



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXV Number 12

December 2011



Editorial

BUT WE DO GIVE A MONKEYS (see *Our Reporter*)! Just like 73% of everybody-else, *Crier* editors miserably failed to get their housing form in on time. Of course, if a plush new Housing Estate were planned for Town Close (right opposite *us*) we'd have filled it in AT ONCE in *triplicate*.

On the other hand, if we owned a (sufficiently distant) developable field in the vicinity, then clearly we'd have abstained. Ahem! But many thanks to the diligent 27% who did take the trouble, and although no-one can read the small print, we think you did a good job in representing what the rest of us would have put had we got round to putting it.

Anyway, it's perfectly clear that the editors aren't representative villagers, and their vote could only have confused matters. Only look outside on Recycling Day! Row upon row of neatly stacked Green Waste Bags, whose owners are BOUND to get in the new Gardens Calendar (see *Letters*), as contrasting with row upon row of Green Bottle Stacks outside *one* house we-can't-think-whose-that-could-be.....

Welcome to Clara

Harbottle in this issue, a new Music Correspondent par excellence—we hope we'll hear more from her—and where you'll see some stunning stuff from our new photographic department, more from Duck, and a piece called "Anonymous" which we're sure will go *quite unremarked* on next month's *Letters* page....

And on this subject, letters and anything-else for the New Year edition should be with us for DECEMBER 10th. Yes, we're going to try and print *before* Christmas. Meanwhile we note our *stinging* letter to ACRE on the subject of Earthworm Way was *completely ignored* (that's called "Working with the Community"—it's how you do it). Oh well. Merry Christmas All! See you carolling, walking, having a good time...

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Christmas Carols* by Frank Hopkirk



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Quiz Night

Well, another quiz over and thank you to everyone who came. We hope you all enjoyed it, congratulations to the winners, the Incompatibles, nice photo in last months Crier by the way. A big thank you to the ladies and gentleman who helped with the food and in the kitchen, also to Andrew, who stepped up yet again to be our quiz master. Thank you to those who donated raffle prizes, much appreciated. We raised £400 for St. Mary's Church. Hope to see everybody at our next quiz, which is Saturday 17th March 2012.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

Newmarket Recycling Facility

Recent reporting in the Crier observes that this is not used as much as previously and might not be needed as much as was thought. The problem is that incorrect publicity when it reopened in August suggested a car would be charged £3 per visit. This only applies if it costs the charity to dispose of your carload. **NEWMARKET TIP IS FREE** if your items have a recyclable value - they do charge for landfill, wood or electricals. Every week I drop in plastic, cardboard, glass, metal, lightbulbs and batteries - ie about 75% of our household output (composting the compostable here of course). No charge.

ML

Dear Editors.

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Christmas Grant

Once again the time had come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

I would ask that you reply as soon as possible.

The majority of applicants come from our pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the state pension.

If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are 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 assistance is available at all times.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees
Tel 01638 741035

Many apologies to Pam, we omitted her telephone number in last months issue. Eds

Dear Editors,

Gardens Calendar

A REMINDER-for all of you that "volunteered" you gardens for the 2013 Swaffham Prior Gardens Calendar, that we need lots of winter photos too. Please phone Zoe on 742949. She's already taken lots of beautiful late summer and Autumn ones.

If anyone would like to add their garden to the list then please ring me on 749768.

Many thanks.

Margaret Joyce

Dear Editors,

Earthworks:

A Pæan to sing or shout / whilst walking about / on 'Earthworks Day'.

Tune: The Lambeth Walk 'lay'.

If you're down East Anglia way
Come the Happy month of May
You may join us all
Walking the Earthworks Way

Come the Glorious 'Earthworks Day'
Whether it's bright or grey
You'll find us all
Walking the Earthworks Way

Everything's free and easy
Whether it's bright or breezy
You may meet your pals there
Friendly -- Boys and Gals there

So, sing 'Thank You' to our 'Peers'
And give them all 'Three Cheers'
As with relative or friend
You Dyke-walk from end to end



**Don't miss
December 30th's
Winter
"Earthworks" Walk
(see page 21)**

Ophir

P.S There *are* other Earthworks to visit in East Anglia: Eg., Castle Mound, Cambridge; the Bartlow 'Hills'; Wareham Camp; the Maze at Saffron Walden; to name but a few. Enjoy!



From: Fairview Gulag,
Nearly as far from 'the Classy End' as it's possible to get,
Swaffham Prior

Dear Editors,

Uncle Joe Stalin would commend Comrade Everitt for his sturdy defence of the Parish Council. Fearless, impartial and rigorous reporter Comrade Everitt has revealed how these selfless Heroes Of The Village have saved us from ourselves by, as Mr Everitt says, 'ensuring that never more than nine candidates stand and therefore not requiring an election'. And, silly me. Of course ECDC would not call asking for £100 for breaking the rules a '*fine*'. It's a '*charge*' merely, for goods and services, the service provided by this innovative and advanced form of democratic selection!

If there had been more than nine; WE would of course not have known who to vote for. We would have made a mess of it. This is why, as Mr Everitt says, no-one else stands. Nor should anyone even attempt to! Don't think about it, Comrade Miliband! (Is he local? Comrade Everitt mentioned him in his letter) because we are not fit to. I realise now from Comrade Everitt's words how most unwise and inappropriate it would be to canvass the village openly and widely for other candidates to come forward. We need long-experienced brain-workers to make the decisions we cannot possibly have the understanding to grapple with. Three cheers for the heroic Parish Council!

Having read Mr Everitt's explanation, I now totally disregard a troublesome individual in our midst whose high level of education made me believe their views and who I thought at the time understood the ways of the world beyond Swaffham Prior. This person told me recently: 'the Parish Council is a totally dysfunctional organisation and I would not stand unless it were totally disbanded and started again from scratch'. I disregard also the problems recounted to me in the same conversation that others had had with the Parish Council. Now I think of it, I suspect strongly that this person probably was not present at the two meetings a few months ago which Comrade Everitt has kindly pointed out to us in one of his many reports: if you didn't attend, you don't know what you are talking about.

I realise now that keeping the Parish Council so unchanged for years actually shows unwavering commitment and steely determination, just the kind of backbone that's needed to keep oversensitive female planning officers at bay, as revealed in the heroic Battle of The May Parish Council Meeting. Of course she felt 'ambushed', as she told me later. She deserved it! How dare she come here and tell the Parish Council that the whole village has the right to express a view, rather than let the Parish Council decide where affordable housing will be built? Foolish woman.

Three cheers too for Comrade Everitt, who, although not a member of the Parish Council himself, reminds us regularly in *The Swaffham Pravda* lest we forget, of their many virtues and wisdom.

Yours in re-education, Comrades!

Mark Lewinski

(PS I note Comrade Everitt reports a visiting clergyman read my last letter and was shocked. Does he not know Uncle Joe's views on clergy? The Parish Council is on an entirely different plane of existence and he cannot possibly comprehend the supreme uniqueness that is our Parish Council.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Well, you can't say our PC doesn't show enthusiasm when something takes its fancy. Following last month's comment on the standard of dress many had made a real effort. There was a brilliant striped pink and white cardigan, a magnificent burgundy shirt, one member shouted out "I'm in pink tonight", and even a member of the public turned up in a bright blue check shirt similar to those worn by lumberjacks in those 1950s garish colour films of the Canadian Rockies.



Before the meeting formally started, David Greenfield in the Public Participation slot, said he had come to answer the question raised in the last *Crier* PC Report which asked "why the Newmarket Tip now appears to be so little used." He explained it was because you now have to pay to dispose of Green Waste. And I think he's right. While the Tip was closed my wife could no longer open the back of MY car, fill it with a whole lot of greenery, and say "we'll get rid of it when we next go shopping." When the Tip closed she had to bag it up for the fortnightly collection – and now the thought of paying money to dispose of it means that my boot space remains safe. David followed this up with his complaint which he has raised before. This is that ECDC will only give a maximum of four replacement bags no matter how many bags of green waste are put out. Of course if you have a large garden and the wind is right you can have a bonfire – which is carbon neutral.

Abigail Taylor and Katie Child then presented the results of the Village Vision Questionnaire. In this village there was a 27% response which ECDC thought was good. We were fifth, with Wentworth being top with a 42% response. Bulbeck was ninth with a 19% response. Steve thought our 27% to be a poor return but Abigail disagreed, quoting the above figures. David Greenfield at Open Question time congratulated the PC for the Prior response and said he knew how difficult it was to get people to take an interest when he achieved his 96% response to the traveller questionnaire. Against this a Village Hall Committee questionnaire some twelve years ago only achieved a 56% response.

We were all given paper copies of the report but the type size of the explanatory details was so small that only those with the very best eye-sight could read the detail. It is impossible to reproduce it in the *Crier* but Karen King has a copy for anyone



Remembrance Parade setting out from Town Close....

wishing to see it.

Geoffrey was the first to respond to Abigail's presentation and he did this in great detail and even greater length. His main thrust was that he was, as he always has been, in favour of development, especially of the Dencora field which was the favoured site. On the question of housing it was shown that of the 87 who answered the questionnaire 63.1% supported "housing growth". This was in large readable type. When I got home and with the aid of a magnifying glass I read the small print, the details of which are:-

No development	33%
Up to 10 houses for a mix (commercial & low cost)	35.6%
Up to 20 houses for a mix	21.8%
Small/medium for only affordable	5.7%
Other	3.4%

I am not sure how many PC members could or did read these details. Steve tried to show some light on it, especially when discussing ACRE's Housing Needs Survey which "identifies a need for 16 new affordable homes to be built in the village." He shot this down by saying it included statements like "if someone's son got married it's likely he'd like to live in the village." The PC, having read the ACRE report, thought it unlikely they needed a presentation from ACRE.

The discussion meandered over many issues but Geoffrey was there pushing for the maximum development of the Dencora field. Of course Geoffrey has a mission. He does want to see Dencora developed. Ever since he owned it he's wanted it to be developed.

There was a question whether the PC could decide on such a small village response. Geoffrey said "we can't please those who don't give a monkey's" and don't/won't complete the questionnaire, and that we should avoid "negativism". David Almond thought the PC should follow what the majority in the questionnaire wanted which was mixed housing with 10 dwellings in total. Geoffrey thought they should listen to the owners of the field who might want up to 20 dwellings.

John Covill asked if the PC had to decide at that meeting or could it give the matter more thought. Katie thought it preferable a decision was taken that night "as this is the way ECDC works". Really! Not even Steve queried that statement. The PC agreed that Katie and Abigail should now speak to the landowners though I am



not sure whether it was for 10 mixed, 20 mixed, or 24 mixed. The minutes will be interesting. It was accepted that any commercial development should be in Heath Road as the favoured site. The discussion wandered around quite a bit and I hope I've given a fair account of what was quite complex and involved.

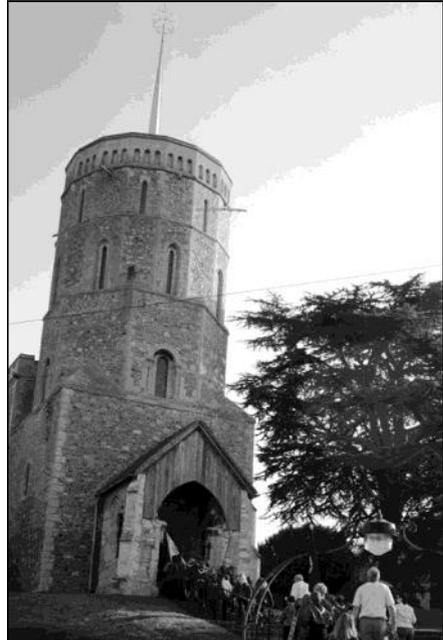
**Village Questionnaire:
“We can't please those
who don't give a
monkey's!”**

After David's CCC Report, Allen in his ECDC account said that new car parking charges were being introduced in Ely and that these could be of special concern for Prior as they are giving an annual parking voucher for workers for a mere £20. This is great news for those working in Ely. ECDC have, after much deliberation, agreed to support the Wicken Fen Vision. Allen had voted against this, had had his political knuckles rapped, expressed his view that land should be used for farming and not for imported Polish horses and Scots cattle, wondered where all the crowds were going to park, and feared that while the crowds may allow “more dragon flies we may well have less deer.”

Steve has become the Parish Council Highway Warden and has been given a nice jacket marking the position, but no hat. His direct boss is Paul Butcher and Steve will now get a fast track should any problems arise near the highway. He said this will take a lot of pressure off the Clerk who will have her workload considerably reduced, because he now has all the right names and telephone numbers to contact over a wide variety of issues, including I think broken lampposts. He seemed reluctant to take on the responsibility for emptying the Bus Shelter rubbish bin when



**...to standing room only in
the Church**



Karen raised this. The state of this bin is now quite a disgrace and is beginning to make that part of the village look like a sink estate.

Steve's new position has enabled him to obtain extra information regarding High Street Parking and Mill Hill speeding and as before this is reported elsewhere in the *Crier*.

During the discussion on the Village Vision Geoffrey lamented the absence of a village shop/PO and thought this should have been a priority. It seems he has to go to Soham for his newspaper. In Open Question Time Michael Limb took this up and reminded the meeting that some years ago when the shop closed he headed a Shop Committee which looked into the question of opening another shop. This Shop Committee did a lot of research, visited some community shops, and held a meeting which I recall was reasonably attended. Michael said the lack of enthusiasm for the idea was striking, was very disheartening, and the Shop Committee abandoned the idea.

I remember that meeting. Michael had decided that only a community shop would work and rejected any discussion of a commercial shop. This just wasn't on the agenda. It was a community shop or nothing. I am not saying a commercial shop would have viable but I do remember that a substantial number of people were just as disenchanted as Michael – but for exactly the opposite reason. Since then times have moved on, though Derek the Shop was absolutely right years ago – “Use it or lose it.” We lost it. Also, the Swaffham Bulbeck shop is just one mile down the road. What was not discussed: Earthworks Way, the Cost of Neighbourhood Panels, and the reason why ECDC out of the blue charged us £100 for not holding an election.

Alastair Everitt

Prior v. Bulbeck BOXING DAY HOCKEY

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck

Monday 11am

(10.45am, Players)

**COME AND SUPPORT
OUR TEAM!**

**Sausages and Mulled Wine
will be Served**

All proceeds to MAGPAS



*Contact Josh Willmott for further information, or if you'd like to play
Tel. 07507876917, or e-mail josh.willmott@hotmail.co.uk*

RED LION CHILLER

An Eyewitness Account from our Own Reporter at the scene, Rachel Marsh

Regulars at the Red Lion were subjected to a spooky spectacle as an eclectic mix of witches, axe-murderers, and other ghoulish creatures- not all in costume-descended upon their watering hole. Some ran in terror, while others embraced what became a 'spirited' occasion.

This reporter attempted to speak to landlords Karen and Steve, but was chased from the bar by an undead pirate and a crazed chef who seemed to want to put more than just Monster Mash on the menu. Despite the array of axes, scythes, brooms and chainsaws littering the dance



floor a devilishly good time was had by all. Best of the beastly were Nicki's sister Mel and Jason Cooper who won top marks for their eerie efforts.



DUCK DIARY

*Last month's **Life and Times of Duck** provoked considerable interest. Here's some more.....*

31 Oct: Duckdate 28: we've come to the conclusion that Duck's garden-mate Muscovy is very, very partially sighted. It only seems to be able to see large objects against the light. We can't tell if it's always been that bad; or whether it's worsening, but it doesn't seem unhappy - Being a large bird with lots of feathers I suspect it only knows it's being pecked by Duck occasionally if duck's making fussing noises too. Hearing seems fine, and they do most of their food hunting by rummaging with beaks anyway. It has discovered it can swim but doesn't often find its way into the paddling pool...



So: we have an invalid rabbit, an epileptic cat, a megalomaniac mallard, and a myopic Muscovy. Plus of course Gary the guinea pig and the Evil Mog. they're relatively sane against the other four, though Mog's pretty dim except when it comes to mouse murder.

2 Nov: Duckdate 29: Trying to leave the house yesterday morning. Duck flies over the side gate, lands on the car roof. I go round one side to chase it off, it goes round the other. I have to open the car door and stand on the car sill snatching at it till it jumps off. It lands on the drive. I chase it; it flies into the neighbour's garden. Corner it in there, march it back round to our garden. Afternoon: Come home - it's sitting in the adjacent neighbour's garden.

Off we go again on a duckchase. Duckin hell, thinks I...

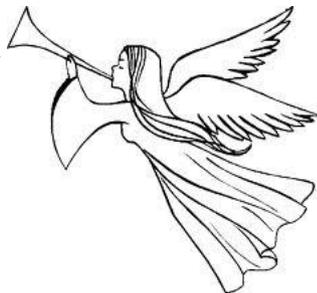
10 Nov Duckdate 30: Bring the little horror half a bucket of pondweed this afternoon. try to chase it into the pond so's it can luxuriate in the weediness of it all - and what? it flies off quacking over the side gate and round the front of the house to the other side. Eventually I find it hiding in a flowerbed, and try to chase it back into the garden - off it goes quacking over the side gate on that side, and completes its circuit of the house only to disappear again, this time into a neighbour's garden.

After another chase it flaps merrily over the hedge back into our garden, so at last I can go in and upstairs to check my emails. When I come out of the room and look down, there's Duck, at the foot of the stairs.

Question: does anyone know how to houstrain a duck?

12 Nov: Duckdate 31: It used to love a bit of affection, but Duck fussed and wriggled and tried to escape when I caught it, picked it up and tried to give it a cuddle today.

Yes indeed: there's no doubt about it. Duck is turning into a teenager.



Mark Lewinski

English Touring Opera Comes to St Cyriac's

I was lucky to have had my first visit to St Cyriac's, to enjoy the acoustics and also the new facilities. Because of these facilities the church was included in the 'Music in Quiet Places' programme of the Cambridge Summer Recitals series. The title "Gesualdo by Candlelight" suggests a quiet evening, but it was anything but that.

Carlo Gesualdo (1561-1613) was notorious as the violent prince-composer married to the most sensual beautiful wife. He neglected her for his music and she took a lover. Outraged, in 1590 Gesualdo murdered her and her noble lover, stabbing her repeatedly, yelling "I do not believe she is dead." He was forgiven by the state but did receive some censure because he involved some servants in the murder rather than doing it all himself.

Though he married again he remained obsessed with music, became a recluse, and was afflicted with violent asthma, paranoia and depression. A team of young men beat him thrice daily to soothe his pains.

That's the man. What of his music? It was remarkable for the time, and still remains so. He avoided perfect polyphony and used dramatic contrasts, striking dissonances, and exquisite painful harmonies. It was a disrupted musical style, the slow chromatic harmony contrasting with faster, decorated sections to create an almost expressionistic style of music. He was a tortured man.

The beautiful acoustics of St Cyriac's offer lightness and resonance. Gesualdo's music was a challenge. Its sheer power seemed to stretch the church to its limit and beyond. It truly was an overwhelming and unforgettable concert of music and readings before a packed audience surrounded by nearly one hundred candles.

Clara Harbottle

MAGPAS Gloves

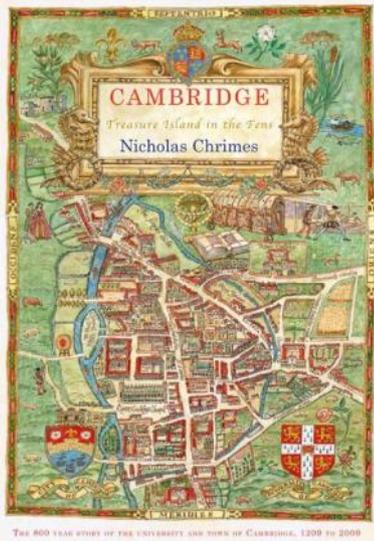
We would like to thank anyone from Swaffham Prior who may have visited our Open Gardens and purchased our surplus plants and/or bought a pair of Atlas gardening gloves. We sent a cheque to MAGPAS for £346, of which £79 represented £1 from every pair of gloves sold.

We now have thermal Atlas gloves as well as the usual lighter weight and all sizes from XL to small. These gloves really are tough and durable and cheaper than anywhere else! They can be used for many jobs not just gardening! Why not consider a useful and affordable Christmas present and at the same time help a very worthwhile charity?

My father, John Norris who lives at Shadworth House, 45 High Street, will have a good supply of these gloves so please call him on 01638 741465 or call by.

Alternatively you can also purchase these gloves from ourselves at The Old House, 2 Home End, Fulbourn. 01223 882907. Look forward to seeing you and Happy Christmas.

Kate and Charles Comins



Cambridge - Treasure Island in the Fens

A Christmas gift at £20 for a 300 page high quality hardback book with sixty pen & ink drawings

Literally, as the medieval town had water on every side, & metaphorically Cambridge nurtured its scholars & built up its treasures on an island. Practically everything has been imported, be it the stone of its beautiful buildings or its scholars' intellect. This book explains how such a wonderful place as Cambridge evolved.

The Schoolmaster's view: *Alan Midgley. Issue 2009/10, Old Oundelian Magazine.*

This book is a fitting tribute to the university and town....it is highly readable and packed with information but never dull. The author's own

opinions, wit and insights are scattered liberally throughout. it does not treat university and town in isolation but concentrates on ways in which they have influenced each other.

The College View: *King's College magazine 'The Parade'. Michaelmas 2010*

This is a rich engaging book that will appeal to graduate, inhabitant and visitor alike.

The Town View: *Great St Mary's Parish Magazine*

The very essence of this book is that when the scholars arrived in 1209, Cambridge was already a thriving inland port deriving wealth from trade with cities across the North Sea...the book is neither populist nor academic; it belongs on a bookshelf of anyone interested in Cambridge.

The Scholar's View: *Varsity Newspaper, February 2010*

...[this is] an excellent introduction to the history and current life of Cambridge; ... a delight for those people whose love of Cambridge outweighs their knowledge. Two bonuses: £1 per copy goes to All Saints Church and Varsity is cited twice.

An Amazon Comment: *'A Reader in Oxford'*

Nicholas Chrimes has taken an imaginative thematic approach to the history of Cambridge. He brings the city to life by covering unusual aspects of this great University City, such as Real Tennis. It's a quality production and you can dip into a random chapter whenever you fancy.

The book has also been given the Cambridgeshire Local History award. In 2012 both a second edition and a Mandarin edition commissioned by a Beijing publisher will be published.

***Available from all Cambridge bookshops or directly from the author at
www.cambridgebook.com, or by phone 01799 550403***

Anonymous



Those who thought a 30 million dollar movie, with an accomplished director and a star studded cast would open up the Shakespeare authorship question certainly got their comeuppance. “Anonymous” was generally greeted with full scale vitriol. There was an almost uncontrollable anger. The abuse was pretty straightforward - “dotty”, “tosh”, “internet geeks”, “actively malign”, “nasty snobbishness”, “risible fiasco”, “sad to see distinguished actors lending support”, “spurious controversy”, “lying to schoolchildren”. There is much more but this is a fair sample.

The suggestion that the author may be the Earl of Oxford has caused shudders amongst an amazing range of people. One said “The actual Oxford was a loathsome piece of work, a pederast, rapist, murderer.” He could have gone on to say that Oxford was known as an excellent writer of plays, of poetry, a fine swordsman, was accused of being a Catholic, was Lord Great Chamberlain, a wonderful dancer, recognised as having a brilliant intelligence, an extended traveller in Italy, an intimate of Queen Elizabeth, one of those who condemned Mary Queen of Scots to death, an excellent linguist, a great book collector, the patron of two companies of actors and many young writers, awarded by the Queen on 26 June 1586 an annuity of £1,000 for life (equivalent to well over a million today). This annuity was renewed by James Ist when he came to the throne. And there is much more.

It is quite astonishing that scholars have absolutely no curiosity or interest whatsoever in a man who was a major player at court, who received an annuity of £1,000 at the age of 36, and who was not allowed by Queen Elizabeth to fight in any wars in spite of his wish to do so. The man might just as well not have existed. But surely there ought to be just a little curiosity about the reason why James Ist renewed an annuity worth one million pounds in today’s money.

Against this, *speculation apart*, all we know about William Shakespeare is that he was a bit of a bit actor, that he had a share in a London playhouse, and that he was a relatively successful businessman in Stratford where his business transactions were signed off with a cross, his activities occasionally mean-minded, sometimes almost scurrilous, and his children illiterate. In fact locally he appears to have been a bit of a curmudgeon. This matters not to those who believe in the Stratford man because they respond with the “argument” that Shakespeare was a “natural genius”, that he seamlessly absorbed every bit of information he came across and turned it into magnificent poetry. He did not require education, languages, rank, travel – it just dropped down on him from heaven. He wasn’t just a “genius” - he was a “natural genius”.

Perhaps Katherine Duncan-Jones (a convinced William Shakespeare supporter) has the answer. At the end of her recent book *Ungentle Shakespeare* she says “we are curious to know something else about his life. But this will inevitably disappoint. It’s far better not to read yet another biography, but to ‘read him’.” And what do you find when you read him? Someone more akin to a person like Oxford. *Alastair Everitt*

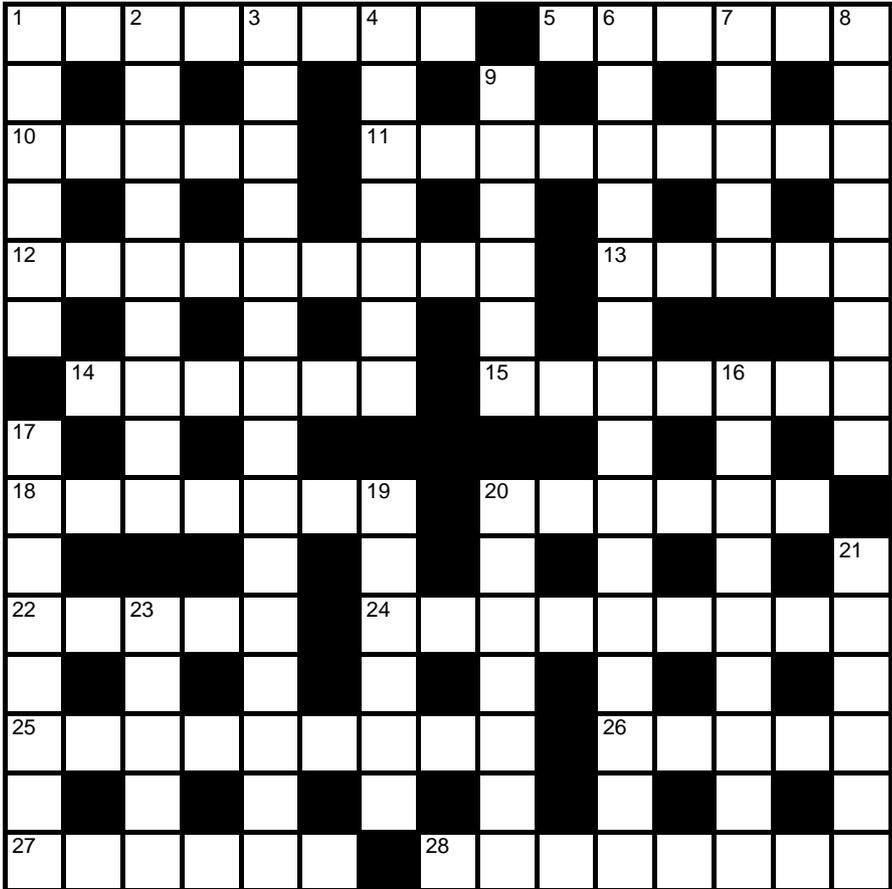
Crossword Number 84

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 14 December 2011. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 1 A little noise leads to increased birth rate (4,4)
- 5 Journalist should redo it differently (6)
- 10 The protocol I can't include is a pain (5)
- 11 Communication regarding polythene break up (9)
- 12 Slovenly person lets flea land on puppies (9)
- 13 Gag scoundrel heard (5)
- 14 In a postcard our passion is found (6)
- 15 Young Timothy gets pot; I get kettle (7)
- 18 Coward exploits old people initially (7)
- 20 Talk excessively? Absolutely right! (4,2)
- 22 First or last; did I expect a pensioner? (5)
- 24 It's a heavy downpour; tram sir? no trouble (9)
- 25 Link together then bury some hair (9)
- 26 Willow used by ordinary seaman; that is right (5)
- 27 Trainee has no leader but he makes money (6)
- 28 Ivy and Virginia are crawlers (8)

- 6 Emporium in which to leave chaps with car model, and shop (10,5)
- 7 Hurry round centre court for fish (5)
- 8 Pulsating meteors leave thermochemistry explosion (8)
- 9 A penny short; what a predicament (6)
- 16 Express regret for a Post Office register I get directions to (9)
- 17 I'm respectful. No, discourteous (8)
- 19 Time point (6)
- 20 Flasher has second rate connection to Her Majesty (7)
- 21 Clever old Bob stings (6)
- 23 Discourage bucks? About time! (5)

Solution to crossword no. 83

S	P	I	L	L	E	D		S	C	R	E	A	M	S
	I		U		A	C		O	X		A			
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O		A	S	P	E	C	T
	N		G		T		M		S		R		H	
S	O	F	A		H	Y	P	O	T	H	E	S	I	S
			G				A		L		S		N	
I	N	V	E	N	T	O	R		I	S	S	U	E	D
	E				H		A		N				R	
C	I	R	C	L	E		T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	S
	G		O		R		I				E			
T	H	E	M	S	E	L	V	E	S		S	O	R	T
	B		M		F		E		E		P		I	
P	O	T	A	T	O		L	O	W	L	A	N	D	S
	U		N		R		Y		E		I		E	
B	R	I	D	G	E	S		A	D	D	R	E	S	S

Down

- 1 Clasp and crumple (6)
- 2 Two sided at Liberal organisation (9)
- 3 Young man's grade qualification (9,6)
- 4 Month for car boot sale; jumble, alas, missing (7)

We congratulate Shirley Wilkins, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Steve Brown, Mandy Kingsmill, Julie Nunn & Caroline Matheson and Robert Nunn.

High Street Parking together with Speed Control on Mill Hill

High Street Parking

Steve, as our new Parish Council Highway Warden, had a face to face discussion with Paul Butcher on the question of adding double yellow lines opposite No 73A. In brief, it is no go. There have been no accidents, any consultative visit would cost £1,000, and Paul Butcher was against too many double yellow lines as these tended to increase speeding.

Speed Control on Mill Hill

This was even less encouraging. Steve has a better idea of the costs, though not all.

It will be £2,000 for changing the flashing signs, £640 for changing the little roundels, could be charges for the large roundels, £1,000 for advertising in the press, there would be a charge for changing the painted sign on the road which could also involve traffic lights or closing the road, there will be the cost of the CCC consulting all the PCs from Fordham through to Quy (who knows what this would cost but it could run in to thousands maybe), also the cost – should just one person object – of an enquiry which could be £10,000, and if we lost we would lose any money already spent.

With only £10,000 in the bank the PC was discouraged. They thought it best to await the results of the Mill Hill Speed Limit survey (whatever this is). So far the only data available is that the fastest vehicle was 98mph (a police car), the next was 96mph (a police car), the next 62mph (a car), the next one a bus.

Steve has achieved one success. Unless they run out of salt, the road will be gritted from the slip road all the way through the village and all the way to Reach, and also up Cage Hill so that the buses will no longer have to miss out the village in a hard winter.

Alastair Everitt

BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTEEN

“It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.”

Disraeli

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER, 7.30 PM

ELY CONSORT PERFORM

"Schütz: The Christmas Story & music for the Festive Season."

St Mary's, Burwell

The renowned chamber choir Ely Consort are delighted to be visiting St Mary's Burwell on Saturday 10 December at 7.30pm to perform a concert of music for the festive season.

Heinrich Schütz's setting of *The Christmas Story* was first performed over 350 years ago, but it is just as appealing today due to its joyous music and descriptive scenes of angels, shepherds and wise men, all linked together by the narrative of the Evangelist. Sung in a new English translation, this music will bring these familiar words fully to life.

The second half of the concert will include a number of favourite Christmas carols, including *Away in a Manger* and *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, but also some



more unusual pieces, including Poulenc's wonderfully evocative *Christmas Motets*. The choir, conducted by Matthew Rudd, will be joined by soloists Eleanor Cramer (soprano), Daniel Bennett (tenor) and Simon Adams (bass).

Tickets are priced at £8 in advance (£10 on the door, under 16s free) and are available from Burwell Post Office, Centre Peace, Manchett's Budgens and Tina's, or by calling Peter on 01638 741508 /

elyconsort@hotmail.co.uk, www.elyconsort.org.uk - Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Prior Christmas

BOOK NOW!!!

CHRISTMAS DINNERS

19th - 22nd December

AT THE RED LION

Christmas Menu

Starters:

Prawn Cocktail Or Soup

Main:

Roast Turkey Or Veg Risotto

Desserts:

Millionaires Shortbread Or Xmas Pud



2 Courses £13.95

3 Courses £15.95

Please Book Before 15th December

Village Carol Service
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 18th
at **4.30pm**
in
St Mary's Church, Swaffham
Prior

*Hear the
Christmas
Story*



*Sign the
traditional
Carols*

Get in the Christmas spirit with the

VILLAGE CAROLS

Wednesday 14 December

6.30-8.00pm at the Village Hall

**Singing ability not necessary - just bring your
enthusiasm!**

Mulled wine and mince pies

Everyone welcome





And New Year



Come and Celebrate

NEW YEAR!!

At The Red Lion

Film Character Fancy Dress

From 7.30pm



With Disco and Food



*Prize for best
fancy dress*





Join the

WINTER WALK

From St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior
a circular walk to Reach of
approximately 6 miles

to be held on

FRIDAY 30th DECEMBER

Starting at 10am

Followed by Soup and a Ploughman's lunch

Advance booking recommended
before Christmas Eve

Adults £10 Primary School Children £5

Well behaved dogs are welcome

Enquiries: 01638 742974 / 01638 743693

or e-mail a.e.everitt@btinternet.com



Proceeds will go to the conservation and improvement
of St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church

John Norris Remembers the Railway

On my arrival in this village the railway line between Mildenhall and Cambridge was in operation, and the gates were across the road waiting for the train to pass through. The Station Master, Mr Betts, was in control of these as well as being ticket collector, signalman, and station porter. So it was some time after the train had gone that the gates were reopened. He had to set the signals ready for the next train, send a message to the next station before walking some fifty yards to the gates.

As some parts of this line were single track, the engine driver had to have a token, of which there was only one, before he could set out, to avoid trains meeting one another on the single line. This token was a loop of cane some eighteen inches in diameter, which could be passed from the engine driver to a porter with the train still moving, rather like the method of dropping off mail bags. I remember my model Hornby train had a mailbag dropping kit beside the line.

When this line was being built the Lode at Swaffham Bulbeck was still in use, so that the rail track had to be raised up to pass over it. A ramp starting near the station raised the line six feet above the water level in the lode, which meant a rise of twelve feet to clear the embankments as well.

All the is work on each side of the lode would be of no value as soon as trains passed along the line, as trains were a much better and faster form of transport than barges.

The chalk for this ramp was taken from the gap that had to be made in the Devils Dyke, and was transported by a light railway in small trucks pulled by horses. This light railway line was later cut up into fencing posts, one of which I kept for a long time, as it clearly showed the wear of the wheels on the track surface.

The line crossed the Croyles Meadow making a small field even smaller, and creating two more small fields. I wonder how it would have been done with today's obsession with regulations. Cutting through an ancient monument, desiccation of the traditional farm layouts. After the close of the railway, the embankment near the station was ploughed through and eventually enabled the meadows to return as before, but nearer the lode the chalk was taken away to form the base of Tillotsons Box Factory, and is now under the new houses there.

The station buildings are still in use as a home, and I believe the platform is still there. The Victorian signal Box was sadly set on fire, either by the demolition people or vandals; it would have made a lovely green house. On the Cambridge side were the sidings where trucks were left ready for loading. There was even a raised platform, or dock, to enable box vans to be easily loaded with things such as flowers. Mr Butler who lived in Goodwin Manor grew Larkspur on his garden, and sent these lovely flowers to Covent Garden twice a week.

After the railway was completed, or at about, that time Mr Allix planted two rows of, I seem to remember, Lime trees beside the straight path leading to his home, Swaffham Prior House. These two rows were not parallel as one might expect, but convergent to give an impression of great length. The path did not appear to me to have been used much, but I only saw it some seventy plus years after

it was made.

This railway line does have many bridges on it's way from Cambridge to Mildenhall, most of which are still standing. The one at Burwell station was quickly removed and the road straightened out, but most of the others at Reach, Fen Ditton, Exning, and Landwade etc are there because of the expense of their removal. Many of the services such as water, phone lines, gas and electricity had a right of way over the line, and to remove them whilst keeping up the supply is very expensive.

The eighty years or so that this line was in operation is part of our local history, and I am sure that that there are many photographs of incidents occurring in that time. I trust they will not be lost, and thrown away as old junk, as this line was important in it's heyday.

/John Norris

News from Bottisham Patient Participation Group

Plans are afoot to modernise mental health services in the county. NHS Cambridgeshire has launched a public consultation (in which your PPG Committee is considering how best to participate) ending in mid-January next year. The changes have been designed with the advice of the new GPs' 'Senate' (on which our Bottisham practice is represented through the CAMHEALTH consortium of practices).

The aim is partly to save funds, but also to improve the service. Despite some sensational press headlines the 'cuts' are limited. There will be some loss of beds in old units with in-hospital treatment being concentrated in more modern facilities at Fulbourn. There will also be increased emphasis on rehabilitation in the community, with support being provided to patients in their own homes.

Other key changes include creating a single access point to mental health services for patients and GPs to provide speedier access to advice and support; and setting up a new Primary Care Mental Health Service, bringing together existing services and aligning them more closely to local groups of practices.

Much of this sounds very sensible. But Cambridgeshire spends about 5% less on mental health than comparable counties in southern England and it is important that the changes do not result in us falling even further behind.

The new arrangements will be implemented - subject to the outcome of the public consultation - between January 2012 and March 2014. If you have views about the changes, please e-mail the PPG Committee at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx . Or if you would like to comment individually, you can do so on line or by post. Just go to www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk/Have-your-say .

Seasons greetings from your Bottisham PPG Committee



Well the gremlins were with us at our meeting on November 21st. Just a few minutes after we settled down to listen to a talk about trekking in Nepal, the slide projector stopped working and the talk had to be abandoned. The speaker, David Butler, was of course very upset and full of apologies. Fortunately we were also celebrating birthdays of two members and we quickly moved on to wine, sandwiches and cake which David was invited to share. We hope to hear his talk at a later date.

In December members will enjoy more food and wine when a Christmas meal, organised by the committee, will be served.

Our next regular meeting will be on January 16th when our speaker will be Peter Vince talking about the Woodland Trust.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome. Regular meetings are on the third Monday of the month in the village hall at 7:30 so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group.

Pat Cook - 01638 742224

“Cathedral of recycling” open for business

This week a new recycling centre opens its skips in Cambridgeshire for the public to send their waste for reuse and recycling.

The new facility at Witchford opens to the public on Thursday 3 November and will be indoor with a split-level which means residents won't need to climb steps to recycle. The centre also has an innovative green roof and replaces the old open air site at nearby Grunty Fen.

The site is on Stirling Way, Witchford, adjacent to the Lancaster Way Business Park. Witchford will have more convenient opening hours than Grunty Fen. It will open 9am to 6pm six days a week, and 9am to 7pm on Wednesdays.

The building designed by Capita Symonds and built by Willmott Dixon has already created employment for local people during its construction and is being built to help increase recycling and reduce waste going to landfill.

Councillor Mathew Shuter, Cabinet Member for Enterprise at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "It is fantastic to celebrate the opening of another new recycling centre brought in on time and within budget. This new centre really is a huge step forward from the old site at Grunty Fen and is a great example of the County Council's ongoing commitment to invest in new services and facilities. I am reliably informed that this 'cathedral of recycling' will recycle or reuse waste equivalent to the weight of two Eiffel Towers so I know this centre will be a great resource for local communities in East Cambridgeshire.

Local councillor and chair of the liaison group, Bill Hunt, said: "This new recycling centre is a triumph and is going to make a massive difference to the way residents in East Cambridgeshire recycle their waste. It is a first class facility which is a fine example of what can be achieved when people work in partnership and

cooperating for the good of the local community. I can ' t wait to see the centre up and running and delivering on the hard work which has gone on to build it. "

Local councillor for Ely South and West, Sue Austen, said: " Today is an exciting day for everyone who has been involved in bringing this building to life. We have got a fantastic new recycling centre which will be a great asset not just to East Cambridgeshire but the whole county and I would pay tribute to everyone involved in this project. "

The project has been built by Cambridgeshire County Council as part of their ongoing efforts to provide excellent recycling facilities for local communities and has come in under the initial budget of £5.5m.

From Bill Hunt

Communication Office, East Cambs Conservative Group

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

Perfect Proteas

The Temperate House of the Glasshouse Range is home to Continents Apart, a display focusing on the floristically rich Cape region of South Africa and that of Southwest Australia. Over three-quarters of all plants growing in these fire-dependent environments grow wild nowhere else on earth.

With so many exotic and unusual flowering plants, including the King Proteas and Pincushion flowers from South Africa, and the Grass Trees and aptly-named Kangaroo Paw from Australia, the plantings provide a horticultural display to excite the eye, and flowering is at its best in the winter.

When flowering plants first appeared, Australia and South Africa were conjoined as part of the supercontinent called Gondwana, which started to break up around 180 million years ago. Continents Apart also explores how plant families that originated in Gondwana and are still common to Australia and South Africa, like *Proteaceae*, evolved once these land masses drifted apart. Both floras also exhibit a fascinating dependency on bushfire for regeneration.

So in the colder months, let the Glasshouse Range take you on the ultimate winter minibreak – a tour of the world's floras in an afternoon!

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden and Botanic Shop reopen on 3 January 2012 and are open from 10am until 4pm through January and February, with the Garden Café and Glasshouse Range closing at 3.30pm. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265 for admission charges, tours and special events.



What's Been Growing On at the Prospects Trust this Year!



The Prospects Trust Co-workers (people with learning difficulties, disabilities and those suffering from mental ill health) have all enjoyed a busy and fruitful growing season at Snakehall Farm. With the weather turning wintry we turn our attention to our slightly warmer polytunnels and get cracking with some indoor seasonal activities in our recently refurbished teabarn. Our co-workers still have to get their boots muddy, harvesting our hardy winter produce, all 100% organic and all 100% tasty and if you drop by our on-site farm shop, you can pick up some seasonal edibles with 0 food miles!

This year we launched our Customer Feedback Form in the shop, it has created a great way to feedback the positive shopping experiences of our customers to our hard working co-workers. It has been really inspiring with comments such as

“I think that this is my favourite shop! The produce is always fantastic. I like the simplicity of the system and I admire all of the hard work that goes into producing the veg”, “Lovely produce looking forward to eating it. Good value for money....better than Waitrose and Neals Yard”.

So if you haven't ventured onto Snakehall Farm then why not try our small, simply seasonally stocked shop this week. In the shop you will find free range eggs, seasonal organic vegetables, plants and herbs, but remember to bring your change.

This year we have been very lucky in rejuvenating the on-site farm house, welcoming a new Farm Co-manager and his family onto our 18 acre site. Mark Cornell was a familiar face to many, with years of green experience gained at our neighbouring enterprise Darwin Nursery. Mark has hit the ground running, ploughing our fields and creating new growing opportunities for all our co-workers whatever their abilities and talents.



The Farm site is also being rejuvenated thanks to the creative and committed co-operative team. We now boast an organic and traditional specimen mini orchard, an eco-therapy garden with recycled plastic bottle green house, improved co-worker facilities and more growing on than ever before. Our plans don't stop there, with wish lists growing as quickly as our veggies. Thanks to all those Co-operative Members who voted for us, we are pleased to announce that our famous Tilly the Tractor will be boasting some new attachments as we were the area winners in the Co-ops Big Community Vote 2011. We also have half the funding in place to buy a second hand Garden Team Vehicle and are bid writing for the remaining amount. We hope you will see our commercial Garden Team out and about in the local area in a shiny and rust free van in 2012. Our Garden Team provides a professional garden maintenance service on a contract basis in a 25 mile radius of Snakehall Farm, creating a next step for our co-workers out and about in a supportive project. In January and February, weather dependant, you can hire in our talented team to do some one off winter clearance jobs, give our Garden Team Co-Manager Will a call on 01638 741 551 to find out more.

A highlight of the year, bar the Christmas activities, is our AGM (which really should be named the "alternative great meeting" not annual general meeting). It embodies everything Prospects Trust is about. With an award ceremony, co-worker presentations and a look back over the past 12 months of growing better, the November meeting is the best way we can all give our aching backs a good pat and recognize the achievements of all our co-workers at Snakehall Farm. This event also marked over two decades of the Prospects Trust, with former founding staff members, Tricia and Phil, coming back to see how we have continued with their great work. We also welcomed new Trustees onto the Charitable Co-management Board formally at the AGM. We hosted a "Twilight Trustee Tour and Taster Evening back in the Summer, with catering donated by COFCO and La Hogue, we opened up our farm gates to encourage new Trustees to join our existing and very talented board and we were not left wanting. We hope to bring you an update on our new Trustees in future editions.

So with a new year looming our 2012 resolution has to be to grow more, produce and people, hand in hand. We have created more work placements for people and children with learning difficulties and disabilities and therefore we need to create more niche and accessible growing areas on the farm. We hope to open up our small woodland area, enhance our eco-garden and created a scented garden utilising our lovely "Prospects Pots" of herbs and plants and create more commercially rewarding cropping areas.

If you wish to find out more about your local charity and socially enterprising Care Farm, why not pop into the shop

Find us at: The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm, Swaffham Road, Reach CB25 0HZ

Give us a call on 01638 741 551

Email us at Enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk

Or become social @tillytractor on twitter or befriend TillyTractor on Facebook for more regular updates on what is Growing On at the Prospects Trust.

Have you switched on to the power of solar energy?

Never has there been a better time for homeowners, farms, businesses and community organisations to harness the power of small-scale renewable energies. Energy costs are soaring, with some suppliers increasing their tariffs by nearly 30% and a depressed economic climate, we are all needing to save our valuable resources whether it is hard earned cash or our planet.

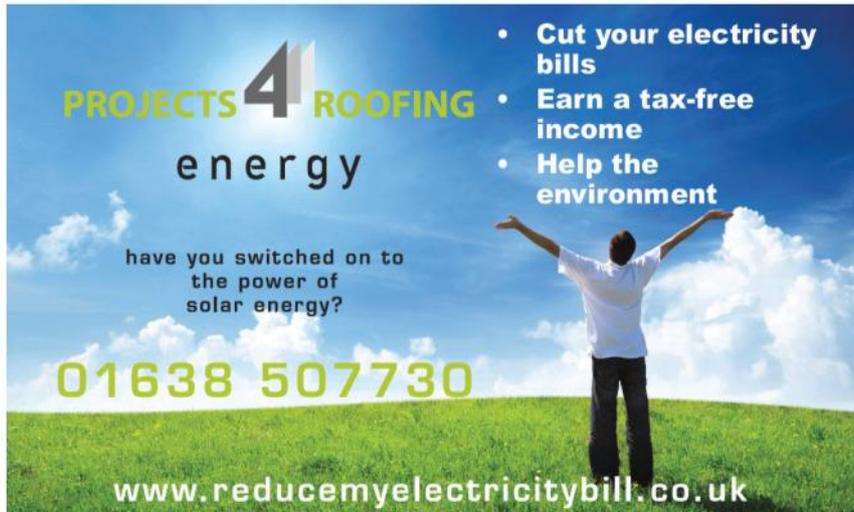
Local family run business, The Rubber Roofing Co Ltd trading as Projects4Roofing have recently added Solar Panel and PV Installations to the list of Specialist Roofing Services they offer their clients. As one of East Anglia's leading Specialist Roofing Companies, Project4Roofing have over twenty years' experience and have built up a reputation for professionalism and reliability.

During the last nine months, Projects4Roofing, as a member of the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC) and The Competent Roofer scheme, have ensured that all their installers have been fully trained in the professional installation of Solar Panels and PV as approved by the NFRC. By investing in Solar Panels the average household will not only help to reduce the UK's carbon footprint but can also expect to:

- Save 50% on their annual electricity bill.
- Earn a tax free income from the governments generous Feed in Tariff Scheme on all the electricity produced.
- Earn an additional amount from any unused electricity fed back into the National Grid.

A family in Cambridge could earn approximately £1,100pa from income and savings on their electricity bill with a 4kWp PV system

If you would like further information about Solar Panel PV Installation and how it could benefit you, please take a look at the company website www.reducemyelectricitybill.co.uk or contact Chris Whitehall on 01638 507730.



PROJECTS 4 ROOFING
energy

have you switched on to the power of solar energy?

01638 507730

www.reducemyelectricitybill.co.uk

- **Cut your electricity bills**
- **Earn a tax-free income**
- **Help the environment**

RaSP Installs New Access Points in Fens

The RaSP broadband network generally provides good coverage in the villages of Reach, Swaffham Prior and Upware but historically there have been difficulties in accessing the network in some of the lower lying fen land areas to the north of Reach. One of the main reasons for this is the presence of lines of trees, planted as windbreaks, that tend to block the microwave signals that carry the data on the network.

Fenland coverage has now been significantly improved by the installation of two new access points in Swaffham Prior Fen. This required two masts: a telegraph pole based mast that receives the signal from the main base station in Reach plus a second mast carrying a relay transceiver to further extend coverage in the fen area.

The installation of the main mast was a major undertaking for RaSP, requiring the efforts of several volunteers over two weekends with the digging of a hole into the shallow fen water table followed by the pouring of a cubic metre of concrete to anchor the pole. A 'cherry picker' lift was then hired to aid with the installation of the various radio antennas required to receive and distribute the broadband signals (photo).

The material costs of the new installation were largely covered by a generous financial contribution from Greens of Soham. Lords Ground Farm. Thanks also go to the Doe family for allowing the main pole to be sited on their land plus extensive practical assistance and many welcome hot drinks!

The new RaSP connection has provided Lord's Ground with the broadband connection that was essential for them to grow their business. A BT connection of comparable performance would have involved the laying of a dedicated new line at *very* substantially higher cost.

Hugh De Lacy



RaSP Volunteers Paul Catling & David Greenfield Install Antennae on New Mast at Swaffham Prior Fen.



Mothers' Union

Richard Ayres gave us a very interesting talk recently about herbaceous plants, with many good ideas for planting various colour combinations, as well as for structure. He showed us slides of a wide variety of his favourite plants taken either at Anglesey Abbey or in the walled garden at Kirtling Towers.

Hopefully we can use some of Richard's ideas in our own herbaceous borders and he ended his talk with some amazing photos of his own beautiful garden.

Our Christmas lunch will take place on the 8th December and our New Year programme will begin with a Holy Communion Service taken by the Rev. Roger Bowen on the 17th January 2012 at the usual time of 2.30p.m.

Anne Phoenix

Notes from the Parish Council November Meeting

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public.

Public Participation:

David Greenfield expressed his concern that the Parish Council appeared, from a report in a previous Crier, not to be aware of the criteria for the use of the Newmarket Recycling Centre. He was assured that this was not the case.

Alastair Everitt asked how many Parish Councillors had monitored the High Street parking issue. The reply was a show of several hands.

Results of ‘Village Vision’ Questionnaire:

Katie Child, Principle Forward Planning Officer and Abigail Taylor, Forward Planning Officer, for ECDC attended the meeting to present and discuss the results of the questionnaire. They started by thanking the Parish Council for its efforts in ensuring questionnaires were delivered to all households as this had resulted in a high number of questionnaires completed and returned. A summary of the results is below:

- 63% of respondents were supportive of allowing new housing development to take place on the edge of the village outside of the Development Envelope. The preferred housing option was Land off Rogers Road.
- *It was agreed that the Parish Council should follow the lead given by residents and support the principle of small – medium scale housing on this site. (Small – medium equating to 10-20 mixed units).*
- Respondents were split over whether they would like to see more opportunities for small businesses in the village/parish (50% for, 38% against). The preferred employment location was Land East of Goodwin Farm.
- *Following some discussion there was general agreement on the foregoing.*
- Key infrastructure priorities were identified as the need for traffic calming/highway improvements, more school places and improvements to the community/village hall.

In addition it was suggested that another priority would be a Village Shop/Post Office.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received:

CCC – *Parish Council’s Heavy Commercial Vehicle (HCV) Strategy Meeting*

CCC – *Street Lighting Maintenance 2010/11*

CCC – *Damage to Byway following County Works*

CPALC – *Localism Update*

All above noted.

Highways Warden: Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that he had attended a Highway Warden Induction event at Witchford and was now equipped to act as intermediary between the Parish and CCC Highways.

Concerns raised about High Street Parking: The Clerk asked CCC Highways to visit site and advise on possible measures. Adam Cobb, Traffic Engineer replied noting that “*It predominantly looks and sounds to be a number of issues; which several can be solved via enforcement from the local police/ PCSO. If cars are speeding, this is an enforcement matter. Likewise, if cars are parking in an obstructive manner; preventing access to the Highway, this also requires enforcement.*”

Placing double yellow lines (Prohibition of Driving) will require a Traffic Regulation Order, which will cost around £1000 under localism. This entails 2 x adverts at £400 and £200 for the physical lining... ..” It was also confirmed that due to budget priorities CCC would not be able to fund any such work. Upon further consideration it was agreed that unfortunately there was no further action the Parish Council could take.

Reduction of Speed Limit on Mill Hill: As requested additional costing information was received from CCC but upon further investigation by Steve Kent-Phillips through his discussions with CCC as Highways Warden these proved to be inaccurate. Steve suggested that it was difficult to proceed until the results of the speed survey by CCC were available and as such no further action could be taken at this stage.

Request to Rent ‘Lower Allotment’ Field: It was agreed to rent the land to Alastair Lee on an annual review basis with the proviso that if a request for an allotment was received from a village resident this would take priority and an area of the field must be kept for this purpose.

Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2012-2013: Following review of the budget it was agreed that the Precept would remain at £14,500. No increase on current year. This is subject to final confirmation at January 2012 meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk’s Report:

ECDC made aware of the failure of Veolia to empty regularly the litter bins on Coopers Green, in the bus shelter and outside the play ground.

Parish Councillors’ Reports:

Peter Hart asked about repairs to the footpath on Station Road. Steve Kent-Phillips said he had discussed this with Paul Butcher and was hoping for some resurfacing work but this was subject to funds being available at the end of the budget year.

Open Question Time:

Concerns were raised about the pile of hedge cuttings, etc., at the front of properties on Cage Hill. *Steve Kent-Phillips to follow up.*

Mr Limb thanked the Parish Council for their work on the ‘Village Vision’ questionnaire.

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, 8th December 2011, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council

Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king5@btopenworld.com



Keep it Simple Santa!

The season of Advent can be a frantic time. For many of us the month of December involves buying presents, writing cards, getting ready for a variety of seasonal gatherings, and working out where all of the money required for these festive activities is going to come from. It is all too easy, however, in the midst of this, to lose the joy and the significance at the heart of

Christmas.

During the economic difficulties that we are facing – as a nation and as individuals – we keep being told that we need to be more austere. If you look that word up in the dictionary you’ll find a definition along the lines of “severe, strict, sombre, grave”. I personally prefer to use the word ‘simple’ (maybe it’s because I’m called Simon), and sometimes it really is true that ‘less is more’! If we de-clutter our Christmas this year maybe, in the process, we’ll rediscover the simple yet profound truth of the baby born in a Bethlehem stable.

suggest you cross off a few things from for your ‘Christmas To Do’ list... and with the time you’ll save, why not join us at RE:NEW as together we ‘prepare to receive God’s gift this Christmas’. You will, of course, be more than welcome at our all-age carol service on the morning of 18th December, and our all-age Christmas Day service at Lode Chapel. But why not also join us at Bottisham Primary School for the other services in our advent series too?

Finding the time to come to church on the Sundays before Christmas may seem like a bit of a challenge, but here’s my promise to you... if you make the time to reflect upon the nativity story, and its awesome significance, then this Christmas you’ll receive a gift more precious than anything else you’ve ever received.

Simon Goddard

RE:NEW Services this Advent

- Sun 27th Nov, 10.30am – Advent 1 ‘RE:MEMBER’ (School)
- Sun 4th Dec, 10.30am – Advent 2 ‘RE:TURN’ (School)
- Sun 4th Dec, 4pm – Community Christingle (Holy Trinity Church)
- Sun 4th Dec, 5.30pm – Sacred Space (Lode Chapel)
- Sun 11th Dec, 10.30am – Advent 3 ‘RE:STORE’ (School)
- Sun 18th Dec, 10.30am – Advent 4 ‘RE:JOICE’ All-age Carol Service (School)
- Sun 25th Dec, 10.30am – ‘RE:CEIVE’ All-age Christmas Morning Service (Lode Chapel)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

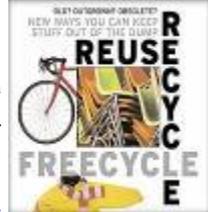
Tel: (01223) 812881

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://freebiefreakz.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle/>. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offers

Canon Pixma ip 3000 printer, including several unused ink cartridges. Nic c812231

Wellington boots in very good condition: gents - black (size 9) with re-inforced toecaps, Ladies – green (size 4). Charlie/Jean c812096.

Several small pulsatilla plants. Mark c811276 (evenings)

2' 6" full length, pine bed frame with mattress (formally the bottom of a bunk bed); 3' 0" full length, pine bed frame with mattress; 160mm brushed stainless steel standard up-lighter light, with directable reading light (it has stopped working – but someone better than me at DIY may be able to bring it back to life). John c811722.

A pair of beautiful old single beds with mahogany headboards. Patrick/Diana c811946.

HP Deskjet 5150 colour inkjet printer (fully functioning and capable of high quality photo printing as well as everyday printing tasks); EPSON Perfection 610 scanner (fully functioning, works with Windows XP operating system but not compatible with Vista or Windows 7); HP Deskjet F4280 All-in One printer (operational but has no mains cable); Teepee metal framed garden activity centre with 1 swing, 1 swing boat, tent and slide with extension piece. Ian/Helen c813962.

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.

Filing cabinet, or any other metal unit, for shed storage (doesn't have to be pretty). Michael on 07596 715821.

Male call **DUCK** (our male died of old age this year); car booster seat. Jun, c813362.

Bottisham Village College

Adult and Community Learning

Courses and Workshops for the

Spring Term 2012

As well as our regular classes, we have the following NEW courses starting in January

(all courses start w/c 16th January and are for 10 weeks unless stated otherwise)

Back 2 Basics Drawing

Cookery: Japanese

Cookery: Pasta

Counselling: Introduction

Floral Art: Spring has Sprung (5 weeks from 3rd May)

Garden Design: Introduction

History of Art II: A Closer Look

Knitting for Beginners

Personal Safety for Women (5 weeks from 23rd Feb)

Sculpture (Mixed Media)

Writing the Short Story

Weekend Workshops - Saturday 10th March

Dressmaking

Knitting: Next Steps

Mosaic in a Day

Photoshop

Upholstery and Chair Caning

Woodturning

Please see our website for further details www.bottishamvc.org/commed , or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372,

'O Magnum Mysterium'

A concert of Christmas choral music and readings by the Cantilena Singers.

Director Daniel Spreadbury
 Saturday 10th December, 7:30pm, St Mary's Church, Stow-cum-Quy

The concert will feature a wide range of festive choral music interspersed with readings suitable for the season from the sublime to the irreverent. It will include music by Victoria, Howells, Bruckner and Mozart amongst others

Programme to include:

Missa O Magnum Mysterium - Victoria

O Magnum Mysterium - Victoria

A Spotless Rose - Howells

Ave Maria - Bible

Hodie Christus Natus est - Sweelink

Virga Jesse floruit - Brucker

Cannon for 3 choirs - Mozart

Sir Christemas - Wells

Still, Still, Still - Gant

Christmas is coming - Davis

12 Thankyou notes of Christmas

Tickets are £7 or £5 concessions available on the door or from the Quy Post Office

Proceeds to the Church heating fund.



ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior December 2011	
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sun 4	 11:00am Christingle
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sun 11	 11:00am Matins
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sun 18	 4:30pm Village Carol Service With School and Church Choir
CHRIST- MAS EVE Sat 24	 3:00pm Family Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion Services in Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck
CHRIST- MAS DAY Sun 25	 10:00am Benefice Holy Communion Service (Swaffham Prior)
NEW YEAR'S DAY Sun 1	 10:00am Benefice Holy Communion Service (Bottisham)

Dates for Your Diary December 2011

Sun	4	Christingle, 11.00am, St Mary's
Sat	10	Ely Consort, 7.30pm, St Mary's Burwell Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	14	Village Carols, 6.30-8.00pm, Village Hall
Sun	18	Village Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm
Mon	19	Red Lion Christmas Dinners (to the 22nd)
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Sat	24	Crib Service, 3pm
Sun	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Mon	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 11am, The Denny ,Bulbeck
Fri	30	Winter Walk, 10am, St Cyriac's
Sat	31	Red Lion Fancy Dress, 7.30pm, Red Lion

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

**Village
Clubs
&
Societies**