



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIV Number 12

December 2010

## Editorial



**H**appy Christmas All our Readers  
**A**nd Correspondents too  
**P**erhaps we can sum up the year with a  
**P**oetic verse of two (classy stuff, classy stuff)  
**Y**es, in this years edition,

**X**XX four without a doubt  
**M**ost things did get printed  
**A**lthough some things got left out  
**S**adly, 'twas our email

**A**las, we'll fix it never fear, so...  
**L**et's put all that behind us and  
**L**et's see you all next year!

**Wishing you all a very Happy  
 Christmas and New Year!**

**From all the Crier Team**

*Pat & Peter Cook, Mike Phillips, Ruth  
 Stinton, Caroline and James Matheson*

### Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Let the Bells Ring Out	8
Bon Mot	10
CROSSWORD	12
Answers	16
WI	18
Mothers' Union	18
Reading Group	19
David Brown	20
News from Wicken Fen	20
PC Report	22
Simon Goddard	24
Freecycle	25
David Lewis	26
Ophir	27
Diary and Clubs	28

### News, Views & Reviews

Christmas Cracker	6
Snowmen 96	9
Goodwin Farm-the outcome	14
School goes Potty for Pudsey	17
The English are Best	20

### What's On

Village Carol Service	3
New Year Fancy Dress at the Lion	7
Hickey on Boxing Day Morning	8
Coffee Morning	10
BVC Courses 2011	11
Christmas Services	16



**Cover Picture: Waiting to ring in the New Year by Hannah Webb**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### QUIZ NIGHT

We would like to thank everyone who came to the quiz on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November we hope that you all enjoyed yourselves.

We do like to hear any feed back about the different categories, we understand that some of you didn't enjoy the music round, we will try and do more of a mixed bag next time. Congratulations to the team Quizzimodo who won. We would like to give a big thank you to the ladies , Shirley, Kate and Betty who helped with the food and in the kitchen and of course not forgetting Ron who we think was chained to the kitchen sink by Betty.

Another big thank you goes to Andrew who once again was our quiz master and did a fine job. And the last thank you goes to all of you who donated the raffle prizes especially Pru and Clifton who always makes up a goodie box. The proceeds from the night, which was £350 goes to St. Mary's Church.

The next quiz is on the 12<sup>th</sup> March we hope to see you all there.

***Lynne Rand and Jenny Brand***

*Yes, and many thanks to Lynne and Jenny for another fine Quiz night, the only problem being that we woz robbed....Eds*

---

Dear Editors,

### The Gaye Bulleid Award

Rumour has it that following the amalgamation of the Swaffham Prior and the Swaffham Bulbeck WIs the Gaye Bulleid Award will not be presented this year. This is a pity. Many think the outstanding contestant for good works this year is the Committee which advised villagers on the traveller question.

The Committee comprised Chris Carrington, Mike Carrington, Shaun Cole, Adrian Dickens, David Greenfield, Martin Mead, Michael Mead, Neil Steven and Jeremy Zeid.

Maybe, as with the Lottery, their names can be carried over to next year?

***A Fervent Gaye Bulleidian***

---

Dear Editors,

### Village Hall Amnesty

Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee are declaring a "Knife (and a fork, spoon, plate, cup, saucer and bowl) Amnesty" with immediate effect.

Our stock of these objects is rather diminished. Some may have been borrowed, some may have been taken away to be washed, or simply taken by accident; whatever the reason, we would prefer that they were returned, rather than having to buy new replacements from the Hall funds.

So, if any of the above items (or anything else belonging to the Village Hall) are lurking in your cupboards or drawers, please return them: NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Returned goods can be given to either to the ladies running the After School Club at the Village Hall between 3pm and 6pm on weekdays (termtime only), or to a Committee Member.

Please do not interrupt classes, parties, etc., by returning items to the Village Hall at other times.

Many thanks

*Chris Carrington*

---

Dear Editors ,

### **Advent by Candlelight**

Thanks to the generosity of so many people in the village the annual 'Advent by Candlelight ' presented by The Cambridge Voices and friends was once again a very successful occasion. This year after expenses £274 has been sent to Emmaus Cambridge to help them in their work to house , train and reemploy the homeless and unemployed in the local area. Writing this note in the end of November cold spell I am sure they will put this contribution to good use without delay .

Many thanks for your continuing support of this worthy cause .

*Francis Reeks*

On behalf of Cambridge Voices

**Village Carol Service**  
**SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 4.00pm**  
**in**  
**St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior**  
**ALL WELCOME**



*Hear the Christmas story*  
*Sing the traditional Carols*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

This reporter approached the meeting with trepidation - last month the regular correspondent went into acronym overdrive towards the end of his report (ACRE, CAB ECDC CCT PC) - and I feared I might not keep up. But it wasn't that kind of meeting. Not only did it not go as I'd expected, it was quite a new experience. Item 1: *Apologies for Absence* was uncontentious: Steve Kent-Phillips gave his. On to item 2: *Members Declarations of Interest for Items on the Agenda* looked for a moment like it might pass quietly: someone on the PC has some involvement in the Pound [I had momentary visions of SP residents on the board of the Bank Of England before I remembered our Pound is in Cage Hill]. It was agreed it could be discussed as a progress report not for consideration; then Geoffrey Woollard raised his first objection of the evening. He saw red, he said, at these ridiculous rules. If it came up, he was damned if he was going to declare an interest, it was totally ludicrous. If someone from the Standards for England wanted to come for him then bring-em-on. It was totally potty, nul points, he said.



The committee did not move to throw itself behind this declaration but did not much object either. This made me wonder if Geoffrey usually declared war on something at every PC meeting. But we moved on to 3. *Public Participation*. I had expected this to be the hedges-verges-gateposts-and-dog-poo-bins section of the evening. I could not have been more wrong. The meeting suddenly became what I know as 'front-loaded' - nothing to do with washing machines: it's when you expect to build up to the important stuff but then it all comes at you at the beginning of proceedings.

David Greenfield had much to relate about the Travellers' Site - the one issue for which 2010 will be remembered above all others in this village. My notes record that that the County Council Development Report has an amendment proposed and seconded that Goodwin Farm would not be considered as a Travellers' site; Moreover, the building company Carla Homes had, the day before in the High Court succeeded in obtaining a Judicial Review that Pickles [not a dog, but Eric, he of Government Ministerial role] was illegal in instructing CDFs to be ignored and the Government has sent a document out to Local Authorities to be aware. The requirement for the Local authority to review the number of pitches and the PCs part in that is removed. In other words, there is no requirement to review the number of pitches; no requirement to *find* pitches, by the sound of it. I remain uncertain what a CDF is. Council Development something. I knew the acronyms would get me eventually; but it seems the upshot is: the site is a dead duck.

Quiet relief all round.

Next public participation point - ECDC are contemplating charging for parking in Ely. Case in point by said member of public - his trip to the dentist involving 3 hours' parking could be a costly trip in future. And what would it do to the retail trade in Ely? It's a nice day out that would be less attractive if you have to pay to park. Get



those objection letters to ECDC in the post, SP residents!

I thought that was it for the evening, and put my hand up (yes we're still in *Public Participation*, folks) to ask when if ever, the gate at the front of the village hall would be mended. But I deferred to the chap on my right, whose hand also went up. And right glad I am that I did. A remarkable man he was. Some elderly residents in Greenhead Road are having problems with the drains and it appears there is industrial stuff going into them that shouldn't be from people who shouldn't be doing it. I am not more specific because the situation is ongoing and the appropriate agencies are involved but people of Greenhead Road, you are most fortunate in having a neighbour who knows much about such things. But hope to God that in our illustrious Coalition Government's gleeful bonfire of the Quangos, the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are not among them. The talk of 'red tape' and 'health and safety gone mad' is easy - but they who say that don't know that the workings of the HSE are built entirely upon real-life cases that did happen and should never happen again. Think on, Nick and Dave C.

**Sandra Gynn doesn't say much but when she does it's brief, relevant..... At other times, however, she can express some interesting opinions without saying a word.**

By the time we came to my little point about the broken gate at the front of the village hall, I felt a bit overshadowed by the matters that had come before. But it's been broken longer that I can remember and children have to deal with it every day, so I put my hand up. What gate? No-one seemed to have noticed. Village Hall Committee (VHC?) matter, pass it on to them. That was easy, then.

Last of all - a concern was received about residents parking on the grass triangle at the top of Fairview Grove churning up the grass. I made the error of commenting that it is likely to get worse 'as winter draws on', then stopped as I recalled that the government banned BBC radio from using that phrase sometime in the 1940s in the interests of public decency, and to my knowledge the decree has never been rescinded. But I don't think I completely obscured the point by explaining this.

8.10 and we were now well into the meeting: 4. *Reports - CCC Cllr David Brown* who reported that there were parking issues discussed at CCC (Cambridge County Council) regarding Bottisham Village College; changes to GP consortia (Doctors' surgeries working together, that must mean) in a government white paper; and schools moving to academy status. Maybe.

Geoffrey Woollard became energised at the suggestion in this report that Neighbourhood Panels might have been useful in responding to the issue of traveller sites, as it had never actually come up at these meetings, which had in any case not been convened at times which would have enabled them to address the matter. Mr Woollard's expression of astonishment went on for some time; which led eventually to Cllr Brown apologising for having mentioning Neighbourhood Panels at all.

After this, time seemed to accelerate. It was 8.15 and we were still on item 5. The

handrail at The Beeches was to be installed on the 15th (which will please my neighbour Margaret greatly, I know); the Cage Hill Grit bin is to be moved from the bottom to the top, whereas Fairview Grove now has another at the bottom, in glowing yellow. I assume that's to make it shine out from under snowdrifts.

A planning amendment application in Cage Hill was received. 'It's a tweak'. 'what's a tweak?' 'How can there be reductions *and* additions?' - this and other technical discussions took place.

At 8.28 we finally got to the Pound Wall (the Wall that Dare Not Speak Its Name in the earlier declarations of interest). It was mentioned. A progress report. Not discussed. No comment.

A replacement village noticeboard was discussed. Expensive - nearly £1000. A metal one was suggested. Could Marshall's apprentices make it? In stainless steel? Hm. Interesting thought. Metal road signs disappear nowadays...perhaps we could paint it to not look metal...

It was proposed that a known local maker of things generally should be contacted.

The draft budget precept was dealt with in 85 seconds. I timed it. This was thanks to Steve K-P who'd done such a good job on it that it just needed agreeing. Mr Woollard acknowledged a little ruefully that he had considered 'playing a little game' if Steve K-P had been present, to suggest the village take a precept 'holiday' for a year. We will never know how that game might have gone...

Amendment to the signatories for the Parish bank account. Barclays will not talk to Karen King, for all that she is the Clerk to the PC and Keeper of All PC Knowledge (commended more than once in this meeting by Mr Woollard for her diligence and skill) - because she is not a signatory. Banks - doncha just love 'em?

The Parish Clerk's report took 4 mins 45 seconds and the meeting ended at 8.47 - it had all been an easy downhill after the public participation. This innocent observer concludes the PC comprises a set of folk who appear to know what they're doing; and my last note was that Sandra Gynn doesn't say much but when she does it's brief, relevant and tends to sum up what's needed to close a point. At other times, however, she can express some interesting opinions without saying a word.

***Mark Lewinski***

---

## A Christmas Cracker

**Wife to Husband**

**"It's too late to agree with me now.  
I've changed my mind"**



# LET'S GET P'D UP ON NEW YEARS EVE !!!





## HOCKEY ON BOXING DAY MORNING

There needs to be no beating about the bush. We were a little outgunned last year by Bulbeck even though Prior played with great gusto and enthusiasm.

The match will take place on Boxing Day, Sunday 26 December, on the Denny at Swaffham Bulbeck at 11.00am. Janet Willmott will be providing the refreshment and there will be the usual collection for MAGPAS. So do bring some money so that you can drink and give with a warm heart

Five years ago I gave up umpiring and the time has come for this to be my last year as team manager. So it needs a new lad or lass to organise the match next year. I hear they are queuing up already.

***Come and Support Your Local Team!***

*Alastair Everitt*

## LET THE BELLS RING OUT

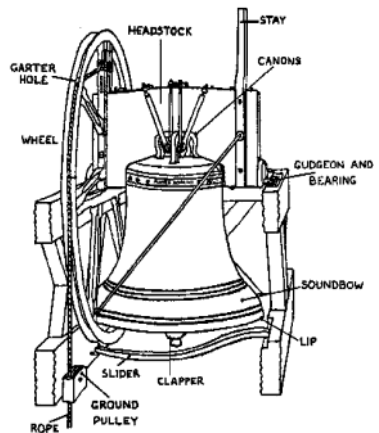
Swaffham Prior is included in The Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers. This is divided into four districts which are Cambridge, Ely, Huntingdon and Wisbech. Together with our very own St Cyriac and St Julitta Church the Association has links with 200 churches and helps with advice and funding when approached. It has helped us in the past. To achieve this there is an **Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund** and every year it makes an appeal. This is the first time this has been raised in the village and it is not a regular appeal.

So – if you enjoy the bells when they ring in Swaffham Prior - why not make a donation, no matter how nominal. What is nominal you ask? Anything above 50p and below £10. One of your problems could be the challenge of writing the fund's name which is in bold lettering above. Because not everyone reads the *Crier* from cover to cover perhaps a mention to others would be useful.



If you are happy to make a contribution please let me have them at 5 Lower End (742974 – I will be happy to collect) and I will forward them to the General Secretary.

*Alastair Everitt*





Two outstanding representatives of the Snow Persons Community circa 1996. Can you tell us who did them readers? And can we compete this year?

**Waiting for the bus.....**



**.....and taking the dog for a walk.**



# COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Tuesday

18<sup>th</sup> January 2011



***The OLD ALLIX ARMS***

*10 Station Road, Swaffham Prior*

*(by kind invitation of Mrs. Rosemary Riggs)*



*Cake &  
Produce Stall  
Bring & Buy*



**Lots of FREE CHAT and a few surprises !!**

Go past the school entrance on Station Road and then the football pitch. No. 10 is the first house on the right just over the small bridge.

*All proceeds to St. Mary's Church*

**BON MOT NUMBER NINE**

"Women should be obscene and not heard."

*Groucho Marx*

# **Bottisham Village College Community Education**

## **Courses for Spring Term 2011**

**All courses start week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January. They are evening classes and are for 10 weeks, unless otherwise stated.**

- Bookkeeping Level 1** – Tuesday - £85 (+ exam fee)
- Cookery – Pastries** (5 weeks starting March) – Thursday - £43
- Cookery – Traditional Thai** (5 weeks) – Thursday - £43
- Cookery for Adults with Learning Difficulties** – Tuesday
- Counselling – Introduction** - Tuesday – £120
- Creative Painting and Drawing** – Thursday morning - £85
- Dressmaking** – Mon/Wed morning, Thursday evening - £85
- Garden Design** – Tuesday - £99
- IT for Beginners** – Thursday morning - £90
- Printmaking for Beginners** – Thursday - £85
- Sculpture** – Thursday - £85
- Self Protection for Women** (5 weeks) – Thursday - £43
- Sewing for Beginners** – Tuesday - £85
- Stitching for Fun** – Thursday afternoon - £8.5 per week
- Upholstery** – Friday morning - £85
- Upholstery and Chair Caning** – Tuesday - £85
- Woodwork** – Thursday - £90
- Yoga** – Monday - £53

## **Weekend Workshops - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

- Chic Jewellery from Recycled Materials** - £40
- Dressmaking** - £40
- Photoshop** - £40
- Thai Seafood Cookery** - £40
- Web Page Design** - £40
- Woodturning** - £55
- Stained Glass Making** (2 days – 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> March) - £80

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

# Crossword Number 74

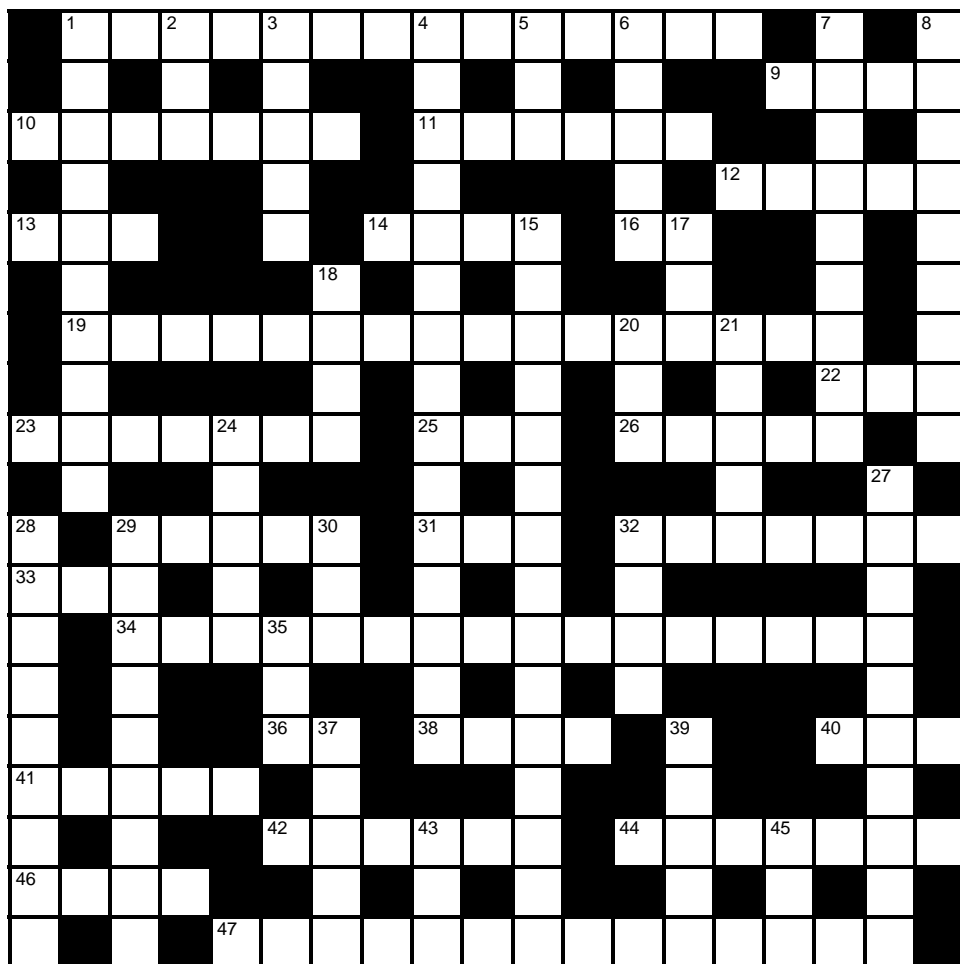
Sponsored by **The Red Lion**



Compiled by

**OUNCE**

*Movies* are the theme to this year's Christmas crossword.. Send your answers to the editors by New Years Day 2011. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address.....

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

## Across

- 1 Movie in which wild pets get earache. (3,5,6)
- 9 My musical female is not dark. (4)
- 10 The movie 'Tempest' is ideal. (7)
- 11 Movie sounds biblical, and used ox badly. (6)
- 12/28 Movie which mistreats unfamiliar song. (5,9)
- 13 Movie holiday here for original 12, 28. (3)
- 14 Movie star Collette takes on new initiative at first. (4)
- 16 Preposition essential in Road movies. (2)
- 19 Movie pair arc-welding lama to agitator. (7,3,6)
- 22 Potter movies' postal service? (3)
- 23 Movie children with these lines. (7)
- 25 Sense needed to see "Ghost"? (1,1,1)
- 26/31 Movie in which rambling heir apparent loses hair. (5,3)
- 29 Deep water we hear? (5)
- 31 See 26
- 32 Movie about Luton, possibly. (7)
- 33 Dance (with Scotch for the game). (3)
- 34 "Jean had no pipette", a very strange (Doris Day) movie. (2,8,2,4)
- 36 Small island exists. (2)
- 38 Fire Santa's mail carrier? (4)
- 40 Hairdo essential in Road movies? (3)
- 41 Kojack actor used to watch movies at home. (5)
- 42 This man's demise makes classic movie? (6)
- 44 Movie in which Bond's boss is located erroneously after loss of Danish leader. (7)
- 46 Not present after women and youths start. (4)
- 47 Movie lethally risked production. (3,11)
- 2 Movie that ends like fairytale originally. (3)
- 3 Unstable movie. (5)
- 4 Movie to perplex hoarsest deviant. (3,5,7)
- 5 Theatre bistro bit short of chairs? (1,1,1)
- 6 Grown-up in Carlsbad ultraconservatively. (5)
- 7 Flight of the movie pilot raving to a lunatic. (9)
- 8 Movie about frilly ewe? (No, a different mammal.) (4,5)
- 15 Movie fabrication: "Cyanide ended male swan". (12,3)
- 17 Exclamation of dismay vocalised to John's partner. (3)
- 18 Feeling dull pain in Beachy Head Hotel. (4)
- 20 Torn movie actor. (3)
- 21 "Genevieve" starts movie on the old race to Brighton. (5)
- 24 "Get Shorty" out of ways through muddle - but not written by him. (5)
- 27 (US) Movie with real standards? (10)
- 28 See 12 Across
- 29 Movie appals nit afresh. (6,3)
- 30 Swim? First dive in pool. (3)
- 32 Movie includes Ivan, Tzar of Mother Russia. (4)
- 35 Movie is embraced by local innkeeper. (3)
- 37 What the Grinch did to 28. (5)
- 39 "\_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers" - a short movie? (5)
- 43 Even Latvian is movie star? (3)
- 45 Look at golden Bond movie. (3)

## Down

- 1 Movie that Newman shot? Not exactly. (3,7)

Congratulations to last months winner Shirley Wilkins and commiserations to runners up Margaret Beckley and Trish Whitehead. Answers to Novembers crossword on page 16.

# The Final Stage –Goodwin Farm, Heath Road

The East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) Strategic Development Committee met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Council Chamber, Ely. Agenda Item No:12 was the ‘Consultation Results on Site Options for Development and Infrastructure’.

## **Questionnaire 1: Site Allocations Options Paper.**

The Summary of Responses (Site Allocations Options Paper) is 40 pages long and can be read following link (3) below but it was Question 11.1 the proposed 9 sites for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople that interested the residents of Swaffham Prior.

A total of 1,047 people responded to this question, from which 929 specific comments were made. Most respondents were opposed to the options although limited support was given to the sites at Church Road, Wentworth and at Grunty Fen Road, Wichford. The lowest proportion of support was expressed for gypsy site development on land east of Goodwin Farm in Swaffham Prior (only 0.7% of respondents to this question, supported the proposal) – see Figure .

## **Questionnaire 2: Initial Sustainability Appraisal.**

A total of 690 responses were received on the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report. Of these, 678 relate to the gypsy site option at Goodwin Farm, Swaffham Prior. Only 12 other comments were received.

Given the high level of public opposition to both Consultation Documents, The Principal Forward Planning Officer’s recommended to the Committee that **“Goodwin Farm in Swaffham Prior should not be progressed as a gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople option”**

Not only was this proposal adopted by the committee, but given the high level of community involvement it was clear that not just Heath Road, but the whole area of Swaffham Prior should be excluded for any future consideration – this was voted on and adopted unanimously.

Should you wish to read the various documents in full, please follow these links:

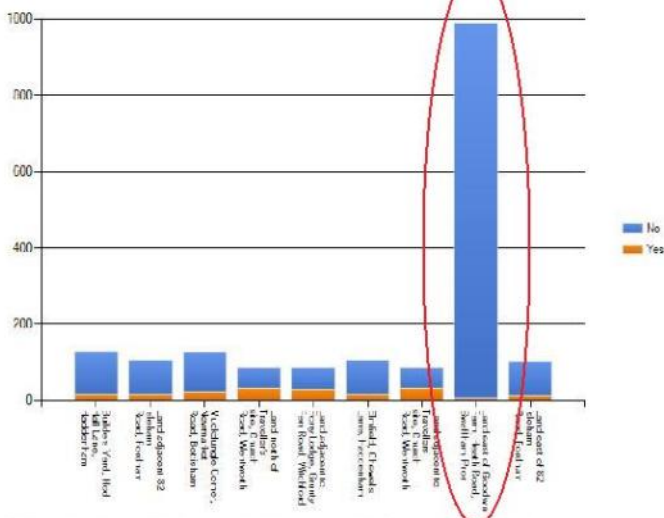
- 1) Strategic Development Committee Agenda 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
<http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/sd091110ag.pdf>
- 2) Consultation Results on Site Options for Development & Infrastructure  
[http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/sd091110ag\\_K169.pdf](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/sd091110ag_K169.pdf)
- 3) Appendix 2 to the above – Summary of Responses  
[http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/sd091110ag\\_K169App2.pdf](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/sd091110ag_K169App2.pdf)

*David Greenfield*

SP ECDC LDF Steering Committee Chairman

## 10. Gypsies and travellers and travelling showpeople – summary of responses

Question 11.1 – Do you agree that the 9 preferred option sites should be allocated for Gypsy/Traveller/Travelling Showpeople use?



- Builders Yard, Hod Hall Lane, Haddenham - 11% in support, 89% against
- Land adjacent 82 Isleham Road, Fordham – 14% in support, 86% against
- Muckdingle Corner, Bottisham – 17.5% in support, 82.5% against
- Land north of Traveller's site, Wentworth – 34.5% in support, 65.5% against
- Land adjacent Pony Lodge, Grunty Fen Road, Witchford – 32% in support, 68% against
- Elmfield, Chewell's Lane Haddenham – 15% in support, 85% against
- Land adjacent to Traveller's site, Wentworth – 36% in support, 64% against
- Land east of Goodwin farm, Swaffham Prior – 0.7% in support, 99.3% against
- Land east of 82 Isleham Rod, Fordham – 11.5% in support, 88.5% against

**Swaffham Prior's opposition to Travellers' site proposals at Goodwin Farm dwarfed all others in the County. As a result, the council voted unanimously that not just Heath Road but the whole area of Swaffham Prior be excluded from further consideration.**



# Christmas Services

## Christingle

Join us as we celebrate Jesus Christ, the light of the world, whose love shines in the darkest depths. Each child is given a traditional Christingle.

Sunday 5th December

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

9.30am

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

11.00am

St. Mary's Church, Qy

3.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham

4.00pm



## Carols by Candlelight

A celebration of the Christmas story in words and carols on  
SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

St. James Church, Lode

3.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Qy

3.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior:

4.30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham:

6.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

6.30pm



## Carols around the Crib

A celebration of Christmas in words and Carols for all the Family  
on Christmas Eve

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

3.00pm

St. James' Church, Lode

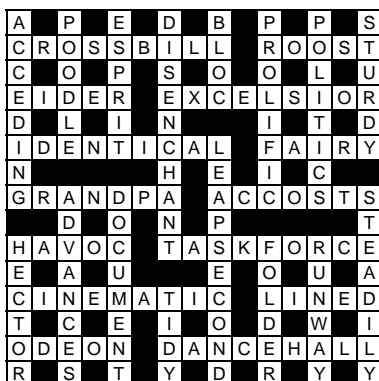
4.00pm

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham

4.00pm

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

4.00pm



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS No. 73





## School News

# SCHOOL GOES SPOTTY FOR PUDSEY

For Children in Need, spots were this year's theme. The School Council organised a range of events for all the school to take part in. Pudsey badges were on sale every playtime during the week; there was a giant Pudsey to cover in money; and many children took part in the competitions. The winners were Martha Dean Tozer and Toby Jost for the "Decorate a Pudsey Picture" competition and Leah Swift and Hazel Lingley for the "Dress your Teddy" competition. It was a non uniform day and many pupils and staff dressed in their finest spotty clothes ranging from bandanas to t shirts to pyjamas.



Senior Teacher, Gordon Godfrey, said, 'We all had a very enjoyable day and are really proud of the amount of money the school raised. Throughout the day it was clear that the children had a sense of how important it is to help others.'

The School Council then had the huge task of counting all the money kindly donated – the grand total was £200.77. Wow!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the day and donated to this worthy cause.





## WI Notes

The speaker at our November meeting was Gabriele Reifenberg who, after retiring 16 years ago, fulfilled a long held ambition to live and work in the Himalayan region of Northern India. She was accepted on a project to teach English to a group of women in Leh, the main town in the region of Ladakh in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The town consisted of a group of mud brick houses and narrow lanes around the high street and Gabriele gave us a very vivid account of her experiences living and working in such a remote place at an altitude of around 12000 feet and with winter temperatures of minus forty degrees. We learned of the very basic farming methods employed to produce crops and the shortage of water and electricity. Despite the very harsh environment, Gabriele stayed for 2 years making many friends, joining in all the village activities, wearing traditional dress - some of which she brought along and modelled for us during her talk. We were fascinated by all she had to tell us and were not at all surprised to hear she has been back a further 12 times to teach a variety of children, monks, nuns and college students - although she did confess that she had avoided the winter on her subsequent visits. During her visit in 2010 Leh was badly affected by floods that swept through the region - this was completely unexpected as it was the first time this had ever happened in this area.

Sadly we also learned of the death of one of our member, Dorothy Blemmer. She will be greatly missed by everyone in our group.

December is our Christmas Party - so the next regular meeting will be on January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall when our speaker will be Jane Hipkin who will talk about the Royal School of Needlework.

***Pat Cook***

President 01638 742224

PS: Have you heard the music of the WI group the Melodies - their CD has recently been released and they have even appeared on television singing some of the tracks - great!

---

## Anglesey Group Mothers' Union



In October we welcomed Angie Stewart from Cambridge Women's Aid to speak on their work and the services they provide. The organisation started in 1977 and aims to offer information, advice and practical as well as emotional support to women affected by domestic abuse, and provide safe and secure accommodation to women and children in need of a place of safety.

The Cambridge Women's Aid provides a refuge for women and children from outside the Cambridge area to ensure the clients are secure, likewise those clients from the Cambridge area are provided safe accommodation outside of the area.

For a number of years Lode Mother's Union together with residents of Lode

have provided Cambridge Women's Aid with donations of toiletries, baby products, together with gift items and toys at Christmas. Since the Anglesey Group Mother's Union was formed the group have continued to support CWA. Angie gave us examples of how important, valued and acceptable the donated items are to women and children when they have had to leave their homes with no belongings. Members will be bringing along items to the November meeting for donation to the CWA in time for Christmas.

During tea the "Autumn" Bring and Buy Stall was held.

We will be holding our Christmas Lunch on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

*Ann Langran*

## The Reading Group Reads....

### Her Fearful Symmetry

By Audrey Niffeneggar

Well, *I* thought it was very silly book! Set next door to London's Highgate cemetery, *Her Fearful Symmetry* is a very surreal tale about two twins who were themselves the children of one of two twins who for reasons never made entirely clear decided to swap, one pretending to be the aunt, the other the mother and wife.

The story begins with the death of mother-pretending-to-be-aunt twin and her materialisation as ghost-about-the-house, well flat actually, adjacent to Highgate cemetery, which the younger twins inherit. Ghost (new twins' real mother) quickly makes herself known to twins, and finds there is a problem in that one twin wishes to escape from the other, whom she finds too clingy.

*Consequently*, a plot is hatched: twin one will commit suicide, her body (packed in ice) will be interred in the family vaults at Highgate and then later snatched back by a friendly neighbour who works there (well, he was in love with Ghost when she was alive) at which point suicidal twin's soul will be quickly reinstated by Ghost, who has been practising on a kitten, and clingy twin will never know her sister is still alive. All goes swimmingly, except that the wrong soul goes back in the body....

Well, I told you it was a very silly book, and should we have been in any doubt, Swaffham Prior's book group has the advantage of its very own *consultant pathologist* who smartly pointed out that there had been some serious errors in the dead body research department, not to mention the weight of packed ice, and a number of other things that would have completely ruined an otherwise perfectly coherent plot. Not!

January's book will be *The Last Mughal* by William Dalrymple and will take place on the first Wednesday in January 2011 at 8pm, Kent House. Just turn up on the night if you would like to come, or get in touch with Margaret Joyce (744390) before who will probably be able to get you a library copy of the book.

*Caroline Matheson*



*Audrey Niffeneggar*

# THE ENGLISH, THE ENGLISH THE ENGLISH ARE BEST

Donald Swann was born in 1923 in Llanelli in Wales. Here he must have acquired a detailed knowledge of the Welshman which he must have passed on to Michael Flanders who wrote a devastating description which will not be reproduced in the *Crier* – unless there is a popular demand.

Instead you shall have the verse on foreigners.

**“And crossing the channel one cannot say much  
For the French or the Spanish. the Danish or Dutch  
The Germans are German, the Russians are red  
And the Greeks and Italians eat garlic in bed.**

They conclude

**The English are noble, the English are nice  
And worth any other at double the price”**



From our Local County Councillor  
David Brown

---

In my role as Cabinet Assistant, helping with the children and young people portfolios I attended 2 Star Chamber meetings in November. These are meetings where Senior Officers and budget holders are questioned on their initial budget plans for the coming years. The meetings are intense in nature and designed to ask searching questions about future plans. This will then help form the budget proposals, which will be published shortly. I also attended 2 informal meetings of the Cabinet.

The Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee met. There was 2 major items on the agenda - the current and future position of Section 106/ community infrastructure levy, and a progress report on this winter's gritting programme. On the first the Committee questioned officers regarding the negotiation process, on how developer contributions are managed so that the money is spent for the intended purpose and on links with District Councils to ensure the system operates



as efficiently as possible.

On winter gritting the committee heard that salt stocks are full, with a further 5,000 tonnes ordered from Ireland for delivery in January. Following responses to the consultation on the precautionary network a number of changes have been made to take into account comments from Parish Councils, including acceptance of changes suggested by Reach and Swaffham Prior Parish Councils. County Council Highways are writing to parish Councils offering to indemnify Parish Council workers who help with snow clearance on footpaths etc. Information for householders saying they can clear snow etc outside their properties has been published on the Directgov and County Council websites. There has also been a good response from local farmers offering to help clear roads of heavy snow.

I also attended a meeting of the member-led review group looking into how the County Council can help stimulate provision of affordable housing in the County.

**David Brown**

---

## News from Wicken Fen

We recently welcomed Lois Baker as our new Community Officer.

Lois will be working in and with local communities to enhance community participation in the Wicken Fen Vision and access to the Vision lands. Some of her initial projects including the publication of horse riding guides, expansion of our popular series of geocaches across the Vision lands and the formation of a healthy walking club. Lois has an MSC in Applied Ecology and Conservation from the University of East Anglia and previously worked as a Warden at the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Weeting Heath Nature Reserve.

The Trust has joined forces with East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), Lode Parish Council and the Woodland Trust to create a community woodland on White Fen, near Lode. The woodland is part of the ECDC Planting Parishes initiative to increase the level of tree cover in East Cambridgeshire (one of least wooded areas in England) by 5-10% by creating new woodlands for people to enjoy. The site will be planted with trees and shrubs that will provide food for wildlife and humans, including blackthorn for sloes, crab apples and cherries for jams and jellies, and hazel for a delicious source of nuts. The cost of the project is £8,000 and you can make a donation to the project online by visiting [www.eastcambs.gov.uk/environment/planting-parishes-lode](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/environment/planting-parishes-lode) £10 is enough to create 25 sq metres of woodland capable of capturing and storing 1 tonne of carbon in its lifetime. A community tree planting day is planned for early in the New Year.

We are delighted with the number of people using the recently opened Lodes Way. Around 120 cyclists a week are cycling the full route from Bottisham to Wicken and many more are undertaking shorter circular routes. So if you're lucky enough to get a bike for Christmas why not try it out on the Lodes Way.

We have a number of events at the fen to help you get in the Christmas spirit **Christmas Elves** Wednesday 8 December, 10.30 -12 noon is a pre-school elf workshop to help Father Christmas get ready for Christmas -£5 (includes present).

Make a Christmas Lantern, sing traditional carols and enjoy mulled wine and roasted chestnuts on our **Lantern-Lit Christmas Carols and Chestnuts** evening on Friday 10 December, 4.30-8.30pm (free admission). **Father Christmas** will also be in his secret grotto on the fen on Saturday and Sunday 11, 12, 18 and 19 December at 10.30, 11.15, 1pm, 1.45 and 2.30pm - £6.75 (includes present). Tickets are available from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. Advance booking is recommended as spaces are limited on some events.

Don't forget the fen is open everyday (except Christmas Day) over the Festive season – so why not enjoy a wonderful wildlife walk to help burn off those extra Christmas calories.

Have a great Christmas

*Howard Cooper*  
National Trust –Wicken Fen

---

## Notes from the Parish Council Meeting

### Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010

*John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors in attendance. There were 4 members of the public present.*

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

**Proposed additional gypsy site on Heath Road:** David Greenfield reported that it was agreed at a meeting of ECDC's Strategic Development Committee not to go ahead with the proposal for an additional gypsy site at Goodwin Farm. David went on to say that due to the high number of responses opposing the proposal not only was the Goodwin Farm site removed as an option but also any future proposal for the Swaffham Prior area. *Everyone thanked David for his hard work and efforts as Chairman of the Steering Group.*

**Problems with Drains on Green Head Road:** Concerns were reported about chemical smells coming from the water system on Green Head Road. This was initially reported to ECDC's Environmental Services and following further visits by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency this problem has now been reported to the Health & Safety Executive for further advice and action.

**Front Gates to Village Hall:** These were reported as in need of repair as they had become very difficult to close or secure.

At this point the Chairman reconvened the meeting.

#### **Reports**

**CCC** – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

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

*As part of Cllr Alderson's report he confirmed that work was to start shortly on the installation of a handrail on the footpath at The Beeches. Parish Councillors*

*thanked Cllr Alderson for chasing this work but remained concerned about the delay in getting such necessary work carried out.*

*Cllr Alderson also confirmed that he had reported the dumping of a fridge/freezer on the slip road into the Village and that this would shortly be removed.*

**Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:** *Victim Support – request for donation.* It was agreed that donations would only be made to local groups.

**Progress Report on Proposed Works to Pound Wall:** ECDC confirmed that the application for Listed Building Consent had been received and registered.

**Replacement Noticeboard outside Village Hall:** The Clerk informed the meeting that the noticeboard was in a poor condition and asked if it could be replaced and reported a budget cost of approximately £1,000. Following discussion it was suggested that before considering replacement the Clerk would first look into the costs involved to refurbish the noticeboard.

**Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2011-2012:** Following discussion it was agreed to set a draft Precept figure of £14,500 – no increase on current year. Final Precept figure will be agreed at the January 2011 meeting.

**Clerk's Report:**

*Cambridgeshire ACRE – Housing Needs Survey:* To follow on from last meeting, a representative from Cambridgeshire ACRE will be invited to the December meeting. It was confirmed that no costs would be incurred.

*Light over Church Steps:* The light is now fully working.

*Grasscutting Tenders:* 4 contractors have been invited to tender for the 3-year contract to start March 2011.

*Dog Bin, Fairview Grove:* The moving of the dog bin was pending. To be followed up with ECDC.

*Wreath for Remembrance Sunday:* This was laid by Andrew Camps.

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

**Parish Councillors' Reports:**

Andrew Camps reminded the meeting of the need to remove the spoil heap in the cemetery. Carried forward as agenda item for meeting early in the new year.

**Open Question Time:**

It was reported that the Pound was in need of some tidying up. It was suggested that perhaps a working party could carry this out.

The poor condition of one of the litter bins on Coopers Green was raised with the suggestion that this was repaired or replaced.

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

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

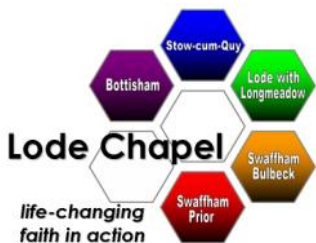
**All are welcome to attend.**

***Karen King***

**Clerk to the Parish Council**

**Tel: 742358. Email: [karen.king5@btopenworld.com](mailto:karen.king5@btopenworld.com)**





## Wishing You A Very ‘Full’ Christmas

You’re probably more used to being wished a ‘merry’ Christmas, but bear with me a while and let me explain this rather different greeting; it may not mean quite what you think. The festive season is often a mixture of ‘fullness’ and ‘emptiness’: a diary crammed full of Christmas parties and visits to family and friends; empty wallets and purses once the presents have been bought; full stomachs after Christmas dinner and drinks; and empty boxes and packaging after the frenzy of unwrapping the gifts. I’m not, however, referring to any of these.

A bit closer to the mark might be the emotions that the Christmas period seems to make more poignant. Early in the year one of my sisters gave birth to a little boy, and as a family we’ll be enjoying his first Christmas with him. As Chaplain at Queen’s Court, however, I’ve also been alongside those who are mourning; those who will be experiencing the first Christmas without their loved ones. For many of us, this time of year can be a combination of both joy and sorrow, both fullness and emptiness.

I don’t know whether you watched the three episodes of the ‘Big Silence’ on BBC2 last month – it followed five people and their experience of an eight day silent retreat at a Jesuit monastery. They all found that as the external noise was removed, an internal ‘noise’ became louder and louder. Feelings of emptiness, caused by grief or guilt or something else that had been kept hidden away for years, came to the surface. One phrase, used by one of the monks to describe this experience, particularly struck me – he talked about the difference between an ‘empty emptiness’ and a ‘full emptiness’. In the gospel of John we read that Jesus came to give us life ‘to the full’, and it’s this ‘fullness’ that I think the monk was referring to. An experience, whether positive or negative, may either be ‘full’ of significance for us, or ‘empty’ of any real meaning or purpose.

Christmas can be one such experience which, with all our busy-ness, can quickly pass us by without it really ‘touching’ us. One of the names given to Jesus in the Bible is ‘Emmanuel’ which means ‘God with us’, and I believe Christmas can be a ‘fuller’ experience if we invite the one whose birth we’re celebrating to be part of it all. By taking the time to attend a Christmas service, or just by finding some quiet space to reflect and pray, we can be filled with His comfort and strength as a help in the challenges that this time of year might bring, as well as being able to find greater appreciation for all of the good things that will come our way over the festive period. So, once again, may I wish you a very ‘full’ Christmas.

*Simon Goddard*

### **Services in December 2010**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am, RE:NEW at Bottisham Primary School



Sun 5<sup>th</sup>: 4.00pm, Christingle Service at Holy Trinity  
Sun 12<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am, Christmas Kids Club and RE:NEW Café (School)  
Sun 19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am, RE:NEW with Carols and Mince Pies (School)  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am, Christmas Day Service at Lode Chapel

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

**Tel:** (01223) 812881

**Email:** [simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk)

**Web:** [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk) / [www.lodechapel.org.uk](http://www.lodechapel.org.uk)

## Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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



## FREECYCLE



Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month:

[jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk), or 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

Box of citrus tree seed. Hazel, c811606

Philips EcoHalo light bulb. 350w, 117.6mm long, 2.0A, R7S. Jun c813362.

### Wanted

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). George 07895064727.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming once again. I don't know about you, but I don't feel very Christmassy at the moment. Granted I am writing this article in the middle of November, but even so, there doesn't seem to be a lot of 'good cheer' in the air at the moment. Even the retailers are anxious because people seem to be reigning in their Christmas spending this year.



I think there is a lot of anxiety about the future for many families this Christmas, with so much uncertainty about employment prospects. It is a fact that Christmas can be a depressing time for many people, particularly those who have recently lost a loved one, or who are facing a personal crisis in their lives, or who are ill, or lonely or anxious.

There is a lovely story about a nine-year-old girl was walking with her friend down the street, sliding on the ice about two weeks before Christmas. The two of

them were talking about what they hoped to get for Christmas. They stopped to talk to an old man named Harry, who was on his knees pulling weeds from around a large oak tree in his front garden. He wore a frayed, woollen jacket and a pair of worn garden gloves. His fingers were sticking out the ends, blue from the cold.

As Harry responded to the girls, he told them he was getting the front garden in shape as a Christmas present to his mother, who had passed away several years before. His eyes brimmed with tears as he patted the old oak. "My mother was all I had. She loved her garden and her trees, so I do this for her at Christmas." His words touched the girls and soon they were down on their hands and knees helping him to weed around the trees. It took the three of them the rest of the day to complete the task.. When they had finished, Harry pressed 50p into each of their hands. "I wish I could pay you more, but it's all I've got right now," he said.

The girls had often passed that way before and as they walked on they remembered that the house was shabby, with no wreath, no Christmas tree or other decorations to add cheeriness; just the lonely figure of Harry, sitting by his window. The 50 pence piece

	<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior January 2010</b>
<b>Sun 5</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Christingle Service
<b>Sun 12</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 19</b>	<b>4.30pm</b> Carols by Candlelight
<b>Christ mas Eve</b>	<b>3pm</b> Crib Service
<b>Christ mas Day</b>	<b>10.am</b> Benefice Communion

seemed to burn a hole of guilt in the one little girl's mind as they returned to their homes. The next day she called her friend and they agreed to put their 50 pence pieces in a jar marked "Harry's Christmas Present" and then they began to seek out small jobs to earn more. Every penny they earned went into the jar.

Two days before Christmas, they had enough to buy new gloves and a Christmas card. Christmas Eve found them on Harry's doorstep singing carols. When he opened the door, they presented him with the gloves wrapped in pretty paper, the card and a mince pie still warm from the oven. With trembling hands, he tore the paper from the gloves, and then to their astonishment, he held them to his face and wept.

Christmas reminds us that God came into his world as 'the word made flesh', not in order for us to have an excuse for a jolly time, and to eat drink and be merry, but because He cares about the real us. He cares about our loneliness, our fears, our pain, our worries, our depression and our deepest inner needs. He wants us to experience the fullness of His love, and to be filled with the hope that stems from a deep and loving relationship with Him.

As St John says in that wonderful opening passage to his Gospel *'Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.'* (John 1:12/13)

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

*David*

---

## The Victim

I'm the ordinary chap,  
you pass by in the street,  
Not one for whom you step aside,  
nor ever pause to greet;

But I'm the ordinary chap,  
No-one recalls my name  
The one who looks like many more,  
all ordinary; all the same.

So I'm the ordinary chap,  
who never will have claim  
To any but the simple life,  
I never will make fame.

At school; I never won a prize  
I never scored a goal  
I never scored a cricket run--  
I was always out, first bowl.

Whilst others get their interview,  
for Radio or TV  
No one even asks the time  
of ordinary me.

I'm the victim of my circumstance,  
as far as I can see  
Whilst other folk are interesting:  
I am, -- well, ---  
I'm just me.

*Ophir*

## Dates for Your Diary December 2010

Sun	5	Christingle, 11am, St Mary's
Thu	9	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Sun	19	Village Carol Service, 4pm, St Mary's
Fri	24	Carols around the Crib, 3pm, St Mary's
Sat	25	Christmas Day
Sun	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 11am, Swaffham Bulbeck Denny
	31	Red Lion Fancy Dress <b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

## Village Clubs & Societies