



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIV Number 5

May 2010



Editorial

At last they exclaim, the *Crier* is out on time and back to just one month at a time but look more carefully and you'll see that at least the cover picture is a month late (but it was too good to lose just because we missed it last month)! Apologies though for the recent production problems. Caroline has been ill; last month's double issue only appeared because Peter Cook kindly stepped into the breach at the last minute and finished off putting it together and got it to press. This month I've been helped by various friends (Swaffham Prior is great at rallying round) to whom many thanks and also to all those who have sent best wishes to Caroline for a speedy recovery.

It's a smaller issue than usual, I hope not because I've lost some copy along the way. Paper copy particularly, letters and local copy generally were much less plentiful than normal. If I've lost something, sorry, and please resend it for next time if it's still relevant. If you've been put off by its erratic publication, please don't be. With a bit of luck, Caroline may even be back in charge by next month.

I've also not had time to check, as she normally does, whether there are regular/annual items missing which need chasing and adding. Again apologies if I've missed something this way. It's not at all easy this *Crier* editing!

The crossword is one victim of my not having coordinated things as fully as usual. Instead of leaving a complete gap in the lives of its fans, we've reproduced one from a few years ago just for fun.

Of particular note this month, I hope that the letter from Sylvie Short on the book she is planning to write about the village generates lots of interest and

leads to a lasting record of bits of our village's history which might otherwise be lost. Those of us who haven't lived here long enough to remember her when she lived in the village may remember that Sylvie was one of those who contributed further very interesting reminiscences to the *Crier* in 2002 following our publication of Mavis Nickson's memories of the village.

There's less on the church loos this time than I'd anticipated there might be after last edition's deluge of coverage and absolutely nothing about the election but maybe we're getting enough of that from other quarters.

And finally there's an unwelcome crime theme; most seriously and upsettingly the theft at the Prospects Trust but also fly tipping and some petty vandalism with someone walking right over a car parked in the village. It may have seemed funny at the time to whoever did it but it wasn't at all funny for the owner.

James Matheson

Cover Picture: April Showers, by Grace Zeid



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

A Book about Swaffham Prior

My name is Sylvie Short, but some of you may remember me as Sylvia Coleman. I moved to Swaffham Prior with my mum, dad and brother, John, in 1954 and we lived in 'Bramfield' on the low road opposite what was then Tom Cooper's shop. Five years ago I moved back to the area and I now spend a lot of my time writing — with moderate commercial success. Browsing in Toppings of Ely one day I looked for a book on Swaffham Prior, but to no avail as, on further enquiry, I found that there isn't one. I would like to put this right and plan to write a book about the village; it will be a combination of personal and other first hand memories, a celebration of the lives of notable characters and, of course, historical facts.

I have already carried out some research using the internet, and have read with interest all the past copies of the *Crier* that I can access, but to make the book come alive I will need your help. Have you got anything you would like to be considered for inclusion? Do you have any old documents or photos that I could have a look at? I shall have to spend a fair bit of time in the village during the summer and it will be a pleasure to meet with old friends and acquaintances — or even make new friends — in my quest for information, facts and suitable snippets to include in the book.

Is there anyone else who remembers the furore surrounding the demolition of the fountain? My dad went to the subsequent meeting and I think I'm right in saying that it not only made the local papers but was actually the subject of a Giles' cartoon. I shall check that. I also have clear memories of Lowe's bakery; the old Blacksmith's where we used to stand and watch the Smith at work on our way home from school, and Sheldrick's shop, as well as Tom Cooper's. I can remember quite clearly when there was a Post Office and a cobbler, called Mr. Pook, both in Fairview Grove.

As I am asking for help, I feel it only fair to donate a percentage of any money I make from the book to the upkeep of anything in the village currently in need of care and attention.

If you have any information you would like to share I would love to hear from you. Please get in touch by phone, letter or email at the addresses given below.

Sylvie Short

Mrs. Sylvie Short,
The Coach House,
49 Town Street,
Upwell,
Nr. Wisbech,
Cambs. PE 14 9DA
Tel: 01945 774443
[Email: sylvietoat@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sylvietoat@tiscali.co.uk)

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

The Saga continues. People outside the village who see the Crier have been asking "What is going on?" The Users Group sent another letter to the Churches Conservation Trust. This is reproduced below. Questions are being asked about the money specifically raised for the loo to be in St Mary's. Apart from other funds this especially applies to that raised by Cambridge Voices who waived their fees. As this was ring-fenced within the St Mary's accounts it will be easy to resolve if the need arises. Meanwhile work on St Cyriac's appears to have ground to a halt. Does anyone know why?

Alastair Everitt

Letter to the Churches Conservation Trust dated 13 March 2010.

The difficulty as we see it is that neither you nor your architect has ever experienced a music/art event in St Cyriac's. If you had you would have known that the choir uses all sections of the church depending on the needs of the music. Because of the outstanding acoustics a singer or two in each transept, also in the gallery, and yet again in the entrance, can produce an effect which is magical – or any other rapturous word you would like to use. By blocking off the north and south transepts you have simply taken away two of these vital positions, and thereby impaired a not insignificant part of the acoustics.

St Cyriac's has always had a reputation as a fine exhibition space for art. Not only does screening off the transepts reduce the exhibition space but there is an even greater concern about the loss of light. Shadows will be cast, especially when the sun is shining through the South transept – a time when St Cyriac's often looks at its best.

So you see, your email does not deal with any of our major concerns. As we said in our letter we understand the attraction of making it neat and symmetrical. On the other hand we do feel that the real architectural challenge would have been to have installed the loo without losing so much space and light and making such a major change to the internal appearance of the church.

The only thing we can now do is to sit and wait for the project's completion to discover whether our fears have been justified. We might even find it is the best thing that has ever happened to this church. We will let you know.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Many people may find it tedious to go to a meeting and listen to an assorted body of people beefing on about one thing or another. This may happen but at Parish Council Meetings the one and a half hours can be a very rewarding occasion. The March meeting was no exception. In fact it was a gem of a meeting though I did miss 30 minutes of the best part.

The meeting was preceded by an address on 'Fly-Tipping' by Mark Mehaffey, the ECDC Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer. As I had been to so many PC Meetings I already knew the best places to fly-tip so I chose to miss it – in spite of wondering whether Mehaffey resembled Macavity the Mystery Cat. When I walked in Mark Mehaffey asked "Am I alright for time?" Chairman John Covill, after hesitation, said he could carry on for a bit and Mehaffey was delighted, explaining that "I am just passionate about the subject of fly-tipping." And he spoke for another 20 minutes. It was riveting, and I was sorry to have missed the first 30 minutes. Unlike Macavity, where there was rubbish Mehaffey would be present.



Geoffrey complimented him and said it was the best public address he had heard for many a year and hoped that his position would be safe from any impending cuts. Mehaffey explained that he was on a short term contract with one year to go. The following are just a few items from the bit I heard. (1) Veolia does not provide a good back up service. Many times Mark had sorted and bagged up rubbish, informed Veolia who said they would collect, Mehaffey had told Allen Alderson who had told the PC, only for Peter Hart (who keeps an eye on things) at the next meeting to say that the rubbish had not been collected. Red faces and apologies all round. A tightening of the Veolia contract suggested. (2) Mehaffey works very closely with the police, and an ANPR (automated number plate recognition) system is in operation. Even though fly-tippers often use false number plates it is still worth reporting the number plates of all suspicious vehicles to 01353 616221. (3) A quiet word and gentleness is preferable to inflicting a £75 fine on a person dropping a fag end (a rare event now) or a toffee paper on the ground. Mehaffey just gets everywhere.

Following the changes to the bus timetable David Brown said he had been trying to arrange a meeting with Andy (is it Andy?) Campbell, the Stage Coach Manager. The meeting was postponed. Meantime the complaints against Stage Coach are legion and one can put the blame down to the local management if it is reasonable to make a comparison with Stage Coach Oxford. There the engines are not left running while stationary in the terminus, the drivers do not wait until the time to go before entering the cab and begin issuing tickets and hence leaving 5 minutes late, and all buses do appear to run, and to run on time.

What happens with Stage Coach Cambridge. The following is based on the stories from only two people. One person in the village had not used the bus for a few years but the opportunity arose to use one. It broke down in Lode. Another person, awaiting a return bus from Cambridge, saw eight buses drive in, put up the "Sorry Not In Service" notice, and drive off. The six formers waiting soon cottoned

on and every time a bus appeared set up a great chant “WE’RE SORRY!”. The No 10 bus never turned up – no information, no apology, no one to ask. Another time the No 10 was on time, the very nice driver took tickets early, but when it was time to go reverse gear could not be engaged. Fear not, said the driver, I’ll wait a bit and try again. Success. The bus proceeded very gently, until it eventually ground to a halt. A phone call to the depot. The advice was that the driver should wait five minutes and then try again. After the wait the bus started and ground its way forward with many shudders until it arrived at SP 35 minutes late. Who knows when and whether it ever arrived at Newmarket.

No longer can the number 10 service be relied upon and if there is any alternative people are going to take it while those with no alternative must suffer. Andy Campbell has been making excuses for too long. Maybe he should consider his position or run a better show. Usually we can have no influence because government edicts are issued from on high. But this is a local service, a commercial one, and we ought to have a say.

Phew – that’s expressing the anger and frustration of many people.

Some planning applications were considered. What many people in the village do not realise is that it is always worth sending any concerns to the PC as well as to ECDC. Without any background information it is often difficult for any council to make a well informed decision on a 3 to 5 minute scan of plans. At one time I believe plans were circulated before a meeting which allowed a little more time for discussion and even a site meeting. On the other hand the PC has always felt aggrieved that its views have carried little weight with ECDC Planning. This does not mean they would not like more information.

It was reported that an unknown “someone” had tripped over in the car park and had complained. The PC was concerned. This was during open question time and a rude voice from the gallery said that anyone who tripped over in that car park must have been very clumsy and should not be allowed out on the public highway. In this increasingly irritating “blame culture” maybe the intervenor was right.

Alastair Everitt

**The Annual Village Meeting
will be on Tuesday, 25th May 2010
at the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.**

This is your chance to put your views, ask questions or just find out more about what is happening in your Village or even more importantly what you would like to see happen in your Village!

You make the agenda, so please let your Clerk know of any subject you would like to be included by Monday, 17th May 2010.

News from Wicken Fen



Spring has well and truly sprung and those prepared to head to the fen early in the morning will witness one of nature's greatest phenomenons – the dawn chorus.

The dawn chorus reaches a crescendo in early May as native songbirds such as blackbirds, robins and wrens are joined by migrant species such as warblers and chiffchaffs who have returned to the fen to breed. Male birds sing to attract a mate and to stake their territory to warn rival males away. Besides songbirds, don't forget to listen out for the 'boom' of the bittern or the 'drumming' snipe. To experience the dawn chorus at its best aim to get into position an hour before sunrise and bring plenty of warm clothing as it can still be quite cold in the early morning. For those who struggle to break free from the arms of Morpheus, why not join our Wardens for a **Dusk Chorus Walk** as the birds settle down to roost on Friday 28 May starting at 7.30pm.

Down at the fen we are celebrating after being highly commended in the first ever Rough Guides Accessible Britain Awards. The awards reward efforts made by visitor attractions across the UK to ensure that visitors with disabilities enjoy an inclusive, inspiring and accessible experience. The judges commented that "Wicken Fen, has achieved a near impossible task – making the Fens wheelchair accessible. The walks, hides and amenities are all fully accessible, which allows people to get face to face with nature at its most wild. Being able to engage with nature is a pleasure that is denied to many – thankfully Wicken Fen is there to enable disabled people of all abilities to get out and enjoy their surroundings. Phenomenal work."

Visitors and Trust volunteers have recently constructed a living willow play area for children between the Visitor Centre and Café. The structure designed by local weaver, Nadine Anderson, incorporates a maze of enclosed tunnels with portholes and an open play area, which will also be used for story telling. The living structure will eventually 'green up' when the willow comes into leaf.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our community tree planting days at White Fen over the winter. We managed to plant over 1200 trees – further planting sessions are planned for next winter, but hopefully we can enjoy a long hot summer first. Elsewhere on the Vision lands local graziers will be returning their livestock to Burwell and Tubney Fens in the next few weeks. Oily Hall is about to be fenced in preparation for grazing in early summer. Closer to home, two Konik pony foals have been born in recent weeks, taking our herds of free roaming ponies and cattle to 100 animals. The animals can be seen on Bakers and Guinea Hall Fen or for a close-up look why not join Grazing Warden, Carol Laidlaw on her **Konik Pony Walk** on Saturday 15TH May at 10.30am.

The geocaches which were hidden on the Vision lands at the beginning of April have proved extremely popular with visitors. The co-ordinates for each cache can be found at www.geocaching.com If you are new to geocaching and would like to hire a GPS receiver or would like a demonstration, please contact Community Warden, Emma Shepherd at the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.

At the beginning of the month we are hosting an exhibition of the stunning wildlife photography of local photographer, Jeff Harrison, from Saturday 1st – Monday 3rd May. Our popular boat trips along beautiful Wicken Lode in our traditional fen lighter will also run every weekend and Bank Holiday from Saturday 15th May until 26 September.

Hope to see you at the fen soon

Howard Cooper
National Trust Wicken Fen

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Saturday 19 June, 7.30pm

Returning by popular demand.....



KEITH PEARSON'S COUP de GRASS

**4-piece bluegrass band
featuring World Champion Harmonica player**

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall
with support from local performers**

**Tickets £7.50/children £5 from Andrew Noyes
01638 743864; noveshome@tiscali.co.uk**

www.keithpearson.co.uk



SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

proudly presents

‘Trial by Jury’ by Gilbert and Sullivan

and

‘The Zoo’ by Rowe and Sullivan

Wednesday 9th – Saturday 12th June 2010

Evening performances at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm

Downing Farm, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NB

Ticket prices Wednesday and Thursday £8, Friday and Saturday £10, matinee £5,
from Kari Karolia 01638 745490 or kari.karolia@gmail.com

For further information see www.sbstgands.co.uk or contact info@sbstgands.co.uk

FREECYCLE

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

Offers

20 large (~6 inches) goldfish. Ann/Arthur c811280.

7 Kilner jars for bottling fruit – old style with glass lids and metal screw top – needs new metal tops. Janet 01638 741756 (daytime)

Wanted

Your old light fittings, brown bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Still looking for a postcard rack. Carousel if possible. Greenhouse up to 8ft long. Will dismantle and take away; George 07895064727.

Some more radios please for an art project - any age, preferably working order but must at least make some sort of sound please! Robert, robertgood@aol.com.



Village Events 2010

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



CHURCH SPRING CLEANING



Those of you who have entered St. Mary's recently will have noticed how spic and span it is looking, this is thanks to a small group of valiant workers who spent the Saturday morning before Palm Sunday giving it a good Spring Clean ready for Easter, to whom we are most grateful, a special thanks also to Michael Cazenove and Andrew Camps who some how removed the highup cob-webs

Many visitors comment on our well maintained church, which is in no small way partly due to the small band of people who take it in turn each week to clean it [several of whom are now not in the first bloom of youth!] ARE THERE ANY OF YOU OUT THERE who would be willing to help us about an hour every 7 or 8 weeks ? The actual time is flexible you can fit it in when it suits you. You don't have to be a church attender, just someone with a community spirit and a bit of elbow grease, male or female. Please give me a ring if you are able to help

Kate Child
743983

ADVANCE NOTICE

For those friends and neighbours who live in the vicinity of the Village Hall, would you all please kindly note that there will be a private party on the evening of Saturday 15th May. There may be a risk of drifting smoke and some noise so please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.



Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.

The Village Hall Management Committee



Tel: 01353 723777

Fax: 01353 723778

Email info@careandrepair-ecambs.co.uk

Support for Vulnerable People needing building works to their homes

The Care and Repair Agency in this District is an independent organisation that helps elderly and disabled people to remain at home in safety and security. Local councils and charitable organisations help finance our office.

If you need some building work done in your home, are not sure how to organise it or need financial help then please read on

Handy Person Service

We have a handy person service that carries out small jobs (less than 4 hours work)-small carpentry jobs such as putting up shelves, small plumbing jobs such as dripping taps and overflows, small outside jobs such as repairs to gates and putting up washing lines. We charge £10 an hour plus materials.

The handyperson service will also put up grab rails and stair rails free of charge.

Grants from the District Council

We can help you organise repairs, improvements and adaptations to your home. If you need financial help to pay for the work we can advise you about the availability and criteria for grants and loans from the District Council and Social Services.

The Council have limited resources but there are small grants available for repairs that need to be done to make your home safe to live in. Examples could be leaking roofs, plumbing leaks, dangerous electrics, cold homes. There are also repayable grants available for larger jobs: these are interest free and get repaid when the house is sold.

Grants for Adaptations

There are grants available to help you carry out adaptations to your home such as providing a level access shower. These are subject to a Test of Resources, which is more generous than many people expect.

If you contact us we can advise you about the Test of Resources and how the system works. There are delays so you need to be patient if applying for a Disabled

Facilities Grant. The recommendations for the grant come from the occupational therapists and there is a waiting list for assessments.

Charities and Trusts

The Agency can also apply to charities and trusts if help is need to pay for repairs and other costs such as replacing a dangerous cooker. We have a small hardship fund for emergencies and when no other funding is available.

Paying for Work Yourself

We can organise work on your behalf-drawing plans, obtaining planning permission and building control approval and getting contractors quotations. If you are paying for the work yourself, we charge a fee agreed with you before any work starts.

Contacting Us

We offer free, confidential advice, coming to visit you in your own home to discuss what is needed and how we might be able to help. You can contact us at the address above.

Gardening Gloves

For all you keen gardeners, we would like to inform you that we are selling Atlas 370 Nitrile Touch gardening gloves in aid of MAGPAS. We think they are 'possibly' the best gardening gloves in the world, and believe me, we have road tested quite a few over the years! They are like surgeons gloves for the garden but because of the super strong and flexible nitrile coating on the palms and fingers they wear like iron! Giving your hands great protection and at the same time the "touch" that you need to get the job done. Price £4.99 a pair which includes £1 donation. Wonderful colours and sizing in small, medium and large.

We open our gardens in Fulbourn for the NGS, and all our surplus plants are sold in aid of MAGPAS too.

If you would like to give your gardening hands a real treat, then please call:

Kate and Charles Comins on 01223 882907.

The Old House, 2 Home End, Fulbourn





Neighbourhood Panels – continuing to progress

The latest South area Neighbourhood Panel meeting took place at Kirtling Village Hall on Wednesday, 31st March. Darren Dixon, Head of Community Service at the District Council confirmed that, as ever, **actions had been taken to address ALL the issues of concern raised by local residents** at the last Panel meeting (in January). Meetings with representatives from Newmarket Town Council and Forest Heath District Council have taken place, with a view to reps from both councils being co-opted on to the South area Panel.

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

A joint Panel meeting (with the Soham and East Panel) will be held at **Bottisham Village College on Wednesday, 7th July 7.00 – 9.00pm** to provide local residents with an **Update on the Wicken Fen Vision** – further details will be provided at the next Panel meeting (on 29th June)

Panel representatives from several parish councils in the South area are due to meet officers from the County's **Highways** team to discuss the impact of the traffic-calming measure at Quy, HCVs through villages, reducing speed limits in all villages [to 30 mph] and the A142/A14 junction (prior to reporting back to the next Panel meeting).

Darren Dixon explained the rationale and summary analysis of the **Place Survey**, 2008. Copies, of the comparison between the Panel area and the District as a whole, are available from Alan Williams at ECDC alan.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk or on 01353 – 665555.

Nikki King from the County's Area Locality Team explained the current **provision for young people**, the aims of youth work, outcomes for young people, who the Team work with and what the Team can offer to Parish/Town Councils. Representatives from Reach, Lode, Bottisham, Ashley and the Ellesmere Centre expressed interest in receiving help from Nikki and the Team, including help with applications for appropriate sources of funding. Nikki can be contacted on 07766 924738 or by e-mail at nicola.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Sgt Will Davis referring to the **Neighbourhood Profile** (March, 2010) outlined actions taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) to deal with **Combating and reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Burwell** **Reducing acquisitive crime across the whole Panel area**

The multi-agency ASB Action Group in Burwell has worked with an emphasis on engaging young people. While working to reduce ASB the police have managed to

reduce drug activity too in the area, with very significant quantities of drugs (in different forms) having been seized.

Total crime is down in the Panel area, **and reported ASB is down too** (to the lowest level since 2007).

A summary presentation about the **Speedwatch** scheme was given. From recent checks it was clear that Bottisham is being used as a 'rat-run', and 20% of drivers were speeding.

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

As ever, more volunteers are needed, please contact

Tony Jolley jolley@bottishampc.org.uk

or Mathew Shuter Mathew.Shuter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Priorities for action

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

taking preventative measures (in partnership with other agencies) to combat possible increases in seasonal ASB in the Panel area

For other partner agencies:

Fly-tipping

Progression of the Highways issues (see earlier in the article)

'Bus services in the Panel area – esp the 10, 10A and 12 services

Dog fouling esp. in Woodditton, Ashley and Burrough Green

If you are a dog owner/walker then please always clear up after your dog and dispose of the mess in the dog bins or at your home.

Specific issues raised from our villages

Advice to residents about door-to-door sales scams (need for Peddlers' Certificates, and for involvement of Neighbourhood Watch and County Council multi-agency Task Group).

Please come to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting at the Ellesmere Centre in Stetchworth on Tuesday, 29th June, 7.0 – 9.0pm. You will be very welcome!

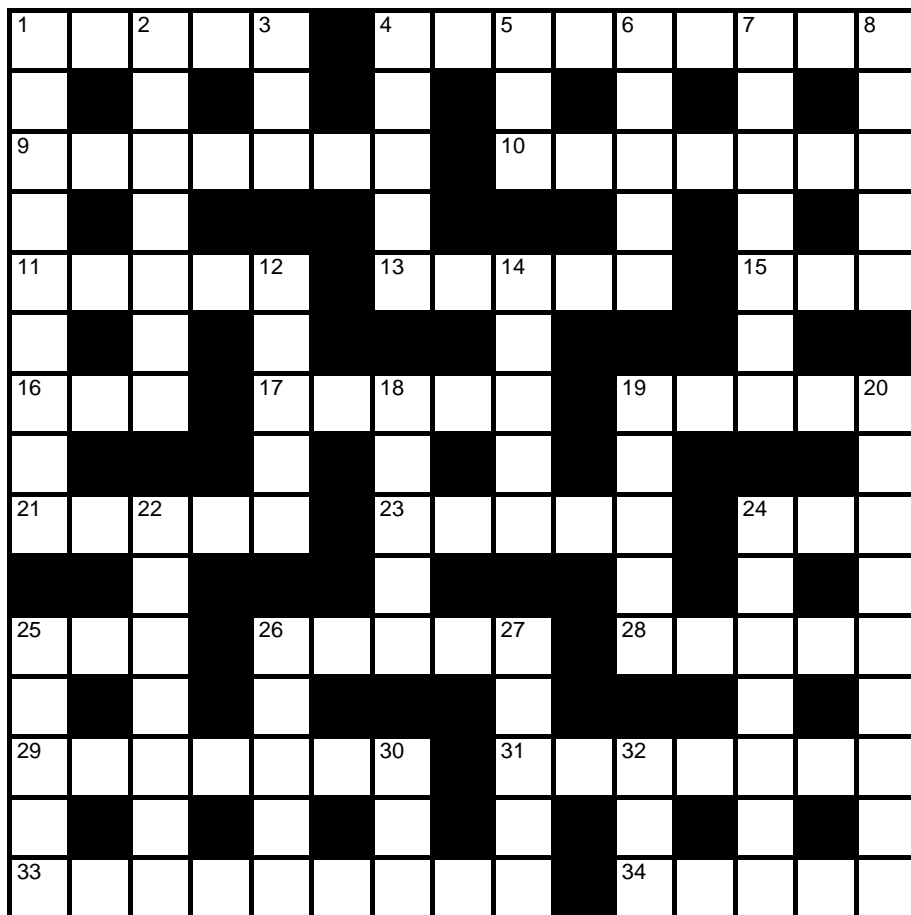
If you have an issue of concern, but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Cllr Andrew Camps or Alan Williams (Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator) alan.williams@eastcamb.gov.uk or by phone on 01353 – 665555.

Crossword Number 4

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a reprint of one of our early ones and is just for fun - **no prize this month**. As its compiler noted back then, it's "a straightforward cryptic crossword so you should have no problems with this one". Good practice then for next month when we hope to be back to normal (with the first correct solution received by the editors winning a free meal at The Red Lion).



Across

- 1 English cat reverses round one French horse (5)
- 4 One across maybe a high point in France (4,5)
- 9 Mono (3,4)
- 10 White knight lying within, every evening (7)
- 11 Twitch as MPs go mad (5)
- 13 Battered seats are no liability (5)
- 15 Large bird has internal problem using it (3)
- 16 Become exhausted but no time for outrage (3)
- 17 Smog I dispersed with a useful device (5)
- 19 With respect, outstanding (5)
- 21 Character of children with big ears (5)
- 23 Groom will write about engineers (5)
- 24 Step back fool (3)
- 25 Circular section of a lifeboat we hear (3)
- 26 Precise demand (5)
- 28 Singers in macho irresponsible setting (5)
- 29 Brigit Bardot, appropriate in her dress, gets the last of the slivovitz on the farm (7)
- 31 Only cab drives erratically onto platform (7)
- 33 Power? Press after everyone gets decoration (9)
- 34 Woods maybe where this cat is

found (5)

Down

- 1 Dash! We object to small time autograph (5,4)
- 2 Peacemakers meander then straighten out (7)
- 3 Integer? The deuce it is! (3)
- 4 Back intended action about an irrational mood disorder (5)
- 5 Sister runs back and forth (3)
- 6 Obtain beryllium first, father (5)
- 7 Do react differently to this design (3,4)
- 8 Get rodent with decoy put inside (5)
- 12 Hot and steamy like a large cup (5)
- 14 Item of jewelry worth many pounds (5)
- 18 Reddish brown cuttlefish (5)
- 19 Fright in Japan: icebergs perhaps (5)
- 20 Stored rye ruined by vandal (9)
- 22 Last month I stood before Babylonian god - what a noise! (7)
- 24 Continue in favour of pine (7)
- 25 Twisted, we ask, and lopsided? (5)
- 26 Who in Paris has record about kit (5)
- 27 Bill or percussionist might use one (5)
- 30 Close up quickly (3)
- 32 Allow rent to be paid (3)

SHOCK & ANGER AT THEFT OF EQUIPMENT



The Prospects Trust was the victim of a targeted and merciless break-in last week. The small charity and social enterprise has been providing farming & gardening work experience for people with learning difficulties for over 20 years at Snakehall Farm in Reach, Cambridgeshire. Between Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th April, thieves raided the farm of invaluable farm and gardening equipment.

The crime has shocked all connected to the Prospects Trust and has caused upset and concern for the co-workers attending Snakehall Farm on daily work placements. The garden team has been most affected with over £1,600 worth of vital equipment being stolen, including two Hayter push mowers, a Stihl strimmer and hedge cutter.

Will Hubbard, Garden Team Co-Manager said “I cannot believe the ruthlessness of these thieves, targeting a small charity has to be the lowest of the low. My garden team has been really affected as we rely upon these tools to provide a gardening service to local homes and businesses. The work we do not only supports our co-workers in developing skills and confidence but also brings in a modest income stream to support the work of the Prospects Trust”.

Marianne Baker, Development Officer said “The items stolen were only recently purchased through a grant from the Big Lottery. The bid took over 2 years in the planning and development and it was such a boon to Prospects Trust when we received the grant to buy new much needed equipment. The Trust is very small and runs very hand to mouth; the loss of this equipment at the beginning of the growing season has negatively affected us all. We are used to challenges but this theft has left us all downhearted”.

The thieves also damaged external farm gates, bolts, van locks and drained the fuel in their quest to bag their ill gotten booty, wreaking havoc to daily operations at the farm site. The crime was reported quickly to the police but the Prospects Trust has resigned itself to the fact that the items will not be recovered.

BON MOT NUMBER THREE

“Nothing is so powerful in drawing
the spirit of a man downwards
as the caresses of a woman”

St Augustine 401 AD

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, 8th April 2010

John Covill chaired the meeting with 4 Parish Councillors and 1 member of the Public in attendance.

Public Participation: There were no matters raised.

Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown reported. *Peter Hart asked Cllr Brown to make CCC/ County Farms aware of fly tipping on their land to the rear of properties on Pulpit Corner and Mill Hill.*

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson reported.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reported on correspondence.

Passenger Services – changes to bus service from 4/4/10

ECDC

Street naming and numbering – Land adj Water Tower, Mill Hill. *The Parish Council was asked for its views on two names put forward for the new development. These were "Orchard Close" & "Fen View".* The PC considered that neither name was relevant to the site and referred to their earlier suggestion of "Tower Close".

Removal of plastic bottle recycling.

Approval for Tree works in Conservation area - 25 High Street

Approval for Tree works in Conservation area - 46 High Street.

Planning

Refusal of Outline Planning Permission – 24 Fairview Grove – *construction of a single detached 4No bedrooms dwelling and garage.*

Notification of amendments for Land adjacent to Water Tower, Mill Hill – *amendments to plot 3 & site layout from reserved matters consent Ref: 09/00449/RMA, including entrance gates to private drive.*

Planning Permission – Land adjacent to Water Tower, Mill Hill – *as above.*

General

Request to remove tree on allotments.

School - Newsletter

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

Peter Hart confirmed he had emailed the Chairman of the VHMC about the lack of lighting for the village car park as reported at the March meeting and that he was waiting a reply.

Steve Kent-Phillips said he would prepare an end-of-year financial statement for the next PC meeting.

The Clerk reported an email received from CCC's Engineer confirming that Anglian Water had completed and inspected repairs to leaking pipework

over the old railway bridge. *Councillors noted that CCC had not revisited the bridge and inspected its structure following these repairs and agreed that this was essential. The Clerk was asked to contact CCC and ask that an inspection be carried out and a written report provided.*

Repairs to the Pound, Cage Hill: Although grant funding had been cut by ECDC, as costs had already been incurred by the Parish Council for this project, Cllr Alderson was able to secure a grant of £450. The PC thanked Cllr Alderson for his help.

The Clerk spoke with Rosie Burton, Conservation Officer for ECDC about the possibility of reducing the height of the wall to the level of the gate and she confirmed that this might be possible but would require Listed Building Consent. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to complete an application form and submit for LBC and obtain revised quotations to take down and rebuild the left hand side of the wall to the reduced height.

Provision of Dog Bins in the Village: Following a meeting with ECDC's Dog Warden, the following locations were agreed:

Lower End - approx 4ft from 30mph flashing speed sign

Top of Fairview Grove – grass 'island'

Top of Cage Hill – opposite Green Head Road junction

Top of Station Road - close to give way sign (facing inwards)

Village Car Park – Request for Disabled Parking Bay & Surface Work: It was agreed that to resurface the car park would be too costly and not practical but that a sign would be erected for disabled parking close to the side doors of the Village Hall.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Report:

Further to the notification from BT about the removal of the phone box on the High Street, it was brought to the Clerk's attention that the phone box was listed. Upon research of the Parish Council minutes, the Clerk found confirmation that the phone box was listed by the Department of National Heritage on the 9th March 1993. The Clerk was asked to inform BT. The Clerk confirmed that she had successfully completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Geoffrey Woollard said he had attended the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on the 31st March at Kirtling and found it to be a positive meeting.

Open Question Time:

General discussion.

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

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 13th May 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

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



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

March 2010

Adult and Communities Policy Development Group met to consider a number of items. With the demise of the Learning and Skills Council, the County Council has to decide whether to take on the role of lead body. The PDG felt that the County Council should actively seek this role and also considered how informal adult learning should fit into the education landscape. The PDG also received a presentation from Dr Liz Robin on the annual Public Health Report.

Following training I participated in my first appeal hearings on home to school transport – one in Huntingdon and one in March. These appeals are where parents are disputing the County Council decision to refuse to pay for transport under the funding policy are can be quite involved cases.

A meeting was held with contractors over the access to Burwell Village College playing field for the carnival, with associated improvements to the sports centre car park. The work is scheduled to be completed over the Easter holidays.

A “Giant” sculpture was unveiled at Burwell House as part of a Community Arts project, which was a pleasure to attend.

I attended my first meeting of the Local Government Association Rural Commission in London, with supply of affordable housing and the need to keep local health facilities open high on the agenda. Economic development and supply of services in rural areas were also discussed.

I have continued to raise a number of areas of complaint with Stagecoach over the revised bus timetable and hope to have more to report next month.

The full County Council met on 30 March, with road maintenance the main agenda item of local interest.



WI Notes

After a short time on General Business we settled down to discuss the Resolution that 'This Meeting urges H.M Government to introduce clear & mandatory country of origin labelling on all meat, poultry & fish products sold in this country'. A lively discussion ensued and it was a unanimous decision to endorse the proposal. We then continued with a Fish & Chip supper followed by a Quiz, so both minds and bodies were replete.

Our next meeting is the Group Meeting on 17th May at 7.30pm at the Gardiner Memorial Hall in Burwell, when the speaker is Nick Thomas, a freelance comedy writer. Do come – you would be most welcome at this and any of our meetings.

Betty Fox

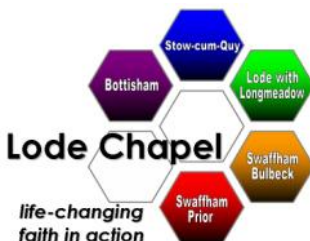
Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

Our Mothers' Union meeting in March welcomed back Susan Baker who gave a most relaxed and interesting talk on Parenting in the Community. The programme celebrates its 10 year anniversary on 12th May in Haddenham Church Hall. Susan started by explained the progress and growth of the Mothers' Union Parenting Programme since her previous visit last year, and how a number of new facilitators are currently being trained throughout the county. Susan's presentation concentrated on the courses held for the parents of teenagers, and she explained to us that one of the most important issues to be addressed was that of listening skills. The course gives parents the chance to discuss with others everyday problems and gives support in realising they share similar hopes and fears. Susan concluded with a most appropriate and delightful poem entitled 'Listen' and a prayer for parents and grandparents. Following this our 'Spring' theme Bring and Buy Stall was held during tea.

On 6th May the Mothers' Union Deanery service will take place in Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham at 2.30pm.

Our regular programme meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. In May Wendy Lovell will be coming to speak on "A Visit to France". You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Ann Langran 01223 812797



One Cross Makes All the Difference!

Whether you're reading this before or after Thursday 6th May could well determine if you agree with that statement or not. Voting in a general election is our opportunity to have a say about who represents us in the halls of Westminster. Although we may sometimes feel that our vote doesn't really count, I

hope that the turnout is high, and that most people have made the effort to go into the polling booths to put a cross on the ballot paper. I'm confident, however, that regardless of who resides in 10 Downing Street, the real problems that we face will continue to challenge us. I'm not talking about global injustice or climate change (which are real issues that do need tackling) – but something even more fundamental.

The story goes that *The Times* once asked readers the question "*What's wrong with the world today?*" and amongst the answers they received was this short and simple response. "*Dear Sir,*" the letter went, "*I am. Yours, G.K. Chesterton*". In these few witty words the famous Christian writer has, with humility, managed to get to the root of the problem – it's me, and (dare I suggest it) you. We like to put the blame elsewhere – like on MPs who are over exuberant in their claiming of expenses – but as I heard many a radio phone-in contributor admit, many of us would probably have done the same thing given the opportunity!

The recently departed Michael Jackson summed it up nicely in his pop song '*Man in the Mirror*' with the words: "*If you wanna make the world a better place... take a look at yourself, and then make a change*". Perhaps he was quoting Ghandi who said something similar: "*You must be the change you want to see in the world*". I wish it was as easy as that – I'm sorry to say, along with the apostle Paul, that "*what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing*" (Romans 7:19).

The fact is, whoever we vote into office is going to be human – which means, like me and you, they are going to be fallible, and liable to failure. But that's where one cross really does make all the difference! The story of Good Friday and Easter, which we celebrated last month, is all about the power of God overcoming all that is messed up in our world. On the cross Jesus offers each one of forgiveness for the things we've done wrong, and in his resurrection He makes the power of a living God available to all who seek to follow him. I know the problems around me, and within me, are much too big for me to tackle by myself, but with God's help, perhaps in a small way I can be a part of changing the world for the better.

Simon Goddard

Lode Chapel Events - Sundays in May

Sun 2nd, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at Bottisham Primary School with crèche and groups for children and young people)

Sun 2nd, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 9th, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 16th, 23rd, 30th, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

Web: www.re-new.me.uk / www.lodechapel.org.uk

Dear Friends,

Thursday May 6th represents a red-letter day in the life of our nation – the day we go to the polls.

In the build-up to this election there is much talk about us returning to traditional Christian family values. There is a story about a Christian baroness, who lived in the highlands of Nairobi, Kenya, who had a young Kenyan who was employed as her houseboy. After three months he asked the baroness to give him a letter of reference to a friendly sheik some miles away. The baroness, not wishing the houseboy to leave just when he had learned the routine of the household, offered to increase his pay. The lad replied that he was not leaving for higher pay. Rather, he had decided he would become either a Christian or a Muslim. This was why he had come to work for the baroness for three months. He had wished to see how Christians acted. Now he wanted to work for three months for the sheik to observe the ways of the Muslims. Then he would decide which way of life he would follow. The baroness was stunned as she recalled her many indiscretions in her dealings with the houseboy. She could only exclaim, 'Why didn't you tell me at the beginning!'



Christian family values are based on the ten commandments:

*I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
You shall have no other gods before me.*

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. (Exodus 20:1-17)

Even though those commandments were given to us thousands of years ago they still are very relevant to human society today, and provide an ideal framework by which human beings should live in harmony and understanding.

Jesus Christ summed up the ten commandments this way: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength”. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30/31)

Then he said “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 15:34) And he demonstrated what he meant by washing his disciple's feet.

Christian values are really about unselfish love and concern for others, and our country needs that ideal more than ever. Elections are about many things, but maybe we should really hope and pray that this election will indeed be about creating a more caring and loving society.

May God bless you all,

David

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior May 2010
Sun 2	11:00am Family Communion
Sun 9	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 12:00 Rogation Service
Thu 13	7:30pm Holy Communion (Ascension Day)
Sun 16	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 23	11:00am Matins
Sun 30	6:30pm Evensong [†]

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Dates for Your Diary May 2010

Mon	3	Reach Fair (http://www.reach-village.co.uk/reach_fair_2010.html)
Tue	4	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	6	Election Day
Thu	13	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Sat	15	Konik Pony Walk, Wicken Fen, 10.30am
Mon	17	WI, Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell, 7.30pm
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	25	Village Meeting, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Fri	28	Dusk Chorus Walk, Wicken Fen, 7.30pm

Village Clubs & Societies

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