



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 6

June 2009



## Editorial

ALLEGEDLY, when a local political representative found themselves getting some critical coverage from the *Crier*, they expressed the opinion that this must be because we were *all a load of Tories*. But at other times, we've equally been seen as the corresponding load of all-too-Liberal *Lefties*.

Long-time residents will know that the United Front of Swaffham Prior (sometimes, sometimes!) has little to do with Party Lines, and having said this, we'd like to put in a word for our MP, Jim Paice. Jim helped us out when they wanted to cancel our buses, and readers may be glad to know he is *not* implicated in the great expenses scandal now gripping the nation, (see Letters) or the nation's news, at any rate.

Many apologies, no coverage of the Village Assembly in this issue (the end of the month seems to have caught everyone hopping) but John Jordan must *again* take a bow: his slides make such a difference to this event. What's more, *we* think his apostrophe was in entirely the *right* place (he'd put "children's playground" and everyone told him he was wrong. Poor John waived a bit, and finally opted for the no-apostrophe-at-all option).

Our new Village Hall committee masterminded a brilliant *Feast*, and have great

plans for next year. Now is the time for all the moaning but-we-used-to-have-this minnies to get in touch with Nathan for a few ideas. Oh, but we would like *horses* again! What is a village do without horses? Too much legislation and not enough space, we suppose. But the Feast used to be on Town Close (That's the **children's** playground plus hinterland, if you're new to the village), and funnily enough, this month some vandals have knocked down the fence that divides it.

No, we didn't put them up to it, and we do hope we're not in for another Summer of Discontent. The last time disaffected youthful persons strode the streets and made a nuisance of themselves (summer of ?) it ended in complete victory for the parental classes. Yes, *we'll know who you are*, O vandalising persons, and, more to the point, who your Mum is— that's the rub!

See you at our *FESTIVAL!*

**Caroline Matheson**

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**Cover Picture:** *The Churches from Caddenham's* by Clive Riggs



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

### **Bikey Mikey's epic charity cycle ride**

May we draw your readers' attention to our son Michael's forthcoming sponsored solo cycle ride from Istanbul to Cambridge in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières.

A former student of Hills Road 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Michael is taking a gap year before starting his degree in cellular and molecular medicine at Bristol University. Michael is a mad keen cyclist; if you were quick enough, some of you may have seen a Billy the Whizz type blur of him hurtling through the village on his racing bike travelling to and from college and work.

Michael is currently biking round New Zealand, having circumnavigated the south island and now making his way up the north. He has funded the entire trip himself, having spent the previous six months working as an operating theatre assistant at Addenbrookes Hospital. Singapore airlines have kindly agreed to fly his bike to Turkey for free.

Of course we are very proud that he is such a brave and independent traveller, but also somewhat apprehensive and are trying hard to turn a deaf ear to hair-raising gap year stories.

If anyone would like to sponsor him, this can be done via his just giving webpage or organised through ourselves at 11 Rogers Road.

With our best wishes to everyone in the village

***Bob and Jill Bourne***

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Dear Editors,

### **The Autumn Show**

I have been asked by the Autumn Show committee, to encourage all residents of Swaffham Prior and readers of the Crier, to seed, grow, brew, bake, design and preserve for the show. It will be held on SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER at the Village Hall.

The classes include just about all the vegetables—potatoes, beans, carrots, courgettes, onions, pumpkins, cucumbers, tomatoes and beetroot. Fruits—pears, apples, plums and raspberries; Flowers—dahlias, chrysanths, roses perennials and michaelmas daisies; Flower arrangements; Jams and preserves; Cakes and Bread; Wines and a children's section, including one needing a very long tape-measure—the Tallest Sunflower.

Something there for just about every body, specially now you can grow so many things in pots, buckets, (ask Andy Pumfrey) tubs and bags.

Give it a go. there are those that win, year after year-they need challenging! All entries are auctioned at the end of the show and the money given to a charity.

More details about the show and the classes, will be in the ***Crier*** at a later date.

***Margaret Joyce***  
Village Gardeners

Dear Editors,

## **Emilia Appeal**

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Emilia appeal donor clinic in Swaffham Prior such a success. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who turned up at the village hall on March 31, wanting to help our 10-year-old daughter.

Hundreds patiently queued to register as bone marrow donors with the Anthony Nolan Trust, spilling out of the hall, down the path and onto the pavement. It was a fantastic turnout and we are extremely grateful. Although Emilia's blood disorder prevented her from being there on the night, she was thrilled to learn that so many had been thinking of her.

We would also like to thank all those who helped publicise and run the clinic - the nurses and doctor who volunteered to take blood samples, family and friends who helped distribute leaflets, welcome donors and organise refreshments and the Trust's staff who were able to answer so many of the public's questions. We couldn't have done it without them.

We have also been touched by local fundraising initiatives which help to support clinics like ours, including FoSPS' sunny café at Swaffham Prior Primary School, an awareness campaign and cake stalls at Bottisham Village College, a sponsored golf day at the Gog Magogs and generous company and personal donations. All funds have been forwarded to Anthony Nolan to enable its vital work to continue.

Our Swaffham Prior clinic may be over but the campaign goes on: At Domino in Bar Hill a donor recruitment day in aid of the Emilia appeal attracted more than 100 newcomers onto the register – and two of those are going to host their own clinics!

It is so important that more people continue to register – the more donors the greater the chance of finding a match for Emilia and others like her. To register with the Anthony Nolan Trust: 020 7284 1234 [www.anthonynolan.org.uk](http://www.anthonynolan.org.uk)

For the National Blood Service's bone marrow registry: 0845 7 711 711 [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk). Together we can make a difference. Thank you

***Ann, Phil, Alice and Emilia Hubbard***

15 Lower End

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Dear Editor,

## **Village Daffodils**

A very belated thank-you to Lynn Rand, for her letter acknowledging the work over the years of the village W.I. who've planted hundreds and hundreds of daffodils and usually "dead headed" them. (I have it on good authority that John Wilkins uses a scythe for this—he is incidentally one of our W.I. support group!)

We did discuss at a committee meeting, whether we should ask the people Lynn mentioned, who liked to "live head" the daffodils, ruining many peoples pleasure, to do the "dead heading" too, but decided against it.

***Margaret Joyce***

W.I. secretary

Dear Editors,

### **Pat Bourne**

Many tributes have been made to Pat Bourne and I hope I may add mine here. Pat reflects the love and sheer goodness of her parents, Len and Addie Gibson whom I knew well in Blackheath, South-east London, 60 years ago. Pat's Father Len was the District Surveyor for Lewisham and as such was in charge of Heavy Rescue services after bombings in WW2. It was he who was responsible for the digging of my parents and myself out from our 4-storey home which was demolished by a V1 Doodle Bug landing in our back garden. Such was the start of a long friendship between us , and ,from Len a considerable contribution to the building up of my architectural practice. It's a small world.....and a good one too , and we were delighted when we came to Burwell ten years ago to find Pat still here carrying out her loving work for those in need.

***David Bush***

Assistant Priest, St Mary's, Burwell

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Dear Editor

### **Rogation Lunch**

Once again the Rogation Service and lunch at Adventurers Farm was enthusiastically supported and with the bonus of several new faces to the village which was lovely. Once couple, who are planning their wedding in St. Mary's for this September, travelled up from London and joined villagers both young and old on, for once, a reasonably dry event. The last five years have seen heavy rain! Whilst Cambridge United kept a few folk detained at Wembley the rest of us enjoyed ourselves! I would like to say thank you to everyone who made the effort to come, even if they couldn't stay for lunch, and a huge thank you to Dave and Lorraine Nicholls who very generously sponsored the marquee which kept us all dry. The sum of £80 was donated to St. Mary's Church funds as a result of the day.

***Janet Willmott***

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Dear Editors,

### **April Fool**

Well, I'm delighted to have been so well spoofed in the April issue, and it made me laugh. But it's no use trying to extend the joke - silly me, I should have guessed Sue Wade and Geoffrey Woollard couldn't possibly mean all those things about turning the Fen into a theme park, so on and such. I will be more restrained in responding to such claims in future.

Shirley, on the other hand, worries me a little. Surely in such a friendly and welcoming village like ours there's someone who can get her out of herself a bit more, and maybe focus her thoughts upon a less disturbing writer, Jane Austen or whatever - perhaps the book group could help?

Fortunately by the end of this month when the new *Crier* appears, we're past the kind of rural jollity that involves a maypole. Lord knows what would happen if someone were to explain to her the significance of that one.

***Mark Lewinski***

Dear Editors,

## Expenses

And now these revelations, new ones every day  
How well-paid politicians, supplement their pay.  
Saying they haven't broken rules that they've made, anyway.  
We may dislike their actions but must admire their technique.  
I'm losing faith in the government – same as I did last week.

*Ophir*

# The Festival

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Please see Programme for more details

## Friday 26 June

Merriweather's Shakespeare	7.30-9.30pm	St. Mary's	£6
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## Saturday 27 June

Soap Box Run	11am – 1pm	Cage Hill	
Come-and-Sing 'Messiah'	6-7.00pm	St. Cyriac's	RC

## Sunday 28 June

Twenty 20 Cricket	2.00pm	Bulbeck Denny	
Maryloo Concert	6-8.00pm	St Cyriac's & St. M	£6

## Friday 3 July

Art Exhibition Preview	6-8.00pm	St. Cyriac's	
Bach's Goldberg Variations	8.15-9.15pm	St. Cyriac's	RC

## Saturday 4 July

The School Fete	12-3.00pm	The School	
Art Exhibition	11.00-6.00pm	St. Cyriac's	
French Impressionist Music	5-6.00pm	St. Cyriac's	RC
Cabaret Evening	7.30-9.30	Village Hall	£8
<i>(Includes finger buffet)</i>			

## Sunday 5 July

Art Exhibition	11.00-6.00pm	St. Cyriac's	RC
French Impressionist Music	5-6.00pm	St. Cyriac's	
Compline in Plainchant	7.20pm	St. Cyriac's	
(An introduction to Plainchant in <i>St. Mary's</i> at 7.00pm)			

(‘RC’ for some music events means there is a retiring collection)

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

YES – again at the April Meeting. On the off-chance that in my absence no-one would report the May meeting, I prepared the second half of the April meeting report. As I have said before, the PC meetings are now over-rich with copy. So, what didn't I report?

Let's take the traffic calming exercise Mill Hill. It seems the reason why the extra white lines have not been painted is because "they may confuse cyclists". How that got our PC going. Any cyclist attended would not have admitted it that night. Details of the speed survey had also been supplied and it claimed to be comparing it with an earlier survey "at the same time of day to get the fairer results." But the dates, time of day, length of survey, and number of cars is not given. If this was a survey for a school project the marks would probably have been 3 or 4 out of 10.



So what can we abstract from the survey which may be of use? The average speed going south has increased by 0.2mph while that going north has decreased by 3.4mph. When the scheme was first discussed the anticipated average speed reduction was between 0 to 5mph. So they are only a bit off target. But without the details listed above it is impossible to make any sensible comment or draw any useful or interesting conclusions. Karen King, who lives on Mill Hill, said that the crossing places are very welcome and successful and that drivers now take more notice of pedestrians trying to cross the road. Meantime I had carried out my own piece of research by, when travelling south, following a huge yellow and green breakdown lorry enter the 40mph zone at 50mph. In order to complete my research I had to keep up with him and it was only because of a car parked on half the pavement that we were both legal by the time we reached Cage hill. If this helps I shall continue to carry out similar research.

Our Chairman, John Covill, in the middle of a discussion had said that he didn't like the new ECDC telephone system. When you phone you are asked your name, who you want, and your concern. You are then put through only to find that the person is out. It seems this has been introduced to monitor the number and nature of complaints. The greatest number of complaints so far are concerned with the non-delivery of bin bags. Earlier in the evening I am sure I heard (it wasn't the most gripping topic and one is allowed to nod off) that ECDC is still worried about the cost of bags and also whether people read what is printed on the side of the bags. The reading of bin bags must surely be a low priority with most people as the poor old bin bag has to compete with television, newspapers, the radio etc. I don't think it stands a chance.

Mind you, coming off the A14 from the West at Quy you have something like a paragraph from a book to read, and when you turn onto the roundabout there is yet another paragraph. This just shows how adept the human brain is. If motorists can digest all the information on those road signs why can't cyclists handle a few extra lines on Mill Hill?

Yet another 25 year plan by the East of England Regional Assembly was mentioned and immediately there were cries of “who are these people?”, “who appoints then?”, “it’s undemocratic” and there seemed to be general booing about them and the number of quangos. The only mention of Neighbourhood Panels (NP) came up when the Cambridgeshire Together “Weather the Storm” brochure was circulated. This is divided thematically and provides 38 phone numbers to contact should you have problems. Geoffrey said that most of the time at the last NP was spent discussing this brochure. One may well wonder why. Now that NPs have come up, reproduced below are the issues listed by Alan Williams to justify his organisation. Excluding speeding issues which are being reviewed nationally, the remainder of the various parishes concerns have been highlighted. Are NPs (overloaded with the attendance of the police) really necessary to deal with these, and did Prior and Bulbeck PCs really submit the issues against their names, **or were they, dare I say, “lifted”?**

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## **ALAN WILLIAMS’**

### **List of Neighbourhood Issues**

**Which he says illustrates the “increasing success” of Neighbourhood Panels and is the basis on which NPs are being introduced over all Cambridgeshire**

**Ashley** – speeding through village; burglary from aviary

**Bottisham** – need for effective communication between NPT and Parish Council; ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour)

**Brinkley** – further negotiations for more allotments

**Burrough Green** – review of speed limit zones; speeding

**Burwell** – impassable road to/from the farm passing the travellers’ site; **concern at sharing a District Nurse (rather than having dedicated provision)**

**Cheveley** – no issues identified

**Dullingham** – gritting needed on roads from the station up the hill; speed limit reduction (40 to 30 mph)

**Kirtling (+ Upend)** – review of speed restriction zone

**Lode** – review of speed limit zone; need for a safe crossing point for children with likes

**Reach** – gritting of Heath Road to Bulbeck

**Stetchworth** – no issues identified

**Swaffham Bulbeck** – fly-tipping on Heath Road and in the fen; gritting needed on cycle lane between the Village and Bottisham (inc at Stone Bridge)

**Swaffham Prior** – fly-tipping on Heath Road; in the fen advice sought on security of expensive equipment, deep mud and potential lasting damage to the newly-enlarged flood bank by Environment Agency

**Woodditton** – non-receipt of Christmas refuse and recycling arrangements led to bags not being collected

**Westley Waterless** – no issues identified

# MERRIWEATHER'S SHAKESPEARE

Nicodemus Merriweather (born Nick Meadows in 1571 in St Martin-in-the-Fields) ran away to join the theatre on his fifteenth birthday. Thrust into the breech by William Shakespeare himself, Merriweather's inglorious debut on the London stage heralded a career of playing sidekicks, foils, straight men and stooges to all the truly great actors of the age.

Merriweather's perspective is unique, his memory remarkable, and his honesty unflinching. His tenure with the Lord Chamberlain's – later the King's - Men took him through turbulent times – the Essex Rebellion, the Gunpowder Plot, a change of royal dynasty, the execution of Roderigo Lopez, his own interrogation in the Clink, and the Plague.

During the course of the play, Merriweather portrays forty or more characters, some real people, others Will's own creations in their finest speeches. Hilariously funny, hair raising, bloody and poignantly sad, 'Merriweather' is a great night out for lovers of the Bard and newcomers to Shakespeare alike.

This is a one-man show and Merriweather carries all his theatre, costumes and props on his back.



**Friday 26 June**

**St Mary's Church    7.30 - 9.30pm    £6.00**

Tickets are available on the door. Those wishing to reserve a ticket in advance should ring Francis Reeks on 01638 743693



# **ST MARY'S, SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

## **Summer Events 2009**

**Saturday 6 June, 10am – 2pm**

### **GARAGE AND TABLE-TOP SALE**

Take this opportunity to recycle your unwanted items or pick up some bargains at the Swaffham Prior Garage and Table-Top sale. Anyone is welcome to participate. Sell directly from your garage or bring a car-load of items to the meadow opposite the thatched cottage at the Swaffham Bulbeck end of the High Street. Proceeds – 50% to the sellers/50% to St Mary's Church. Contact Kate Child - 743983 – for more information/to book a pitch.



**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 Combertones Jazz Band, and garden games will keep all ages amused. Tickets are £5 in advance 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.

**Look out for more information on our Autumn Events:**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup> - Moveable Feast at various homes in the village**  
**October 17<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Supper in the Village Hall**  
**November 14<sup>th</sup> - Quiz Night in the Village Hall**



# A CABARET EVENING

## **Rex Walford and Gabrielle Bell ENTERTAIN**

The entertainment by this very well-known duo will be drawn from the great tradition of the Musical. With Rex the raconteur and historian at the piano, and Gabrielle in costume and fine voice, they will lead the audience on an exploration of the highways and byways of British and American musical theatre, and a celebration of the golden years of Tin Pan Alley.

A recent review described the show as “a magical evening of entertainment” by a “bewitchingly versatile young singer and a musical maestro.”

Everyone will go home happily humming the tunes.

**Saturday 4 July      The Village Hall      7.30-9.30pm  
£8.00**

*There is a finger buffet in the Interval*

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## **‘In This Together’**

During the last few months, over 100 children and young people have been working hard rehearsing for a Charity Dance Show at Burwell Village College. The proceeds of the show will go to the Special Care Baby Unit at the Rosie Maternity Hospital in Cambridge.

The dancers are all pupils of the Jane Newbury School of Dancing and are aged 3 to 16 years old. There will be two performances on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 and 7.30pm. Dance disciplines will include Classical Ballet, Tap, Jazz Dance, Musical Theatre, National Dance, and Nursery Movement. Priority tickets will be distributed to parents first and remaining tickets will be advertised locally.

**Jane Newbury**  
01223 812154

# 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!

## LIFTERS AND MOVERS

To make the Festival go with a swing a little muscle power will be required to move the keyboard, erect screens, move chairs (not all at once) at the times given below. Just filling in one slot will be a great help and generally not more than half an hour will be required, apart from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July which may take a little longer.

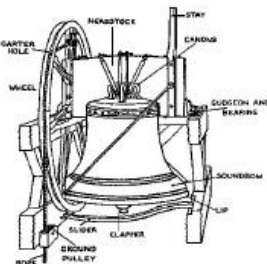
If you are free at any of the times below please phone Alastair Everitt (742974)

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	6.15pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11.00am
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	6.30pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	6.30pm

## Let The Bells Ring Out

June is a good month for Swaffham Prior Bells. On Saturday 20 June the ringers of St Mary's in Woodditton will be ringing at 11.00am. This will be followed by a real treat as hand-picked bellringers ring a quarter peal on Tuesday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> June to celebrate the 900 years of Ely Cathedral. Every tower in the Ely district will be ringing at some time during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June for this celebration.

Our very own practice will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30 June.



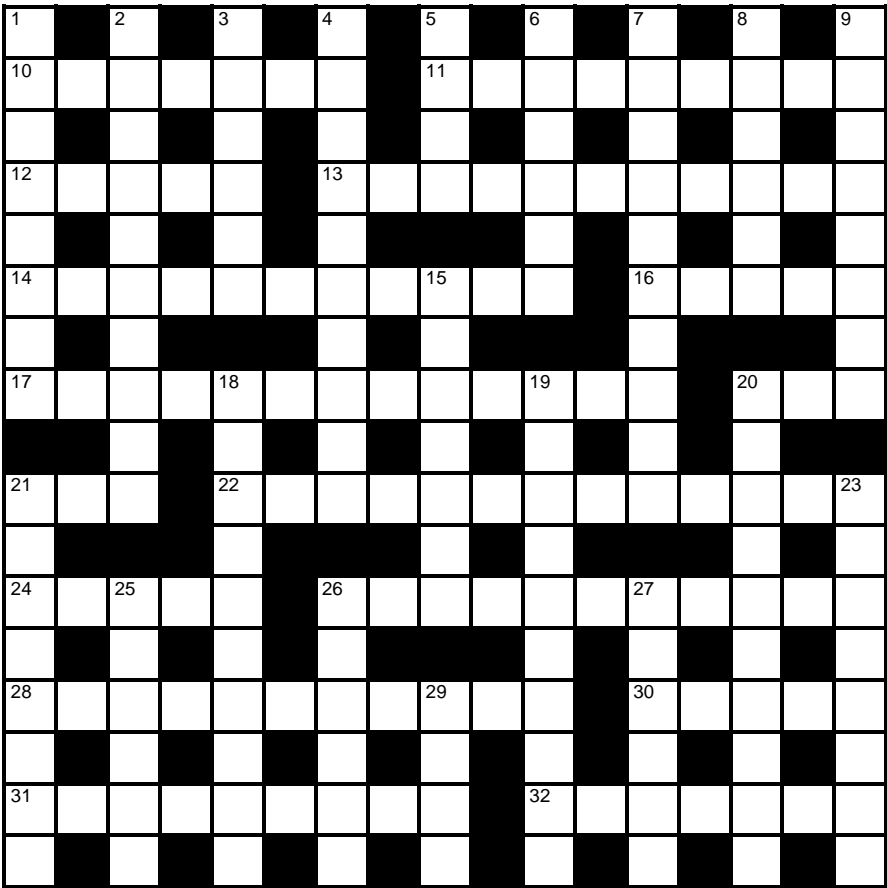
*Alastair Everitt*

Crossword Number 62

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by  
**OUNCE**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 May 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

- 10 Maul Ian for corundum (7)  
 11 Height of joy around log base 5 (9)  
 12 Sad mind-reader losing denim becomes dismal (5)  
 13 Perfidious tuneable dog works for two masters (6,5)  
 14 After Little Benjamin follows motorway north to bad end, bell is heard - brain-blowing! (4-7)  
 16 Eastender missing reds as consumed (5)  
 17 Eli, a grim Vicar, involved in this ceremony? No. (And if it isn't, annul it?) (5,8)  
 20 Cold stuff from arctic environment (3)  
 21 Farewell from Ruby Evans (3)  
 22 Novel masseurs manipulate fantastic state (13)  
 24 Prod stew of French gnu (5)  
 26 Fabian dips one transmuted into congenital defect (11)  
 28 One lumpy spy dabbles in financial stocks (5,6)  
 30 Industrial site for quiet student worker (5)  
 31 Perfume base bears grim mixture (9)  
 32 As cruel as lawless non-religious? (7)

## Down

- 1 Global epidemic of denim cap weaving (8)  
 2 Nervous ape worried about exploding stars (10)  
 3 Bird I'm ill-using with central vein of leaf (6)  
 4 "Fern!" "Hi, Andrea. I'm confused" (10)

- 5 Phoebe, Aubrey's hiding a dandy (4)  
 6 Peel kiddie's horse badly - needs a prosthesis (3-3)  
 7 Woman in charge enrages Sam terribly (10)  
 8 Tinsel tangled without a sound (6)  
 9 An insect gyrating for example (8)  
 15 PM is beheaded by one from Tel Aviv (7)  
 18 Blurry dame befuddled at timber merchant's place (6-4)  
 19 Cosy appeal of chaotic cosmic cataclysm0)  
 20 Invite Abel for cocktails? Unavoidable (10)  
 21 I'm albino, mysteriously related to two terms (8)  
 23 Rabid tar rests before main (8)  
 25 Sporting Bud, no Scots on blue flower? (6)  
 26 Scamper from southern Madras for example (6)  
 27 Docked Captain Tim wrongly for effect (6)  
 29 Small coin found in crepe socks (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 58

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

*In the present political position, it seems pertinent, (even impertinent),  
to reprise a verse last published in the Crier in the 1996 February issue, page 9.  
I have edited it slightly from that version.*

## **The Sinking Voter**

With British cars and aeroplanes, of oversea's design,  
And Industry in general, in an ongoing decline;  
With tens of thousands unemployed, and a future rather bleak;  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

With the British fishermen, allowed less and less to catch;  
And foreign sailors selling fish, at a price ours cannot match  
Forcing sailors in our fishing fleet slowly up the creek;  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

With tasteless foreign apples on greengrocers' racks,  
And the one great British burden - excessive income tax.  
With inventions being sold abroad, or allowed to leak;  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

With vital information on discs that are 'mislaidd',  
And banks losing our money on 'deals' they shouldn't have made. .  
With immigration numbers at an-all time peak,  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

With the price of oil and its taxation, at an all time high  
Which to run a car and heat the home, one is forced to buy.  
With excuse after excuses given in politicians' 'devious speak',  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

Though if we had another lot, it could be the same  
Except for another Opposition, apportioning the blame;  
But if a government did right all the time, it would be UNIQUE!  
I'm losing faith in the government - as I did last week.

***Ophir***

## **Crossword Winner**

We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert and Julie Nunn.

# FREECYCLE



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

## Offers

Part of garden as allotment (Longmeadow), Malcolm 07940229658

- 1930's wooden armchair commode. Please contact me on the above number as I do not currently have a number for Stella, who is offering the commode. (Stella, you didn't leave me your phone number, so please call me so that I can pass on your details to whoever is interested in the commode)
- Two first-size baby car seats in good condition, no accident damage. Nic/Fay Bawtree 01223 812231
- Mothercare booster seat for dining chair, adjustable heights. Details as above.
- Wood bark chips suitable for gardeners - must be able to collect. Janet 01223 811649 (evenings)
- Truvox reel to reel tape recorder, Large 240v. George 07895064727
- Two pushchairs. Claire 01223 813736
- Well-loved Mothercare 3-wheeler. As above.
- Old wooden table with an inlay (worn and in need of some love). As above

## Wants

- Lady's bicycle in good working order. Nic/Fay Bawtree 01223 812231
- Postcard display rack, carousel or other, prefer table-standing. George 07895064727
- Unwanted metal lamp fittings, wall switches in metal or bakelite. George makes lamps and always need bits from garden sprays etc. Details as above.
- Child's bike (child is 103 cm high). Jun 01223 813362

## GARAGE SALE — 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE

I no longer work in the film and television industries so have Film and Audio equipment for sale.

Cameras, projectors, lamps, cables etc.

1 Adams Road  
01638 741221

# VILLAGE FEAST 2009

THE LONG RANGE WEATHER FORECAST is thrown together by The Met Office's resident drunk after his lunchtime pint purely for the amusement of his colleagues and the torment of the populace. No other explanation fits the glee with which they predicted torrential downpours, tornados and a hail of frogs for the afternoon of May 16<sup>th</sup>; predictions which curiously softened in severity as the day drew nearer, receding altogether into the mild 'brief showers possible' to which we woke on the morning of The Feast.

By this time of course the newly formed Feast organizing committee of Mike Carrington, Mike & Mary Charlesworth and Nathan Wrench had almost given up hope of anything but a complete wash-out, leaving us pathetically grateful for the loans of various tents and gazebos and still more

**The First Feast Under New Management! As Nathan Wrench explains, the new Village Hall Committee were threatened with Storm and Flood, but in the end the sun shone, and everybody had a glorious time.**







thankful for the glorious sunshine which made the shade they provided so welcome.

In the end the event passed off successfully, Swaffham Prior's Feast once again confirming its status as the perfect antidote to the noisy excesses of Reach's annual bash. Following a tried and trusted formula and restricting its innovations to the siting of the attractions, with some stalls moving *literally several metres* from their erstwhile locations, to the consternation of many, the Feast was attended by a good crowd keen to witness the delights of the School's Maypole, Andrew Noyes' excellent band and the exciting Surprise Challenge.

Special mention must here go to Andy and Jo Pumfrey for their skill and teamwork in said Surprise Challenge – skill matched only by their relentless competitiveness, making them truly a force to be reckoned with. We look forward to their defence of the title next year.

Finally, an enormous 'thanks' to all those who helped out either on the day manning stalls, fetching tables and setting up, or who contributed before the event by collecting bottles for the bottle stall, books and bric a brac, etc, etc. The list is impressively long – surely the sign of a functioning community. On behalf of the committee, my thanks to you all – see you next year!

**Nathan Wrench**

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



### **Armchair Gardening**

On 11th July Susan Bowden-Pickstock will be giving a talk with slides at Lode Church. Susan previously worked for the BBC and has written about an investigation into some of Britain's lesser known gardens, which are havens of peace in our busy world.

Come along on 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to enjoy a glass of wine and some unashamedly armchair gardening! Cost £4 in aid of church funds.

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## **MIKADO**

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present Gilbert and Sullivan's popular operetta "The Mikado" at Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009. As well as evening performances at 7.30pm every day, there is a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. There is on-site parking, a licensed bar and easy access for wheelchairs. The ticket prices at £8 for Wednesday and Thursday nights, £10 for Friday and Saturday nights and £5 for Saturday matinee. These prices include a programme, and tea or a soft drink and biscuits at the matinee. The box office is Kari Karolia, 17 Buntings Crescent, Burwell; tel. 01638 745490 and e-mail [kari.karolia@gmail.com](mailto:kari.karolia@gmail.com) The tickets will be on sale from the end of April, and from early May also in the Country Stores, Swaffham Bulbeck. Also see [www.sbstgands.co.uk](http://www.sbstgands.co.uk) for further details or ring Ruth Dennis on 01638 508171.

# ALL BIRDS ARE EQUAL

## But Some are Less Equal Than Others

THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT (1981) makes it illegal to trap wild birds in Scotland and the UK, but Open General Licences issued annually by the government authorise the use of crow cage traps for catching certain species for certain purposes.

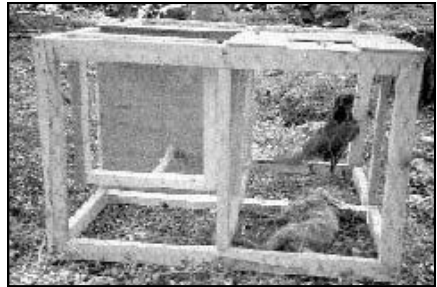
The species are the *corvids*, crows, rooks, jackdaws and magpies, a family of birds who evidence quite remarkable high intelligence, exceptional brain-body weight ratios (31% for a magpie, as compared to a pigeon's 2%) and are extremely co-operative, commonly assisting with the rearing of each others' young, and even having "funerals", when a dead bird is visited by all its neighbours. The special purposes are: for conserving wild birds; preserving public health and safety; to prevent the spread of disease or serious damage to livestock or crops.

This legislation does not mention any special protection for the *leisure industry*, but unfortunately it is for this purpose that traps are employed. Gamebirds are the "wild bird" population to be "conserved", for the shooting season, when they are shot for recreation (some may be eaten, but a great many buried in specially-dug pits) in heavy numbers, with not a copse that is not brimming with pens and feeders for this purpose. And consequently, the crows and magpies come too. So they are trapped. When one is captured, it is held in a half of a small cage (see picture) as a "decoy": the other half is open, but when a fellow bird comes in, the opening slams shut, and when the trap is revisited, the newly-captured bird is dispatched.

By law, the decoy bird must have food, water, shelter, a perch, be able to stretch its wings and must be inspected every 24 hours. Sometimes these laws are obeyed (who knows?) but sometimes not. In a recent survey in Scotland, 40% of caged birds were found to have died, with starvation a common cause. This does not count any dependent young, who would also have died, since trapping overlaps the breeding season. *Right to Roam* legislation in Scotland meant that cages were often found by walkers, who were appalled and made a fuss, so now they are carefully hidden. In England, they are on land with no right of access, with Swaffham Prior no exception.

Why are these birds, our most intelligent birds, not afforded the protection other birds enjoy? Why have Licence Issuers twisted the "conservationist" aims of this hateful legislation for a leisure industry? Surely this is a vile and unnecessary practice and must bring shame on this country.

*Larsen traps were invented by a Danish gamekeeper in the 1950s, but are now illegal in Denmark..*



*"Decoy" Crow imprisoned in a Larsen Trap to lure others into it. The wretched bird thrashes itself against the cage walls to exhaustion, and many have been found dead of starvation.*

## School News

# SWIMMING POOL OPENS!!

I am very please to announce that the new Swaffham Prior School swimming pool will be open for use from 5<sup>th</sup> June! The children, staff, parents and governors cannot thank enough all of the members of the community who have pulled together to make this happen. Without all of your very kind donations we would not be able to have our lovely new pool.



*We are having an 'official' opening ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm and we would like to invite any interested members of the community to come and enjoy the celebrations with us. The children will be serving refreshments and it should be a very enjoyable afternoon, so please come along if you can.*

As well as the new swimming pool there has been a lot of other change happening at school. I will be leaving the school at the end of this term and moving to be the headteacher of the village school where I live. I have really enjoyed my years at Swaffham Prior and will really miss all of the children, staff and parents as I have thoroughly enjoyed working here. A new headteacher has been appointed. Her name is Mrs Diane Hawkes and she is really looking forward to starting at the school in September. Diane is currently a very experienced deputy head at a large school in West Sussex. Her family is relocating to East Anglia.

Mrs Hanke, our Year 1/2 classteacher, has decided to retire this term. She has been at the school for nine years, and would now like to focus more on her PhD which she has been doing for a few years. Everyone in school will miss her and we wish her the best of luck. We have appointed a new teacher, Mr Gordon Godfrey, to take over her role.

This term the children in Key Stage Two have been learning all about Castles. They started their project by having a brilliant visit to Norwich Castle. Toby Pitt in Year 3 wrote about it:

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Neptune and Saturn went to Norwich Castle because it is our topic.

First George, our tour guide showed us under the keep, and let us touch and hold things, my favourite was the three handled cup.

Next Neptune and Saturn had LUNCH outside, it was hot and very sunny. When we finished lunch we played a game of it until every one else had finished.

Afterwards Neptune and Saturn were split into groups with an adult. We all did a quiz around the castle. It was funny because there were toilets. They did not flush and they were just blocks of wood with a hole in.

Lastly Neptune and Saturn went to the shop in their groups. It was hard too decide what to buy, every thing was good but a lot of money. I would recommend Norwich Castle for 7s and over.

As ever we have been very busy with sporting events in school. Our Year 5/6

boys football team were recently crowned district champions and we are very proud of them. Our school Basketball and High 5s teams have also been doing very well in recent tournaments. Another competition success we have had is at the local Primary Schools Geography Quiz. Our children beat 10 other primary schools to be crowned champions! We have a team entering the Primary History Quiz soon, so we wish them the best of luck!

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June we are holding a Family Learning Day in school. All of the parents have been invited in to come into school and see what really happens in the classrooms and to join in with some activities with their children. Hopefully it will be well attended and it can be extended into a whole week next year.

The children in Years 5 and 6 are getting ready for their weeks residential trip to Aylmerton Field Study Centre in the middle of June. They will be doing all sorts of exciting activities. For example, seal watching at Blakeney, beach combing at West Runton and of course the disco!

FoSPS are working very hard at the moment planning our annual Summer Fair. This year it is on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July and we are praying for sunshine!! It would be lovely to see members of the community there.

The children in Years 3-6 are starting rehearsals for our Summer show, which is called, 'The Lemonade Kid!' It is loosely based on a Western and the script is really good fun. If you would like to come and watch it we are holding our dress rehearsal on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 9.30am. Please contact the office for tickets.

**Emma Vincent**  
Head Teacher



## WI Notes

At our May meeting after the usual business we discussed the only resolution which will be voted on at the NFWI AGM at the Royal Albert Hall in June. This resolution - SOS for Honeybees - urges HM Government to increase funding for research into bee health. This is a very important issue that concerns everyone in view of the accelerating decline in the UK honeybee population

and it was not surprising that there was unanimous support from our members. We then welcomed Ken Smith from the East Anglian Food Bank who gave us a very interesting talk on how the food bank got started and its role today in distributing donated food to a number of charities involved in preparing meals for the needy. Afterwards we were able to give Ken a large selection of tinned food that members had generously donated to the bank.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June our speaker will be Hilary Sugai who will talk to us about Life in Japan.

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

**Pat Cook - President**



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

IN APRIL MRS NIMMO-SMITH described some of the many and varied ferns which can be grown in the UK, including some well suited to the less hospitable parts of the garden. She went on to explain the fascinating life cycle of ferns which is different from and more complex than that of flowering plants. The mature fern we recognise is an asexual stage which produces copious spores. These are readily dispersed by wind and they can germinate in moist shady places to form the tiny sexual stage, the prothallus. In turn, this produces both male and female cells and after fertilisation, one of the latter grows into a new plant.

Stages in propagation were available for us to examine and examples of different ferns were offered for purchase.

In May there was a departure from our usual type of topic when Jenny Edrich took us to the Seychelles, a group of many, mostly tiny islands, in the Indian Ocean. She outlined the varied nature of the islands, the main one granite and mountainous, some of the smaller ones, coral and low lying. With beautiful illustrations she described the animals (mostly birds) and plants (endemic and introduced) characteristic of the different habitats. Vanilla, cinnamon, tea and coffee are all grown here but with declining markets available, the government is increasingly turning to tourism for its revenue. I wonder how many of us made note?

Don't forget that we are going to the RHS Gardens at Hyde Hall on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June. There is still room on the coach for any interested people and whether you are a member of the club or not, you are welcome to join us. For details contact Roger Connan on 742182.

*Roger Connan*

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## The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

AT OUR MARCH MEETING Wendy Lovell was our Speaker. As I said in one of my previous articles Wendy has become an "old friend" to many of us as she has been to speak to before. It was very good to have her with us again as she always gives such an interesting talk! Her subject was "Women's Aid", of which we already knew something through our links with Cambridgeshire Women's Aid.

However, wearing her hat as Chairperson of Northamptonshire Women's Aid, Wendy was able to give us a real "hands on" insight into the work that goes on at Women's Refuges and at the end of the afternoon we were left full of admiration for her and the people who do such sterling work for these women in need. She gave us "case studies" of 5 people who had been in the Northamptonshire hostels and it was an amazing eye opener for us as they certainly weren't the type of people we would expect to be taking refuge in a Women's Hostel. She opened our eyes to the



enormous needs and difficult situations of women in our communities and we are so grateful to Wendy for sharing this with us. It was an extremely interesting afternoon and it was so good to have her with us again.

Since our Meeting I have to say that sadly one of our members died very suddenly. Pat Bourne (who actually gave the vote of thanks to Wendy on that afternoon) died on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May. She brought humour to our Meetings and always had interesting questions to ask and comments to make. We shall all miss her. We send our very best wishes to her family and will remember them in our prayers.

Richard Ayres MBE will be coming to speak about “Kirtling Towers Gardens” on Thursday 18 June. The time and place is the same as usual – 2.30pm in Lode Chapel – and everyone is very welcome!

*Pauline Lewis*

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## **News from Wicken Fen**

The sun shone and visitors flocked to Wicken Fen to enjoy a range of free activities as we celebrated not only the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trust acquiring Wicken Fen in 1899 but also the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wicken Fen Vision on Friday 1 May. The day’s celebrations were a perfect opportunity to reflect on the foresight of the original founders of the National Trust in protecting and preserving the unique beauty of Wicken Fen, and the scope of the Wicken Fen Vision to create a unique nature reserve for current and future generations to enjoy.

To co-inside with the anniversary celebrations we are delighted that naturalist and new presenter of BBC Springwatch, Chris Packham has agreed to become Patron for the Wicken Fen Vision. Chris has been a regular visitor to the Fen in recent years and is a keen supporter of the development of landscape scale nature reserves to help safeguard many of our countries’ rare and endangered species. Chris will be visiting Wicken Fen later in the summer to open our new Dragonfly Centre on Sunday 26 July.

We are delighted to welcome Emma Shepherd our new Community Warden to the Wicken Fen team. Emma’s role will be to develop contacts and links with local communities to raise awareness and understanding of the Vision and to encourage community participation in the Vision.

Throughout June we have a range of activities for all the family at the Fen. Discover the Konik ponies and Highland cattle of Wicken Fen with Grazing Warden, Carol Laidlaw on Sat 6 June at 1030, or try your hand at paper making on Sat 6 June at 1030. With the longer and hopefully warmer summer evenings we have Evening Boat Tours and BBQ’s on Fri 12 & 19 June at 1830 and 1930 and a midsummer Supper and Safari on Sat 20 June at 1930. Enjoy a Summer Walk around the Fen with a Warden on Sun 27 at 1030 or explore Verrall’s Fen, an area seldom visited by the public with Dr Stuart Warrington, the National Trust’s Regional Conservation Advisor on Sat 4 July at 1330. Details and tickets for all events are available from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.

Hope to see you at the Fen soon.

*Howard Cooper*

Communications Officer, National Trust Wicken Fen



**EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District  
Councillor  
Allen Alderson

### **Waste and recycling contract with Veolia**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out a review to assess the contracts performance over the last 12 months.

The new waste contract which was introduced in April 2008 has received a mixed feedback from residents over the last year and Councillors have vowed to do all they can to improve the service. For example, in January, the council introduced a new helpline via its main switchboard (01353 665555) for anyone who had a query, comment or complaint about their waste collections. This has allowed the authority to get a real sense of where the service needs to improve.



The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to make the following recommendations —

Recommended to the Environment and Transport Committee —

That the monthly meetings with Veolia encouraged more staff training.

That the information on recycling be distributed to households and press releases be issued.

That the public be encouraged to read the information printed on the black sacks.

That the brown bags have information on how they should be used printed on the outside.

It was also resolved to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee — that the Committee continue to consider the introduction of bulk deliveries of refuse and clear sacks as a priority.

### **Staffing changes**

East Cambs District council are implementing a number of staffing changes, the most significant of which is the temporary part-time secondment of Alex Colyer, Executive Director, Finance to South Cambs District Council for a period of six months from April the 6<sup>th</sup> to October the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The council will be achieving over £30,000.00 saving in six months as a result in these savings. The Council is also discussing other joint working opportunities with the neighbouring Councils.

These arrangements are yet to be finalized but will provide significant ongoing budget saving.

I felt this to be one way that we can work on behalf of the residents of East Cambs in this uncertain economic climate.

### **Extra funding**

ECDC has received an additional £39,669.00 funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) towards the costs of the additional housing benefit and



council tax benefit workload, brought about as a result of the economic downturn.

Any additional funding is most welcome as our council strives to maintain its high level of service over the next couple of years.

### Young and old can swim for free in East Cambs

East Cambs District Council has announced that children aged 16 and under and adults aged 60 and over can from April swim for free at the Paradise Pool in Ely. With swimming recognised as one of the best ways to become fit and healthy, the announcement means that young and old will be able to go to the Paradise Pool and swim for free.

The decision was made after the Council accepted funding from the Government. For more information and to register, contact the Paradise Pool on 01353 665481.

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## The Reading Group Reads

### The Reader

by **Bernard Schlink**

We few, we happy few, had such a good discussion about this book. There is so much to chew on. It is as though Schlink has written the book to bring into the public arena what he considers to be a major problem, when the vast majority of people are doing their utmost to avoid the issue. The uncomfortable issue is to get his countrymen to address their part in their nation's past: his problem was how to do so without alienating those very people. And he does it excellently, enticing readers with his skills of characterisation, plot and that ability to create vivid visual scenes in one's mind. (The book is translated from the original German, and this sometimes shows but not enough to intrude.)

He leads you sensitively into Michael's adolescent experiences; the ordinary and the extraordinary until you are totally involved. And then the sudden change of scene which creates the moral conflict which is the heart of the book.

The problem Schlink takes on is a national and a major dilemma which he addresses through the personal perceptions of the two main characters. This takes the issue straight into the heart of every reader: it helps us to examine our preconceptions; and, on a much more personal level, how we ourselves deal with those things which we all do which are not always moral, right or good.

This makes the book sound a heavy read but it's not. It's beautiful, sensitive and enticing, drawing one easily into its pages, and ultimately it's deeply moving and optimistic in the understanding it gives: an excellent read.

Next month we are reading "**Sons and Lovers**" by **D H Lawrence**

We will meet at Kent House on Wednesday 3<sup>th</sup> June at 8 o'clock. Do try and make it.



**Brenda Wilson**

[bgdtwilson@aol.com](mailto:bgdtwilson@aol.com)

# Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

## **Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman:**

John Covill was unanimously elected as Chairman and Andrew Camps was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

## **Confirmation of PC Representatives for Village Committees/Groups:**

Peter Hart – Village Hall Management Committee  
Steve Kent-Phillips – Sports & Recreation Committee  
Eric Day, John Covill & Andrew Camps – Parochial Charities

## **Confirmation of RFO & PCRf:**

John Covill - RFO (Responsible Financial Officer)  
Steve Kent-Phillips - PCRf (Parish Councillor Responsible for Finance)

## **The Parish has a full Parish Council of 9 members, namely;**

Mr John Covill (Chairman)  
Mr Andrew Camps (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr David Almond  
Mr Eric Day  
Mrs Sandra Gynn  
Mr Peter Hart  
Mr J Jordan  
Mr Steve Kent-Phillips  
Mr Geoffrey Woollard

*Following the annual elections as above, John Covill took the meeting as Chairman with 6 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public.*

## **Minutes of Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009:** These were agreed.

John Jordan ran through his Powerpoint Presentation for the Annual Village Meeting. Everyone thanked him for his hard work in putting this together.

## **Reports:**

**CCC:** Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting

**ECDC:** Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

## **Correspondence Received:**

### **CCC:**

Highways - Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior – JFHMI 2008/09 (traffic calming measures).

Application details for JFHMI 2010/11 Bidding Round (Jointly Funded Minor Highways Improvements)

Planning Permission for School mobile classroom  
Cambridgeshire Play Pathfinder Project.

### **ECDC:**

Senior Tree Officer – approval of tree works at The Old Vicarage, 72 High Street and 1 Station Road.



## **ECDC - Planning:**

Refusal of Planning Permission – The Cottage, Mill Hill – *demolish existing single storey cloakroom, extension to form ground floor bathroom and kitchen, first floor study.*

### **General:**

Equality and Human Rights – Public Sector Duties

CPALC – Briefing Note on “Power of Well-Being”

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

General discussion.

**Repairs to Village Car Park and Driveway:** Geoffrey Woollard met with Martin Mead on site and reported to the meeting on their discussions. The meeting concluded that there would be little benefit in laying tarmac on the driveway and the car park needed only cutting back and tidying at this time. Eric Day said he would continue to fill in the potholes to the driveway and everyone thanked him for his help. A grit/salt bin was to be purchased and installed towards the end of the year to help during the winter months.

**Cemetery Maintenance – clearing of spoil heap:** Prices to be confirmed for this work and agreed at the next meeting.

**Repairs to outside Walls of the Pound, Cage Hill:** Meeting with Conservation Officer at ECDC pending. Item carried forward to June meeting.

**Consideration of Planning Application for 28 High Street** – *proposed single and two storey extension to the rear and re-building of existing barn to incorporate as living accommodation as part of the main house, together with associated internal and external alterations.* Ref: 09/00310/FUL. There were no objections.

**Approval & Signing of Annual Audit Return including Governance Statement:** The accounts were approved by the Internal Auditor and the Parish Council and signed. The Audit Return would be submitted to the External Auditor following the end of the period of public notice (28/5/09) for final approval.

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

### **Parish Councillors’ Reports:**

Geoffrey Woollard told the meeting that the long awaited roof repairs to the ‘Little Chapel in the Fen’ had now been completed. He recorded his thanks to all those who contributed to this project.

John Covill had attended a meeting of the National Trust and reported with particular reference to the bridge to be built over the Reach Lode (partly in SP Parish). He also explained that as part of the NT spinal route there would need to be quite a lot of signage to direct cyclists, walkers, etc., using this route in the Fen.

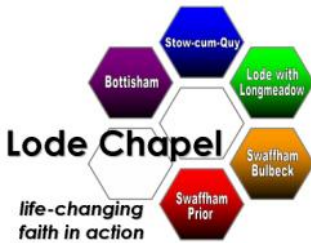
### **Open Question Time:**

General items of information.

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

**Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council**  
**Tel: 742358. Email: [karen.king5@btopenworld.com](mailto:karen.king5@btopenworld.com)**



# Who Cares?

THIS MONTH I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK OF THOSE HEROES IN THE SECRET SERVICE. But I'm not, as you may imagine, talking about the SAS! In fact, I'm referring to the six million people who provide unpaid care to someone they know. National Carers Week, 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June, gives us an opportunity to give thanks to this hidden army of people who sacrificially support a friend or relative who is ill, frail or disabled. Carers can be young or old, and

## CARER JOB DESCRIPTION

**Likely to be appointed at short notice; probably overnight, and will be required to fulfil some or all of the following criteria:**

1. Have the ability and stamina to work continual long hours
2. Be available for work up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
3. Be required to carry out tasks that in other environments would require at least two people to undertake
4. Be able to cope with high levels of stress
5. Receive little or no income for carrying out the role
6. Have a vastly diminished social life
7. Work in isolation, with little recognition from the outside world
8. Communicate effectively with a wide range of professionals, including social workers, doctors and other healthcare professionals.

although a quarter of carers are over the age of 60, there are a considerable number of children and young people who act as key carers for siblings or parents. At some point in our lives, however, 3 in 5 of us will need to take on this role. Some will juggle work with their caring responsibilities, but many will give up an income, future employment prospects and pension rights to look after a loved one. This means that carers often struggle financially – the Carers Allowance is the lowest benefit of its kind at only £50.55 a week for providing a minimum of 35 hours of care. Despite carers saving the UK economy an incredible £87 billion, the benefit that they are able to receive is equivalent to less than £1.34 an hour!

But this isn't the only impact of caring – people providing high levels of care are twice as likely to be permanently sick or disabled themselves. A survey of carers undertaken last year found that three-quarters of them felt that their health was worse as a result of the strain of caring and that one-fifth felt ill "all the time". In both cases carers often ignored their health problems in order to continue with their caring responsibilities or because they were unable to get away from the home or find an opportunity to visit their GP.

*If you are a carer I want you to know that your love and care is appreciated*

*and acknowledged*, and that if there is any way that we at Lode Chapel can provide some practical support to assist you, then we would be happy for you to contact us and let us know. If you are not a carer, but know someone who is, why not use this month as an opportunity to show them how special they are, and to ask them if there is any way you can help.

In John 15:13 Jesus says that *“No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends.”* Whilst he was referring to his own death on the cross, there is a truth here which is relevant to all who sacrificially give of themselves for the sake of others – such love truly is great! Carers may not make the headlines of the national newspapers, but they are indeed heroes, deserving of our thanks and support.

*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), Contemplative Prayer at 5.30pm on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and traditional worship at 5.30pm, 28<sup>th</sup> June.

June RE:NEW dates...

RE:NEW Bulbeck – 10.30am, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

RE:NEW Bottisham – 10.30am, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

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

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

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

**Tel:** (01223) 812881

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

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

## Mobile Library

**Dates for 2009**

**Cage Hill: 3.15 - 3.50**

**Chapel : 3.55 - 4.15**

**June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**



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

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

## Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest events in the history of our country in the month of June is the Battle of Waterloo, which took place on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1815. On that day the Duke of Wellington, commanding a British and continental army of 67,000 men, and assisted by a Prussian army of 48,000 troops, defeated the Napoleon Bonapart's French Army of 69,000 men.



The news of the defeat of Napoleon was communicated back to the Admiralty in London by means of a Semaphore signalling system using a series of towers on high vantage points (a precursor of the telegraph system), that connected London to Deal. The message that was communicated by this means was:

"W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N- - D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D- - T-H-E- - -E-N-E-M-Y!" Unfortunately, part way through the communication process, heavy fog obscured the vision from one tower to the next, and the message that was actually communicated was "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N- - - D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D- -." You can imagine the dismay and despondency that greeted this, what was on the face of it, dreadful news throughout the population of London.

Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message could be read. The message had four words, not two. It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread. Wellington had defeated the enemy! Defeat was turned into victory, and sorrow was turned into joy.

That picture of the sorrow of defeat being turned into the joy of victory was exactly what Jesus talked about with his disciples just before his crucifixion. He said to them: "*I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.*" (John 16:20) He was talking about the pain and loss of his crucifixion being replaced by the joy and excitement of his resurrection from the dead.

As he talked to them he also held out to them an even greater promise. He said to them: "*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*" (John 14:18-20) In that promise Jesus talked about his continual presence in the hearts and minds of his followers. He explained it like this: "*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*" (John 14:23) Then he gave a name to the presence that would 'make our home' in the hearts and minds of his followers. He said: "*All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*" (John 14:25/26)

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the means by which millions and millions of Christians have been inspired, strengthened, healed and guided by God over the past 2000 years. He is the Spirit of Christ, who, as he dwells in the

hearts and minds of his followers, helps them to be more like him. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, which used to be called ‘Whitsunday’, which is a derivation of ‘White Sunday’, in reference to the white robes traditionally worn by the newly baptised in the early Church. Whitsunday is second only to Easter in importance in the Church’s year, and was, therefore a special time for baptisms.

Pentecost is so important to the Christian Church because it is really the birthday of the Church. The coming of the Holy Spirit marks the empowering and formation of the Church. Pentecost always comes seven weeks after Easter Day, and this year it falls on 31<sup>st</sup> May. It is then immediately followed by Trinity Sunday, which this year falls on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and which celebrates all three members of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus really sums up the importance of the Trinitarian belief of the Christian Church in those words from John 14:25/6.

The joy of his message is that we don’t have a remote and unreachable God, but a God who wants to be intimately involved in our lives and delights to be with us and in us.

May God bless you all,

*David*

	<b>ST MARY’S Swaffham Prior JUNE SERVICES</b>
<b>Sun 7</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Communion
<b>Sun 14</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 21</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion <b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 28</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Mattins

## Could you be a Community Recycling Champion?

East Cambs District Council has started a new project in order to help to promote recycling in the local community.

The project has been designed to help local residents to become Community Recycling Champions and to be able to offer help to others in their area with practical advice on recycling, reuse and composting.

All volunteers’ will received full training.

If you would be interested in becoming a Community Recycling Champion please call Darren Hughes, Community Recycling Officer on 01353 616298 or send an e-mail with your name, address and a daytime contact number to [Darren.Hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Darren.Hughes@eastcambs.gov.uk)

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

Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	3	Mikado (to the 6th) 7.30pm, Downing Farm (Sat Mat. 2.30pm) Reading Group, Kent House, High St.
Sat	6	Garage & Table-top Sale, 10am-2pm Wicken Fen Paper Making, 10.30am
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	13	Village Gardeners Hyde Hall Visit
Sun	14	<b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Mon	15	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Fri	26	Merriweather's Shakespeare, 7.30, St Mary's
<b>July</b>	4	School Summer Fair, 12.30pm A Cabaret Evening, VH, 7.30pm In this Together, 2.30 & 7.30pm, Burwell Village College

<b>Club</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>
<b>FOSPS</b>	<b>Clare Freeman</b>	<b>741316</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term</b>	<b>8pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Baby &amp; Toddlers</b>	<b>Jessica Shakeshaft</b>	<b>744266</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>9:30-11:30am</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Jamsing</b>	<b>Jo Pumfrey</b>	<b>741376</b>	<b>Tues (term)</b>	<b>9.20-12</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Cubs</b>	<b>Andrew Noyes</b>	<b>743864</b>	<b>Weds (term)</b>	<b>6:00-7:30pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Reading Group</b>	<b>Brenda Wilson</b>	<b>743937</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Weds of month</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>(See Crier)</b>
<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Tim Doe</b>	<b>743656</b>	<b>Weds (term)</b>	<b>6:15-7:45pm</b>	<b>Village School</b>
<b>Village Gardeners</b>	<b>Margaret Joyce</b>	<b>744390</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of month</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>WI</b>	<b>Pat Cook</b>	<b>742224</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of month</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>
<b>Youth Club</b>	<b>Alan Badcock</b>	<b>742228</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>7-8:30pm</b>	<b>Youth Club Hut</b>
			<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7-10:00pm</b>	

***Village  
Clubs  
&  
Societies***