



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXV Number 6

June 2011



Editorial

What a magnificent response we have had from our readers this month with photographs of that glorious Royal Wedding Do! There's a few in this month's edition, but such was the nature of this most

extraordinary village celebration, we'd like to do it proper justice by helping publish a separate Royal Wedding Souvenir publication, so any more snaps, comments views whatever, keep them coming.

It was all go at the Parish Council last month, (see *Our Reporter* and *Letters*) where central planners, represented by Abigail Taylor, clashed

with our Parish Council on what constitutes local democracy. *Localism* (a new one on us, this is now the order of the day) apparently means that sites for new housing are to be decided centrally (no PC input), and then put to a local Referendum, the majority vote holding sway. Hmmm, this promises to be very interesting, as we bypass the representatives we elected to master all those tedious local *details* that might have come into it and instead merrily out-NIMBY each other!

Anyway, Abigail was invited to our Annual Village Assembly to speak directly to villagers, but she changed her mind and decided not to — pity.

Many congratulations to Within Reach, who won a really well-deserved Gold in the recent Community Magazine Awards. The *Crier* (which meanwhile has been

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
CROSSWORD	16
WI Notes	18
Village Gardeners	18
Mothers' Union	19
Botanic Gardens	20
Wicken Fen News	21
Cllr Brown	23
Simon Goddard	24
Freecycle	25
David Lewis	26
Bon Mot	27
Diary & Clubs	28

News, Views & Reviews

David Lewis Retirement Do	8
Annual Village Assembly	10
Swimming Pool Saved	12
Sign up for Posterity	12
Royal Wedding Views	14
NHS Reforms	20

What's On

Midsummer Festival	9
Red Lion Beer Festival	13
Cantilena Singers	22

editorially *treading water*, if not bumping along the bottom!) can only stand back in amazement at what the Reach team has achieved. Well, we did win once!

Caroline Matheson



All dressed up with nowhere to go—our now defunct telephone box on Royal Wedding Day

Cover Picture: That Royal Wedding, Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Royal Wedding Street Party

We would just like to say a very big thank you to Emma and her team for organising such a marvellous event. An enormous amount of time and effort must have gone into it and it was very much appreciated. It was just such a wonderfully happy, village event and we were delighted to be part of it. People are still talking about it with a smile on their faces as they remember it!

Ruth and Robin Scovil

Dear Editors,

Affordable Housing in the PC

This is to provide an update to the PC report of 12 May. I have already written that I was surprised that the planning officer Abigail Taylor was the only person at that meeting who made the case for everyone in this village to have a say in all sites available for planning for affordable housing. The Parish Council wanted this power for themselves, and to limit the village survey to the sites they prefer. This lady was given an extensive and undeserved barracking for this.

The reason Ms Taylor subsequently withdrew from addressing the village assembly was because the PC could not accept that basic principle of local democracy and were not at a stage where the process to build affordable housing can go ahead. She wrote to me that as there was not consensus on the matter it would not be prudent to attend. I would add that in email correspondence with some on the PC since that meeting there is continued criticism of this lady for doing her job and doing it properly; I've yet to see any acknowledgment from any of the PC who are trying to take power to themselves to which they are not entitled that THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE ARE ENTITLED TO A FULL SAY AND SHOULD HAVE THAT SAY; and that it is those on PC who are trying to take power to themselves that they are not entitled to who are delaying the proper process towards more affordable housing in Swaffham Prior.

Mark Lewinski

A Clerihew

The well-known poet, W.H.Auden
Never wrote of Lizzy Borden.
Nor even of her unruly acts.
These are two memorable facts.

Ophir

Dear Editors,

Sue Napier
4th December 1917 - 26th April 2011

The Napier family would like to thank everyone in Swaffham Prior who gave kindness, good wishes and support over the past few months.

Sue was proud to have lived in Primrose Cottage for 40 years and we are grateful that she was able to die peacefully at home, in the place she loved surrounded by family and friends, looking out at her beloved garden.

The day before she died, Sue said to a friend from the village “The Church community is the life-blood of Swaffham Prior. It is a wonderful place, a beautiful village, lovely people, long may it stay that way.”

The Napier Family



From Our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Alas poor Abigail Taylor. She came before the Parish Council prepared and briefed with the draft village questionnaire on affordable housing, at the PC's request; she'd spoken to landowners involved and got their agreement (NB. the price they would get for land is paltry compared to commercial housebuilding) and was ambushed. The PC wanted control of what possible sites we villagers could express our views on; but the terms of ACRE's affordable house-building scheme require - quite properly in this reporter's view - views to be sought on *all* sites that are available for planning. If Karen King had said about 8pm instead of shortly before 10 (and well after Ms Taylor had left) **that the survey is to seek the views of Swaffham Prior not the views of the PC**, the meeting could have been a good bit shorter and Ms Taylor a lot less verbally duffed over. If anyone thinks I exaggerate, Geoffrey Woollard commented gleefully at close of meeting that it was 'one of the best we've had.' He's never happier than when he's verbally duffing over a public servant. I felt embarrassed for her at the time. And on reflection, I still do.



It had begun well enough. A short Annual Meeting had elected Chair and other posts for the next session. Then to the meeting proper. Emma Fletcher in Public Participation had thanked the PC for its financial support for the Royal Wedding street party; they thanked her in return (not as loudly as she deserved, I thought) for her organisation of the event. There is a small amount of money left that may be put towards next year's Golden Jubilee event. Watch this space.

Then Abigail, Forward Planning Officer for East Cambs was introduced, to discuss the *Issues & Options Questionnaire*. A few shots were fired her way. Mr Woollard was concerned about 'negativity' creeping into the questionnaire. The map, with five options ie all that were physically *possible*, not *proposed*, looked 'scary'. (NB. ACRE couldn't build on all those even if they wanted). But this was just range-finding, not intended to hit Ms Taylor. Mr Woollard has made it clear he wants a lot more houses in the village and sooner rather than later, preferably *now* but only where he approves. He began deploying troops where the draft questionnaire asked for an opinion on up to 20 affordable - rentable - housing units. It was then that he revealed to her that the PC has on the table a proposal from the owners of the 'Dencora' field for *more than that* and mixed affordable/private. Yes, the PC accepted that this was common knowledge. (Really? That might be an unintended compliment. I can't be common, then). Sandra Gynn felt that 20 sounds too much. Abigail said the lowest proposal could be 10. Discussion. GW was convinced developers would not 'play ball' for so few. What about 10 to 20, someone asked? 10 **or** 20 were both agreed to be included as questionnaire options.

Karen King sensed where the meeting was heading. The questionnaire was all but ready to go out, she warned: would the report be ready for September? Yes, said Abigail, who had no power either to draw the discussion onto firmer ground. Councillors were now happily driving headlong with Mr Woollard into the soft fine sands of a debate. KK's last appeal 'sooner would be better' was lost to the wind.

This lot were on a roll. They didn't like the term 'more housing growth'. Do we need 'growth' and 'more'? Abigail: we can remove 'more'. She added that this was a formal document that had to be consistent with the survey process, but momentum was lost, eyes scanning words as the wheels spun beneath them. Could the scout field could be relocated if it was voted for? Yes. But they've got that lovely new shelter. What about access? That would be unsuitable from the High Street lane and not allowed to the bypass, too dangerous. Steve Kent-Phillips wanted this to be in exceptions. It could be, said Abigail. What's this 'distant from centre of the village'? asked Andrew Camps. Abigail explained that a statutory definition of 'distant' for these purposes meant further than 300m. A standard term. AC: What a load of rubbish. In my day we walked to school there and back, twice a day. GW, thinking Abigail was in retreat, launched what he thought was his nuclear option: 'Separation of Lower End' is a myth. I've got an 1887 map in that shows the High Street went all the way to Lower End! He declared triumphantly.

Abigail sidestepped and it sailed past (I calculated the trajectory as towards Cambridge, not Wicken Fen, where I know GW would have liked it to have landed if it was not going to hit a Public Servant). The last inspector's report wasn't just about separation, but about the character of the village, she replied. I have the report in my bag, she added. I anticipated a duel of honour with rolled-up documents to settle the matter, but Geoffrey did not rise from his seat.

Any other comments? GW gallantly commended 'opportunities for employment' identified at the Goodwin Farm site. Abigail: yes, the planning officer has got that in, and a footpath to the site if adopted. PC members began to mutter about increase in traffic. Abigail then tried to extend a hand, with what she thought was a common goal; but she must have felt she'd been bitten instead.

Abigail: 'This exercise is about ruling things out as well as ruling things in.

Geoffrey: I want to rule out 75 High Street.

Abigail: In terms of planning, it's viable. Localism is about allowing people to



Swaffham Prior Parish Council 2011: from left to right: Steve Kent-Phillips, Sandra Gynn, Eric Day, Geoffrey Woollard, John Covill (chairman), Karen King (clerk), Andrew Camps, Paul Latchford, Peter Hart (vice-chairman), and David Almond.

make choices.

To a man, the PC shook their spears at her. (I use that phrase because I have lots of notes from this point forward but not anything from Sandra or Karen). Why couldn't the PC rule out sites? *Because it's not for the PC to decide sites that are available for planning.* She had to explain several times that it's for the *village community* not just the *PC* (no, not even as representatives of the village) to decide which of the available options to accept. Teeth-baring *and* spear-shaking as the PC began to sense it had over-reached itself but didn't want to back down. So how can you over-rule the PC? They growled. Because we have to look at all the options, said Abigail patiently, with a smile. So can you over-rule the outcome? We can't over-rule the community. It's decided by a simple majority. (At last! Something they wouldn't want to shoot her for).

GW wasn't giving up. Maybe his enemy was defeated but was pretending not to be? He wanted Abigail to take away one option to put in the questionnaire. Or three? Abigail explained, most patiently and yet again, that they couldn't put one option in and three wasn't all the options. As the statutory agency for putting this forward, we have to ask the community to express their views for it to go forward. (How she kept calm in the face of this is beyond me but she did).

Rather ungenerously and sulkily, thought this reporter, it was put to her that the traveller site was proposed without asking the village. (Different procedure, different circumstances). Abigail said simply: But it was ruled out by village concerns.

Still grumpy and ungenerous, someone grumbled that things were being put forward to be ruled out, but they couldn't be ruled out of the questionnaire. It was then that I realised the PC did not subscribe to an '*Issues and Options*' survey. They didn't want the village to be surveyed on issues; they wanted to choose the options themselves. Abigail had been very restrained in not saying directly that they were wrong and need to rethink their roles a bit. They continued to grumble: This isn't what we thought would happen...this is the thin end of a sticky wedge...it's a stalking horse...we thought localism would take all this away (I'm not making this up. They said all this).

As a patient parent might answer a sulky teen, she just said: But a process still has to take place.

Rearguard action. Steve Kent-Phillips is the man to hold the enemy at bay when you're retreating (even if she's not advancing). He led the counter-charge that the section including the phrase 'the area outside the development envelope is protected as open countryside' should be removed as it was leading and, as he put it, meant 'Do you want to destroy the countryside or not?' They were wrong, of course, but in a retreat you expect some wild and indiscriminate firing.

Goffrey had so enjoyed his war this evening that he quipped: 'It's like that census form. The question that asked 'Has your wife ever worked?' I put no, for the sake of the peace.' (I'm still trying to work that one out). Abigail was diplomatic. She could not say this question would be removed. It has to be the same to every settlement. (Faint jeering could be heard from the retreat column: 'Take it out then!...this is the thin end of a wedge you haven't invented yet... it's confusing...it's

irrelevant...) Emma Fletcher and I sat bemused by the bizarre ruckus. Emma scribbled a possible compromise phrasing which we tried - unprocedurally - to lob into the melee.

But they lobbed it back and with it I caught Abigail's words, that 'open countryside' is the term which defines what is outside the village envelope. Fair enough, thought I. But I began to wish she'd told them they were spitting in the wind, even if this led to them tearing her limb from limb.

Sensing that this was becoming wearying as well as fruitless, Abigail drew attention back to the timescale. They were hoping to get the survey details approved in the next few days. There may be some things we might be able to amend but can't take out, she said.

Geoffrey was still on his roll, though. He wanted to see a Post Office and a shop. Steve Kent-Phillips saved Abigail the effort. I think that's outside the District council remit, he told him.

What's the monitoring information for? Someone asked. Abigail saw they were firing over her head and explained that the powers above her like to have statistics. Then, too late, someone asked had the land near Barston Drove had been considered as available for planning; but no-one had the energy to try to cudgel poor underserving Abigail again. They let her go instead.

You would have thought, as the clock worked its way towards 10pm, that the PC would have lost the will to work up further disagreement, but no, once some business had been reported...

We learned that the hysteria over the refusal of ECDC to contribute to the saving of Newmarket Recycling Tip (as published in April's *Crier*) were groundless. No such request, no such refusal.

There *has* been a deferral; there *are* other negotiations going on. It sounded hopeful, I thought.

Cllr David Brown has been elevated to the CCC (County Council Cabinet) to take responsibility for the Children and Young People's portfolio. I don't know what it means in practice, but the assembly here was impressed. Cllr Brown is looking forward to the challenge.

Discussions of retrospective planning application for UPVC windows in the Smock Mill. Some frowns. This was not ok but something the PC had no defined objections to; the conservation officer's views should be sought. In truth, I think in this case the PC did know its limits.

After brief consideration of another planning application, there were some who were up for a new dispute over the drive to the very building in which we sat. Some felt Eric Day's ongoing sand patching of the potholes in the gravel drive was cost-effective and about as good as you could get. Others argued that it was wholly inadequate and there must be a permanent solution for an even surface. I was a little incredulous, remembering that some years ago John Norris had written in the *Crier* that a spring rises under the drive so although dry in dry weather, a permanent fix wasn't possible. In another unprocedural attempt to save the PC from itself, I confess I tried to remind them of this. I was rebutted of course, although Steve Kent-Phillips

did mention it again at the end, after an energetic discussion in which the only agreement seemed to be that nobody wanted to argue for having the trees along the drive taken down. I'm not even sure that all agreed that a drive was for vehicles and pedestrians should use the path, though no-one actually led the opposition on that one. They managed even to disagree over whether or not the village hall committee had offered to pay 10% of repair costs.

Outcome: agree to monitor and review in October.

Mark Lewinski

You are invited to an informal event

at St Cyriac's on 7 July 2011, 6-7.30pm

on the occasion of the

Retirement of Rev'd David and Mrs Pauline Lewis

The school choir will sing at 6pm ~ Drinks and Nibbles available

***All are welcome to attend to give our vicar a good
Swaffham Prior send-off!***

We would appreciate some idea of numbers likely to attend –
please RSVP – noyeshome@tiscali.co.uk; 743864



MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

In aid of St. Cyriac & Julitta's Church
In April there was the Royal Wedding Street Party.
At the end of June will be the Village Midsummer
Festival.

There are star attractions.

Book Hilary Sage's "Midsummer Madness" with
Hilary herself on 742978.

There is a limited number of tickets for
the Piano Recital on Saturday Night.
These, and also tickets for the Concert in Two Parts,
can be booked by phoning 743693 or 742974.

A highlight will be the MIDSUMMER MARKET
on Saturday 25 June.

Apart from a focus on flowers and gardens with a
grand range of plants
it will also include Paintings - Old and New
and Oriental Rugs.

We still wouldn't mind a little more "stuff".

If you have any attractive Bric-a-Brac.
please contact Elisabeth Everitt (742974),
who will also be grateful for any spare plants.
Francis Reeks (743693) would like any books.
And Janet Willmott (743472) and Alastair Everitt
will always be there to help if needed.

OR

Just phone any of the numbers above and we
will be happy to receive or to collect.

The Annual Village Assembly

Every year the most tantalising question before every Assembly is “How many people will attend?” Will it be 5, 12, 18, 25, 35, 40. The range over the years has been that great. This year there were about 30, so I suppose it was not too bad, though it could have been better. It included the usual suspects, together with a few interesting new faces, and one old timer who had crawled out of the woodwork.

There were no fireworks though to fend these off the PC Chairman and our ECDC and CCC representatives all failed to attend – for very genuine reasons we were told.

The meeting began with a masterly presentation by Tim Doe and Steve White on the scouts. Illustrated by Steve’s pictures and Tim’s graphic descriptions we were given a complete account of the past, present and future of an organisation which, as Steve put it, offers to the young opportunities which they may not be given at school or at home. He stressed that these activities were entirely voluntary. Currently there are 14 Beavers, 22 Cubs, and 20 Scouts.

Katie Child, Forward Planning Officer for ECDC, gave a presentation on what she called the “Village Vision”. ECDC and the village are to work together on this, and this “Vision” is to cover 15-20 years ahead. A questionnaire in due course will be given to the PC to distribute throughout the village. This raised questions about the recent ACRE questionnaire which asked whether we supported a small low cost housing project. Unfortunately in the small print it said that “small” could not be defined so anything saying “yes” may have been agreeing to a huge development. We never quite discovered exactly why there were two questionnaires.

Mike Phillips, who has had a long interest in low cost housing, said that the ACRE questionnaire was deficient. He set out all his objections and suggestions, Geoffrey half-heartedly intervened and then decided not to tangle with Mike who was being urged on by muttered encouragements such as “Go on Tiger, tear him apart.” Because of Mike’s obvious expertise it was suggested that Mike should act as advisory consultant to the PC on the wording of the next questionnaire. Andrew looked startled, almost panicked at the thought, then regained his composure, and said he would just make a note of it. Katie Child handled all questions well but did admit that if there was a change of government /government policy then any 15-20 year “Vision” could become a mirage.

John Covill’s Chairman’s report was read out and there were very few questions though the amount of the contents of the dog poo bins and their effectiveness was raised and Karen said she would look into the issue if requested. It was reported that though the phone box had been decommissioned it still rings about once a day. No-one could provide an explanation.

The report from our CCC representative David Brown was read out. He was not there to answer the question whether he had tongue in cheek when reporting that “The Neighbourhood Panel this year seemed to be dominated with problems associated with cars at Bottisham Village College.” It was maintained from the floor that it was a complete waste of money and police time to bring together such a large

group to discuss such a local issue. It was also regretted that David had not provided further news about a possible CCC financial contribution to keep the Newmarket tip open.

This was followed by Allen Alderson's report which was read out in his absence. He did mention certain facts about the Newmarket Tip without saying whether the relatively poor ECDC could help. At least it could offer the savings of several thousand pounds if it abandoned the provision of free black bin bags. For some reason ECDC refuses to make this economy.

There is no doubt that it can take the phiz out of a public meeting when the responsible people are missing. Karen did a valiant job in logging all the questions in the hope of getting answers.

Then Emma Fletcher's excellent report on the Street Party was read out, Emma herself having taken a well-deserved holiday. Jon Mold's remarkable collection of photographs was also circulated. Everyone gave an enthusiastic vote of thanks. After this Roz Chalmers brought us up to date with the current situation at the School, presenting all with a lovely mix of clarity, lightness of touch, and humour.

The Youth Club said it was a little short on numbers, while Burwell Tigers reported continued progress, especially in regard to the car park. Janet Willmott hoped that this also included more car parking space. As she lives the other side of the ground she is very much aware that on match days, when four teams may play, cars are parked on the verges both sides which make it often difficult for farm machinery and lorries to pass. She also feared that with so many youngsters involved there could be an accident waiting to happen. Karen will raise this at a PC meeting.

The Village Hall still remains solvent as also does the Parochial Charities. With both accounts being relatively simple a few questions were raised. With the Charities it was wondered what was being insured for £450.56, especially as the Village Hall insurance is, in comparison, only £722.99. There was also some wonderment about dividends of £4424.71 on what appeared to be very small assets. It was suggested these came from "Charibonds", or was it "Cherrybonds", and at least one of the audience was interested in what appeared to be a fine return. Or was there something missing in the accounts? The Village Hall Management Committee was taken to task for having so much in the current account, but this has always been a Village Hall tradition – keep money there, just in case. Mind you, no-one went through the immaculate detailed accounts of the Parish Council, prepared by Steve Kent-Phillips (who always passes the credit to Karen). If these had been scrutinised it would have been noticed that the PC was equally immaculate in leaving a very large amount of money on deposit and for this it received last year an interest of £14.51.

By this time people were tired and a little restless so that when "Open Question Time" came up there appeared to be a tight-lipped conspired silence. Andrew waited and said "Surely there are some questions" but the only question one heard quietly muttered was "When are you going to close the meeting?", and he did, and I think everyone had been pleased they had come.

Alastair Everitt

Swimming Pool Saved!

The Burwell Swimming pool will be open for business as usual this summer.

The community swimming pool had been on the brink of closure after a large number of the existing committee members were stepping down. After an emergency appeal a number of enthusiastic new committee members have stepped forward to keep this wonderful asset open.

There is always extra help needed in keeping as many sessions running as possible, so if you are at all interested in helping, please call Jane on 602905 or e-mail info@burwellpool.com

The pool opened for the season on Saturday 7th May.

The **Family Session** will be running Saturdays 10:30 am - 12:30 and Sundays 10:30 – 12:30.

The **Fun Session** also Saturday's 2 – 4 pm, for the unaccompanied over 8's.

The **Adult only sessions** are on Tuesday's and Thursday evenings at 7 – 9 pm.

This program will run throughout the season.

Any other information and for up coming events please go to the web site. www.burwellpool.com

Come and dive in!

Sign up for Posterity

At the Royal Wedding Street Party I collected a large number of signatures from people who took part. If I missed you, and you would like to sign the book, it is not too late. This book was started for the Millennium Lunch in the Village Hall on 1st January 2000. As before, we shall include some photos of this event.

I shall be "At Home" with the book, a pen and a pot of tea on Saturday the 11th of June between 2.30 and 5.30 and I look forward to seeing you.

If you would like to sign but cannot manage that day, do telephone and we'll arrange another time

Elisabeth Everitt

5 Lower End, Swaffham Prior
01638 742974

RED LION

Swaffham Prior

Beer Festival 14th, 15th, 16th July

Thursday 14th

murston bapchild and the braxton hicks

Live music starting 8pm

Friday 15th

'DJ NOYES'

Disco starting 7.30pm

Saturday 16th

FAMILY FUN DAY

'BAGGSEY'

Children's Entertainer

Puppet Show, Magic, Face Painting and Balloon Modelling

Starting at 2pm

Live Band

In the evening and

BBQ

From 3pm onwards

THE ROYAL WEDDING

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

“What a party! Great food, music and camaraderie and a real sense of occasion – all in a perfect setting. Our most striking memory is of the mass of smiles. Hundreds of them. Says it all. The Hubbards

“It was lovely to be with a group of people so willing to put themselves out for others, under the leadership of someone who put so much thought into organising every detail. I am proud to have been part of making village history.” Fleur Routley

“It’s hard to put into words but that Street Party represented to me so much that is British” David Greenfield

“Emma and her team did a brilliant job and brought youth and life to our lovely village by involving every age group.” Sir Michael Marshall

“It was not a day I will ever forget! As I struggled around in our dusty dark attic to find some clothes that would perhaps pass muster I had no inkling that it could lead to a reward let alone being crowned King of Swaffham Prior. It was one of those “is this happening to me” moments. Praise has been heaped on Emma and her team. As the day proved such praise was richly deserved.” SP Rex

“I thought it was fantastic. The community spirit between the young and the old was great. James Lankfer





"Thanks go to Charlie for putting up with stacks of mugs and games and also for the time Emma gave to the community of Swaffham Prior, making us the envy of all the other villages." Katrina Greenfield

"I thought it was brilliant in bringing the whole community together." Robin Scovill

*"Our street party for William and Kate,
Was great – fun and sun,
Red white and blue,
As far as the eye could see
And the queen – that was me!"* SP Regina



"The committee met in the Red Lion to organise a little celebration. Emma arrived and turned the event into a royal monster. On the big day the village transformed from a sleepy backwater to the biggest party in East Anglia. By 6.00 in the evening the street was empty – Swaffham Prior was back to its usual sleepy self." Susan Wade

"What a fabulous fun day. As relative new comers to the village it was lovely to meet so many neighbours. Thanks to the committee for all their hard work and making the day happen. As official photographer it was a real privilege to have such wonderful people as my subject." Jon and Dee Mold

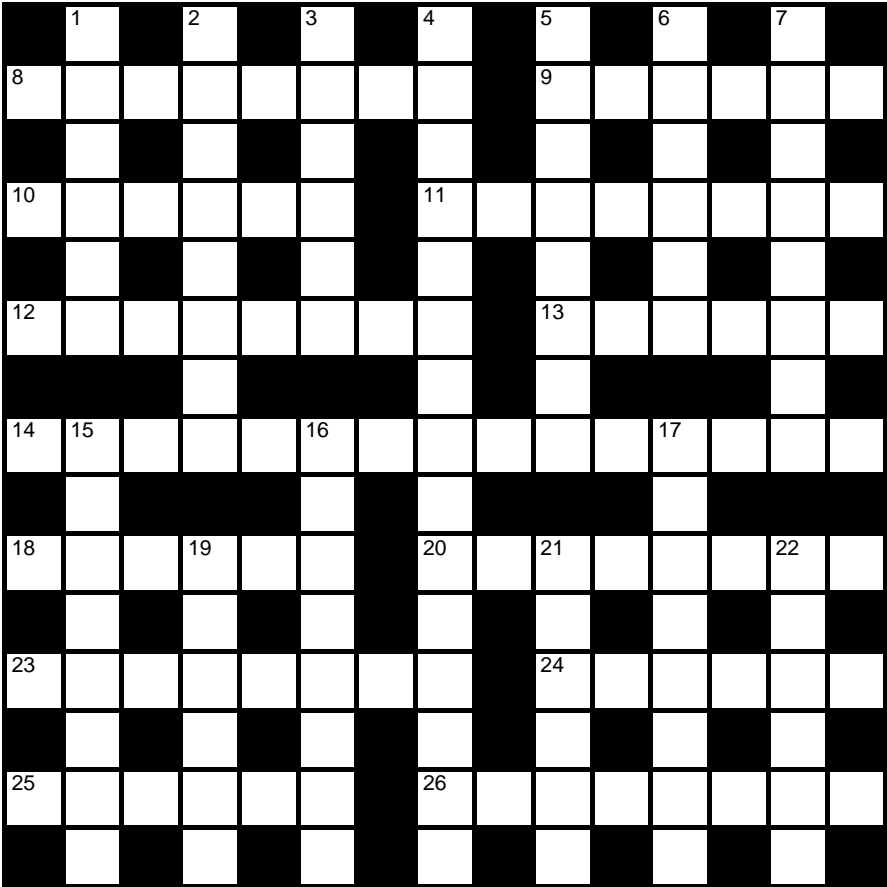
Crossword Number 79

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 June 2011. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....

Address.....

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

Across

- 8 Scholars from a sunlit era tiptoed inside (8)
- 9 Disconnect international organisation blockage (6)
- 10 Die for each one's head of hair (6)
- 11 Hotel net broadcast long TV program (8)
- 12 Banner seen on ship containing rebel leader (8)
- 13 Ornamental alloy to make glamorous new fashion without gas (6)
- 14 Psychotic person disrupted impressive dance (5-10)
- 18 Muslim leader has cocktail then cuts his heart in half (6)
- 20 Playground game but not hard rock (8)
- 23 Very rapid deterioration of core item (8)
- 24 A location for a wide road (6)
- 25 Planet contains nothing about veins (6)
- 26 Last cork turned into halite (4,4)
- 2 Tropical disease found in number 1b Eritrea Drive (8)
- 3 Understand it has six feet (6)
- 4 Perhaps a king holds position that dropped through his letterbox (7,8)
- 5 Demolish damaged double-glazing (no aging required) (8)
- 6 Set in total expectation (6)
- 7 Gay luv so upset about this old European (8)
- 15 High flyer may have rice prepared (8)
- 16 Remove trees from wide Fore Street (8)
- 17 Put under water; below the French Sea to the south east (8)
- 19 Hide blue invention first (3,3)
- 21 Italian bottle that is a disaster (6)
- 22 Noisily, roughly, dolefully elf disappears (6)

Down

- 1 Split bones in stew ensure correct taste initially (6)

We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert Nunn, Ellie & Paul Catling and Shirley Wilkins..

Solution to crossword no. 78

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

WI Notes

At the May meeting there was no speaker as we had to debate the two resolutions being taken to the annual general meeting in Liverpool in June. The topics were the threatened closures of local libraries and the introduction of Mega farms into the UK. The discussions were led by Margaret Joyce and Pat Cook and there was plenty of time for members to ask questions and give their own opinions before the required votes took place. This was followed by a number of members sharing memories of special events in their lives - we are hoping to keep these in a booklet if enough members submit their ideas! After refreshments and the raffle we were challenged to a quiz organised by Shirley which we all enjoyed. We are not in the village hall for the next two months as we have our summer garden party on June 20th, hosted this year by Margaret Phillips who cannot believe the good weather will continue - so fingers crossed. Another fine day is needed for our meeting on July 10th which is a lunchtime cruise and lunch departing from Hertford Marina in Huntingdon. We return to normal on 15th August when we meet at 7:30 in the village hall to hear Arthur Brookes talking about the American Cemetery.

Our cream teas at the Street Party went down very well and a big thank you to everyone who supported us by supplying scones. We did have quite a lot left but these have all been frozen for the next village event with cream teas.

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

Pat Cook, 01638 742224

VILLAGE GARDENERS



A rather rustic GNOME called Alfie visited us at our May meeting. Alfie stood for Gardening Naturally Over Mother Earth and was accompanied by our speaker Mark Ekin from the College of West Anglia at Milton where he is Head of Horticulture, Agriculture and Countryside. Mark spoke knowledgeably and enthusiastically on 'Pests and Diseases in Plants – their

Identification and Control'.

We heard about the importance of the correct identification of problems and about their prevention or cure. It is important for plants to be pruned as and when necessary, to be fed, nurtured and monitored for pests and diseases. Companion planting can be helpful – for example garlic not only keeps vampires away but also weevils and slugs. The latter can also be controlled by beer traps and apparently Guinness is their favourite tipple! Mark told us that an electric fence for slugs had even been marketed but did not say with what success!

Aphids can be controlled by chemical methods or marigold or green carbonate soap spray which blocks their breathing holes; however spraying must be done frequently since some aphids can hold their breath for twenty-four hours!

We learnt about the control of ants, whitefly, mealy bugs and leather jackets,

moving on to pigeons, cats and dogs. Did you know that you can prevent the yellow patches on your lawn caused by female dogs by adding a small amount of tomato sauce to the dog food? We remain sceptical on that one but are willing to try!

From pests Mark moved on to treating plant diseases from powdery mildew to rust, black spot, blight, canker and fairy rings. He then attacked the weeds by various methods from the hoe to boiling water! Finally, a 'first' for the Village Gardeners as we ended with Mark leading us in a somewhat less than rousing rendition of the Gardeners' Hymn to the tune of All Things Bright and Beautiful in which we all joined in the chorus of

All things spray and swatable

Disasters great and small

All things paraquatable

The Lord god made them all

We have a busy time in June with evening meetings on Tuesday 7 June to our local Baldwin Barn garden, home of Mr and Mrs Chris Wilkinshaw, and on Tuesday 28 June to the garden of Mr and Mrs Edwards in Horningsea. Our annual coach outing this year is on Saturday 18 June to Barnsdale Gardens in Rutland. If you would like any further information on these visits please contact Roger Connan 742182, Margaret Joyce 744390 or Mary Hart 741681.

Mary Hart



Anglesey Mothers' Union

At our recent meeting Hilary Cheng, who is a Methodist minister in Histon, gave us a most interesting talk about Mercy Ships. This is a world wide charity which provides free healthcare along the West African coast to those who otherwise have no hope of treatment.

The 'Africa Mercy' is kitted out as a hospital ship with 450 crew members and 200 day volunteers. One third of the crew are medical staff with the rest ranging from receptionists to teachers, human resources to chefs and engineers.

Hilary's husband, Leo Cheng, is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and he gives two weeks of his holiday each year on a voluntary basis performing life changing operations for those with cleft palates, facial disfigurements, tumours of the jaw, cataracts, squints, goitres and suchlike.

The 'Africa Mercy' is usually in a port for nine months at a time and there is always a leaflet drop beforehand advising when the ship will be arriving. Patients come from far and wide and it is not unusual for 3,000 people to queue patiently to see the on-board doctors - all completely free, of course.

Hilary showed us graphic photographs of patients who were suffering horrendous disfigurements - and the joy they experienced after their life changing operations. It was a very inspiring talk for us all.

Our Mothers' Union meetings are held in Lode Chapel on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30 p.m. and you would be most welcome to join us. In July Sue Evans, a Parish Nurse from Burwell is coming to talk to us.

Anne Phoenix

What the NHS reforms mean for you

The Government has put the NHS reform bill on hold. How much it will change and in what ways is uncertain. The coming weeks will tell. But your newly-founded Bottisham Practice Patient Participation Group is now up and running. The Group's Committee held its first meeting in April - the minutes are on the Practice website. Bottisham resident Emma Jerman was chosen as Chair for the current year, with Steve Gilson from Swaffam Bulbeck as her Deputy. Jenny Langdon, also from Bottisham, agreed to act as Secretary with Jean Jones of Bottisham in support. If you have anything you would like the PPG to take up (issues for the Practice as a whole, please, not personal problems), e-mail the PPG Committee by clicking on the 'contact us' link at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.net.

Members of the Bottisham PPG Committee will attend a meeting with representatives from other PPGs in the area on 16 June. At that meeting they will be briefed on how the consortiums of medical practices in Cambridgeshire plan to work, and the issues - in particular funding pressures - which they (and therefore we as patients) will face, as the NHS reforms (in whatever form they take) get under way. The aim thereafter is to hold a series of open meetings in the autumn to brief members of the public on the work of the consortiums of medical practices, and on how the NHS reforms will impact on the services we receive as patients. Your PPG Committee intends to make sure that one of these open meetings is held in our area. It will be important to attend to find out how all of us and our families will be affected. The Bottisham PPG will keep you informed.

Make a late date with the Indian Bean Trees!

Indian Bean trees (*Catalpa*) flourish in the relatively warm, dry summers of Cambridge and are amongst the last trees to break leaf and flower in the Garden, the display often extending from June into July. The focal point of the Rock Garden is a *Catalpa x erubescens* 'Purpurea', a mesmerizing sight in full flower and intoxicating in its scent. The Rock Garden was developed around a small specimen in the 1950s, which is now a champion tree. The spreading, dome-shaped crown provides shade to part of our national collection of European saxifrages, and the flower stalks and buds are a wonderful papal-purple that also floods the new leaves, whilst the throats of the enormous frilly, white, foxglove-shaped flowers, held in loose panicles, are dusted with the same colour, but also striped with gold. The long, slender beanpods that give rise to the common name persist well into winter. Another striking Indian Bean Tree is the specimen of *Catalpa speciosa* growing rather too close for comfort to Cory Lodge. This North American species is late into



leaf and flower, making it a valuable and striking addition to the landscape. The flouncy flowers are borne 15-20 to each panicle and are white and frilly with deep throats marked with gold and dusted purple. The leaves are very large and heart-shaped.

The rich scent hangs sweet and heavy in the evenings, so why not discover these beautiful trees at one of the Garden's evening openings this summer? The Garden stays open late on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays in June, July and August. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk for full details.

News from Wicken Fen

It's been an amazing spring on the fen – cuckoos clearly liked the warm sunny weather of April returning a week earlier than normal. On Baker's Fen 17 species of wader's have been recorded together with 10 species of warbler. Three Konik foals were born during April and further foals are expected this month.

The prolonged period of dry weather has enabled us to crack on with the construction of a low level earth bund enclosing 80 hectares of land on Burwell Fen. The bund, the eastern boundary of which forms part of the Lodes Way cycleway, will eventually assist the creation of floodplain grazing marsh – a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The project is part of a European Union funded INTERREG programme called Climate Proof Areas, which is designed to look at, and develop, low cost non engineering solutions to help climate proof Northern Europe against the adverse effects of climate change.

The Lodes Way which opened last September is proving very popular, with a growing stream of visitors now arriving at the fen by bicycle. Cycle hire will be available at Wicken from the end of July and we are currently working on a new cycling leaflet to help visitors explore the Vision lands and surrounding communities.

For half term week, we are holding **Pond Dipping for All** sessions with optional **Minibeast Hunt** on Tuesday 31 May and Thursday 2 June. Pond dipping costs £1.50 and 75 pence for the minibeast hunt. To reserve a place please contact the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274

The Fen is one of the best places in the country to see dragonflies with an amazing 21 species found on the fen. To officially launch National Dragonfly Week we are holding a **Dragonfly Discovery Day** on Saturday 11 June. The day will include a range of exciting free activities for all the family including pond dipping, larva-feeding demonstrations, guided dragonfly walks, children's worksheets and craft activities. The Fen is home to the National Dragonfly Centre which is open at weekends throughout the summer. The Centre will be running its popular Dragonfly Safaris on 12 June, 2, 3, 23, 24 July and 27, 28, 29 August. For those who would like to improve their dragonfly identification skills the Centre organises a number of beginners and advanced courses, details of which can be found at www.dragonflyproject.org.uk

If you fancy a good workout and a walk in the countryside, then why not have a go at **Nordic walking**. The technique uses lightweight poles to enhance normal walking meaning you can walk longer and further, whilst burning around 46% more calories than normal walking. Swaffham Prior based instructor, Oliver Gynn will be leading one hour walks at Wicken Fen on Thursdays 9 & 23 June and 7 & 23 July. The walks cost £5 per person which includes equipment hire and instruction. To book a walk please contact Oliver on 07767 324365 or e-mail info@nordicwalking.co.uk

Hope to see you at the Fen soon.

Howard Cooper
National Trust - Wicken Fen



The Cantilena Singers -

Director Daniel Spreadbury

A varied concert of secular choral music for a summer evening, with a slightly avian theme...

Programme to include:

- * Childhood Songs - Rutter
- * Six Songs to Poems by Christina Rossetti - Elmer
- * Ye Little Birds - Holst
- * French Chansons - Saint-Saens
- * A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square - Kibblewhite
- * Lazy Bones - Mercer/Carmichael

Tickets available on the door



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

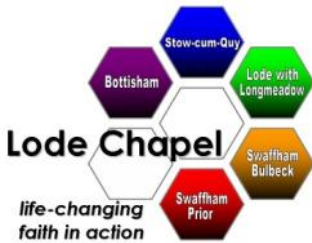
Both before and after the Annual Council meeting on 17 May, where I was officially confirmed as Lead Member for Children and Young People, May has been dominated by meetings to allow me to get to grips with my new role. I have had numerous individual briefings with senior staff on my new responsibilities and I am relishing the challenge.

My first meeting of Cabinet was on 24 May, where I introduced 2 papers. The first regarded amendments to the current policy for home to school transport for those individuals with statements of Special Educational Needs and the second to inform Cabinet of the results of an unannounced visit by OFSTED to the Children's Social Care assessment team.

With the new cabinet settling in to our roles there has also been a number of informal cabinet meetings as well as more formal meetings of the cabinet with the senior management team as well as a number of training events.

On the more social side, I had the privilege of joining the Mayor of Cambridge's procession to distribute coins at Reach Fair on May Bank Holiday Monday.

David Brown



Family Friendly

At RE:NEW we call ourselves a family friendly church, and that is what we hope to be – but our definition of ‘family’ is a very broad one! Although we make provision on a Sunday morning for those with children (we have a crèche, a group for primary aged children, and a group for teenagers) we also welcome a number of people who are now enjoying retirement. This includes one of the members of our music team who bounces up and down to some of the livelier songs we sing more than those of us who are half his age! *“To be seventy years young is sometimes more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old!” (Anon)*

Indeed, the ministry of RE:NEW, at the school and with Queen’s Court, proudly reaches across the age spectrum. I like to describe life in four stages: the first phase (ages 0-19) is filled with energy, the second (20-39) is characterised by idealism, the third (40-59) are years defined by maturity, and the fourth (60+) is marked by the wisdom of those who have reached it. Our society often seems to value one stage above another (the majority of TV presenters, for example, fall in the second age bracket), but any community suffers if it misses the contribution of one or another of these groups. Where no children are present there is a lack of joy and energy, but equally, when we ignore the older people in our society, we are all the poorer for it. As Proverbs 16:31 tells us “Grey hair is a crown of splendour”!

Each year I hold a special service at Queen’s Court to celebrate the role that older people play in our society, and this year’s event is being held at 3pm on Sunday 5th June. Based on the census theme it’s called ‘Count Me In’ and encourages us to recognise that the accumulation of years is no reason for the contribution of older people to be rejected or overlooked. There will be an offering for the work of MHA (the charity who run the home) and after the service there will be refreshments and an opportunity to find out more about volunteering at Queen’s Court. As someone who spends a number of hours at the care home week by week I know that it not only the resident who benefits from the occasional visit! I do hope many of you will come along and show those at Queens Court that they are still loved and appreciated by the local community.

Simon Goddard

Services in June

Sun 5th, 3.00pm – Celebration Service (Queen’s Court)

Sun 5th, 5.30pm – ‘Sacred Space’ Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 5th, 19th & 26th, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)

Sun 12th, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 19th, 5.30pm – ‘Healing Space’ (Chapel)

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

4 Epson Printer colour cartridges (for use with Epson Stylus D68/D88 series & DX3800/DX3850 & DX4200/DX4250 & DX4800/DX4850). David/Marilyn c811888.

Ever so many copies of National Geographic magazines. Bridget, c811016.

15 foot long aluminium ladder for collection. John, c813810.

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.

Children's cooker/oven. Any condition. Lucy Wells c811182.



Dear Friends,

A number of our Churches have held Easter Gift Days this Easter, and I have been so very grateful to your response to these gift day appeals. Your generosity says a great deal about the importance that you place in having a precious and lovely Church building in your village.



An artist was asked to put on canvas what he considered to be the picture best symbolizing a decaying and dying church. After several months, he returned and reported that he had finished the task. The hour finally arrived when the painting was to be unveiled.

Several people standing around the easel had already given their description of what they thought the church would look like. Some had said it would be a rundown building in great need of repair and paint. Weeds would be growing in the churchyard, and there would be some broken windows. Everyone in the group seemed to have the same picture in mind. However, when the cloth was removed, a hush fell over the group. Everyone was stunned. Before their eyes was an absolutely beautiful church building. The grounds were well kept and the exterior of the building was in excellent condition. After a few minutes, one person stepped forward and said to the artist, "I thought we asked you to paint a dying church?"

The artist smiled and invited everyone to step closer to the painting. He pointed through the windows to the empty pews and to the collection plate on the table. There was nothing in the plate but "cobwebs."

The church that has cobwebs in its collection plate is a church that is decaying and dying. Without the giver, there is no giving. Without the giving, the mission of the church cannot be carried out. If the mission of the church is not carried out, the church is purposeless and dead. Your generosity has helped keep our Churches very much alive.

The poet David W. Foley sums up beautifully the importance of a village Church in his lovely poem:

*I love to step inside a church,
To rest, and think, and pray;
The quiet, calm and holy place
Can drive all cares away
I feel that from these simple walls
There breathes a moving sound
Of sacred music, murmured prayers,
Caught in the endless round.
Of all that makes our human life:*

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior June 2011
Sun 12	10:00am Holy Communion
Sun 19	11:00am Family Service
Sun 18	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 26	10.30am Benefice Communion

*Birth, and the union blessed
Of couples at the altar wed,
And loved ones laid to rest.
Into my soul this harmony
Has poured and now is still,
The Lord's own benediction falls
Upon me as I kneel.
Once more, with lifted head, I go
Out in the jarring mart,
The spring of gladness in my step,
God's peace about my heart.*

I hope that you too can find God's peace in your village Church and that you will find your Church very much alive.

May God bless you all,

David

BON MOT NUMBER

*There is no Bon Mot this month.
Instead it is a celebration for Wolves remaining in
the Premier Division.*

Sir Edward Elgar was a fan of Wolves and every Saturday when there was a home match he would cycle all the way from Worcester to Wolverhampton, and back.

Dates for Your Diary June 2011

Tue		Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Sat	11	Sign Up for Posterity, 2.30—5.30, 5 Lower End
Thu	16	Mothers' Union, Lode Chapel, 2.30pm
Fri	17	Gardener's Visit to Baldwin Barn Garden
Sat	18	Gardener's Visit to Barnsdale Gardens Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	20	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Fri	24	Midsummer Madness, 7pm VH
Sat	25	Midsummer Market, St Cyriac's, 11am-5pm Strawberry Teas, Anglesey House, 2pm-5pm Pain Recital, 7.30pm, The Manor, Lower End
Sun	26	Concert, St Cyriac's & St Mary's, 4pm—6pm Compline, Rehearsal 7pm, Service, 7.45pm
July	7	David Lewis's Retirement, St Cyriacs, 6-7.30pm
	14	Red Lion Beer Festival (to 16th)

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**