



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

NOT SINCE Michael Palin advocated cross-dressing for lumber-jacks might the sound-effects from the assembled company have been quite the same as when Swaffham Prior's Michael Hargreaves explained why the village should welcome ECDC's proposed travellers' site at a packed village meeting this month.

No, the village didn't welcome ECDC's proposed new travellers' site—you could tell that quite easily really! They thought it was crassly situated with respect to neighbouring properties and much too big for the school..

Readers are welcome to peruse our archives on the **Crier** web-site to see what a nimby, prejudiced lot we are like when it comes to the travelling community — actually *not* like. People moaned about rubbish left in the wake, that's all, and it appears to be *ECDC* who was the biggest moaner not to mention *evictor* (well, they had to foot the bill for the clearing up), the very lot who are now assuming the moral high-ground from the vantage point of a 107 page pdfs hidden behind obscurely named links that must be replied to In Duplicate by

August 16th. Oh, and be sure not to mention any paltry *financial issues* like the value of the house next door...

Anyway, there are other things that happened this month, among which John Norris saw a Mock Sun, (see photo below, but not the Swaffham Prior one, unfortunately) Lloyd Clarke made it into French waters with his channel swim and Mark Lewinski claimed the distinction of being the first person to walk the Lode Bridge (albeit not to the other side of the Lode unfortunately, we are still waiting for this).

Don't miss the latest from our local broadband provider RASP who are now upgrading their service to *even faster still*, and meanwhile many goodbyes and best wishes to Ian and Martin from the Red Lion, who will be sorely missed. They will be transferring to a pub in Boston at the beginning on August 1:st and the new tenants (also from Lincolnshire) will be arriving on Tuesday, Aug 2nd. All change at the Lion again!

Caroline Matheson



Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	10
Bon Mot	18
Let the Bells Ring Out	20
CROSSWORD	22
Neighbourhood Panels	26
WI	28
Village Gardeners	29
Chris 's Crime Report	30
Cllr Allen Alderson	30
Cllr David Brown	32
PC Report	33
Simon Goddard	36
Church Services	36-39
Freecycle	37
David Lewis	38
Diary & Clubs	39

News, Views & Reviews

Barbara Ives	12
A Night of Fireworks	14
Site Objections	16
Electoral Registration	17
RASP News	18
Counterfeit Legends	18
Soap Box Challenge	24
Bus Service	25
Farm wants Farmer	20

What's On

Dog Show	12
Moveable Feast	13
Harvest Supper	13
Late Summer Ball	20
Harvest Show	21
Barn Dance	28
Chevely Flower Festival	25

To a Good Home

Kittens	39
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Cover Picture: Two Reclining Pigs by Clive Riggs



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Travellers' Site –The Meeting

We would like to say thank0-you via the Swaffham Crier to all those people who organised the community meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 13th July. As we k now, this was very short notice, which makes it even more of a tremendous effocrt on everyone's part.

Ralph & Pam Waters

Dear Editors,

Travellers' Site — The Case For

The proposal for a Gypsy & Traveller site in Heath Road is important for the village. How we respond will say much about what kind of community we are. Many are opposed, but I want to put the case for welcoming East Cambs's approach to provision for Travellers.

Between a third and a quarter of Gypsies & Travellers in the UK are legally homeless - they have no lawful place to live. Traditional road side stopping places have been stopped up. Travellers are expected to apply for permission for their own sites or live on local authority sites, but since the Thatcher government removed the duty on Councils to provide sites, proposals on site after site have been refused. Where permission has been granted it has been through time consuming appeals to the Planning Inspectorate. Or on the worst sites, like next to the sewage works in Burwell, where we would expect no-one else to live.

Gypsies and Travellers are the most disadvantaged ethnic group in the UK:

Life expectancy for men is 20 years less than average;

18% of Traveller mothers have experienced the death of a child compared with less 1% for others;

In 2004 52% of children got 5 GCSE A to Cs. For Irish Travellers it was 30%, for Roma 13%.

These appalling outcomes would be unacceptable for any other group. They are a result of the lack of residential provision – stress from fear of eviction, being unable to register for a doctor, children moved from school to school.

Some Travellers want to continue moving. The majority accept the traditional life has gone. They want to be allowed to live on sites which reflect their preference for the open air life - and with access to the health and education facilities the rest of us enjoy as a right. The numbers are tiny. The East Cambs Plan proposes 6,200 more homes on unallocated sites – but we are opposing 38 pitches in East Cambs, 6 in Prior, for a community who have lived here for many, many years.

Ultimately the repetitive refusals of planning permission, our treatment of Gypsies and Travellers is racism. The ways of describing black people, Jews or gays that were current in the 1960s but are no longer acceptable, live on in our attitudes to

Travellers.

I understand some of the nervousness of people who live close to the site. But the technical objections can be addressed. The County Council own a lot of land and there may be a better position. Planning will take a couple of years, giving time to work with the school and local education authority to address the needs of all the children. We are a privileged community. I would make the case for having the courage as a community to set the pace at changing social attitudes, rather than defaulting to exclusion and nimbysism.

Michael Hargreaves

Dear Editors,

On Tuesday, like very many others, I went along to the Village Hall to hear about the proposed Gypsy/Traveller site on Heath Road.

Before attending the meeting I had researched that councils have a legal responsibility to plan for the accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers in the district and that those living on such council owned 'authorised sites' pay council tax, rent and utilities.

Through my research I also learnt that the travelling community have significant problems in accessing health, education and social services as a result of frequent evictions from unauthorised sites. The following highlight the extent of deprivation:

- less than a quarter of traveller and gypsy children obtain 5 GCSE's at A-C Grade that the life expectancy of men and women is 10 years lower than the national average
- that traveller women are 20 times more likely to have experienced the death of a child
- gypsy and traveller children are often bullied at school.

In short, gypsies and travellers are the most discriminated against group in our society today.

I had gone to the meeting hoping to hear an informed discussion and to meet with other villagers who wished to air their concerns, hear something about those who could be our neighbours and where traveller sites are a success.

Instead, our village reaction of extreme hostility - thinly veiled in clever, organised and costly legal speak, has left feelings of shock, sadness and shame

Judy Dean

The Crier has also received another letter complaining about prejudice at this meeting, but there was no signature or contact information. We always need this, even if we agree to publish anon. If this correspondent would like to get in touch with the magazine, we can publish this next month.

Dear Editor(s),

Travellers' Site — The Case Against

Full marks to those who called the excellent emergency meeting on the 13th of July. The proposed gypsy sites at Goodwin Farm, Heath Road, were given short shrift by an overwhelming majority of the 250 plus people present at the Village Hall.

East Cambridgeshire District Council - temporarily at least the enemy of the Swaffham Prior area - has said that, 'There is a particular shortage of sites in the south of the district.' I would dispute this as there is a large site at First Drove, Burwell, and a smaller one at Muckdungle Corner, Bottisham. Given these facts, I believe that the Bottisham/Swaffhams/Burwell area has done its bit towards gypsy site provision. There is no proven need for more sites and, aside from a few fools, there are no local people who would support any more.

As a local resident and as a member of Swaffham Prior Parish Council, I feel for the whole village and for our neighbour villages but I feel most especially for Mr Steven, of Goodwin Farm, whose property has become valueless in just a few days. The same fate could befall many more of us.

The pressure is now on our Councillor representatives to kill this unnecessary and unwanted proposal. I wish them success.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Woollard.

Dear Editors,

Following on from the Community Meeting, these are just some of the many valid reasons why we are opposed to having a site for Gypsies and Travellers on Heath Road.

Why does ECDC state that additional Gypsy and Traveller sites are needed? Their assessments are apparently based on 2007 figures. But a survey dated Jan 2010 (www.communities.gov.uk) lists 3 Local Authority sites in East Cambs: First Drove, Burwell; Earith Bridge and Church Rd, Wentworth. These three sites have a total capacity of 93 caravans, but according to the same web-site, in Jan 2010 the number of caravans on E Cambs Local Authority sites was only 74, i.e. there was spare capacity for another 19 caravans. The census also reports that the number of caravans on unauthorised sites in E Cambs was 9; i.e. rather than the alleged shortfall there is actually excess capacity; and this does not include the (presumably privately owned) 'existing sites' listed in the Options document at Haddenham, Witchford and Fordham. In addition, the census shows that between Jan 2008 and Jan 2010 the number of caravans on authorised sites (private and council) rose by 24 from 124 to 148, yet during that period there was always a 'hardcore' of 7-21 caravans on unauthorised sites. Therefore, providing additional sites would not remove the problem of caravans being pitched on unauthorised sites.

Setting aside whether or not additional pitches are needed, Swaffham Prior is not a good place for a G&T site. The school is over-subscribed, as are the schools in the

neighbouring villages, so the education and welfare of all the children in the village would be adversely affected by overcrowding or the need for children to be transported long distances to other schools. The idea that additional money would be available to provide more teachers and classrooms is a pipedream; the government has cut funding for ongoing building work in schools. There is no shop or post office in the village, the bus service is infrequent during the day and does not operate after 6pm or on Sundays.

In particular, the site identified on Heath Road is not suitable. Other sites have been rejected because of 'detrimental impact' to the neighbouring dwelling or to the character and appearance of the area. The proposed site is close to two residences, ours and Goodwin Farm, and would certainly have a detrimental impact in terms of noise, nuisance and peace of mind. Heath Road is a cul-de-sac, so the impact on all the families who live there should be considered, as they would have no choice but to travel past the site if they wished to go anywhere. This includes children who get dropped off on Mill Hill by the school bus and who would then have to walk past an unknown number and changing population of Travellers every school day. The site would be visible from Devil's Dyke and those parts of the village close by, and would be a considerable eyesore, definitely detrimental to the appearance of the area.

Finally it has to be borne in mind that most of the proposed options are extensions to existing sites, so saying 'yes' to this proposal would only be the thin end of the wedge. Worse, the options document states "Please note that site capacity is only indicative at this stage; the number of pitches that could ultimately be delivered on each site may be subject to amendment through the planning application process." and the land available is noted to be 'extensive'. This 'greenfield site' could soon be one large Traveller site.

Chris and Mike Carrington

Dear Editors

A question, a comment and some matters of concern regarding the suggested site. Firstly, unlike all others under consideration, the Goodwin Farm site proposes

Site size: 6 large pitches

The document defines a pitch:

What is a Pitch? *A pitch is the space required to accommodate one household and their caravans. Pitches on Council run sites generally accommodate 2-3 caravans, a brick dayroom and parking/garden space. On these sites 300m2 per pitch would be considered generous. Private sites are usually larger as they cater for extended families. Source: ECDC Sub-District Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment 2007*

How many caravans are therefore accommodated on a **LARGE** pitch? 24 or 30 caravans on a fully occupied site?

We would comment on the so-called sustainability of the proposed site. The fact that it is relatively near a bus stop apparently makes it sustainable. However,

according to Planning Policy Statement 1 in the section on Sustainability para 14 and extracts from para 16.

14. The Government is committed to developing strong, vibrant and sustainable communities and to promoting community cohesion in both urban and rural areas. This means meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion and creating equal opportunity for all citizens.

16. Development plans should promote development that creates socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes of housing. Plan policies should:

– ensure that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is considered and taken into account;

– address accessibility (both in terms of location and physical access) for all members of the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure and community facilities;

It is not obvious where jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities exist locally. We may choose to live in a village where we need to travel for these amenities, but it seems local authorities are obliged on grounds of sustainability to locate travellers' sites close to such amenities?

Matters of concern include those things that do not constitute valid objections on planning grounds, those intangibles that make Swaffham Prior what it is. We appreciate the fact that we can walk along Heath Road or nearby footpaths with children or dogs without hindrance or concern; that we may not always lock items away over night or close all windows; that the church is always open. The proposed site is thoughtlessly located close to existing dwellings, would effectively cut off villagers further down Heath Road, and if, say, 30 caravans are accommodated would potentially skew the character of the village school beyond recognition. We have had personal and professional experiences with travellers which, with one exception, have been unpleasant; we would not wish this on the village.

We may be lucky with timing, as in guidelines issued on 6 July the new government is devolving decisions on such matters to local authorities, but we can't leave it to chance that this proposal will not proceed in Swaffham Prior. Please complete the questionnaires (details elsewhere in The Crier) – don't write letters as the "survey monkeys" can't cope with them! – to make sure your views on this proposal are clearly understood.

Dee and Andrew Noyes
Mill Hill

Dear Editor,

Thank-you

I would like to thank very much all those members of the village and two passing cyclists who looked after me and called the ambulance when I had a fainting fit during a spell of very hot weather in the High Street last month. Thanks to their kind assistance I soon recovered.

Stella Chapman

Dear Editors,

Visions of the Future

I am tired of the lurid tabloid language used by some of those involved in the Parish Council and its 'reporting'.

If words like 'threat' are used in reference to the long-term development of a nature reserve in this area, **there is a responsibility to make the case that there is a threat**. I have yet to hear or see any argument based on fact which justifies the use of this word in any way at all, only bizarre claims about the abandonment of land now no longer under the plough to allow wildlife to re-establish itself over time. Let's have some sanity, please. If you've got a fact-based argument against a nature reserve, let's hear it.

Here's a real point to consider meanwhile. Any land designated National Trust nature reserve cannot be sequestered by any government in place now or to come later, for regional building expansion plans - which will come, as sure as the sun will rise - *without dismantling the system which holds land in trust for the nation - ie you, me and generations to come*. Let's hope that's an unlikely prospect, and contemplate moreover its value as a bulwark against building expansion pressures in the decades to come.

And - choosing my words carefully - being in or bordering on a national nature reserve is most unlikely to harm the value of your property assets, all you homeowners reading this. And I know I speak for others too in restating: it would be a joy and a privilege for me to live in or alongside a regional nature reserve.

While on this subject, I claim the title of first local resident to walk across the Reach Lode bridge. True, it was standing in a field at the time, but I have two witnesses - my impatient daughter who couldn't wait to get back on her bike and on her way, and the security man who emerged from the site compound portakabin to see what this unauthorised person was up to.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

Jean Day Home Again

What wonderful neighbours who banded together and one of them took a lovely bouquet of flowers and a get-well card for Jean at Brookfields as no flowers are allowed at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Many thanks to everyone who sent get-well cards as they were most inspiring, including one from New Zealand.

The family knew when Jean was recovering when she issued orders from her hospital bed.

Many Thanks

Eric Day

Many apologies from the editors, who accidentally omitted this letter last month, and best wishes to Jean for her full recovery. Eds

Dear Eds

Murky doings at the *Crier*?

I've never known there to be an email campaign by people with positions of some responsibility and standing in the village to get other people to write letters putting forward a particular point of view, against the two letters received in support of the travellers' site. This is something new to me in village matters.

But I'll contribute an opinion, now I've talked to someone who actually has involvement with travellers...there is some serious money in the traveller community which they are prepared to put into buying land, and I know of one such instance in another area near Cambridge where they have bid big money to do this. Let them buy land and if it's theirs, they'll manage it - why should the council put up vast sums, and in these times too, to do that if travellers are willing to do it themselves? Preferably somewhere they want to go rather than somewhere the council chooses.

Mark Lewinski

*The **Crier** invited representatives from both sides to contribute on this issue, and in neither case did we have to campaign for it. Eds*

Dear Editor.

Mock Sun

Last week when walking home through the village, I noticed a Mock Sun in the sky over the Town Close.. I have not seen these phenomena for many years, so this was quite exciting, and so I thought I would share the experience with your readers.

We are all familiar with a rainbow, and the way it is produced by light entering a raindrop, being reflected inside it, and then emerging split up into the seven primary colours. If the conditions are favourable, this light may be reflected three times inside the raindrop, and produce a second rainbow albeit a little less clear. The explanation of how the mock sun is produced is less clear. The text books suggest that it is formed by reflection from ice crystals. What is clear, is that it is 22 degrees from the real sun, and in four positions only, these being, above below, and to either side.

As several people were passing I took the liberty of suggesting that they looked due east, and they were all impressed. The mock sun is almost as bright as it's maker, but not so clear at the edges. It's life is not long, perhaps five minutes at the most, but very spectacular when first seen

On a completely different subject, this year has been exceptional for the fruit trees. My cherries, and mulberry, have been loaded with berries. The birds seem to be feeding elsewhere, or have died off, and left the trees with a plethora of goodies.

I had expected the children to be after those cherries hanging over the path to the Red Lion garden, but they were never touched. I would not have minded, and I hope it was not because they did not recognise what they were !

John Norris

Dear Editors,

Channel Swim

My swim was on the 1st July 2010 at 2pm. It was a lovely sunny day with calm water, perfect. The pilot boat got to within 50m of the beach, Samphire Hoe, and I swam in to start. The invigilator on board blew his whistle to signify the start and a group of people above me on a walkway started to clap and cheer my start. I dived into the water and was living my dream! For 3 hours I was in my element, beautiful weather, calm sea, swimming the Channel and saying thankyou for my life to raise money for Magpas! It was awesome! At my 3 hour break the Captain, Eric, said that I was well on target for a 12 hour crossing which is what I had hoped for. I realised at that point that I would need to pace myself more so. I did the same distance again taking 4 hours, so that was 7 hours of productive swimming and making good progress. By this point we were over half way and into French water. I had been able to see France for a couple of hours, although I knew I should not take any notice of this as it's still a fair way to go.



Between 7-8 hours I started to slow and my recent illness started to catch up with me, by now I was heading into darkness. Between 8-9 hours I was beginning to suffer from exhaustion and it was pitch black. The boat had its lights on, although these were mainly on the mast, so with my depleted state I began to get confused on the direction of the boat, my stroke got worse and although my determination was strong my body was not there for my determination to be channelled through. At 9 hours Eric the Captain made the fateful decision to end the swim for my safety. He was absolutely right to do so, I chose him because I trusted him and I'm glad I did. I'm sure all crews are great but I chose Eric and his crew on Pathfinder, and will use him again. If you are considering a Channel swim I highly recommend him.

So there my attempt ended, all too suddenly, but considering the fact I was not match fit 9 hours is a fair attempt. Even so it was a very bitter pill to swallow, made much easier by the kind and inspirational words and wishes that people have given me since. I am hugely grateful for your support and positivitey, you have helped to make this the amazing journey it has been. If you have sponsored me thank you very much, it goes to the very worthy cause of Magpas. We have banked over £2,000 for Magpas so far, and still collecting, thank you! You can still sponsor a good cause, either online at;

<http://www.justgiving.com/Lloydswimmingchannel>

Or if you dont like the internet you can donate at Lode Post Office, Bottisham surgery (which Dr Silverstone who helped saved my life helped to found), Lode Social Club and The Swan in Quy.

Lloyd

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

This may have been the fullest PC Meeting in the history of the village – arriving with 5 minutes to spare and expecting to join one other member of the public in the visitors' gallery, I was lucky to get a seat, and they kept coming. When there was no room for any more inside, they clustered round the window to listen from the outside. This was of course all to do with the news that had been flashing round the village for the previous couple of days about a proposal from East Cambs for a permanent Gipsy (yes, that's what it says in the official document) encampment on Heath Road. One got the impression that the idea was not universally welcomed...



The Chairman very sensibly suspended the business of the PC meeting to allow for a period of consultation on the issue, which he (also very sensibly) proposed should last not more than 30 minutes, and very nearly kept them to it.

First up on behalf of the PC was Steve K-P, who had managed to work through enough of 107 pages of the Local Development Framework document to identify the relevant bits in their context, and gave his opinion that they (ECDC) were trying it on, flying lots of kites to see what happened, and pointed out that even if it did proceed, there could be no agreement before 2013. He suggested that a concerted campaign during the consultation period would see the end of it.

Various PC members followed up with observations, including that the site lies outside the village envelope – which may mean that the PC can veto it, that the document states that there is a shortage of spaces in this corner of the District, although there are already two sites nearby, and that the Government had just scrapped the relevant Targets, so why was the Council going ahead with the proposal anyway? Further points made from the public gallery included the effect on housing values, that it did not comply with the current planning rules for the village, that the school is over-subscribed, and that the land belonged to the CC, not ECDC, and the CC's rules might not allow them to sell it for the purpose.

Several people noted that the document claimed to have been prepared 'following discussion with the County Council'; David Brown, our CC Councillor, was adamant that he had not been consulted, and didn't know of anyone who had. It may have been fortunate for Allen Alderson (ECDC Councillor) that he was away on holiday, for he would certainly have been given a hard time even though he probably knew nothing about it either. There was a general feeling that the whole thing had been deliberately kept quiet by ECDC, who had tried to slide it out under the radar.

The informal session finished with agreement that the first move should be for everyone to make use of the consultation facility on the ECDC website, make their views known and list grounds for objection. There was a suggestion amongst the public that people might be prepared to club together to hire the services of a specialist advisor to take the matter further, and an agreement to hold a public meeting to pursue the whole matter further (a meeting has subsequently been

arranged for Tuesday 13 July at the Village Hall).

At this point the PC was left to get on with its routine business, and rattled through the formalities before embarking on the Agenda. David Brown presented his report on CC matters, which have been dominated by lots of input from the Government about cuts in budgets and specific projects (A14, Chesterton Station) and lots of meetings about nearly everything (except the ECDC document...). Of local interest is the fact Burwell has a problem with water and energy provision (hang on a minute – energy? Burwell?

must have written that down wrong) and that there will be changes to the bus timetable (one can only hope...). Then they got into a string of points about litter and moved on – so shall I.

Karen listed all the Consultation Documents which the PC should have absorbed and be prepared to talk about, and did a good impression of a teacher expressing doubt that her pupils really had done their homework - she would now make sure everything was available on the web, so no more excuses (my pet gerbil ate the wire from the modem – honest).

Planning permission – yes, the listed barn which fell down can be rebuilt, no it will no longer need Listed Building status because it will be new, yes to works at the rear of a house in Lower End, ECDC seem to want 6 copies of paperwork about mending the Pound – or perhaps not, their letter wasn't clear.

Odds and Ends included the tale of a tree (or more than one tree) at the allotments which may (or may not) have been planted years ago and recently removed again – all very difficult to follow, but apologies are being offered if anyone has felt aggrieved by some former statements on the subject. Discussions on who is responsible for the Beeches footpath and lack of clearly-needed handrail, new hiring charges for the Village Hall, a new tap at the allotments, and a very positive safety inspection of the play area. The Cubs have been at it again, excelling themselves in setting up their new home on land off the Cadenham – S K-P attended their opening party, was most impressed and reported that a donation made by the PC was being well spent. He anticipated a further request for funds to help put up a gate 'to deter unauthorised campers', and would encourage the PC to be generous again.

Eventually everything came back inevitably to discussion about the ECDC proposal, with lots more input from various Councillors – Geoffrey reminded everyone about the 1968 Caravan Sites Act which gave councils a duty to provide for people who 'reside in or resort to' the area – important considering the number of regulars that passing through. He let everyone know after the meeting that this particular Act is in fact no longer in force, but the principle behind it remains.

Because the ECDC document only surfaced a couple of days before the PC meeting, it was not on the agenda, so could not formally be responded to. So the

Geoffrey reminded everyone about the 1968 Caravan Sites Act which gave councils a duty to provide for people who 'reside in or resort to' the area

Chairman exercised for the first time a little-used procedure by which he could propose to add an emergency item to the agenda, and so it was; this allowed the committee to make their discussions official and resolve to send an initial letter expressing their opposition to the plan and listing the principle headings for objections to which the detail will be added later.

The survivors made it to the pub by about 10.00, met up with the remnants of the earlier crowd, and the discussions started all over again. We haven't heard the last of this.

John Chalmers

BARBARA IVES

The funeral of Barbara Ives took place in St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior on Monday 12th July. She died at the age of 102.

Barbara lived in the village (St Mary's Cottages, 47 High Street) for many years towards the end of her long life, before moving into residential care in Suffolk. She was always a wonderful source of friendship, hospitality, conversation, wisdom, opinions, sherry – and sometimes even gossip. She loved people. She also loved music (and was an active friend to Cambridge Voices). Above all many of us remember her as an inspired and colourful painter.

Born and brought up in Lincoln, Barbara remembered and talked about the First World War. She went to school in Wales, a country that she grew to love, and worked as a secretary in London for two Lords: Beaverbrook and Moran (Winston Churchill's personal physician). Barbara was married to a schoolmaster, Frank Ives, who sadly died suddenly many years before she did. They had a son and two daughters, and Barbara was devoted to her numerous grandchildren – and great-grandchildren.

Elisabeth Everitt

Dog Show

Saturday 11th September, Village Hall,

2pm

This is an exciting new event to the village which will run alongside the Harvest Show. There will be six classes for all ages and abilities including fancy dress (both dog and owner) and even if you don't own a dog and haven't been able to borrow one there will be a "stuffed toy dog" class as well! Look out for posters around the village nearer the time with full details or contact Janet Willmott on 743472.

Janet Willmott



Moveable Feast

THIS YEAR'S moveable feast is to be held on Saturday 18th September, 7.00pm start, and is as you know, for those of you who have been before, an event not to be missed.... three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. Venues yet to be confirmed but will of course, as in previous years, be spectacular!

If you haven't participated before make this year your first - there will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course. Numbers are of course restricted and so it is on a first come first served basis and newcomers to the village are especially welcome. It is a wonderful way of meeting other village folk in relaxed and convivial surroundings. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head??

Waiting by the 'phone for your call to book a place and for offers to host a course!

Janet Willmott



**2010
HARVEST
SUPPER**

Save this date!

Saturday, 16 October, 2010

The poster features a central text box with a double-line border. To the left of the box is a church tower. To the right is a windmill and a cow. Below the box is a basket of fruit and a large flower. The text '2010 HARVEST SUPPER' is in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below it, 'Saturday, 16 October, 2010' is in bold, sans-serif capital letters. A diagonal banner on the left side of the box says 'Save this date!' in a script font.

A Night of Fireworks

The Village Speaks Out

On Tuesday 13th July

John Chalmers in his PC Report above reckons that that meeting was possible the fullest in the history of the PC. The meeting held in the Village Hall on the following Tuesday was certainly the largest village meeting ever. They just kept coming in. Eventually the two front entrances were blocked solid. So they came in the back door – an extra 5, 10, 15, 20 – they just kept coming in and I revised my estimate upwards from 250 to about 280 people.

The organisers were magnificent and had even installed speakers outside the Hall for those unable to get in. They also arranged excellent press coverage, with photo, in the Newmarket Freebie. Unfortunately no-one in Lower End or the High Street received a copy. David Greenfield was Chairman and he was superb in handling such a large and very worried crowd. Dimbleby, you will need to be careful.

Everyone was there. Firefighter, midwife, archaeologist, farmer, lord and lady of the manor, academic, teacher, consultants, the young, the retired, long term residents, mothers, builders, and, in the olden days, we would have had the butcher, the baker and the candle stick maker..

The Chairman introduced the meeting by saying that the Coalition Government intends to replace the LDF (Local Development Framework) and the RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy) and its targets and many wondered why ECDC had soldiered on with the report rather than waiting to hear what the changes may be. One person thought it was like “A dead man walking.”

Early on it was revealed that the proposed six pitches could hold 2-3 caravans and that the site was intended for extended families. So we could have a settlement of 18 caravans and up to about 50 people. What particularly surprised people was that David Brown (our CCC representative and also ECDC representative for Burwell) had not been consulted about the development. And neither had Allen Alderson who first learned about it when he opened the post on the previous Saturday. How can this have happened? The consultation period ran between 15 May and 26 June **2006**. Thereafter various committees would have met and decisions taken. Yet our representatives knew nothing about this. This is especially weird because both, especially Allen Alderson, have been dealing regularly with traveller problems on our behalf. Anyone who bothered to attend PC meetings would know how much concern they cause. In fact this item is so regular that it is not newsworthy for the *Crier* report.

At a very early stage of the meeting it must have been agreed that someone should present the other side. This was made by a once civil servant who for a long time had worked on planning for gypsy and traveller issues and requirements. He thought the proposed site should be given a “cautious welcome”, thought there was



often “an irrational objection to traveller proposals”, and that “it is prejudice”. He spoke for some time and then the crowd became restive until some forgot their manners and interrupted. The Chairman restored order but as the statement continued in the same vein the patience of the crowd reached breaking point.

It was a prepared speech, I made careful notes, and was surprised that the message was no more than (in my words) “you are a prejudiced ignorant lot” who ought to be more sympathetic. Just before the meeting closed one person thought it necessary to hear the other point of view so that it could be opposed more successfully, and the traveller advocate was invited to speak again. Nothing was added except he said that it would be “hard to find objections on planning grounds”.

What a missed opportunity. Here was someone who should have been able to speak about the effect of the arrival of 800 Irish travellers in 2003, who could have given us a detailed account of the Cottenham site (featured in the Saturday 17 July issue of the *Daily Telegraph*), or could have explained the cultural cohesion linking Travelling Showpeople, Gypsies and Travellers which makes them across Cambridgeshire “the largest single ethnic minority.” Or he could have told the meeting the benefits of having a traveller site in the village. That would have been useful.

All the people who spoke were succinct and to the point. They spoke from experience and the experience was not good. These are not reported because the object of meeting was to work on the important objections that the planners will accept. In human and social terms all the objections raised are acceptable – except to the planners. The Committee has circulated everyone with details of the meeting and a website where there are videos, further details, advice and a request that EVERYONE (there is no age limit) does something and responds to the Questionnaire, whether for or against, by 16th August. Is this Swaffham Prior’s first step in the Big Society?

Alastair Everitt

The Against Committee's Objections

1. The Council have identified a residual requirement of 54 pitches for East Cambridgeshire with reference to the East of England Plan Regional Spatial Strategy. This was abolished by the Coalition Government on the 6th July in favour of determining requirements at local level. The requirement of 54 residual pitches therefore no longer applies.



Committee Chairman David Greenfield (standing) with (left to right) District Councillor Allen Alderson, County Councillor David Brown and Mr John Covill, chairman of Swaffham Prior Parish Council.

2. The Council's last assessment of the need for gypsy sites was conducted back in 2007 and is therefore out of date and should not be relied upon.
3. The proposal would cause a detrimental impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring dwellings in Heath Road, Cage Hill and Mill Road.
4. The site would have a detrimental impact on the nearby Devils Dyke (approximately 1000 metres away) which is a scheduled Ancient Monument and Site of Special Scientific Interest. This would be contrary to the Council's own Core Strategy policies CS 6, EN 1, EN 5, EN 6 & EN 8.
5. The site would have a detrimental impact on the nearby Windmill (approximately 235 metres away) which is a Grade II Listed building and also the village Conservation Area (about 310 metres away). This would be contrary to the Council's own Core Strategy policies EN 1 & EN 5
6. The site would have a harmful impact on and discourage trade to the established businesses situated in Heath Road which provide an important source of local employment. This would be contrary to the Council's own Core Strategy policy EC 1.
7. The proposal would have a detrimental effect on the quality and attractiveness of the village thereby reducing tourist/visitor numbers. This will in turn effect the viability of the village tourist accommodation and pub
8. The site is situated close to the village whereas gypsies and travellers have a desire for separation from the settled community to retain privacy and cultural identity.

9. The village primary school would be unable to cope with the varying pupil numbers due to issues of funding and lack of resources.
 10. The choice of the site appears to be principally driven by its availability.
-

Electoral Registration

Electoral Registration forms are being delivered over the next few weeks to homes throughout the District. **It is important that these forms are filled out and returned immediately as the register will enable you to use your right to vote.** If you are not on the Electoral Register you may be refused credit.

Please use our secure internet web site, free phone number or send us a text message using our SMS service if the details on the form are correct. Please check your form for details of these.



Alternatively use the prepaid envelope provided to return your form.

If occupants' details need to be changed, simply cross out the old information and enter the correct details. Please remember to include 17 year olds, as they should also be added to the form. All the instructions for completing the form are printed on the reverse side. Please also use the prepaid envelope if the details on the form need changing.

The forms have a section that those who are not eligible to vote must complete, as it is vital to receive a response from each household.

If we do not receive a response from each household then a canvasser may call to obtain this information, canvassers are due in the area between 4th October to 1st November.

If you are moving before 15th October you should leave the form for the next occupants to complete. If you will be in residence at the property on the 15th October but are moving after that date, you should still complete the form at your current address, then contact local electoral services office to register once you have moved.

If you have not received a form by 11th September or if you have any queries that are not answered on the form please contact the electoral services department at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, on 01353 665555

REACH & SWAFFHAM PRIOR COMMUNITY NETWORK

Bandwidth Upgrade

After a long struggle with NTL we now at last have a new service which can provide up to 10 Mb/s (in both directions!).

You can't have all of it quite yet, because some of our members still have legacy connection hardware which needs modification or replacement, which is our first priority. We are working to get all existing users up to an interim speed of around 3.5Mb/s; which is a huge improvement on the original service and better in practice than BT can deliver to most subscribers in our area.

When we have achieved that (another couple of weeks) we start on upgrading our backbone links from the fibre connection in Reach, to make them all capable of handling at least twice our existing service. When this is done we will be able to deliver around 6Mb/s to many of our subscribers, and take advantage of any further fundamental bandwidth improvement we can negotiate with NTL.

All this costs time and money; we are in the fortunate position of having some capital reserves accumulated over the years from the generosity and commitment of current and former users who have supported this community project in practical ways from the early days when we were the only available supplier. By the time our current plans are completed, we will have spent nearly £10,000 and over 1000 man-hours of volunteer labour, all without a single penny from any outside source (Government please note).

We are very proud of RASP, which can provide a better service in our three villages than any commercial provider, for a simple monthly subscription with no minimum contract period, and local technical support. If we can attract some more users, we can rebuild our reserves and haggle for more bandwidth. Spread the word.

John Chalmers

Treasurer and Ladder Climber

01638 742004

BON MOT NUMBER SIX

The English the English the English are best
I wouldn't give tuppence for all of the rest

Flanders and Swann (1963)

Counterfeit Legends?

(reprinted from *Leaflets of Local Lore* by Urbs Camboritum)



IT is curious how legends get duplicated and localised. Wherever two churches are found side by side in the same churchyard, the occurrence is almost sure to be accounted for by the legend that they were built by two sisters—one acting out of jealousy or in opposition to the other. To the writer's certain knowledge, this story which is told at Swaffham in Cambridgeshire is also told of at least half a dozen other places, and in regard to none of these can it be said that the story if not true is *ben trovato* or "well invented."

In the *Illustrated Church News* (March 31st, 1894) the following legend is related in the most matter-of-fact manner : —" A Villager of Swaffham Prior, in very humble circumstances, a tinker by trade, dreamt on three successive nights that if he went up to London, to a place indicated in the dream, he would hear something greatly to his advantage. The poor man, after mentioning the matter to his wife and neighbour, who treated it with scorn, resolved to act upon the mysterious directions he had received.

Accordingly he started out on his journey, and arrived at his destination at the end of three days, when he took up his stand on London Bridge (the place shown to him in the dream). Here he waited the whole of one day, but nothing whatever happened to him; a second day of watching resulted with no more satisfaction; but on the afternoon of the third day a City gentleman, who was in the habit of frequently passing over the bridge, and who had noticed this rough countryman standing on the same spot every day, approached him and said,

"My good man, how is it that I see you here every day with nothing to do. Are you out of employment, or what is it ? "

After some hesitation the man, prompted by the kindly interest shown in him,

told the gentleman about his dream, but did not tell him what part of the country he came from. Regarding the man as the victim of some local superstition he advised him not to take any notice of such nonsense, and added,

"Why only the other night I dreamt that if I went down to a certain village in the country called Swaffham Prior, and dug under a certain tree in a certain field I should find much treasure there ; but it is not likely that I took any notice of it. No, my good man, you go back and attend to your business, and don't bother yourself about these things."

After holding a further conversation with the gentleman, and obtaining from him a clearer direction as to the exact place referred to in the dream, the man replied, "All rig' guvnor, I'll take your advice." The narrative goes on to say that "the man walked back to Swaffham Prior and under the tree in question, and found buried there two large chests of gold. He became thereby a rich man, and sometime afterwards restored the *chancel of Swaffham Prior Church.*" "

From *Leaflets of Local Lore* by *Urbs Camboritum*

STOP PRESS

"THE FARM WANTS A FARMER"

The Prospects Trust is looking for the right person to fill some very important wellies. After 21 years of organic growing at Snakehall Farm, in Reach Cambridgeshire, the Prospects Trust is going back to its original roots with live-in farmer on site.

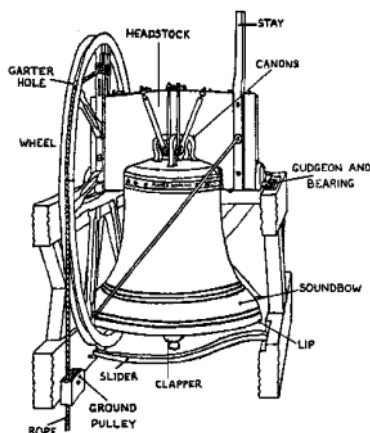
Anyone interested in filling the wellies is also invited to contact Rhian Elis for an application pack.

For more details contact: 01638 741551. More information in next Crier.

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

On Monday 26 July the Moonraker Ringers from Woodbridge arrived at 9.30am in Swaffham Prior to ring the bells and also gratefully to sample the new loo in St. Cyriac's. They made a resonant sound. On Saturday 14 August at 3.00pm a Midlands (Notts, Oxford, Leicester, Bucks) group will be ringing. Later, on Wednesday 25 August, a band from Birmingham will be ringing for half an hour during the late morning.

Alastair Everitt



HARVEST SHOW IS BACK!

After a year's absence, the Swaffham Prior Autumn Show will be back on the afternoon of **Saturday 11th September**.

So, if you've been growing vegetables and want to show everyone how well you coped with the horrible weather conditions earlier in the year, this is your chance. If you haven't, there is still time to get out in the garden - now that nicer weather is here - and grow some prize-winning veg.

You can still sow beetroot, carrots, French beans, lettuce, radish and turnips. Alternatively you could get surplus plants from neighbours or buy them from plant centres; possibilities here are tomatoes, peppers, aubergines and squash. In addition to vegetables, fruit and flowers can also be exhibited. If your talents lie more in the kitchen, you could try your hand at making cakes, preserves and wine.

Get the kids involved too. As well showing their vegetables, there are a couple of categories just for them.

The full category list for this year is as follows:

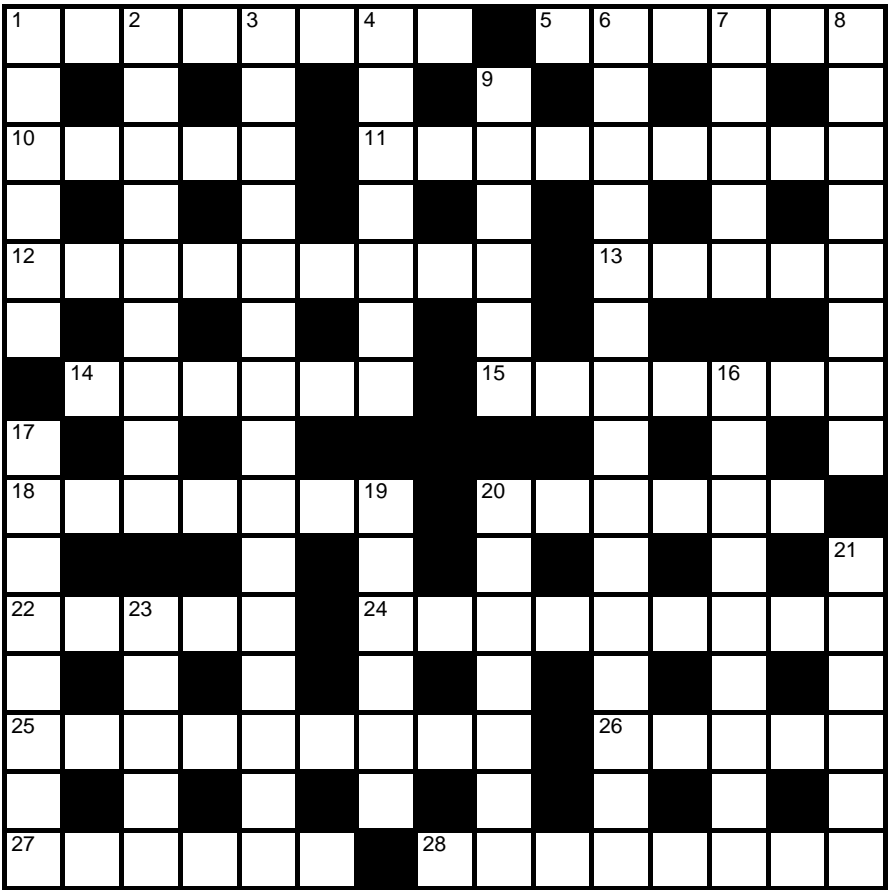
VEGETABLES:	cont.	FRUIT:	PRESERVES:
Beans (French or runner)	Squash or marrow	Apples, cooking	Jam
Beetroot	Tomatoes	Apples, dessert	Jelly
Carrots	Tomatoes, cherry	Pears	Pickle or chutney
Leeks	Any other vegetable	Soft fruit	Cake
Lettuce		Stone fruit	Biscuits
Onions	ADDITIONAL:		Alcoholic drink
Parsnips	Trug of mixed veg	FLOWERS:	
Peas	Mixed herbs	Roses	CHILDREN:
Potatoes	Eggs	Mixed flowers	Miniature garden
Peas	Giant vegetables	Other	Vegetable animal
Potatoes	Oddly shaped vegetables	Pot plant	
Shallots or pickling onions		Arrangement	

Crossword Number 71

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 September 2010. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Adress.....

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

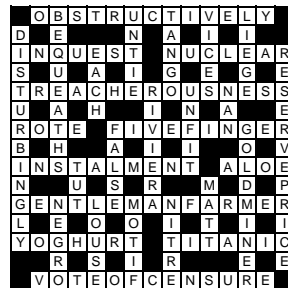
Across

- 1 Blondes press on inside for coffee (8)
- 5 Misbehaves but gets book at University (4,2)
- 10 Threw out loud organ (5)
- 11 An unusual talent outside a type of clinic (9)
- 12 Sentry has strongbox to look after (9)
- 13 Suggest removal of art from takeover arrangement (5)
- 14 Add 1,000 to it to get to the top (6)
- 15 Inspire a team in confusion (7)
- 18 The nature of fuel in France? (7)
- 20 Detector snores badly (6)
- 22 Oriental doctor finds queen with hot fragment (5)
- 24 O, to find work here (9)
- 25 Breakdown in latrine every three years (9)
- 26 Circle? Nothing is elliptical (5)
- 27 A hybrid sought of clue (6)
- 28 Reading something truly uplifting first, then fading away (8)
- 7 Argument reported in ladies' tennis match, second part (3-2)
- 8 Thief may flip back about, about about... (8)
- 9 At first, storms, tornados and downpours inevitably affect sports venues (6)
- 16 New style of IRA riot for an even stronger reason (1,8)
- 17 Troubled mind? detain me doctor (8)
- 19 Urge to connect points first (6)
- 20 U-boat plan is a another story (7)
- 21 Old tar for a seal maybe (3,3)
- 23 Cart is about right for a thorny plant (5)

Down

- 1 The Spanish school is playful (6)
- 2 Get trousers for extra bridge players (4,5)
- 3 Buzzing tones made by bands (10,5)
- 4 Insect follows mammal to find water repellent (7)
- 6 meal consumed in the loo may come from the takeaway (11,4)

Solution to crossword no. 70



We congratulate Jenny Brand, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors.

Soap Box Challenge Report

2010

I'm sure Bernie Ecclestone has an easier time organising Formula One than I do sorting out this event.

Last year saw record entrants, many of whom could not count so that they would have the right number of wheels. This year the decision to coincide with the Village Feast manifested another difficulty to overcome...time.

The date for the Feast was set with only three weeks in hand, not enough time for many of last year's "designers" and "builders" to produce a soap box, but even with as little as 48 hours notice some managed to create a work of art.

New for 2010, the boxes went down the hill in a straight line, through a slalom and a drag race. To save energy, my Dad brought along his old battered Hi-Lux to give the competitors a rest by towing them back up the hill.

This year saw 4 entrants:

Luke Hurst brought out his winning Specialised Soap Box from last year and continued where he left off recording the fastest times through the straight line & slalom courses.

Andy & Harry Towers (Father & Son Combo – not unlike the Hamiltons) having lengthened their aluminium framed box had a number of failures with their steering rack. Perhaps turning right rather than left was too much! But still put in some good times.

James Willmott brought along his unmodified Cruiser which was ably driven by young Euan Currie as Alistair Everitt was not quick enough to jump into the seat as James informed the Stewards that due to a dodgy knee would not be able to ride the Cruiser himself.

The star was Peter Arksey who's dedication is a beacon to all. Few people know this but Peter moved his entire family two years ago from Fairview Grove to Cage Hill specifically to get closer to the action. Unaware of the event until 48 hours before, he managed to design and build a Soap Box. Which worrying gave me a GOOD IDEA!!!

Finally some thanks to the following:



Peter Arksey in his 48hr Soap Box

To all those who came along to watch.

To all those who entered.

Starter Marshall: Gerry King

Traffic Marshalls: John Chalmers

First Aiders: Catherine Wrench & Barbara Doe

Use of Barriers from Martin Mead (Mead Construction)

To all the residents of Cage Hill & Lower End

Looking to 2010

We already have set a regular date for future events: **SECOND SATURDAY in JUNE.**

I will be challenging the residence of Swaffham Bulbeck, through official channels of course to enter a number of soap boxes.

There will be three classes of entrant determined by the type of Soap Box, not by the age of the rider. Full details will be published soon, but for starters...

Specialised

Like Luke Hurst's unit. Special build etc.

Traditional Soap Box

Predominantly made of wood. Steering by rope only. Brakes optional. Really a

BUS SERVICE

Good news! Our bus-service is about to improve, particularly for residents of Reach, where the new service includes 8 outgoing buses to Cambridge (currently 5) and 10 returning (currently 7). The new timetable starts from Monday 26th July 2010, and can be viewed at <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/GetUpload.ashx?Id=599>.

However, what is still the same is the ludicrously early last bus from Cambridge. This still leaves at 6.45pm.



Neighbourhood Panels – continuing to support local communities

There have recently been 2 meetings in the Panel area: The first - a ‘special’ Joint Neighbourhood Panels’ Update on the Wicken Fen Vision - took place on Wednesday, 7th July at Bottisham Village College with an exhibition in the first phase of the meeting. This gave local residents and parish representatives the opportunity to talk in detail to staff from a range of agencies about specific perspectives.

The exhibition was followed by a *Question Time* when detailed questions were discussed with Panel members (from the National Farmers’ Union, the Environment Agency, Cambridgeshire Horizons, the County and District Councils, as well as the National Trust. Cllr Carl Poole chaired this phase of the meeting and all questions were answered. The discussion was educative for all concerned, with an appreciation of the need for ‘balance’ in provision and usage of the designated area.

The second - a ‘regular’ Panel meeting on 29th June at the Ellesmere Centre in Stetchworth, at which Cllr Carl Poole was re-elected as Chairman of the Panel and

Cllr Michel Scarff was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

As ever, (in the two and half years that the Panels having been running) ALL the issues of concern raised at the Panel meeting in March had been actioned. Further information on Stagecoach ‘bus timetables will be published on 26th July.

Rohan Wilson from Sustrans outlined possible routes of a potential cycleway/ footpath from Lode to Waterbeach Station. Printed maps will be available from the National Trust from 12th September, although detail can be accessed from the Sustrans and National Cycle Network.

Jane Hollingworth from ECDC spoke about provision and care for older people in the District and explained that there is currently a County-wide review of home improvement agency services, a review of all sheltered and ‘extra care’ accommodation and an ECDC house condition survey. Housing teams have plans for potential redistribution of residents from care/sheltered schemes into ‘extra care’ provision and they have also been mapping domiciliary care. ‘Extra care’ accommodation is proving to be the preferred option for many.

Residential care will be retained for those with specific (and appropriate) needs e.g. the increasing numbers of those with Alzheimer’s or dementia.

Sgt Sean MacLoughlin outlined actions taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) to address the policing priority set by the Panel at the last meeting in March:

Devise preventative measures to combat potential seasonal increases in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) across the Panel area

Full details of the actions taken are outlined on pages 5/6 in the current Neighbourhood Profile document [June, 2010] that all participants received. The Profile can be accessed from www.eastcambs.gov.uk and then (under N) using the A-Z section from Neighbourhood Panel webpage.

Inspector Bartlett spoke of 2 initiatives which are unique to East Cambridgeshire – the Safer Schools Project – which seeks to build strong relationships with schools

and trust with their students and staff. Already 6 out of 9 schools in the Panel area are involved in the Project (with 27 from 33 schools in the District being involved) The Project was commended by Carl Poole and the Panel as being innovative and entirely worthwhile

and the piloting of revised (3 step) Alcohol and ASB processes, with a series of positive interventions.

Sgt MacLoughlin explained the NPT's actions to combat drugs activity in the Panel area, and he asked local residents to report if ever they found small quantities of burnt tin foil in areas. He then outlined the numbers of cases of targeting offenders (and the numbers of arrests made), together the numbers of parking and speeding enforcements.

Total crime is up in the Panel area (from 131 in the corresponding months of 2009 to 147 this year) and but reported ASB is slightly down (from 113 to 111)

Both crime and ASB are up compared to the previous 3 month period, showing the normal seasonal increase.

Sgt MacLoughlin outlined the emerging trends in each of the 4 wards in the Panel area and in he Dullingham villages –this detail is outlined on pp. 13/14 of the Profile.

Inspector Bartlett outlined the 'People's Priorities' (for the County as a whole)

ASB (including fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering) with appropriate use of the ANPR database and partnership working with Mark Mehaffey (Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Office at ECDC)

Speeding in rural areas;

Obstructive parking outside schools

Inspector Bartlett explained that these priorities are embedded in the NPT's objectives (and so will always be focused on as part of 'normal business')

In discussion the following issues were raised:

Concern at the proposed cuts to Locality teams;

Concern at possible cuts to police (beat) teams – offset in East Cambs by some restructuring of PCSO teams;

The need for cooperative measures between the NPT and the Suffolk force in tackling issues in and around Cheveley/Newmarket.

No specific issues raised from Swaffham Prior at this meeting.

**Please come to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting
Burwell Village College on Wednesday, 6th October, 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 Andrew Camps or Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator)

alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk or by phone on 01353 – 665555.



WI Notes

We had perfect weather for our Garden Party on 19th July which was enjoyed by about 36 members and guests. We were greeted with a glass of Pimms on arrival, in celebration of Shirley's birthday, which set the scene for a lovely relaxed evening with a wonderful selection of food provided by the members. We did have a quiz - but it proved beyond us all (was that due to the Pimms?) Margaret Joyce, who had compiled it, was hiding in Canada - mind you, WI members have long(ish) memories and she will be back for the September meeting.

There is no meeting in August, instead we are going by coach to the Flower Festival at Old Hunstanton on Saturday 31st July.

If you are going to the Fenland Fair at Quy on 29th/30th August look out for the Cambridge Federation WI Stall.

In September we are back in the Village Hall on Monday 20th when we will have a Story Teller as our speaker.

New members are always welcome to our friendly group.

Pat Cook - President

01638 742224

BARN DANCE

with the


PIGEON TOES BAND

Saturday 18th September at 7pm

Downing Farm Barn, Swaffham Bulbeck

Food included: Burger or sausage in a bun with salad, and piece of cake.

More food can be purchased if required.

	Bar available Free squash for children	
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Tickets: Adult £8, Child £5, Group of 4 (max 2 adults) £24, Under 5's free.

All children to be accompanied.

Tickets available from:	Jun Thompson, tel. 01223 813362 Margaret Roberts, tel. 01223 811772
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Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA and St Mary's Church



VILLAGE GARDENERS

On a balmy evening in early July a group of Village Gardeners paid a private visit to the very beautiful Chippenham Park Gardens, kindly hosted by the owners, Mr and Mrs Eustace Crawley. After an introductory talk from Mr Crawley we were free to wander, first through the more formal gardens dominated by the vast redbrick house dating from the seventeenth century, and on around the fifteen-acre garden. This includes a vast lake, three quarters of a mile long, a three-acre walled garden and large areas of informal woodland frequently punctuated with very beautiful and sometimes amusing sculptures. Two hours after arriving we found ourselves reluctantly leaving this very interesting and often spectacular garden.

The following Saturday, 10th July, brought yet another wonderful summer's day and our annual coach outing, this year to Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire. This charming garden occupies ten acres of hillside sloping away from a picturesque 17th century manor house, the lovely golden stone walls of which are home to many climbing roses and clematis. We wandered past deep herbaceous borders, through welcome shady woodland and beyond a lake to a wild flower meadow and bluebell woodland (the latter better seen in May though!). A welcome cup of tea was enjoyed under the shade of a huge black walnut tree in the Stable Yard and judging from the carrier bags brought back onto the coach most of us could not resist the attractions of the extensive nursery! A day to be remembered.

Join us for a fabulous evening in aid of Cancer Research UK

LATE SUMMER CHARITY BALL

**Saturday 11th September 2010
18.30 arrival - til late**

**Weston Park Golf Club,
Lenwade, Norwich, Norfolk**

**Welcome drink, Three course meal with coffee and mints
Entertainment by soul band - the 45's
Raffle, Silent Auction, Fun and games**

£40 per ticket or full table of 10 - £380

entertainment only tickets also available at £10 each (9pm onwards)

**Web - www.norfolkcharityball.co.uk
Email - becky@norfolkcharityball.co.uk
Tel - 0800 756 6717**

Dress code: Black Tie

Together we will beat cancer

Chris Herring's Crime Report June 2010

BOTTISHAM / LODE

A set of number plates were stolen from a vehicle in LODE

A mobile phone was stolen from Bottisham post office. A juvenile has been dealt with and via a local resolution is going to be completing 5 hours unpaid work

Thieves attempted to steal horse riding equipment from a house but were unsuccessful.

3 crimes have been reported at the village college between students and these are all still under investigation.

BURWELL

A car window was smashed. One person has been interviewed but no further action has been taken.

2 scrap boilers were stolen. One from a garden and one from an unlocked garden shed

Some Tractor weights have also been stolen.

An 18 year old male has been given a formal warning for possession of cannabis.

An unknown male stolen approximately £500 of make up from Lloyds Pharmacy

Following 2 separate domestic incidents one Juvenile has been charged with assault on his mother. From the other incident a Juvenile was given a reprimand for being in possession of a bladed article.

A Black Vauxhall Astra registration AV55AAY has been stolen. The vehicle has still not been located.

A male has been formally cautioned for Harassment on a female

Gardening items have been stolen from the Green Lane allotments

Two unlocked bicycles have been stolen from a garden.

A male was assaulted at Burwell carnival. This is still being investigated

The bus shelter on Toyse Lane has been damaged again.

SWAFFHAM BULBECK

A car rear window was broken.

The sports pavilion was broken into but nothing has been stolen.

A generator was stolen from a field.

And two unknown persons in small silver car broke into some farm sheds but were disturbed and nothing was taken. This is still being investigated.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR

A vehicle window was smashed

An XBOX 360 computer was stolen from an unlocked garden shed.

As you can see from the crimes reported this month a number of items have been stolen, some of which were left insecure or in unlocked outbuildings. Hindsight is a wonderful thing as they and I'm sure those people unlucky enough to have had items stolen will be making attempts to secure their property in the future. Residents **please** consider **how secure are you?** So many crimes that get reported could be

prevented with some simple security precautions. Lock your sheds, secure your bikes. Don't leave valuables on display in your cars and the windows wide open. It may seem like I'm being patronising but I'm not it's just these simple things may stop you becoming a victim of crime. It will also have the knock on effect that with less crimes to investigate I will have more time to be out on the streets where you want me to be.

On a final note we will soon be saying goodbye to PCSO Deronal or Kat as some of you will know her and PCSO McKenzie. Neither are leaving the force they are both being moved into Ely City due to staff movements over the whole East Cambs Neighbourhood team. However in their place will be PCSO Ian Hawkins who is coming to us from the Soham Beat area. Obviously being new to the area it will take him a little time to find his feet but he is a capable officer and will be able to pick up where the others leave off.

Chris Herring



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

Travellers Site At Swaffham Prior

East Cambs District Council is undergoing a consultation exercise for their local development framework, Site Allocations Options Paper.

This will be planning for future growth in the district over the next fifteen years, including where to site gypsy and traveller sites.

One of the proposals is for a site of six pitches at Good Win Farm, Heath Road, Swaffham Prior. This would entail six pitches for extended families, meaning three caravans per pitch, therefore eighteen caravans.

I have very grave reservations with regards to this proposal. It will have a negative effect on local employment, holiday lots, nearby houses, traffic flows at an already dangerous cross road. Also admission levels at the local schools.

I will be opposing this site. But I will need as many local residents as possible to also oppose it through the council's consultation exercise. This will help me to build my case, it must not go ahead, and with your help it will not go ahead.

A website has been set up for anyone needing help or advice, it is www.Swaffam.Prior.Co.UK/Goodwin

Free Swimming To End

Free swimming lessons for people aged under 16 and over 60 in East Cambridgeshire are to end.

From August, normal charges will apply at the paradise pool in Ely and



Bottisham Swimming Pool.

The government announced it was to stop funding this activity due to the current financial situation and research which they claimed showed the majority of free swimmers were swimming already and would have paid to swim anyway.

It is with genuine regret that we will no longer be able to offer this scheme to members of the public. Unfortunately with the withdrawal of the government support to this project, the District Council simply cannot afford to fund the gap.



From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee met with the County Council's Climate Change Strategy and an update on the Guided Busway the main agenda items.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee held its first meeting, which largely centred around developing a work programme for the coming year for this new committee. We agreed that the first topic for a member-led review should be an in-depth look at how the Integrated Offender Management programme is to operate in future.

Full Council met in July. The major debate regarded the plans to enter into a shared services agreement with Northamptonshire County Council. This way forward was agreed by Council and as time goes on should deliver real savings to council tax payers in both counties. A labour party motion criticising the ability of Schools to apply for academy status was defeated as was a Lib Dem motion about creating publicity to say that Council accounts are available for people to inspect.

I attended member seminars regarding the PFI scheme to replace street lights across the County, academy schools and the school transport system, where we are looking to better co-ordinate activities to deliver savings, whilst still meeting our obligations.

The Neighbourhood Panel hosted a special meeting at Bottisham Village College devoted to the Wicken Vision, which gave members of the public an opportunity to question a range of speakers.

I attended a meeting of the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership. A recent increase in burglaries and vehicle crime across the District was discussed, with the Police indicating that the majority of offences were caused by 3 individuals, recently released from prison, both of whom have been arrested and charged. The CSP felt this highlighted the need for better information-sharing when known offenders are released from prison. The proposed closure of Ely magistrates court was also discussed as was work surrounding under-age sales of alcohol.

I also attended a public meeting at Swaffham Prior regarding ECDC proposals to site a 6-pitch gypsy site on County Council owned land at Heath Road, Swaffham Prior.

David Brown

Notes from the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting Thursday, 24th June 2010

John Covill chaired the meeting with 4 Parish Councillors in attendance. There were no members of the public.

Consideration of Planning Application for The Manor House, 37 Lower End - Extensions and alterations, including curtilage buildings. Ref: 10/00376/FUL & 10/00377/LBC. There were no objections but the Clerk was asked to add comment that the Parish Council had noted Rosie Burton's reference to Policy H8.

Clerk's Report:

No matters to report.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the disabled parking signs had been erected at the Village Car Park.

Sandra Gynn asked about the large sign advertising logs at the top of Rogers Road. Geoffrey Woollard was to inspect and report back to next meeting.

Andrew Camps confirmed that the footpath on Rogers Road had been treated with weedkiller.

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting Thursday, 8th July 2010

John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 21 members of the public in attendance.

Following the meeting formalities, the Chairman suspended the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on the below:

East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework with particular reference to – Site Allocations Development Plan Document Options Paper – Section 11 “Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople”. In summary, Section 11 refers to 9 potential site options for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. Option 8 – Swaffham Prior (south) – land east of Goodwin Farm, Heath Road, Swaffham Prior with the comment that “This site is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. There is a particular shortage of sites in the south of the district”.

Members of the public expressed their serious concerns about the above proposal and the short notice given for the consultation period which is to run from 5th July – 16th August 2010. The outcome of the public discussion was that a ‘Steering Group’ would organise a full public meeting to make all residents of Swaffham Prior and surrounding Parishes aware of ECDC's proposals.

At this point, the Chairman reconvened the meeting and following discussion within the meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to ECDC listing outline objections (as below) but confirming that a more detailed response would follow once parish residents had been fully consulted.

Already adequate provision in the Burwell/Bottisham area.

Outside development envelope for parish.

No facilities within parish such as shops, etc.

School currently over-subscribed thus requiring bussing of pupils incurring high costs to the council and the environment.

Reference to sustainability notes that there is a bus stop within 600m. This is approximately correct but the bus service is minimal.

Is within view from Devils Dyke, a listed historic and environmentally important monument and is close to a public footpath from Pulpit Corner, Heath Road to Devils Dyke.

Legislation requiring specific targets for housing has been abolished thus reducing the urgency for achieving targets.

It is understood that Cambridgeshire County Council is reviewing its policy for its surplus land and the sale thereof.

Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown reported.

Peter Hart asked about the need to cut all highway verges suggesting that it be more economical to only cut those areas where there might be a safety issue.

Steve Kent-Philips reported the continuing amount of litter on highway verges.

ECDC: There was no report this month.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reported on correspondence.

CCC

Children & Young People's Services – budget cuts

Changes proposed for mobile library services

County Council's Locality Teams – budget cuts for Connexions & Youth Work provision

Passenger Transport – Final Table of Service Changes

Cambridgeshire Older People's Newsletter

ECDC

East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework – Parish Council Meetings

Schedule of Certification of Street Numbering – Orchard Close (Mill Hill Development)

Planning

Copy of Planning Permission received for 14 Mill Hill – *single storey extension.*

Copy of Planning Permission received for 25 High Street – *demolition of existing collapsed barn and construction of replacement in similar form.*

Copy of Planning Permission received for 34 Lower End – *erection of rear extension following demolition of existing and replace non-original windows and doors.*

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only)

Geoffrey Woollard confirmed that he had inspected with Andrew Camps the advertising sign at the top of Rogers Road. There followed some discussion on the size and its location. It was felt that the sign could be smaller but that its position was not causing a hazard.

Update on Responsibility/Ownership of Footpath and Request for Handrail

for Steps at The Beeches: ECDC's Legal Department confirmed that they had written to CCC requesting that they adopt the footpath in question. In the meantime, an inspection of the condition of the path was to be carried out by ECDC's Parks & Open Spaces Team. The Parish Council continue to chase this as a matter of urgency.

The Pound – Request from ECDC for further details for Listed Building Consent: An application was submitted to ECDC Planning for approval but ECDC requested a Design & Access Statement, further photographs and additional details. Paul Latchford was to look at what was needed.

New Hiring Charges for Village Hall: These were agreed.

Consideration of Annual Play Area Safety Inspection Report by RoSPA: The report noted only "low risk" items for attention and these have been dealt with. The Parish Council asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Kim Sheldrick for his prompt help with the gate.

Clerk's Report:

Installation of Dog Bins: These have now been installed.

Cemetery Water Supply: The water supply was reconnected to the cemetery with the temporary standpipe by the gate to the allotments made permanent. There was some concern on the use of the additional tap. It was suggested that the water usage be monitored over a period and then looked at again.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Geoffrey Woollard reported that he had attended the ECDC Local Development Framework meeting for Parish Councils and the Neighbourhood Panel Meeting.

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that he had attended the Opening Evening for the Scouts' Camp.

Open Question Time:

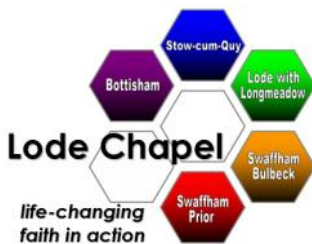
General discussion.

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

Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9th September 2010 in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. (There is not usually an August meeting but should one be needed it will be on the 12th August 2010).

All are welcome to attend.

Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council
Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king5@btopenworld.com



Community Treasures

Over the last month we've started preparing for our 'treasure' themed day long holiday club in early September. As I've been busy with this there have been a few things that have caused me to think about the individuals in our villages that we might appropriately call 'Community Treasures'. Often, however, we only really recognise the contributions of

such people once they have left us.

At the end of June, for example, RE:NEW had a leaving event (with picnic and bouncy castle) for the curate Jonathan Dowman and his wife Emma. A large number of people came to this and to other farewell events, and this was testimony of the way that so many people will miss them. They brought energy, creativity, friendship and love to their ministry. Those of us that worked with them, and those who were blessed by knowing them, can honestly tell their new church in Birmingham that our loss is their gain.

In July, a few weeks later, was the annual coffee morning hosted by pupils at Bottisham Primary School in aid of Macmillan Nursing and in memory of Frances Morrill – a staff member and governor at the school. Having met Frances shortly before she died I know why she is so fondly remembered. Over the last month some of you may also have seen in the local news tributes paid to a young lady called Keziah Smit, who worked for Newmarket Youth for Christ and was tragically killed on the A14.

Why don't we tell those special people in our community how much we appreciate them while they are still with us? Well, perhaps we can! I'm not sure how, but I'm wondering whether we might be able to include some way of recognising our local 'community treasures', perhaps during the evening event following the holiday club on Saturday 11th September. I'll let you know how the plans develop, but at this stage I'm inviting you to do one or two things:

- 1) Send me the name of a 'community treasure' telling me why they deserve to be recognised.
- 2) Write a card or short note to the people you treasure saying 'thank you' for who they are.

As I said, we'll be exploring the theme of treasure a bit more at our holiday club which forms part of our **'Big Welcome Weekend' on 11th and 12th September**. You can contact me over the summer to register your children, although you'll find more details in next month's magazine. Have a good break.

Simon Goddard

Sundays in August

There are no services at the school during August.

There will, however, be a variety of church activities taking place at the Summer including a trip to the beach and a service or two at Lode Chapel.

Visit the RE:NEW website or contact me to know more.

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon
Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

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

Chair bed. Folds out into a single bed; brown stripey material. Jacqui Green 01223 811190

Gas Heater (no bottle). Folding sunbed (green and white stripes). Gerry Ratcliffe c812458

Panasonic MC-E461 upright hoover (10 years old), works but needs new brushes. One Brita multifit filter for water jug. Clare c811693

Some little and large square kilner jars. Katy Colman c811370

Wanted

2 weights (for aerobics). Jun c813362.

Your old light fittings, brown bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). Up to 6 small goldfish. George 07895064727.

Vicarage

Dear Friends,

A group of us from the Anglesey Group of Parishes have just returned from visiting Oberammergau and attending a performance of the Passion Play. It was a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience that we shall never forget.



We were hugely struck by the wonderful hospitality that we received in the village. Our hosts were delightful, and nothing was too much trouble for them. The shopkeepers and hotel staff were so friendly and welcoming, and, of course, many of them were actually in the play. The play is awe inspiring and very moving in its scale and power, and it explores in great depth the soul searching that both the Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate had to face as they considered the prospect of condemning Jesus to death. Ultimately, of course, they were all fulfilling God's plan for the salvation of mankind, and that comes through so strongly in the play. The play is not simply a spectacle, it is a play of redemption that seeks to capture the fears and longings of the people of our times and to give them hope through faith in a God who loves his world and has acted to bring his redeeming love into his world through Jesus Christ.

In 1633 the villagers of Oberammergau were facing the onset of both invasion by the Swedes and a devastating attack of the plague. The villagers turned to God for help, and promised Him that they would perform a play depicting the passion of Christ every ten years if He would spare the village from both threats. The village was spared, and so the villagers kept their side of the bargain, and the passion play was produced. From 1680 the play was indeed produced every ten years, with the exception of 1770 when the local Baron banned it, and 1940 when the 2nd world war intervened.

The Passion Play has remained an integral part of the village life ever since. It is performed exclusively by amateur actors, who were either born in Oberammergau, or have lived there for the past 20 years. This year, some 2,000 of the 5,300 or so inhabitants are involved either on stage or backstage.

The performances initially took place on a simple wooden construction erected in the cemetery alongside the parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, but the site of today's theatre has served as the venue for the play from 1830 onwards. The stage, which has been constantly rebuilt and technically improved, was given its present monumental structure in 1930. In 1900, a roof was added to the auditorium, which has seats for some 4,800 spectators. The terraces rising towards the back of the auditorium ensure a good view from every seat of the open-air stage, where the play is performed whatever the weather. The Passion Play Theatre was given a new façade and its technology brought bang up to date as part of a general renewal and refurbishment carried out in preparation for the Passion Play 2000.

The basis for the present-day script originally came from Othmar Weis, a Benedictine monk, and was revised between 1850 and 1868 by the village vicar of that time, Joseph Alois Daisenberger. A special feature of the play is its living

tableaux: colourful scenes from the Old Testament, which are woven into the story of the Passion in the form of still-life pictures to assist in meditation and reflection on the meaning of the passion of Christ. The music, with its choral and prologue performances, is beautiful, and considerably enhances the character of the play. Between 1811 and 1820, Oberammergau's teacher and church musician Rochus Dedler wrote a sensitive score which has accompanied the Passion Play ever since.

It is a remarkable experience that is enhanced by the complementary emphasis on woodcarving in the village, with its religious themes centred on the passion play. The village has developed its own woodcarving school, and the quality of the workmanship is quite outstanding. The woodcarvings enable the themes of the passion play to be permanently captured in wood for visitors to take home with them as a memento of their visit.

I for one will always treasure my visit to the Oberammergau passion play, and if you ever have the chance to do so I would encourage you to grasp it with both hands.

May God bless you all.

David

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior January 2010
Sun 1	11:00am Matins
Sun 8	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 15	11:00am Family Service
Sun 25	9.30am Holy Communion 6:00pm Evensong

Beautiful Kittens

Free to loving responsible homes, three pretty tortoiseshell females and one sturdy little black male. Born May 15th. they'll be ready for homing (preferably in pairs) after July 10th when they'll be eight weeks old. Call Gregg or Maggie Cotner on 01638 743891.



Dates for Your Diary August-September 2010

August

Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Sat	14	Bell Ringing, St Cyriac's, 8pm
Mon	16	Deadline for Site Objections
Tue	24	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Wed	25	Bell Ringing, St Cyriac's
Sun	29	Fenland Fair, Quy

September

Tue	7	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	11	Dog Show, VH, 2pm
Sat	18	Moveable Feast, 7pm Barn Dance, Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, 7pm Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	20	WI
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15

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
&
Socie-
ties**