

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXV Number 2 February 2011



Editorial

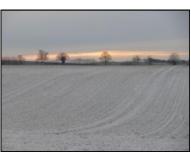
ROUNDHEAD OR CAVALIER, *WHATEVER*. Readers will be pleased to know that a licence has been applied for to close the High Street on Royal-Wedding 29th April just in case we want to have.....

....a Street Party, of course. All that is urgently required is an Organising Party and that could be lead by step forward vou. interested! No need at all for this to be composed entirely by Cavaliers, or indeed any Cavaliers at all, we'll all agree it's a very good opportunity to have a party. The last such that the editors remember (the Oueen's Jubilee) was a great success and was in fancy dress, so you could come as a Roundhead anyway.

Something very sad now. Colin Crabtree was well-known to just about everybody in the village because he was the man who delivered the Bettaware catalogues. Most of us have bought Bettaware stuff from him from time to time—some of it is very useful!-and will have chatted to Colin on the doorstep. Come rain or shine, he was always to be seen out and about on his bicycle delivering products, but we are very sad to report that he was killed in a freak accident on the Swaffham-Prior-Burwell stretch of the B1102 last He will be very week. much missed, and we just cannot believe we won't be seeing him anymore.

There'll be no more excuses for chickening out on our crossword now. In this month's magazine there

is an *infallible* guide (quite clearly, *I* wrote it!) as to what to do—so now's your opportunity. And don't miss the *Letters* page—the start of another long-running debate perhaps? Happy Valentine's, All!



Where's this snow-scape taken from?

Cover Picture: Time to Garden, Medieval Woodcut

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors.

Bard of Skye Replies

It's difficult to restrain the urge
To write a few lines about 'The Dirge'. (See Jan Crier. Eds)
(Some people still listen to 'The Archers' then?)
So-

I wouldn't add my name, nor even initial An opus that was all too superficial. And as for appending a self-imposed title (!!) I think poetic principle is rather more vital.

And also:-

It doesn't rhyme, It doesn't scan; You should have asked someone who can To write it for you.

It doesn't scan, It doesn't rhyme; I'd have done it if I had the time, But I haven't; poor you.

Ophir Catling



Donations!

Many thanks to Kate Child for her very kind donation to the *Crier* this month. Although we are largely supported by our advertisers, finances are always tight and donations like these are much needed and appreciated!

FOR SALE

2 SEATER SETTEE + 1 MATCHING CHAIR AND FOOT STOOL (BEIGE) NEW (27/7/2010), WAS £1500 NEAREST OFFER BUYER TO COLLECT



MOVEBALE FEAST

THIS YEAR'S moveable feast is to be held on Saturday 2nd April, 7.00pm start, and is as you know, for those of you who have been before, an event not to be missed.... three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. Venues yet to be

confirmed but will of course, as in previous years, be spectacular! If you haven't participated before make this year your first - there will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course. Numbers are of course restricted and so it is on a first come first served basis and newcomers to the village are especially welcome. It is a wonderful way of meeting other village folk in relaxed and convivial surroundings. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head?? Price held for yet another year, no VAT increase on this one!!

Waiting by the 'phone for your call to book a place and for offers to host a course!

Janet Willmott 01638 743742 / 07833 960678

CELEBRATION of FLOWERS and GARDENS

Saturday June 25th & Sunday June 26th St Cyriac's Church

The aim is to raise funds towards improving the appearance of the Sanctuary (East End).

There will be a garden themed Market on Saturday with table-top stalls and other items for sale and a Floral Concert on Sunday.

Please note these dates in your diaries.

More details will be appearing in future issues of The Crier.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

A more muted meeting, this one, either than the November one I attended, or the December one I read of in the last *Crier*. What excitement there was happened before the meeting began. 'Karen (King) isn't here.' Why? At a funeral. 'Can we get into the room?' Apparently not. 'Should we have the meeting in the pub?'(I honestly didn't note who sad that).

Somehow the door was unlocked and off we went. No Parish Clerk; no PC Chair. Undaunted, Sandra and Andrew were deputised and sworn in. (those last three words do embellish the truth somewhat).

Declarations of interest? None. Matters arising? Oh dear. Drains On Greenhead Road. The matter was now with the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) so it was considered 'no further local action could

Safety Executive) so it was considered 'no further local action could be taken'. Someone was concerned that some might read this to mean we are losing interest. Not at all! came a chorus of replies. This was debated. We were not losing interest. There was no dissent. Agreement was expressed around the table, until we were completely sure we completely agreed. Minutes were agreed also. Harmoniousness hovered over all.

ACRE Affordable Housing Enabler Catherine Shilton was introduced, along with Oliver Cook, from ECDC. Geoffrey Woollard opened with the view that 'if we embark on a survey of affordable housing need and possibly subsequent building, we'd be catching up on years of neglect. We are a village of 'rich retired' he said. Would this enable grandchildren who'd moved away to 'come home'? Also, who decides who would be entitled, he asked, somewhat pointedly. Oliver Cook began to say that priorities can be adapted in agreement with local PCs so it's down to you. The reply, although what everyone wanted to hear, was thrust aside even as it left his lips. 'Who are you?' said Geoffrey, suddenly. Are you John and Margaret's...? Yes, said Mr Cook, who is indeed their son. Ah! Said Geoffrey. Haven't seen them in years.

This filial and local link established, the tone of the meeting relaxed somewhat. He Must Be One Of Us Then. Some discussion of statistics ensued. 805 - is that people or households? It's by wards. Ah! So what we are discussing includes Reach.

Ms Shilton explained: most allocations are from assessment bands A & B, the neediest, priority for those with appropriate connections to that ward - an A from Ely cannot 'leapfrog' a D band person with identified connections to this area. She mentioned that a lot of people don't apply for social housing thinking they will not get a house, because of others in need in the region; but this may not be the case under these terms. It's 'Homelink' criteria that matter. Homelink was set up so people on the list can bid for an advertised property in the Homelink magazines. Guidelines strictly apply. No nods and winks because someone knows someone on the council!

What kind? Usually small units. People think it's all 3-beds but it's not. Pulpit Corner. (That was a Royal Exception for building permission, apparently. Sounded grand to me). They get built if a local housing survey identifies a need and there is

an offer of land to buy; but 'landowners don't get rich from selling land to social housing' Ms Shilton pointed out. £5K-£8K per acre. There's also a mutual exchange system run by Homelink - 'House swaps', if you will. Allen Alderson expressed E Cambs' concern that property rents rising in Cambridge push up private rents in the villages. Oliver Cook agreed. Although rents don't rise as in the social housing sector, it tends to increase pressure/demand on social housing as people find private sector rental too expensive.

Pause for thought. Mr Woollard voiced the question hanging in the air: so what next? He for one was happy for a survey to be done. How many respondents needed for a survey to be worthwhile? We'd be looking for 25%, said Ms Shilton. Is that all? I thought. This village can mobilise hundreds of responses for something they don't like, ie a travellers' site. What could it do for something they might actually want? An army of rampant housebuilders, you would think. I say this assuming nobody would be against housing for those from here but who can't afford to buy here. This was an agreement meeting - I didn't hear anyone put a word in against this issue, or much else. Except the State Of The Drains In Greenhead Road, of course.

Andrew Camps asked whether we publicise this. Ms Shilton said they would provide extra copies of the information she had given us, to be distributed. What about people who have moved away because they can't find somewhere to live here, asked Geoffrey. It says on the survey form that if you know someone who has moved away, we'll send them a form if you tell us, said Ms Shilton, ever ready with answers we wanted to hear. Do they get gardens? Yes. Is the school full? Pretty much, but the rich retirees here haven't produced many children, Geoffrey helpfully pointed out. Some come from Burwell. Indeed. That was it, then. To carry out a local survey was proposed, seconded, and passed. Messrs Shilton & Cook thanked us, were thanked for coming, and left.

An agreeable haze of consensus remained behind. This looks to need doing.

Then someone shook themselves out of it and asked how these newly-departed ACRE folk had come to be here in the first place. It was recalled that Ms Shilton had been invited in response to her letter circulated for the November meeting.

Once it had been established that this would cost us nothing at all, someone added.

That broke the spell and restored the gleam to some Councillors' eyes. (You probably need to have been at a PC meeting to know that look, but it tells you when they are in meeting mode).

The assembled councillors gathered wits and papers both; onwards to County Councillors' reports. No upward movement in Council tax. No Guided Bus movement in any direction. But actually no, truth to tell Guided Bus trials have taken place. (sounds of sucked teeth here. Really. I'm not making it up). A different contractor will complete the work. Maybe. (general derision). Gritting in the cold had been 'a hot topic' at CCC meetings. It was felt the teams did well. Other items: Integrated offender management. Continued action on climate change...

This provoked movement at the upper end of the table. GW: 'I'm not one for

going after people who are allegedly overpaid, but do we know what the salaries of the most senior officials are?'

DB said Mark Lloyd's is on the website and he's had no increase for two years, nor likely to in future. Shared management with Northants is also driving down costs. GW (not letting go): Then on the one hand one feels sorry for him; on the other hand if he's earning 180 grand, I feel less sorry for him. I will look it up. When did the guided bus start? He asked. - It hasn't, came the reply (laughter). GW (pointedly): I'm just relieved Councillor Brown's hands are clean...

AA added that in 7 years the number of senior officers has decreased, usually replaced with lower grades when they leave. GW wanted to know Oliver Cook's salary.

AA: Working with other councils is essential to driving costs down. It's scary what we've got to deal with in the next two years...less councillors representing larger areas, from 39 down to 30...

AC: Less representation of the people, then? AA: It depends...it's worked out on population.

Revenue Support grant: will be cut 17.8% from £5.6 million to £4.9 million in the first year; similar in the second. (I hope my notes make sense, statistics fans. I'm not a mathematician).

Down to (local) earth in an instant - the handrail at the Beeches IS up, this time. Last time it was reported to be, it wasn't; due to the wrong kind of cold. But AA had gone forth, giving the excusemongers short shrift. No-one can tell him it's too cold to lay concrete. Allen Alderson is a man who knows his mortar. And he put some sand down on the icy path when he inspected, too.

Swaffham Bulbeck store - village stores are greatly valued where they survive. We shop at the big places yes, *but village stores have a social value that's irreplaceable*. It's not a matter of instead of, but as well as. Shop local too. You know it makes sense.

AA: Small Village Grants: previously only where less than 800 residents, rule change means it's now less than 3000. We're eligible! Do we have anything to attract these grants? We might get it through. Any ideas? Contact a Councillor (I assume). Or write to Karen King.

Correspondence: to close a road for Royal Wedding street parties, Police to be notified by 31 Jan. Too late by the time you read this but I happen to know that since the PC meeting the forces of the SWG (Social Working Group) have been mobilised to notify as required, just in case...

Those Drains Again: (HSE still on the case) Pound Wall (repairs to, discussed) Budget (Precept accepted) GW went to a Neighbourhood Panel at BVC (why? he doesn't like them at all: "Apart from a sparkling performance from someone from SP, A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME").

Grass verge problems (Fairview Grove, Lower End, cars parking on, still an issue).

Allotments: what's the supply and demand? five, an oversupply. All held by two residents - not to create a vegetable empire, more to prevent them going to seed for

lack of interest, I understand.

Many things, big and small, in one meeting. All vitally important, each in their own way.

Mark Lewinski



OUIM OUIM

Swaffham Prior Village Hall 7.30 pm ♥ Saturday

12 March 2011

Tickets: f_6 each \P To book a table contact

Jenny Brand 🕿 (01638) 742161

Lynne Rand & (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ♥ Raffle

Bring your own drinks and glasses

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Advent by Candlelight

The Cambridge Voices Advent Concert at Swaffham Prior is a remarkable event. People travel from as far away as Watford to attend. It always follows the same format, yet each year presents something entirely new and fresh. The music has such variety and this year was no exception. We were introduced to a whole new range of contemporary composers — Elizabeth Poston, Andrew Carter, Richard Marlow, Richard Allain — in addition to the usual Bach, Howells, Tallis and others, and Ian's own arrangements. Ian de Massini and Cambridge Voices again played to a full and appreciative house. The readings ranged from Isaiah to Zephaniah, John Clare to John Betjeman, Wilfred Owen on miners to William Shakespeare on frostbite, and the readers interpreted their pieces with enthusiasm and clarity.

For an amazing 17th year running this event has been put together, rehearsed and directed by Ian, Hilary Sage and Elisabeth Everitt, and the standard of performance seems to improve every year.

In the event, Sunday November 28th was an exceptionally cold night, and Ian wondered whether the whole performance should be in St Mary's because of the intense cold in St Cyriac's. In the end the simple magic of St Cyriac's was irresistible and the musicians, readers, and audience all braved the freezing cold to hear and enjoy the second half of the programme. And how glad we were because so much otherwise would have been lost.

This was the first concert in the refurbished St Cyriac's. A review of the architectural success and effect of the alterations will appear later.

AE

Dates for Your 2011 Diary

A wide range of social and fundraising events have been arranged for the village by St. Mary's Social Working Group. Hopefully something of interest can be found which you will come and support and thus help keep the community spirit flourishing preventing it from becoming a satellite commuter village.

12th March Quiz Night
2nd April Moveable Feast
15th May Rogation Sunday

25th/26th June Celebrating Flowers and Gardens
7th July The Vicars Farewell Gathering

Autumn Events (Details to be confirmed later)

Harvest Week-end

Quiz Night

Village Variety

The members of the organising group are: Betty Prime, Shirley Wilkins, Linda Evans, Dee Noyes, Janet Willmott, Barb Mitchell, Brenda Wilson, Mark Lewinski, Jenny Brand, Ann Zeid and Kate Child, if anyone would like to join the group please give Kate a call on 01638 743983

Ivy

Not the good lady, but the insidious climbing plant which is becoming rampant everywhere. We all too easily accept it's invasion, and become unaware of the rapid growth it can make.

As I look out of my office window I can see trees that are covered almost to the top branches with this thick green foliage. In time these trees will succumb to the extra weight, and branches fall off, nearly dead from lack of light. The broader countryside is also affected, leaving rows of stunted trees where there would have been fine tall specimens.

When I first arrived here the trees on the Estate were kept in order by the Squire who had retained the shooting rights, and the trees. Mr Goddard who lived in the cottage at the entrance of Coopers Lane had the full time job of cutting through the lower growth of the ivy, thus killing it dead. Land management does not seem to value this task today, and throughout the area I travel in, ivy covered trees are everywhere.

Even the hedgerows are hosts to this pest. A dose of "roundup" in the spring usually stops any invasion, and will not hurt the hedgerow if sprayed on the lower branches where there are no leaves. How to get this job done is difficult, as so few people work the land these days, and the traditional wet day blitz of the staff, armed with saws and hatchets just does not happen anymore.

It is all very well getting larger and larger machines, many of them hired complete with driver, thus reducing the labour force so that very little maintenance is done. The number of people who work on the farms, and who live nearby has reduced to single figures in this parish. Where will it all end?

On the television this morning, January 24, great concern was expressed about the huge rise in population, the growing need for clean water, and a regular supply of nourishing food. Admittedly this was a global analysis. But it does affect us here in Cambridgeshire.

It is all very well the National Trust trying to alter the trend of keeping the very fertile fens in food production, by neglecting all the work done in the past to reclaim the land from a bog, and letting it revert to scrubby third rate pasture. Even the word pasture is too good for what we see today; it is poor grazing.

The new pathway just completed is an adventure for the mature cyclists. I have spoken to many who enjoy the experience of riding through former forbidden territory, and seeing the fen countryside. The bridges do present quite a formidable obstacle, as the steps are very steep for a bike. I suppose the managers have noticed that this path and the smart new bridge lie in the lowest area of the fen, and would be flooded first if that was the final decision to let the water in.

Perhaps it is just a small area that they intend to flood, but even this is too much in my opinion. Priory farm, now derelict, was once a hive of industry under the management of Mr Ingram, growing root crops, which should never be imported, and providing jobs for the local people. Not so many as previously perhaps, due to

modern techniques, but gainful employment nevertheless for some.

I must get off my fault-finding narrative, and get back to something more constructive—the heating of St Mary's church. We do have a system of pumping heat into the building, which has been tried and tested, and found to be partly effective. The trouble is most of the heat rises to the roof (not many folk up there) and stays there until we leave chilled through. I suggest we install three slow rotating fans near the ceiling to blow the warm air back down to us. This has been done in All Saints Church Newmarket, and is very successful.

I hope the PCC will look sympathetically on this idea, as we do have some cash to help pay for it. I have found that if you feel comfortable you will perform so much better, and might even be inclined to watch the ivy in your patch.

John Norris

"Hold a Fish and Chip Supper to help spinal cord injured people live full and independent lives."

Great British Fish and Chip Supper Friday 20th May 2011

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 20th May 2011 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In 2011 we want to double that figure and ensure we can provide more support to spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email <u>fishandchips@spinal.co.uk</u> or visit www.spinal.co.uk





Swaffham Prior in the big ice-up. Images by Karole Webster.





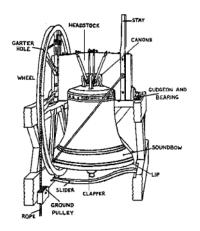




LET THE BELLS RING OUT

The bells at Swaffham Bulbeck are having some repairs carried out during February. Therefore, on Wednesday nights during part of February you will also be enjoying the Swaffham Bulbeck practice as well as the last-Tuesday-in-the-month Swaffham Prior practice.

Alastair Everitt



St Mary's Concert

St Mary's Singers & Players directed by Matthew Rudd

Saturday, 5th February 2011, 7.30 pm St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

J Haydn: 'Maria Theresa' Mass W Boyce: 'The King Shall Rejoice'

Anthem for the wedding of King George III & Queen Charlotte

J C Bach: Concerto in E flat

for two clarinets and bassoon

Interval Refreshments Retiring Collection *Proceeds for St Mary's Church and a local charity*

How to do....

The Cryptic Crossword

The *Crier*'s cryptic crossword has a loyal following, but quite a few readers don't have a clue how to set about them. So here's a brief guide. Unlike ordinary crosswords, the cryptic version gives you two chances to get a clue, first by its *definition* and then by some other devious means by which the same word might be constructed, the *subsidiary* part of the clue. For example, from last month's *Crier*:

Small stream found in Cyril Ladbrokes garden (4)

Well, the "*small stream* found in Cyril Ladbrokes garden" is a *rill*, the answer is hidden in the rest of the clue, and this is indicated by the fact you are told it is *found* in here. Here are some other **hidden word** clues from January:

Merlot usually **shelters** *flower* (5) *Bird* **captured by** memsahib is freed (4)

where to make things clearer (possibly!) we've put the meaning part of the clue in italics and the phrase that indicates it is a **hidden-word** clue in bold. Notice that the definition part always comes (by unassailable convention) either at the *beginning* or *end* of the clue. Another common device is the **sounds-like** clue:

Choose a flower, we hear, for preserve (10)

Piccalilli is the answer, what **we hear** is "choose a flower". Here are some more, with an initial letter in to help:

Aid to the poor limbs we hear (4) A = Succulent greeting is heard (4) A = =

A favourite ruse of crossword compilers is the **anagram**:

Cable power generating one with speedy delivery (4,6)

The answer is *pace bowler*, and we're told that "cable power" is **generating** a phrase for "one with speedy delivery". Many phrases are used to instruct the solver to muddle letters up, and here are some more examples:

Each tortured by <i>pain</i> (4) A
Animal surgeon's re-entry via malformation (10) V
Adroitly manage laggard (8) D
Lignite bra forged for emancipating (by burning?) (10) L
Pink plot disturbs or deranges (4,6) R G

The number of letters in the answer is a good guide for spotting anagrams. Another class of clues doesn't muddle letters, but takes a subset, the **initial** letters for example:

Second Greek initially but easily taken aback (4)

initially "but easily taken aback" — beta is the answer. Here's another

Slander louts utter rudely at first (4)

(clever compilers sometimes run the definition and subsidiary parts of the clue together, as here, with the initial S from "slander".) Also, look out for words like **finally** (take the last) **oddly** (every odd letter), **evenly** or just **regularly** (every other letter). Then there are straightforward **meaning** clues, the two parts of the clue refer to the same thing, Eg:

Murphy / 's shovel? (4)

where we've used a slash to indicate the separation of the two halves. No **keywords** here though, the answer is "spud", a Murphy and a shovel (apparently, most of us will have had to look this up!) Here's more:

Nymph? / Say that again? (4) E _ _ _ _ Defeat / salt deposit (4) L _ _ _

Enough said! Of the 30 clues in last month's *Crier*, 19 of them fall completely into one or other of these categories, the rest being some *combination* of these devices together with a few more. For example, words that are "often" (what some compilers *think* is often) abbreviated to **initials** are commonly used to make up missing letters, as here, in an **anagram**:

(M)edium sandals **arranged** on *large extent of ground* (8) L _ _ ...`

(M for "medium" is combined in an anagram of "sandals"), as might be numbers with Roman numeral equivalents (eg. 100 might mean C) and indeed all sorts of things (eg. Capital of Bosnia — B!) — you can be sure compilers have a some trick for every single letter in the alphabet, and familiarity with these is a first step to getting good at crosswords. In general, anything can be **added**:

Reportedly grabbed / building / leading to *trial here* (10) C _ _ (sounds-like "grabbed" + meaning "building"), inserted:

Rock princess in Bosnia quake (8) O _ _ (insert "Di" (princess) in anagram of Bosnia), or subtracted:

Religious rite for abstracting Pan from tarpaulin exotically (6) R $_$ $_$...

(take "Pan" away from "tarpaulin" anagram), as well as going **backwards**, possibly getting **beheaded**, **detailed** or **disheartened** at the same time—the list is endless. Half of the problem is to guess the correct *construction* of the clue (the *italic*, **bold** and slash bits added here), not easy to do on first reading even when quite familiar with all these devious devices. But don't despair. Expect to be able to do hardly any clues at all (if this is your first attempt, *one* is a triumph) until you have a letter or so in them, be prepared to *guess* and work backwards and don't forget that *two* heads (when available) are so much better than one. Happy solving!

Caroline Matheson

Crossword Number 76

Compiled by

Sponsored by The Red Lion

OUNCE

Names: The 41 answers are all names: 18 Across answers are boy's names, 16 Down answers are girl's names and every letter of the alphabet appears as the initial at least once. The remaining 7 answers include a nickname, surnames, geographical features, etc." Send your answers to the editors by 20 February 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.

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Name:
Address
Tel:

Across

- 4 Logical golfer? (5)
- **8** (Aussie) cricketer, Vera, joins team, sadly. (6)
- **9** 500 greedy for him. (5)
- 11 Film Director, Illustrator, and an Englishman in New York. (7)
- 12 Rearrange aisle ten for Greek boy (or American girl?) (6)
- 13 River we meet with Albert. (5)
- **14** Lawrence follows gym, for his sake. (4)
- **16** Boy! Wild parakeets tee off. (6)
- **17** He goes astray after try out. (3)
- **18** Engine man? (4)
- **19** German from University of Western England initially. (3)
- 21 Faces 50 left scrambling on second highest peak. (3,4)
- **24** Film Rat Mountain. (3)
- 25 Letter reported missing at Christmas. (4)
- 27 Carry On James. (3)
- **28** Old actor from county. (6)
- **32** Welshman found to endow English college. (4)
- **33** Smashed rare bone on earth. (5)
- **34** One small vote for Council (part of former Union). (6)
- **35** Result when doctor disconcerted 33A. (7)
- **37** Must he be an Aberdonian? (5)
- 38 Mark Egyptian's partner. (6)

39 Ledger left when Cliff parts from Emily's hero. (5)

Down

- 1 Jane admits mysterious Clique 'O'. (10)
- 2 Listen, it's simply entrancing at first. (4)
- **3** Half of witch-killing pair. (6)
- **4** Actress confuses scarce fan. (9)
- 5 Girl starts zoo using lions, elephants, meerkats and antelopes.(6)
- **6** Painted lady (7)
- 7 Cocktail kit in a song. (6)
- **10** See 22
- **15** Sore affected love god. (4)
- **20** Girl goes berserk in Milan while touring. (10)
- **21** Zest Ute uses for crepe. (7)
- **22/10** Charlotte's biographer. (9,7)
 - 23 The Clown designer. (4)
 - **26** EU rising after short day with intelligence. (7)
 - **29** Envoy travels north for her. (6)
 - **30** Bear girl luxuriates, possibly ignoring exit. (6)
 - **31** Did old Romans crush ancient slaves at first? (6)
 - **36** One who needed educating? (4)

Congratulations to last month's winner, Dainin O'Dowd, and commiserations to runners-up Trish Whitehead and Shirley Wilkins. Answers on Page 22.

News from the Fen

Between Christmas and New Year we welcomed the ITV Anglia camera's to Wicken Fen. They were at the fen to shoot a piece on the Trust's Outdoor Gym Challenge, a month long programme to help the nation shift some of those extra



pounds most of us put on over Christmas. My role was to demonstrate some of the exercises such as power walking and tree press-up's — watching myself on television that night the word 'lardy' came to mind, I had no option but to take on the challenge.

In a little over two weeks I've already lost over 2 lbs and discovered new areas of the fen and Vision lands that I never knew existed. I would thoroughly recommend the programme to anyone who would like to lose a bit of weight or improve their fitness. Exercising in the great outdoors has got to be better than a stale sweaty gym. Details of the Outdoor Gym, videos and downloadable exercise programmes can be found at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-outdoor-gym.htm

If the Outdoor Gym is a little too much then why not join Lois, our Community Officer and her team of volunteers on a Health Walk at the fen each Wednesday morning. The walks last approximately 1 hour and cover 3-4 miles and are a great way to get some gentle exercise and meet or make new friends. Meet in the carpark at 10am if you fancy tagging along.

We have recently produced a series of three downloadable maps detailing recommended routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders around Wicken Fen and the wider Vision lands. The maps can be found at www.wicken.org.uk/maps.htm. There is also a form where you can give feedback on the maps, suggest new routes etc. You can also leave contact details if you would like to discuss the maps / routes with a member of the Wicken team.

Regrettably in mid January a picnic bench was stolen from alongside the cycleway across Burwell Fen. We have experienced a spate of thefts in recent months from around Reach Lode Bridge / Tubney Fen including eight gates, two picnic tables, a bench and even 800 metres of electric fencing. Items such as picnic tables and benches are often kindly donated by local National Trust Associations whose members work hard throughout the year fundraising to provide the equipment. It's a great shame that peoples opportunity to rest, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the countryside are spoilt by the actions of these thieves. If you witness anything suspicious please contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 or contact the Police.on 0345 456 456 4

We are organising a free programme of guided walks and cycle rides over the

weekend of 5-6 February to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, or Ramsar Agreement, as it's more commonly known. Wicken Fen was designated a Wetland of International Importance in 1995, one of 1905 sites covering an area of 186.5 Million hectares worldwide.

Our Learning Team is busy planning a wild half term for children down at the fen. Exciting activities include: **Wild Wicket Trail** (Mon 21 Feb 1030-1230 or 2-4pm) – Imagine you are a child of the medieval fens, as described in the Wicket Chronicles. Explore the landscape, look for hidden Fen gold, and avoid the pitfalls of the old reed swamp; **Wild Geocache Trail** (Tues 22 Feb from 1030)– a day of extra clues and caches to our normal geocache trail; **Wild Art** (Wed 23 Feb 1030-1230 or 2-4pm) – be inspired by, and use materials from nature to create some wild masterpieces; **Wild Cycle Treasure Trail** (Thursday 24 Feb, 1030am or 2pm) – bring your bike, and follow clues on your mobile to guide you to the treasure. All half term events cost £4.50 per child.

Hope to see you at the fen soon.

Howard Cooper

SOUPS FOR THE SOUL!

Winter warmers to lift chilled spirits at Anglesey Abbey

Walks through our winter garden are designed to lift the spirits in the bleak midwinter. But chilly days need winter warmers so Anglesey Abbey's chef has turned to local growers and will offer a special soup-menu in January. The produce will be truly local with vegetables grown on the estate's allotments by Red2Green, a charity for learning-disabled adults who nurture the plants from seed and sell them to our restaurant. So after a gentle walk amongst the pine trees, or an amble down to the

water mill, visitors can return to a bowl of steaming soup and a jumbo savoury scone, knowing they haven't chalked up big food miles.

National Trust tea rooms are probably more associated with English cream teas but Chef, Chris MacRae, has recognised that visitors love to be greeted with a wholesome winter-warmer in the cold months. Chris says "I've been at Anglesey Abbey for 6 years and have learned what our visitors want at different times. *There's*



also a surprising number of coeliacs in the Cambridgeshire area – people allergic to gluten - and there will be a soup for them every day, along with a vegetarian option."

Chris has doubled the size of the scones and added tasty ingredients like roasted garlic, herbs and cheese; families have a special bonus with the option of a tear-and-share loaf, baked locally.

Varieties of soup will include Cullen Skink, Honey-roast Swede, and the exceptionally popular Sausage-and-5 Beans – using a local butchers' sausage.

SOUPS FOR THE SOUL will be on offer at Redwoods until the end of January.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our January meeting we welcomed Mr Richard Gant, Head Gardener at Madingley Hall, who gave us a most interesting talk on Plant Heritage (formerly the National council for the conservation of Plants and Gardens) and the role of the National Plant Collections.

We were informed that many garden plants are in danger of disappearing (or have already done so) from commercial

outlets – they may have become unfashionable, be difficult to propagate, be very tender, prone to pests or disease or be overtaken by new introductions. It is therefore vital to save species that may be otherwise lost. There are now over 650 National Plant Collections held by private gardens, nurseries, arboreta, local authorities, horticultural colleges, specialist societies, the National Trust and, of course, Botanic Gardens. Our own Botanic Garden in Cambridge holds nine National Collections including those of Alchemilla, Bergenia, Lonicera and European Saxifraga. The National Collection of Yuccas is held by Mr Colin Smith in Burwell and that of Hyacinths by Mr Alan Shipp of Waterbeach. This latter collection is open for the public to see on 26 and 27 March 11am – 5 pm at Bottisham Lock, Waterbeach and when in full bloom must be quite a sight.

There are many plant species not yet covered by the safety of the National Plant Collections, notably Hollyhocks, Cercis, Cosmos, Gladiolus and Lobelia. Interestingly, because of global warming, some collections, such as beech and saxifrage, are having to be relocated further north – a sign of the times.

Further afield, 30,000 known plants have become extinct in the wild because of forest clearing in various parts of the world. When plant species are lost so also may be the insects that live on those plants – it is therefore so very important to preserve as many types of plants as possible worldwide. For instance, the monkey puzzle tree, endangered in its natural habitat of Chile because of logging and deforestation, has been protected by the Edinburgh Botanic Garden which is now replacing young trees in Chile.

The aims for conserving plants are to identify and record, propagate and distribute, raise public awareness, to use for education and research and as historical living records.

This was a fascinating talk by Richard Gant, and I suspect that we all came away having learnt a great deal.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15 February at 8pm in the Village Hall when Mr Richard Ayres, retired Head Gardener of Anglesey Abbey, will be talking to us about 'Snowdrops and Winter Interest Plants'. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Mary Hart

WI Notes



The speaker at our January meeting was Jane Hipkin who gave us a very interesting account of her experiences while completing an apprenticeship at the Royal School of Needlework. Jane brought along a display of the work she had completed and illustrated her talk with slides. We learnt about the history of the School, which has a very prestigious home at Hampton Court, and heard about

some very exciting commissions that were undertaken during Jane's time there including refurbishment of the curtains at the Royal Opera House and royal banners for the Queen. The detail of her work was amazing and her enthusiasm for her subject was inspiring to us all.

On Friday 21st January a number of members and guests are going to the Pantomime at Bottisham Village College and our next monthly meeting will be on Monday February 22nd when we will hear about the life of a Paramedic from Bob Jones.

New members are always welcome. Come along to a meeting and see if you would like to join our friendly group.

Pat Cook President 01638 742224



From our Local County Councillor David Brown

January meetings at the County Council started with a meeting of the Highways Policy Review Group. The group has nearly concluded our report on a number of ways in which highways policy could be made more flexible and deliver cost-effective solutions to local issues by working more closely with parishes. The findings of the group will now go through the democratic processes at County.

There has also been a number of member seminars and other meetings to flesh out more details on spending plans at the County Council over the next 5 years. It is intended that there will be no increase in the County Council's s element of Council Tax in the next financial year, and probably no increase for a further four years. The Integrated Plan covering the next five years aims to save £50.4 million in 2011/12 and £160.6 million over the life of the plan. The proposals were considered by the Cabinet and, are the Council's answer to the most difficult financial situation in its history. They are defined by a new set of Council priorities, -supporting and protecting vulnerable people when they need it most, helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities, and developing the local economy for the benefit of all. The savings proposals cover all aspects of the Council's business.

In Children's Services a fundamental shift from universal to targeted services is

proposed, which over the next four years would save £1 million from youth services, £761,000 from home to school transport and £600,000 from children's centres. Direct support to some children and young ALMS people will end, saving £1 million from disability £527,000 from specialist teaching, £315,000 from budgets for educating looked after LIBERATING children and £301,000 from the Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity Service. The Council aims to save £950,000 from children's social care, COURTHOUSE £240,000 from the early year service, and £3 million from mainstream and special educational needs Answers to Crossword no. 75 school transport.



In Libraries, Learning and Culture, the Council will save £282,000 through operational efficiencies, income generation and new ways of working, £108,000 from redesigning the mobile library service, and £100,000 from introducing more self service and using volunteers in libraries. Working in partnership with other councils to provide support services and creating a Trust to run libraries will save a further £294,000. In social care, promoting prevention and localism will save £2.9 million, adopting reablement approach a further £4.75 million, and decreasing the cost of high cost and complex placements will save £1.3 million.

In Environment Services, a proposed restructuring of Trading Standards will save £641,000 over four years, reducing spending on environment and climate change £492,000, a proposed restructuring waste services will save £159,000 and a proposed reduction in senior management will save £100,000. Further efficiencies from the highways services contract will save £2.4 million, and restructuring Highways and Access £1.1 million. In public transport, phasing out subsidised bus services will save £2.7 million but there will be an extra £1 million invested in supporting community transport schemes over the next five years as well as a summit on how to make public transport more locally focussed and value for money. There will also be a £1.4 million saving in revenue funded highways maintenance but an extra £3.85 million investment in this area from capital funds.

In Corporate Directorates, over a four-year period, reducing properties and maximizing office space in retained buildings will save over £1 million, reducing the contact centre opening hours and standards and moving more services being

BON MOT NUMBER ELEVEN

"It may be the cock that crows, but it is the hen that lays the eggs." Lady Thatcher accessed and delivered online £426,000, reducing IT functions and delivering services in different ways will save £989,000 and reducing communications and marketing activity will save up to £550,000.

Bottisham Village College Community Education

Courses and Workshops for March

New short courses starting on Thursday, 3rd March Cookery – Pastries

(5 weeks) £43

Learn the art of pastry making to create a selection of sweet and savoury dishes

Floral Art - 'Traditional with a Twist'

(5 weeks) £43

Learn how to express yourself using flowers and other plant material in traditional and contemporary styles

Woodwork

(10 weeks) £90

For complete beginners or those with more experience, learn to design and create an item of your choice in wood, some basic DIY skills, or try your hand at woodturning

Weekend Workshops on Saturday 12th March
Stained Glass Making (2 days – 12th/13th March) £80
Chic Jewellery from Recycled Materials
(£40)

Dressmaking (£40)
Photoshop (£40)
Thai Seafood Cookery (£40)
Web Page Design (£40)
Woodturning (£55)

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



Love is...

Sometimes, when people tell me that they don't believe in God, I ask them what sort of God it is that they don't believe in. Once they've told me about an unloving deity who is distant and uninterested, I'm able to say that I don't believe in that sort of God either. The church is made up of fallible humans like

me, and over the years I think, by our words and our actions, we've often done a bad job of representing the one in whose name we gather. The Bible tells us that "God is love", and in the life and teaching of Jesus we see this spelled out in great detail.

God's standards of love are high. The story of the Good Samaritan, for example, is powerful because it calls us to a love that reaches beyond our prejudices and personal interests. When Jesus tells us to "love our enemies" he's letting us know that love isn't always fluffy and feel-good, but sometimes painful and sacrificial; and he puts this into practice when he goes to the cross on our behalf: "greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". Indeed, love can never just be a feeling and always needs to be expressed in actions – relationships fail when this truth isn't grasped. Although 1 Corinthians 13 is a passage that is often read out at weddings, it's a 'love to-do list' appropriate not just for couples, but for families and friendships, and society as a whole. In it we not only see a glimpse of the character of God, but also something that we can aspire to and work towards.

Love is patient – *sticking with it for the long term.*

love is kind – *making the interests of others a priority.*

It does not envy – happy for others, not jealous of them.

it does not boast – not emphasising personal success.

it is not proud – *not having a sense of superiority*

It is not rude – not putting people down.

it is not self-seeking – not lifting yourself up.

it is not easily angered – slow to anger.

it keeps no record of wrongs – quick to forgive.

Love does not delight in evil – *standing against what's wrong.*

but rejoices with the truth – *standing up for what is right.*

It always protects – *looking out for the weak and vulnerable.*

always trusts – *keeps believing in God and others.*

always hopes – remaining optimistic for the future.

always perseveres – gets back up, again and again.

Love never fails – never underestimate what love can achieve.

Simon Goddard

As mentioned in last month's magazine, our 'Healing Space' service starts this month. 5.30pm, Sunday 20th February at Lode Chapel.

No sermon, no singing, just healing space. Come and receive confidential prayer

support.

Other services in February

Sundays 6th, 20th and 27th, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary)

Sun 6th, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel) Sun 13th, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

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

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

iMac, bondi-blue, extra memory installed. Serif software for PC: PhotoPlus, PagePlus, DrawPlus – unused and complete. Three large plastic dog beds. Ancient knitting machine, no instructions. Software for PC: Mahjongg, Compton's Encyclopaedia, 3-D Garden Designer, Easy Computer Guides. Microsoft LifeCam 1.1. Large bag cotton-weight upholstery fabric scraps for patchwork. Pile of Scratch magazines – "the forum for nail professionals." Young eucalyptus tree, now about 7' tall. Chrissie 01223 812970.

several new ink cartridges LC900 for Brother inkjet printer, Mr Pritchard 01638 743976.

Zoom lens (75-300mm) for Canon digital camera. Only works on manual focus (or dismantle for lenses). Jacqui, c.811190

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.

Cupboards suitable for storage in garage. Valerie c.813611.

PASTORAL LETTER, February 2011

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

February is always remembered as the month of love because of Valentine's Day. According to legend, the valentine takes its name from a young Christian who once lived in ancient Rome. The Roman soldiers did not want to leave their homes to fight the emperor's wars. Emperor Claudius II ordered the young men not to marry. He thought that if they did not have homes, they would be willing to go away and fight. Valentine felt sorry for the unit of the property of



willing to go away and fight. Valentine felt sorry for the unhappy young men and their sweethearts and so he married many of them secretly.

Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine was imprisoned because of his faith. Legend tells us that just outside his cell window grew a cluster of violets. He picked some of the heart-shaped leaves and pierced them to spell the words, "Remember your Valentine," then sent them off by a friendly dove, to assure his loved ones of his well-being and his love. On the next day and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus the valentine had its beginning. On Valentine's Day, people of all ages remember those they love by sending valentines.

God invented love, and, in the love that couples share in their relationship, they get a glimpse of His love for them. The Bible tells us that 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them' (1 John 4:16). That statement says a great deal about the role of God in marriage.

I find that Couples are often very unclear in their minds about the legal position of getting married in a parish Church. As a Church of England Vicar I am in the very privileged and responsible position of being appointed both the Minister presiding over a marriage ceremony and the Registrar making a legal record of the marriage. This is because the Church of England is still legally recognised as the established Church of our country.

One of the happy implications of being the established Church is that couples needn't be baptised members to be married in their parish Church, they simply have to meet the residential qualifications. Normally the legality of the marriage is established by the reading of banns for three consecutive Sundays in the three month peruiod leading up to the date of the marriage, but it can also be established by the issuing of a licence or a special licence (although in the case of a special licence at least one of the parties needs to be baptised). During 2008 the Church of England agreed that many more couples can avoid the necessity of applying for a Special Licence if they can demonstrate a strong personal or family connection with a particular Church, even if they no longer live in the parish. The banns are read in the normal way with the addition of the statement that the person/persons have a 'qualifying connection' with the Church.

In recent years the Church of England has softened its approach to the remarriage of divorced persons in Church. It is still regarded as the exception rather than the norm, but, if a couple can demonstrate that their relationship is free from the burdens of past mistakes and not the cause of the divorce, then we are happy to welcome the

remarriage of divorced persons in Church. We recognise that God is about forgiveness as well as love, that He understands our failures and weaknesses and wants to help us to come to terms with the burdens of the past. He wants to help us to rebuild our lives and to find new happiness and the loving companionship of a new relationship.

My task in helping a couple prepare for their wedding day is to guide them through the proposed ceremony, and to help them make it a truly memorable and special occasion. This means making the service personal for them by helping them choose readings, music and hymns that are special to them, advising them on the role of friends and family in the ceremony and helping them to prepare the order of the service. I also help them to understand the full implications of what they are entering into, and we often have lively discussions on the issues of communication in marriage, sharing decision making, dealing with money and coping with conflict and disagreements.

	St Mary's Swaffham Prior February 2011
Sun	11:00am
6	Matins BCP
Sun	10:30am
13	Holy Communion
Sun	11:00am
20	Family Service
Sun 27	10:00am Benefice Communion (Swaffham Bulbeck)

The liturgy of the Church of England provides for a standard form of vows to be said by the couple. This is the focal point of the service, and represents a public declaration of the love that the bride and groom have for each other. These days the majority of couples exchange rings, reminding them of the equality that exists in the marriage relationship today, and this is also emphasised by the bride no longer being required to 'obey' her husband.

Getting married in Church is surprisingly inexpensive by comparison with all the other costs often associated with weddings, and with the setting of a wonderful mediaeval building, the bells, the music and the flowers, there cannot be a more perfect setting for a marriage ceremony. So, if you are considering getting married, talk to me about the possibility of getting married in your local parish Church.

May God bless you all,

David

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

Dates for Your Diary February 2011

Sat	5	St Mary's Concert, 7.30pm, St Mary's, Bulbeck
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, "Snowdrop and Winter Interest Plants", 8pm VH Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Fri	18	Cwion Conv. Doodling
LII	10	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	19	60's Night, Red Lion, 7.30pm

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 Thurs	7-8:30pm 7-10:00pm	Youth Club Hut

Village Clubs & Societies

Christmas
Day on the
Dyke. Keep
those
pictures
coming!

