



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIII Number 11

November 2009



Editorial

GORILLAS, YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THEM. This one was billed in last month's *Crier* as being ready and willing to *eat* any small children that should knock on our door on Halloween. So where was it? Hiding behind the garden wall? In the flower bed?

Well, no, dawdling back from Newmarket with a boot full of sweets. Too late! The discomforted other inmates of our house were caught napping and sweetless, and rather than endure the nasty tricks that might otherwise rain down on their heads, quickly filled *another* boot with sweets from Burwell. So now we have quite a lot of sweets, and a whole year until next Halloween,

The *Crier* has a very strange communication this month, half of which seemed to come from the National Trust, about their Vision. But no, it was from a professional PR consultant who has set up a rival petition extolling Vision virtues.

Enquiries with the National Trust revealed that he was not working for them, although the reason everyone might think so is because he just *cut & pastes* everything from their website. Consultants! Don't you just love them? But anyway, don't get confused, B Gibbs, independent petitioner and National Trust. Not the same

thing. *Seemples.*

Who could possibly have been abusing our Pauline King (see *Letters*), who has the unenviable job of getting us all on the Electoral Register? With 108 people having forgotten (including us) Pauline did a magnificent job signing them all up, so *s h a m e o n y o u*, disenfranchised abusing persons, and don't think that the next Government's Statisticians will fail to identify you as a non-voting group and whence clobber you with every tax they can think of. Isn't this what happened with students fees?

Meanwhile, goodbye with many regrets to John Jordan, who is resigning from our Parish Council. John turned our Village Assembly from a mountain of indigestible facts into something really good, and we're really sorry to see him go.

But that Gorilla *will* be back next year, with lots and lots of spooky cobwebby *past-their-sell-by-date* sweets...

Caroline Matheson

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	8
Wicken Fen News	14
CROSSWORD	18
John Norris: The Eel	20
Ophir	22
Crossword Winners	22
WI	23
The Reading Group	23
Village Gardeners	24
Burwell Flower Club	24
Neighbourhood Panels	25
PC Report	27
Freecycle	28
Simon Goddard	29
David Lewis	30
Church Services	30-31
Diary & Clubs	32

News, Views & Reviews

Shooting in St Mary's	7
Over 65's Personal Budget	10
Harvest Supper 2009	16
Adult Placement Scheme	25

What's On

Bangles and Beads	12
Bonfire Party	12
Cantilena Concert	13
African Art Exhibition	15,21
Memorial Lecture	24

For Sale

Apollo Childs Bike	14
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Cover Picture: Swaffham Prior High Street in the 1920s by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Christmas Grant

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual, the majority of these applications will come from our pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the state pension, but if you are in particular need, or know of anybody who may be in difficulty, but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

Mrs Pam-Waters
Clerk to the Trustees

Dear Editors

Register of Electors 2009/10

Thank you to everyone who returned your Electoral Register Forms.

To the 108 people who failed to return theirs, but very kindly filled them in when I called, thank you very much.

To the people who were abusive to me when I called — you are required by law to fill these forms in and return them on time. Failing to do so could result in a fine.

Pauline King
27 Rogers Rd

Dear Editors,

Website History

Having seen the historical website for Swaffham Prior, I tried to email the author, Paul Chambers, but my email was returned.

Does anyone think that the “**Rico Gaysle**” and later “**? Gaysle**” on the **Shadworth Manor list of 1473 tenants** could be a fore-runner of the later Gilson/Gilson/Gillesonne s etc.?

The first one of my Gilsons that I can locate in Swaffham Prior is William Gilson. He was baptised there 11th March 1698 and married Dorothy Chambers in St Mary's Church S.P. on 11th November 1723.

The father of William was another William born about 1670. He married Dorothy Nicholas and I wondered if this couple were also from S.P.

Can you help me further? I try to get to the archives in Cambridge now and again, but can not visit often.

Thank you in anticipation.

Maureen Wilson
mkatwilson@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2009

Well this year we have surpassed all previous records and I am so grateful, as Macmillan Cancer Support will be too, along with its recipients. All the money raised from cake sales, raffle tickets and donations came to £641 - a truly amazing amount and I can't thank you enough for all that you did.

Our Village total actually comes to even more, believe it or not! As many of you will know my mother, Rhoda Goddard, died in August. She had asked for donations in lieu of flowers at her funeral to be made to Macmillan Cancer Support and added to the Coffee morning total. She had always thoroughly enjoyed that occasion. The final amount that I paid into the bank was £1,184 - yes that's one thousand, one hundred and eighty four pounds! I still can't quite believe it.

Thank you ALL for your enormous generosity. Over the the sixteen years that we have had the Macmillan Coffee Morning in Swaffham Prior we have now raised just over £7,000. THANK YOU.

I wonder what we shall manage to raise next year! I look forward to seeing you all then.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors

Gay Bulleid Award

The W.I. would like nominations please-by the end of November, if possible, for the annual Gay Bulleid Award that it presents each year ,around Christmas time.It is for any one you consider has been a particularly good friend and neighbour or has contributed a lot to our community.

If you have someone in mind, please contact Pat Cook on 742224 or Margaret Joyce on 744390. Many thanks.

Margaret Joyce

Dear Editors

That Bridge

In a letter to the Crier, Mr Soans (Property Manager, National Trust Wicken Fen) takes issue with various parts of my report of the special meeting held by the Parish Council to discuss the NT's plans for a bridge over Reach Lode. The meeting had been called at short notice because the plans had become available to the PC less than one month before they were due to be submitted to the Planning Committee in Ely.

I would like to think that my report gave an accurate summary of the points of discussion and opinions of the Council (of which I am not a member), presented for the first time with the package of drawings and documentation relating to the NT's application. The presence of an NT representative (had the PC found the opportunity to invite one) may or may not have influenced the Council's opinion, which after

lengthy discussion and detailed consideration was unanimously opposed to the plan.

Had they then been available, the computer-generated graphics accompanying Mr Soans' letter to the Crier might have countered the impression of size given by the technical drawings available to the meeting, and saved me from an error of scale (yes, I was responsible for the quarter-mile estimate when I got a chance to look at the plans after the meeting - a regrettable lapse of reporter's ethics to include one's own opinion).

Now that the plans have been approved, the Councillors will eventually have the opportunity to assess for themselves the merits or otherwise of the project, but the purpose of that meeting was to comment at that time on the information provided in support of the NT's application, which is what they did.

Don't shoot the messenger.

John Chalmers

Dear Editors,

It was with sad surprise that I read the letter from Chris Soans, NT Wicken Fen Property Manager, outlining the details of the proposed Reach Lode bridge (now agreed by E Cambs). Surprise: the bridge will be so much smaller than those who oppose it have been telling me. Sadness - because if the small but vehement opposition group on the PCC has had to exaggerate so much the dimensions and visual impact of the bridge to be convincing, I can only wonder at the state of local democracy.

What was it that they were really so afraid of? So it's *not* the size. And who believes local democracy can be served by telling us things that are not true? If the truth isn't enough, the argument is not worth making. So have they some other agenda not being discussed? Or were the actual dimensions not known in the first place, so imaginary ones were imagined, scary enough to be convincing? Ditto. Something else unspoken is the real issue.

I suppose there is a third possibility, that inaccurate details were provided from an unreliable source, but it would sadden me too if our representatives had thrown out to us figures as fact from an unverified third party, possibly with its own reasons to exaggerate. And Mr Soans points out that no-one invited a NT representative to the special PCC meeting to provide accurate data, but John Chalmers' account makes it appear planners were not interested in local opinion: "*...but no-one was available from the applicants to answer questions or promote their case*". This must be misinformed at least...unless of course Chris Soans is less than accurate in his statement, in which case maybe nobody is telling us the whole truth.

Is this becoming confusing to you, reader? If so, it's not surprising. How on earth could you know what's going on if you couldn't tell who's being straight with you?

Solution: Good decisions and good local outcomes can only come from clarity, accuracy, openness and honesty. Anything else is not really local democracy at all.

I am really disheartened that the prism is distorted by which we can see *and understand* PCC decisions enacted on our behalf. The meeting I reported on earlier this summer was enjoyable to attend and write up; but it wasn't put on as

entertainment. Local representation must be deeply grounded. Where we live is our community, held in trust for present and future generations. Bad decisions made on personal agendas can only diminish the quality of that future. To be disciplined so as not to be biased or scaremonger - the worst is always *so* convincing! - is a vital responsibility.

Also, can someone please tell Cllr Woollard in response to his *Crier* letter, there are no food shortages in this country. More decent food is thrown away annually than is produced in the fens. Tell him it is far easier and quicker to turn land to food production than to revert it to wildlife habitat. If in future there is a need, the land will still be there. But in total contrast, the wildlife in this country is diminishing at an alarming pace. When it is gone, it will really be gone. That is bald if dramatic fact. No scaremongering. It will not return, land or no land. It's called extinction. We owe it to future generations to try to save it, *and that has to mean nature reserves like the Fen vision*. If you object to saving our wildlife, ask yourself what kind of world you want to leave behind instead and why you want that. I've spoken to the people who work at Wicken Fen. They rolled their eyes in despair when I told them the kind of thing that is said round here. They won't evict anyone. They have no power to buy anything anyone doesn't want to sell; (I've said that before) nor is anywhere to be flooded. A mixed landscape is envisaged, because that is most 'natural' - ie the land has been shaped by man for thousands of years. It will involve farming, of course it will, they said, mostly livestock. Will Cllr Woollard also note there are very many like me here who would consider it a joy and a privilege to live in a regional nature reserve, and he is on the PCC to represent us, not fight us.

I wrote this once before too. Cambridgeshire's fen was once a forest. *A forest*. Just picture it.



Mark Lewinski

A Bridge Too Big?

Dear Editors,

Mark's Last Word on Magpies

It would have been my last word, I hope, on the subject of magpies and songbirds. (and I really do hope the collective sigh of relief will create a wind across this village to snuff the embers of the combustible edifices the bonfire folk have so enjoyed lighting on some of the most fantastic days this summer and autumn - I'm watching clouds of smoke roll across Lower End on a nice October evening) but since our esteemed Ed posts an undermining codicil to everything I write I'll have to draw the line more firmly.

Since our bird population numbers are not in stasis - ie remaining stable - with the smaller species declining while the corvidae, the magpies and assorted relatives, are on the increase, it would take Newton's calculus to assess the impact of the rising arc of one against the declining arc of the other, factoring in the other variables - weather, other predators, competition for food, insect life proliferation arcs (anyone else see the ladybird plague up by the coast this summer?). No disrespect to the folk at the British Trust for Ornithology, but the patterns are not as simple as counting bird numbers. I'd be surprised if even Stephen Hawking would be able to factor in those uncertain and shifting variables against the rise of one and fall of the other and be able to come up with a meaningful impact assessment.



I have always agreed with Caroline's original point. Larsen traps are bad. Shooting is less cruel, but it needs to happen more than it does, was my point in response. I'm still not clear whether she agrees or not. We'll be in angel pinhead dancing territory if we want to continue to argue about *to what extent* magpies make it harder for songbirds to survive; but the basics mechanics of Darwinian selection in operation on this planet mean they do. Nature is a harsh mother. In a few years we can probably have the same argument in the past tense and it'll have made no difference, if something more is not done. The bigger predatory birds which can legally be controlled are on the increase while the smaller protected birds are on the decline. The BTO could more usefully lobby for better predator management rather than just count how many less there are of one and how many more of the other.

She edited this out last issue, so I'll try it one more time. I'm just going to ask, as Mary Poppins said - Feed the birds. (But I have no evidence that it will cost you tuppence a bag).

Mark Lewinski

*Ed's Last Word: The BTO's job is to provide unbiased information about birds and their habits, and this involves counting birds. It's the RSPB that does the lobbying, and based on BTO data, does indeed lobby about birds of prey: **Help Stop Killing Them Now** is what it says. Sitting ducks are fair game for anyone, though....*

Shooting in St Mary's

St Mary's is going to be on *Songs of Praise*, perhaps the 21st March 2010, or so we hear from our photographer who caught a glimpse of the shooting programme.



Will the church be packed out, cars lining the High Street, and soaring sopranos to be heard right down Lower End? Quite possibly not, because it is the only our unusual WWI windows that will be televised. Above and below, *Songs of Praise* presenter Pam Rhodes and production team at work in St Mary's last week.



Photos: Mark
Lewinski

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Before the meeting began there was an air of tension and excitement throughout the room and this was especially so near our District and County Councillors. They were very agitated and made remarks like “there ought to be the means of a general redress”, and, “it was just like an East European Committee in the 1960’s”. I couldn’t make out the rest but there was an obvious grievance felt by both Councillors.



This turned out to be the decision by ECDC Planning Committee (of which David is a member) to approve the contentious bridge over Reach Lode. At a previous meeting Allen had suggested an alternative route which would have saved the £350,000 or so - and the landscape. Most on the Planning Committee appeared to be unfamiliar with the area and did not know exactly where the alternative route ran. Therefore, for this meeting, Allen had produced a four colour map for distribution amongst the Planning Committee members. The Chairman refused to allow the distribution or any discussion of the alternative route saying they were only there to vote on the bridge. Allen was incandescent. The Committee approved the bridge 7 to 2; the two objectors being David Brown and a farmer.

Geoffrey Woollard, who also attended the meeting, gave the impression that all the others were townies in awe of the National Trust and the other august bodies linked with the Fen Vision. And he’s probably right. After all it were the townies who banned fox hunting, preferring instead to cull at the den, which eliminated the mothers and the cubs, followed by shooting the males. These activities and road casualties account for the deaths of most foxes. Before the 2004 Act was enforced fox hunting accounted for only about 5% of the overall fox mortality in a year. If I was a fox I know which I would prefer. Give the fox a chance to live I say.

David Brown had raised our disquiet about the Quay traffic calming scheme with CCC which said that it had received no comments from any of the neighbouring village parish councils. This was a surprise, though one member doubted whether it is part of the PCs brief to make any comment. Probably it is, especially as PC members have been binding on about it for months, as have villagers, not only here but in Bottisham and Bulbeck. Both David and Allen reported that Quay PC is very happy with the traffic calming, especially now that posts have been added so that you can’t slip round the side via the pavement. Perhaps we should become very Gallic and honk our horns every time we are held up. The scheme looks as if it is here to stay.

Geoffrey proposed Paul Latchford, who he had known all his life, as the new parish councillor and this was passed unanimously. He replaces John Jordan who was a breath of fresh air when he joined the PC and, apart from his deliciously quiet humour, he did have the knack of asking the key question during a frothy emotional debate. He will be missed, not least for his revamping of the Annual Village Assembly.

An outside body has submitted a number of possible revisions of the Agenda for

consideration. Peter Hart was in favour of taking up the suggestion that, as number 3 on the Agenda, something like “public participation” should be introduced which would allow any member of the public to make a comment on any topic on the agenda, before the meeting began. He thought it important to hear some views before a discussion rather than afterwards. His determination won the day. So keep your eye of the agenda posted on the Village Notice Board.

A substantial part of the meeting was spent discussing trees, footpaths, allotments and dog poos. All of these are very rich subjects for any rural parish council and we shall start with trees, and in particular the Coppice or Multiple Trunk Lime in the Churchyard.

Views are never unanimous. Some people don't like football, cannot stomach lager, etc., etc. But there does appear to be a consensus that people would like to see the clock and tower of St Cyriac's from the High Street. A Petition asking for this from 39 signatories was presented to the Chairman. Geoffrey, with support from Steve, has always opposed the wish to see the church. Geoffrey now has a new ally, the opinion of whom is that because the tower and clock can be seen in the winter there is no need to see it during late Spring, Summer and Autumn. At the meeting this quaint logic was likened to a person who only shops at the week-end and therefore sees no need for any shops being open during the week. Meanwhile Geoffrey was clutching a bit of paper and, glancing at this, he suggested that the matter be deferred for ten years, after which the tree would be rotten and would need to be taken down. No-one took this seriously even though Geoffrey raised it three or four times. Obviously he thought it a spiffing idea.

Of course the problem lies with Kathy White, who is our excellent tree officer and has the final say on the fate of any tree. I learned purely by chance that some time back she had asked a few people their views. I have no idea how many she asked and maybe it was only one or two. But this indicates that she does respect some public opinion. The Parish Council is writing asking her to take note of the Petition. No-one is asking for the tree to be cut down but surely some “management” should be possible. Kathy instead had offered to cut down a “weedy cedar” if the village wished. All at the meeting agreed that this tree was not a problem, everyone felt sorry for the poor tree, and it was decided to keep and foster it. Also during the discussion, the root of the Cedar of Lebanon which runs in and out under St Cyriac's was mentioned. I had shown it to Geoffrey during his churchyard visit and it had really excited him. He carried this excitement to the PC meeting fearing that St. Cyriac's was in danger. The PC did not share this fear, refused to write a letter about it, and Andrew Camps will inform the Churches Conservation Trust. Not many people know about this root and it is certainly worth seeing.

The Scouts have again been busy completing another round of community duties – witness the nicely painted seats in the play area. Steve has replaced the accidentally damaged glass in the Cemetery notice board. Allen was over the moon when reporting that the fly-tipped rubbish had been removed – until Peter told him it was still there on the afternoon of the meeting. Allen was embarrassed and furious

and said that they who had misinformed him would receive the lash of his tongue. The problem path behind the school is still a problem. The landowner wrote to say that there was no evidence that the blocked footpath was being used, wondered why the PC was being pestered about it, and suggested people went round by the road. The installation of kissing gates on the pathways from Pulpit Corner to Devil's Dyke was also discussed without an immediate solution.

The four colour report from the Neighbourhood Panel was distributed and now it has got something really important into which it can sink it's teeth. The new subject is DOG POOS. These have suddenly become the flavour of the season. Nine of the Fifteen Parish Councils expressed some interest in DOG POOS. At last this is something really worthy of our Neighbourhood Panel which will have to tread very carefully when dealing with it in depth. I liked the sane comment from Woodditton – "dog fouling is being dealt with by the Parish Council." I wonder how much government money is being given to ECDC to run these NPs. Come on Mr Alderson – you once promised our Editor a defence of NPs and a statement on the monies – we can't wait to read it.

Karen announced that she has now completed 21 of the 24 modules required to become a perfect Parish Clerk. No-one asked if she felt any better for it, though she certainly looked very well.

Alastair Everitt

Over 65s to be given choice and control over their social care

A surprisingly large number of adults need some form of help in their day-to-day life. More than 1.5 million people in England use social care services. In Cambridgeshire there are over 16,000 adults who receive social care. This could be due to learning or physical disabilities, poor mental health, or other age-related conditions. Until recently, accessing social care has typically meant receiving one of a small number of pre-commissioned services. Now that is changing.

Self-Directed Support is a new way of providing social care to adults living in Cambridgeshire and eligible for support. It involves identifying a Personal Budget, an upfront allocation of funding. This is designed to help people take control over their lives, identify their own needs and the things they want to do and, if they wish, to manage their own support – with help if they need it.

In Cambridgeshire, Self-Directed Support is being introduced slowly over a two-year period. It began with a launch and introduction for adults with a learning disability in April 2009, followed by a roll-out to individuals with a physical disability at the end of June.

For adults over 65, because of the numbers involved, a phased introduction of Self-Directed Support to older people and older people with mental health need is being implemented. Over 65s who are eligible for support and living in East

Cambridgeshire will begin the move over to Self-Directed Support from November 2009.

People like Amy, who is 91 and has used her Personal Budget to keep her independence despite a series of falls; or Mary, 72, who has employed a live in carer so she can continue to live at home; and Beatrice, 94, who enjoys sewing and gardening and has employed someone to help her to continue do both.¹

Self-Directed Support will be introduced for adults under 65 with mental health need from early 2010.

Eligibility to receive support is determined using the Fair Access to Care Services criteria that, in Cambridgeshire, is set at 'substantial' or 'critical' need. Those eligible for support for the first time will go through the system as it changes, whilst those already receiving services will be able to discuss the new approach at their next review. There will be various ways to take a Personal Budget for those who do not want to receive the money directly as a Direct Payment. In some cases individuals may also be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their social care.

Claire Bruin is Director of Adult Support Services at Cambridgeshire County Council, she says: *"Self-Directed Support enables individuals to identify their own needs. It allows them to say what they want to do and what they want to achieve. The challenge for us (County Council and NHS Partners) is to support innovation in the ways that people meet their needs. A Personal Budget will enable them to do this."*

There is a seven-step process for setting up Self-Directed Support, and help and advice is available to support individuals throughout the process. The seven steps are:

- finding out if you are eligible for support and how much your budget is
- producing a plan showing how you will spend your budget to meet your social care needs
- agreeing your plan with the Council
- deciding how to manage your budget – you can manage it yourself with a Direct Payment or ask the Council to manage it for you
- organising your support to meet the goals specified in your support plan
- getting on and living your life
- reviewing how it is going with your care manager and if needed making changes – this will happen after 12 weeks and then according to individual need.

If you think you are eligible for social care support you should call Cambridgeshire Direct on 0345 045 5202 and ask for an assessment.

More information:

Self-Directed Support – County Council website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social/selfdirectedsupport/ or email to: in.controltotal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Fair Access to Care Services – Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk

BANGLES, BEADS

AND MUCH MORE....

"AT HOME"

41 Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior

01223 744390

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20th

3-9pm

Mince Pies, Mulled wine

A percentage of the money taken will go to Cambridge Home Start

Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA

Bonfire & Firework Party

Friday 6th November ,
Vicarage Field

Open: 6pm
(behind the church)



Adults: £3
Lite ropes for sale:

Children: £2
50p

Hot food & drinks available

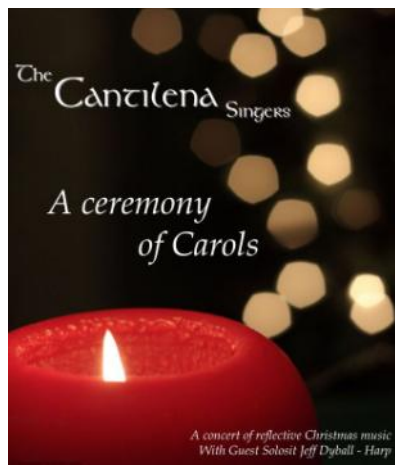
"NO SPARKLERS PLEASE"

Your children are your responsibility. Please
keep away from the firework display site.

**Sat 12th December 2009,
Bassingbourn Parish Church,
7:30pm**

**Sun 13th December 2009,
3:00pm, St John's Church
Little Wilbraham**

The Cantilena Singers
- director Daniel Spreadbury
Jeff Dyball - Harp



A concert of music associated with the Christmas period. The major work will be Britten's Ceremony of Carols. In addition to this we have a variety of more modern lyrical pieces which should provide an enchanting atmosphere and also be a change from more traditional Christmas fayre.

Programme to include:

- Britten - A Ceremony of Carols
- Palestrina - Alma redemptoris
- Britten - A Hymn to the Virgin
- Pearsall - In dulci jubilo
- Poulenc - Videntes stellam
- Sandström - Gloria
- Whitacre - Lux Aurumque
- Schmidt - Lux aeterna
- Stopford - Lully, Lulla, Lullay
- Biebl - Ave maria
- Lauridsen - O Magnum Mysterium

Tickets on the door or visit www.cantilena.info or ring 01223 812115 for details
Proceeds to the Churches and charity

News from Wicken Fen

Access throughout the Vision lands will be significantly enhanced following recent planning approval for the construction of a bridge over Reach Lode and cycleway across Burwell Fen.

The bridge and cycleway are a vital element of the 14 km Wicken Fen Spine Route which will link Wicken to Anglesey Abbey and Bottisham. The route will form part of National Cycle Route 11 connecting Cambridge to Ely, and links into Route 51 from Cambridge to Newmarket. Funding for the bridge has come from sustainable transport charity Sustrans from its Big Lottery award for the development of sustainable transport links between communities. Additional funding has been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government via its Housing Growth Fund for the development of green infrastructure in Cambridgeshire. The Trust hopes to introduce cycle hire facilities at Anglesey Abbey and Wicken to give visitors the opportunity to explore the Vision lands.

The bridge has been designed to blend into the surrounding landscape with gently sloping ramps providing easy access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Construction is expected to commence early in the New Year and should be completed by early summer.

Out on the wider Vision lands, construction of a hide overlooking the mere on Tubney Fen, near Reach will commence shortly following recent planning approval. Look out for lapwing and golden plover when visiting the Fen.

Back at Wicken Fen, improvements have been undertaken to the Adventurers Trail to improve access to Brett's and Trevelyan's Hides, which overlook scrapes by the mere. Winter wildfowl are now beginning to return with Baker's Fen a good place to spot large numbers of wigeon and teal. Hen harriers and short eared owls can regularly be seen over Sedge Fen. A good time to see harriers is at dusk when they come into roost. A perfect way to see our amazing array of wildlife is to join our wardens on a **Winter Wildlife Walk** on Sat 14, Sun 29 Nov or Sat 5 Dec 10-1pm Adults £8.50 Child £4.50 (includes soup lunch).

To help you get ready for Christmas, we are holding our popular **Christmas Decorations Workshop** on Sat 14 Nov 10-1pm £15 (includes materials) and **Christmas Wreath Making** on Sat / Sun 28 & 29 December 10-12.30pm or 1.30 - 4pm. £18 (includes materials and seasonal refreshments). Tickets and further information available on 01353 720274

Hope to see you on the Fen soon.

Howard Cooper

FOR SALE

APOLLO Childs bike. Excellent condition. 20" frame, 6 speed. Purple.

Suitable for a boy or girl. £30.00

Contact: 741558

African Art exhibition and service to mark World Aids Day

Three years ago we held a Deanery World Aids Day service at St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior. In the candlelight, through people's stories and beautiful music, we were able to take time to think of all those round the world, including those in the UK, affected by HIV/AIDS. We are holding a simple reflective service again this year at St Etheldreda's Church, Reach.

In addition to the candlelit service you are invited to attend an art exhibition in Reach village hall. This exhibition celebrates the vibrancy and skills of so many in Africa, represented through the work of the Ugandan artist Lukandwa Dominic and Mayanja Richard. Uganda has been badly affected by HIV/AIDS. Judith Goddard, who splits her time between Burwell and Uganda, works in the blood transfusion service in Uganda and central to her work are the difficult issues raised by HIV/AIDS. Uganda was one of the leading countries in combating HIV/AIDS, but recently the number of new cases of the disease has increased. It is difficult to understand why this is happening. She got to know Lukandwa Dominic and has supported his work, recognising his determination to support his family alongside the brilliance of his paintings. Thanks to her we have his work to sell. Dominic himself has had to depend on selling his art to pay his school and university fees and the fees of his siblings.

Lukandwa Dominic works in batik – paintings done on material with wax and different dyes - with each painting being unique. He writes 'My pictures are centred on family and activities that take place in an African home. 90% of my characters are women and children. This is partly due to the fact that I never spent much time with my mother, so I intend to do it as a tribute to her but also because men in an African home do not do much work, especially in the rural setting that I grew up in. Women tend to be my heroes.'

As well as Lukandwa Dominic's and Mayanja Richard's paintings, there will also be small African handicrafts and handpainted Christmas cards on sale making this event an ideal place to come to buy someone special a stunning present or stock up on small extras – knowing that all the money is going to support people for whom every penny makes a difference.

The exhibition and events are being advertised through the sale of South African hand beaded Aids badges. These popular badges are made in Cape Town by mothers of children with children living with HIV. Making the badges provides these mothers with a vital source of income and for many restores their self esteem. The badges are on sale at the back of church and in Centrepeace.

Jo Jones Sue Evans



Harvest Supper 2009

HARVEST IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION: hard work over; crops gathered in; larders full; time to sit back and reflect on how lucky we've been over the year. And compared to many parts of the world, we certainly have much to be grateful for. And Swaffham Prior certainly knows how to celebrate. The Harvest Supper on Saturday was a triumph of organisation, preparation and delivery.

A most enjoyable event for all who attended. More than eighty people sat down to a bountiful table of cold meats and multiple salads and delightful desserts, most of



which were donated by willing helpers. The well-run bar lubricated the proceedings and the colourfully aproned team served all with a smile. The cabaret was fantastic a mixed group of brass, keyboard, percussion, string and vocal; a credit both to young local talent and local schools. A bottle of House of Lords Wine was auctioned as well as a superbly carved Father Christmas – a traditional American style, carved by our very own adopted villager, Dave Mitchell. Money raised from these items and the raffle will go towards the building of the roof on the secondary school in Karekekere, the village in Mara, Tanzania, that we are supporting.



The team :- Jo, Ann, Dee, Barb & Mandy - the missing member being Janet who, after doing much of the preparation, preferred to go on holiday to Egypt! No accounting for folk!



The band – Slightly Reformed

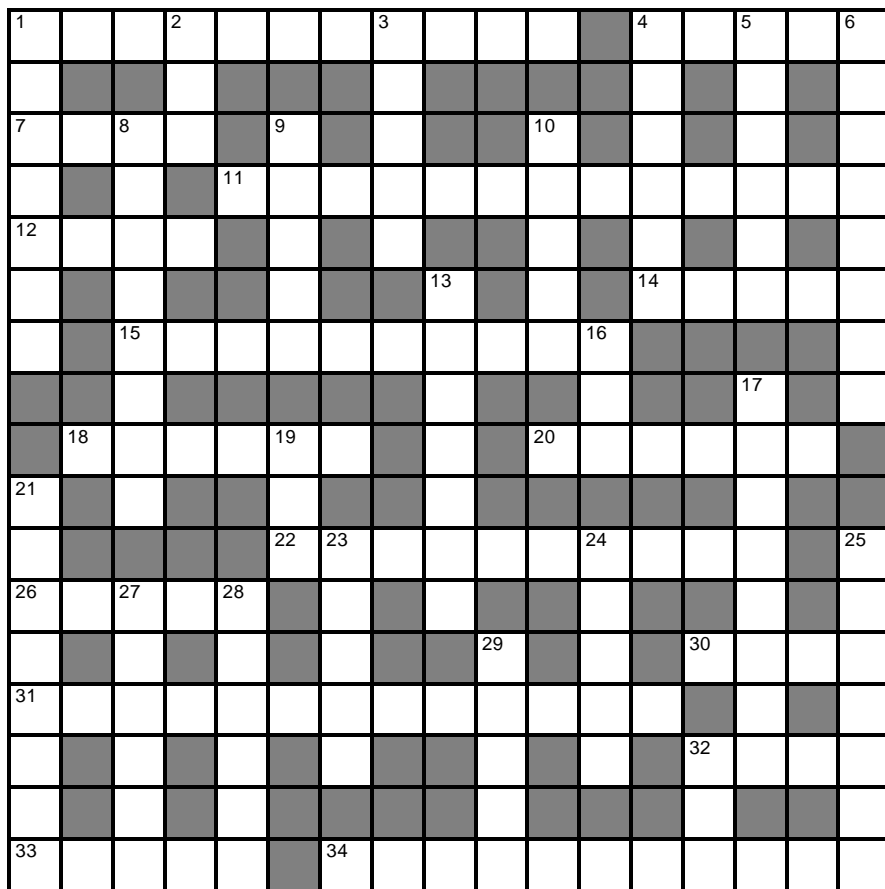
Crossword Number 66

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

OUNCE

Send your answers to the editors by 18 November 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. Cheers!



Name:.....

Address.....

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

Across

- 8/1** Peter Pan takes quiet time for herbal drink (10,3)
- 9** Like including maize for ingredients of (alternative to 40A) drink (6)
- 10** Drink befogging FBI, lost and confused (6)
- 12** A violent combination for bedtime drink (8)
- 14** German horse escapes 10A but takes a very long time (3)
- 15** Made a large toddy, originally by fermenting cereal (4)
- 16** Exclude legal body with the exception of drink counter (3)
- 17** 19D and 23D say, green, ripe and picked early to begin with (5)
- 20** Cecil takes directions unhappily for drinks permit (7)
- 22** Celebration? Remove oil before mixing drink (8)
- 24** Drink medical man took with part of 8A (2, 6)
- 26** Gangster company on vacation with constituent of many drinks (7)
- 27** Dices topped and tailed drinks coolers? (5)
- 30** 28A poisoning gives rise to 500 targets, no great shakes (3)
- 32** Drink containers found in African savannah (4)
- 33** Speak softly in Puerto Rico or Cuba (3)
- 34** Teratoma dreadful outcome of mixing drink? (8)
- 36** Amber drink canister is gone, crushed (6)
- 38** Drink Charlie takes over when

Candy loses time (6)

- 39** Cocktail Charlotte Russe lost, lost drink (10)

Down

- 1** See 8 Across
- 2** Pigs to make plug for barrel (6)
- 3** Drink another on grotesque grebe? Hesitation follows(6,4)
- 4** Powerful (drink) good man with another, good (6)
- 5** Country of dry drinks? (6)
- 6** Body odour preceding abstainer before the French store drink (6)
- 7** Unknown in a little while (4)
- 11** Core of cake returned (3)
- 13** Lager and rye combined for noble beverage (4,4)
- 18** At start, river in abundance drowned valley (3)
- 19** One lingers unusually over 17A drink (8)
- 21** Pinch a small drink (3)
- 22** 17A from discomposed composer with single 9A (10)
- 23** Auntie primarily buys big clothes (3)
- 25** Optic first person heard (3)
- 27** RAF Ace smashed decanter (6)
- 28** Drink for the twisted? (6)
- 29** Foil drink (6)
- 31** Short time for moderately dry (drink) (3)
- 32** Girl with cat's tail for drink (6)
- 35** Illegal drink loses radiance giving rise to rude display! (4)
- 37** Request 100 to leave barrel (3)

John Norris Remembers....

The Wonderful Eel

In the early sixties, after a spell of very wet weather, the condition of some of the farm dykes made it necessary to do some improvements if we were to get on the land in the spring. The drainage system was always in the front of our activities, for there had been neglect for many years. Incidentally I have not noticed much dyke clearing being done for many years, chiefly due I guess to the very dry seasons we have had recently.

To get to the point of this comment, we decided to grasp the nettle, and clean out the dykes in the Park from Low Bridge Hole right up to the back of the Old Vicarage. This is a very old water course, and not connected with the pumped drainage system that operates throughout the whole of Swaffham Fen; but in recent years does need pumping on occasions, and has it's own engine at Upware.

It is because this water course forms part of the lode system that connects Wicken, Burwell Reach, and the Park to the river Cam, and hence the sea. It is remarkable that the young eels, or elvers, manage to drift from their breeding area in the Sargasso Sea, go round the top of Scotland and find their way into the Wash and then the river Ouse and eventually the Cam. This two and a half thousand mile journey is possible due the ocean currents going clockwise round the Sargasso sea, and involving the whole of the North Atlantic Ocean.

The mature eels leave the Wash, pass through the strates of Dover, and take the southern route past the Canaries, then westward to the Breeding grounds. This journey can take three years to complete, but they leave in good shape, fully grown and well fed. Once there the spawn thousands of eggs, and then die. Sad really after such a strenuous journey.

After hatching the very small plancton like creatures drift on the northern current back towards Europe. I remember well the elvers arriving at a research lake in Ireland, where they managed to climb twenty feet up a ferocious waterfall. They did this by squiggling up the grass edges, and even up some vertical rock faces, stuck on by surface tension. Quite a sight as there were thousands of them

Now to the reason of my remembering this dyke clearing. As soon as we started the work we noticed a few eels squiggling in the mud that was lifted out of the dyke. Many of the managed to wriggle back into the water but a large number went off through the grass and were not seen again. As we go to the places where the cattle used to drink, and in the summer stand in the water, the number of eels was amazing, thousands of them, many over two feet long.

What shall we do with them? Let them crawl away, or find their own way back to the water and thence down to the sea. As they were so well fed from the wild pond life that thrives in "dirty" water, it was clear to me that they were ready for their mammoth journey to the Sargasso sea. So instead of alerting the Eel Catcher we let the do their own thing, and next day they had all gone somewhere, not an eel to be seen.

As the work progressed, so did the number of eels, all going somewhere. It was the huge number that sticks in my mind, and I hope we did not upset the balance of nature too much by our activities. When cleaning out the pumped drainage area, we rarely saw an eel, as to get into those dykes they had to travel across land. I fully expect that some did, but they could not reach the sea without going through the rotating pumps, and could not survive that treatment.

For those interested, the Lode pump is quite small and is situated against the lock on the River Cam side, but the water is only pumped if the level in the river Cam is too high to allow a natural discharge. The eels can therefore escape unhurt to make their long final journey. Incidentally it needs the lock to be opened and shut many times to let these fishes out, and the young elvers in, so I hope a few boats will keep passing through. There are still many other hazards before reaching Hunstanton and the open sea, besides the eel catchers, as at the High tide seasons the water needs to be pumped to avoid flooding; but these are huge machines and sweep the eels harmlessly through. A fascinating saga.



For World AIDS Day

you are invited to the Fordham and Quy Deanery

African Art Exhibition and Service

Tuesday 1st December

3.30-9.30pm Art Exhibition Reach Village Hall
(closed during service)

7.30pm Candlelit service of reflection and hope,
St Etheldreda's Church, Reach, followed by mulled
wine and mince pies in the village hall.



See Page 15 for more details

Don't take a fence if you don't need to, but -

If you want to be jumps ahead,
You've got to own a horse.
You've got to rein a tossing mane,
And straddle a saddle, perforce.
You're going to need a large garden, or field.
You can't keep it, like dogs, in a kennel;
Then of course it makes sense, to surround it
with fence,
To keep it off the parsley or fennel.

Unlike the Kiang or wild Mustang,
Renowned in both legend and fable,
It must have a shed to shelter its head;
That gets elevated in rank, to "The Stable".
You'll have to visit each morning and night,
And several times through the day;
To pat it and brush it - curry comb it (don't
rush it)
And to feed the ugly brute hay.

And what's more, you can bet, it'll need the
vet,
Though they don't come 'on the cheap';
Then there's mucking out - no stable's
without
It, can form a substantial heap!
It's no use just dressing up for the part
With jodphurs and a bowler hat;
With a neat little jacket, and whip you can
crack,
It is easy to see through that. - - No!
If you want to be jumps ahead,
You've got to own a horse.

One already wears a Barbour coat,
and green wellies, of course;
But if one wishes to be jumps ahead:
One simply HAS to own a horse.

Ophir

Solution to crossword no. 65

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

We congratulate Ellie Catling, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Linda & Colin Ebvens, Bob & Julie Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd and Shirley Wilkins.





WI Notes

Our speaker at the October meeting was Pat Westcott from Wallace Cancer Care, run by an independent charity to provide practical and emotional support for those affected by cancer.

There is a drop-in centre in the Concourse at Addenbrooke's Hospital and a house in Red Cross Lane where classes, courses and support groups are held and complimentary therapies are available - The service is completely free of charge and is supported entirely by donations. It was very interesting to hear about the history of the group and the very valuable service that it provides not only to cancer patients but to families and friends who may need supporting at such a difficult time.

Our next meeting is on November 16th at 7:30 in the Village Hall when our speaker will be Marion Crossley who will be demonstrating Winter flower arrangements.

Pat Cook

President 01638 742224

The Reading Group

A lively inaugural meeting, the discussion sparked by a wide range of books, not always well remembered, and lubricated by wine and nibbles. The idea for this meeting was to share what people had been reading over the summer and to decide on what we're going to read next. And what a variety had been read: fictional, factual, historical, a mixture of all three, as well as lighter summer afternoon reads. We decided to do a quickie for November followed by a meatier one for December because of the timing of The Crier related to our meetings. However availability of copies at the library have slightly amended this.

So the programme is as follows:

**Wednesday 4th November: The Birth of Venus
by Sarah Dunant**

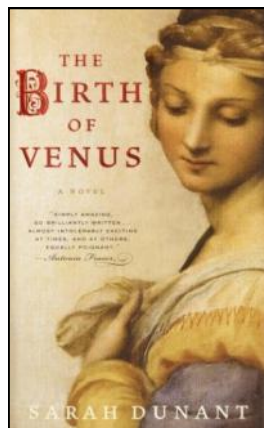
a book set at the end of Medici era in Italy;

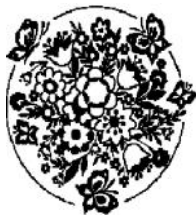
Wednesday 2nd December: The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown
his latest blockbuster.

Margaret will collect books from the library as they are ready and distribute them, (let her know if you want a copy, tel: 744390). The next meeting will be held at Caroline's, Kent House at 8 o'clock. All are welcome.

Brenda Wilson

PS. The Lost Symbol is still difficult to obtain! We may need to choose another book for December.





VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had our AGM on the 20th October, when our business was dealt with rapidly and followed by wine, nibbles and a quiz set by Mary Hart-deemed by most to be suitably challenging!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17th November, when Mr W. Morris will give an illustrated talk on species Pelargoniums. Every one is very welcome.

Margaret Joyce.

Burwell & District Flower Club

We are holding one of their very popular open evenings when they encourage visitors from around the area to share in one of their meetings.

Date: Thursday 12 November 2009

Venue: Village College Burwell

Time: Seasonal Refreshments 6.45pm Demonstration 7.30pm

Flower Demonstration: Nick Grounds from Wisbech

Tickets £10 call Pauline 01638 741059

Nick Grounds is a well known and popular demonstrator of flower designs over a wide area of East Anglia. An auctioneer by profession he tells how he had become interested in flowers as a young boy. When his grandmother was suffering from arthritis she would ask him to arrange flowers for her, telling him where to place each one. Nick is now passionate about his art and his demonstration on the 12 November will contain varied interpretations of popular Christmas Carols as a prelude to our Christmas celebrations.

We are looking forward to a fun filled and friendly evening of entertainment with Nick Grounds, why not come along and join us?

Cambridge Folk Museum Memorial Lecture

To honour the centenary of former curator Enid Porter

Featuring local farrier **Decker Murfitt**, who will talk about his life as a horsemen living and working in the fens.

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall,
Tuesday 3rd November at 7.00pm.**

Adult Placement Scheme

My name is Mandy Langley and I am the Registered Manager of the **East Cambs & Fenland Adult Placement Scheme**, we provide support for adults with a learning disability living within the community.

Adult Placement is a way of enabling members of the community to help those with a Learning Disability to live in and take part in that community. Adult placement is tailored to the needs and requirements of the individual and is highly flexible; Examples of the scheme may involve a person staying with a local family for a short respite break sharing their family life and home, it may involve someone to guide them with daily living skills i.e. banking, cooking or a companion for a weekly trip to the pub, cinema or bowling.

The Adult Placement Carer is paid according to the care they provide, they also receive payment of travel costs and entry fees etc. for taking the person they support out into the community.

When an Adult Placement Carer joins the scheme they are able to specify what time they have available and what type of support they would like to provide. Anyone wanting to be considered, as an Adult Placement Carer will be assessed and approved, the scheme supports the carer during this process and once the carer has been approved we keep in regular contact with the carer to make sure the placement is right for both the person and the carer. A carer receives as much support and training as they need to provide a personalised service for that person.

The scheme is part of the Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) this is a single organisation which includes both Social Care Services and Health professionals. The LDP are committed to providing services which help people who have a learning disability lead full and normal lives. They provide initial assessment of need followed by day services; short breaks (respite) care, supported living and services to carers.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Adult Placement Scheme should telephone the our contact centre on **0345 045 5221 (local rate)** ask to speak to **Mandy Langley, East Cambs & Fenland Adult Placement Scheme**, alternatively you may e-mail mandy.Langley@cambridgeshire.gov.uk *Mandy Langley*

Neighbourhood Panels

The latest South area Neighbourhood Panel meeting took place at Burwell Village College on Wednesday, 7th October. Cllr Carl Poole confirmed that, as ever, actions had been taken to address ALL the issues of concern raised by local residents at the last Panel meeting (in late June).

Full details of the 'Update on actions' can be accessed from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage via the A-Z section of the District Council's website www.eastcambs.gov.uk (together with the minutes, Profile and all other NP information)

Participants received an Action Plan to deal with Dog Fouling – to receive details, incident recording books, flyers and newly-designed posters please contact Karen See on 01353 – 665555 or Karen.See@eastcambs.gov.uk

A joint Panel meeting (with the Soham and East Panel) will be held in the spring to consult on the Wicken Fen Vision. Details will be available in the next edition of the magazine, on the Neighbourhood Panel webpage and in the press.

Parishes were asked to make their views known about the impact of the traffic-calming measure at Quy, the A14/A142 junction and the increasing number of HCVs using villages – with a view to a member of the Highways' Agency attending the next Panel meeting (on 5th January).

Shirley Blake (Principal Sustainable Development Officer at ECDC) provided an overview presentation of the draft Ely Masterplan (details accessible from the ECDC website) – consultation continues until 16th November.

Inspector Andy Bartlett, our new Sector Inspector (succeeding Insp. Alan Savill) referring to the Neighbourhood Profile (September 2009) outlined actions taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) to deal with

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Bottisham

ASB in Brinkley

Total crime figures for the Panel area have declined and recorded incidents of ASB have also shown a significant decrease.

Inspector Bartlett also summarised emerging trends in each of the 5 wards in the Panel area – details can be seen on pp.11/13 of the Southern area Profile.

Cllr Tony Jolley gave a presentation of the work of Speedwatch scheme volunteer teams in 11 participating villages in the Panel area. From the teams' observations approximately 30% of traffic was travelling above 33mph. 24% of speeders were from their immediate village, with 39% coming from a neighbouring village.

Please keep your speed within speed limit guidelines, as excessive speed kills !

More volunteers are needed, please contact Tony jolley@bottishampc.org.uk

Priorities for action

For policing (together with partner agencies) during the next 3 months:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Bottisham

ASB at the Recreation Ground in Burwell

For other partner agencies:

Presentation by the Highways' Agency – Quy, A14/A142 and HCVs

Specific issues raised from our village

Fen roads deteriorating;

Warning signs stolen.

Please come to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting at Burwell Village College on Tuesday, 5th January, 7.0 – 9.0pm. You will be very welcome!

If you have an issue of concern, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Cllr Alan Camps or Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator) alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk or by phone on 01353 – 665555.

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting—8th October 2009

John Covill chaired both meetings with 7 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public attending.

Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Parish Council Vacancy: Mr Paul Latchford was co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed.

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

Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that he would shortly be replacing the broken glass front to the cemetery noticeboard.

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the Scouts had helped with the painting of the seats and fencing in the play area. The Scouts were thanked for their help.

Repairs to the Pound, Cage Hill: Meeting between Structural Engineer and ECDC Conservation Officer pending. Carried forward to next meeting.

Removal of Cedar Tree in Churchyard: Following discussion it was agreed that nothing would be gained by removing the young Cedar tree to the rear of the Limes. Concern was raised about a second Cedar nearer to St Cyriacs noting that the roots could potentially become a problem for St Cyriacs. The Clerk was to write to the Churches Conservation Trust to make them aware of this.

A petition signed by 39 village residents was received. This petition stated “*we, the undersigned residents of Swaffham Prior, wish to be able to see the Clock and Tower of St Cyriac’s Church from the High Street. We ask the Parish Council to support this petition and to discuss with ECDC how best our wishes can be met. While we are all lovers of trees we do not believe they should dominate our lives. After all, the Clock and Tower were there first*”. The meeting considered concerns received for and against the cutting of the Limes but given the results of the survey it was proposed that the Clerk contact Cathy White, ECDC’s Tree Officer to discuss further her decision not to allow the Limes to be cut.

Planning Matters including:

A Parish Council Planning meeting was held on the 1st October 2009 to consider an application for 14 Cage Hill – *demolition of existing garage and construction of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension*. There were no objections.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk’s Report:

Grit bin has been ordered for the Village Car Park.

It was confirmed at the meeting that the new sign on Lower End/Rogers Road was now complete and looking splendid!

Request received from ECDC for estimated total Precept figure for 2010/11 - agenda item for November meeting.

Parish Councillors’ Reports:

John Covill noted that some of the ‘spikes’ on top of the play area swings were

missing. Steve Kent-Phillips said he would replace with new ones.

Geoffrey Woollard reported that signs had been put up by CCC Highways warning drivers of uneven Fen roads between Swaffham Prior and Upware. Unfortunately some of the signs were stolen and had to be replaced with new ones.

Andrew Camps reported on Neighbourhood Panel Meeting noting that further volunteers were needed for the Speedwatch Scheme.

Peter Hart told meeting that he was waiting to hear from Karen Whymark, CCC Parish Paths Liaison Officer with reference to Footpath No.6 from Village car park.

Peter Hart reported that the Stagecoach bus stop sign at the top of Rogers Road was still loose. The Clerk said she would chase repair work.

Open Question Time:

With reference to the future plans for the A14, the meeting was made aware of a further round of public displays for consultation and the importance of going along to see plans.

If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 12th November 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@bopenworld.com

FREECYCLE



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

Offers

Printer (A3 size HP colour inkjet printer); TV (Sony Trinitron Colour TV and indoor aerial. Receives 5 terrestrial channels, not Freeview). Jacqui 01223 811190

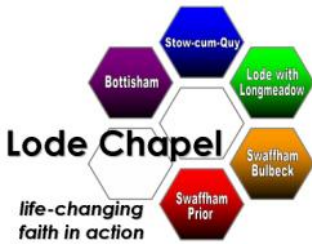
Creda advance condensing tumble drier. Sue 01223 813570

JVC Stereo cassette deck, Linear tracking fully-automatic turntable, quartz synthesiser stereo tuner amplifier, speaker system; ¼" reel to reel tapes. Doreen 01223 811622

Extending fire-guard (bronze colour). Jun 01223 813362.

Wants

Girls two wheeler bike. 5 - 7 year range. Lesley 01223 812901



REMEMBERING and RE-MEMBERING

November is a month for remembering – we recall with bonfires the events of 5th November 1605 and at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month we observe an act of remembrance for those who have fallen in conflict and war. It's

good to look back – but I want to suggest that by briefly thinking about the word 'remember', we might find even more significance in these events.

The root of the word is Latin and it simply means 'to be mindful of something again' – but I read something recently that suggested the word 'remember' could be understood as the opposite of 'dismember'. This rather unpleasant word brings to mind distressing newspaper headlines of bodies which have been separated from their limbs, or the shocking images that perhaps enter our mind when we hear of people being blown apart in terrorist explosions or in the theatre of war.

Both of the events that we recall this month point to times in our history when our nation and our world has been dismembered and divided. Perhaps contemporary events, such as September 11th and the consequent conflicts in the Middle East, and newspaper headlines about 'Broken Britain', indicate that the task of putting humanity back together is far from complete. But it's not just nations which are lacking unity and wholeness; communities and families are damaged and divided, and the complexity of modern life leaves many of us, as individuals, feeling shattered and fragmented.

If we are to truly engage in the act of re-membering we need more than a minute of silence – we need to be active in our pursuit of reconciliation and peace and in working for the healing of the broken and fragile relationships that exist all around us. This, I believe, is at the heart of the Christian faith, and is integral to our call to be followers of the 'Prince of Peace'. This is the hope that we profess in church each time we break bread and drink wine in the name of Jesus, the one whose own body, was transformed from the brokenness into resurrection life.

"Remembering is a past, present and future tense experience. When we re-member: broken, damaged and dismembered aspects of our past lives are put together again; mind and body and soul in the present tense enjoy wholeness; and helplessness in the face of the unknown future gives way to resurrection hope."

[Words taken from 'Gathering for Worship' ©2005, Baptist Union of Great Britain]

Simon Goddard

This Month's Services

1st – Morning Worship (10.30am)

8th – RE:NEW Kids Club at Bottisham Primary School
with café for the adults (10.30am).

8th – Sacred Space quiet and contemplative service

(5.30pm, refreshments from 5pm)

15th – Morning Worship with Communion (10.30am)

22nd – Morning Worship (10.30am)

29th – Morning Worship led by the young people (10.30am)

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).

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2009

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

This September I had the privilege of visiting the Tyne Cot war cemetery in Belgium. It is the largest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world, and it is the last resting place of 11,954 soldiers from across the Commonwealth who fought and died on the battlefields of Passchendaele.

It was an unforgettable experience. The cemetery, designed by Sir Herbert Baker, is stunningly beautiful, with row upon row of neat white portland stone headstones, surrounded by beautifully manicured grass, with the 'Cross of Sacrifice' in the centre and the towering stone walls at the head containing the names of some



Tyne Cot War Cemetery

of the 90,000 missing soldiers whose bodies have never been found. But perhaps the most unforgettable aspect of my visit was the sight of an English teenage schoolgirl openly weeping as she walked along the lines of graves.

What was it that made her weep? Was it the sheer number of graves? Was it the number of graves that contained no name

(8,367 in all), merely the phrase ‘Known only to God’? We shall never know, but something in her weeping gave me hope. Hope that she, along with all her fellow students visiting the cemetery that day, might take home with them a lasting desire to ensure that nothing like that huge loss of young vibrant life should ever happen again.

The ‘Cross of Sacrifice’ stands on the position of one of the concrete German blockhouses which had dominated the Tyne Cot ridge. It was on 4th October 1917 when the 3rd Australian Division captured the ground on which the Tyne Cot cemetery is now located. This was on the first day of the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge, when the II ANZAC Corps, consisting of 3rd Australian Division and the New Zealand Division, went into the attack across the Hanebeek valley.

From its position on higher ground the German Army had a magnificent view towards Ypres and across the British positions in the lower ground of the Ypres Salient. This ridge of high ground was extremely important for the German Army to hold on to because it also afforded excellent views to the north and north east right across their own German rear areas. The capture of Tyne Cot was of massive strategic importance, but achieving it cost the lives of a huge number brave young men.

As I walked along the memorial to the missing, my eyes were drawn to my own surname. There seemed to be so many Lewis’ recorded there, as there were Jones’, Smith’s, Browns etc etc etc. As I looked I heard a cry and a sob, and a teenage schoolgirl cried out to her teacher that she had found the name of her great grandfather. A truly poignant moment. His name, together with all the other names of those young men who gave their lives in the service of their country, will be read out on Remembrance Sunday.

It is so vital that we continue to “remember them” each year, because if we don’t we shall lose that sense of the pain of so many lives being lost. Perhaps all teenagers should be encouraged to visit Tyne Cot and weep for the fallen. Then maybe the prophecy of Isaiah will finally be fulfilled:

*They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)*

May God bless you all,

David

	ST MARY’S Swaffham Prior November Services
Sun 1	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 8	10:50am Remembrance Service
Sun 15	8:00am Holy Communion BCP 11:00am
Sun 22	11:00am Matins
Sun 29	10:00am Benefice Communion 6:30pm Evensong BCP

Dates for Your Diary November 2009

Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15 Memorial Lecture, 7pm, VH
Wed	4	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House, High St
Fri	6	Bulbeck Bonfire Party, 6pm, Vicarage Field (behind Church)
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH Burwell Flower Club, Village College, Burwell, 6.45pm
Mon	16	WI, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	18	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Fri	20	Bangles & Beads, 3-9pm, 41 Cage Hill
Dec	1	African Art, 3.30-9.30pm, Reach VH, 7.30 Candlelit Service, St Ethelreda's Church

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	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00- 7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15- 7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 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***