



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIV Number 1

January 2010

Editorial

SO—CONGRATULATIONS Sir Michael Marshal and Marcia Miller MBE!

Michael and Marcia were both recognised in the New Year's Honours List, and well-deservedly so, Michael for his contributions to industry and charity, and Marcia for her charity work, she has worked for the Red Cross a very long time .

Meanwhile, at the Village Carol Service, *another* member of the village was honoured: our very own reporter, Alastair Everitt, this time with our very own village trophy, the WI's Gay Bullied award, which is for people who have made exceptional contributions to our village life in one way or another. Congratulations to you too Alastair, who was thrilled to bits, just going to show, readers, that *appearances can be deceptive*.

This is the time of year when we say thank-you very much to our Advertisers, without whom, with the help of some very kind donations from loyal readers, the *Crier* could not possibly exist. Take a look at our new advertising pages, which you might also notice are nicely laid out, having not been cobbled together by the editors but tastefully set by our

Advertising Department: Pat and Peter Cook, who very kindly joined us at the beginning of 2009. Thank-you too, Pat and Peter, you are doing a wonderful job.

It is also traditional at this time of year for the magazine to notice that advent's Advent by Candlelight, a Maestro/Maestress combined production (Ian de Massini and Hilary Sage) was definitely the best one yet. Well, it always is! (See Thomas Newbolt's review). But *this* time, it was almost as if the advance motorcycle escort of the advent entourage were just pulling up behind St Cyriac's.....ah yes, it's that *Deeply Wailing* bit we are all so much looking forward to!

Readers will notice that that rather than running out of grit, as has everyone-else, our grit bins have been well-stocked, all entirely due to our ever-vigilant District Councillor, Allen Alderson, yes, we'll be voting for Allen, St Mary's needs more help (see p. 27) and meanwhile, from this rather *approximate* January issue (sorry, sorry) Happy New Year, All Our Readers!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *I saw Three Ships* by **Byam Shaw** (see p. 3)

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Three Wise Women

What would have happened if it had been three WISE WOMEN instead of THREE WISE MEN?

They would have:
Asked directions.
Arrived on time.
Helped to deliver the baby.
Cleaned the stable.
Brought practical gifts.
And made a casserole.



Kate Child

Dear Editors,

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the quiz night, we hope you all enjoyed yourselves. A big thank you goes to Shirley Wilkins, Pat Cook, Sheila Smith and June Wolfenden who helped in the kitchen and served the food, we very much appreciate it. Thank you to Andrew, who once again stepped into the quiz masters shoes, he did a fine job but needs to work on his jokes. We would also like to thank everyone who donated a prize for the raffle, especially Pru and Clifton, who are always generous with their donation of a box of groceries. The money raised for St. Mary's church was £300. The next quiz is in on the 6th March; put it in your diary.

Lynne Rand and Jenny Brand

Dear Editors,

Bridges & Trees

Re the misperception (misconception?) of the size of the impending Reach Lode Bridge. From the reporter Mr Everitt, present at the November PCC meeting covered in the last *Crier*, I realise there was a possibility I had not included. Anyone got a conversion calculator? (although for the bit in the middle you just need to know that one yard = three feet).

'John Covill worked out that the correct length of 188 metres still came to about 600 feet or just over 200 yards which would make it nearly an eighth of a mile...this is still a long way, especially if you try to run 200 yards.'

But more importantly, since the Bridge is going ahead, we have to look to the future. I'm concerned about the running bit. Will that be the middle section, ie the bridge, or is it the two approach ramps at either end which must be run? Obviously since the incline will be very gentle it shouldn't be too difficult, even for backpackers. But will cyclists be required to dismount and run, or will they be allowed to race the runners? And what about pushchairs? Or even folk in wheelchairs? Has this all

been risk-assessed?

These and other similar thoughts must have had Mr Everitt all a-flutter and he became confused in his brief, concluding his report by declaring his opinion was that Mr Soans would have to admit that, given its length, the bridge would look HUGE in the landscape, but then he wrote that actually he could only report and interpret what was said. By the way, from the top of Fairview Grove to my front door is almost exactly a quarter of a mile, but I hope no-one would say it looks GINORMOUS in the landscape. On the other hand, the water tower takes up little space on the ground but I can still see it from 4 miles distant, just this side of Quay. Length is the wrong dimension to consider in predicting prominence in this instance.

I hope some Christmas rest will have done Mr Everitt some good, but I'm worried the excitement of the Boxing Day Hockey might have set him off again. He knows my good wishes are with him as always and by the time you read this that event will all be over, so let's hope for the best. He can also add my name to the tree petition and make it 40, and I'll make myself available for discussions with the tree lady if/when she should reappear at any point in the future. Anyone down here at this side of the bottom of Fairview Grove knows that if you put me, a ladder, a saw and a tree together in one place, there is likely to be only one outcome.

Happy New Year.

Mark Lewinski

Our Cover Illustrator

Byam Shaw, born in Madras 28 January 1872, son of the Registrar of the High Court of Madras, displayed an early artistic promise which was recognised by Millais who recommended him to art school. The major influence on him always remained the Pre-Raphaelites.

He was successful in a wide range of media but later in his life, as his popularity waned, he earned his living as a teacher. He also helped, in 1910, to found what became known as the Byam Shaw School of Art. In 1999 this became part of the Central Saint Martins College of Art, within which it still retains its independent and traditional approach to drawing and painting.

The front cover is a Byam Shaw illustration for "I saw three ships" for *Old King Cole's Book of Nursery Rhymes* published in 1901.

In answer to the question

"And what do you think was in them then"

we learn that

"Three pretty girls were in them then"

and that

***"One could whistle and another could sing,
and the other could play on the violin –***

***Such joy was there at my wedding,
New Year's Day in the morning."***

Alastair Everitt

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I missed the December Parish Council Meeting and all the mulled wine and mince pies. Instead I looked back to the *Crier* report on the **December 1997 Parish Council Meeting**, the year when New Labour came to power.

Since that time more than 600,000 people have been added to the public payroll, we have become fatter, we can drink longer – and we drink more, we sold off gold reserves for a song, the Millennium Bug never materialised in spite of spending a fortune after taking advice from the computer industry, most other government inspired computer innovations (as advised by the industry) have gone belly up after costing billions, private pension schemes are in a mess, some MPs have been shown to be as crooked as we have always thought, wind farms are sprouting everywhere (our local flour mill is thinking of going electric because the wind is unreliable), and we have just survived a Swine Flu pandemic (the Pharmaceutical Industry advised on this) which some doctors reckon is probably the mildest flu epidemic of the past 100 years.



But it hasn't been all gloom and already in this year is the good news that Ed Balls now wants every child to have the right to study Mandarin. Also latest research suggests that excessive use of mobile phones may not result in Alzheimer's disease. On the contrary. Professor Gary Arendash of South Florida University thinks that mobile phones may even reverse the effects of Alzheimer's. He has a collection of mice who are allowed to use mobile phones for an hour twice daily. It seems that the function of their brains is improving. An eminent Canadian professor warned us that mice are not men – so they won't be able to learn Mandarin. We are also working hard to combat food wastage. A Government report said that **a third of all food bought for home consumption is wasted every year**. I don't believe it. Does anyone believe it? And BOGOFs are blamed. Both Gordon Brown and our vegetarian Hilary Benn have put their weight behind the new "Buy one now and buy one later" initiative. Sainsbury is at the forefront of this and made the offer on two products. One of these was PAMPERS NAPPIES!! – a product considered by some to be highly damaging to the climate. What is wrong with Terry Nappies?

So what did happen at the December 1997 Parish Council Meeting? I don't know, I didn't go. But a report was published discussing the merits and purposes of Reports as opposed to Minutes.

This is the original Report published in the January 1998 *Crier*.

The PC meeting was held on **11th December 1997** and the final copy date for the *Crier* was the 10th December. Hence there is no **Report** this month.

This then becomes a good time of year to reflect, and what I would like to reflect upon this month is the role of the *Crier* **Report**, and the role of the PC Minutes. Some people think they are trying to do the same thing, but this is not so. When Ron Prime reported the April 1997 PC Meeting he noted that the minutes of an extra meeting of the PC were challenged by one member and that "there was a somewhat emotionally charged altercation with the Chairman." Ron went on to say "I can't

help feeling that there's a simple way to ensure that Council meetings are accurately recorded – that is to record them, magnetically. Parliament does it ... why not the PC?"

Alas, that would not have provided the answer. I attended that particular meeting and it was like Parliamentary Question Time, but with seven people speaking simultaneously, rarely listening to anyone else, and worse. A full transcript would not have helped, and most likely a transcript of any other meeting is likely to be beyond the resources of a parish council. Nor should this be necessary, as the *apparent* role of the minutes is to record decisions, providing the decisions have been clearly defined at the meeting.

And what is the role of the **Crier Report**? Ron Prime made the comparison between the Parish Council and Parliament and perhaps we should look at the history of parliamentary sketch-writers for the answer. James Grant, a Whig journalist, initiated sketch-writing in the 1830s. A few others joined the game in the 1850s and 1860s but it was not until the 1870s that the steady growth began. Disraeli was soon to lament:

"Our Own Reporter" has invaded Parliament in all its purlieus. No longer content with giving an account of the speeches of its members, he is not satisfied unless he describes their persons, their dress, and their characteristic mannerisms. He tells us how they dine, even the wine and dishes they favour, and follows them into the very mysteries of their smoking room."

But the Parliamentary sketch-writer has a more positive role. T.P.O'Connor, an Irish Nationalist MP and also a sketch-writer, maintained:

"The reporting columns of a newspaper do not always give an accurate and rarely a vivid picture of what really takes place in a legislative body. Columns appear of speeches which have been delivered to empty benches, and which, therefore, have influenced the fortunes of debate little, if at all ... The speech that reads convincing and elegant may, owing to the physical defects of the orator, have not been listened to at all. Equally a speech which appears dull and cold in print may have produced wild outbursts of enthusiasm or of anger. It is assuredly as important that there should be some record of how the speaker influenced the assemblies to which they were addressed as of the mere words of the speeches themselves. Nor can any account of a speech be entirely complete which does not convey some idea of the man who makes it, his manner of speaking, his appearance, his character, his career."

If this applies to the full reports of speeches which once appeared in newspapers in plenty, how much more does it apply to minutes. Minutes are not going to record a remark like "We don't want Poverty Row down there" or any other delicious quotes from PC members. Minutes need to be more discreet. While the **Crier Report** is a poor thing compared to the great parliamentary sketch-writers, it does follow the same tradition and, without fear, will be lively, irreverent, critical, factual, informative, as well as seeing the PC as theatre, or, as Norman Shrapnel of the *Guardian* once wrote of Parliament, "a famous but ever-struggling repertory company."

Alastair Everitt

We can learn a lot from the Iranians

In Iran people demonstrate against the State in spite of the risk of beatings, of prison or even of death. We must admire them because we have no greater problem than the Quay Traffic Calming.

It is probably fair to say that a minimum of 85% of non-Quay drivers find it exasperating, infuriating and potentially dangerous. Both Bulbec and Prior Parish Councils have expressed their concerns to David Brown who passed these on the CCC,

Christopher Welton now takes up the issue in this extract from the *Bulbeck Beacon*:-

“We understand that CCC have stated that they have no complaints from neighbouring Parish Councils about displaced traffic!! [this is a reference to the increased number of people driving via Bottisham]. Clearly we must now make an effort to lodge a *personal protest* by e-mailing or mailing CCC at the following addresses: CCC: info@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, or Highways Department, Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP.”

It won't take long and you won't receive a beating, or prison, or even death for your pains. You might even receive an answer.

Alastair Everitt

Ed's Note. No sooner said than done! I sent this:

“Quay Traffic Calming Scheme

Could I please register a protest about this scheme because I think it is dangerous?

On three occasions now, coming home from Cambridge in the evening (I live in Swaffham Prior, further up the 1102), traffic has unexpectedly lurched out in front of me, directly in my path coming towards me, at the last of the half-road blocks in Quay, so causing me to brake sharply and on one occasion was really frightening. The problem seems to be that at in the evening rush hour, traffic trying to go the other way is held up for inordinate lengths of time at the road-blocks, and so they barge out. This would not be quite so bad were it not for the fact that the cars queuing behind the leading car immediately follow suit, and they cannot see me, and of course, I cannot see them either, until it is almost too late.”

And got this back the next day:

Dear Ms Matheson

Thank you for your email. Your information has been passed on to the relevant highways division.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter the reference number is: Insight 94400

We must advise you that your information will be entered on to our database and may be shared within Cambridgeshire County Council departments.



Our team at the Boxing Day Hockey Match against Swaffham Bulbeck on Bulbeck's Denny. Alas, we lost 2-1: read all about how we were ROBBED in next month's *Crier*.....

S.O.S. for Honey Bees

The W.I. and Village Gardeners are having a joint meeting on

**Tuesday January 19th
8.00pm Village Hall**



The speaker will be a local Bee Keeper talking on the "Ins and Outs of the Honey Bee" and in particular, about the alarming decline in the species.

The W.I. as a national body, has lobbied the government, to fund more research into what is killing the honey bees, their health, well being, including diseases, disease resistance, management of hives and availability of food for bees-flowers!

Please come along and learn more on the topic. Some of you might even have the urge to start keeping bees, or at least to grow more plants that they especially like. Every one is welcome.

Margaret Joyce



Advent By Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight, a gathering in the two churches, raised money for EMMAUS which helps to house, train and re-employ the homeless and unemployed of the Cambridge area. Ian de Massini with Cambridge Voices performed a sequence of old and new choral pieces. These were interwoven by readings chosen by Hilary Sage and read by members of the village. With the experience of several years Ian and

Hi8lary have found a way of touching on the creation, shopping at Christmas, discomfort and poverty, angels and politics which brings welcome laughter and a chance to share thoughtful silence.

Just as the choice of music brought a wide range of association: childhood memories, biblical texts, the fusion of musical ideas with verbal imagery: so the physical projection of those sounds into the space around us both shockingly reverberant and strangely comforting.

We sense the governing idea behind each choice, it becomes part of the ritual and, with the shaking of hands and passing of mince pies, becomes part of something larger. Our ability to remember depends on the strength of the language we use, musical or verbal. The awkwardness and variety of language is a reflection of humanity in front of the abundance and awfulness of nature. The Advent by Candlelight ceremony is an example of a form which by being constantly adapted can give us a more dependable idea of ourselves.

Thomas Newbolt



COFFEE MORNING



10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Wednesday, 20th January 2010

ANGLESEY HOUSE

59 High Street, Swaffham Prior

Cake Stall

Bring & Buy

Unwanted Christmas presents most welcome!

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

Swaffham Prior Infants' Class

1918 - 1919

Very many thanks to the reader who kindly sent the copy of this photograph of the end - o f - W W I Swaffham Prior infants' class to the *Crier*. If anyone can identify any the children or teachers, do please write and tell us. Meanwhile we would very much welcome any other snaps or memorabilia like this.



**South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association
THE SWAFFHAMS AND REACH BRANCH**

Invites you to

**THE NEW BRANCH LUNCH
Goodwin Manor**

Station Road, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LG

by kind permission of Mr and Mrs John Harrison

Sunday 17th January 2010 - 12.00 noon

(2010? Contact Marcia for the actual time! Eds)

Guest: James Paice MP

Please reply to:

Marcia Miller 01638 741141

Lunch £17.50 each

Valerie Hill 01223 813611

All muck and magic! Manure wanted!

The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm needs more horse manure to use on its organic market garden in Reach. For those readers who do not know about us, the Prospects Trust is a registered charity working with people with learning difficulties and those experiencing mental ill health, providing work experience and training in horticulture. There is further information on our website at www.prospectstrust.org.uk

My Gardening Year

In the Spring, I set the seeds,
And wonder if they'll outgrow the weeds.

In Summer, I just laze about,
And watch the pretty flowers come out.

In Autumn, when the leaves are dead,
I take them to the compost bed.

But in Winter, I don't venture there,
For among the trees, are three wolves and
a bear.

Ophir

Snakehall Farm has Soil Association Organic status and we are only able to use manure from horses that have been fed exclusively on a diet free from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The main producers of this feed are Allen and Page, Baileys, Dodson and Horrell. There are some other suppliers too – and if you think you may be able to help we have a detailed list at our office. Any donors must be willing to sign a non-GMO declaration and also be able to deliver to our site.

If you think you may be able to help, please call Jill on 01638 741551



What's on at Anglesey Abbey? January 2010

Winter Garden, restaurant & shop

10.30am – 4.30pm, Mon-Sun

Enjoy our longer opening hours, and soak up the fresh air right on your doorstep. Let our wonderful woodland walks, the delicious scent and fiery colours of the Winter Garden, and our wildlife discovery area bring the simplicity, pleasures and beauty of nature to you.

Exhibition: The Art of Dining

Wednesday 18 November – Sunday 17 January, 11am – 3.30pm,
Wed-Sun

(closed 24-29 December)

Discover the world of opulent table arrangements and dining etiquette at this sparkling new exhibition. Take the opportunity to linger a little longer and enjoy the Gallery when it is quieter than in the busy summer months. Or enjoy seeing many pieces of glittering silver, not normally on display.

Spectacular Snowdrops

Monday 18 January – Sunday 21 February, 10.30am - 4.30pm (last entry 4pm)

Admire the array of beautiful snowdrops at Anglesey Abbey. Discover just how many varieties there are by joining a weekday tour with the garden team. Come away inspired by picking up a purchase at our Plant Centre and a fact-file sheet on how to get the same look at home. Weekday tours at 2pm, booking advisable.

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

Anglesey Abbey, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ

Telephone: 01223 810080 Fax: 01223 810088

Email: angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey

LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College. We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 9th January, 13th February, 13th March and 8th
May (no dance in April).

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159
or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk



Bottisham Village College Community Education

Start the New Year with a new skill!

We are offering the following courses starting in January 2010:

Salsa

Sculpture

Garden Design

Soft Furnishings

Thai Cookery (5 weeks to half term)

Vegetarian Thai Cookery (5 weeks after half term)

Introduction to Counselling*

*(requirement for 'Certificate in Counselling' course in September 2010)

There are also still places available on our continuing courses. Please see our website for further details www.bottishamvc.org/commed, or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372, email:

commed@bottishamvc.org.

Can't see the course you want? Please contact us with your interest and we will do our best to help.



To Let, Desirable Fen Property

Three bed detached bungalow, available now, beautiful garden,
superb view.

Adventurers Farm

Viewing highly recommended

£490 pcm

**to view please contact janet willmott
on 07833 960678**

**FRIDAY NIGHT IS COMEDY NIGHT
AT BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE**

**FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY
7.30PM**

**TICKETS £8 each
BAR**

**LAUGH THOSE WINTER BLUES AWAY WITH
TOP LONDON CIRCUIT COMEDIANS
STRICTLY OVER 18's ONLY!**



McLenny Peters



Martin Beaumont



Harry Denford



Liz Carr

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB

JUMBLE SALE

at

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

on

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY 2010

DOORS OPEN 2:00pm

START THE YEAR RIGHT COME AND FIND A BARGAIN

CLEAR OUT THOSE CUPBOARDS

**CONTACT TED SKETCHLEY ON
01223-811582 IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ITEMS COLLECTED
OTHERWISE BRING *any saleable items***

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING

Pat Crawford is Press Officer for Hadlow College, Kent, and writes a regular topical column for village magazines on 'green' issues that affect all of us.

The original intention of the recent UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen was to create a legally binding international treaty on tackling climate change issues. Months ago it was very clear that the chances of getting such a treaty off the ground would be well nigh impossible. And if it was ratified, how on earth could it be monitored? And what punishments would be meted out for failure to comply? Not surprisingly, there was no requirement to address these points because the focus of the summit was refocused – watered down to an attempt to strike a deal that would prevent temperatures rising by more than 2 degrees centigrade by the end of this century.

What we now know is that, despite involvement of the world's most prominent leaders, no really substantial consensus resulted at the Summit. In one sense, perhaps the most positive outcome is the fact that it focused attention on the seriousness of the challenges we face, consequently more and more people around the world are demonstrating and calling for action.

Consensus and unity are difficult to achieve at international level – and any country willing to take even relatively low-level unilateral action risks seriously disadvantaging the economy. The complexities of achieving any general consensus are demonstrated in numerous relatively insignificant ways. Many people felt that it was ridiculous that a ban on Christmas lights wasn't instituted in view of associated carbon emissions. Others pointed out that thousands of people, most of them in developing countries, would have been put out of work if lights had been banned.

One of the main reasons for the increase in demand for local food relates to desire to contribute towards a reduction in the carbon emissions resulting from 'food miles'. We are currently a very long way from being self-supporting in relation to food - but we have the ability to produce more – after all, our farmers and growers are among the best in the world. Buying British would be good for our farmers, and it would help to preserve the appearance of our countryside (which is largely a managed environment – managed, that is, by our farmers) and it would benefit the rural economy. At the same time, how will this affect the economies of Third World countries, some of which export fresh produce in huge quantities?

The combination of global warming and burgeoning world population is arguably the biggest challenge mankind has ever faced. Despite the enormity, even relatively minor changes are difficult to effect.

Pat Crawford is Press Officer for Hadlow (01732 850551), one of the UK's leading land-based colleges.

Pat Crawford

*Eds' Note: Yes. For example, this year, we could all do with remembering what an excellent organic food shop we have at Snake Hall Farm. It may not always have what you want, but a trip there **before** the super-market run is well worth it.. It's cheaper, for a start....*

Snowdrop Season

Snowdrop season at Anglesey Abbey runs from Monday 18 January to Sunday 21 February. Gates open at 10.30am to 4.30pm. Last entry is at 4pm, with weekday tours



at 2pm. Booking is advisable, contact 01223 810080 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey.

Admission: £5.80 adult, £2.90 child, NT members free

Situated 6 miles NE of Cambridge on the B1102, sign posted from A14 (J35).

Top snowdrops to see at Anglesey

Among the 200 plus varieties in flower, Richard Todd points out these extra special ones:

Galanthus 'Ailwyn'

Galanthus 'Droopy'

Galanthus 'John Gray'

Galanthus 'Melanie Broughton'

Galanthus 'Richard Ayres'

Galanthus elwesii 'Reverend Hailstone'

Galanthus elwesii 'Brigadier Mathias'

Galanthus nivalis 'Anglesey Abbey'

Galanthus nivalis 'Sandersii Group'

Galanthus nivalis 'Scharlockii'

Galanthus plicatus 'Three Ships'

Chris Herrings'

2009 CRIME REPORT

Bottisham Crime Statistics for period 02/12/09 - 24/12/09

There were 3 crimes reported:

A dwelling burglary where an unknown offender had gained entry to a garage, via a window. however, nothing appears to have been taken.

Theft of an insecure pedal cycle taken from a residential property by an unknown offender

One incident of a domestic assault from which enquiries are ongoing.

Swaffham Bulbeck Crime Statistics for period 02/12/09 - 24/12/09

There were 4 crimes reported:

One dwelling burglary where a small amount of jewellery was taken. This has not been recovered.

There were two incidents of theft from vehicles (unattended in car parks whilst owners out walking their dogs).

One domestic assault between brothers.

Swaffham Prior Crime Statistics for period 02/12/09 - 24/12/09

3 Crimes reported:

Theft of scaffolding tower and damage to wooden trestles, by unknown offenders, from work site at Scout Hut

Criminal damage to front door of a residential property and spray paint on pavement on Mill Hill.

A crime of growing cannabis (4 plants) has been recorded with one person having been arrested

Burwell Crime statistics 02/12/09 24/12/09

There have been a total of 7 reported crimes in Burwell through the month of December.

2 crimes have been thefts of items from front gardens.

There have been 3 criminal damages where on 2 occasions a brick has been thrown at different houses and caused damage to the property and one where an unknown person has cut down a Christmas tree in somebody s front garden.

One car was stolen

There was a crime reported of a sensitive nature but this was an isolated incident. The suspect has been named and enquiries are still ongoing.

This is a dramatic drop in crimes compared to last months 21 reported crimes.

Lode Crime statistics 02/12/09 24/12/09

There have not been any crimes reported this month for Lode.

I have now been on the beat area for about 4 months. Over that time we made one of the biggest drugs seizures of Cannabis resin in over 5 years in the Cambridge area.

The East Cambridgeshire neighbourhood team currently has a crime detection rate of 26.8% which is 2.8% up on 2008, with around 250 fewer crimes being reported.

I personally have made 68 arrests this year for all manner of offences and have been the first attending officer to over 145 incidents and have been to many more. This may not seem like many but if you put this in the context of my shift pattern, abstractions for force operations, meetings and the amount of paperwork I have to do I can assure you this is a large amount of work.

So what now? As ever we are measured on our performance. As a local team the aim is to prevent crime and when it does occur to try and detect it. The aim for 2010 is 29% of crimes to be detected and a further reduction in total recorded crime. You can help us achieve this. Most of our work comes from intelligence. Using information provided by you helps us to target specific people and addresses allowing us to work more effectively. So no matter how small a snippet of information you may have it could be the one final piece of the jigsaw we need to get another criminal off the streets. If you have any information you can pass it to us by subscribing to the E-COPS system via our force website or you can contact the Police service centre on 0345 456456 or by calling crime stoppers on 0800 555 111. Thank you for your continued support and have a very happy new year.

I personally have made 68 arrests this year and have been the first attending officer to over 145 incidents and have been to many more. This may not seem like many but if you put this in the context of ... the amount of associated paperwork I have to do, I can assure you this is a large amount of work.

PC 1642 HERRING

St Mary's Concert

St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

7.30 Saturday 6th February 2010

St Mary's Singers and Players Directed by Matthew Rudd.

Mass in G minor, F Schubert

Concerto Grosso No 24 G F Handel

Cantata No 32 'Leibster Jesu, mein Verlangen'

J S Bach

Soloists; Jenny Nex & Simon Adams.

Orchestra led by Andrew Nex.

Proceeds towards St Marys Heating Project and a local charity

Tickets on the door by donation.

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY

St Mary's Social and Fundraising Calendar of Events for 2010

I know that some Villagers like to have these dates in January, so that they can book holidays and week-ends away accordingly, Care and thought has been given to try and avoid clashes with school holidays, other village events and as far as possible major sporting events As can be seen there is a wide range of events, hopefully to suit all ages and interests, so Swaffham Prior residents do come and join in what-ever takes your fancy and help support the community spirit so that it does not become a dead village like so many with commuters who are never seen Further details of each event will be advertised in The Crier and also with posters throughout the village nearer each event. If any one has ideas for future events they will be received most gratefully.



*At last! Coming to
Swaffham Prior!
Start training
now...*

20 th January	Coffee Morning	Anglesey House	10.30.a.m.
16 th February	Pancake Party	Village Hall	6.30.p.m.
6 th March	Quiz Night	Village Hall	7.30.p.m.
20 th March	Film Evening	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
24 th April	Village Variety	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
9 th May	Rogation Sunday	Adventurer's Farm	noon
19 th June	Coupe de Grass	Village Hall	7.00p.m.
27 th June	Strawberry Teas	Commissioner's Farm	3.00p.m.
18 th September	Moveable Feast	Village	7.00p.m.
September (tbc)	Dog Show	Village	2.00p.m.
16 th October	Harvest Supper	Village Hall	6.00p.m.
13 th November	Quiz Night	Village Hall	7.30p.m.
20 th December	Christmas Market	Village Hall	2.30p.m.

Kate Child

01638 743983, Social Working Group

Found - Boxing Day - The Denny Swaffham Bulbeck

Set of Keys comprising house and car keys on a ring, two
identifying fobs.

Please ring Janet on 07833 960678



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Programme: 2010

Tue 19 th Jan	Mr Lyndsey Sanpford "The ins and outs of the honey bee"
Tue 23 rd Feb	Mr Peter Walker "Wild Flowers of Cambridgeshire"
Tue 16 th Mar	Mr John Drake "Aquilegias"
Tue 20 th Apr	Dr Twigs Way "From Italian Villa to Suburban Lawn; the History of the Garden Gnome"
Tue 18 th May	Mr Richard Ayres "Gibberd Garden, Harlow"
Tue 15 th Jun	Evening visit to The Old House, Fulbourn (Kate and Charles Comins)
Tue 6 th Jul	Evening visit to Chippenham Park (Mr and Mrs Crawley)
Sat 10 th Jul	Visit to Coton Manor Garden, Guilsborough (Mr and Mrs Pasley-Tyler)
Tue 19 th Oct	AGM
Tue 16 th Nov	Mr Mike Day "Vegetable Varieties Today"

Indoor meetings: 8.00pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. For further details and details of summer visits contact Roger Connan on 742182, Mary Hart on 741681 or Margaret Joyce on 744390.

Roger Connan

Mary, Mary, I'm a bit wary
Of asking how does your garden grow?
With potatoes and greens
Cabbage and beans
And cheeky weeds, all in a row?

Nary, nary, quite contrary
Your expectations are far too low
For I have lots
Of flowers in pots
All fit for the annual show.

Ophir





WI Notes

In December we had our usual Christmas party with festive food and drink and a quiz to keep us alert. In January we meet on 18th at 7:30 in the village hall when Bev Briggs will tell us about her work as a personal shopper. Throughout 2009 the WI has been highlighting the plight of bees and on Tuesday 19th January at 8pm we are having a joint meeting with the village gardeners when we have a talk from a local bee keeper - visitors will be most welcome.

We were very pleased to present the Gay Bullied award this year to Alastair Everitt - well done Alastair! - thank you to those of you who took the time to send in nominations.

We are looking forward to the new year and a new programme of meetings and events - new members are always welcome.

Pat Cook — President

01638 742224

The Reading Group Reads.....

The Catcher in the Rye

By J D Salinger

The Book group this month chose THE CATCHER IN THE RYE by J.D.SALINGER. Some of us had read it before - many moons ago in my case and some not.

The story, published first in serial form in 1945/6 and as a book in 1951, is a few days in the life of an American teenager, Holden Caulfield, who when we first meet him, has just been expelled from his third boarding school. Not for bad behaviour, but a totally unacceptable academic performance. Just not attending classes.

The book was banned in schools in the States for a couple of decades and subsequently became one of the most read books in the country!

Holden is depressed, disaffected, self obsessed and an immature non achiever - alienated to everyone and every thing and sees life in general as "phony". He tells us that his childhood was "lousy" - he'd had a dearly beloved younger brother who'd died, an event that had left him deeply saddened and angry; an anxious chain smoking mother and a frequently absent lawyer father; an older brother who's gone to Hollywood to write film scripts and his little sister Phoebe whom he adores and still lives at home in New York.

He heads, during the few days of the story, for what one of his former teacher calls "a terrible kind of fall" - a sort of mental breakdown, brought about by extreme teenage angst, feelings of social isolation, fear of his parents anger, excessive drinking, abortive meetings with old friends, involvement with a pimp and a prostitute - all mixed up with his web of fantasies (one of which gives the book its title) - just searching for what he



J. D. Salinger



Dan Brown—his father was a mathematician, and a lot of the puzzles in his book are based on real treasure hunts and puzzles that Dan's dad used to set for him and his brothers.

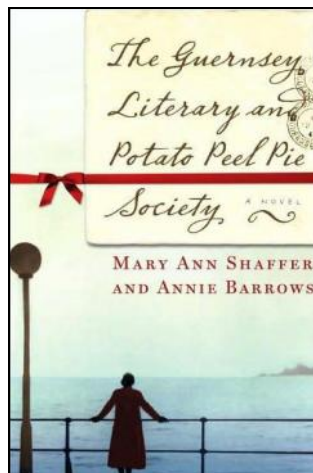
cannot find

He's finally "saved" by Phoebe, because of her devotion and her refusal to let him go. So the ending isn't exactly happy-more optimistic.

MJ

We meet again on the 6th January-8.00pm at Kent House, when we'll be reading Deaf Sentence by David Lodge.

Alas, the Crier continues to be late (sorry!) so half of us read David Lodge and half of us "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society". The problem is that the library may not have enough copies of the book we have chosen to read, and so what we decided to do last month was to, um, wait and see what came through



the letter box. Margaret Joyce very kindly picks up the books and delivers them, so please ring Margaret on 744390 to check first.

After a little *heated debate*, what we actually did was discuss both books, but not in any great detail, especially the "Potato Peel Pie Society", and so we will be discussing this next month, along with whatever new book in the list (which we hope might finally be **Dan Brown** and his **Lost Symbol**) Margaret can get her hands on.

Caroline Matheson

Available to rent: double room in shared house

From Jan 09

The room is furnished and the rent covers all bills except telephone. Broadband access and sky TV available. Rent to be paid in advance, either weekly or monthly. Shared kitchen and bathroom plus downstairs toilet, dishwasher and washing machine available to use. All bedding supplied. Plenty of off road parking. For additional information please contact Sandra on 07525808485.

Stay ahead of the game – be prepared.



Preparations are now underway to produce the Council Tax bills that will be issued to everyone in March. Our aim is to help our customers to avoid getting behind with the bills in these difficult times. One way we can do this is to make sure your account is set up correctly, using the method of payment you choose to use when the bills are first issued.

Below are all the alternative ways you can make payment, many of which require no formal setup. **If you do not want to change your current method of payment used last year - you do not need to take any action.**

If you would like either a stress free, easily maintained Direct Debit or, make payment in the community at your local Post Office or PayPoint you will need to contact us to set this up.

To set up a Direct Debit:

Contact us on 0845 072 6000 to set this up. Please have your account details to hand. Alternatively you can complete the Direct Debit mandate on the website at www.angliarevenues.gov.uk

To receive a Payment card to use at the Post Office or PayPoint:

Contact us on 0845 072 6000 or email counciltax@angliarevenues.gov.uk please state your account reference, name and address. **If you used a payment card to pay last year you can continue to use the same one, there is no need to request another.**

You do not need to contact this office if you wish to use any of the following methods of payment.

By telephone ~ you can make a payment over the automated telephone line using your debit card. Please telephone 01353 616492 or 01353 616493. There is an additional charge for payments made by credit card.

Over the Internet ~ payment can be made by using the Internet. Simply log onto our website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk and click on 'payments' or www.angliarevenues.gov.uk and click on 'make a payment'

Standing Order ~ can be set up using the following information. Co-operative Bank plc, Cambridge Branch, sort code: 089043, account ref: 61514959 quoting your council tax account reference.

By post ~ please send a cheque made payable to East Cambridgeshire District Council to The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4EE. Please write your account number on the back of your cheque.

(Post dated cheques are not accepted.)

Cash is not accepted at any of the East Cambridgeshire District Council offices.

Bottisham Village College Community Education

We are offering the following one day workshops in the Spring Term:

Saturday 6th March

Dressmaking 9.30 – 4.00 £35

Japanese Cookery 10.00 – 4.00 £35

Pick and Mix Patchwork 10.00 – 4.00 £35

Woodturning 10.00 – 4.00 £55

Saturday 13th March

Photoshop (digital photography) 10.00 – 4.00 £35

If you would like to enrol, or receive further information, please contact the
Community Office

Tel: 01223 811372, email: commed@bottishamvc.org or visit our website
www.bottishamvc.org/commed

Groceries delivered to Cambridgeshire's elderly

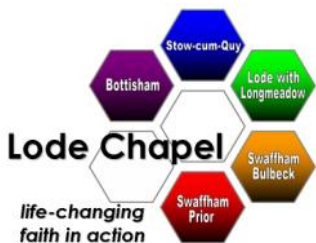
Elderly people in Swaffham Prior and surrounding areas can have a wide range of groceries delivered along with their home meals this winter, thanks to a service from local company Oakhouse Foods.

Customers in need of essential groceries from teabags to toilet rolls can have these added to their order to be delivered with their regular frozen food order from Oakhouse Foods. There is no charge for delivery and no internet access required, a major stumbling block to home shopping for many elderly people.

Director Michele Tattersall said, "A packet of tea or a tin of beans can mean a lot when you have run out and can't get to the shops. The aim of this service is to provide the basic shopping that customers can't get out to buy for themselves. It makes sense as we are already delivering meals and desserts to these people on a weekly basis and from a customer perspective their regular Oakhouse Foods driver is a familiar face. Our service also provides for those elderly people outside of the care system who need help with shopping but don't necessarily have access to the internet."

The company also offers a range of over 300 frozen meals and desserts with free home delivery throughout the local area. For more information about the Oakhouse Foods service call 0845 688 5088 or visit oakhousefoods.co.uk





Lode Chapel – Commemorating the Past

The first of a three part story... Past, Present and Future!

2010 is a special year for Lode Chapel – it marks 200 years since the purchase of the land upon which the chapel is built. Our story starts before that, in the seventeenth century, when a group of ‘nonconformists’ (radical believers who refused to conform to the ways of the Church of England, insisting that people should be old enough to make up their own minds before being baptised) began meeting illegally in the woodland near Lode. By 1810 the law was changing, however, and this group of so-called ‘Baptists’ were allowed to build a small chapel in which to worship. The congregation grew, and in 1832 the chapel was rebuilt with further rooms being added later. By the mid-nineteenth century, when Lode’s parish church was built, the chapel had three services each Sunday, and in the afternoon up to 300 people (more than half of village’s population at the time) were in attendance.

In the twentieth century, however, like many other churches, Lode Chapel experienced a dramatic decline in the size of the congregation, and by the 1980s there were literally only a handful of worshippers meeting week by week. Nonetheless, the faithful few (one of whom is still an active member today) continued to pray for God’s blessing. Their prayers were answered when a number of families felt prompted to transfer their membership from Eden Chapel in Cambridge and start worshipping in Lode. This breathed new life into the Chapel fellowship and, in the early 1990s, the sanctuary was transformed into an attractive meeting space which has become well used by the community. With most of the other local nonconformist chapels closing over the years, the Christian witness of the Lode Chapel fellowship has moved beyond the boundaries of this one village. Worshippers now come from Bottisham, Stow-cum-Quy, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior and from further afield too.

As a member of this wider local community we want to give you an opportunity to be part of our bicentenary commemorations. We’d particularly like to invite you to **a special celebration service** we’re holding **at the Chapel on Sunday 14th February at 5.30pm** if:

You or a member of your family once attended Chapel services,

You’ve ever been in the Chapel for one reason or another (to vote, for mums and toddlers, for the photo club, for WI, for a parish meeting, to watch the world cup on the big screen...).

You’ve never set foot in the Chapel but want to come and take a look!

You’ll be welcome if you just turn up, but as we’re planning to make some tea and cake available after the service, it would be helpful if you could let me know if you intend to come (contact details below). Next month’s article will focus on the present life of Lode Chapel – who we are and what we do – and in March I’ll fill you

in on the exciting plans for the future which will also be presented as part of the celebrations on the 14th February. I look forward to seeing you then.

Simon Goddard

This Month's Services

Morning Worship at the Chapel,
10.30am on 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st January
3rd – 'Sacred Space' contemplative service (5.30pm)
10th – RE:NEW Kids Club at Bottisham Primary School
with café for the adults (10.30am)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon
Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@lodechapel.org.uk

Web: www.lodechapel.org.uk and www.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.



Offers

19" Tatung colour TV with stand. Approx. 15 years old but still working. Matt c811959.

Freeview digital set top box, with remote control. Also new SCART and RF cables. David c811620.

Would the person who collected the farmyard that Fay offered in the December issue, please contact her again (c812231) as there are farm animals etc which were to be included.

Small Belling electric cooker, double oven; slight blemish on enamel by rear hob, otherwise near-perfect condition. Tim or Sue c811676.

"Waiter's friend" (a combined corkscrew, bottle opener, and knife) - new. Ken c812740.

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on a dark cold December evening. Many people find these short winter days very depressing. Many folk who live in more northerly countries find this time of year even more depressing because there is hardly any daylight at all.

Francis Thompson 'Shelley' put it this way:

Light! Nature's resplendent robe;

Without whose vesting beauty

All were wrapt in gloom.

We all need light in our lives, and I am sure that is why so many people at this time of the year seek to pierce the gloom with great displays of coloured fairy lights in their gardens and on their houses. It is as if they are saying, 'We're not going to let the gloom overcome us, we're going to beat it'.

I think it is important that our lives are not filled with gloom, but are full of light. The well-known Bible teacher Keith Brooks once spoke to a large group of businessmen on the Christian's responsibility to be a "light" in the world. He emphasized that believers are to reflect the Light of the world, the Lord Jesus.

After the meeting, one of the members related to him an experience he had in his home, which had impressed upon him this same truth. He said that when he went into his cellar he made an interesting discovery. Some potatoes had sprouted in the darkest corner of the room. At first he couldn't work out how they had managed to get enough light to grow. Then he noticed that the cook had hung a copper kettle from the ceiling near the cellar window. She kept it so brightly polished that it reflected the rays of the sun onto the potatoes.

The businessman said to Brooks, "When I saw that, I thought, I may not be a preacher or a teacher with ability to expound Scripture, but at least I can be a copper kettle catching the rays of the Son and reflecting His light to someone in a dark corner."

Jesus said "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" (John 8:12)

All of us need the light of hope in our lives. Sometimes our lives seem absolutely hopeless,



	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior January 2010
Sun 3	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 10	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 17	8:00am Holy Communion 11:00am Family Service
Sun 24	11:00am Matins
Sun 31	10:00am Benefice Communion (Swaffham Bulbeck)

yet the story of the potatoes in the darkest corner of the cellar helps us to remember that even in the darkest times there is hope.

Jesus Christ suffered the most terrible pain a man can ever suffer, but in doing so he has brought hope to the whole world by his saving work on the cross. A hope that says that God loves us, and that God understands our pains and difficulties at first hand. In fact he understands them better than we do. Jesus also brings to us the hope that God cares for us in a way that we shall never fully know or understand, not until one day we stand with him in paradise.

Until then remember that, as January unfolds, the snowdrops begin to appear, the days begin to lengthen and we know that spring is not far away. In the same way remember that God is never far away. So never give up hope.

I wish you all a happy and blessed new year.
May God bless you all,

David

St Mary’s Duty Rota

It is a truth universally acknowledged that.....

...if you have a busy week of weekend ahead, your slot on the duty rota will coincide!

But, Church opening could not be more flexible. Eleven people rotate, holding the keys for a week, thus there is always someone to affect a swap. Opening and shutting the two churches can be arranged round dog-walking, school journeys, etc.....

It would be BRILLIANT if we could widen the list of people. Please telephone 742850 for more details. Thank you.

Tricia



Your Mobile Library Timetable



Swaffham Prior	Cage Hill	15:15	15:50
Swaffham Prior	Chapel	15:55	16:15

Tuesdays: Jan 12, 26; Feb 9, 23; Mar 9, 23

Dates for Your Diary January 2010

Sun	10	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	12	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Sat	16	Bottisham Bolwing Club Jumble Sale, 2pm, Royal British Legion, Botisham
Sun	17	Conservative Lunch, 12 noon?, Goodwin Manor
Mon	18	Snowdrop Season at Anglesey Abbey, 10.30-4.30pm, tp 21st Feb WI, 7.30, VH
Tue	19	SOS Honey Bees, Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	20	Coffee Morning, Anglesey House, 10.30-12 noon
Tues	26	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Feb	5	Comedy Night, BVC, 7.30pm
	6	St Mary's Concert, 7.30, St Mary's Church, Bulbeck Book Club, 8pm, Kent House

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

Village Clubs & Societies