came to power an extra 800,000 public servants have been employed and 3069 new offences have been introduced. Margaret Beckett has just announced that from next April every house vendor must have the full Hip in place before going on to the market; mothers on benefit with a child more than 12 months will have to show they are trying to get a job; primary schools must move to themed “areas of learning”. Is there anyone who thinks these changes are sensible – apart from the people inflicting them on us?

And there is nothing we can do as the number of little quangos, committees and busy bodies appear to increase. For example the minutes of the November PC meeting recorded that:-

+ *The Cambridgeshire Compact* is a countrywide partnership agreement between statutory bodies such as councils and the voluntary and community sector. It held some events in November to raise awareness and encourage volunteering.

+ *Cambridgeshire Together* meeting. This examined the role of Parish, Town and City Councils in Cambridgeshire and local strategic partnerships. The partnerships are working together to improve the quality of life for those who live, work, learn and travel in Cambridgeshire with *priorities of managing growth, creating economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, safer and stronger communities.*

+ Separately Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Cabinet has over the last few months been carrying out a National Survey of Third Sector Organisations. Inevitably “*This survey is a chance to have your say on the things that matter.*” The survey “*will measure the performance of local government against a national target to create ‘An Environment for the Thriving Third Sector’.*”

I don’t know whether any of the above will be effective but I have my doubts following the expensive and relentless promotion of **Parish Plans** by Central and Local Government. While we have no say on any of the above organisations we should be able to have some say on local Parish Plans. Sadly both our district/county councillors have kept mum on the questions asked of them in the *Crier*. It was easier to get a comment from Harriett Harman about the Speaker!

What I am saying is that if we cannot receive any answers from our own highly respected and effective representatives then what chance do we have to obtain honest responses from government officials and ministers. I think it is all a question of money. Happy New Year.

A surprise item was the announcement that there is a planning application for a change of use of the Zoar Chapel and School to residential purposes

Alastair Everitt

The Gay Bullied Good Neighbour Award

THANK YOU to everyone who responded to the request for nominations for this annual award. The decision was very easy for the committee as everyone asked for it to go to the same person - Barbara Dennis. Barbara has been a very good friend and neighbour for many years as well as working extremely hard both for the Church and the Village Hall and certainly deserved to receive this recognition. We were able to take the picture to Barbara in Reach and she was delighted - we were even able to hang it on the wall as there was a vacant picture hook in just the right position. We would all like to send Barbara our love and best wishes at this time.

IN ASSOCIATION
WITH NODA



PETER PAN
THE PANTO!

29-31 JANUARY 2009

PETER PAN is a Pantomime written by Ron Hall. It is the traditional story of how Wendy Darling and her brothers end up in the Never Land with Peter Pan and the Lost Boys, after being helped to fly there by Tinkerbell. During their stay in the Never Land they meet some very nasty pirates led by Captain James Hook who tries his best to kidnap the Darling children and the Lost Boys. Not only does Peter Pan save the day, Hook is also reunited with the crocodile who ate his hand when he last went into battle with Peter, the crocodile also give a helping hand (ha-ha) to secure victory against evil. There is also as in most Pantomimes a wedding to end the story. On this occasion is it Liza the Dame who enters into wedlock, but with whom I here you ask? To find out come and watch our Pantomime at Bottisham Village College Main Hall on Thursday 29 January/Friday 30 January 2009 at 7.30 p.m., and Saturday 31 January 2009 at 2.30 p.m., and 7.30 p.m.



Tickets can be purchased from Bottisham Post Office & Village Stores, Chris Clarke Hairdressers, Bottisham and Tina's North Street, Burwell. Tickets are priced at £7.00 Adults and £5.00 concessions at all performances

Our telephone booking line is 01223 811033.

So get your tickets now and come to watch this hilarious Pantomime with some familiar faces and some new faces entertaining you.

Bottisham Players involves and encourages new talent to work alongside its regular actors and actresses, or if you would like to help out behind the scenes visit our website at www.bottishamplayers.org.uk For this production we are look for back stage help, if you feel you can give a little of your time over the next couple of months please contact Val Quy on 01638 741893 or email vicnval@tiscali.co.uk



Advent by Candlelight

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS HAS BEGUN. It began in the half light of Sunday afternoon, the first day of Advent, with the excellent *Cambridge Voices* and Ian de Massini's *Advent by Candlelight*. This celebration, with its mixture of inspiring music and soaring voices; its somewhat quirky readings and lusty congregational singing; its mystifying transfer of the whole company from one church to the other in the middle of the performance, has become a tradition in the village.

This year there were echoes of other occasions; St Andrew's Day, the last day of November, with readings about the Saint (the first read by an Andrew 'manly and gentle') and several Scottish connections with St Andrew's University. Also with the 90th anniversary of the cessation of fighting in the first World War, the flowers in St Cyriac's a particular heart-pull to that optimistic eleventh hour reminder of the horror of war. Ian's tribute to the Christmas Eve truce, *The Flanders Carol*, with its renderings of Silent Night in both English and German was particularly moving.

The singing as ever, was beautiful; the power of unaccompanied voices blending and soaring, carrying us to magic places. Uplifting; inspiring. And then Ian's irrepressible sense of humour infecting us as we joined in with his prancing rendering of The Skye Boat Song on the accordion. The readings too were wide-ranging in their scope, well read by torchlight in the darkness. (And whose was the choice that brought a smile to the faces of those in the know of a particularly apt reader for one of them?)

And the whole thing brought to a conclusion with what Swaffham Prior does so well, a time to chat, and share thoughts, with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, provided by the congregants of St Mary's Church.

And the bonus of our Advent Concert, enjoyed on so many levels? Over £700 raised for the charity Emmaus.

Brenda Wilson

...and some background:

The Ypres Christmas Truce

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN every so often - even in battle. For those soldiers locked in fierce combat near Ypres in the Ypres salient region of Belgium, that miracle was the Christmas Truce of December 24, 1914. The British and German troops were mired in heavy mud, biting cold, barbed-wire boundaries, and water-logged trenches. The war was supposed to be short, but already predictions were being made that it would drag on for months, if not years. Casualties had been heavy - hundreds of thousands had already died since the beginning of the fighting in August. Soldiers on both sides of the battle field—some not



*German Christmas Card
from World War I.*

more than 30 yards from each other—were weary and dispirited. And it was Christmas Eve.

The soldiers had received little gifts from their homelands for their muddy Christmas celebration. Both sides got boxes of tobacco and food from their respective governments, but logistics gave the Germans an edge on gifts from home. They were closer to their homeland borders and were also sent small Christmas trees and candles, which they began

setting out on their parapets—the low earth and stone ridges erected to protect them from the British. Then they started to sing Christmas carols, and, although the words were in a foreign language, the tunes were familiar to British ears.

They watched, and they listened. And, after a while, they began singing too. Amid continuing shouts back and forth of Christmas tidings, the troops became emboldened. By Christmas morning, the “no man’s land” between the trenches was filled with British and German soldiers, with men visiting across the lines and gifts of food and tobacco being exchanged. In several places, games of soccer were organized: Private Ernie Williams of the 6th Cheshires reported, “I should think there were about a couple of hundred taking part...There was no sort of ill-will between us.” Amid the music and sports, both sides frequently joined together for large Christmas dinners.

In some areas, the unsanctioned truce lasted until New Year’s Day, but while the lower ranks were celebrating in the trenches, the high commands were both livid and concerned. Under the threat of court martial, commanders ordered their troops back to combat.

Shaking hands and parting, the Germans and British trudged back to their sodden trenches to begin the killing of those who, only hours earlier had shared in a celebration common to them as Christians. The Great War would stretch on through another three Christmases and beyond, until the Armistice signed on November 11, 1918. In all, 8½ million would die and 21 million more would be wounded.

In some areas, the unsanctioned truce lasted until New Year’s Day when, under the threat of court martial, commanders ordered their troops back to combat.



WI Notes

In December members enjoyed their Christmas party with food, wine and entertainment organised by the committee. A few members were not able to join us due to illness and we were very sorry not to have their company. On January 19th we shall be welcoming John Norris who is going to talk to us about old Swaffham Prior. This will be an open meeting and anyone interested in the history of our village is welcome to come along. (cost for non-members is £3).

Pat Cook

THE PALE HORSE OF BARSTON DROVE



Last month, one of our readers was walking two dogs back down Barston Drove (about where the broken glass *still* is) when she saw two riders approaching, a lady on a horse closely followed by a young girl on a cream pony. Quickly getting the dogs on the lead, she stepped back onto the verge to allow the horses to pass. As the leading horse drew level, the rider called out her thanks while the dog-walker continued to wait for the pony. But where was it? Swiftly glancing round, nowhere to be seen at all. VANISHED! Into thin air, or so it would seem. "But where is your little girl? The one behind you on her pony?". The lady turned and looked puzzled. "Well" she said slowly "I used to go riding with my daughter, but she's grown up now and lives in New Zealand!"

Word gets round swiftly in this village, and it was not long before a further communication came to light. It would seem that another Barston Drove dog-walker has also been followed by a mystery pony, more than once hearing the sound of hooves behind, and on one occasion, apparently so close as to cause him to step quickly aside onto the verge. But then....no pony!

SO, if any cream ponies in the neighbourhood think they might have been trotting down Barston Drove on November 24th, please get in touch with the *Crier*. That would be one clop for yes....

A Staff Reporter

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB JUMBLE SALE

at

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

on

SATURDAY 17TH JANUARY 2009

DOORS OPEN 2:00pm

**START THE YEAR RIGHT, COME AND FIND A BARGAIN
CLEAR OUT THOSE CUPBOARDS**

CONTACT TED SKETCHLEY ON

01223-811582 IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ITEMS COLLECTED

Otherwise, bring any saleable items to the Legion on morning of Sale

PLEASE NO SHOES

WALK OFF THE TURKEY

Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve,

1 January 10.30am

Tickets: adults £4, children £2

One of our expert wardens will lead you around some of the newly-acquired land at Wicken Fen and you will get to see how it is being reverted to nature conservation. After the bracing walk, you will retire to the warmth of the cafe for a bowl of hearty soup.

Booking Essential 01353 720274

Tickets: adults £8, children £4

Snowdrop season

Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill January 21st-30th

Admire the array of beautiful snowdrops at Anglesey Abbey. Discover just how many varieties there are by joining a weekday tour with the garden team. Come away inspired by picking up a purchase at our Plant Centre and a fact-file sheet on how to get the same look at home. Weekday tours at 2pm

Normal Admission Charges Apply

Booking Advisable 01223 810080

angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk

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*

JS 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

Fairview Cats

Regular readers will remember (August 2008 *Crier*) the sterling and ongoing work being done by Elaine Malster, ably assisted by Maggie Cotner and Joe Arksey to name but two, to sort out the burgeoning cat community in Fairview Grove.

This year, a number of stray cats have turned up in the village and set up shop in Fairview Grove, with a great many kittens produced as a consequence, and a feral cat colony in the making.

Elaine and friends have been trying to ensure cats and kittens don't go hungry, while at the same time capturing a number of them in humane traps lent by the Blue Cross from where they are taken into sanctuary for vet care, neutering and eventual rehoming, although we hear some are getting a paw in village homes straight-away.

This is quite a job, and it seems it's not been made any easier recently by some strange goings-on at the dead of night. The traps are baited with food, but in the morning, the food has gone, *but so has the cat*. Plus bits of busted cage, and the Blue Cross are not happy, wanting their cages returned.



Cats Go Online

Village Variety Show – 15 November 2008

PUSS-IN-BOOTS

THERE ARE NOT MANY EVENINGS that combine unicycling, Uilleann pipes and a stageful of rats – but the 2008 Village Variety Show provided that and more! There was singing, music, comedy, poetry and panto from local talent and we were delighted to welcome a few “outsiders” to enrich the blend. Lynette Levitt’s singing entranced, and Bryony Lemon’s trio - featuring fiddle, accordion and those very strange pipes – fascinated. Thanks to them all for making the effort to attend, and to Steven Levitt for musical accompaniment throughout. We raised over £320 for St Mary’s Church funds; grateful thanks to all in the village who supported this event and helped in any way, and especially to Kaye Lewinski for directing the mini-panto. There will be no Variety Show in 2009 – but get practising for 2010!

Dee Noyes





Dates For Your 2009 Diary

I UNDERSTAND some people like to have these dates before starting to plan their holidays to make sure they are here either to support or participate in the events. Without such people village life and the community spirit would disappear, they give so much in so many ways.

A wide range of events have been planned, hopefully to suit various ages and interests. Details of individual events will be advertised nearer each date, in the Crier and posters on the telegraph poles throughout the village.

January	14 th	Coffee Morning	Kent House 9 High Street
February	28 th	Quiz Night	Village Hall
March	14 th	Jumble sale	Village Hall
March	28 th	Coup de Grass	Village Hall
May	4 th	Reach Fair	Reach
May	17 th	Rogation Sunday	Adventurer's Farm
June	6 th	Garage Sales	Village
July	12 th	Strawberry Teas	Commissoner's Farm
September	19 th	Moveable Feast	Village
October	17 th	Harvest Supper	Village Hall
November	14 th	Quiz Night	Village Hall

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 for 2009: 10th January, 14th February, 7th March, 28th March and 9th May

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

£5 per person including interval tea/coffee

You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks,

01638 741159

A possible scenario for TV documentary lauding the charm of 'Knees'.

I think that I shall never see
A poem, lovely as a knee.
A knee whose bony structure's play
Will only let it bend one way,
A knee, which intrudes upon my thoughts
When I imagine you, in shorts.

A knee that peeps above a sock,
A knee that with its mate can knock
Except mayhap, when legs are bowed
Through riding, or too great a load;
A knee, which prompts a verse of sorts,
When I imagine you, in shorts.

In short, a knee, the like of which
Is only seen, 'neath t'other britch.
And filthy strangers stand and stare
When they perceive you have a pair –
A pair – alike as dried out peas,
A pair of clean-type – British Knees.'

Music:- 'Land of Hope and Glory' **

"Insist on British Knees,
They're best in the Long Run
Look for the Colours on the Cap"
End.

*Based upon the well-known, and well-loved song, "Trees", (1914) by (Alfred) Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

** Chorus of 'Pomp and Circumstance March No 1' By Sir Edward Elgar. (1857 – 1934)
Ophir

Mobile Library Dates for 2009

Cage Hill: 3.15-3.50
Chapel 3.55-4.15

January

Tuesday 13th
27th

February

10th
24th

March

10th
24th



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

Use it or Lose it!

A 1930's Cough Remedy

½ lb of Black Treacle
4 pennyworth of All Fours
1 pennyworth of White Vinegar

Boil a pint of water
Let it go cold and then
mix all together

A wine glassful
night and morning

Yes, but what's "All Fours"? Can anyone tell us? Eds

All About Clunch

Well, we all think we know about *clunch*, although for most of us, the sum total of our knowledge is perhaps that it is that problematical stuff, of which there seems to be a great deal hereabouts, to be associated with builders and decorators shaking their heads in a sorrowful way, and we *do* know what that means! But in this New Year edition, John Norris is going to tell us all about it, and how it relates to that odd feature of village landscape, the mysterious *Deal Hole*.

THIS VILLAGE has a large number of uses for this abundant material. which lies under the higher ground to the east of the high street. The name *clunch* may be derived from the name of the chalk, which is the common name for the material. As so often happens with natural deposits, there is quite a large variation in the types of clunch found. Some is so near the surface that it has been degraded by cold weather, and is quite soft, whilst the clunch excavated from the lower layers is quite hard and durable, having been squeezed by the weight of the deposit above



Several houses in this village still have walls of clunch, and they perform their task well, but many that used the poorer material from nearer the surface, and consequently cheaper ,have succumbed to the hard weather and broken down. After the hard frosts of 1963-4 many clunch field walls disintegrated, and had to be replaced. The fence from the school porch down to the stile replaced a clunch wall. Part of the churchyard wall fell down but has not been replaced—yet, and the top part of the boundary to Town Close had to go also.

Another use for this material was to make roads, especially in the fen where the soft peat was unsuitable for wheeled traffic. I guess that Whiteway drove extended right up to the village before the railway came, and was reinforced by this white clunch. Most of the local clunch came from the pits now in Reach Parish, but which were in Swaffham Prior until 1956, when Reach village boundary was altered. An attempt was made to extract some of the deeper clunch by tunnelling into the side of the valley, known as the Deal Hole. Most of the area has been so altered by the new bypass, that it is difficult to imagine how it used to be.

I remember it well, as in my first year farming here, there was no modern bypass, just the causeway built by the French prisoners of war in the late seventeen hundreds, and this valley was in its pristine condition..That summer there was a terrific storm which flooded the deal hole twenty feet or so deep spoiling many of my much needed hay bales. The culvert under the road was blocked. But water was seeping away under some lavender bushes which had been planted on the steep bank

to mark the palace where the tunnel had been filled in. So the getting of a good deal by finding the lower chalk gave rise to the name Deal Hole—perhaps!

There are no buildings made from clunch in this village for the past hundred years, but a few older examples still remain, having been looked after with care and attention. The distinguishing feature of the better and harder clunch is the regular shapes of the pieces. It was possible to saw blocks of this type of clunch so that a

regular tidy flat wall could be built, with the minimum of lime mortar. Several of the larger houses still have wall of this character, and show no signs of deterioration. The latest use of these cut blocks is at Anglesey Abbey, where the construction of the picture galleries in 1955 is of this material, to match that of the older building.

Buildings of the softer chalk are in the form of random lumps bound together with generous helpings of lime mortar. These walls are usually quite thick as the middle of the wall was filled with rubble. The church towers were built with a mixture of clunch and flints, which had to be renovated over forty years ago to remove the weathered clunch. The harder chalk was also known as Tottenhoe Stone, from the village in Bedfordshire where it was originally found.

I have mentioned the use of lime mortar in the construction of houses before the invention of cement. This was made locally by first heating the clunch to a very high temperature, so that it decomposed into quick lime and carbon dioxide ($\text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$). This quick lime was then slaked with water (carefully) to form hydrated lime Ca(OH)_2 . This lime is then mixed with four parts of sand, and becomes lime mortar. In time the Ca(OH)_2 reacts with the carbon dioxide in the air and returns to chalk again. One great advantage of using this type of mortar is that it is easily removed. Recently the Chapel has had several alterations to the old windows, and this has been done so carefully that you cannot tell that they are not part of the original scheme of things; Lime mortar was used in the original construction, and in the alterations.

The last use I can think of for this local material is to use the hydrated lime for decoration and protection of clunch. I used to live in a house with some clunch walls and after the hard winters of the sixties, had to repair the frost damage, and this led to re-decorating. Hardiments, the local builders found the quick lime, and this was slaked in an old bath, generating much heat. This was the time to add lumps of tallow so that the heat melted it, and the result was a water-proof, but porous paint. We did this for many years until it was not possible to get the quicklime. As it happens, the winters have become much milder; in fact we have not had four consecutive days and nights of below freezing temperatures for over forty years. Remember skating?

John Norris will be giving a talk at the WI in January. Eds

John Norris

An attempt was made to extract some of the deeper clunch by tunnelling into the side of the valley, known as the Deal Hole. So the getting of a good deal by finding the lower chalk gave rise to the name Deal Hole—perhaps!

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO and still some good advice?

In the January 1994 *Crier* was published a piece of advice (courtesy of Mr R. Sheldrick). This advice first appeared in the *February 1917* number of the Parish Magazine, and was written by the Rev Lawrence Fisher, vicar of Swaffham Prior between 1897 and 1932.

ADVICE TO ALL

1. Kill rats, mice, sparrows.
2. Cultivate with vegetables every piece of available ground.
3. Lend your money to the Government.
4. Give your children oatmeal porridge once a day.

It seems the battle with vermin was close to the vicar's heart. He personally invested money in a campaign to destroy the rats, mice, sparrows and queen wasps that were devouring food badly needed by the country at war. Between the summers of 1916 and 1917, 4042 rats' tails were delivered to the (Old) Vicarage for a reward of £8.8s.5d, as well as 3072 mice (payment 10s.8d), 163 queen wasps (payment 6s.9d) and 313 sparrows and eggs (payment 2s.). Of the total £9.7s.10d paid out the vicar contributed £2.17s.9d. Six other members of the village subscribed between them £6.10s.1d. They were (in order of size of contribution) Mr Ambrose (farmer?) Mr Tosetti (banker?) Mr Allix (squire) Mr Woollard (farmer?) Mr Palmby (grocer) Mr Sturgess (butcher?). The going rate (for those who have not been able to work it out) was a halfpenny per rat's tail, a halfpenny per queen wasp, a farthing for an old sparrow, a penny per dozen for young sparrows and a halfpenny per dozen for sparrows eggs. "The important thing" wrote Mr Fisher "is to kill the old birds."

From our Archive

missing out?

EVERY YEAR millions of pounds-worth of social security benefits go unclaimed because people do not know what they are entitled to, or how to claim

Older people and people with disabilities living in rural communities face particular difficulties. The **Village Benefits Advice Bureau** helps people living in rural areas of Cambridgeshire to claim their share of these: benefits by offering advice and assistance. After we helped a couple living in East Cambridgeshire, they gained over £185.00 per week in extra income.

Ring us on 01353 666990 for: Free confidential advice, home visits and support in getting the benefits you are entitled to — for example, filling in claim forms, writing to the Department for Work and Pensions and helping with appeals. We also go to clubs and groups around the county to give talks and offer benefit advice.

The Village Benefits Advice Service

PO Box 257, Ely, CB7 9EA

Notes from the Parish Council

December Meeting

Chairman John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public in attendance.



Minutes of Meeting: These were agreed.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received:

CCC – The Village Benefits Advice Service – (leaflet displayed on village noticeboard)

ECDC – East Cambridgeshire Submission Core Strategy and Proposals Map – Site Allocation and Boundary Change Representations (Reg 32) Consultation.

Approval of treeworks for outside 1 Cage Hill.

Ongoing Review of Asset Register: This was completed and approved and will be reviewed annually.

Cambridgeshire ACRE – Membership Renewal: This was agreed.

Cemetery Maintenance: The cutting back and tidying of the adjacent access to the cemetery and the cutting back of the trees at the entrance to the cemetery had been completed. The Probation Service team continue to clear the inside boundaries of overgrown vegetation.

Parish Path Partnership – application for 2009/10: It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting to allow Parish Councillors to inspect footpaths and put forward suggestions for improvements so that an application can be completed for the deadline date of the end of February 2009.

Clerk's Annual Office Expenses: This was agreed at £100/annum to cover utilities, Internet, etc.

Refurbishment of Village Noticeboards: Two quotations were received and it was agreed to instruct Simon King to carry out the work.

Information Commissioner's Office – Model Publication Scheme: Notification was received from the ICO's office notifying the Parish Council that a new publication scheme would need to be adopted as from the 1st January 2009. This was agreed and was to be displayed for public information.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Items for Next Agenda:

Parish Path Partnership

Cemetery Maintenance

The Lodes and Fens

Open Question Time:

The condition of Barston Drove was discussed. The meeting was asked if it was possible for the spoil from the cemetery to be used to fill in the ruts as has happened in the past.

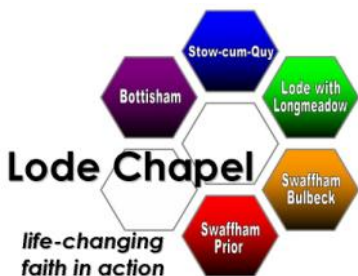
The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 8th January 2009 in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL!!!!

Karen King

Clerk to the Parish Council



...and a Happy RE:NEW Year!

As part of my ongoing spiritual development as a Baptist minister I recently spent a retreat day at a Catholic priory. There was a time when Christians of different denominations were suspicious of one another, but things are changing, and as I sat in silence in front of the shrine there, God helped me

to reflect upon the exciting partnership that has been developing between the local churches recently.

More than two years ago 'Sunday Club' was born with the purpose of being an event where local children and their parents could explore the Christian faith in an enjoyable and accessible way. This month Lode Chapel is renaming the event to acknowledge the close connection that it now shares with the Anglican-initiated 'RE:NEW'. From now on the two events will be known as:

'RE:NEW Bulbeck' – at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School

on the 2nd Sunday of the month,

'RE:NEW Bottisham' – at Bottisham Primary School

on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Both events start at 10.30am.

Since its conception, during a conversation in the back garden of the vicarage early in the summer of 2006, the idea of a 'family-friendly' church has been the outcome of a willingness of our two denominations to work together. When the curate (Jonathan) and his wife (Emma) arrived in the Benefice in 2007 they took an active role in 'Sunday Club', and were in turn willing for people from Lode Chapel to be involved with the team at St. Mary's in Swaffham Bulbeck as they set up a similar event there. Now the combined 'RE:NEW' has a single planning team and a shared theme explored at both venues over the term. Every fortnight between 50 and 80 people, from across the five villages, attend these events, and some families are choosing to come to both.

You may have noticed my deliberate choice of the words 'conception' and 'born'. The shrine in the priory that I mentioned earlier was called 'Our Mother of Good Counsel' and it was a sculpture of Mary, with the child Jesus. As I sat in silent reflection I was reminded that the Christian faith is all about the 'new life' that

comes to us in the form of a tiny baby. Just as the future of humanity depends upon each generation giving birth to and nurturing a new generation, so it is necessary for the existing churches to come together to ‘conceive’ of, and nurture, new ways of being church.

David’s article explains a few of the ways that ‘RE:NEW’ looks very different to ‘traditional’ church, but rather than being a threat to it, the birth of these twin congregations is a sign that the church in our villages is alive and well, and ready to explore what it means to follow Jesus in the 21st century. In our communities young and old live alongside one another and are able to learn from each other, and the same can be true of church. Some will continue to draw strength from a faith expressed in sacred buildings and with familiar forms of service, but others will discover the reality of God in the new and creative expressions of church like ‘RE:NEW’ – there is room for both.

As we start a new year I encourage you to explore for yourself the ‘new life’ to be found in the church – in whichever form is most appropriate for you and your family. May God use it to show you His goodness in the year ahead, and may you know His blessings throughout 2009.

Simon Goddard

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

January RE:NEW dates...

RE:NEW Bulbeck – 10.30am, Sunday 11th January,

RE:NEW Bottisham – 10.30am, Sunday 25th January

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

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

FREecycle

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.



Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year in the Anglesey Group of parishes we look forward with a degree of optimism for the future. We have a number of thriving activities taking place across the parishes. Amongst these are coffee mornings in Bottisham (Queen's Court every Wednesday morning), Lode (Social Club every Wednesday morning) and Quy (Village Hall every Tuesday morning). We also have launched 'C by C', an atmospheric candlelit service with Taize chants, on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Holy Trinity Church Bottisham. We have also launched our toddler's activity, 'Messy Mondays', which takes place in Holy Trinity Church every Monday afternoon, and we have also started RE:NEW.



RE:NEW is a venture which is going from strength to strength – maybe because it is offering a radical new way of being 'Church'. The main principles behind it are these:-

It takes place in school halls on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. These venues are warm, clean, flexible and child friendly – they also have good car-parking and toilet facilities.

RE:NEW is a truly ecumenical venture, being planned and organised jointly with a team from Lode Chapel.

Refreshments and newspapers are available when people arrive, and there is always plenty of time to chat together – this helps to make RE:NEW a relaxed and friendly place to come to on a Sunday morning.

This atmosphere extends to the activities that take place at RE:NEW – there is a real sense of fun, and no-one is asked to do anything they are not comfortable with. The emphasis is on participating in a shared experience, rather being told what to do or what to believe.

We are finding that as people come along and enjoy being part of RE:NEW, they are able to personally discover God for themselves – how much He loves them and seeks to be a part of their lives.

This 'hands on' process of discovery is quite unlike the traditional experience of church, but we nonetheless feel it is an authentic way for people to explore the contemporary relevance of the Christian faith.

Although the theme of the event is introduced at the beginning and summed up at the end, the flexible space enables a variety of activities to take place at the same time, and there is a 'choice' about what to join in with. The experience is aimed to be one that people are able to reflect upon in the days and weeks that follow.

The emphasis is very much on adults and children discovering God together, and RE:NEW aims to provide a valuable opportunity for families to enjoy some quality time together.

I think you can tell by looking at those principles that RE:NEW is indeed radically different in the way that it sets out to be 'Church'. Whilst some people who

are more used to ‘traditional’ church might struggle to understand the concept, it is clearly working, with between 50 and 80 people coming to each event.

You will see that Simon Goddard of Lode Chapel is also writing about RE:NEW this month – the reason being that January 2009 marks a significant milestone in the venture. Although the Lode Chapel team who started ‘Sunday Club’ in Bottisham a couple of years ago have been involved with ‘RE:NEW’ in Swaffham Bulbeck since it started in May 2008, the two events will now have a joint planning team and are being re-launched as ‘RE:NEW Bottisham’ and ‘RE:NEW Bulbeck’.

Our hope and prayer is that both ventures will see themselves as one movement dedicated to reaching out to the young families of our five villages with the love of God. Ultimately RE:NEW may well become a new ‘church’ which takes its place alongside the other churches in sharing the good news of the kingdom of God.

But RE:NEW isn’t just a new kind of Church, it’s a place to belong, to feel at home, to feel loved and valued. So why don’t you give RE:NEW a try? You will find a warm welcome on the 2nd Sunday of the month at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School and the 4th Sunday at Bottisham Primary School – both start at 10.30am. Come and join us.

Pauline and I wish you every blessing for 2009.

David

	JANUARY SERVICES
Sun 4	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 11	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 18	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 25	11:00am Matins



Goodbye 2008: Panto Performers take a bow

Dates for Your Diary January 2009

Thu	1	Walk off the Turkey, Wicken Fen, 10.30am
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	10	Let's Dance, BVC, 7.30pm-10.30pm
Tue	13	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	14	Coffee Morning, Kent House, 10.30-12 noon
Sat	17	Jumble Sale, British Legion, Bottisham
Sun	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	19	WI, 7.30pm VH
Wed	21	Snowdrop Walk (to the 31st), Anglesey Abbey, 2pm
Tues	27	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	29	Peter Pan Panto (to the 31st) 7.30pm (2.30pm Sat matinee) BVC

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Andrew Noyes	743864	Weds (term)	7:45-9:15pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Margaret Phillips	741495	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***