



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 5

May 2009



Editorial

We've probably all heard of Panorama's April 1st Spaghetti Tree, and perhaps also the Guardian's South Sea Island of *San Seriffe*, with its two divisions of *Upper Caisse* and *Lower Caisse*. While we can't aspire to these hoaxing heights, we did not do so badly with:

Shirley! As can be seen in this month's issue, Shirley fooled quite a few readers in last month—many apologies to the *real* Shirley Wilkins.

Much to read in this month's issue, and a delightful contribution from John Norris on *The Day War Broke Out*. John remembers these days with such clarity, even to the extent of what he ate on the train when he was evacuated. Often forgotten about these days is how hard a time some of these young evacuees had (yes, *think about it!*), not the least because some of the receiving families behaved very badly. Doubtless John's were not the worst, but even so....

Meanwhile, the Neighbourhood Panels continue to *impact* on crime, the economic downturn and no doubt a great many other things (certainly the English language), but they are yet to address the pestilential problem of *milk-snatching*.

Readers should be on the look out for shifty young people with suspicious white marks on their upper lips: the editors' milk was whipped by such a one who made off in his hot-hatch getaway car. Or was it a pram? Whatever, the police, having tactfully enquired what my *colour* was (white, like the milk) because the Hone Office needed to know, then kindly offered Victim Support. I told them there was no use crying over snatched milk.

Working-with-the-Community Wicken Vision have yet again forgotten to inform us that they are having a meeting in our Village Hall this month (May 17? Who knows) to explain their plans, so you'll have to be on the lookout for this, don't forget the Annual Village Assembly (great last year) and LET'S ALL SUPPORT THE VILLAGE FEAST THIS YEAR! I'll be back on the Lucky Dip....

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Mint, Sauce and Rosemary* by Clare Warren



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Shirley

Having just had several people ask me whether I was “Shirley”, whose letter was in last month’s magazine, I wondered whether it would be possible in future to put people’s surnames as well. This would save embarrassment to anyone not wishing to be connected with an article.

It was a good magazine last month though!

Shirley Wilkins

Last month’s “Shirley” was a Nom de Plume, and Shirley’s friends weren’t the only ones (see Mark Lewinski on page 12) to be taken in by this masterly April 1 spoof. Let’s have some of that letter again:

‘It is an insult to women that a writer like D.H.Lawrence is still allowed to be read in schools. I have seen a man, in this very village, openly reading a Lawrence novel as he walks along the street. This is the Lawrence who wrote the poem “All I Ask”. What sort of a person is it who could write:

“All I ask of a woman is that she shall feel gently
towards me
when my heart feels kindly towards her,
and there shall be the soft, soft tremor as of unheard
bells between us.
It is all I ask.
I am so tired of violent women lashing out
and insisting on being loved, when there is
no love in them.”

How dare he. And it doesn’t even rhyme. I can be as gentle as anyone, but if a man needs reprimanding so he should be, and that’s only right.

Shirley’

The D H Lawrence reader striding the village is of course Thomas Newbolt , and long-time readers might well guess who is “Shirley”. Too late, Mark, too late! Eds.

Dear Editors,

Antarctica!

We have created a travel Blog using some of the photos and snippets of information from our recent trip to Antarctica. If anyone would like to view this, just follow the link below.

<http://travelpod.com/travel-blog/ann.and.trevor/1/tpod.html>

If the above link does not work, try this one:

<http://www.travelpod.com/members/ann.and.trevor>

Once again — a huge THANK YOU to you all for helping to make this trip of a lifetime possible for Ann and I.

Trevor

See Page 8, Eds.

Dear Editor,

Those Improving Crime Statistics

Since March 2004 I have been fundraising for the CPS orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal. It is hard work and is a constant worry to have to raise enough money to keep the 12 children and the manager and his family in the house that they currently rent.

I often sell items at the front of my house and have raised £100's for the home by doing this. I have never had anything taken without it being paid for so you can image my dismay when I left a Britax Renaissance child's car seat out on Monday 6th April and someone stole it between 3.45 - 4.15pm. The chair cost £145.00 new and was in excellent condition. Therefore, *would the person responsible for taking it please be kind enough to pay the £40 which I was asking for it.* £40.00 goes a long way in Nepal - it would have paid for one of the children's state education for *one year!* Please put the money through my letterbox or send it into this publication. Thank you.

Sarah Whiteside
27 Swaffham Road
Burwell



Sarah with the children and manager of the CPS home in Kathmandu on her first visit there in November 2005.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

How lucky we are as a village to have ECDC as our district council and to have our two ECDC/CCC representatives. Our district council is solvent, we have no stone balls in the High Street, and we still have bin bags. But council and representatives all fall down when they are entrapped in government initiatives. I think our councillors could tell us (and understand why they won't) just how much Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Panels cost, and just how much extra money ECDC receives for toeing the line. I may be wrong, but no-one has said I am.

After the usual preliminaries Hazel Williams tried to give her CCC report. I say "tried" because Geoffrey kept on interrupting her. I don't know what it is but Geoffrey appears to have a thing about Hazel and if they were married to each other (that's only a thought to be played with) I reckon a divorce would be in the offing. He also rebuked Hazel for giving news about Cambridge and the county, saying that Hazel should concentrate on SP – with, I suppose, possibly a special emphasis on Upware? Many however enjoy hearing about the wider world and below are just a few of Hazel's titbits:



Funding has been received for a new station at Chesterton and the guided bus will be extended up to it. 70% of travellers using the main line station come from north of the city.

The Guided Bus is now being tested and the public can have free rides. It broke down on its first outing.

County Council Farms is celebrating its first centenary. The Estate is the largest of its kind in the country and has 250 tenant farmers working 30,000 acres. .

What followed was all small beer but it was a rich local brew. There is a problem at the bottom of Fairview Grove with the slope of the road at the roundabout being so steep that there is a risk of grounding cars when circling it. Mr Butcher, the CCC specialist, had reported it safe with just a little patching required.

**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY 2009
THE VILLAGE HALL
7.30PM**



**This is your chance to put your views, ask questions
or just find out more about what is happening
in your Village!**

**If there is any item you like included on the agenda,
please let your Clerk, Karen King, know before the next
Parish Council meeting — 9th April 2009.**

Your Village needs you!!

The residents down there are not happy with the decision and the PC has received another letter.

I reported last month on the wonderfully rapid and easy solution to the encroachment on the Cam flood banks by vehicles. The various families living in the area had agreed to buy the gates which the Environment Agency would erect. One family persuaded David Almond to approach CCC. That was a mistake. CCC has to abide by certain rules. As one gate would have been in Swaffham Bulbeck CCC needed the opinion of Bulbeck's PC and also that of Prior's PC. They also stipulated that a 5 foot gap (possibly reducing to 4 feet) had to be left for wheelchair users. What was once an easy private arrangement is no longer possible. I hear the equine fraternity may have made an objection.

The Village Car Park is being considered after a request was received for its refurbishment. A quotation for resurfacing has made the PC take a second look and initially it is concentrating on the driveway and the potholes. The damage by tree roots was raised and suddenly almost everyone became an expert. Gardeners' Question Time had nothing on this. "You've got to get the base right otherwise the roots will push up the repairs". "Now the trees have been pollarded the roots won't grow any more". "Aye, that's right, they won't extend beyond the branches." "But they'll still be there, they won't retreat". "I'm not convinced." "And I don't agree with that; let's ask Kathy White". John Jordan, who had been sitting quietly while all this arboreal expertise was being expounded, asked "What problems do you have with the roots"? "None" was the answer and it was agreed that Martin Mead should be met on site.

Later Andrew Camps raised a villager's concern about the inability to see the church clock from the High Street. It was suggested that the PC and the PCC combine to ask ECDC to reduce the height of the lime tree. There was little interest in the subject. Steve thought it didn't matter as everyone had either a watch or mobile phone, while Geoffrey "didn't give a monkey's if any one could see it or not". Geoffrey is a kind of Gene Hunt of Parish Councils. We need people like him who "say it like it is" in this world of excessive political correctness, human rights being carried a tad too far, a health and safety regime which often reaches the preposterous, and a layer of little bureaucrats everywhere whose only enjoyment can be to mess people up.

The two members of the public had a hard time of it when one confessed to having neither a watch nor a mobile phone and the other said that when he cycles up the High Street he likes to look up at the clock "to check his timing". What a wonderful end to the evening with the PC having such fun treating the public gallery like an Aunt Sally and lobbing insults at the two hapless victims. John Jordan brought a bit of sanity, one may even say responsibility, to the discussion by reminding everyone that "the two churches form the most picturesque part of the village" and that maybe it should be considered more sympathetically. And he is quite right. If you cannot see the clock you cannot see one of the two towers for which the village is so famous.

" I don't know what it is but Geoffrey appears to have a thing about Hazel and if they were married to each other (that's only a thought to be played with) I reckon a divorce would be in the offing...."

Alastair Everitt



Lode Chapel's Rev Simon Goddard and his wife attending the recent G20 Demo in London. See page 28

SWAFFHAM PRIOR GRAND GARAGE SALES SATURDAY 6th JUNE 2009

10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Swaffham Prior is the place to come
if you are looking for bargains !

Many villagers will be having garage sales on that day, plus there will be a car boot sale on The Meadow in High Street (Swaffham Bulbeck end, opposite the thatched cottage.)

Participants are kindly donating some of the profits to the Maryloo Project, which is raising funds to put a much-needed toilet in the church.



CRICKET

PRIOR V. BULBECK

SWAFFHAM BULBECK has always been keen to challenge us to another Twenty20 **Cricket Match**. At last this is going to happen and the **Festival Twenty20 Match will take place on the Bulbeck Denny on Sunday 28 June at 2.00pm**. It will be a gala occasion when the Bulbeckians hope to heal some of the many

past battle scars they have suffered.

Josh Willmott has volunteered to be captain and, based on my almost impeccable management of the hockey team, I have been asked to be manager, coach and trainer.

All players will need to complete a 30 box questionnaire concerning their diet, weight, their favourite film, all habits, especially the nasty ones, and many other exciting questions. Catching practice at 6.00am will be on Town Close for two days a week. For two evenings we will meet at 6.30pm outside the Red Lion and then complete 10 circuits of the whole village. Just to leave nothing to chance the evening runs will be followed by an ice bath.

If you think this is a little hard wait until you hear what David Towriss is subjecting his Bulbeckians to.

Leave your name with me on 742974. If you feel unable to complete the above training schedule please produce a note from your doctor – or from anyone else for that matter!

Alastair Everitt

Rogation Sunday

17th May

THE SWAFFHAM PRIOR ROGATION DAY SERVICE will be held once again this year at Adventurers Farm, at 12 noon. Please allow yourself enough time to get to the farm from the village and park. Everyone is welcome to attend this short service and you are warmly invited, if you wish, to stay and enjoy lunch afterwards at the farm. Whilst confirmation of your attendance at the service is not required, you are requested to purchase a ticket(s), payable in advance, to participate in the fully catered-for meal. Please contact Janet Willmott to book your place, by no later than Monday 11th May, adults £7.50 and under 12s £4.50. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior.



Janet Willmott

01638 743472 / 07833 960678

POSTMAN TREVOR IN ANTARCTICA

A TRIP OF A LIFETIME to celebrate wife Ann's 60th birthday, Trevor and Ann travelled to Antarctica via Buenos Aires and spent 12 wonderful days cruising through "Iceberg Alley"s and exploring the region first seen by human eyes in 1820 (possibly!) Readers can view their blog (see *Letters*) and all the photos at:

<http://travelpod.com/travel-blog/ann.and.trevor/1/tpod.html>



THE FESTIVAL

All arrangements are in hand and everyone will receive a copy of the Programme of Events before the end of May.

Artists far and wide are working away furiously for the Art Exhibition and singers are tuning up their vocal chords for the *Messiah* Come-and-Sing.

This month we are alerting the village to the Festival Twenty20 Cricket Match against Swaffham Bulbeck.

Swaffham Prior Grand Garage Sales

6th June 2009 10.00am (NOT before) - 2.00pm

Following last year's sales it has been requested that we repeat this event, when anyone in the village is invited to have a sale in their own garage (drive garden), or if they prefer on the meadow in the High Street (Bulbeck end opposite the thatched cottage). Participants are asked to give half the profit to help fund the much needed Loo for the church. If you wish to participate kindly ring Kate Child on 743983 by Sunday 31st May letting her know your name, address and phone no., as it is intended to produce fliers of a village map showing the various locations. Each participant will be given a few to enable them to point customers in the right direction. It is suggested that you put up a few balloons to indicate that you are having a sale.

This is a wonderful way to de-clutter without having to haul your items miles, you just sit back and wait for the customers to come to you!! GOOD LUCK. Whatever the weather we will carry on, just as we intend to for the STRAWBERRY TEAS ON 12th JULY.

Please tell friends and relations from other villages what will be happening in Prior on 6th June.

Kate Child 743983

The Village Feast 2008

Saturday 16 May

at 2.00 pm

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of fun and games including

Maypole Dancing* *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy

Bowls* *Children's Play Area* *Lucky Dip

Egg Throwing* *Raffle

Teas & Home-made Cakes* *Ice Creams

Beer Tent

****Stalls Galore****

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants

Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

Admission 30p. Children Free

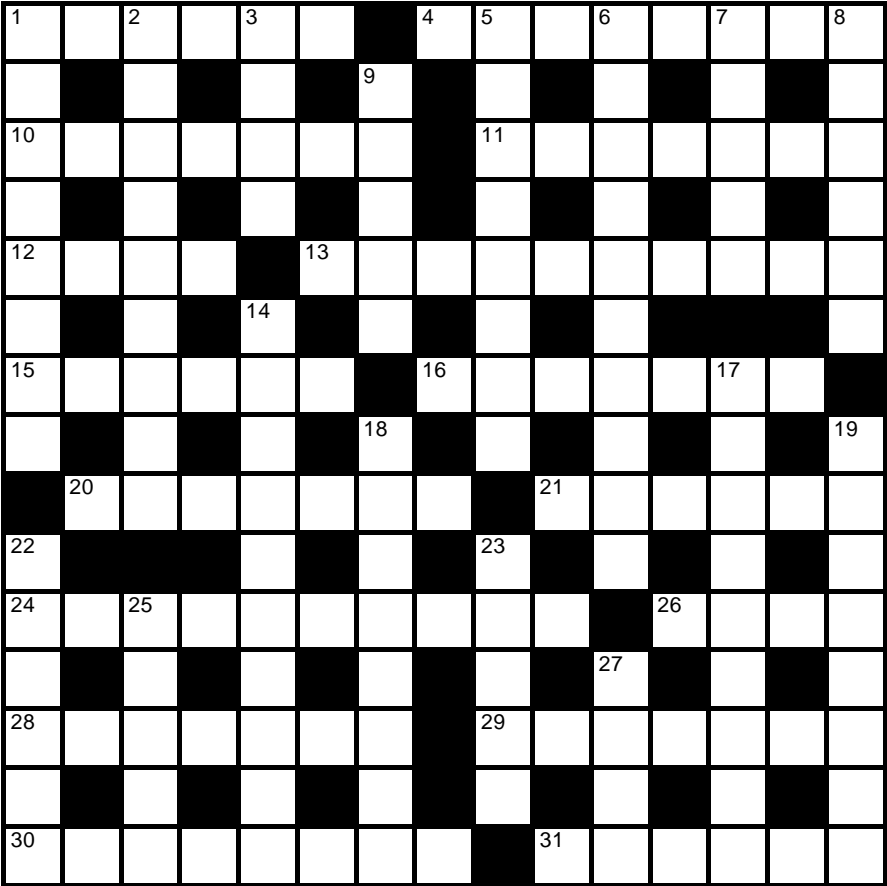
Crossword Number 61

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 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

- 1 Exit program: record not available (3,3)
- 4 Happy to cook free lunch; but there's no point... (8)
- 10 ...Cook, but first find a little soft item for yourself (7)
- 11 Hormone needed by Student Union learner is in, in, in! (7)
- 12 Bone found in the sunshine (4)
- 13 It ticks last (5,2,3)
- 15 Fervant exponent may snooze a lot in the end (6)
- 16 Scholar sees boss go to hospital department (7)
- 20 Puzzled by being at university but nevertheless aloof (5-2)
- 21 Crumpled garter found in attic (6)
- 24 Bad tone follows crazy reminder (6,4)
- 26 Ring of fire in lethal operation (4)
- 28 Start tune outside (4-3)
- 29 Head Office exploiting accomodation (7)
- 30 Battered potter's wheels (not Welsh) seen over the forest (8)
- 31 Reduce the light around match official (6)

Down

- 1 Large sentence filler? (4-4)
- 2 A few dashing around? or might just wander for pleasure (9)
- 3 Loud music at the fete (4)
- 5 Flat-tops maybe need to arrange third-party insurance but no dinner party (8)
- 6 Cherokee or native of Borneo

perhaps (4,6)

- 7 Paper needed if loo is adapted (5)
- 8 The number of cards held at a distance (6)
- 9 Old capital city needed after Tokyo is wrecked (5)
- 14 Casual student worker has no French tea (10)
- 17 Ran back to tell I've got a story (9)
- 18 Purer nun is subverted to second best (6-2)
- 19 St Ronald finds first three glyphs with power (8)
- 22 I'm getting some wine - from abroad (6)
- 23 It finds church youth leader nervous (5)
- 25 Relative of note in French town (5)
- 27 Back edge of sousaphone (4)

Solution to crossword no. 60

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

We congratulate Dainin O'Dowd, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Robert & Julie Nunn and Shirley Wilkins.

April's **Crier** inspired these thoughts from Mark Lewinski, who was April fooled by "Shirley".

April DH Lawrence, Fens and Foolishness

April didn't begin well for some, did it?

Shirley has concluded that poor ol' DH Lawrence, despite a huge court case in which it was proven that he was neither a pornographer nor too offensive to forbid his works to be read by one's servants, should be banned in schools and not carried or read openly in the streets of this village. I'm not a big fan of DH as it happens, but I know enough about him to understand that he loved womankind with a passion and a depth the rest of us male mortals can only guess at (and I trust I'm not risking the wrath of my spouse in saying so). I have no doubt that Shirley is a model of gentleness and, had he known her, DH would have written a poem extolling her virtues. The trouble is that Shirley is writing about the not very nice failings of malekind and DH is writing equally about the not-very-niceness of some women. Sorry, Shirley, but there are women out there who are violent and demand affection when they give none back, as DH describes. You are clearly fortunate in never having met any such like. He's not writing about Shirley, it is evident. What I can't grasp is why Shirley is not calling for *The Crier* with her letter in it to be banned from the streets of Swaffham Prior, as she is for DH's works to be - she quoted him at length, the foul swine, polluting our *Crier* with his evil words. Both she and he appear to be criticising in similar terms those who do their gender discredit by being unpleasant. That seems to me to be a kind of balance. Neither gender has a monopoly on niceness or nastiness.

Then Susan F Wade and Geoffrey Woollard - I'd noticed a while back that Wicken has a fen nearby without being 'swamped' by water, cars or squadrons of insect perils. (We've already got a pretty full complement in that department. The insect life here will dance in large numbers and wild abandon on my ceiling any evening where I have a window open, as I do whenever I can, and I sometimes make my own netting window covers to have fresh air without the smallest wildlife joining me inside, but it's pretty inadequate as solutions go. I've wondered why flyscreen windows and doors, standard in any ordinary town in North America, have never made it across the Atlantic). Opening the Observer on Sunday 5th April I find a big article pinpointing the utterly unique value of Wicken as 'the cradle of ecology' in preserving for over a century in a tiny area an ecosystem built over thousands of years - including 5781 species of insect, which have yet to show any interest in devouring the nearby Wicken community - or me, or this village, a few miles distant as the fly flies and well within range of their many and wicked buzzy little wings.

I know people who have worked at the upper levels of planning and conservation for a long time. Their principle is always to work with and around and mould the schemes to the communities on the ground, because success depends on their perception of an initiative *for* the community.

My understanding is that the NT's acquisition of land here over the next 100 years

is based on when it becomes available, no compulsory purchase. We're not talking scottish land clearances here. I'll join the antis' campaign willingly - I mean this - when I see plans that propose to evict anyone from their land, and/or flood our villages. It's an intention for the next hundred years, during which our glorious fen soil is going to be worked beyond use anyway, Geoffrey. **Get someone from the NT to come and talk here. Ask them about how they work with communities to develop their plans to reality before signing petitions on the basis of fears of what they might do that they haven't said.**

That tiny refuge at Wicken could expand to become a real wildlife haven. Frightening language like 'theme park mentality' and 'onslaught of traffic' are not borne out at the little scrap that is Wicken Fen so it seems hardly likely a sudden national obsession with scrubby fen will develop. I hardly see anyone when I've walked round - Fen isn't photogenic like the Lake District. The delight for me is in it being empty enough to spot the little lizards basking on the boardwalk in the morning sun - not something most people would be bothered to do for long. The multitudes who lived on and from the land that used to fill our churches and schools are reduced to a few, since the farming folk all gave up horse-drawn farming. They've been replaced by us who commute from this and other lovely villages to Cambridge and beyond. Would that it were not true but it is.

The water table across East Anglia has been dropping substantially for the last 150 years, especially as the towns draw thirstily and in increasingly massive quantities from the aquifers. Scarcely a working watermill across the southeast where there used to be many. I think Houghton Mill is the only one I know still with a massive water flow that most never had anyway. The one in my childhood village in Bedfordshire has been high and dry for well over a century, stood derelict for 50 years and has recently been turned into a garden centre. It would take a flood of biblical proportions to get the water table back up to what it was way back when it could turn the wheel - and when the land was worked to provide grain that ran the mill, without there being any kind of flood then, either.

Take a step back and look - our rural corner hasn't been managed well for natural landscape or for wildlife. Cambridgeshire now has the lowest count of trees per square mile of any county in England. When we drove across Suffolk with our children when they were little they decided that that must be where the fairies lived, because it had so much more greenery. Isn't that sad? Cambridgeshire needs to give back something substantial to the wildlife it has pushed into the tiny corners and little scraps of land since the mechanisation of farming before it all dies out completely. Less than a century ago farmers would pay per head for dead sparrows to control them, now everyone wonders why tree sparrows have declined by 90% in 30 years, and will at that rate be gone in five. Harvest mice, the tiny ones that make/used to make their nests on corn stalks - were once abundant. I've only seen two in my life. I saw one once, just for an instant, but I know I'll never see another slow-worm in Dencora's field now it's under the plough.

Cambridgeshire's fen was once a forest. A forest. Just picture it.

Mark Lewinski

John Norris remembers

The Day War Broke Out

It is nearly seventy years ago that Mr Chamberlain, the prime minister declared that we were at war with Germany. It was when I was talking about house designs, that I was reminded of the time I was evacuated to Preston, that I lived in one of these houses built between the wars. The type of semi-detached, with two bedrooms, a small box room over the Hall, a bathroom, but the loo outside. Downstairs there was a kitchen, living room, and a small dining room. All these hundreds of houses were in Penwortham, a village on the outskirts of Preston, and built in what I considered to be a maze, for it was quite difficult for a twelve year old to get the geography right

All this started in 1939, after the prime minister had returned from a mission to Germany, and declared that "From this nettle danger, I have plucked this flower-safety". He was too premature, for Hitler was already marching on Poland, and our army knew that we too would soon be at war. As side-line, I thought that this quotation was his own, but talking it over with the Harrison Family we found that he, Neville Chamberlain, was in fact quoting Shakespeare for Henry 4th part one.

I was on holiday in Wisbech when it was announced that my school was to be evacuated to Preston, so my father came over that night to fetch me home to Manchester, so that I could go to a safe place with my friends. In this day and age it would seem ridiculous to travel over fifty miles north to avoid being bombed, but the range of the German bombers was very limited, and the flight from France to Manchester was at their extreme range. They did however blitz my home town and did tremendous damage to Trafford Park, the engineering centre of the north, but did not reach Preston at all. This all happened on Christmas eve 1939.

The journey started by all of us being assembled at school, lined up and counted; and I found the numbers of the classes painted on a wall some thirty years later when on a visit, but nobody knew how they got there or why. Gas masks were issued, as there had been much hardship during the first world war from gas attacks, and we youngsters were to be prepared. After we were tagged and lectured about good behaviour, we departed to Central Station for the trip.

I can well remember the train, a special for the school, as it was pulled by an old shunting type, a J4 Class (six driving wheels, and a tall chimney) The carriages were not of the corridor type, and ten of us were bundled into each compartment. The journey seemed to take hours; we did not know where we were going, and the meager rations were soon devoured. However we did reach Preston, and were taken by bus to the village of Penwortham. Here the local householders who were obliged to give us shelter, were having a sort out of their own. The "clean" or bright boys, or those with posh luggage, were collared and tried to get away. But the authority was not having any nonsense.

We were all brought back and listed form by form, and the allocated in order to the various houses, no selection. So it was that John Flynn and I were taken away by

In the house lived only Mr and Mrs Hanson, so the authorities decided two boys would fit into the second large bedroom very well. But not the Hanson family...

a Mrs Hanson to one of those houses I have described. I cannot remember the address, but in the house lived only Mr and Mrs Hanson, so the authorities decided two boys would fit into the second large bedroom very well. But not the Hanson family; we were taken to the box room over the front door which had an oriole window. We could just squeeze in through the door, as the single bed prevented the door opening properly

This was to be our home for the next four months. The reason we did not get more space, was that her sister might pay a visit, and she always had that large room. I say large, but that is relative. Some of my friends fared better, and were in a different area, but as small boys away from home it was quite an adventure. As I remember it, we were quite well fed, but did have the advantage of school dinners.

We shared our school time with Hutton Grammar School, one week in the mornings, and the next in the afternoons. Much of my spare time was spent on Preston Railway Station collecting engine numbers, and types, as there was much traffic passing through. Preston is on the river Ribble, and there is a sizeable dock area, where freighters were bringing supplies from America. Indeed the docks were full of petrol, army tanks, and food, but Jerry could not reach them. Engines from all parts of the country went along those lines, so my note book of types, and numbers was well used. Preston also had gearless busses, quite an innovation at the time as they had to negotiate quite a steep hill to get to the town centre.

The arrangement at school was not working too well, our schooling was to say the least poor, and Hutton Grammar fared no better. So after shoring up the school cellars we returned home to Manchester on the fifteenth of December, just in time for the massive Manchester Blitz. For three nights the Luftwaffe dropped their bombs, and did much damage.. The worst thing for the population was the use of incendiary bombs, hundreds of them, all dropped on the surrounding housing.

For small boys the collection of bomb tails, and shrapnel was a regular pastime. We thought that the shrapnel was the remains of the exploded bombs, but in reality it was our own shells returning to the ground. The school was lucky, as were the pupils, for no-one was hurt in these raids. All the protection at the school was useless, as there were never any bombing during the day. That is hindsight, we did not know what was going to happen.

Time passed by, and for youngsters growing up, we took more interest on the progress of the war from Africa, up through Italy, and finally the landings in France, which eventually led to the defeat of the German army. It is surprising to me how clear these memories are; much better than those of five years ago.

Today the 20th April 2009, I saw three snakes in my pond; one three feet long, and two youngsters, I think they live here under the many stones, and emerge in the hot weather. Finally may I remind my readers that my garden is open to the public on May 16th in the National Gardens Scheme to raise money for various charities.

John Norris



Young evacuees in Britain's "Pied Piper" evacuation.

MIKADO

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present Gilbert and Sullivan's popular operetta "The Mikado" at Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, from Wednesday 3rd to Saturday 6th 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 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 for further details or ring Ruth Dennis on 01638 508171.

The Mikado, gently poking fun at Japanese customs, is perhaps the most popular of all the G&S operettas, with many memorable songs. The penalty for flirting in Titipu is decapitation, which gives rise to a topsy-turvy tale that follows the path of unrequited love, coupled with a frivolous look at the many ways people's lives can be ended, none of it in the least bit serious! It all ends in a perfectly 'satisfactory' manner for all concerned.

BULBECK AUCTION

Saturday, 9th May 2009

Viewing from 9am. Selling starts at 9.30am.

Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs D. Turner

Goods received between 5pm – 8pm on Friday 8th May

Space is limited so the organisers may not be able to accept all goods brought!

Commission Fee 25%. Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772

Promoted by

St. Mary's Church. Swaffham Bulbeck.

WANTED

Toys suitable for 12-18 months to help entertain visiting grandson.

Ring Catie Whitely on 742545

ngs
**Gardens Open
for Charity**
May 16

John Norris's Garden
(45, High Street) will be open for
this National Event



Mobile Library

Dates for 2009

Cage Hill: 3.15 - 3.50

Chapel : 3.55 - 4.15

May 5th & 19th



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!

CAPTAINS of INDUSTRY.

What a touching moment, when
Two just-retired business men,
Tired of playing One-up games
Begin to use their Christian names.

How one's heart goes out to him
When the first one says, "Please, call me,
'Jim' ".
And how it kills the moment dead,
When the other says, "Call me, 'Sir Fred'."

Ophir

What's on at Anglesey Abbey?

May, 2009

Inside the house: Object in focus

Wednesday 6 – Sunday 31 May,

11am - 5pm

Discover the secrets of the 500-year-old Tree of Jesse cabinet.



National mills weekend at Lode Watermill

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 May, 11am - 4.30pm

Don't miss this national celebration. Experience the power of water, witness the grinding of wheat into flour then have a go with our quern. Find out even more with our 15min taster tours (from 12noon) or involve the children in one of our scone making workshops (Saturday only).

Saturday 9 May, 11am & 3pm (workshop lasts approx. 1hr)

Scone making workshops, suitable for age 5+

£5 per child

Booking essential tel: 01223 810080

Study morning: stakes, string, salvias...action

Thursday 14 May, 10am -1pm

Gain an insight into Anglesey Abbey's herbaceous border with Assistant Head Gardener, David Jordan. Which plants are good to choose for their flowers, foliage, colour or scent? Find out how to shape a flowerbed, create interest and tackle planting.

£17.95 to include coffee/tea/biscuits, illustrated talk, guided walk and practical demonstrations. 10% discount on all sales in the Plant Centre on the day.

Booking essential tel:01223 810080

The house within the landscape

Friday 15 May, 10.45am, 12noon, 2pm, 3.30pm (tour lasts 1hr)

Join local historian David Occomore on this gentle walk through the grounds.

Explore the history of the site from Priory to Lord Fairhaven.



£3 + normal gardens admission

Booking essential tel 01223 810080

Mini beast explorer: pond dipping

Wednesday 27 May, 11am - 12noon & 2 - 3pm

Be amazed by the creatures you and our gardeners find lurking in Anglesey Abbey's Dew Pond.

Wild things circuit

Saturday 30 – Sunday 31 May, 11am - 4pm

Calling all wildlife explorers to join our fun run around Anglesey Abbey's nature circuit. Can you complete each part of the circuit to end up with your own seed to take home?

£2 per child + normal gardens admission

For details of all our events and opening times, please call in for a copy of our new 2009 events leaflet or phone 01223 810080

News from Wicken Fen

An exciting day of activities are planned at Wicken Fen on Friday 1 May to mark the 10th anniversary of the Wicken Fen Vision. Activities include bird ringing demonstrations, pond dipping, boat trips, guided walks and bug hunts; the full programme of events can be seen on our website www.wicken.org.uk . **Admission to the reserve and all events will be free that day.**

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 frequent visitor to the Fen in recent years and is a keen supporter of the Trust's long term plans for the development of the reserve. Chris will be visiting Wicken Fen later in the summer to open our new Dragonfly Centre on Sunday 26 July.

The Wicken team will be holding a series of information roadshows throughout May where we will be present the latest information on the development of the Vision with staff on hand to answer questions you may have on the Vision. We will be at the Swaffham Prior Primary School on Saturday 16 May between 10AM-1PM, please take time to drop-in and see us throughout the morning.

Wicken Fen will be hosting a series of events throughout May. The historic windpump, the last working windpump in the Fens will be in operation on Saturday / Sunday 9-10, as part of the National Mills Open Weekend. Local Basket Maker, Nadine Anderson is leading a willow frame basket making course on Sat 16 May and new for this year is a Dusk Chorus Bird Walk on Friday 22 May. To keep children amused during the May half term holiday we have a Food Glorious Food Trail, where you can follow a trail and solve clues to learn about wild food you never thought you could eat. Other events during half term include Pond Dipping on Monday 25th and Minibeast Hunting on Wednesday 27th.

For information and bookings contact the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. Hope to see you at the Fen soon.

*Howard Cooper
Communications Officer*



WI Notes

Our April meeting was a visit to Newmarket Hat Hire where we were welcomed by Sue Taylor who soon had us cleverly dressed in hats appropriate to our colours and stature. We all looked stunning and regretted that no one had remembered to bring a camera. After hearing a very interesting talk about the way the company operates, we were all let loose to try on any hats on display - and needless to say we all took full advantage of our time there and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On the 18th May we are back in the Village Hall for our resolutions meeting which is followed by a talk by Ken Smith on 'The East Anglian Food Bank.' Donations of tinned food etc will given instead of a speaker's fee so please remember to bring something with you.

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

42nd OXFAM WALK

Oxfam is looking for people to take part in the annual Oxfam Walk setting out from Chilford Hall near Cambridge on 17 May 2009. Its aim is to raise funds for Oxfam's Emergencies Fund whilst offering participants a great day out.



The Emergencies Fund has enabled Oxfam to respond in a timely way to many disasters affecting some of the world's poorest countries. Recent examples include drought and food shortages in Kenya, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza following the Israeli offensive there, cholera and hunger in Zimbabwe, people made homeless following the upsurge of fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the huge ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur and East Chad to name but a few.

Just £50 raised by you can make a real difference – in fact it's enough to pay for a hygienic toilet, vital for preventing the spread of disease in an emergency.

All routes begin and end at Chilford Hall and all will be well signed and marshalled. All will have checkpoints providing refreshments. You can choose a length of walk that suits you – either 4, 8, 12, 16 and 22 miles or a marathon route of 26 miles and raise your fitness level whilst raising funds. Stagecoach will be providing a free return bus service to the start from Cambridge.

This year we are hoping to raise £50,000. Please help us maintain the tradition of Cambridge helping Oxfam.

For registration forms or further information, visit www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/fundraise/walk, email events@oxfam.org.uk or phone 0300 200 1244.

Ladies' Lunch – Tuesday 31st March

On Tuesday 31st March our 2nd Ladies' Lunch took place in Quy Village Hall and our guest speaker this time was Rosemary Conley CBE. As before, ladies from all 5 Churches in our Benefice helped to organise this event and it had been planned for some time as we had to wait quite a few months for Rosemary to be able to come and speak. However, she was well worth waiting for and we were not disappointed.

When the day arrived it was a lovely spring day, 80 ladies came into Quy Village Hall and enjoyed a meal of cold meat salad followed by delicious puddings provided generously by many willing ladies! It was wonderful to have people from Bottisham, Lode, Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior, the Free Church in Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode Chapel sitting down and enjoying a meal together. Again, we even had "friends of friends" from further afield and some of us were able to meet up with friends and distant relatives who we hadn't seen for years!

Rosemary Conley spoke before we ate our meal and her subject was "How God Changed My Life". As many of you know she is the diet and fitness expert who has written many books and appeared on our television screens many times. She is a committed Christian and she spoke openly, warmly and enthusiastically about how she became a Christian and how she happily handed everything over to God and made Him the "Chairman of her Life". It was a wonderful testimony encapsulating all aspects of her life and how it motivated her to become involved with the Leicestershire based Charity called STEPS of which she is now the Patron. This charity provides special education for children suffering from Cerebral Palsy and Down's Syndrome and she showed us a short DVD of the work done here prior to her talk. Nobody was unmoved by this including Rosemary herself although she has seen the DVD many times before.

It was marvellous to listen to everything she had to say and we sat in silence with attention held as she told us her story. Many ladies took away a free copy of the book "Power For Living" which was the book recommended to her by Sir Cliff Richard and Lord Tonypanady and which inspired her to become a Christian at a crucial point in her life.

We are so deeply grateful to Rosemary for coming to talk to us that afternoon. She travelled from Leicestershire to be with us and claimed no travelling expenses and did not charge a fee for speaking. This was never planned as a fundraising event. However we not only covered our costs, but along with donations given on the day, we were able to send £550.35 to the STEPS charity.

I would like to say a very big heartfelt "thank you" to all the ladies who worked so hard to help with this event – it couldn't have taken place without you and I can honestly say it was very much appreciated by all. Thank you all so much.



Well-known fitness guru Rosemary Connley spoke at the meal

Pauline Lewis



COMING TO SWAFFHAM BULBECK

Wednesday 24th June, 7pm

Downing Park Barn, Swaffham Bulbeck

Watoto means “The Children”, and these children are on a mission. Through their inspirational songs and compelling stories, the Watoto Children’s Choir is spreading a message of hope for Africa’s children.

Since 1994, the choir’s have toured internationally as ambassadors for Watoto Child Care Ministries, a holistic orphan care program based in Kampala, Uganda. “Concerts of Hope” inform people of Watoto’s vital work and afford audiences the opportunity to participate in restoring hope and dignity to some of Africa’s most needy children.

The choir’s music and multimedia presentation is a soulful fusion of gospel and contemporary African style. Dressed in colourful costume, the children’s enthusiastic song and energetic dance has moved audiences world-wide. In November last year Watoto Children’s Choir had the privilege of singing for Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace and also at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Kampala.

For more information www.watoto.com or call Emma Andrews 01638 742431

Neighbourhood Panels: a growing reputation !

Thank you to those additional people in the area who have volunteered their help with the **Speedwatch** scheme. Details of the scheme can be found in the Neighbourhood Panel webpage at the District Council’s website www.eastcambs.gov.uk

The scheme is operational now in the area, thanks to the efforts of the (20 or so) people who have volunteered their time. You can still join the scheme if you wish (by contacting me) and training will then be provided by your local team. As drivers, please continue to drive within the limits of the speed guidelines, at all times!

At the last South area Neighbourhood Panel meeting in Kirtling (1st April) the main items were **Feedback on actions** taken to address the priorities and issues of concern raised at the meeting in January. Please note that (again) ALL priorities and issues were actioned, and this emphasises that the Panel meetings are all about listening, clarifying and **taking improvement actions**.

Multi-agency working to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Burwell has

been demonstrably effective and needs to be sustained (including a newly-opened Boxing Project in Burwell). Crime is now below 2006/7 levels, although acquisitive crime (theft, shoplifting and burglary) is on the increase – so please take care with the security of your personal property! Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have decreased and now compare to 2006 levels..

Full details of police actions, crime trends and local statistics are in the (Southern area) **Neighbourhood Profile** which you can access from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage. The Profile is updated on a 3-monthly basis, so do take a look at the detail, please.

Local people, parish councils and agencies are understanding the benefits of working together to bring about improvement.

Dealing with the economic downturn. Andrew Killington, an Executive Director at the District Council, drew participants' attention to a leaflet 'Weather the Storm' and to the website www.weatherthestorm.org.uk which acts as a 'gateway to other organisations' which provide advice, support and guidance services, e.g. CAB. Andrew Killington talked of his 2 purposes in providing the presentation:

- the importance of 'local intelligence'
- consideration of how local agencies can ameliorate the impact of the downturn at all levels (ultimately, to international level)

before looking at 4 perspectives

- the impact on the Council
- the impact on the local (East Cambridgeshire) community
- the impact on Business and the local economy
- what we can do (as a Council, as businesses and as individuals)

Full details of Andrew's presentation are in the minutes of the South Panel meeting and can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage at the District Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Identification of issues of concern (from local residents and Panel members), and setting priorities for action.

The priorities for the next 3 months are

For the police (working in partnership with other agencies): Combating burglary in The Swaffhams; Combating burglary in Dullingham; (ASB Partnership teams will continue their work in Burwell and Bottisham)

For the other agencies: Review of the extent of 40 mph zones close to villages; Operation of Speedwatch scheme

The next meetings of the South area Panel (both 7pm starts) in 2009 are

Tuesday, 30th June at The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

Wednesday, 7th October at Burwell Village College

Please come along, become involved and help to bring about improvements in your locality! If you are unable to attend, and have an issue to be raised with the Panel, please contact your Parish Clerk, Karen King.

Notes from the Parish Council 9th April Meeting

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

Minutes of Meeting 3rd March 2009: These were agreed.

Reports:

CCC: Cllr Hazel Williams reported to the meeting

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

Correspondence Received:

CCC:

SP C of E School – partly retrospective application for the retention of existing 3-bay mobile classroom building on School site until the end of August 2012.

Highways – re installation of passing places on Heath Road.

ECDC - Planning:

Planning Approval for Regent Farm, 7 Heath Road – change of use of existing storage building and yard to storage building and yard with parking/turning area for tree surgery business.

General:

School Newsletter

Letter re maintenance of Road at Fairview Grove – ongoing.

Minutes Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only)

Unauthorised access of the River Cam flood bank by drivers of vehicles. Due to ongoing discussion between CCC, Environment Agency and riparian owners, CCC put forward the proposal of installing a 12ft gate with a 5ft gap adjacent to the Swaffham Bulbeck Lock. This would stop the use of the footpath by unauthorised vehicles but at the same time ensure that those authorised to use the footpath could do so. As this was within Swaffham Bulbeck Parish, the proposal was reported to the SBPC for their approval. The SBPC agreed in principle to the proposal but due to the varying discussions between different authorities, land owners, etc., requested that the detail of the proposal be formally confirmed by letter to SBPC. All things being equal approval could then be given at the next SBPC meeting (5/5/09).

Fairview Grove – road maintenance: Mr Mark Lewinski wrote a second letter to the Parish Council expressing his disagreement with Paul Butcher's response to the request for repairs to the Fairview Grove road surface. Mr Lewinski gave details of the condition of the road discussing the "surface level" and "the two turning circle central drains". It was agreed that a copy of Mr Lewinski's letter should be forwarded to Paul Butcher of CCC with a request for a meeting on site to discuss the issues.

Heath Road – passing place for vehicles: Following discussion between Mead Construction and Paul Butcher of CCC, 2No passing places were agreed. These were to be installed and funded by Mead Construction.



Request for Maintenance to Village Car Park and Driveway: As requested, Martin Mead of Mead Construction inspected the car park and driveway and replied with costings. Several points were raised from this and it was agreed to ask Martin to meet with Parish Councillors at the car park to take a further look.

Contribution received from M K Homes (Cambridge) Ltd towards Traffic Calming Measures: Following the recent purchase of the land at Mill Hill from Ashwell Developments, a cheque in the sum of £10,000 was received from M K Homes (Cambridge) Ltd. This was in accordance with the terms of the contract for the purchase of the site. The Parish Council recorded a very big thank you to Martin Mead and Kim Sheldrick (M K Homes...) for this contribution. It was agreed that this contribution would be held for the time being until additional measures could be assessed.

There followed discussion about the completeness of the traffic calming scheme. Andrew Carauna of CCC Highways confirmed to the Clerk that the scheme was finished but that the white lines between ‘build-outs’ were not installed as it was thought this could lead to confusion for cyclists. The meeting did not agree with this statement and the Clerk is to follow up with CCC and ask that the work be completed as the original plan.

Annual Parish Meeting: Details of the agenda were discussed. As in the last Crier, if anyone wishes to have an item included on the agenda, please let the Clerk know (latest date for any requests – 10/5).

Repairs to the Outside Walls of the Pound, Cage Hill: The Clerk is to ask the advice of the Conservation Officer at ECDC before the extent or type of repairs is agreed.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk’s Report:

Speed Survey – this had been carried out by CCC. Anyone wishing to see the results please contact the Clerk.

Overhanging Vegetation – Water Treatment Works, Station Road. A letter has been sent to Anglian Water asking that the overhanging hedgerows be cut back to allow use of the footpath.

Parish Councillors’ Reports:

Andrew Camps said it had been brought to his attention that the Church clock was not easy to see due to height of the trees in front of the Church. There were varying thoughts on this and it was suggested as an item for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Open Question Time:

General items of information.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 14th May 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

1. Following the restructuring of senior staff at the county council Mike Davey (who has been attending our Neighbourhood Panel meetings) has been promoted to Service Director for Community Engagement and Rod Craig has been appointed as Executive Director, Community and Adult Services. Three directors will be retiring.
2. The Older People's Strategy was approved by Cabinet before coming to the Council meeting
3. Funding has been secured from the Regional Funding Allocation for a new station at Chesterton, as well as funding for the guided bus to continue to the station from Milton Road. At present 70% of travellers for the present railway station come from the north of the city.
4. Cambridgeshire Archives gave an update to Scrutiny Committee on the difficulties of storing the archive materials and their search for a new venue.
5. Horizons gave an update on the implications of the economic downturn on the development of new communities.
6. County Council Farms Estate is celebrating its first century. The estate, the largest of its kind in the country, has 250 tenant farmers working 13,500 hectares (30,000 acres) of land. The first plot was bought in Milton in 2009.
7. The Guided Bus is being tested and members of the public and press have had the opportunity to ride on a short section of it before the opening. The contract with the builders responsible for the Central Library has been terminated. And Coulson Building Group has taken on the project. Completion date is now expected to be September 2009, over 18 months later than expected.



Small But Perfectly Formed!.....

If you're looking for a local tennis club that is small, friendly and convenient, which caters for beginners as well as a reasonable club standard, then come to Bottisham! We share the courts with Bottisham Village College.

Because of the building work at the college this year we will have less facilities during the main season but we can offer at least one hard court and two floodlit astroturf courts for club sessions. Outside school hours at least 1 hard court will be available to book and, as a concession because of the building work, the Astroturf can also be booked outside school hours, free of charge for club members.



Club sessions are between 7 - 9pm on Monday and Friday evenings and also on Saturday afternoons from 2 -4 pm.

We have 8 weeks of coaching organised for juniors on Wednesdays after school, and for adults on Friday evenings between 6-7pm. Details are available on our website or from Charlie Platten on 01223 813016.

Taster sessions are available on club nights free of charge for those interested in joining us.

For more information visit our website www.bottishamtennis.org.uk where you'll find details of our calendar, subscription fees and coaching classes, or ring the secretary on 01223 812432.

**BOTTISHAM PLAYERS
PRESENT
IT'S ON, IT'S OFF
MAY 14TH/15TH/16TH 2009**

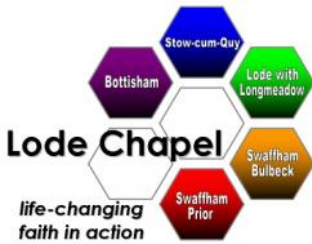
**An Hilarious Comedy
By Ray Lawrence**

Its two days before Tina Humphrey's wedding & her parents, Gerald & Daphne, are expecting their daughter's future mother-in-law Angela for dinner to meet the family. However Robert there son is coming home with surprises of his own, & who is Monica? With infidelity, illegitimate children & a case of mistaken identity, all Daphne wants to know about the wedding is whether it's on or it's off!

This is a hilarious & witty comedy of mistaken identity & not knowing who is related to whom which will hold you're your attention to the very last word. It's on its off features Bottisham Players Margaret Coles in her first starring role & Sophie Wilson directing her first full length production, with the wealth of experience of the players regular members supporting them both on stage & behind the curtains, this is a play you will not want to miss.

Tickets are available from Bottisham Post Office & Village stores, Chris Clarke Hairdressing & Tina's in Burwell, or you can call our Box Office on 01223 811033. Ticket Prices are £7.00 adults, £5.00 concessions on all performances. The start time is 7.30pm, the venue is Bottisham Village College Main Hall, we look forward to seeing you.

For more information visit our website at www.bottishamplayers.org.uk



How Would Jesus Vote?

I WAS APPALLED RECENTLY TO LEARN THAT THE BNP HAS USED AN IMAGE OF JESUS and a verse from John's gospel to try and persuade the electorate in June's European elections that they are party that Christians should vote for. You will not be surprised by the fact that I strongly disagree! Whilst

this column is not the place for party politics, as a Christian I cannot avoid being political, for, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, *"When people say the Bible and politics don't mix, I don't know which Bible they are referring to. It's not the one I've been reading."*

Indeed, a year or two ago I purchased a copy of the 'Justice and Poverty Bible' – a special edition which highlights all of the verses which refer to God's concern for the poor, the oppressed and those who are treated with injustice. More than 2,000 verses are highlighted – you can barely find a page which doesn't have some such reference to it. Of course, there will always be those who twist obscure verses in the Bible for their own ends, like the BNP and those who somehow justified apartheid in South Africa. Some people even make up their own verses – if you look in the Bible for "God helps those who help themselves" or "charity begins at home" you won't find them!

Those who seek to use the Bible as their guide, however, cannot miss the clear way in which God urges believers to take action in the face of injustice – like these words from the book of Proverbs: *"speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy"*. It is for this reason that my wife, Lisa, and I, went to London on 28th March to join 35,000 others who sought to influence the leaders at the G20 summit which took place later that week. We were also numbered amongst the 250,000 people at Edinburgh ahead of the G8 summit in 2005.

At both events, Christians made up a significant number of those in attendance – in fact many of the campaigns, like 'Drop the Debt' and 'Make Poverty History', have been initiated by believers. These Christians are seeking to be part of living out what has been called the 'Nazareth Manifesto' which marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Luke 4. He offers not a list of policies, but a statement of purpose for his life, and for the lives of those who choose to follow after him. Included in this manifesto we are urged to bring *"good news to the poor"* and *"to release the oppressed"* – a challenge 2,000 years ago, but even more of a challenge now, particularly for the church in affluent countries like the UK.

Jesus had harsh words for those who treated others unjustly – and whilst we may feel far removed from the situation, in a global society the way we live directly impacts the rest of the world. The coffee we drink, the chocolate we eat, and the clothes we wear – all these items can either be part of the problem or, for example through fair trade, part of the solution. Although it's clear that I won't be voting for the BNP, it's not always so obvious which of the other parties offer the most just

policies. Nonetheless, I do believe I should be politically active – this is the outworking of my Christian responsibility to help make the world a fairer place.

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).

May RE:NEW dates...

RE:NEW Bulbeck – 10.30am, Sunday 10th May

RE:NEW Bottisham – 10.30am, Sunday 24th May

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

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

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Donations!

Many thanks to Shirley Wilkins for her very kind donation to the *Crier* this month. Donations are particularly welcome this year, to cover increased costs of our improved printing quality,

PASTORAL LETTER, May 2009

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

This year Rogation Sunday falls on May 17th. Christians typically observe the Rogation days in preparation for celebrating the festival of Ascension. The word "Rogation" comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask," and was applied to this time of the liturgical year because the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday, the 5th Sunday of Easter, included the passage "Ask and ye shall receive" (John 16:24). Because of the emphasis on 'asking' God, farmers often used to have their crops blessed by a priest at this time, and that is why our Churches like to go out into the countryside on Rogation Sunday.



A common feature of Rogation days in former times was the ceremony of "beating the bounds", in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister, churchwarden, and choir, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year. We don't do that these days, but we do see ourselves as being very closely linked with the countryside, and so on Rogation Sunday we go out into the countryside to pray for the countryside, for those who are responsible for caring for it and for those whose working lives depend on it.

One day the great Christian preacher and evangelist C. H. Spurgeon was walking through the English countryside with a friend. As they strolled along, the evangelist noticed a barn with a weather vane on its roof. At the top of the vane were these words: GOD IS LOVE. Spurgeon remarked to his companion that he thought this was a rather inappropriate place for such a message. "Weather vanes are changeable," he said, "but God's love is constant." "I don't agree with you about those words, Charles," replied his friend. "You misunderstood the meaning. That sign is indicating a truth: Regardless of which way the wind blows, God is love."

God is generous towards us because he loves us so much that he wants to answer our requests. As Jesus said *"In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."* (John 16:23/4). God wants 'our joy to be complete' because he wants to bless our lives

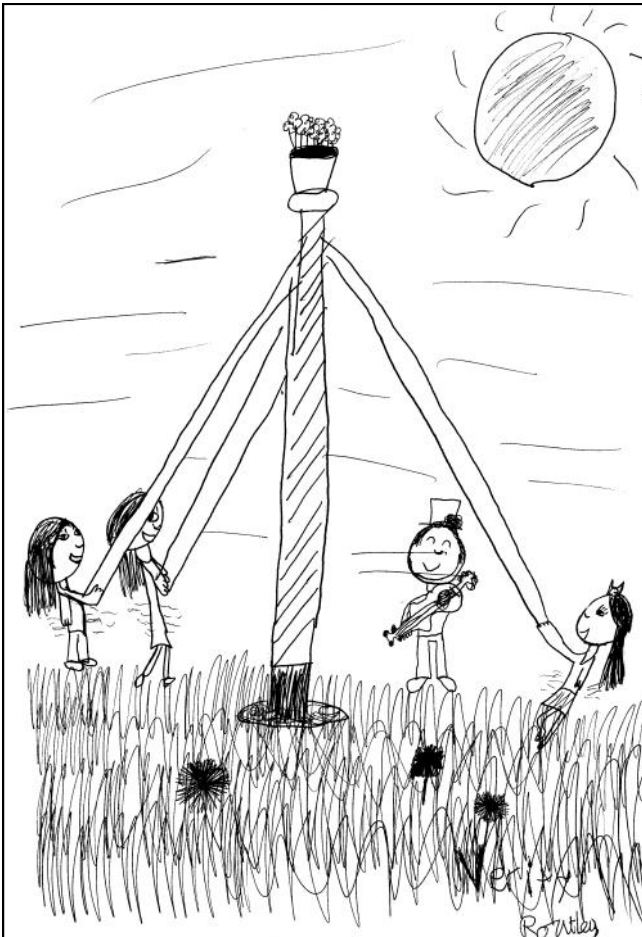
	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior
Sun 3	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 10	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 17	8:00am Holy Communion 12 noon Rogation Service
Wed 21	7:30pm Ascension Day Holy Communion
Sun 24	11:00am Mattins
Sun 31	10:00am Benefice Communion Bottisham

in many ways, as a parent wants to give the best to his or her child. We are God's children and he wants the best for us.

The greatest evidence of God's love for us is Jesus Christ. He came into the world to teach us about God's love for us and then he demonstrated the fullness of God's love by offering himself as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins. He then proved the victory of the cross by rising from the dead – the greatest miracle the world has ever seen. Jesus taught us that we are God's children, and he wants so much to bless our lives – all we have to do is to accept the gifts he offers to us and to love him in return.

So why not join us on Rogation Sunday. Your parish magazine will tell you where the service is being held. Why not join us to thank God for His goodness, generosity and love, and to pray for the precious countryside that he has given us to look after for him. May God bless you all,

David



**The
Maypole**
by
Verity Routley,
(age 7)

Dates for Your Diary May 2009

Tue	5	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Sat	9	Bulbeck Auction, 9am
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH Bottisham Players <i>It's on, It's off</i> (to the 16th), 7.30pm, BVC
Sat	16	Village Feast, 2pm, VH Open Gardens, 45 High Street
Sun	17	Rogation Lunch, 12 noon, Adventurer's Farm
Mon	18	Crier Copy Deadline WI, VH, 7.30pm Oxfam Walk, Chilford Hall
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	20	Annual Village Assembly, 7.30pm, VH
Thu	21	Ascension Day Service, 7.30pm
Jun	3-6	Mikado, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7.30pm, (2.30 Sat Matinee)
Sat	6	Grand Garage Sales, 10am-12 noon

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

***Village
Clubs
&
Societies***