

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIV Number 11 November 2010



Editorial

Goodbye and many best wishes to Mike Phillips this month, who after 20 years service as *Crier* Treasurer and erstwhile Business Manager is finally hanging up his hat (see *Letters*).

Our treasurer's lot has never been a *very* happy one, but although frequently ignored completely by the profligate editorial team, Mike has done sterling work in keeping us on the straight and narrow. He will be a very hard act to follow — who can possibly take his place? Volunteers, get in touch!

Not the only hard act to follow in the village at the moment, the Harvest Supper team are also stepping down, and with a most appropriate swan song — a 3-course meal for eight that was auctioned at the last Harvest Supper. Plus, Babies and Toddlers are also in need of more help — so it's volunteering hats for all this month—could it be you? Think about it!

The inaugural Choir Practice got off to a good start with nine would-be choristers and more men than women. Richard Hinitt promises to be an excellent choir-master, and the whole idea great fun. So if you, like the editress can only sing 3 notes, not to bother — give it a go!

Meanwhile, some email funnies. Our District

Councillor Alan Alderson frequently sends a report to the *Crier*, but it rarely appears at our end, and the same seems to have happened to Youth Club last month. If you have sent copy to the *Crier* and it wasn't published don't assume the editors have got it in for you, contact our *Complaints Department* — we need to sort out these gremlins.

Also, many apologies to James Willmott whose ploughing activities were unfairly impugned in last month's Crier (wrong field) and meanwhile, readers will be interested to know just who the National Office of Surveys and Statistics has chosen as the most representative person in the village to interview: our very own Reporter!

Don't miss Sylvie Short's first snippets from her forthcoming book on the history of Swaffham Prior in this edition — perhaps you might have things to tell her?

See you Adventing, Quizing and Christmas Marketing!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Autumnal Stroll by Weedon Grossmith

Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

The Crier — Treasurer

Having been associated with the *Crier* for twenty years as Business Manager but mainly as Treasurer I think it is about time that someone else has the opportunity to participate. Consequently I offer my resignation.

I should be happy to shadow a successor while they settle in. If necessary I shall continue until the end of this *Crier* financial year, that is 30 April2011 but no longer.

D.H.M.Phillips

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2010

Thank you very much to everybody who came, or sent donations to this year's Macmillan Coffee Morning. Once again you have all shown how generous you are by raising £403.40p. Since the first Macmillan Coffee Morning in 1994 we have handed over to Macmillan Cancer Support a grand total of over £7,500 which is a fantastic amount! This year's had a celebratory air to it and there were lots of smiles and lively chat. There were plenty of tempting cakes to buy, contributed by so many of you, and the raffle table was groaning with numerous donated prizes.

Thank you for your donations, gifts and your friendly company. See you next year on Friday 30th September, 2011.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Newcomers' Views

We read with interest the latest *Crier*, which I must say is the best village magazine I have ever read. I was completely surprised to see a photo of myself coming joint first in the dog show. At my wife's command I proudly wore my rosette for the rest of the event strolling around with other old dogs.

I enjoyed the auction where others joined me in transforming it back to the 60's when we had real money, good music and everything was swinging, so they say. The bottle of wine I won for 30 bob was very pleasant, but, to think that 30 bob would have brought 15 pints of beer in those days, which equates to £45 at today's prices. The whole event was a good bit of fun which is so important in these days of gloom.

Although we only bought a property and moved to Swaffham Prior in September we have been coming to the village since 1986, when we started caravaning at Ivy Farm. I thought I knew the village well, but, after reading the *Crier* quoting this and that "drove" we are lost. Is there a map available to help us get to know the area?

Geoff & Sharon Lamport 0208 482 2185

Welcome to the village, Geoff and Sharon! The large scale ordinance survey map (Explorer 226, Ely & Newmarket) has all the drove names and the Village Map (in front of the Village Hall) has some. Eds.

History of Swaffham Prior

So this book....you know, the one about Swaffham Prior?....What's happening? Is she doing it?.

Yes she is and it's a long job! — in fact I'm just beginning to realise the enormity of what I've taken on!! Why does the answer to every question raise ten more questions? But am I going to cut corners? No, I shall try hard not to. I am very grateful to everyone who has helped me so far, in fact one of the joys of this project has been meeting new people as well as renewing old acquaintances. Someone once said you should never go back, but I am discovering that 'going back' fills in a lot of gaps. It's great to discover what happened to people I lost touch with after Primary School; to learn about their families and see what sort of lives they are leading.

One of my main sources of information has been The *Criers*, the first of which was launched in January 1977. I am working my way through them and each one takes somewhere between an hour and an hour and a half of careful reading, as skimming would mean missing something of importance. I have reached 1997, my files are bulging and the whole exercise has been absolutely fascinating, but I must confess I shall be glad when I arrive at 2010. I think it's a bit like being pregnant; I am plodding towards the end of a long haul and I know the next stage is going to be fraught with its own difficulties but hey, bring it on – I've had enough of this bit! I am looking forward to the actual writing, sifting through all the research material and bringing it together, but for now I'm still digging!

Caroline has suggested I share a snippet or two with you at this stage, so here goes:

June 1911 School's were granted an extra week's holiday in honour of the Coronation of King George V.

July 16th 1912 'The Flower Show took place at Swaffham Prior in glorious weather.....'. However, the article goes on to say that for the first time in the history of these shows one of the judges was accused of favouritism. This is strongly denied, but obviously spoiled the afternoon.

July 1917 'The Village Feast was, for once, quite invisible. Thanks to the War, there was not even a sweet stall, much less a roundabout or a swing-boat.'

The school was closed from October 18th to November 15th on account of the influenza scourge. At least 90% of the children were ill.

And my absolute favourite so far:

November 1922 "Miss S. Crisp has been collecting for the Royal Eastern Counties Institution for Idiots, Imbeciles and the Feeble-minded at Colchester and was able to send £2 6s 6d".

Political correctness is obviously a modern invention! I was so taken aback by this that I read it out to a friend. She, like me, was aghast but couldn't help laughing. It became twice as funny when she added, quite innocently, a few moments later,

"Oh that reminds me, the children's school reports are due out today!!"

If you have anything which you would like to see included in the book, don't hesitate to get in touch. Meanwhile back to it.....

Sylvie Short

See page 10 for our review of Sylvie's latest book The Bubble. Eds.

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Sports & Recreation Club

The above Club needs to recruit a further member to replace Ian Dalton who recently resigned from his position, ideally someone with an interest in the Village and recreational activities. The Club was formed many years ago to act as Custodians of the funds donated from the Fenland Country Fairs. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact our Chairman, Ted Hurst on 01638 742470.

John Berry Secretary, 07780980544

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities' Christmas Grant

Once again it is time to remind all who consider themselves eligible for our Christmas grant that they should apply as soon as possible.

As usual the majority of these applications will come from pensioners, particularly those who have to manage on the basic pension, but if you are in particular need, or know anybody who may be in difficulty, but is unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that this assistance is available at all times, not merely at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Waters

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BEFORE 20TH OCTOBER when the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced by our Chancellor. Before this a small proposed pension age reform in France had brought out onto the streets over one million people. While here in England the child benefit reform had also stirred up a pretty heady response. For example, on the 9th October in the newspaper people love to hate or love to love – the *Daily Telegraph* – Judith Woods wrote that "Now, on the Coalition's watch, the middle classes are

The mind boggles. This nautical reference either means Judith was once a wren or she is married to a Naval Commander. And where would this interesting behaviour take place. At one time one might have thought "down the fen" (but not now of course) or, if in Cambridge, in the once reputedly lascivious De Freville Avenue.

being expected to survive on ship's biscuits, sodomy, and the lash."

Keep your eyes and ears open.

The Coalition has also had a noticeable influence on the Parish Council, though not along the lines of Judith Woods – I hope. For the first time the PC expressed serious doubts about the effectiveness and value for money of the various initiatives which cross its path.

Take Neighbourhood Panels. Allen Alderson has always defended their value and thought the last one really needed another half hour. Not at all said Geoffrey. "I've been to " Parish Plans...
together with
Neighbourhood Panels
they should be bundled
into a sack, and
dropped into the River
Cam."

every single one and am no more enamoured now than when they started." He went on – and I now use my words rather than his spirited statement – "Goodness me, I wonder why on earth I go."

Allen made some attempt to defend them by saying "We can help the PCs by giving them more information." Looking at the list of official correspondence and bumph sent out each month I'd say the PC could do with a lot less information, and be much the better off without it. Steve now entered the fray and said the Panel had been misnamed, and that it should be "Local Police Liaison". At one time 6-7 police always attended though now it's slightly less. Steve maintained that apart from telling the police our concerns (do we have any at present?) the rest is useless. He said that they should "trim away all the other functions and just have the police involvement."

Allen continued his defence and said that it all cost very little as the police and many others attended in their own time and were not paid. The fact that it is cheap does not mean it has any value. And couldn't the people attending be doing something more useful. And who controls it, books the halls, writes, prints and circulates the reports, and takes up invaluable space in the *Crier*. Someone must be paid for this and he may even have a desk at ECDC. And no-one mentioned the one time obsession of the Neighbourhood Panel with Dog Poos. How would Allen have defended that?

But Neighbourhood Panels, like other of John Prescott's initiatives may linger on for some time. One might have supposed that Parish Plans had been totally discredited and had had their day. But five weeks ago Reed, in North Hertfordshire, began working on a Parish Plan. There are fewer than 300 people in Reed. What a waste of time and money! There are still people employed by ACRE, by ECDC, and by central government somewhere – working on

It was so good to witness the PC flexing its common sense muscles. And these appeared again when discussing ACRE's wish to address the PC and to hold a "Housing Needs Survey for Swaffham Prior." Geoffrey said he was "not entirely trustful of the basic science of surveys" and with this I entirely agree and would like to make a personal digression which also has an importance for the village. So please bear with me.

A few weeks ago I received a notice from the Office for National Statistics

saying I had been selected from over 60 million people "to help shape Britain today and tomorrow." Many times I have been selected by Readers Digest, some Chief in Nigeria, etc and I did not reply. Two days before the PC Meeting a really striking attractive lady rang the doorbell at night, established I was alive and in good health, and asked if she could sit down with me and ask me some questions. She was from the Office for National Statistics and had tracked me down. I, like Geoffrey, said I doubted the science of the survey. She was disappointed and said I was the only person selected from Swaffham Prior. This alarmed me, and I suspect it will alarm many people in the village even more to know that I was the selected representative of local opinion. This also means that Swaffham Prior is not helping to "shape Britain" because they "cannot replace me with another household as that would upset the balance of our sample." Elisabeth said that she would have enjoyed answering the questions – but this would not have done at all, and gently I had to explain to her that she was not the Chosen One. Was I right or just a curmudgeon?

Now to return to the proposed ACRE Housing Needs Survey. Steve wondered "what is the point of having another survey." He also said that "it was bound to cost something" and asked "who was going to pay?" "A very good question" said Geoffrey, and complimented Steve on being so voluble at the meeting. "Ah!" said Steve, "I had to down a pint in thirty seconds to get here on time." And so he did but in slightly less than thirty seconds. Paul wondered "what new could be added if she did come to speak". Even Allen wondered about the need for a survey as the important facts were already established. He also observed that "we will never be able to catch up with the needs."

Steve pointed out that ACRE was working with nine Housing Associations and that it just seemed a punt for one of them to get hold of some land. It was pointed out that they were charities, to which the response was that they still have to compete like any business. Steve was also disappointed that though Swaffham Prior had been selected as "a priority area" ACRE had put us in South Cambs rather than East Cambs. He just wondered whether every PC had received a letter.

David Almond had not said anything until towards the end of the argy-bargy when he said in a very calm reasonable voice that he thought "it might be useful to have a person from ACRE to speak." Everyone appeared to be stunned by such quiet reason, there appeared to be an agreement, to which was added Steve's rider that they would only hear her if it cost no money and the PC could bypass the survey.

Previously Allen had reported that there had been a cut in the funding of CAB. He regretted this and truly it is terrible news as CAB is one of the really important institutions. Can't ECDC dump Parish Plans and Neighbourhood Panels and pass the money saved to CAB? Or does ECDC receive special funding if it complies with John Prescott's ideas.

Other news from Ely is that the CCT cameras for Soham and Ely will now be controlled from Ely and not Cambridge, thereby becoming not only more efficient but saving £85,000. Why not give some of that to CAB? Or save £14,000 (or was it £45,000) by making people buy their own black sacks. And give that to the CAB. It

shows what can be done.

If you wish to know about the rest of the meeting you'll have to read the Clerk's report – not necessarily the abbreviated one in the *Crier* – but the full version which is posted on the Village Notice Board. For some time Karen has feared that the ageing notice board will fall on top of her. No-one wishes this to happen so a new one has been agreed which may be a little closer to the railings making to easier to read the full minutes. It is possible that the Conservation Officer will not be involved and that planning permission is not required.

Alastair Everitt



Apologies to James Willmott

James used to write the most interesting and informative reports on Local Agriculture. We all loved them. They dried up when he said "There is nothing more to say". I am sure he is wrong and it is to be hoped that he will contribute another one or two – say once a quarter, to match the seasons?

But where James is right is when he says that Newton Farms has never owned the field just beyond the kissing gate on the footpath currently in the news. And neither has James been responsible for farming it for some years. It is now being farmed by another contractor.

But though James is no longer involved it does appear to be the same ploughman who turns over every possible inch of earth available. So, apologies to James, and also to the owner of the field who must have the same problem of trying to control an over zealous ploughman.

Meanwhile the walker must continue to struggle along the slope, before facing the long grass.

Alastair Everitt

St Cyriac's Refurbishment

Thursday 14th October was a very special day in our village life, in that the new alterations to the interior of the church attracted many visitors, some from the Churches Conservation Trust but many from the village.

To describe the meeting I feel it right to start at the end of the evening and work backwards. The school choir really stole the whole show; the enthusiasm of the youngsters and their obvious enjoyment of providing entertainment were plain to see. Even the very youngest knew the words, and joined in with gusto.

Under the direction of Mrs Rachel Holt, the music seemed to flow from those young voices with clarity and accuracy more associated with adult choirs. To keep over forty "under tens" in time and in tune gave us all pleasure. It was not only the top line singing that came across, as the descant and harmonies were present and audible. The choice of music was not my generation, but that did not detract in any way from my enjoyment.

The audience, or perhaps it should be the congregation, showed their appreciation with loud applause after each item, which seemed to energise the choir even more. We have had much music in this church in the past, provided by the Cambridge Voices, and these school children rank in their special way along with their senior choristers as excellent entertainers.

A Trustee of the trust was present, and expressed his hope that this building, now equipped with all the necessary facilities, would be an asset to the village, and find users from the wider community. The previous speaker told us all what we knew already. That was just as well as he did not get the feeling of the difficulty of the spoken word, and was very difficult to hear.

The Vicar, who welcomed the Trust members, the architect Henry Freeland, and

other important people in his usual friendly manner, opened the whole evening. He gave a brief history of the way the alterations had progressed, and the source of our contribution to the cost without giving away the total expenditure!!

The first sign of any activity was the ringing of the bells. Turning them through ninety degrees, and replacing the bearings on which they hang have refurbished these. My only sorrow was that only two out of the six ringers lived in the village; but we are all grateful for the renovation by the trust. So there is it, all smart and done up, and ready for use. Let us hope it is well used, and that many more enjoyable events will be staged in this ancient building.

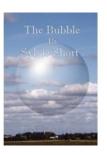
John Norris

The Village in a Nutshell?

A review of "The Bubble" by Sylvie Short

If Paradise existed on earth, would we enjoy it or destroy it? This is a question raised by this unusual book. Sylvie Short is a former teacher who grew up in Swaffham Prior and went to school with Ruth Stinton and Ruth's sister, Mary Cook. She is at present writing a history of Swaffham Prior which will be published next year.

Meanwhile her new book, **The Bubble**, is apparently not about the two Swaffhams and Reach though the fictional Upper, Middle and Lower West Side may often ring a chord. At one level it is just "an everyday story of country folk"; at another level it is an allegory.



Set in the near future (2020) life for the villagers is the familiar high-pressured scramble to acquire and achieve. Only one or two of the older residents cast wistful glances back to a time when people seemed kinder to each other. All this changes on a cold January day with the descent of **The Bubble**. Clearer than glass, harder than diamonds and impenetrable, it cuts off the villagers from the world they know and belong to. Panic ensues: will the air run out; will the water, gas and electricity be cut off? This is followed by confusion. Why does nobody from the outside world – family members, work colleagues - miss them and try to get in touch? Eventually outrage and panic give way to a calm resourcefulness. A new and fulfilling way of life is created under the guiding hand of a stranger. But who is he? And will their paradise be shattered by the corrupt and evil Gordon Golightly?

The Book Worm

"The Bubble" by Sylvie Short £6.99

Available from Amazon Books. Just google Amazon Books and type in the author.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

St Mary's and St Cyriac's, 4pm November 28th

With Ian de Massini's Cambridge Voices and readings from villagers, to be followed by mulled wine and mince-pies in St Mary's.



MINCE PIES

It is hard to believe that we will soon be thinking about mince pies again. Residents of Swaffham Prior will be aware that it is tradition for warm mince pies and mulled wine to be served after The Advent Service by Cambridge Voices, which this year will be on Sunday 28th November at 4.00p.m.



We usually serve in the region of 150 plus, so I should be delighted if you would kindly let me know how many you are able to provide not later than 26th November.

Kate Child 743983



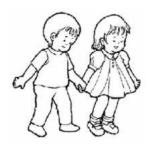
Harvest Supper 2010

The ingredients for a great Swaffham Prior Harvest Supper for sixty five or so people seem to be: a team of four willing organisers, two excellent young washer-uppers, ten volunteer salad makers, numerous spontaneous table setters, clearers and putter-awayers, one barman, one barmaid, one auctioneer, one MC, one inspired table decorator, several generous spud, pumpkin and squash donors, a range of raffle prize contributors and to cap it all off one rousing pianist, singer and all round entertainer. Our thanks to all of you for whatever you did to make the evening such a success. Each year this event proves to be more of a collaborative effort than the year before and this is its strength; people want to be involved. Those attending commented that this was one of the best Harvest Suppers yet – and it was as profitable as it was enjoyable. Together we raised £300 for St Mary's Church and another £200 - from the raffle and auction of a meal for eight people cooked by the Harvest Supper organising team to be delivered to the home of the successful bidder on a night of their choice - for Practical Action for their imaginative floating field system in Bangladesh (see http://www.practicalaction.org.uk/ our-work/ourwork floatinggardens).

The current organising team are standing down now to make room for "new blood". There is a great deal of support for this event in the village - and from folk that used to live here and just love to come back to join in – it just needs a group of people to pull it together. We have enjoyed the planning meetings in the Red Lion as much as the event itself, so it really is no hardship to take this on. (We are prepared to offer as much or as little support as required – we can discuss this at a handover meeting in the Red Lion!) And it is not just one for the ladies; any prospective Jamies, Gordons, Nigels or Hughs out there – now's your chance!!

Thank you for your support over the last few years; looking forward to Harvest Supper 2011.

Barb Mitchell, Janet Willmott, Mandy Kingsmill and Dee Noyes



HELP!

Help needed to run the Swaffham Prior Toddler Group! Do come on a Friday morning to see what we're all about. Contact Jessica Shakeshaft, tel: 01638 744266, m o b: 07990 592049 or e m a i l jess.shakeshaft@btinternet.com.

Jessica Shakeshaft

Village Hall Goes OnLine

The Village Hall Management Committee will launch a brand new website early in November, providing Swaffham Prior residents - and those further afield - with information about the Hall's location, facilities and up-coming events.

In addition to giving the prices for hiring the Hall, there will be detailed information about the sizes of the rooms, numbers of tables and chairs, kitchen facilities, parking arrangements, and a whole lot more. There is also a calendar with details of known bookings, and an online booking request form.

Browse the website at:

https://sites.google.com/site/swaffhampriorvh

and let us know what you think by clicking on the Feedback link and sending in your comments.

Chris Carrington

What's on at Anglesey Abbey?

November/early December

Exhibition: Glittering Prizes

From Weds 17th Nov to 16th Jan 2011, 11am-3.30pm

Enter a world of horse racing and special tributes as you take in the spectacular collection of silver cups and trophies collected by Lord Fairhaven, and discover his passion for sports and collecting.

7 December, 3-4pm, Chef's festive guide

The Chef of Redwood's Restaurant will demonstrate the art of boning a turkey to produce a turkey crown. Robinson Room. Free entry.

Christmas lunches - book soon!

Daily, 1 – 22 December 12-2.30pm. Booking essential. 01223 810092

Classic, waitress-served lunch with turkey, and all the trimmings in the Redwoods Restaurant. Sat/Sun, three courses, glass of wine. Adult £25, child £12.50

Special offer: come on weekdays and enjoy a two- course lunch for £12.50 (child £6.25). Wine not included.

Handbag Theft

On Thursday September 23rd around 3:20pm somebody smashed my car window at Swaffham prior car park and took my handbag with wallet.

I am trying to get my papers including a USA permanent resident's card back. I put a £50 reward out for returning the card, or if someone finds the wallet on their walk....NO QUESTION ASKED !!!

Melanie Noll

07920 474057 or blkpugdog@hotmail.com

'We Shall Come Rejoicing!'

Over £400 for Charities from 'The Little Chapel in The Fen.'

The annual Harvest Service at 'The Little Chapel in The Fen,' near Upware, was held on Sunday afternoon and over £400 was raised for charities from the packed 'house' of about 90.

The charities supported were 'Help For Heroes' and the Swaffham Prior Scout Group, each of whom will receive £115. In addition, £170.55 was contributed for the Chapel's upkeep and maintenance.

This was the 126th Annual Harvest Service, the Chapel - a former Wesleyan Methodist place of worship in Swaffham Prior Fen - having been built and opened in 1884 to replace an earlier Chapel. 'The Little Chapel in The Fen' is now non-denominational and is kept going by a group of Trustees.

One of the Trustees, Mr Geoffrey Woollard, said that he was delighted with the outcome of this very special annual event where Fen people get together for a fine and joyful 'songs of praise' to celebrate the safe 'bringing in' of the harvest from the Fens.

The service was taken by Mr Peter Cockerton, of Little Thetford, who is another Trustee. Hymns sung were 'Shall we gather at the river?,' Come ye thankful people, come,' We plough the fields and scatter,' How great thou art!' Great is thy faithfulness, and 'Bringing in the sheaves.' The last lines of the latter include the following phrases:

'We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.' The words, 'We shall come rejoicing' are painted as a legend on the Chapel wall and a picture of this is attached as are three more.

One is of the decorated Chapel, one is of part of the 'packed house,' and one is of farmers Steve Munden and Geoffrey Woollard loading the produce prior to its delivery today (Monday) to the Burwell Day Centre, where one of the ladies was heard to exclaim, 'Christmas has come early!'

CHURCH CLEANING

Many visitors comment on how well cared for St. Mary's is. This is mainly due to a small group of volunteers (several not in the first bloom of youth) who take it in turns to clean the church on a weekly basis. It would be wonderful to have a few more volunteers (you don't have to attend services! just some-one, male or female any age with a bit of community spirit) who is willing to give about an hour every eight weeks or so. Times are very flexible, you can do it when it suits you, all equipment provided and initial guidance given. If you think you would like to help, please give me a call on 01638 743983

Kate Child

The Autumn Show

The Autumn Show returned on 11th September after a year's absence, and attracted almost one hundred entries of vegetables, fruit and preserves. Despite some rather negative weather forecasts, the sun remained out and the rain held off for the duration of the dog show (the warm-up act, reported in last month's Crier) and the vegetable produce show.

Judging of the many and varied entries was undertaken by the highly experienced John Norris and his young apprentice, Nathan Wrench, who, fortuitously, turned out to be a specialist in jam and chutney tasting.



Of the many categories, tomatoes and eggs were most heavily contested; Andy Mitchell coming out on top with his selection of tomatoes, and Margaret Arksey taking the top award for her alabaster white - and still warm - eggs. Several families entered produce in a range of categories: the Pumfreys and Mitchells each won three categories, but were narrowly pipped



by the Prestons with four winning entries.

After the heady excitement of judging, cream teas were served, and Alastair Everitt took up his gavel to auction off the produce: total takings were £109, the profits from which will be used in the upkeep of the Hall.

On a negative note, the organisers were reprimanded for one glaring error and an omission. It seems that having "cake" as a category is simply not good enough! We have taken this valid criticism to heart, and promise to do better next year. The omission was the lack of a sunflower category, which will make a return in 2011 - our apologies to those of you who were disappointed.



THE ENGLISH, THE ENGLISH THE ENGLISH ARE BEST

Do you know that Flanders and Swann are being introduced to children in some Primary Schools to illustrate wit and rhyme – as well as the jaunty music. This, their 'Patriotic Song', is obviously not mentioned. They take a look at the Irishman.

"The Irishman now our contempt is beneath
He sleeps in his boots and he lies through his teeth
He blows up policemen or so I have heard
And blames it on Cromwell and William the Third"

Crossword Number 73

Compiled by **OUNCE**

Sponsored by The Red Lion

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

4	0	3	4	-	^	7	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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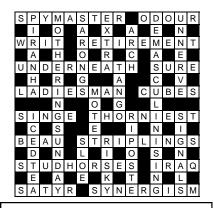
Across

- **9** Angry William Finch. (9)
- **10** Perch found in area with zero ostriches. (5)
- 11 Duck, red one, bearing back. (5)
- 12 Cox relies on mixed packing higher! (9)
- 13 One dimple, one little calorie it's just the same. (9)
- **15** Sprite is first class in small fish. (5)
- **16** Ascendant, ignoring son, exploded snapdragon. (7)
- 19 Addresses erroneous Scots account.(7)
- 21 Hiawatha vocalises mayhem within.(5)
- 22 Military unit battered RAF sect OK? (4,5)
- 25 Charlie in English rug in charge of pictures. (9)
- 27 Wrinkled inside old Kremlin educational system. (5)
- **28** Prepare one "do" for site of 25 events. (5)
- 29 Little Daniel and Little Henry embrace church with large ballroom. (5,4)

Down

- 1 Yielding, current princess admits church no good. (8)
- 2 "Faithful companion" looped around. (6)
- 3 Priest comes to grief due to liveliness of mind. (6)
- 4 Canned hits break spell. (10)

- 5 Special alliance found in Pan-Arab location. (4)
- **6** Beat from tangled optical fibre is extremely productive. (8)
- 7 Ludicrously, solicit quiet for party system. (8)
- **8** Rugged, raw beginner enters reading room. (6)
- **14** Jump after the first time adjustment. (4,6)
- 17 Before these French, commercial vehicle moves forward. (8)
- **18** Sounds like medicine man you had in mind for paper. (8)
- **20** Dialyse model crushed uniformly. (8)
- 21 Oriental torch ruined by Trojan. (6)
- 23 File on loud, ancient Queen. (6)
- **24** Unwary stumble on catwalk. (6)
- 26 Cartoonist Bill is neat. (4)
 Solution to crossword no. 72



Winners last month were James and Caroline Matheson, although they can't claim a prize. Where was everyone-else??



WI Notes

For our September meeting the speaker was Anne Datson who inspired us with a display of her own painted glass. After a very interesting talk about the history and processes involve in producing both plain and coloured glass, we had a demonstration of how glass painting is done. Members then took part in a workshop to decorate their own glass item (with various degrees

of success!) but I am sure some will be eager to continue this craft at home.

Our next meeting is on November 15th when our speaker will be Gabriele Riefenberg who is going to tell us about her experiences living among the women of Ladok in Northern India.

New members are always welcome to our friendly group or come as a guest (£3 per meeting).

President 01638 742224



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16 November, as usual at 8pm in the Village Hall when Mr Mike Day will be talking on 'Vegetable Varieties Today'. If you have not yet been to a meeting of the Village Gardeners why not give us a try? We are a friendly bunch and the refreshments at the end of the evening are

certainly worth waiting for!

Peter & Mary Hart

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union

At our September meeting John Roebuck came to speak about the work of the diocese of Mara and his visit to Tanzania. In 2009 John was one of the six Angelsey parishioners who visited Mara following the link formed between our benefice and the parish of Karukekere in the diocese of Mara. Mara is situated in the north of Tanzania between Lake Victoria and the Serengeti National Park. John presented a number of slides taken during the visit showing where the group stayed in Musoma, on Lake Victoria, and the many places visited within the diocese during their stay. The diocese works to help local communities to improve their daily living conditions. This includes providing water bore holes. Many women and children walk long distances to fetch and carry water anything up to a16 km. round trip. The bore hole that John visited had now cut down the longest trip to 4 kms. The Mother's Union Nisana provides an education pyramid in relation to nutrition, birth control, AIDs and vegetable growing.

Karukekere has 4,500 inhabitants with very few facilities in the village. There is

no electricity or running water. There is a primary school the buildings of which are shared by two separate schools, which take turns and swap between morning and afternoon classes each week. In total there are 1,200 pupils. At the time of John's visit the nearest secondary school was in Bauda several walking hours away. Although the Tanzanian government wants to improve secondary schooling and will provide school teachers it is up to the local communities to build the schools. The community of Karukekere had started to build a secondary school, but due to lack of rain and not being able to earn more money to buy materials the Anglesey benefice decided to support them in the project. A number of fundraising events have taken place and the proceeds donated towards the building of the school.

You are most welcome to join us at our meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. In November our speaker will be Hilary Sage who will entertain us with A Christmas Anthology.

Ann Langran 01223 812797

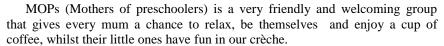
Are you a mum who

Is pregnant, has a newborn child or pre-school children?

Would like to make new friends and to share the challenges and joys of motherhood?

Enjoys being part of the community?

MOPs is for YOU!!!



We run differently from other toddler groups as mums can enjoy some grown up time whilst their children can enjoy the many activities on offer in Moppets. This is a crèche run in an adjoining room (so you are never far away!) by CRB checked carers where they play games, sing songs, listen to stories and get creative with a variety of craft activities.

Meanwhile mums can enjoy fresh coffee or tea and a great selection of snacks and cakes whilst listening to speakers or taking part in discussions. Alternate weeks, we offer a craft activities for mums to take part in if they choose. Last year we enjoyed, badge making, sewing, jewellery craft, glass painting and making bath bombs, amongst other things.

The MOPs team hope to provide all mums with a chance to relax, reflect, share any issues and receive support in a safe and caring environment.

Come along every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month to Burwell Baptist Church, Silver Street, Burwell from 10am-11.30am.

For more details, or simply to arrange for a friendly face to greet you, please call Alice on 01638 614727.



From our Local County Councillor David Brown

October started on County Council duty with a meeting of the Neigbourhood Panel, held at Burwell Village College. Problems regarding parking outside Bottisham Village College, and ASB associated with the Bottisham Village College site out of hours. These issues will be taken up with the relevant authorities.

The Highways Policy Review Group met twice in October and looked at the winter gritting arrangements and member comments on the policy in general. This will result in a paper going to cabinet shortly.

Full County Council met on 19 October. Various motions were debated including motions about:

the County Council PR budget, which Council felt should be dealt with through the budgetary process;

moves to GP consortia and the NHS white paper, where Council accepted the need for close scrutiny;

schools moving to academy status, wher Council felt that following recent Government annoucements about the Pupil Premium, schools need good information to help them decide whether academy status is right for the individual school.

As reported last month I have been asked by the Leader of the Council to act as Cabinet Assistant to help and advise the cabinet members looking after issues surrounding children and young people. Much of that work surrounds budget discussions and I have attended two meetings in October to look at ideas for budget savings. There is still some way to go for that work.

David Brown

Home for Christmas

Are you spending Christmas at home this year? Would you consider including an international student from a university in the UK in your plans? There are so many students here from China, India, and many other countries, who are unable to go back at Christmas. They would love to spend two or three days in a real home, rather than an empty hall of residence.

For many, Christmas will be an entirely new experience. Staying with you, they could find out what it is all about, as well as enjoying home-cooked food, joining in with your activities, and seeing a little of the country away from the campus. You do not need to live near a university, as many students are happy to travel to have this opportunity.

Your link with a student will be arranged by one of HOST's voluntary regional organisers, who do their best to match hosts and guests who will enjoy one another's company. HOST is a long-established national charity, founded by the British Council. Every HOST visit, whether for Christmas or for a weekend during the year, is a one-off, although sometimes lasting friendships are formed. The cultural

exchange, and the contribution to international goodwill, are what make it all worthwhile.

If you would like to know more about volunteering as a host, please see www.hostuk.org or call HOST's regional organiser Mandy Talbott on 01472 851084.

Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA Bonfire & Firework Party



Friday 5th November

Open: 6pm, Vicarage Field (behind St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck)

Adults: £3 Children: £2 Group (of 4, max 2 adults): £8 Lite ropes for sale: 50p Hot food & drinks available

"NO SPARKLERS PLEASE"

Your children are your responsibility. Please keep away from the firework display site.

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHT

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they have so much more to talk about."

Edith Wharton

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting Thursday, 14th October 2010

Andrew Camps chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors in attendance. There were 2 members of the public present.

Following the formalities, the following items were considered:

Public Participation: There were no matters raised.

Reports

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:

CCC – Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Memories

Consultation. This was noted.

Cambridgeshire ACRE – Affordable Rural Housing – A Housing Needs Survey for Swaffham Prior. A representative from Cambridgeshire ACRE had written requesting to attend a Parish Council meeting to advise on the carrying out of a Housing Needs Survey in Swaffham Prior. The Clerk was to reply with an invitation to attend a future meeting subject to there being no cost implications.

Matters Arising:

Footpath at The Beeches: ECDC had agreed to install the handrail on the centre stepped section of the footpath at The Beeches. Councillors were very concerned about the difficulties encountered in working out ownership and responsibility for this stretch of footpath and more importantly the delay this had caused in installing the handrail. The Clerk was to again stress to ECDC the urgency of this work.

The Pound: The additional information requested was submitted to ECDC for their consideration and approval.

Consideration of Planning Application for 69 High Street – *alterations and additions to existing dwelling.* Ref: 10/00818/FUL. There were no objections or comments.

Clerk's Report:

Dog Bin – Fairview Grove: A complaint was received about the position of the dog bin at the top of Fairview Grove. This is to be reviewed.

Light over Church Steps: It was agreed that the repair of this light was the responsibility of CCC. Reported for repair.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Geoffrey Woollard reported that the 'Little Chapel in the Fen' Harvest Festival had gone well.

Eric Day asked that someone else lay the wreath and read out the names on Remembrance Sunday. Eric had done this for many years and everyone expressed their appreciation.

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 Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11th November 2010, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council

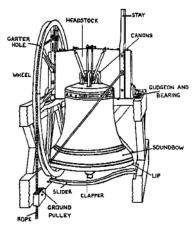
Tel: 742358.

Email: <u>karen.king5@btopenworld.com</u>

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

During October there were two further rings. One was to celebrate the official opening of the MaryLoo in St Cyriac's Church on Thursday 14 October. This was followed by ringing at the Benefice Service on Sunday 24 October.

It is going to quite busy in November. A band from Essendon in Hertfordshire will ring from 3.00 to 3.45 on Saturday 6 November. On the following Saturday, 13th, the Suffolk Guild will ring from 12.00 to 12.45, followed by a group from the



Cambridge District which will ring from 2.00 to 3.30. And in early December, on Saturday the 4th, a band from St Mary's in Ware in Hertfordshire will ring approximately from 2.45 to 3.30, followed by the Ely District ringers after their Bell Ringers Service which this year is held in St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck.

Alastair Everitt



Languages of Love

I recently read a book called 'The 5 Love Languages' by an author called Gary Chapman (see www.5lovelanguages.com for more information). It seeks to explain why sometimes our expressions of love towards others are either ignored or misunderstood, describing how it's all down to the

'love languages' that you and your partner speak. I tend to demonstrate my love by 'acts of service' – helping around the house, cooking my wife dinner – and so on. The trouble is my wife's language is 'quality time', and so she most readily understands my love for her when I take the time to sit down and talk. Half an hour actually conversing with Lisa seems to be appreciated significantly more than a whole day spent mowing the lawn or doing the washing. The way to your partner's heart is to understand what language they speak, and to communicate your love appropriately.

Why do I tell you this? Well, I've found the insights personally helpful and I think the wisdom within the book might deepen relationships and even save a marriage or two. In addition, however, it got me thinking about God's love language – how He shows His love for us, and how He likes us to express our love for Him. As advent approaches and Christmas draws nearer we are reminded that God's love isn't limited to words on the pages of the Bible, but is demonstrated to us 'with skin on' in the person of Jesus Christ. But how does God want us to express our love for Him? To me, it's clear that God understands a variety of love languages, and I'll illustrate that with reference to the two that I've already mentioned.

'Acts of Service' – Much of the Bible highlights that God cares about the way we treat the poor, and our love for them can be an expression of our love for Him. This year at RE:NEW, we'll again be sending shoeboxes to children living in poverty through Operation Christmas Child (www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk), and I know that at least one of the local schools will also be reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves in this way. I am certain that God smiles at such acts of kindness, and if you would be interested in participating as well, then come along to one of our services and pick up a leaflet, or call me for more information.

'Quality Time' – Sometimes life can be so busy that we neglect to make opportunities to spend some 'quality time' with God; but often it's in those times of silence, prayer and reflection that we are able to gain a new perspective, or a sense of guidance about the things that are going on in our lives. We're now holding regular 'Quiet Days' at Lode Chapel and you'd be more than welcome to join us – the next two are on Saturdays 6th November and 4th December. Again call me, or email quietdays@lodechapel.org.uk for more information.

Simon Goddard

Sundays in November

Sun 7th, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 7th, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 14th, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 21st, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 28th, 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

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: jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, or 01223

813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Should you be unsuccessful, please try your offers/wants on http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle/. Your offers/wants are circulated through S. Bulbeck/S. Prior/Lode-Longmeadow and each has varying circulation dates. Some people get their magazines before the start of the month. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offers

Scanner - Artec ViewStation AS6E. No loading disc. Nic Bawtree c812231 Man's Bicycle 'Ammaco Screwdriver overdrive'. Would benefit from a little TLC. John c811722

Wanted

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

Small set of bookshelves. Bel. c811070

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2010

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

November is a time of remembering, and this year we are remembering the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, the Royal Air Force's 'finest hour'.

It was sheer excitement of flying a Spitfire or a Hurricane in defence of his country that inspired my father to join the RAF in 1940 to train as a pilot. The RAF duly despatched him off to Canada to train, and to his huge dismay there he failed his final solo flight test.



I suppose I owe my very existence to that outcome, because as a fighter pilot he might not have lived to marry my mother, and I might not have been born. As it was he was given the option of becoming a bomb aimer or a navigator and chose the latter, and ended up being based in a Lancaster squadron at Wittering Common airbase just the other side of Six Mile Bottom.

A couple of years ago I took him over to West Wittering to see if we could find the remains of his old base. Something he had often wanted to do, but never quite managed, ever since he was demobbed. I looked at the Ordinance Survey map, and established what I felt was the likely site of the base, and we set off to find it. Not only did we find some of the old hangers, but we found an old blockhouse, and best of all, a memorial to the brave crews of his squadron, who had given their lives in service of their country.

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior January 2010	
Sun 7	11:00am Matins	
Sun 14	10:50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE	
Sun 21	11:00am Holy Communion	
Sun 28	10:00am Benefice Communion (Bottisham)	

My father was extremely moved to find the memorial, and to relive all the memories that flooded back from his time there, of all those flights over enemy territory that began there all those years ago, and of the pals that didn't come back.

I shall always remember him taking me to the RAF museum in Hendon where he took me inside a Lancaster bomber exhibit, and showed me the cramped stool and desk where he pored over his maps by the faint beam of a tiny lamp, to guide his bomber to its target and safely home.

As we stood side by side, at the memorial to the crews of Wittering Common base, I thought of him setting off in those days, together with all those who took off in fear and dread of what was to come, and those who never returned.

The names of my father's pals will be rightly remembered on Remembrance Sunday, as will all those who gave their lives serving their country in two world wars and in many conflicts since.

War is a dreadful thing. The Lancaster bomber helped enormously in the war effort, and has,

deservedly, become a great source of national pride. Yet, the Lancaster helped to kill many civilians as well as troops in the 2nd world war. One of the raids that my father flew on from West Wittering was the huge raid on Dresden, the impact of which has remained with him ever since. There is no doubt that that, as we have become ever more proficient at designing ever more effective weapons, our capability of destroying each other has hugely increased as well.

It is vital, therefore, that we should always remember the terrible cost of war, as we read out the names on Remembrance Sunday, and hope and pray that one day, as the prophet Isaiah prophesies:-

"They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

May God bless you all,

David

Bottisham Bowling Club Autumn Fair/Coffee Morning

Saturday 27th November

10-30am — 12:30pm

Royal British Legion, Downing Close. A variety of Stalls for all the Family Craftware — Jewellery—Toiletries Books—Items of Interest Raffle — Cake Stall

Guess the weight and win a Home-made Christmas Cake!

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Join the choir at Swaffham Prior!

Do you enjoy singing? We are looking for singers of all ages to form a new choir at St Mary's Church. Auditions are not required.

Rehearsals will be from Sunday 31 October at 4:30pm in church. Bring your voice!

For more information email priorchoir@yahoo.co.uk or call Richard Hinitt on 01353 624615.

Dates for Your Diary November 2010

Fri	5	Swaffham Bulbeck Bonfire Party, 6pm Vicarage Field
Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH
Sat	13	Quiz Night, 7.30pm, VH
Sun	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	15	WI, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	16	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Sat	20	Christmas Market, 2-4.30pm, VH
Sat	27	Bottisham Bowling Club Autumn Fair, 10.30-12.30, Royal British Legion, Downing Close, Bottisham
Sun	28	ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT, St Mary's & St Cyriac's, 4pm

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	WI Pat Cook		3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall	
Youth Club	th Club Alan Badcock		Tues Thurs	7-8:30pm 7-10:00pm	Youth Club Hut	

Village Clubs & Societies