

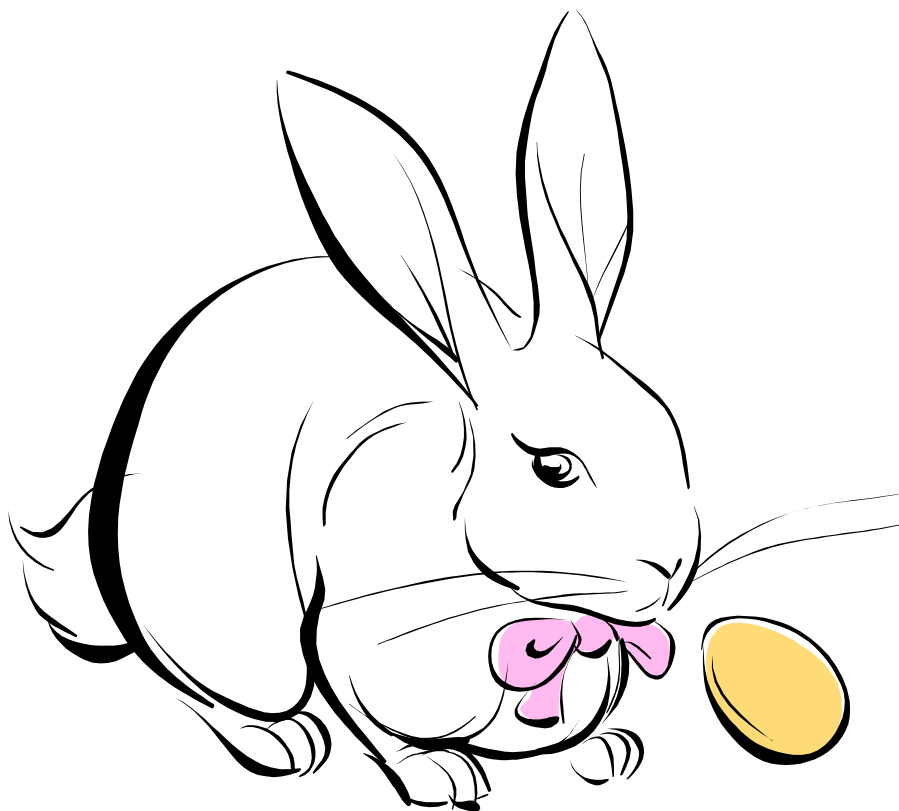


The Swaffham Crier
Volume XXXIV Number 3/4
March / April 2010



Happy Easter

**No Editorial
this issue**



Cover Picture: Giotto's 'The lamentation' & late snowdrops



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Loo of St Mary's and of St Cyriac's

*The work has started in St Cyriac's, and the trenches have appeared.
They're digging up Father's Grave to build a sewer
They're doing the job regardless of expense,
They're digging up his remains to make way for sewage drains,
To satisfy the local residents.
Father during his life was never a quitter,
And I don't suppose he'll be a quitter now,
He will jump up on his feet, and haunt the----- seat,*

.....And only let them, well you can guess the rest of this old bawdy song which had several verses, and is a least sixty years old.

The point of this is, that in my opinion, and that of many others, the loo should be in St Mary's, a building used every week, and which has room for the facility. I have recently seen the Diocesan Report which concluded that the vestry was too small. So it is, having been filled with furniture some ten years ago. If the rubbish was removed and the cupboards put elsewhere, there would be plenty of room. Not rocket science, just logistics. If you add something, something else must go.

I had thought that the problem had been resolved, but now that all our capital has been transferred to the Conservation Trust, one twentieth of a Million, and we are still ninety yards from a loo. it is not. But it seems that the idea of two loos is gaining popularity, one in each church.

The PCC have taken their eye off the ball, and not listened to the congregation. An event so great as this, in money terms, it did need a public meeting, to test the opinion, and inform the parish of the PCC deliberations. Even publishing the minutes would have helped.

It is not entirely the PCC fault: any person could have asked how things were progressing, even telling the architect to think again, rather than propose a building where the lowest tender was over £120,000 and rightly rejected. The access to the churches was also neglected under a clause relating to old Listed Buildings. But here again a slight alteration of the paths would provide a gentle slope to both churches. But no, do nothing, just spend the money, writing cheques is not hard labour, and does not require much thought..

It will be interesting to see how many turn up for the Parish Assembly. All voters can attend and vote for the Church Wardens, and if there are too many nominations a ballot will be held. Likewise. membership of the PCC is decided by those on the church electoral roll, and you can asked to be put on, there is no exam, just coming to the church now and again will suffice. You even have a right to be

present at PCC meetings, the same as at Parish Council meetings, but only to listen and not take part. After the meeting a perceptive Chairman may ask the parishioners for any comments. Help the church to be managed by those who use it, and share your expertise. No body is perfect, but collectively the right answer is usually found.

So there we have it, our money gone on a doubtful project, and the status quo in St Mary's. By the time you have collected the key walked the walk, done the business, locked up, and walked back, the service will be over. (don't rush or you may slip on the gravely path). A little forward planning will remove the necessity anyway, as has been proved by worshipers over the past four hundred years.

John Norris

The Loo of St Mary's and of St Cyriac's

There are three sides to the discussion about this Loo and these are set out below. There is that of the PCC, that of the Users of St Cyriac's and that of the Churches Conservation Trust. In time there may even be a fourth view - that of the Congregation of St Mary's.

1. The PCC. Michael Cazanove spells out St Mary's position in his letter which follows. He omits to mention that it had once or twice been suggested that the Loo should be in the Vestry. The reason given for rejecting this idea is that the disabled would be unable to get up the steps into the Vestry. Instead it was decided that the disabled would have to go down the steps of St Mary's, make their way up the 40 yards or so of the gravely path to the side door of St Cyriac's, and then return.

Michael is quite undaunted about any problem for the disabled, saying in his letter "if there is a will there is a way." Exactly! Many wonder what was wrong with the Vestry?

Recent letter from the PCC

Dear Editors,

I think a response is required from the PCC to your editorial in the February Crier - in it you state that the PCC will not be thanking the Crier for this rather late incursion to the Maryloo debate. In fact the opposite is true in that since work has now started we feel that is important that everyone is aware of what is happening and why the 100 is going to be in St Cyriacs rather than St Mary's.

The PCC has debated this subject for many years, and had one false start over ten years ago. As a result of many recent requests, we looked at the project again only to find that the cost of putting the 100 in St Mary's was totally prohibitive - well over £100,000. At the same time as discovering this unwelcome news, it became clear that the CCT had similar plans in mind for St Cyriac's. As a result of this it seemed to us to make enormous sense for them to put in the Loo, with financial help from the PCC and the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance, with St Mary's having access to it whenever needed.

There was concern from some that the acoustics would be ruined by this

development, so we went to considerable trouble to get in experts to test and advise if this was the case. Their findings were that the additions of kitchen and 100 facilities in the south transept will have minimal to no effect on the acoustics. Obviously you can't please all the people all of the time and we know that there are still some vocal objectors (even from within our own ranks) who feel strongly that the Loo should be in St Mary's.

To those people I would just say that we explored in exhaustive detail with English Heritage, our architect, the planning office and other interested bodies all the different options available. The only option that was feasible and allowable and that was agreed by 100% of the PCC was to build a small extension on the north side of the Church with access through the blocked doorway. It was this that we had costed and to our dismay found that it was way outside our financial capability.

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so I hope that when the Loo is finally installed everyone who uses it will be happy. We agree that the path to St Cyriacs is uphill, but feel that if there is a will there is a way, and that no one should be caught short!

It was nice of you to say that the PCC is highly efficient - we do try hard to ensure that St Mary's is open and available, clean and tidy and warm(ish!) and welcoming for everyone, and there are many unsung heroes both in and outside the PCC, including yourself with your great skills on the ivories, who achieve this for the whole village. Many hands make light work, so if there is anyone out there who feels inclined to help the overworked PCC please let one of us know.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Cazenove

2. The Users of St Cyriac's. The following rather long letter to Neil Rushton, Conservation Manager of the Churches Conservation Trust, sets out the concerns about the proposed plans and the effect of screening off the North and South Transepts. Because of its length some minor deletions have been made. The full version is available from the Editor.

Dear Mr Rushton, / 2 January 2010

St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior

As volunteers who help organise or support many events in our community, we value tremendously the splendid light and space afforded by the church of St. Cyriac and St. Julitta in Swaffham Prior. As such, we appreciate very much the support of the Churches Conservation Trust for this beautiful and well used building, and we agree with the Trust's stated aim of "encouraging access and promoting greater use of churches by and for the community, thereby increasing their cultural significance for local people" (*Conservation Policy*, November 2005, p.9). We also understand that it "is relevant that the present Government stresses the importance of using the nation's heritage as an educational and social resource as a condition of

financial support” (ibid.). It follows that we are supportive of measures that preserve and strengthen this building and that further its greater use. We feel that the proposed screening off of the North and South Transepts of St Cyriac’s, however, is not such a measure.

The one outstanding feature of this plain church is its simplicity and its light and space. As the Trust expresses it so well on its web site, St. Cyriac’s has “an elegant and spacious ‘Gothick’ interior with amazing acoustics.” This is why it has been so successful for art exhibitions and choral concerts. . . . It is these two characteristics, particularly the light, that we fear the current plans jeopardise rather than enhance.

Our understanding is that, as presently contemplated, there will be partitions across both the north and south transepts to a height of seven feet. While we see the symmetry in this, we do not see the sense, because at such a height, the screens will obscure a significant part of the windows and thus diminish the light. Given the installation of the lavatory, we understand and accept that the height of the lavatory partition does need to be about seven feet high. But why must there be extra screening which will obscure the South Transept window far more than one would think necessary?

The screening of the North Transept is at once less understandable and, we believe, more damaging to the lighting (and therefore functionality) of the building. Even if one were to concede (which we do not) that it is desirable to hide the chairs, why make the screening seven feet high? Why not have the screening only as high as the wainscot? Not only would this be more in keeping with the original lines of the building, it would also allow in much more light. In addition, why have fixed panels? It should be possible to design the screen so that both sides could fold back against the walls. The transept could then be used as part of the Church, as in the past, and admit the maximum light. . . . The height of the partition necessary to screen the lavatory appears to have dictated all the proposed changes. . . .

We regret also that the plans were not discussed with those who have been regular users over the last twenty years and that we only discovered the details rather late (and then by chance). Is it too late to take into account the needs of art exhibitions and of choral concerts? . . . Without such activities, it is unclear how St. Cyriac’s level of community use can be maintained, let alone strengthened.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Everitt / on behalf of Users of St. Cyriac’s

Dr Rushton emailed on 17 January saying he would meet the architects in the following week and then pass on any decisions.

We heard nothing. He ignored another email. On 12 February we were told by a caseworker that the work was to begin on the toilet installation. An email to Dr Rushton asking whether this work was only on the toilet facility was ignored. On 3 March an email asked Dr Rushton to whom one should write to get an answer as it was obvious we had to go to another level. This prompted an immediate reply which is reproduced below.

3. The Churches Conservation Trust. The following is Dr Rushton's letter.

Alastair— I'm sorry, this has slipped amidst my regional shift and I do apologise. The height of the lavatory partition in the south transept is a necessary arrangement to ensure the privacy of users and to maintain a certain amount of sound insulation. And it was felt that the north partition should mirror the south transept to maintain the symmetry in the building. It would not be aesthetically feasible to have a full height partition in one transept and a lower screen in the other.

The visual impact would not be acceptable in terms of maintaining the symmetry of the building. Whilst the partitions will diminish the light entering the building to an extent it is felt that it will only make a marginal difference to the overall lightness and spaciousness of the interior. And we did have an acoustic assessment carried out previous to the project beginning, which suggested that the acoustics would be affected only minimally.

Finally, although the partitions are fixed they will be totally reversible, as will all the toilet installation, should the requirement be for them to be removed in the future. The designer of the project is Ashley Courtney of *Freeland, Rees, Roberts Architects*, who you are welcome to contact about any technical design issues with the project: ac@frarchitects.co.uk

The Trust is committed to increasing community use in all its churches and, where appropriate, toilet installations have been shown to be an essential element in ensuring a sustainable future for churches where regular events are feasible and desirable.

The scheme at SS Cyriac and Julitta was supported unanimously by the PCC, who are major part-funders of the project. The CCT is hopeful that the new facilities will substantially enhance the user experience at the church during events and exhibitions, and I hope you will continue to support and be involved in such events in the future.

The Trust could not manage its estate without the dedication and commitment of local supporters such as yourself, and your continued support is always appreciated. I hope this answers some of your concerns.

Yours in thanks—Neil.

*Notes on a meeting between SP resident John Norris and the Archdeacon.
Tuesday 2nd March*

Toilet Facilities

The facility should be in St Mary's which is used each week, and especially for the Ladies who clean, do the flowers, and prepare refreshments.

The children need a convenient convenience.

Access for All, has not been addressed, indeed I was told I was wrong in suggesting it was required.

The work of the Conservation Trust, and what they do in St Cyriac's is their affair, and should in the main be financed by them, as was the original rescue in 1972.

The use in the above building is enhanced by the fact of the Spartan but acoustically interesting structure, and has been used three or four times a year in the summer. The CCT have given up their idea of underfloor heating. as being too expensive. The Choir, Cambridge Voices, are the chief performers, and prefer the building as it is.

Money set aside by the Diocese (£20,000) I think, was for a loo in St Mary's, the CCT have money enough to pay for their own. A Fund called the Maryloo Project was popular, but I understand this now is going to the Trust.

On the positive side, there is plenty of room in the existing vestry if the present furniture is re-adjusted. Some twelve years ago the vestry was filled with cupboards and shelves. Those in the inner vestry are to-day filled with rubbish, and could be removed. The record books and the communion vestments could stay, and the rest stored elsewhere.

The plan for a loo through the North door was too ambitious. I think the architect was looking at his 13%, rather than a small, but fit for purpose facility. The lowest tender was £120,000 !!!

The work has started in St Cyriac's. I am not sure what to do next. Folk knew little of what was going on as the PCC meet in the wardens dining-room, and it seems the writing a cheque was the simple way to resolve this, but it is far from satisfactory.

I have only just come back to the PCC after nursing my wife who died two years ago with a brain tumor after four year of illness, and so missed the PCC deliberations.

John Norris

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It was very much business as usual with nothing excitingly new on the agenda. Cuts are to be made on the ECDC budget but there is also a shaft of light with the introduction of a “small village fund”. From this Reach is to receive £10,000 for a community tennis court. We also learned that Peter Hart, our footpath representative, is now officially a P3 (*P3? What’s this? Eds*) Man. He appeared to be rather pleased with this. We are losing our red telephone box but you would not have known this if you hadn’t read the notice posted in the box. The PC was a bit miffed it hadn’t been officially informed. We are going to spend a sizeable chunk of money on Dog Poo Bins and the PC certainly threw itself into this. David Almond has located all the “hot spots”. I don’t know if he is discussing these with others because as we know men could well have different hot spots. Maybe women should be asked about their hot spots. A bit of tweaking may be required. Before any money is spent the PC wants it confirmed that it will not be the responsibility of PC members to empty the bins.



A lot more was going on and at times the PC appeared to be overwhelmed by its own exuberance. “Skittish” is possibly the best description. Karen, the Clerk, was very much in the role of One Man and His Dog, but without any dog to help. As soon as she quietened them down to some sort of order off they went again like new born lambs bouncing all over the hillside. Ooo, they did make her cross.

Now to turn to a more serious matter. In December ECDC sent a letter dated the 15th to the PC. This suggested that we should find some land, plan to plant some trees and the “Woodland would then be created by selling ... carbon credits to local businesses and individuals.” This is right at the bottom of the ‘Cap and Trade’ programme e.g. Carbon Trading. If the word “Trading” does not send out a warning it certainly should do after the recent banking fiascos. Who is going to make really big money out of carbon trading? The traders and bankers of course. Since 2005 there have been more than \$300 billion carbon transactions. And it has only just started. But let’s go back a bit.

In Autumn 2007 Al Gore was one of the joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for “their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change.” His contribution was his film *An inconvenient Truth* (2006). It raced up the charts and the book became a best seller. Our good friend David Milliband announced that the education ministry would be sending DVDs of the film to every secondary school in Britain. In an appeal against this decision the judgement was that Gore had been guilty of nine exaggerations and scientific errors so serious that it could only be distributed with a health warning.

But his film is still accepted as the truth because Gore knows that a good picture is worth a thousand words. And the film has many outstanding pictures. One example will show how Gore unscrupulously latches onto a good picture. We are all familiar with his later famous “drowning polar bears” and the widely publicised photograph showing two polar bears standing apparently forlornly on what looked like the fast melting remains of an iceberg. Al Gore has been living on this amazing

image during his lectures (\$100,000 or more a time). NOW FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS PHOTOGRAPH.

It was taken in August 2004 just off the Alaskan coast by Amanda Byrd, a graduate student in marine biology. The bears were so near to land they were in no danger. Amanda has explained that she filmed them – not because of global warming or even for the bears themselves – but simply because the “wind-sculpted ice” had made such a memorable image. It was such a great picture that it was syndicated on 2 February 2007. Al Gore immediately latched on to it and it became an iconic image for man made global warming. Nearly everyone has that image implanted in their minds. This is not science!



Some readers may not be so familiar with Al Gore's famous

Let's return to Carbon Trading. Who benefits? Al Gore for one. He is chairman of GIM (London and New York), a private investment company, specialising in all forms of “sustainability development”. But he's not the only one. By now most of the major oil companies are investing in “renewables” because it makes good money. Who can blame them – they are in business. Mind you it didn't help Lehmann Brothers which, being advised by Al Gore, invested billions of dollars in a bid to become a global leader in the international market in ‘carbon credits’ – a market forecast to be worth trillions of pounds. This wasn't the main cause of the bank's collapse, but, as Al Gore would say, “it didn't help any”. Meanwhile NHS hospitals have to spend money on buying carbon credits, while giant oil and energy firms have had a bonanza in selling them. The electricity generating companies outdo the lot of them. In 2007 the windfall profits for them across the EU as a whole are estimated at £13.6 billion a year. That's why banks need the very best people. That's why fabulous bonuses need to be paid. The question is what do ordinary people get out of this.

Now let's return to the local offer to make a couple of shillings if we plant a few trees locally. This is happening throughout the world but without any clear policy or control to decide whether the “credits” are justified or not. A newly planted

Brazilian “forest” could be sold more than once to several customers. It could then be cut down and a claim made for some new planting.

I agree there is climate change (as there has always been), I agree we must recycle, we must avoid landfill, we must change our energy consumption habits, we must be sensitive to the environment. But there is no agreed scientific evidence that climate change is man-made or that “we can control climate change”. How arrogant man has become. By focussing on this simplistic answer the world will suffer from the misdirection of funds, effort and research. But the energy companies will grow richer and the bankers will have a field day.

My main source is Christopher Booker’s *The Real Global Warming Disaster* (2009). If anyone has an interest or concern, whatever the views, this book should be required reading. But that’s enough for one month. — *Alastair Everitt*

What Goes Round Must Come Round

“It is the week of the poisoned chalice; the week when, quite suddenly, people have started to acknowledge that the ----- might conceivably win the election after all. For even before the help from Ms -----, the opinion polls had started to show a clear narrowing of the gap. Whether this narrowing is really meaningful is another matter, but there is at least a possibility that the ----- might have to cope with their own economic legacy”.

(Can anyone fill in the gaps and give the date of the above quotation. Answers to the Editors)

Village Events 2010

9th	May	Rogation Sunday
19th	June	Coup de Grass
27th	June	Strawberry Teas
11th	September	Dog Show
18th	September	Moveable Feast
16th	October	Harvest Supper
13th	November	Quiz night
20th	November	Christmas Market.

What's on at Anglesey Abbey?

April 2010

Saturday 3 April – Sunday 4 April, 11am - 4pm

Eggtastic Easter

A family favourite – join the hunt for clues around the stunning garden to solve the puzzle.

£1.50 per child.

Saturday 3 April only, 11am - 4pm

The Great Lode Egg-raft Race

On your marks, egg-set, go...create your own raft, decorate an egg then try your hand at sailing it down the Lode. £2 per child.

Eggstra special prizes and fun with storytelling, face painting and games. Garden admission applies.

For details of all our events and opening times, please call in for a copy of our 2010 events leaflet or phone 01223 810080

Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ

Telephone: 01223 810080

Fax: 01223 810088

Email: angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey / Registered charity no. 205846



JOIN US FOR LOTS OF EEL FUN!

ELY'S EEL DAY

Part of Ely Festival Weekend

Saturday 1st May

Procession around the eel trail starts at 10.30am from Cross Green (next to the Cathedral) - all welcome

Followed by activities in Jubilee Gardens from 11am until 4pm including:

- National Eel Throwing Competition
- Annual Town Crier Competition
- Living History Encampment, Arena Events
- Childrens' Activities and Storytelling, Folk Music and Real Ales Tent
- Variety of Refreshments including Hog Roast
- Side stalls and lots more!

For further information please contact:
Aileen Sharp, Tourism Development Officer
East Cambridgeshire District Council
01353 816367

ADFC
STAR

ELY FESTIVAL WEEKEND

This year's Eel Day will be the start of an Ely Festival weekend of events to include:

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd May

Temporary Willow-art trail between Babylon Gallery on Ely Waterside and Pocket Park in Ely. 12pm - 4pm

Faith in the Community exhibition at The Babylon Gallery, Waterside, Ely. CDF AAU Gallery open. 12pm - 4pm. Family drop-in arts and crafts Activities. FREE. donations welcome.

Saturday 1st May - 1:30pm

Ely Cathedral Lady Chapel Lunchtime Concert - Concordia Concert Choir, Edmonton, Alberta.

Saturday 1st May - 7pm

Ely Cathedral Gilbert & Sullivan's Opera HM.S. Pinaflore from English National Opera. D'Oyly Carte and London Operatic. Directed by Ian McEwan. Artistic Director: Steve Bingham. Ely Synthon. Tickets from Ely Cathedral Box Office 01353 860346 & www.cathedral.ely.anglican.org

Sunday 2nd May -

11.30am - 3pm Opening of Pocket Park, Ely
Come along and see The Gruffalo open our brand new play area at Pocket Park as well as take part in many fun family activities for free including willow sculpture workshops, Falconry displays, meet The Gruffalo, nature walks (starting from 12.30pm), ferried storytelling and the Council's mobile play scheme. At 2.30pm there will also be the chance to take part in THE ELY DIG WALK - a charity fundraising event run by Ely Rotary Club in aid of 'Help for Heroes'. There will also be refreshments and several stalls providing information about the development of Ely Country Park and Ely's open spaces.

Monday 3rd May -

Bank Holiday Market, Market Place, Ely. A great selection of all your favourite stalls from Ely's Farmers', General and Craft & Collectable markets and more plus family entertainment.

Monday 3rd May -

Performance by Octagon Dancers and the Octagon Singers
At Jubilee Gardens 11.30am (for inclement weather conditions performances will be at the Octagon Studios, High Street, Ely) collection taken by Friends of Jubilee Gardens.

Monday 3rd May -

Spring Walk - Ely and its Eel Heritage. Discover the importance of the Eel trade and how it shaped the history of this beautiful city. Marvel at the artworks connected to our Eel Heritage along the way. Depart 11.00am from Oliver Cromwell's Ely. Further information at Ely Tourist Information Centre on 01353 862062 or online at www.olivercromwells.co.uk

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House

BESPAK GRAND EAST ANGLIA RUN 2010 ; King's Lynn
Sunday 2nd May 2010 / 10.30am Start

Fancy a Challenge? Why not dust off your running shoes and put your best foot forward for the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House in this year's Bepak Grand East Anglia Run. Now in its 5th year, the Bepak GEAR is an exact 10 kilometres (6.2miles), one-lap course around the centre of King's Lynn.

The Hospice has been caring for people in the local community for over 25 years. Making life special, for whatever time is left, is at the heart of our work. The Hospice offers this vital service free of charge across rural Norfolk and the Fens and it simply would not be there without the local support we receive. It costs £1 million each year to run the Hospice and over 85% of our costs are paid for by the generosity of individuals, organisations and community groups. So whether you raise £25 or £250 every penny counts.

For further details or to join the Norfolk Hospice Team please contact a member of the Fundraising Team on 01485 542891 or visit www.norfolkhospice.org.uk.

Please do not hesitate to contact me either via email or on 01485 542891 if you have any questions.

Kind regards, Kirsty / T: 01485 542891

Kirsty Bolam

Fundraiser (Events and Promotion) / **The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House**
5 Old Church Road ; Snettisham ; King's Lynn ; Norfolk ; PE31 7LX

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities

We would like to hear from anyone within the village who feels it may be helpful to provide or arrange some kind of transport for trips to Newmarket for example to do weekly shopping. We feel this could benefit people who at present find it difficult by the means of public transport.

If interested please write or telephone me so that I can forward your views to the trustees at our next meeting. May we also remind you that we are here to help where possible during the year as well as at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Waters, Clerk to the Trustees; 31 Tothill Road; Swaffham Prior; Cambridge; CB25 0JX; Tel: 01638 741035

Help the Editor with your content submissions

Producing the Crier from a myriad of submissions using Microsoft Publisher every month is no mean feat. We welcome all content for your 'white pages' but would ask you to be thoughtful of the production process and provide content that can readily be used; please note:

- Last copy submission date - the 15th of prior month
- Preferred method is by email to editors@swaffham-crier.co.uk ; with
 - Content attached as a file
 - Email 'subject' to be included stating the relevant month
- Preferred text is Microsoft Word or similar
- Preferred images as modest size .jpeg files or similar
- And that the submitted content to be '**right first time**'

Many thanks for your help – Peter Cook

Changes to STAGECOACH and NORFOLK GREEN services

Stagecoach and Norfolk Green services are changing at the start of April 2010. Timetables and information for the Stagecoach and Norfolk Green services can be obtained directly from: .

Stagecoach: 100 Cowley Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 0DN

Tel: 01223 423 578–Email: cam-bridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

Internet www.stagecoachbus.com/cambridge

Max and Sue Napier wish to thank their neighbours and all the people who so kindly offered us support and help during the bad winter weather.
Thank you all very much / Max and Sue

Norfolk Green: Hallin Way, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4NG
**Notes from the Parish Council Meetings
11th February & 11th March 2010**

Tel: 01553 776980; Email: enquiries@norfolkgreen.co.uk
John Covill chaired both meetings with 8 Parish Councillors and members of the Public in attendance.

At the March meeting Mark Mehaffey, Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer for ECDC, gave a presentation on fly-tipping. Everyone agreed that this was very informative. Mr Mehaffey asked that the public report any incidents of fly-tipping they witnessed as this information was essential to catching those responsible. There followed some discussion about the delay in clearing fly-tipping from Barston Drove. Mr Mehaffey confirmed that he was aware of this and currently following up with Veolia.

Public Participation:

Alastair Everitt asked at the February meeting why the Cedar tree in the Churchyard was to be taken down. Andrew Camps replied that this was the outcome of a meeting with Cathy White, Tree Officer for ECDC. *The tree has now been taken down.*

Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown reported.

Over both meetings the condition of the disused railway bridge between Swaffham Prior and Reach was discussed. It was reported that a structural survey had been carried out by CCC at the end of 2009. Following this some repair works were carried out by Anglian Water but there remained some concerns and Cllr Brown was asked to follow this up with CCC's Structural Engineer and ask for an up to date survey and report.

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reported on correspondence.

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

There were no matters arising.

Consideration of Planning Application for 24 Fairview Grove – construction of a single detached 4No bedroom dwelling and garage. Ref: 09/00931/OUT. Following consideration there were no objections to this application.

Consideration of Planning Application for 60 High Street – remove two garden sheds and replace with two new sheds/utilities buildings under one roof. Ref: 10/0012/FUL. Following consideration there were no objections to this application.

Repairs to the Pound, Cage Hill: The work to the Pound was discussed over the two meetings. Although grant funding was not available from ECDC the Parish Council agreed that the priority was to ensure the safety of the wall and carry out remedial works. One option put forward was the reduction in height of the wall at the front with a capped top edge, possibly to the same height as the gate. It was suggested that this would be easier to maintain and allow a better view of the Pound itself. The Clerk was to ask Rosie Burton, Conservation Officer for ECDC, her views on this and report back to April meeting.

Provision of Dog Bins in the Village: The purchase of 3No dog bins was agreed. A survey of the village was carried out to identify the best locations and a meeting was to be arranged with ECDC's Dog Warden to agree these. Once received ECDC will install the bins and be responsible for emptying them.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed. Steve Kent-Phillips reported that he would produce an end of year budget report for the April meeting.

Clerk's Report:

A BT public notice was found in the phone box on the High Street stating that due to its lack of use BT planned to remove it. Although the date for comment was past it was reported that the notice gave the option of adoption by the village community. A copy of this notice was not sent to the Parish Council.

Following a request from residents of Fairview Grove, an extra salt/grit bin was ordered as part of CCC's 'bulk buy' scheme. Once received, this will be placed at the bottom of Fairview Grove near the turning circle.

It was suggested that the Village car park was in need of a disabled parking bay and some levelling work. This was to be added to April agenda for consideration.

One of the cemetery seats had found its way to a viewing point over the adjacent paddock. This was to be returned to the cemetery.

The Annual Village Assembly/Meeting (May date to be confirmed). This is your chance to put your views, ask questions or just find out more about what is happening in your Village or even more importantly what you would like to see happen in your Village! You make the agenda, so please let your Clerk know of any subject you would like to be included as soon as possible.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Geoffrey Woollard had been contacted by a former resident of the village who asked what had happened to the copies of the Crier on line. Alastair Everitt confirmed that this was a problem that would shortly be resolved.

Peter Hart reported on hedge overhanging footpath. As spring time approaches and following recent requests received it would be appreciated if residents could check boundary hedges, trees, shrubs, etc., to ensure that they are cut back from footpaths and pavements. Some of the village footpaths are very narrow and extra attention is needed to ensure these are kept clear.

Open Question Time:

The lack of lighting over the village car park was raised noting that the spot light had been faulty for several months. As this was the responsibility of the VHMC Committee, the Parish Council representatives on that committee were asked to follow this up.

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, 8th April 2010 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

Special Film Night

Saturday 20th March 2010 was a very special Swaffham Prior occasion and a tribute to its much evident community spirit.

The films shown were John Norris' home made movies of the raising the spire on St Mary's church in 1963/4 with the village festival in Jubilee year; Play Scheme 1994, from Ron Prime and a short piece that the BBC did on the village, I'm not sure when. There were some technical problems during the evening – mainly resulting from the withdrawal of the original equipment and having last minute unfamiliar replacements – all credit to Andrew Noyes for his valiant efforts and unflappability – and all credit and praise to John Norris for stepping in to fill the gap with some of his personal village stories. What added to the interest, was the collection of old (some ancient) village photographs belonging to the Clarke family, showing scenes and characters from the village going back to approximately 1900 – fascinating.

The whole evening was a team effort, so many people pulling together to create a real home-made success, and raising over £300 for church funds. Thank you to all concerned.

Brenda Wilson.

That Dog Show (see Feb. Crier)

Which we are all so eagerly anticipating!

The first thing that must be decided, *fairly* of course, is just what categories are going to be allowed in our very own Swaffham Prior Dog Show, we do not want just one dog to be running off with all the prizes! No, every dog must be given a fair chance to show his paces. So here are some ideas as a start.

1) B e s t p u l l e r o n l e a d .

The editors cannot help but notice that there will be a great deal of competition for this highly coveted award, although it will only be fair to have a corresponding Wooden Spoon award for all those more elderly *Slack Leads*

2) B e s t P h e a s a n t P o a c h e r

3) B e s t J u m p e r U p a n d D o w n .
*Who's going to **win** then, who's going to win.....*

4) B e s t B e g g a r

Note the “e” there readers, note the “e”. Yes, this will be an award for the dog, who in the opinion of the judges, is most likely to relieve them of the greatest number of chocolate biscuits, which are of course, so *bad* for them. Just like *alcohol* and *tobacco* is so bad for us, in fact.

5) B e s t “ S o u n d a n d F u r y ” C o n t e s t

This will be a *pairs* event, and although this might seem like an unfair category, as being mostly related to *entirely male* dogs, we cannot help but notice that some *other* village dogs are really quite impressive.

These are a few ideas with which we can be running along with, anyway. But of course, we will need a *Committee*, and a great many meetings in the Red Lion, to ensure the very best outcome..... Any volunteers, please get in touch with Kate Child (tel. X).
Editors

Donations!

Many thanks to Ludmilla Trapp-Reynolds for her very kind donation to the *Crier* this month.

WELCOME TO....

Claire Barclay and Duncan Morris, who moved into Swaffham Prior (up by the windmill) in December

Dear Editors,

We have recently had some refurbishment work carried out on our kitchen and wanted to use local businesses where possible. I would like through your pages recommend the work carried out by: Serge Raja (KEM Interiors), Andy Pumfrey and Ashley Prior Partnership (of Tothill Road). All of these men have done fantastic jobs, given us great service and at reasonable costs. They come highly recommended!

Jane Blanks

The Linnet

Upon this leafy bush
With thorns and roses in it
Rested a thing of light -
It was a twittering Linnet.



And what this bird was thinking of
As it sat upon it
Was, if this verse had six more lines,
It could have been a sonnet.

Ophir

With thanks to Walter de la Mare

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

**CAMBRIDGE
V · O · I · C · E · S**

directed by
Ian de Massini

Victoria Requiem
Howells Psalms
Scarlatti Stabat Mater
Poulenc Lenten motets

Good Friday 2nd April 2010 at 5pm
St Columba's United Reformed Church
Downing Street, Cambridge

Holy Saturday 3rd April 2010 at 5pm
St Mary's Church
Swaffham Prior

Tickets £6 at the door

by kind permission of the
Churches Conservation Trust

News from Wicken Fen

April is a great month to head to the fen – the arrival of the first cuckoos after their long migration from Southern Africa is eagerly awaited. Reed Warblers are busy building their intricate nests on the reed lined banks of Wicken Lode and the deep ‘boom’ of the bittern is carried on the breeze from its hideaway deep in the reedbeds of Adventurers’ fen. Grass snakes emerge to soak up the warming spring sunshine whilst newts awake from their winter hibernation and return to ponds and waterways to breed. We are also expecting a number of Konik pony foals to be born in April; the best place to see them is on Bakers Fen and Guinea Hall

Construction is progressing on the Reach Lode crossing, a vital element of the public access route being created by the National Trust linking Wicken Fen to Anglesey Abbey and Bottisham. The new route is to be called the Lodes Way. The name selected by the Project Steering Group, which includes representatives of local communities and users to reflect the fact that the route crosses several historic waterways, or Lodes, as they are known locally.

We are delighted that Wicken Fen has been shortlisted as the Best Active Venue in the Rough Guides to Accessible Britain Awards. The awards reward the efforts made by attractions across the country to ensure that visitors with disabilities enjoy an inclusive, inspiring and accessible experience. The fen’s all weather raised boardwalk and hides designed for easy wheelchair access were commended for enabling disabled visitors to explore the fen and its rich wildlife.

A new high tech version of hide and seek is being introduced to Wicken Fen this month using satellites circling 12,000 miles above the earth. Geocaching is a popular worldwide game dedicated to GPS (Global Positioning System) users. The game involves searching for caches which have been hidden at secret locations in the countryside. The co-ordinates of each cache can be found on www.geocaching.com Each cache contains a log book, as well as information on its location and a family-friendly activity to do. The caches are hidden near to public footpaths and are free to access at all times. If you don’t have a GPS receiver, or would like to know more before going solo, Community Warden, Emma Shepherd, will be running taster sessions at Wicken Fen from Easter. Contact Emma or the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 to find out more.

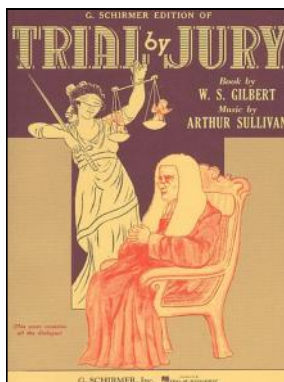
Easter falls at the beginning of April and we have a number of fun events planned for the holidays. The great Wicken Fen Easter Egg Hunt runs from 2nd -5th April from 10am-5pm each day. The trail costs £1.50 per child (normal admission applies) and there's a chocolate egg prize for all participants. If you come on Easter Sunday or Monday there's free face painting! So make a date to have an egg-tastic family Easter at Wicken.

Other events during the Easter school holidays include everyone's favourite **Pond Dipping** on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6th 8th 13th and 15th; make spells and hunt slimy boggles on **Fairies, Pixies and Trolls**, Wednesday 7th; create a masterpiece from natural materials found on the fen on **Springtime Art and Crafts**, Friday 9th; delve into the history and discover life as a soldier of Hereward the Wake, and what it takes to be a Fen Tiger on **Hideous Histories**, Monday 12th; hunt for clues to discover the amazing wildlife at Wicken Fen on **Wildlife Detectives**, Wednesday 14th; or follow the treasure trail, hunt for 'sea monsters' and create some swashbuckling craft on **Fen Pirate Fun**, Friday 16th April.

Tickets for all events are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. Early booking is recommended as spaces are limited..
Howard Cooper— National Trust Wicken Fen

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre are proud to present a double bill of operetta; "The Zoo" (music by Sir Arthur Sullivan and libretto by Bolton Rowe) followed by Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-popular "Trial by Jury". The show will run for four days from Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th June 2010; there will be evening performances daily at 7:30 and a matinée on Saturday at 2:30. The venue, as in the last three years, will be Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck. A licensed bar is available at evening performances and tea is provided at the matinee. Ticket prices and Box Office details will be available from early April.



SBST is an not for profit charitable organisation of amateur performers which has been providing entertainment in the area since 1982. If you would like further information or are interested in joining please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 508171 or e-mail info@sbstgands.co.uk

**We look forward to seeing you
and are sure that you will enjoy the show!**

Bottisham Village College - Community Education

In addition to our ongoing courses, we have spaces available on the following courses for the **Summer Term 2010**: Courses start week of 26th April.

Introduction to Counselling (new 10 week course) - Tuesday evenings – £120 (£90) / Job Search (new 5 week course commencing Tuesday 8th June - evening) - £40 (£30) / Everything you need to know to get the job you want, from CV writing to answering difficult questions at interview
Dressmaking (5 weeks) – Mon/Wed mornings, Thursday evenings - £40 (£30) / Japanese Cookery (new 5 week course) – Thursday evenings - £40 (£30) / Sculpture – Thursday evenings - £80 (£60)
Creative Painting and Drawing – Thursday mornings - £80 (£60)
IT for Beginners – Thursday mornings - £90 (£68)
Yoga – Monday evenings (from 19th April) - £45 (£34)
Weekend Workshops Saturday 15th May
CV Workshop – step by step practical guide on how to produce a CV - £20
Dressmaking – £35 / Photoshop – an introduction to the Photoshop program and its tools - £35 / Thai Seafood Cookery - £35
Playing with Print – create your own fabric design - £35
Saturday 12th June: Sculpture Day – £35

Please see our website for further details www.bottishamvc.org/commed , or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372, email: commed@bottishamvc.org.

Please sponsor me for Swimathon 2010

I'm taking on the swim of my life and have entered Swimathon 2010, the world's biggest fundraising swim. Must be mad but hey ho! Sunday afternoon 18th April at Bottisham pool. The money that I raise will help Marie Curie Cancer Care provide care and support to people with cancer and other terminal illnesses. Just click on : <http://my.artezglobal.com/personalPage.aspx?SID=275089> : to make a secure online donation using your credit or debit card. It's that simple. The network of 2,000 Marie Curie Nurses work through the day and night to provide this care and every £20 I raise will pay for an hour's nursing care. Thank you for your support. My aim is to swim 50 lengths. I normally swim 30, or 40 on a good night, so 50 will be some challenge. (70% of funds raised by participants in the 2010 national Swimathon will be used by Marie

Belated best wishes go to
Bessamy Wilkins

of 4 Adams Road for her 104th birthday on March 13th. It doesn't seem a year since she was falling over her wheelchair at 'The Rosery' after celebrating with champagne!

Bessamy happily spends her days listening to classical music, watching T.V. and keeping up to date with current affairs.



She enjoys tea and coffee parties with friends and her weekly trip to the hairdressers at Bottisham. She has been blessed with good health all her life.
Shirley Wilkins

Rogation Sunday - 9th May, 2010

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 Sunday lunch afterwards at the farm. This will take place outside so please dress according to the weather on the day!

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 advise of any special dietary requirements).

Contact Janet Willmott to book your place, by no later than Friday 30th April, adults £8.00 and under 12s £5.00. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior : Janet Willmott : 01638 743472



WI Notes

At the annual meeting held in March we had reports from the Secretary, Treasurer and President and this was followed by the nomination and re-election of President. Refreshments and Raffle had been organised by the committee after which we were entertained by two of our members telling us their life stories in brief which proved very interesting.

In April we will be discussing and voting on the resolution to be debated at the National Conference in Cardiff in June - this year the subject is the labelling of food with place of origin and is something a lot of us feel strongly about. This will be followed by a fish and chip supper (will we know the origin?).

New members are always welcome to our friendly group.

Pat Cook - President 01638 742224

VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our meeting on 23 February our speaker was Mr Peter Walker of the local Wildlife Trust and warden of Gamlingay Wood, who treated us to a fascinating talk on the wild flowers of Cambridgeshire. We heard that the first Flora of Cambridgeshire was written in 1660 by John Ray of Cambridge University - this was the first published Flora in the country.



Wild flowers naturally thrive in the particular conditions that are just right for any particular species and Mr Walker described the various plants which grow in different geological areas from clay lands to peat fen and dry chalk to river margins and flood plains. The entire talk was beautifully illustrated, particularly with some stunning photographs of orchids of which there are well over a hundred varieties, each adapted to its particular habitat, be it dense beech wood or open grassland.

Unfortunately we live in the most treeless county in the country and one which is highly arable and mechanised - spray drift and fertiliser run-off can be a major threat to our wild flowers as is the seemingly incessant building going on around. The local Wildlife Trust, comprising Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough helps to preserve our native flora in its one hundred and twenty nine nature reserves including the local Fulbourn Fen and Fordham Woods. Mr Walker's very detailed talk was both informative and interesting. Our next meeting is: 20th April, Dr Twigs Way 'From Italian Villa to Suburban Lawn: the History of the Garden Gnome': These will be, as usual, in the Village Hall at 8pm so please do join us.

The Village Gardeners' annual coach outing will this year be on **Saturday 10th July** when we will be visiting Coton Manor Garden near Guilsborough in Northants; this is a privately owned ten-acre garden of exceptional charm and interest, containing over a thousand varieties of plants, many of which are unusual and not easily found elsewhere. Non-members are very welcome to join us. *Mary Hart*

The Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Our Mother's Union Group held its beginning of year Holy Communion Service on Thursday 21st January. It was good to have this Service in Lode Chapel where all our other meetings are held. Revd. David Lewis officiated at the Service and we shared communion, fellowship and real friendship all in the warm relaxed atmosphere of the Chapel and also enjoyed having new people in our midst. It was a special time of "being together" followed by a very welcome tea! Our new year was well and truly off to a good start and we looked forward to a varied and interesting Programme for 2010.

We were not disappointed when in February Carol Faulkner came to talk to us about "Story Sacks". As an ex Headteacher Carol told us all about the use of Story Sacks in Primary Schools. It was a fascinating afternoon as not only did she tell us about Story Sacks but brought some along with her and also involved some of us in the enactment of the stories! Each sack contained a story book plus beautifully made toys representing the characters in the book. As Carol read the story, so some of our braver members made each toy "act" the part. It was not only entertaining, but really gave us an insight into the value of the sacks which are widely used in schools.

Before Carol spoke to us we enrolled three new members into the Mothers' Union during our Opening Worship and I am delighted to say that our membership now stands at 35.

Even if you are not a member please come along to our meetings, especially if the subject for the month is of particular interest to you. Everyone is very welcome. Programme Cards for 2010 can be found in each of our 5 Churches – please help yourselves!

Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th April at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel when we will be hearing about the Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme.— Pauline Lewis

For Sale:

Ladies Bike – Batavus Locarno upright bike.
Rack on back wheel. 15 years old. Needs a good home. Offers.

Hoover Tumble drier. 4 years old. Hardly used. Offers.
Need to make space for new drawers! :
Contact Dee or Andrew Noyes 743864

Consider a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Thursday 17th - Saturday 26th February, 2011

(Overlapping Spring $\frac{1}{2}$ term week)

You are warmly invited to join me in visiting
the beautiful places we read about in the Bible,
and discovering for yourself the thrill of these places coming to life
in a new and exciting way!



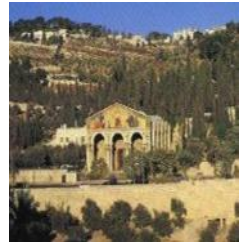
- ▶ Follow in the steps of the Patriarchs, the Prophets,
of Jesus and his disciples,
and of countless Christian pilgrims over the ages!
- ▶ Visit the land of the “living stones” today, and meet
those who, despite hardships, fan the flame of the
Christian faith in the land of Christ’s birth.
- ▶ Meet those of the other Abrahamic faiths in a land
sacred to Christians, Jews and Moslems.

*Join me on a truly memorable “pilgrimage of a lifetime”
visiting Biblical and other ancient sites of antiquity,
meeting those who inhabit a remarkable land of
stunning and varied beauty:
“the land of milk and honey”*



Bask in, and marvel at...

- the lush green slopes of Galilee
- the rugged hills around “Jerusalem - the golden”
- the barren, sun-baked desert of Judea
- the fertile “bread-basket” of the Jezreel Valley
- the awesome rift valley, Masada & the Dead Sea,
1,300ft below sea level!



I am interested... What should I do now?

Request full details and application form from:

Rev'd Canon Stephen Earl 01638 741262 searl@toucansurf.com

The Vicarage, 14 High Street, Burwell, CB25 0HB

Complete & return the application form with your deposit of £200
as soon as possible in order to secure you place and the flights (which
are now available). Bookings accepted on “first-come” basis.

The special price of £1370 includes almost everything!



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

Reducing Your Energy Bills

East Cambs residents now have the opportunity to cut their household energy costs through a new energy saving project launched by Cambridgeshire County Council. Energy meters are available for free loan from Ely library. For more information visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.UK/environment/energy/meters

The free loan scheme aims to help householders to become more energy efficient. Where energy meters have been used elsewhere in the UK, householders have typically saved between 5 and 15 percent of their annual electricity bill.

The Wards Salt Bins

During the recent cold weather I toured the ward, checking which salt bins needed refilling. I then gave the relevant information to the county highways department. I was most impressed with the fact that the highways department refilled all of the wards salt bins within the next two days.



10 And 10A Bus Service

As of February the 14th, stagecoach has made cuts to the local bus service.

The half hour weekday service has been cut to hourly. The last weekday bus from Cambridge is now 18:35 instead of 23:00.

The last weekday bus from Reach via Swaffam Prior and Swaffam Bulbeck to Cambridge is now 17:49 instead of 21:52 from Swaffam Prior.

The Sunday number 10 service has been replaced by the 12A service between Cambridge and Burwell, via Newmarket and vice versa. This means that there is no Sunday service through the Swaffams Ward.

Your county councillor and I were given very little notice of these changes. As the new service is very unsatisfactory we are working to obtain improvements to it.

Plastic Recycling Banks

It has been recommended at East Cambs Council that a mapping exercise be undertaken to identify the locations of plastic recycling banks in the district and establish any gaps in provision. The information from the exercise would be included in an information leaflet which could be provided for every household in the District.

The District Councils Budget

The council will be approving the 2010/11 budget as its Full Council Meeting on February the 23rd, after I have written this report.

As with many councils up and down the country we are having to make substantial savings to achieve a balanced budget.

This year there are no easy options, but we are seeking wherever possible to maintain our core services and give help to the most vulnerable members of our District.

We know that we will not please everyone but we must achieve a balanced budget with as small a council tax increase as possible.

Allen Alderson



From our Local County Councillor

February meetings at the County Council have largely centred around the budget process, and agreeing the integrated plan for the coming three years. I attended a number of scrutiny committees which challenged cabinet members and senior officers on spending plans. This culminated in a meeting of the full County Council on 16 February when the plan was approved. Unsurprisingly then was a long and heated debate on the proposals before the budget was finally agreed.

Pending decisions at East Cambs District Council Council Tax rates for 2010/11 will be as follows:

Parish	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Burwell	971.40	1133.30	1295.20	1457.10	1780.90	2104.7	2428.50	2914.2
Reach	973.86	1136.17	1298.48	1460.79	1785.41	2110.0	2434.65	2921.6
Bulbeck	968.94	1130.43	1291.82	1453.41	1776.39	2099.4	2422.35	2906.8
Prior	969.18	1130.71	1292.24	1453.77	1776.83	2099.9	2422.95	2907.5
Mean	973.67	1136.18	1298.49	1460.80	1785.42	2110.0	2434.67	2921.6

I took the opportunity of the full County Council meeting to ask a question expressing my disappointment and dismay at the revised bus timetable imposed by Stagecoach. In answering, Cllr Mac McGuire, Cabinet member responsible shared my disappointment and said that he would ask the Passenger Services team to discuss the changes with Stagecoach to see whether at least some of the evening and Sunday services can be reinstated. If Passenger Services cannot reach a satisfactory answer Cllr McGuire also offered to arrange a meeting with Andy Donald, Managing Director of Stagecoach.

I have reported a number of potholes following complaints from residents. Those I have reported seem to have been dealt with as have a number of problem drop kerbs.

David Brown

PS. Comments need to go to Stagecoach, FAO Andy Campbell. Email from the website - www.stagecoachbus.com, telephone 01223 423578. Cllr McGuire's Email address is mac.mcguire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Bon Mot

Q. *How many Welshmen does it take to change a light-bulb?*

A. *31. One to change the bulb, the other 30 to sing sad songs about the old one.* - A Welshman

Tell us what is important to you and your community

The East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (ECSP) is currently developing the new Sustainable Community Strategy, for launch in April 2011.

The new Strategy will replace the existing Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-2011. It will set out how services can be improved and delivered to increase the environmental, social and economic well-being of the district and will act as an overarching partnership plan for East Cambridgeshire.

In order for the new strategy to be a leading and influencing document for the area it is important that the document contain the key aspirations of all local partner organisations and the community.

To complete the questionnaire go to www.eastcambs.gov.uk, alternatively, if you would like a hard copy of the questionnaire please contact Melanie Wright on 01353 665555 or via email at isp2@eastcambs.gov.uk.

*The Editors received this vital communication as STOP PRESS copy to go in the magazine most urgently. We thought we would like to start the ball rolling straightaway by instead telling them what might most likely **NOT** be important in our community, this being the, um, overarching **East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (ECSP)**, to replace the existing overarching **Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011**. Eds*

I would like to thank the residents of Tothill Road who gave so generously towards the recent house to house collection I did on behalf of Action for Children. £34.36 has been paid into their bank and I have already received a thank you letter from them. Once again thank you very much.

Mary Cook ; Tothill Road ; Swaffham Prior.

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

Briggs & Stratton Lawn King mower, Classic XC35, power drive, petrol-driven (2-3years old). Ken c812740 (no enquiries until after Easter please).

Headboard for double bed - pink material; Logitech wireless keyboard and mouse (PS2 port required). Jacqui c811190.

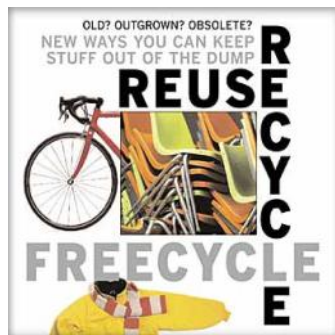
3 Little Tikes type coupe cars. Andrea c812412.

Universal pushchair rain cover. Jun c813362.

Wanted

Your old light fittings, brown bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite.

Still looking for a postcard rack. Carousel if possible. Greenhouse up to 8ft long. Will dismantle and take away; George 07895064727. Some more radios please for an art project - any age, preferably working order but must at least make some sort of sound please! Robert, robert-



Quiz Night that was 6th March 2010

Another quiz has been and gone and yet another big thank you to everyone who attended, it is always nice to see so many people hopefully enjoying themselves, it makes our job of compiling the quiz worthwhile.

Congratulations to the team **'Incompatibles' who won**. We would again like to thank Andrew for giving up his time and being our quiz master, shame about the jokes again, you must try harder. Another big thank you to the ladies who also gave up their time and helped in the kitchen and served the food, we would also like to thank our little helper Emily, Andrews' daughter. Thank you for all of the raffle donations.

The money raised for St. Mary's was £320. We hope to see everyone at the next quiz which is on the 13th November 2010, when everybody would have had their holidays and we will be looking forward to Christmas, in the meantime enjoy spring and happy Summer holidays.

PASTORAL LETTER, ??? 2010

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends, - here is a story that tells us so much about the true meaning of Easter.

An orphaned boy lived with his grandmother. One night their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to rescue the little boy asleep upstairs, perished in the smoke and flames. A crowd gathered around the burning house. The boy's cries for help were heard above the crackling of the blaze. No one seemed to know what to do, for the front of the house was a mass of flames.



Suddenly a stranger rushed from the crowd and climbed up an iron pipe that reached an upstairs window. He disappeared into the burning house for a minute, then reappeared with the boy in his arms. Amid the cheers of the crowd, he climbed down the hot pipe as the boy hung around his neck.

Some time later a public hearing was held in the town hall to determine in whose custody the boy would be placed. Each person wanting to adopt the boy was allowed to speak briefly. The first man said, "I have a big farm. Everybody needs the out-of-doors." The second man told of the advantages he could provide. "I'm a teacher. I have a large library. He would get a good education." Others spoke. Finally the richest man in the community said, "I'm wealthy. I could give the boy everything mentioned tonight: farm, education, and more, including money and travel. I'd like him in my home."

The chairman asked, "Anyone else like to say a word?" From the backseat rose a stranger who had slipped in unnoticed. As he walked toward the front, deep suffering showed on his face. Reaching the front of the room, he stood directly in front of the little boy. Slowly the stranger removed his hands from his pockets. A gasp went up from the crowd. The little boy, whose eyes had been focused on the floor until now, looked up. The man's hands were terribly scarred. Suddenly the boy emitted a cry of recognition. Here was the man who had saved his life! His hands were scarred from climbing up and down the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw himself around the stranger's neck and held on for life. The farmer rose and left. The teacher, too. Then the rich

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior April 2010
Sun 4	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 11	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 18	8:00am Holy Communion BCP 11:00am Family Service
Sun 25	11:00am Matins BCP

man. Everyone departed, leaving the boy and his rescuer who had won him without a word. Those marred hands spoke more effectively than any words. One day we shall meet Jesus in heaven, and we shall see the scars in his wrists and ankles and side, and know that he has rescued us from the evil of sin – from all the ways we have failed God – our selfishness, self-centredness and all the ways we have let God and ourselves down. His scars remind us that he made the ultimate sacrifice by dying an agonising death on the cross. Through his unselfish sacrifice he has ensured that God sees us as perfect in his eyes, and that we are able to dwell in heaven with Him in eternity. His sacrifice is the ultimate expression of His love for us.

But Easter reminds us that he achieved even more than that – He rose victorious from the grave. His resurrection confirms the enormity of His victory, and establishes in our hearts and minds the truth of just who He is – the Son of God. As we sing in Edmund Budry's famous hymn on Easter Day:

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter. -David

Spring Clean Your Wardrobe for a Good Cause

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House is asking readers to make a donation of GOOD QUALITY CLOTHING, "bric-a-brac", books or gifts to help our shops continue to raise funds for the Hospice and recycle goods at the same time.



**For more information please contact the
Fundraising Office on 01485 542891
or call in at one of our shops**

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House Shops

Downham Market - 8 Wales Court, Downham Market, PE38 9JZ – Tel: 01366 381472

Dates for Your Diary : April 2010

Thu	8	PC Meeting, VH, 8pm
Tue	13	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Mon	19	WI - VH 7:30
Tue	20	Village Gardeners, VH - 8:00 pm
Sat	24	Village Variety - VH 7pm
Tue	27	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm

Village Clubs & Societies

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
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	