



The Swaffham Crier

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July/August 2011



Editorial

STORMY WEATHER, and consequent computer glitches made getting the Crier out this month more than usually tricky, so, resourceful as *ever*, we've combined this edition into July/August

Huge sighs for relief all round for anyone who doesn't want to sort out their September copy for the usual August/September issue, copy-date for September will now be *27th August*. There's always a silver lining....but here's some Especial Advance Warning: the September 17 Dog Show! Yes, even if your dog's behaviour is as *exemplary* as ours, it may nevertheless be politic to do a little advanced training on more advanced issues, like, um, walking on a lead....that sort of thing.

Ear to the ground as ever, last month's **Crier** completely missed the fact that there already is a really lovely Souvenir Booklet of the Street Party which the more clued-up cognoscenti were able to purchase shortly after the do. If you would like a copy, price will be £20- — see page 6.

A sad month, this one, since David and Pauline will be leaving us. They will be sorely missed, and we won't forget the very great kindness David showed to us and other families concerned after an accident on the B1102 shortly after his arrival.

By this time, everyone will have received their survey forms on village development, and the **Crier**, having been very sniffy about the whole idea, is now enthusiastically filling it in with their own wish-list. Get rid of those motorway streetlights! Let's have a tennis court! And above all, let's join up some of those public rights of way so the dog-walkers can enjoy some pleasant *circular* walks while they're getting in that extra training practice. As opposed to boring U-turns or hiking along the A14. Well, we can but wish!

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Happy Holidays,
everyone!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture:



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

What you wrote in the editorial in the (mid)June issue about the affordable housing survey was misleading, and potentially rather inflammatory. I was surprised to see that written by such moderate an considered people as you are!

No, the sites for new houses are NOT decided centrally! That is totally the *opposite* of what happens - the *village* decides. All sites in the village that COULD potentially have affordable houses put on them are identified, the owners are asked if they would be willing (to be paid much less than for commercial houses) to allow this; if yes, then those sites are included in the survey, ie THE VILLAGE GETS THE SAY. For a 'rural exception' to be made for affordable housing - ie *for planning permission to be granted on a site that would not normally get planning, a majority of the village's residents would have to give their consent. This is not the same AT ALL, NOT EVEN SLIGHTLY SIMILAR to the PC approving the tedious details planning applications, and it isn't a central decision.* Misleading on two big counts, Eds!

This is a referendum on the spaces in our village. There is not scope for us to 'out -NIMBY' one another; and certainly those of us living along by the 'Dencora' field couldn't out-vote the rest of the village if we tried. Moreover, although the scout field is technically available for planning, it seems unlikely to me that a mass of people would vote it in. But that's the whole point of a full survey - we are ENTITLED to show via the survey that *we don't want the scout field built on*, and once said, it's clear. If the PC were allowed to prevent us being surveyed, we have not had a voice. It's called democracy.

Harold Pinter, the great human rights activist and sometime playwright, called our current parliamentary system 'an elected dictatorship' - ie they say all sorts of things they think we'll like to vote them in, but once they're in they can do what they like for 5 years, including the opposite of what they said before they got in, and we can't stop them; then they try to persuade us to vote for them again at the end of that that by saying another load of things they think we'll like, that they may or may not actually mean. Does that sound familiar? There are times when everyone has to be asked, not reps who may have personal preferences and who haven't sought the views of their electorate. This is not a **representatives** matter: it's a **referendum** issue. For all that has happened in the last century or two for democracy to be established in a way that allows ordinary people to have a say, it's utterly bizarre that when democracy is being given to the village to have their say there are those who want to argue for the opposite, and even our illustrious eds try to tell us the opposite is actually happening! This is barking loony, frankly. *Get a grip, PC and Eds.*

In simple: for a clear and complete opinion of the population of the village on the future development of the village to be known WE are entitled to be asked, WE decide, not the PC. It is ONLY on this occasion for this matter. It doesn't mean that any site the village says we would be willing to put affordable houses on can all have skyscrapers put on them next time a planning application comes in. It doesn't

open the door to ANYTHING except this one set of affordable houses.

This is not for the PC. Here, to know what the village wants, the village has to be asked...same as the traveller site, did someone say?

Mark Lewinski

PS see last month's Crier re 'tedious details' of planning applications. The reason we don't live in a country with the kind of favelas (slums) and architectural nasties created by people who would like to do what they like to any building they can get their hands on as you see in some countries, is that we have a planning application process, and you can see it in action there, at the end of my report, actually being done properly. Detail yes, tedious no..

Dear Editors,

How do you solve a problem like Lewinski?

Probably by ignoring it or, alternatively, by doing a Michael Winner - as in 'Calm down, dear.'

Maybe I ought to have ignored Mark Lewinski's outpourings in the June Swaffham Crier but, on the other hand, Mr Lewinski was, for the Parish Council's May meeting at least, 'Our Reporter' and, as one member of the Parish Council, I did hope for reasonably accurate reporting of the proceedings. My hopes were not borne out by what appeared in the June Crier, where the seriously unpleasant words used exhibited a mixture of malign ignorance and misunderstanding. But it was Mr Lewinski's hysterical 'update' letter, also in the June Crier, that tipped the balance towards my deciding to write to you.

The May meeting of the Parish Council was, as I have said, one of the best ever and it was one of the best ever, not because any of us wanted to 'duff over' East Cambridgeshire District Council's planning officer who was in attendance to help and to guide, but because all members of the Council were present and all, without exception, contributed to the lively discussion on the draft document, 'A Vision for Swaffham Prior,' produced by the District Council. It was quite clear that members of Swaffham Prior Parish Council had their own opinions, based on their local knowledge, and were not minded metaphorically to roll over and have their collective tummy tickled. As a consequence, their opinions and comments were taken seriously and have been taken into account.

If Mr Lewinski had taken the trouble to turn up at the Parish Council's June meeting he would have witnessed further discussion with the District Council's officers, eventual agreement with them on the content of the 'Vision' document - which is about more than 'affordable housing' - and decisions as to how it should be put before all of the people for their responses. He would also have witnessed the moving of a vote of thanks to the two planning officers present and its being passed with acclamation. But he wasn't there, so he didn't. Which is a pity.

Parish Councillors will be distributing the final version of the document to every home in the Parish and the responses will be collated by the District Council. I, for one, am optimistic about the outcome of this co-operation between an active Parish Council and a helpful District Council.

Geoffrey Woollard

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

WOW!! Who would have thought it. There is a major change of Government Policy (Localism Bill, bottom up and all that). Three months ago ECDC described the change to the PC. Chairman John Covill said “how welcome to have ECDC asking rather than just telling us”. I attended the first address by Katie and Abigail, and also the address at the Annual Village Assembly by Katie, and the emphasis was always on PARTNERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP.



I missed the May PC meeting but from the Crier report it seems it was nothing like a partnership. It seems, from the report, that the PC was being told what to do and its opinion was being ignored. The result, according to the report, was that Abigail was being “duffed” up. The reporter certainly put this right by “duffing” up the PC, and then followed this up after the meeting with a further bit of “duffing” in a letter to the *Crier*. It amounted to nearly five pages of “duff”.

So, what had gone wrong? Why the total turnabout?

Before any PC meeting formally opens there is a “Public Participation” spot. I used this to raise my confusion and concern. Two meetings with partnership being the keyword, and one meeting when it appears to have been anything but this, and when it seemed the PC was just being used as a PA/Secretary/Footman to the decisions made by the ECDC backroom boys. Was this another form of top down, or bottoms up, with the PC being cut out.

There were five of us in the Public Gallery. After me Mike Phillips expressed his doubts about the need for low cost housing and thought there should be a detailed analysis of the past use and present need before reaching any decision. Roger Connan raised the need for a Pétanque (known as this in the South of France and as Boules everywhere else) pitch and club. He said this would be organized and coached by Serge Raja, a master player, who was keen to set it up. This would be like having Eric Cantona coaching the local football team. Roger said we could join the League and that home matches would benefit the pub. He also emphasized the advantage this could be for the village and for the young. The request was to use the backend of the car park which is owned by the PC.

The PC was a little wary and suggested if people wished to play they could go to one of the four pitches in Burwell, or they could use the front path of the Village Hall. That’s no good, said Roger, and his enthusiastic presentation was so convincing that he was asked to put everything down in a letter which would be considered at the next PC meeting.

We members of the public had a ball and it was a full 20 minutes before we moved on to the next item of the agenda. Katie Child and Abigail Taylor from ECDC were invited to make their address and to answer the points previously raised by me, a member of the public. Katie said, and stressed, that the arrangement ***was a partnership*** and depended on trust on both sides. There was no threat of a big stick, and they did wish to take account of the PC’s opinion in the preparation of the

Questionnaire to be circulated to the whole village for its opinion.

Before they got on to the detail Paul Latchford asked “What about the potential traffic problem? Have you thought about that?” We all have our obsessions (mine is Ivy but I keep quiet about this during the summer) and Paul’s is obviously traffic. He quoted the parking problem at the Football Ground as an example but it was quickly pointed out this was an entirely different matter. In any case more parking spaces are being added at the ground. I remember (and now I am doing a Geoffrey) twenty years ago at an open meeting in St Cyriac’s, during a discussion about its use as a concert hall, someone saying “What about the potential traffic problem? Have you thought about that?” That was Paul. Ten years later at an open meeting about the refurbishment of the Village Hall and its increased usage a voice from the back asked “What about the potential traffic problem? Have you thought about that?” No, this wasn’t Paul. It was a person who suggested we approach Michael Cazenove for permission to extend the car park in to his meadow. As far as I know neither venue has caused any more problems than, say, a wedding or a funeral.

You may wonder why have I spent so much space on this. Paul is tenacious and a considerable amount of time was spent on the question even before the questionnaire had been looked at. He would not let it go until Katie/Abigail agreed there should be a mention in the questionnaire to remind the village that any development could result in an increased number of cars. Even his mentor Geoffrey tried to put the issue in perspective by saying that an extra 100 houses in Burwell or in Soham would have far more affect on the village than a small scale development here.

Then began the detailed examination of the questionnaire and rarely, if ever, have I see a more professional and co-operative discussion of any document. It took over an hour. They went through it point by point, discussed many issues and agreed any changes. All made a contribution based on the variety of skills within the PC. I cannot give the details but the village can rest assured that after this meeting a considerably improved document will be circulated. Especially interesting is that Katie said each questionnaire will be amended slightly according to the concerns of each village parish council. That is really impressive.

As always at PC meetings there are many light moments. Many of the questions asked for a straightforward yes/no response. Steve asked that a “Don’t Know” slot should be added. On the third request for this Paul asked whether Steve’s life had been one long state of indecision and whether he always had had difficulty in making up his mind. Steve thought long and hard about this, and then, with a broad grin, said “I don’t know”.

The result was a triumph for the intentions of the Localism Bill if and when it is passed. The only drawback according to the Campaign to Protect Rural England is that at present it is not planned to include any “community right of appeal” against what might be seen as “damaging developments” in a neighbourhood, whereas developers will still be able to repeatedly challenge and wear down the resistance of local councils and authorities.

This part of the meeting ended at 9.00pm with Katie and Abigail receiving a

large round of applause. It was so good to see the Partnership and Trust working so well. I don't know what happened at the meeting I was unable to attend but all I will say is that a person who could not, did not, could not be bothered to attend either the Annual Village Assembly or the June PC meeting does not know what they are talking about and ought to back off as graciously as possible. It's important to remember what Scott of *The Guardian* said in 1921 "Comment is free, but facts are sacred."

The remainder of the meeting was pretty small beer in comparison. David Brown caused hoots of laughter when he announced the latest opening date of the Guided Bus as being Sunday 7th August 2011. He regretted he will be on holiday so we won't be given a blow by blow account of its success or otherwise. He also listed the new committees onto which he has been invited, as also did Allen Alderson later. One really must admire the commitment and time which our representatives need to spend on our behalf. Just having to attend five PC meetings each month would be more than enough for most people. No hard information was given about the Newmarket Tip.

Nothing of any import followed. At the beginning three members of the public had had their say. In Open Question Time Michael Limb this month remained silent, but the fifth person, David Greenfield, had bided his time and then asked for Karen's follow up to a question put to her at the Annual Village Assembly. She would not give any answer, and I am not sure if she agreed to revisit the question and look into it. Several PC members expressed their interest.

Alastair Everitt

STREET PARTY SOUVENIR

It was a Street Party to remember. To keep this memory green, a gorgeous 32 page booklet, with colour photographs by Jon Mold and words by Charlie Fletcher, will be available at £20 a copy. To obtain one, your order must be placed by Sunday 14th August through Alastair Everitt at 5 Lower End (742974). *There will only be one printing.* Make your cheque payable to Jon Mold. If you prefer to pay cash a receipt will be given. Your name, address and phone number will be helpful with your order.



Sourdough Sunday - 24th July 2011

**Free entrance with donations
towards the upkeep of the mill**

As part of this year's Lammas Festival celebrations, come and join Carl Shavitz of the Artisan Bread School at Fosters Mill, Swaffham Prior and learn how to make sourdough bread! Carl, a celebrated artisan

baker (www.artisan-bread-school.com) who runs courses in Italy and the USA is a gifted teacher and communicator and will be providing hands-on tuition to all who attend. Using flour from the mill, Carl will show us the different stages of preparing sourdough, creating the levain, preparing the dough by folding and stretching, moulding the dough, proving it in bannetons (cane baskets) and baking it. You will be able to taste the bread and take away your own dough at the end of the day in a banneton ready to prove in the fridge and pop into the oven the following day!

Last year's event was great fun and well attended so come early if you want to take part. The mill will be working and selling flour to those who are inspired!

For more information call Jonathan Cook on 01638 741009 or check out the website – www.fostersmill.co.uk

**UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE HAD TO
CANCEL THE BEER FESTIVAL
14TH/15TH/16TH JULY UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

***THE RED LION*
SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

Bottisham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group: an update

PPG committee members attended a meeting on 16th June with other local PPGs to find out more about how health services are currently provided by the NHS in our area. The final shape of the NHS reforms is uncertain but, whatever their final form, responsibility for deciding how money is spent on hospital care and many other health services will be given to consortiums of medical practices.

In preparation for this change the Bottisham practice has joined with seven others to form the CamHealth consortium: Arbury Road; Cherry Hinton; East Barnwell; Firs House Histon; Milton; Newnham Walk; and Nuffield Road. Together they serve 73,000 patients. CamHealth is using its £86 million current annual budget to buy hospital and community services, for example from Addenbrookes and the podiatry service at Chesterton.

CamHealth aims to improve the service we get by providing more care through the practices, making it easier for us to access that care and tailoring it to our needs. The focus will be on improving services such as treatment for diabetes, which affects ever more of us, and care for vulnerable elderly people (in the Bottisham area we have a higher proportion of over 85s than in many areas of England).

CamHealth also aims to save money as its budget next year is likely to fall short by £3 million. Making the necessary savings will be tough but it can be done. For example, if we avoid unnecessary visits to A & E by going to Bottisham to see the practice nurses, this will help save part of the £46 million CamHealth pays to Addenbrookes and other hospitals each year. Avoiding wasting prescription drugs will reduce the £12 million CamHealth pays each year for drugs. So all of us can help. The Bottisham Patient Participation Group will let you know how these plans develop.

As there is unlikely to be a decision from the Government about the NHS reforms until after the summer recess, the PPG committee will meet on 11th August to look at how it can work with Practice staff to improve services to local patients.

Bottisham PPG Committee

ELY SOUTHERN BY-PASS BECOMES "More than just a dream"

A high level meeting happened last week and more are planned from all levels of the democratic system with one goal, to make the £28 million pounds by-pass a reality

The area's two local MPs (Jim Paice and Stephen Barclay), top directors and cabinet members from Cambridgeshire County Council (including Cllr Ian Bates and Cllr Steve Cresswell), and senior representatives from East Cambs District Council(Leader Peter Moakes and Deputy Leader James Palmer) have all been working together to achieve the common goal. Already enough funding has been

found to carry out a full investigation and Peter Moakes from East Cambs says "We have good reason to hope that there will be more funding without massive need to involve Central Government at every stage". Peter also stated that "We have all recognised the absolute priority this road link is for the well being of the area subject was discussed by East Cambs District Council Development and Transport Sub Committee on Monday 4th July and there was unanimous support for the plan to be pushed onward and upward with as much energy as possible. The same group also decided to recommend to County Highway chiefs that one of the proposed routes which was likely to impact on The King's School Playing fields was a sub-standard idea and should be dropped as it failed the value for money test. Apart from "freeing off" the area around Ely Station from horrendous traffic levels, the emerging reality of the By Pass will also be a real tonic for all those who live along the A1123 which goes from Soham to St Ives via Stretham, Wilburton, Haddenham, Earith and Bluntisham says local County and District Councillor Bill Hunt. "It may take years to finish but now all levels agree this By-Pass is a "must" I feel confident it will happen".

James Palmer (Deputy Leader of East Cambs District Council) believes that the by-pass will open up Ely in a dramatic way to Business, Tourism and Residents in equal measure. "Excellent News which will fulfil the Conservative Group dream of telling people with a loud voice that East Cambs will be open for business" says James.

Councillor Bill Hunt

Spokesman East Cambs Conservative Group.

william-hunt@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile 07710 081 995



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 10th September, 8th October, 12th November and 10th

December

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

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

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159

or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk

*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

Bottisham Village College

Community Education

Courses for the Autumn Term 2011

Look out for our new Adult Learning Prospectus which will be delivered to your door soon!

As well as our regular courses, new for the Autumn Term are:

Back2Basics – Drawing
Beekeeping for Beginners
Bookkeeping and Accounting Skills Level 2
Cookery – Jam & Chutneys, Cookery – Simple Chinese
Floral Art – Traditional with a Twist
History of Art – European Painting 1200-2000
Knitting for Beginners
Mosaics in a Day
Personal Safety for Women
RHS Horticulture Level 3
Upholstery and Chair Caning
and new for the Spring Term 2012:
Writing the Short Story

For further details visit our website www.bottishamvc.org/commed or
contact the Community Office (01223) 811372, email
commed@bottishamvc.org

PHOTOGENIC GARDENS REQUIRED!

The Village Gardeners are hoping to produce a Gardens of Swaffham Prior calendar for 2013.

We have a talented A level student, in the village, who is very interested in photography and would like to take the photos. So all we need now is some gardens! Anyone who'd like their garden to be in the calendar, please either Roger Connan, on -742182 or Margaret Joyce, on -744390. The photos will be taken between August 2011 and July 2012.

A garden photo can of course be long view, a border, a little corner, a specially nice shrub or a whacky plant. We look forward to hearing from you.

Margaret Joyce

‘LATELY’

Exhibition of paintings by Joss Goodchild, Julia Suddaby, Hannah Webb

10th – 15th September 2011

The Edmund Gallery, Bury St. Edmunds. IP33 1LS

10 am – 4.30 pm. Free Admission.

Have your say on the future of Swaffham Prior Help to produce a ‘Vision’ for your village

East Cambridgeshire District Council is looking for your views on how your village/parish should change or improve in the future. What sort of place would you like Swaffham Prior to be? What are your priorities for the village and the wider parish? For example, do you want more school places, better local facilities, new homes or more employment opportunities?

The District Council wants to work in partnership with local people and the Parish Council to draw up a long-term Vision for Swaffham Prior. The Vision will set out how Swaffham Prior should develop/improve over the next 20 years. It will look at issues such as:

- local housing needs
- employment opportunities
- sites for development
- the quality of the local environment
- infrastructure and facilities – whether to protect and/or improve

The Vision will be used to guide decisions on future development and planning applications. It will also help ensure that key infrastructure and facilities are retained and enhanced. The Vision will be included in the statutory development plan for the East Cambridgeshire - known as the ‘Core Strategy’.

A questionnaire will be available for people’s comments from **14th July 2011**. The questionnaire can be viewed on the District Council’s website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review; or paper copies can be obtained by phoning the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555. The website will also have questionnaires for other settlements in East Cambridgeshire (which you are welcome to fill out), as well as other background documents.

Comments should be returned by **27th August 2011**. The District Council is keen to get your views, and would like as many people to get involved as possible. Your comments will help to shape a draft Vision for Swaffham Prior. The draft Vision will be published early next year, when there will be a further opportunity to make comments. The final Vision should be published in late 2012, and should hopefully reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.

Abigail Taylor



The Dry Garden

Water is a precious resource locally and globally. Rainfall in Cambridge has averaged only 557 mm annually over the last 30 years and Cambridge's climate is classified as 'semi-arid'. With the recent spring being the driest in over a century, it is pertinent to be looking at how we reduce reliance on costly mains water in our gardens.

Despite a permanent hosepipe ban in the beautiful Dry Garden here, it nevertheless flourishes. This is principally down to selecting plants that can survive short-term drought and to using appropriate horticultural techniques, such as applying thick, moisture-conserving mulches and planting closely to help reduce loss of water from the soil.

Of the 100 different species in the planting mix, many are Mediterranean natives such as Lavender, Thyme and Blue Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*). Drought-tolerant characteristics to look out for in water-wise plants include small leaves that reduce water-loss, silvery, reflective foliage that minimises solar gain, or hairy leaves that trap moisture. Bulbs and annuals both demonstrate life-cycles that avoid summer drought by surviving as underground storage organs through the hot summer months, while annuals tend to grow, flower and set seed early in the year to ensure the next generation. There are also a number of British endemics like Stinking Iris (*Iris foetidissima*), the Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*), that are included on the basis of many years observation of what grows easily here in our conditions.

A pergola forms the backdrop to the Dry Garden and is draped with drought-tolerant climbers such as *Clematis armandii* and *Vitis purpurea* that provide light shade for the table and chairs here. This affords the perfect spot from which to take notes on how to incorporate water-wise gardening into your own garden at home, plus the planting list is available from the Garden's website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

Juliet Day

Development Officer, Cambridge University Botanic Garden

The Botanic Garden is open 10am – 6pm through the summer months, and until 8pm on 3 and 17 August. Admission is £4 (£3.50) or join the Friends & help the Garden grow! To discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

Harvest Supper

Saturday 20th September 2011

6-9pm St Cyriacs

Please join us for a hearty meal by candlelight and dancing to a live band in this beautiful setting.

Tickets £5 children, £7 OAPS, £8 Adults. More details in September's *Crier*, or call Fleur Routley on 01638 743992.

The Book People - a warning

My mother who was largely housebound in the last years of her life became an ardent postal shopper. She was able to buy magazines, books, mobility aids - just about anything she needed could now be delivered conveniently to her door.

When she died last September, it fell to me to respond to all the catalogues and charities who had kept her up to date with their latest products and offerings and let them know that she had died and please, could they now take her off their mailing list. Where there was a telephone number, I did this by phone: where there was a FREEPOST envelope, I used that, otherwise I wrote to them. My mother had been a very keen shopper and had kept her mind very much alive with all these purchases and so it was really an arduous task.

I first contacted the Book People by phone soon after she died and I was told she would be taken off their list. Several months later my poor dead mother was still receiving endless shiny catalogues and so I phoned them again. I was assured that note had been taken of her death and action had been taken following the first call. By May, eight months after her death, I wrote to them, titling the missive "Letter of Complaint" and asked them to take my mother off their mailing list. By this time I was feeling quite frustrated, I asked them not to reply as I did not want my name and address on their defective systems. When two weeks later a further three catalogues had arrived I sent them a copy of the letter again, scribbling a note at the bottom - please take my mother off your mailing list she is dead.

My mother, still dead and certainly not shopping, received yet another catalogue this week from the Book People (middle of June). Clearly death does not stop the catalogues arriving, nor any reasonable consideration for the family left behind dealing with the leftover activities of their deceased relatives.

Take my advice - no bargain, no matter how good, is worth the harassment of never being free of the red shiny Book People catalogues, which cannot be stopped by death or begging. No other company required a second request and there were very many companies and charities. The Book People clearly don't care one jot about their customers.

Don't buy books from them - Just Say NO.

Mary Watkin

**Giggliest Table at that Street Party? Presided over
by our very own Crossword Manager!**

Thanks to Ruth Scovill for these snaps







VILLAGE GARDENERS

We did not have far to go for our first outing in June as the evening was very generously hosted by Christopher and Penny Walkinshaw in their delightful garden at Baldwin Barn. We were welcomed with a glass of wine and a very helpful talk on the history of the garden from 2003 when he and Penny began the development. In spite of there being no 'master plan' the garden led us onwards through its many and different facets amid beautiful and unusual trees to an avenue of flowering cherries and intriguingly clipped yew and box hedges. We all enjoyed a very pleasant and interesting summer evening in this still-evolving garden.

Three weeks later we found ourselves in Horningsea at the garden of Don and Sally Edwards. Set on a hillside, overlooking the River Cam and its water meadows, there was plenty to admire in this garden of many herbaceous beds, a long pergola with roses and clematis and a natural pond. The many unusual perennials had us all guessing but fortunately we were helped by Sally who was able to remember most of their names!

Our next meeting will be on 18 October, as usual at 8pm in the Village Hall, when Janet Hall from Reach will be talking about, and showing us examples of 'Autumn Berries'. Everyone is most welcome.

Mary Hart

Mothers' Union

At our recent meeting The Rev. Valerie Kilner spoke to us about 'praying'. She said that prayer is about being in touch with the one who made us, who knows us and who loves us.

Valerie's talk was very enlightening and she showed us how God's presence is all around us in so many aspects of our daily lives. She certainly gave us plenty to think about.

At our next meeting Sue Evans will be talking about her work as the Parish Nurse of Burwell. In August we will be having our summer Cream Tea and during the afternoon David & Pauline Lewis will be telling us all about their visit to Oberammergau last year.

Anne Phoenix

BURWELL SURGERY AND OUR GP PATIENT SURVEY

Each year the Department of Health commissions the GP Patient Survey. Some of you will have received this survey by post. As a practice, we also commission our own survey which we hand out to patients attending the surgery. The surveys cover areas about the practice, the doctors, the staff and the services we provide. We now have the results of both surveys which I would like to share with you.

I am pleased to report the overall score we achieved was 80% the national average being 72%. This is our highest score since we have been carrying out these surveys. The doctors scored the highest points for respect shown to their patients and your confidence in their ability, both scoring 91%. High scores were also received for warmth of greeting, ability to listen and concern for patients. Our lowest score of only 53% was for waiting time. This is the time you spend waiting in the surgery if the doctor you are seeing is running late. This has been a constant theme in our surveys and each year we try to address this problem, obviously without much success. After discussions with the whole team, we have decided to extend the doctors' appointment times from 10 minutes to 12 minutes. This will mean you will be given precise times for your appointments. We do ask that if you cannot keep your appointment, please let us know so that time can be allocated to another patient. Each month we have between 50 and 80 patients who do not attend for their appointments. This is not only a waste of the doctors' time but also these appointments could be used for patients that do need them.

We also received very many positive comments about the practice, doctors and staff. We all find these most encouraging, as hard as we try it is not always possible to meet all patient expectations. I would like to thank all those patients who took part in the surveys and for the many comments, it is very much appreciated by us all.

We are always looking at ways we can improve the service we offer and would like to encourage more patients to give their views about how the practice is doing. To find out the opinions of as many patients as possible we are asking if you would like to be part of our

Patient Participation Group.

This would involve completing a short form and providing us with your email address so that we can contact you by email every now and again to ask a question or two. We understand that not all of you have access to a computer or email but will be arranging alternative options. If you are interested in being part of this group, please collect a form at reception. Our receptionist Nic Kettlewell will be co-ordinating this project, so if you would like further information please contact her at the surgery, she will be able to answer any queries you may have.

Once again many thanks for your time and input to the surveys. The full results and all the comments are on display at the surgery.

Community Car Service

The Community Car Service provides an affordable transport solution to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We have a team of volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to transport people to their required destination. Passengers travel to Social Clubs, to attend medical appointments, visit relatives in hospital and access local services.

We want to help out with all reasonable travel requests and will do our best to help you, but our ability to do this will depend on availability of volunteer drivers and the numbers of requests that we receive. Giving us plenty of advanced notice of your needs will help. If in doubt, give us a ring and ask if we can help.

Journeys are charged per mile, for every mile that the volunteer driver travels on your behalf. Please do call if you require any further information or would like to chat about your particular request.

For further information call 01638 608049

CHURCH SERVICES JULY/AUGUST

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior August 2011
Sun 7	11:00am Matins BCP
Sun 14	11:00am Hly Communion)
Sun 21	11:00am Family Service
Sun 28	11:00am Benefice Communion (Bottisham) Farewell to David and Pauline

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior July 2011
Sun 17	11:00am Family Service
Sun 24	10:00am Benefice Communion (Quy)
Sun 31	8:00am Holy Communion (BCP) 6:00pm Evensong



Your local Volunteer Centre needs you

Your Community needs your help!

My name is Terri Hardy and I have just joined the Forest Heath Volunteer Centre based in Newmarket as the new Volunteer Coordinator. I am very much looking forward to working with all the organisations and volunteers in the area during the coming months.

We need people from all walks of life who want to make a difference to their communities.

Whatever your reason for volunteering:

if you're looking for something to help fill your time,

if you want to meet new people & make friends,

if you are looking for work experience or CV building,

or want to gain some confidence, either for a planned return to work, or maybe just for life in general.

Research has shown that volunteers live longer, are happier and healthier and overall enjoy giving something back. Volunteering always looks good on your CV and it can help in re-training for a new job.

We have many varied opportunities including befriending, mentoring, helping with children or animals, gardening, sports, to mention but a few.

If you can spare any time however small we want to hear from you. We will help you find something you can really enjoy. We put you in touch with the organisation so you can talk the role over with them and make sure it's right for you. We stay in touch to ensure you get started, help you find other options if necessary and we are always keen to hear how it's going.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like some general information on volunteering, please contact The Volunteer Centre on either 01638 608048 or 608022, email terri@thevoluntarynetwork.org or call in for a chat at 147 All Saint's Rd, Newmarket where you will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

You can also look on the website do-it.org where you can view all the opportunities we have available and can even apply on line so you do not even have to leave the house!

Look forward to meeting you

Terri

June has largely been taken up with getting to grips with my new Portfolio as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People. The wide range of issues and responsibilities has taken up considerable time in formal and informal briefing meetings as well as visits.

I have visited a number of schools and other sites across the County to see first hand a number of issues, and have also met with a number of organisations involved with young people, including the Red Balloon Charity and the Diocese of Ely.

I attended a meeting of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and a number of Project Board meetings regarding the restructuring of Children's Social Care. I also chaired meetings of the Child Poverty Champions' Group and the Joint Consultative Committee with teachers' unions.

The main agenda item at Cabinet in June was the future of Gamlingay Village College. After over 2 hours of debate Cabinet agreed to give the College the opportunity to federate with Stratton Upper School in Biggleswade, rather than close it. The Cabinet also clarified the revised policy for Home to School transport for those individuals with statements of Special Educational Needs. We also considered a number of other issues such as purchasing land for a new Secondary School at Cambourne and on-street parking charges in Cambridge city.

June has also seen the start of discussions for the budget proposals for 2012/13. This is very early stages and more details will follow as proposals are worked up.

Finally, the County Council has reached agreement over the sale of around 24 acres of County Farms land in Reach to the National Trust. The intention is for this land to be used by the people of Reach for a variety of community activities, details of which will become apparent over time. The Project is being carried out in partnership between Reach Parish Council and the National Trust.

David Brown

Core Strategy Review - Managing Growth in East Cambridgeshire

The 'East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy' is the statutory plan for managing growth and change in the district. It was adopted in 2009, and sets out where, when and how much development will take place up to 2025 - relating to housing, employment, community facilities and infrastructure.

The Coalition Government is making changes to the planning system, and the District Council has recently commenced a review of the Core Strategy in order to respond to this new agenda. The top-down housing targets in the Regional Spatial Strategy are likely to be abolished, and local communities will have more say on the way in which their areas are developed.

An indicative timetable was endorsed by Development and Transport Sub-Committee on 14th June 2011. The first stage will involve consultation with local communities to find out what their priorities are, and how they would like their settlements to change/improve in the future. The idea is to produce a 'Vision' for every settlement in the district, which will guide decisions on future development and planning applications. Consultation with local communities is due to take place in June/July/August 2011 - with the main period of consultation for most villages running between 27th June and 18th July 2011.

Consultation questionnaires and further details on the review process can be viewed on the District Council's website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review <<http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review>>. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555 or email ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk.

We are also taking this opportunity to review the contacts on our Local Development Framework (LDF) database. Therefore, if you wish to remain on the LDF database, please email ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk <<mailto:ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk>> or phone the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555 by Friday 29th July 2011. You will need to provide your name, email address, postal address and telephone number. Inclusion on the database will ensure you are contacted at all key stages during the Core Strategy Review process. The contact details you provide will be used solely for the purposes of the Core Strategy review/LDF process, and will be dealt with in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Katie Child
Principal Forward Planning Officer

BON MOT NUMBER FOURTEEN

“Asking a working writer what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamp-post what it thinks about dogs.”

Christopher Hampton

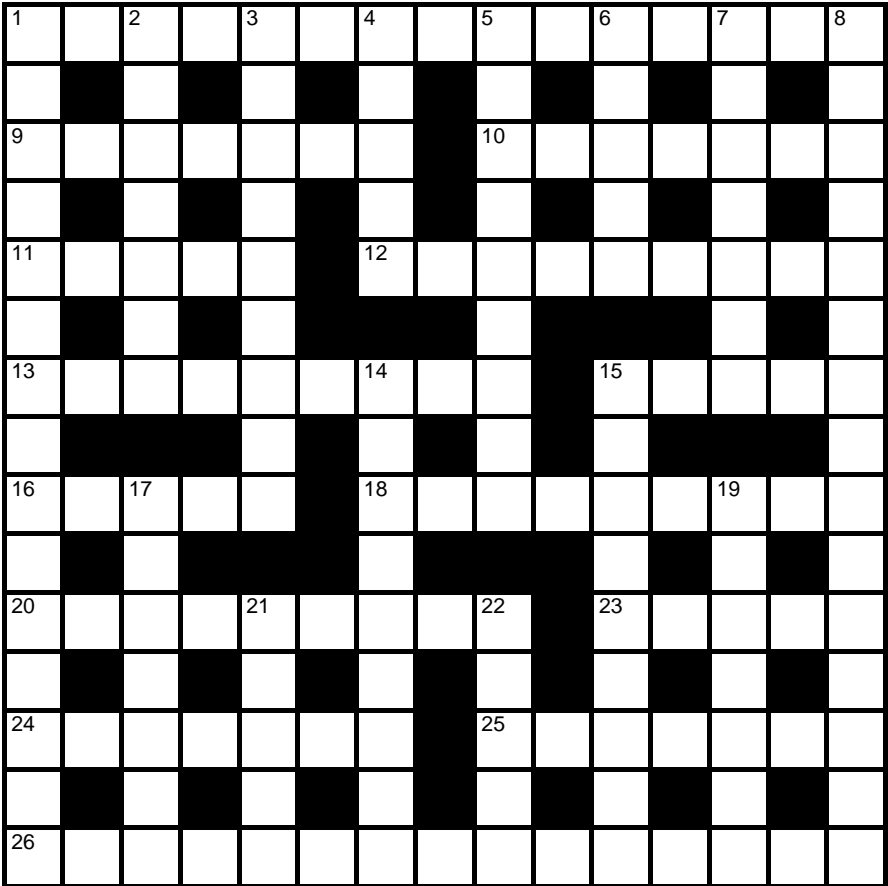
Crossword Number 80

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 August 2011 (there is no August issue of the Crier). 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 Home economics gives housemaid some discipline (8,7)
- 9 Scandalously muddled and missing local at weekends (7)
- 10 Type of jacket found in attic (7)
- 11 Young girl at job centre gets a rope (5)
- 12 Arcane secrets about actor? I see (9)
- 13 Turned out badly lacking education (9)
- 15 South American rodent is half coyote, half puma (5)
- 16 Embed within skin layers (5)
- 18 Flipping red campanologist has a gun (9)
- 20 Doctor, I'm unclear of the numbers (9)
- 23 At first old people take it carefully from the eye (5)
- 24 "The pip", a strange memorial inscription (7)
- 25 We're told it's the third partition of the breakwater (7)
- 26 Funambulist let graphite work shatter (9,6)

Down

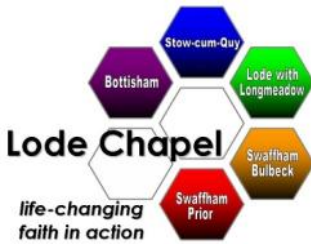
- 1 Girl's deception reportedly meant disenchantment (15)
- 2 Attitudes and French intellects go first (4-3)
- 3 Fit to sail but in other ways adrift (9)
- 4 Is she a problem? (5)
- 5 Salad perhaps dies (4,5)
- 6 Working in America with sweetheart (2,3)

- 7 Invalidate nothing if found at the end of July (7)
- 8 Kind of activity seen outside school perhaps (15)
- 14 A rich cod I blended with chicory... (9)
- 15 ...And potato; a lot mixed with a sausage (9)
- 17 The French head of MI5 gets Chinese rodent (7)
- 19 Retreat and recover (3,4)
- 21 Respond like a thespian again (5)
- 22 Trellis leans in this old French town (5)

Solution to crossword no. 79

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

We congratulate Robert & Julie Nunn, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Elly & Paul Catling and Shirley Wilkins.



Cruising with Noah

Why not send your children on a cruise this Summer? We're once again running a holiday Bible club with a week full of the usual craft, games, challenges, songs, and general silliness! But this year there's a musical twist as we'll also be rehearsing for a musical production which will be performed on the Sunday morning.

Just like the successful Amazon Adventure, Waste Watchers and Summer Knights holiday clubs of previous years, all local children aged 5-11 are invited to come along and join in the fun.

'Cruising with Noah' takes place at Bottisham Primary School during the first week of the school holidays. The club itself runs **9.00am until 12.30pm from Monday 25th until Friday 29th July**, and we invite a donation of £2 per day per child as a contribution towards our costs. The performance of the musical is being held at **10.30am on Sunday 31st July** and admission to this is free, although we will be taking an offering towards the work of Tearfund. We're inviting families to bring some snacks and sandwiches and to join us on the school field afterwards for a picnic lunch – there'll be a bouncy castle and an ice-cream van in attendance too!

We have 9 principle acting roles available (no speaking required) and we will be auditioning for these at the beginning of the week. All children, however, will be involved in the singing of all the songs, and will be invited to dress up as one of the animals on the ark and we'll also be making masks as one of the craft activities during the week. The musical itself explores in a fun way the tensions between the animals who are 'Cruising with Noah' and helps the children to think about issues like conflict, hunger and poverty. The club has been organised by RE:NEW and the team members will be people from this and other local churches. As always, the club is operated in line with our child protection policy – the welfare of the children at the club is very important to us.

Registration forms should already have gone into all of the local schools – please do send them back swiftly as places are allocated on a first come first served basis and we have to limit the number of children we can take for health and safety reasons. If your child doesn't give you a registration form, or if you want to ensure your child's place by booking early, then you can contact me directly or get a form from our website www.re-new.me.uk. All aboard – Noah's Ark will be leaving very soon!

Simon Goddard

Services in July/August

Sun 3rd July, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 10th July, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 17th July, 5.30pm – 'Healing Space' (Chapel)

Sunday 31st July, 10.30am – Performance of 'Cruising with Noah' followed by picnic (School)

Sunday 28th August, 11.00am – Joining with Holy Trinity for David Lewis'

Farewell Service

Other Sunday mornings in July/August, 10,30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon
Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

Email: simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk **Web:** www.re-new.me.uk

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

Piano and stool, in need of repair. Gill, c811185.

6 drawer upright freezer (OCEAN frost free) for collection. David/Pauline c812367.

Huge Marks & Spencer cool bag; Variable height bike stabilisers. Jun c 813362.

Mikomi DVD/CD player (unused). Nicole c812363

Indoor booster aerial for digital TV. Jacqui c 811190 (after 11am)

Large pull up screen for cine film. Lesley c812901.

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.

Junior tennis rackets (one 19", one 21"), Jun c 813362.

David and Pauline will be leaving this parish on the 28th August. They will be greatly missed, and the *Crier* would like to wish them all the very best and a very happy retirement.

PASTORAL LETTER July 2011

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

On the evening of Thursday the 2nd June I had the huge privilege of leading a wonderfully beautiful Ascension Day service in St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior. What made it so special was the presence of Cambridge Voices led by Ian de Massini. The music they sang to accompany the service, together with the superb hymns that they helped us to sing, made it a truly moving occasion. I shall never forget the final moment in the service at sunset, as they climbed up to the top of the church tower and sang "Ascendit Deus" by Peter Philips. Their voices floated across the beautiful setting of that green oasis between the two churches on that lovely still, warm, summer evening like an echo of paradise.



I knew then, that for the rest of my life here on earth, I will never forget that precious moment.

I mentioned in my sermon that evening that I am now staring down the barrel of retirement, and it feels like I'm being put out to grass, no longer able to play a full and meaningful role in the world. Yet, if one speaks to those who have retired, one discovers that retirement offers so much. Above all it offers time. Time to catch up on all those things we've always wanted to do; time to explore the gifts, abilities and qualities that we have been blessed with; time to share with our families, and to be the 'wise old owl' to our offspring and grandchildren.

So, in reality, the message of Ascension Day is that it is an ending that is really a glorious new beginning, the beginning of a glorious new chapter in Jesus' ministry. He had achieved so much through his life here on earth, through his passion and his resurrection, but his work had only just begun. The world was going to find out about all that he had achieved, and his disciples were going to be the ones who were going to do this. He told them that they were going to be his witnesses "*in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8) They were a bunch of very ordinary down to earth individuals who, on the face of it didn't look a very promising lot to choose for the job. But it didn't matter, because the most important thing was that it would be his **spirit** that would enable them to achieve this.

Pauline and I will be saying "farewell" to the many friends we have made in these five villages on Sunday August 28th at a special service in Holy Trinity Church at 10am. I don't know what the future will bring for us, but I know we are about to enter an exciting and fulfilling new chapter in our lives. I know it will be so, because I know that Jesus is with us by his spirit.

Life walking with Jesus is never dull, never pointless, because I know he wants

....And for August:

During the next few weeks the farmers will be labouring hard to gather the harvest safely in, and, despite all of the dire predictions at the beginning of this summer, the harvest is looking a bit better than many farmers had expected. Generally the farmers seem to feel that the crops haven't fared too bad. The oilseed rape looks fairly promising, and the wheat seems to be looking surprisingly good. It is on the land with light soil that the crops have suffered through the spring drought.

Farming still dominates the lovely landscape in which we live, and our lives are still dependant on the hard work and skill of our farmers, for which we should be deeply grateful, and we pray that they will indeed have a reasonable harvest this year.

Frank Topping has written a marvellous prayer about harvest which looks at the its meaning from a slightly different perspective:

*Lord, your harvest is the harvest of love;
love sown in the hearts of people;
love that spreads out
like the branches of a great tree
covering all who shelter;
love that inspires and recreates;
love that is planted in the weak and weary,
the sick and the dying.
The harvest of your love is the life that reaches
through the weeds of sin and death
to the sunlight of resurrection.
Lord, nurture my days with your love,
water my soul with the dew of forgiveness,
that the harvest of my life may be your joy.*

That wonderful prayer speaks of the true meaning of Christian community, a community where all are united under a common bond of fellowship, love and care for our neighbour, especially the weak and vulnerable. It also speaks of a God who loves us more than we shall ever fully know or understand; a God who is prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to express his love for us, out of a deep desire for us to respond to his love; and a God of the miracle of eternal life.

This is the God that I have the privilege of writing, preaching and teaching about over these past eight years of my ministry here in the Anglesey Group of Parishes; a God who is indeed 'the harvest of my life' and who I love with all my heart.

As Pauline and I prepare to say 'farewell' on the 28th August to all the many friends we have made in these five villages, we hope and pray that you too will experience His love the way that we have in our lives, and feel the need to respond with joy, thanksgiving and love for Him, and make him the harvest of your life.

May God bless you all,

David

Dates for Your Diary July/August 2011

Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Sun	24	Sourdough Sunday , Foster's Mill
Wed	27	Crier Copy Deadline
Aug	28	Farewell to David & Pauline, Benefice Communion, Bottisham
Sep	20	Harvest Supper, St Cyriac's, 6-9pm
Oct	18	Village Gardeners

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