



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 6

June 2009



## Editorial

Wimbledon AND the Festival, with Murray going to five sets and a new roof with lights so they can play forever. What does all this mean? Ah yes, the 2.01 am editorial, that's what.....

So instead of an editorial, what about a sneak preview of some of those Magnificent Cage Hill Karts and Karters, full report and piccies in next month's *Crier*, but you know you want to see them now. The Final Line-up, in which Tim Doe reads the results (although some people have gone home already).

*Caroline Matheson*



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**Cover Picture:** *Summer Serenade* by Susan Sands



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Eds

### **Magpies “aren’t very nice”**

If anyone thinks managing the magpie population (See last month’s Crier) ie - keeping numbers down by shooting some of them - is cruel, against nature and unnecessary they don’t understand that the countryside we live in has not been left to its own devices since before the stone age. It has been a managed landscape since then and whenever anything in the food chain expands out of proportion to the balance of numbers it threatens the whole. (There’s an argument for saying mankind is the worst in this respect, but I don’t think as a species we’re particularly keen on facing up to that one). The best part of a century ago farmers would pay for dead sparrows and rats per head to encourage keeping the numbers of these species from becoming disproportionate to the whole. Rats we have never conquered, probably never will; no-one would consider trying to eradicate completely the massively dwindling stocks of sparrows that once threatened crops when they were seeded in a way that would allow birds to consume the planted crop. Why? We no longer see them as a threat because the balance has shifted so far against the sparrow that when I saw some in my garden last week it was worthy of note. I see then in other parts of the village but rarely here; and also, we know the attempts of the Chinese last century to destroy sparrows completely led to ecological disaster as the insect population formerly kept in check by the sparrows ruined crops instead once the sparrows had been destroyed..

So the magpie, then. A predator and scavenger with no major predator above to keep its numbers down, the expansion of numbers in recent years means competition for food put pressure on its food sources. If you want to keep the numbers of magpies up while not losing the small bird populations whose nests are robbed by the black and white menace, the alternative has to be for you to go round country roads at speed trying to kill anything wild you can see. Magpies love road kills. Food it doesn’t have to make much effort to find.

But if that doesn’t appeal, the alternative is to accept that once the agricultural ecology and economy were once but no longer all part of the same process; a farmer would then have no more need to explain to you why a magpie might need shooting than why the sun comes up and goes down again. But now it’s different. In simple words: Magpies aren’t very nice to other smaller wildlife. Nobody wants to get rid of them completely but nobody wants only magpies, jackdaws and rooks to be the main feathered wildlife (have you noticed the other two species have expanded considerably round here in the last few years? Not as predatory but not managed any more either) so the management of the landscape still needs to happen. (Yes, that does include Wicken fen. That’s man-managed too.)

And I’m not a member or a supporter of the countryside alliance, either.

Regards to all country and townsfolk who like their wildlife alive, well-fed and thriving, not being shot for anyone’s personal pleasure and not going extinct.

***Mark Lewinski***

Eds' Note: The article was complaining about the use of the *Larsen Trap*, which is banned in Denmark.

But interestingly the RSPB recently concluded a wide-ranging survey of the relationship between magpies and song-bird depletion and found none whatsoever. The ways of nature are mysterious, but it may be that man and his management schemes have a lot to learn from ecology's "prudent predator", who never seems to forget about *next* years dinner!

Perhaps this doesn't work out so well for carefully reared game-birds though, and Mark might be interested to know how much of magpie and bird-of-prey "black propaganda" originates from such as the "SongBird Survival Trust", an organisation coincidentally founded shortly after the gamekeeper of its principle trustee and spokesman (heir to Norfolk's Holkham Estate) was convicted for shooting and poisoning kestrels he blamed for pinching his partridges.

But shoots vary widely in the way they are conducted and their respect for the indigenous wild-life, and there must be other solutions. There are a great many expert countrymen hereabouts, what do they think?



*Songbirds? Or Partridges?!*

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Dear Editors,

### Doggies

An item in a recent issue of 'The Lady' magazine (my wife's, you understand) reminded me of a verse I wrote about 1994, as below. There is a gentle reminder of the unfortunately ever present street problem, but the last stanza made the connection, as follows:— "New research shows that it is possible to match a dog to its owner by looking at photographs. A group

of people who did not own dogs were invited to relate images of 41 dog owners to 3 possible breeds. The group made correct associations above the level of chance".

The conclusion was that, 'any shared qualities are only skin deep'!

**"New research shows that it is possible to match a dog to its owner by looking at photographs..."**



**Eds'  
Dog**



## **You may be barking mad, but...**

If you want to be in the lead,  
You've got to own a dog.  
You've got to train it and even restrain it;  
Especially when it's all agog.

And incidentally, if you don't want it to breed,  
It'd better go to the Vet;  
And whether or not it's a Whippet, he'll just have to snip it;  
And forever you'll be in his debt.

But if you want more of the beggars about,  
It's best to make sure it's Pure Bred:  
Buy its Family Tree; you can, for a fee,  
And then it'll have 'Dog Show cred'.

Though if it's 'only' a pet that you want,  
A 'mixture' will probably do:  
And again I might mention, that a Vet's attention,  
Is best, if only 'to view'.

So, if you want to be in the lead,  
You've got to own a hound.  
But problems can rise, with its exercise,  
When it stops to drop off its 'mound'.

Now, if you want to stay in the lead,  
The following I strongly urge:  
To spare other folks' wrath, take 'it', off the path,  
And even off the grass verge.

=====

It's said that owners get to look like their dogs,  
So if you can, choose it with care.  
You'll see it is true, some owners do!  
Fascinating! And it's not all that rare.

*Ophir*



Hummmm???????? So what's happened to the "Holy Water"???  
*Kim Sheldrick*

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Sunday 12 July, 3 - 5pm

## STRAWBERRY TEAS AND JAZZ



Visit one of the Fen's hidden gems and venture down to Commissioner's Farm for sumptuous Strawberry Teas. Mellow, Sunday afternoon entertainment will be provided by the Combtones Jazz Band, and garden games will keep all ages amused. Tickets are £5 and £2.50 for children from Kate Child: 743983 or Linda Evans: 741437. The event will go ahead whatever the weather – gazebos will provide shelter from the sun or showers! Kindly sponsored by Lord's Ground Farm.

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

HAZEL WILLIAMS HAS BEEN DEFEATED and David Brown is our new CCC representative. Geoffrey Woollard, always impeccable in the formalities, proposed a letter of thanks to Hazel for all the work she had done for the village. John Jordan supported this and added that due acknowledgement should be made “for Hazel having prioritised Swaffham Prior over all her other interests”. Geoffrey visibly paled, and yelled “Hold on! We don’t have to go that far.”



Having held office for such a short time David Brown had very little to say. The ever helpful Hazel had supplied a report for June which was handed around. This included the titbit that “A Lowry painting belonging to Cambridgeshire Schools Art collection was sold at auction recently for £450,000. When bought it cost £31.50.” I wonder what else is in the collection.

Before the real business began Geoffrey again intervened and brandished the *Crier*. He quoted that he had been likened to Gene Hunt (only to the extent that they both value truth, plain speaking and honesty). Geoffrey had not been aware of Gene’s existence, went out of his way to know him, did not like him, thought he was uncouth, and disagreed with the comparison. Fair enough, but if he had tried to know Gene better he would have found he had a heart of gold. One PC wag revealed that Gene Hunt had registered a protest about being likened to Geoffrey.


The meeting then returned to the church clock and that it cannot be seen from the High Street. Geoffrey said he loved all trees and couldn’t see the necessity to touch “such a lovely tree” as the offending lime. He maintained it was only one man who wanted it to see the clock. This was disputed. Andrew said that because it “was a public clock people ought to be able to see it.” For a long time in the discussion it was assumed that the Church was involved until the meeting was reminded that ECDC is responsible for the maintenance of the Churchyard and that the Church has nothing to with it. This information put the debate on course and it was amazing how many people had views. Sandra Gynn was brilliant and had to constantly remind the meeting that the PC had a duty towards the village. She pointed out that people had been asked to bring their concerns to the Annual Village Assembly and that when they do so the concerns can’t just be brushed under the carpet without due consideration. Eric thought the Lime should be “topped” as on Town Close, and Andrew reminded the meeting that there is also a conifer in totally the wrong place, and that it needs to be taken out. John Jordon suggested they should write to ECDC to ask how they plan to cope with the trees to make the tower and clock visible.

I think the general view of the meeting was to “adjust” the trees so that the church clock can be seen. But I don’t recall any action being proposed and seconded. I will need to read Karen’s minutes. Meantime, as the PC is the only body which can approach ECDC with any authority, perhaps a petition could be presented to the PC showing there really is a strong wish to see St Cyriac’s clock and tower.

It was fascinating to see so many viewpoints expressed and, as with all of us, everyone thought they were right. There was a similar shindy during the discussion on the Play Area equipment. Steve reported that for the first time ever the annual inspection classified everything as “low risk”. There was some concern whether that still left a danger, and Karen wondered whether there should be a once a week tick box check of the Play Area. Geoffrey thought this a wonderful idea and proposed a weekly rota. Steve was aghast at such a suggestion, thought it “overkill”, and wondered if this meant there should be weekly checks of the bus stop, Coopers Green etc. Geoffrey maintained that under the present system if a bar broke on the Climbing Frame it could be a year before it would be repaired. Steve reminded the meeting that he does keep a regular informal eye on it and gently assured Geoffrey that because the Play Area is used daily it would not be 365 days before someone told him about a broken bar. Also of course between 50 to 100 people walk past the Play Area each day – and would notice. It was then revealed that “Low Risk” is the lowest possible category and we cannot do any better. Even the inspectors say there is no such thing as “No Risk”

**Geoffrey again intervened and brandished the *Crier*. He quoted that he had been likened to Gene Hunt. One PC wag revealed that Gene Hunt had registered a protest about being likened to Geoffrey.**

Retrospective Planning Applications can often upset people and that for New



## **Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair Saturday 4 July 2009**

12.30 pm to 3.30 pm  
at Swaffham Prior School

Bouncy Castle \* Bar \* Pony rides  
Barbeque \* Maypole dancing \* Games  
Craft corner \* Stalls \* Arena Events

There's something for everyone and everyone's welcome at the  
Swaffham Prior School Summer Fair!

Gant Farm in Swaffham Prior Fen was no exception. It appears to be a pretty large extension to the original building and one must wonder how the architect and the builder could possibly have proceeded without planning permission. But they did. The following discussion again resulted in a great deal of talk. Geoffrey thought the guy was a good chap, that the result was pleasing, and that it ought to be let go. That seems to be the point of view which supports our MPs fiddling expenses. But in this case no-one can say "It's in the rules, Guv." Few, if any, shared Geoffrey's opinion. "It was not a mistake"; "he knew exactly what he was doing"; "it casts a snook at the regulations"; "it encourages other people to do the same"; "it encourages people to break the law"; what if everyone did this?" The PC regretted the owner's behaviour but could find no reason to object.

This always makes it so difficult for Planning Departments because it is almost common knowledge that even if it is rejected, permission would almost certainly be granted on appeal and ECDC (US!!) could spend and lose a lot of money disputing it. Not raised was the other Retrospective Planning Permission which was in the news but not discussed. Allen Alderson could not attend the meeting but he handed in a report which was distributed to everyone without being read out or discussed. He revealed that a resident in Reach had objected (we were not told why) to the aerial of the Reach and Swaffham Prior Broadband service (RASP) and that RASP has had to apply for retrospective planning permission. Allan wrote that "The planners initial reaction was for refusal". Users have always claimed that the service it provides is significantly superior to that available from BT or other providers, and some years ago it was indeed the only sensible option. Allan has been active, has involved the Planning Committee, and he ends "hopefully permission will be granted." I can't wait for the next Retrospective Planning Application to come in – as it is sure to happen.

In the Clerk's Report Karen regretted the increasing amount of dog fouling she comes across in her twice daily walk. One member was very sympathetic and hoped it was "not getting on top of her". There was a suggestion that hot spots should be identified and that A number of years ago dog fouling was a very serious problem (far more than today), with the High Street being regularly bespattered and Coopers Lane and environs being described by John Norris as Skid Row. Poop bags supplied by ECDC were left just inside the Village Hall for anyone to collect. A big effort was made to identify those at fault, the campaign was successful, and the Village Hall poop bags were no longer needed. It is sad to think that some people are again being thoughtless. The PC is thinking of putting up poop bins. **But this will not identify the people at fault. The only solution is to identify, name and shame.** Perhaps the early morning dog walking mafia could help and throw a little light on the matter.

What an interesting meeting. Something for everyone and rarely have I heard so many members putting in their twopenny-worth.

*Alastair Everitt*





# FESTIVAL 2009

At the time of writing we don't know how the first  
week end  
of Festival 2009 went – but there was something for  
everyone.

The second week end has another rich variety.  
There is an ART EXHIBITION which is showing  
some very good pictures  
and a small historical exhibition about St Cyriac's  
for those interested in local history.

This is interlarded with Ian de Massini on the keys  
of a Grand Piano especially introduced for the  
occasion.

The School Fête is on Saturday afternoon and  
on Saturday evening Rex Walford and Gabrielle Bell  
lead everyone on a magical musical journey through  
the history of the British and American Musical.

To suit other tastes the Festival closes  
with Compline in Plainchant in St Cyriac's  
with Roy Tricker.

See the Programme, Posters or Notice Board for details  
or phone 01638 743693



## Donations!

Many thanks to Lode Chapel for their donation and also for the  
anonymous donation the *Crier received* this month. Donations are  
particularly appreciated this year, since we need to cover costs of better  
print quality.

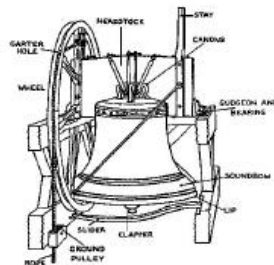


A bit of extra weight might do the trick! Read all about the Great Soap Box Challenge and see the pictures in next month's *Crier*.

## Let The Bells Ring Out

The Bells continue to be active. To celebrate the Soap Box Run the Wisbech District bellringers banged away from 12.00 to 12.45 on Saturday 27 June. On Sunday 19 July the Birmingham Society of Change Ringers will be ringing from 4.00 to 4.45. It should be good.

Our very own practice will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 July.



*Alastair Everitt*

## Diary Date - Advance Notice

The "Moveable Feast" has moved! You haven't missed it for those of you now used to it being a Spring event, but it will be held this year on Saturday 19th September, do put the date in your diaries and look out for more info in next month's *Crier*.

If you would like to host a course please do let me know by contacting me on 01638 743472.

*Janet Willmott*

**Crier** Readership stretches far and wide, and our website has attracted the attention of Tony Roberts in Australia, some of who's family came from here. Fifteen years ago, a librarian in the Australian town of Mudgee found this letter in an old book. It was from two young Reach residents, Robert and Golding Mason, about to set off on the long....

## Voyage to Australia

Southampton  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854

Dear Friends,

We laid in the channel on Friday night, and all very comfortable. The ship had been examined and made quite safe, she is two years old, and has been one voyage to Australia and two to America, we have a carpenter with us who has been to sea four times before, in four different ships, but never saw a good one as this, for this is the neatest little ship he ever saw in all his life. Oh how thankful we ought to be for we met with everything every comfort able above all our expectations Golding & I have two berths one above the other, Golding, sleep in the top one, Peachy has the two next berths to us and all has victuals together, the berths are about half enclosed with boards, and we have nailed some old pieces up, and enclosed the remainder, - we are all well except very bad colds but that is fashionable with us, not any more at this time give our love to all friends and relations and accept the same yourself

We are, dear parents  
your most affectionate children

***R & C Mason  
G & A Mason***

PS. Please do tell Mr. XXXX, that when he comes, he need not be afraid to bring a few things with him for the voyage, as the boxes are not examined, for I have not seen one box opened, to be inspected, we are all obliged to take out all the things we require for a XXXX in a large bag, they find us two, one for the linen and one for the tea things, as they are all tin, we are now going on board farewell dear friends & relatives farewell. I do not forget my fathers last words, to be XXXX to love Jesus. I hope I do. You must not expect any more for a time, farewell, farewell.

---

Golding Mason was Tony's Great Great Grand Uncle, born in Reach c1832

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# Fen Vision

Thank-you to everyone who attended our recent Drop-In session in Swaffham Prior, people's interest and support for the Vision was extremely encouraging.

Work has begun on the renovation of the former fen workers cottage next to the main car park, which will house our new Dragonfly Centre .The centre, the only one of its kind in Europe, is a joint collaboration between the National Trust, the British Dragonfly Project and the British Dragonfly Society. Development of the Centre has been assisted by a grant from the Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme, an RDPE initiative funded by Defra, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: *Europe investing in rural* areas and Local Authorities, with additional grants from the Environment Agency and Anglian Water. The centre will be formally opened by our Patron Chris Packham on Sunday 26 July. The waterways and ponds provide a fantastic habitat for dragon and damselflies with 22 species recorded on the Fen.

The long school summer holiday's will soon be here so why not enjoy a great family day out at Wicken Fen. Start your visit by collecting a Wild Child pack (£1), available from the Visitor Centre, your passport to an exciting day out on the Fen. We are running pond dipping sessions every Tuesday 12.30 -3.30pm and family boat trips along Wicken lode every Thursday, first trip 11.30am.

We have a number of popular activities throughout the holidays, a great chance to have fun and make new friends. Get close to the little creatures that live on the fen on a **Bugs and Beasties Hunt** (3-12 years) 24 July, **Crafty Capers** (3-8years) 27 July, use natural materials from the Fen to create your own masterpiece, **Fairies, Pixies and Potions** (4-8 years) 29 July & 17 Aug– Discover the magical secrets of wildlife and flowers of Wicken Fen and make some magical potions to take home, **Slimy Slugs & Wiggly Worms** (4-10 years) 31 July– Discover what lives under logs, down holes and behind bushes at Wicken Fen.(4-10 years). Activities start at 10.30 am and 2pm, advance booking is recommend as space is limited – please contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 for further information and bookings.

Hope to see you at the Fen soon.

*Howard Cooper*  
Wicken Fen



Fen Vision at  
Swaffham  
Prior's Open  
Studios? See  
page 16.

# VILLAGE ASSEMBLY 2009

Not only did I miss the Crier deadline for this report (something to do with half-term holiday intervening at a critical moment), but also missed the start of the Village Meeting itself by half an hour, so cannot tell you about the Parish Council report - I'm sure someone else can fill in the gaps, and anyway we get at least two different accounts of the PC's proceedings in the Crier nearly every month, so there should be little new.

Item 2 was a letter from the Badcocks, who have dutifully run the village Youth Club for more years than I can remember. They report that the Seniors evening is now effectively deserted, the building needs a lot of attention, and that they (not unreasonably) feel that they have done enough and would like someone else to take over and provide new impetus. The meeting seemed generally sympathetic, but no-one came forward to make any positive contribution or suggestions.

This was followed closely by the Burwell Tigers report, in the form of another letter which I can't remember being read out. The only thing my scribbled notes reveal is something to do with the extension of an interest-free loan, so let's assume that all is well (the pitch is certainly looking good when viewed from Station Road).

There is nothing in my notes either about the School's report, which came next - so let's assume that all is going well there too (except that in this case the view from Station Road isn't so good - what on earth was done to that poor tree??). They have presented an award to Eric Day - longtime Caretaker, and no doubt many other functions over the years.

Now for the serious business of our elected representatives, starting with Hazel Williams, who was pleased with the results of vigorous lobbying to preserve our bus service - well done to all parties involved. The Sunday bus service is still under review, and may be drastically curtailed if it doesn't get more users. Contracts for other things that affect us have also been under review, with results ranging from waste disposal (Donarbon re-elected, with a promise to sort our rubbish more carefully) through Central Library (contractor fired, Coulson brought in, will be finished by September (Christmas?)) to the Guided Bus (very heavy closed meeting about that one - but a definite sense of contractual heads rolling). Lots of money is being spent on 'experts' and 'consultants'. Hazel was tactful on the general subject of the GB, simply stating that she would have spent the money on something different if given the choice.

The CC is spending more money, time and effort in restructuring itself (for the third time in 4 years), with a new CEO and lots of job name changes. Hazel attempted to explain the 'Cabinet' system (introduced a while ago by Labour), which supposedly makes it easier for you or me to contact the right person; I don't think anyone was any wiser. And as for the 'Local Area Agreement' - or 'Cambridge Together' and the 'Weathering the Storm' initiative - which have (according to my notes) been awarded £9M for meeting their targets (er.. isn't that what they are expected to do??), and spent lots of it on promoting themselves. No, don't ask..... It looks like another example of a group of professionals who operate in a parallel

universe where they happily distribute other people's money on things that only they believe have any relevance or justification.

.Allen's account of ECDC activities almost came as light relief; although much of it was nothing to cheer about, at least it covered things that affect us on a day-today basis, starting with the fact that their budget was down by at least £1M. This is partly because there is less new development - with it's attendant Section 106 money - taking place, and less income from Council Tax and Business Rates. The Government Grant was increased by an amount which works out at just over 1p per resident per week. They will make back office savings and other budget cuts to compensate, and still manage to provide extra funding for local Citizens' Advice Bureaus - particularly important in the current financial climate.

ECDC are still committed to providing 135 Low Cost housing units this year, and investigated the idea of buying up some stalled residential developments for the same purpose, only to find that the specifications were not up to Low Cost Housing standards.... There were lots of other things as well (Ely Market full, free swimming, no stacking aircraft, weekly rubbish collection will continue), the only flat note being reference to the Neighbourhood Panel, which produced a predictable groan from some of the audience. Allen got his own back for this a bit later by suggesting to John Norris that he take his query about the visibiilty from the High Street of the Church Clock to the next Panel meeting. Don't hold your breath.

And then the Scouts (and Cubs), who enlivened last year's meeting so much, came and did it again. Their numbers are up, they have a problem with retiring (i.e. overage) mambers who don't want to leave, and the District organisation wants them to start a Beavers group. All credit to Tim Doe, Francis Reeks, Steve White & Graham Gibson, and to the local children who enjoy such supposedly old-fashioned activities. Some of the things they do sound really quite daunting (the Bushcraft Camp - what do they eat?) as well as fun (build your own raft - using the knots you were taught to hold it together with - and they couldn't make it sink at the end of the day).

The Scouts are looking out for more adult helpers, and for somewhere more permanent to store their things and hang their hats; I did find myself wondering if some accommodation might not be reached with the Youth Club?? They both serve the same constituency.....

And finally the Village Hall, now in new hands and with bookings up by 50% (a lot of that accounted for by the Out of School Club - but that's how it should be). There were credits to Alastair and the former committee for bringing the Hall successfully through all the upheavals of the Millenium to become the excellent facility we now enjoy. The fee structure is under review, and volunteers will always be required for Spring Cleaning, redecoration etc..., so not everything has changed.

Question time was devoted almost entirely to different aspects of the National Trust's 'Fen Vision'. There were suggestions that the PC was letting planning applications go unchallenged (comprehensively denied by the Chairman), concerns that the planned demolition of the rotting temporary classroom at the school was in some way connected with traffic management for the anticipated hordes of visitors,

and Geoffrey held forth about a huge bridge planned to take walkers across Reach Lode on their way from Anglesey Abbey to Wicken Fen. He couldn't have made that up, so perhaps the lunatics have taken over after all.

The most telling note came from John Norris, who once farmed land now taken over by the NT and abandoned to become some notionally authentic wilderness. He pointed out that this sort of land had been completely transformed from its original state by generations of hard work, and will now become a non-descript mess with none of the virtues of either of its previous existences. What a shame.

*John Chalmers*

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## *Bottisham & Burwell*

### *Photographic Club*

Digital Photographers who would like to develop their interest further should note that 7:30 pm Tuesday 15 September 2009 is the commencement of a new season of the Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club (*B&BPC*). The Club provides an environment where you can exhibit your photography to a wider audience through internal competitions. The club is an affiliated member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB), through the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF) which has 120 member clubs. The Club has a friendly atmosphere where members can exchange views and knowledge during the refreshment break and meets at the comfortable venue of Lode Chapel. For new readers the B&BPC has been running since 1973 and is well known locally and nationally for the high standard of its photographic work. The club welcomes new members and guests may attend weekly meetings at a fee of £2.00 which includes refreshments. Please view our web site [www.bottburpc.org](http://www.bottburpc.org) for further details including our new programme for 2009/10. The site also shows a selection of members' photographs including current winners of our internal event competitions.

**DO YOU HAVE A PROJECTOR STAND WITH AN  
ADJUSTABLE HEIGHT IN REASONABLE  
CONDITION?**

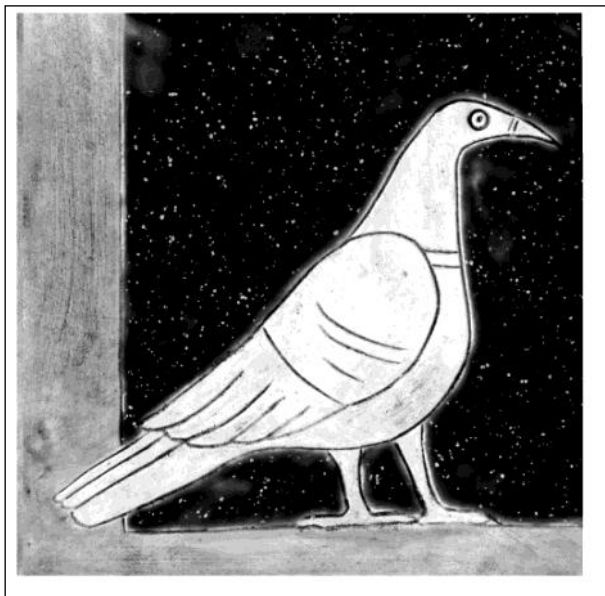
**That you would like to sell?**

*If so, please ring Deborah on 01638 743259*

# Open Studios in Swaffham Prior

Each weekend in July, the keen eyed may notice the fluttering of the distinctive yellow flags of the Cambridge Open Studios organisation around the county where one or more member artists are showing their work, whether in an exhibition space or the artists' own studios and homes. This year Swaffham Prior is hosting two working studios within the event with Lorraine Izon (Lower End) and Paul Abbott (Mill Hill) both taking part.

"It's a great opportunity for anyone at all interested in arts or crafts to meet participating artists, share their views and get an insight into the whole process of making art" said Paul, an enthusiastic painter for ten years, "It's extraordinary the variety of things to see across the event, and it's all for free!"



The majority of Lorraine's work is inspired by the shapes, forms and textures that are found in nature. It features birds, plants and animals in a range of sculptural pieces, tiles, ceramic pictures, bowls, bottles and vases. "I have been working as a Potter for many years and I still find it as challenging and exciting today as I did when I first discovered clay as an art student. There is always something new to learn" she said. Lorraine will be opening the studio doors at Meadow View, 24 Lower End, Swaffham Prior on the three weekends of 4/5<sup>th</sup>,

11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and 25/26<sup>th</sup> of July and will also be showing a selection of drawings, prints and cards.

Paul paints with oils, with subject matter taken mostly from seaside or rural landscapes. Beach huts are a popular subject, and he still enjoys painting his stylised versions, evoking something of a cross between the English East coast and the Indian Ocean. More recent work has drawn inspiration from the local landscape in particular yellow rapeseed fields, silhouettes of the dyke and the wind blown reeds and grasses of Wicken Fen, all painted from a characteristically vivid palette. Paul will be opening his studio on the weekends of 11/12<sup>th</sup> and 18/19<sup>th</sup> July, at The Mill House (next to Foster's Windmill) Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior.

Copies of the Cambridge Open Studios guidebook listing participating artists and



the weekends on which they are open are available free of charge from local shops and public places, from participating artists or from the Cambridge Open Studios organisation (requires a SAE - see their website at [www.camopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.camopenstudios.co.uk)). All venues are open from 11am to 6pm, entry is free and there will be a wide range of work for sale at most venues from postcards to substantial original pieces.

Contacts

Paul Abbott, [paul@vividicity.com](mailto:paul@vividicity.com), 01638 741537

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**THE CANTILENA SINGERS**  
**A CONCERT FOR**  
**SUMMER**  
**DIRECTOR DANIEL SPREADBURY**  
**SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2009**  
**ALL SAINT'S CHURCH,**  
**LANDBEACH, 7:30PM**

## **John Norris remembers quite a few magnificent Lode bridges that were never needed. But....**

### **Will it happen again ?**

In the eighteen eighties, when the new railway line from Cambridge to Mildenhall was being built, it was necessary to cross over the Swaffham Bulbeck Lode. At this time barge traffic was still being used, but only infrequently, as the roads were being improved, and the trade in peat declining. The point of mentioning this was that the river conservators insisted that the railway track was high enough for the barges to pass underneath fully loaded. That would infer six feet above the water level

This necessitated building an embankment starting at Swaffham Prior, and rising high enough to get the clearance, and then returning to the land level again. The is was done at great cost by horses and carts, and eventually the track laid on this new raised bank. All this effort was wasted, as after the first train had gone through, nobody would use the old slow barges again, with the connections only to Cambridge or Ely The railway had opened up travel to the whole country.

In the last century, some time in the seventies, it was necessary to lower the tunnel under the Burwell Lode due to the land settling. Again the navigation people insisted that the flow of the very few boats could not, under their mandate, be interrupted; similar to the previous circumstances with the railway. So, the solution was to again employ the most expensive method of boring under the river to placate the ancient privilege they enjoyed.

The task started well. A pipe was to be pushed under the water, perhaps some three feet. below the bottom of the lode. Then, men went in and dug out the soil inside the pipe, putting it into a tub on a railway track, and the earth hauled out. Another section of pipe was fixed to the end of the first piece and thrust further under the river, and the process repeated. This went on well for several sections of pipe but, as it reached the centre of the river the water began to seep in, and eventually this scheme had to be abandoned, the pipe was flooded..

The situation was now very serious, as the drainage of all the land to the East of the Lode had no access to the pumps at Upware. The only solution, which should have been the first one , was to dam up the lode each side of the intended tunnel, cut a deep trench, and lay the new pipe in it. This was done quite easily with the modern equipment available, and the river restored to its original form.

Now to the point of these recollections. The National Trust have a “not so bright” idea ,to connect Anglesey Abbey with Wicken Fen, passing entirely through the fen. Several bridges will be required of which two are in place already, but nothing is suitable to get the “traffic” over our friend the Reach Lode. Here again the river conservators, or somebody else, will find it necessary to insist that somebody builds a large bridge so that the two or three boats a year may pass unencumbered to travel the half mile or so to Reach.

This bridge will be twenty feet or so above the surrounding ground level;, as the

Lode is embanked in this low area. I imagine that stairs will accommodate the “traffic” but it may be that a ramp, just like the one for the old railway, will be constructed. The cost for this bright ,or perhaps misguided idea will be substantial. Who will use it ? And what is “traffic“, cars, buses, motor cycles ?, the mind boggles.

At present there is a bridge over the Burwell lode at Priory Farm, which consists of a type of draw bridge which can be raised to let any boat traffic through, but remain as a bridge at all other times. This structure is not a blot on the landscape, and is so much cheaper than the one proposed over the Reach Lode, and need only be just as wide as the popular day boat. Indeed a swing bridge may fill the bill if in time it is still considered necessary.

This brings me to my final comment, in that the National Trust seem to have an inexhaustible source of money. The purchase of some of the best farm land for miles around, only to let it lie derelict, and worst of all to rename it, giving free advertisement to finance houses, is a mischief to say the least. **Here I have a personal interest, and annoyance, in that. some of the land that I drained , clayed, and farmed for thirty years has now got a label: Tubney Fen. Where-ever did they get that name. from?** On my map of 1809, it is Turf Fen, in deference to the peat extraction that was carried out there. The fields have traditional names too. Bush Ground, Swan Lake, the Double dolver. Mebblies etc.

The dereliction I notice as I pass by is so disheartening. The wild grasses , fat-hen, and thistles are prospering, and no doubt spreading their seeds far and wide. Not so long ago all this low-lying land was a hive of industry. The turf, or peat digging was the chief form of income, and provided work for many. This area was then in the parish of Swaffham Prior until 1956 when the parish of Reach was created, after an area of land both sides of the Lode was renamed. This small group of houses grew up to manage the barge traffic taking the turves to the Cambridge Colleges.

The low level of this fen was regulated only by the poor drainage of the time, as the depth of peat is considerable, and being near to the Lode was convenient, and would have been excavated even deeper if it had been possible. Until recently there was a large spring in Croyle Fen which created its own river running through this whole area, producing in time this great depth of peat. This has now slowed down to a trickle as the water abstraction from the chalk hills to the east has lowered the water table by many feet.

In a sad sense ,I am glad I am old enough not to worry too much, but the loss of English farm land may be a step too far. Once we get dependent on foreign imports, up will go the price of food, and it will take many years to regain the

**“ Here I have a personal interest, and annoyance, in that. some of the land that I drained , clayed, and farmed for thirty years has now got a label: Tubney Fen. Where-ever did they get that name. from?**

excellence we have developed in the farming practice we enjoy to-day I am well aware that changes will take place, but to try and alter vast areas of our landscape by wilful neglect is not the way to proceed. In the great scheme of things we are talking about a very small area, but it is the detail that influences the whole.

And all these changes will come at a price, as the Drainage Board will no doubt still levy a drainage charge. In fact if the land was not drained by pumping, it would be under many feet of water, and only fish could survive over this new purchase. The whole scheme is fraught with unseen difficulties, and is meddling with a system evolved over many years since Vermuyden first drained the fens, and which has been very successful. on the whole..

*John Norris*

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**St Mary's Church**  
would like to invite you to this year's  
**HARVEST SUPPER**

On Saturday 17 October, 6-8.30pm  
In Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Food and Entertainment  
included in ticket price

Prices held for a third year:  
£7 per adult; £6 concessions;  
£4 children under 11

**Bar, Charity Raffle, Auction**



Tickets available in  
mid September



## WI Notes

“LIFE AND CUSTOMS IN JAPAN” was the subject of our June speaker and what a hilarious talk it turned out to be!

Hilary Sugai, a delightful extrovert and flamboyant character, married a Japanese university professor and lived with him and his parents in Japan. As a result, there were major culture shocks, and the couple now live happily, he in Japan, she in the UK!

Next month is our annual garden party, to be held at the home of Jutta Reeks at 44 High Street on July 13th at 7pm. (Note the unusual date and time).

If you want to join the happy group, call Pat Cook on 10638 742224.

*Shirley Wilkins*

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## The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June we were very pleased to welcome Richard Ayres MBE to our Mothers' Union Group to talk to us about Kirtling Towers Gardens. We had a wonderful afternoon as Richard showed us Slides of the garden and at the same time giving a very fluent and interesting talk about the gardens, the plants, and also some of the history behind the house at Kirtling.



For those of us who are not gardeners, it was a delight to be shown the plants and learn about them and it was impossible not to be caught up in the beauty of the gardens. It all looked magnificent and for 45 minutes we were transported on to another plane and felt inspired by his work there.

We are very grateful to Richard for his presentation and we all went home feeling very uplifted by it.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July Suzanne Watt came to speak about “AFIA” which is a very worthwhile Mothers' Union initiative, enabling children and families to have holidays in England. “AFIA” stands for “Away From It All” and for some families it is a lifeline, giving them a holiday that they otherwise wouldn't be able to have.

We are looking forward to our Outing on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August when we are going to Wroxham Barns for lunch, followed by a Paddle Steamer trip from Horning. We look forward to enjoying the beauty of the Norfolk Broads! Some of our husbands are coming as well along with other members of our parishes and so we look forward to what promises to be a most enjoyable day.

Our MU Group continues to grow and flourish and as always I say – do come to our Meetings if you can. Everyone is welcome! At our September meeting we will be enrolling 2 new members into the Mothers' Union during our Opening Worship.

*Pauline Lewis*

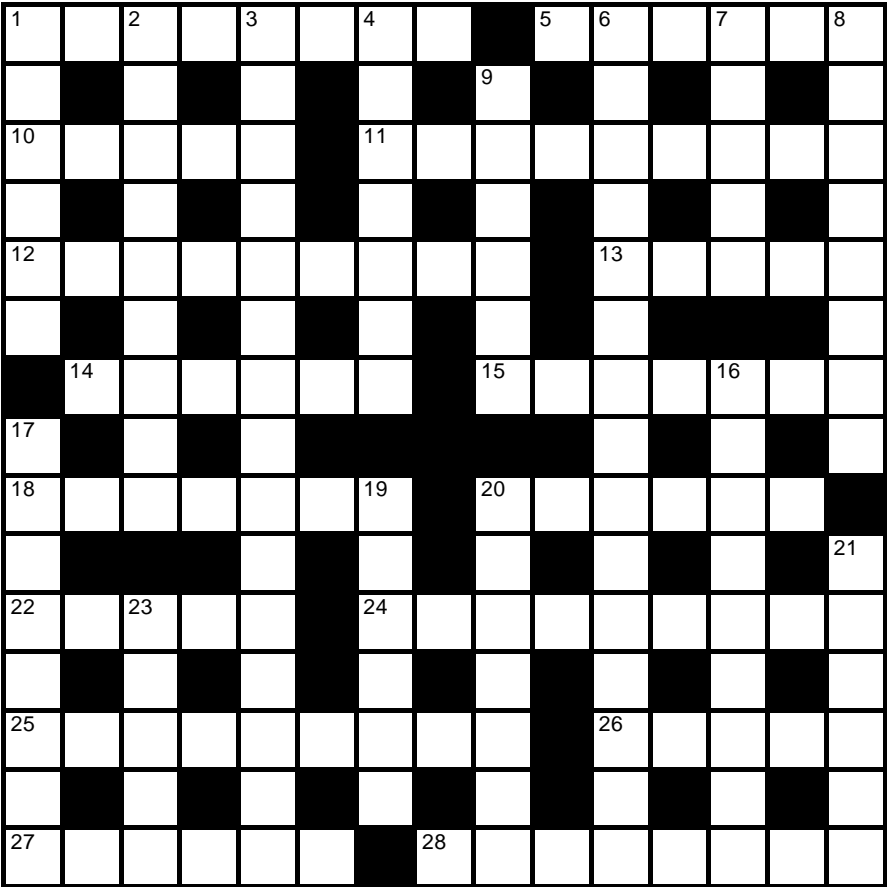
Crossword Number 63

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**NIBOR**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 July 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 International waters not found on low ground (4,4)
- 5 Eliminates leaders of every jumbo elephant coming to Serengeti (6)
- 10 Pink fuel is about right (5)
- 11 Propel notebook onto platform (6,3)
- 12 In complete agreement to leave mountainous eruption (9)
- 13 Command from Major Derwent (5)
- 14 Formed but phased out (6)
- 15 Mechanical instrument; instrument the French are after (7)
- 18 Wrapped up and about finished by journalist (7)
- 20 Note: soft fabric gives comfort (6)
- 22 Middle eastern city that attracts many visitors (5)
- 24 Romantic male partner, organised if bone-dry... (9)
- 25 ...Anyway, become more foolish (9)
- 26 Try to prevent stag eating cat's tail (5)
- 27 Greek God finds old Ford (6)

- 28 Awful stink and it's found on the desk (8)

## Down

- 1 Spasmodic breathing in catastrophic cup-final (6)
- 2 Old Russian discovered Bach composition in tangled grove (9)
- 3 Arrogantly distributed all my net profits (4-11)
- 4 Generally, nobody is in the dark (3,4)
- 6 Handyman - in the merchant navy? (4,2,3,6)
- 7 Lover boy is high in the police service (5)
- 8 Odds are I break down off the beaten track (4,4)
- 9 Takes over purchases (4,2)
- 16 Big band or artist on big box (9)
- 17 Sentimentality - in the synagogue? (8)
- 19 Tallow mixture; copying no good (6)
- 20 Leguminous plant obeys an order (7)
- 21 Loved a party radical (6)
- 23 Restrain rebel leader under canvas (5)

We congratulate Jonathan Lee & Sally Marsh, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Elly Catling, Mandy Kingsmill, Bob & Julie Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd, Trish Whitehead and Shirley Wilkins.

## Solution to crossword no. 62

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

# Become a Quest Seeker and join us on a fantastical journey!

**Quest Seekers is the 2009 Summer Reading Challenge which you can take part in with Cambridgeshire Libraries.**

Every year Cambridgeshire Libraries runs a summer reading game which challenges children to read six books over the summer holidays.

This year's challenge 'Quest Seekers' is all about the power of the imagination, taking you on a journey into a mysterious and wondrous land. Your Quest is to help three children - Raj, Belle and Louis to bring back a golden book. To do this you will have to take on three tasks: Firebird



**The Summer Reading Challenge in libraries**

Rising, Mountain Mission and Dragon's Lair. Can you read enough books to complete the challenge and find the golden book?

## **How Does It Work?**

Sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library. We'll give you a special Quest Seeker's fold out poster to keep.

Read six books over the holidays and you'll work your way through the three tasks by collecting stickers to complete the pictures on your poster. We'll also give you a moving image card to keep track of the books you have read.

There are other things to collect along the way, such as a dragon bookmark, activity sheets and a dragon model to make.

All children who read at least six books, so completing the challenge, will receive a certificate and medal at a special presentation ceremony at the library in September.

There are activity sessions in Burwell library every Tuesday morning at 10.30 during the holidays. We'd also love to hear what you think about the books you have read.

You can join Quest Seekers at any Cambridgeshire library including the mobile.

Don't forget that joining the library doesn't cost anything and you can borrow up to 12 books at a time - FOR FREE!

**'Quest Seekers' enrolment begins on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July (you can also enrol after this date) and the challenge must be completed by Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.**



Although she only came to live in Swaffham Prior six years ago, Barbara Dennis, who died last month, made an enormous impression in our local community and will be greatly missed. Here is an account of a “previous life”.

## *Memories of Barbara Dennis ...*

Deputy Head at Comberton Village College

1968 - 1992

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that Comberton Village College has learned of the recent passing of Barbara Dennis, known affectionately to staff as BD. Barbara had an outstanding career at Comberton and she is someone whose dedication, talent and professionalism helped lay the foundations which have enabled the school to evolve. There are staff still here who owe their perceptions of the standards and values in education to her example, and we feel that Barbara’s inspirational guidance and support influenced us all personally.

Barbara’s kindness and pastoral care for pupils was legendary. Before expectations became formulated in statutory documents, she led the way in demonstrating how a school’s ethos should be represented by every individual member of staff and she taught us how to model the behaviours we want to encourage in young people. She made it a priority to protect the needs of the most vulnerable children and her vision of a genuinely inclusive education for every single child was borne out by her insistence in focusing on their entitlement and ensuring that each received the best education that CVC could offer. Barbara was a formidable presence with immense experience in detecting errors both administrative and human. Stories abound about her Miss Marple-like capacity for solving school “crimes”.

She was at the heart of Henry Morris’s ideal of a Community School. To this day she is fondly remembered by ex-pupils who work at CVC, and also by those living locally, as someone who understood how school and community should relate to each other. In a way of life where there never seems to be enough time and one is never up to date, Barbara fulfilled her obligations to the letter. Her beautiful handwriting reflected the meticulousness of someone who was never too busy to help those who asked, nor too preoccupied to notice those who were in need. She was extraordinary and it was a privilege to have known and worked with her. Just how much she cared about each individual, bothered about people and touched the lives of all of those around her, may be gathered from the typical responses of her colleagues’ children: “Oh, yes, Mrs Dennis, she was lovely!”

*Mary Martin*  
CVC, June 2009

# Notes from the Parish Council Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009

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

**Approval of Minutes - Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009:** These were agreed.

## **Reports:**

**CCC:** Cllr David Brown as newly-elected County Councillor introduced himself to the meeting and gave a brief report.

**ECDC:** Apologies for absence – written report read to meeting.

## **Correspondence Received:**

Andrew Carauna-Traffic Technician – Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior – JFMHI 2008/09

Andrew Carauna-Traffic Technician – Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements – 20010/11 Bidding Round.

Mark Vigor, Head of Strategic Planning – Planning Permission for School mobile classroom

Ashley List, County Play Strategy Project Officer – Cambridgeshire Play Pathfinder Project – Year Two

## **ECDC**

Cathy White, Senior Trees Officer – approval of tree works at The Old Vicarage, 72 High Street.

Cathy White, Senior Trees Officer – approval of tree works at 1 Station Road.

Daniel Schumann, Active Communities Officer – Launch of East Cambridgeshire Community Fund and District Analysis of Community Facilities.

## **General**

Equality and Human Rights – Public Sector Duties

CPALC – Briefing Note “Power of Well-Being”

COPE – Newsletter No.55

Cambridgeshire ACRE – COMMA (Community Aggregates) Fund 2009-10

CPALC – Outreach Training – New for 2009-2010

School - Newsletter

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

*View of Church Clock:* Cathy White, Tree Officer for ECDC, inspected the trees blocking the view of the Church Clock and said that she would not approve any cutting back or removal work. Andrew Camps told the meeting that The Churches Conservation Trust had been approached for their support to have the offending tree cut back/taken down. The views of residents from the Village had been invited at the Annual Village Meeting and generally it was felt that people should be able to see the clock from the road. Following on from this, the Clerk was asked to write to ECDC in support of having the work done.



**Play Area – repairs to fencing:** Following the recent vandalism to the back fence of the play area, estimates for repair works were invited. Following consideration, it was agreed to ask Simon King to carry out the work to replace the fencing and small gate.

**Play Area – RoSPA annual inspection report:** The report was very good this year with only minor items of repair/refurbishment noted.

**Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements – 2010/11 Bidding Round:** Geoffrey Woollard outlined for Cllr Brown the traffic calming work carried out on Mill Hill to-date. Following discussion it was agreed that a further application should be submitted for additional work on Mill Hill and also a speed reduction to 30mph.

**Maintenance work to Village Car Park/Driveway:** Geoffrey Woollard sprayed with weed killer the outer edges of the car park. Eric Day had filled in the potholes in the driveway and said he would continue to do this. Two contractors were invited to give estimates to cut back the vegetation on the driveway but both declined. It was suggested that a working party could do this. John Jordan said he knew of a charity based team that might carry out the work and said he would pass contact details onto the Clerk.

**Repairs to The Pound, Cage Hill – meeting with Conservation Officer:** Rosie Burton met with the Clerk to inspect the wall around the Pound. RB was concerned about the leaning/cracking of the left-hand front corner of the wall and asked that the Parish Council seek the advice of a Structural Engineer before any work went ahead. She confirmed that, subject to application, funds would be available for the work. She agreed to review once the Structural Engineer's report was received.

#### **Planning Applications Received including:**

28 High Street – *demolition of existing barn and rebuilding*. Ref: 09/00360/CAC: This followed on from a full application considered at the May meeting. There were no objections.

The Cottage, 32 Mill Hill – *two storey extension to form kitchen and bedroom*. Ref: 09/00381/FUL: There were no objections.

New Gant Farm, Swaffham Prior Fen – (Retrospective) *extension to dwelling to include additional bedroom, entrance area, rear porch and living accommodation created within the garage space (amendments to application 04/00498/FUL), ménage, stable block and shed for personal use within the residential curtilage*. Ref: 09/00279/FUL: There were no objections, although the meeting considered it was unfortunate that this was a retrospective application and asked that the Clerk recorded this when replying to ECDC Planning.

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

#### **Clerk's Report:**

*New direction sign – Lower End/Rogers Road:* A meeting was held with Paul Butcher and Andrew Carauna of CCC to confirm the site, etc., for the new 'traditional' sign made by Jonathan Cook. Preparation work was agreed and once this has been done, the new sign will be installed.

*Dog fouling:* This continues to be a problem and following discussion with the

Dog Warden at ECDC, the purchase of dog bins is currently being looked into. Under an ECDC pilot scheme, if the Parish Council purchased these bins, ECDC would put them up and be responsible for emptying them.

*Overhanging hedges, shrubs, etc.* Complaints have been received about this annual problem. The Parish Council would welcome residents help in checking their property boundaries and dealing with any overhanging vegetation to ensure that pavements, footpaths and rights of way are kept clear.

#### **Parish Councillors' Reports:**

Geoffrey Woollard and Peter Hart attended the 'Rural Crime Issues' meeting organised by the Police on the 2/6/09. They agreed this was a useful meeting highlighting issues such as hare-coursing and the theft of diesel. It was emphasised by the Police the need for people to report crimes, however small!

#### **Open Question Time:**

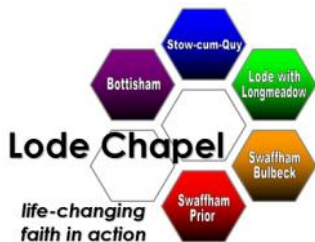
General discussion.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

*Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council*

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## Summer Knights...

This summer the time has come to journey back to an age of heroism and endeavour... and to spend a week there enjoying craft, games, challenges, music, dances and general silliness! Yes, our summer holiday club for children aged 5-11 is back – and it promises to be just as much fun as the Amazon Adventure of 2006 and last year's WasteWatchers.

Not quite sure what to expect? Well, start with the story of 'David and Goliath'; add a smidgen of 'Lord of the Rings'; mix it in with a bit of 'Robin Hood' and a sprinkle of 'The Chronicles of Narnia'; topping it off with a generous helping of 'Spamalot' – and you might be getting close...

This year the club is only for four days, and takes place during the first week of the school holidays. The dates, for your diary are: **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2009**. The club runs from 9.00am until 12.30pm each day, but the whole family can join in with the fun because there will be a **barbeque and quiz night** at the school on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**, along with the usual **holiday club celebration** event on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**.

As in previous years the people at Lode Chapel are being supported by other local churches and Christians – the holiday club truly is a collaborative effort, and this year is again led by Jonathan Dowman (the Anglican curate) and myself. As

well as having worked together on **RE:NEW** over the last year or two, both of us were also once primary school teachers, and that probably explains why we have so much fun bouncing around on stage and making fools of ourselves! It's the rest of the team that does all of the hard work; indeed, many of the helpers have taken a week off work in order to be there, and without their contribution the club wouldn't be able to happen.

The venue for **Summer Knights** will be Bottisham Primary School, but we'll be going into all of the local schools to advertise the club and to send home registration forms. Do send the forms back swiftly as places are allocated on a first come first served basis and we have to limit the number of children we can take for health and safety reasons. If your child doesn't give you a registration form, or if you want to ensure your child's place by booking early, then you can contact me directly (my details are below). We do ask for a donation of **£2 per child per day** to help cover the cost of the school hire and the resources that we use, but much of the expense of the week is willingly subsidised by the church. As always, the club is operated in line with our child protection policy – the welfare of the children at the club is very important to us.

Once again, however, I issue the following disclaimer. Children who have been to holiday club have been known to spend the rest of the summer endlessly singing the holiday club theme tune and other songs, which have an annoying habit of being hard to forget. Nonetheless, children of all ages are bound to have fun – and I, for one, can't wait!

*Simon Goddard*

We welcome you to any of our services or other midweek activities.

In July and August we will offer a family friendly service at Lode Chapel every Sunday at 10.30am, except for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July when we'll have the holiday club celebration at the school.

**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)



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

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

## PASTORAL LETTER, July 2009

## Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you on the Sunday when Andy Murray has just won the Queen's tournament, and all our hopes are now pinned on him winning Wimbledon. July is always a great sporting month, and this year, in addition to Wimbledon, we have the Ashes tests to look forward to.



In many ways we pin our hopes on our sporting celebrities. We want to bask in their glory and their success, and success means everything to them too. *"I have put my whole life into winning this cup and now I've got it, it's indescribable,"* said Jonny Wilkinson, clutching the Webb Ellis trophy to himself. Sports personalities are desperately hungry for success, and this is what drives them on.

The fact is, however, that in any competition, for every winner there are a huge number of losers. As St. Paul points out in his first letter to the Corinthians. *'Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize?'* (1 Corinthians 9:24) St. Paul is reminding us that success is a very elusive thing. At one moment a sporting personality can be a national hero, the next moment he/she can be a huge disappointment.

St Paul was thinking about the Roman Games of his time when he wrote *'Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last.'* (1 Corinthians 9:25) He reminds us that in sporting achievement there is such a fine margin between success and failure, and one week's winner can be the next week's loser. So how do we cope with failure as well as success?

Eric Liddell, in preparing for the 1924 Paris Olympics, where, against all the odds, he won an athletics gold medal in the 400 metres in a world record time, spoke publicly for the first time about his faith in Christ in a small town hall in Armadale in Scotland. He spoke of the strength he felt within himself from the sure knowledge of God's love and support. How he never questioned anything that happened either to himself or to others. He didn't need explanations from God. He simply believed in Him and accepted whatever came. Eric Liddell demonstrated in his life that what really mattered most was not winning or losing, but trusting in Jesus Christ.

St. Paul sums up Eric Liddell's philosophy beautifully in his letter to the Philippians: *'I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his*

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior</b>
<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 26</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Mattins

*sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:10-14)*

That is the real measure of success in life for us all, to take hold of that prize which Jesus Christ has already won for us.

May God bless you all,

*David*

## **FREecycle**



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

### **Offers**

- 3 glass lampshades; small size for multi-lamp roses (or 3 table lamps). Frosted glass pattern. Jacqui 01223 811190
- 13 old style OS 1:25,000 Pathfinder maps. Various areas including west of Cambridge, Scotland, Midlands and Surrey. Jacqui 01223 811190
- Z-bed in good condition with original mattress but also a newer deeper mattress. Maureen (c/o Jun 01223 813362)
- Mono Arc Welder. Robin, 01223 811632
- Sony Trinitron flat screen 26" CRT TV, works fine but large and heavy. Robin, 01223 811632
- Quantity of plastic plant pots of differing sizes. Robin, 01223 811632
- Computer workstation trolley, Habitat, black tubular steel. Robin, 01223 811632
- Electric Hoover Floor Polisher. Robin, 01223 811632

## ***Dates for Your Diary June 2009***

Fri	3	Festival Art Exhibition (3-5 July) and Church History Exhibition Goldberg Variations in Candlelight, 8.15pm, St Cyriac's
Sat	4	School Fair, 12.30—3.30pm, SP School Festival Cabaret Evening, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	5	Compline in Plainchant, 7.20pm, St Cyriac's
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm
Sat	11	Open Studios (11-12th, 18-19th) Mill House, Mill Hill (11-12th, 25-26th) 24 Lower End A Concert for Summer, 7.30pm, Landbeach Church
Sun	12	Strawberry Teas and Jazz, 3-5pm, Commissioner's Farm
Mon	13	WI Garden Party, 7pm, 44 High Street
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Fri	17	Mothers' Union
Sat	18	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Bell Ringing, St Cyriac's, 4-4.45
Tue	21	Summer Knights (to 24th) 9-12.30pm, Bottisham Primary School
Tues	28	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15

<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	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	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

***Village  
Clubs  
&  
Societies***