



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

NO SOONER SAID than there's a *Committee*, and no sooner a *Committee*....well, readers, see this issue!

Emma Fletcher of Cage Hill's Rose Cottage is Suprema-in-Chief, (many thanks to Emma!) and in the space of a couple of weeks, preparations are well in hand for what promises to be a Street Party *par excellence*. Don't miss the *Where's Willy* Competition. From **Sunday, 27th March**, a cardboard cutout of the happy couple will be unexpectedly appearing at different places in the village — we need to spot where.

Elsewhere in this issue, Village Hall users should notice that it's the Village Hall AGM coming up and we've all been invited. An ideal opportunity then for anyone with any minor *objections* to current management strategies to go along and voice them! Not that anyone could possibly have any because, entirely similarly as with the running of this

magazine, one is just all too grateful it is run at all — *n'est ce pas*?! Although the *Crier* does take the additional precaution of not actually asking anybody-else to their AGMs....

Neighbourhood panels of cancelled all their meetings this month (are they on the cut-them list then?) and Stagecoach sent round an email announcing their reductions this month. We opened it with sinking hearts — only to find we're not on it! Small mercies, but Newmarket Tip is to be shut (see Letters), It is well worth protesting about this, especially since it seems to us that a lot of these so-called money-saving measures are only going to cost us *more*. The recent petition concerning forest-privatisation was very successful. See you next month!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: The Royal Wedding by Emma Fletcher

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
John Norris Remembers: The	
Upware Pumps	10
Wicken Fe3n News	15
Crossword Answers	22
CROSSWORD	24
WI	26
Village Gardeners	27
Anglesey Abbey News	28
Cllr Alderson	29
Botanic Gardens News	30
Cllr Brown	31
PC Reports	32-34
Bon Mot	35
Simon Goddard	36
Freecycle	37
David Lewis	38
Diary & Clubs	40

News, Views & Reviews

Bottisham Practice Patient	
Group	14
Bottisham Panto	16
Antony Nolan Bike Ride	16
Prospects Trust Ball	17
Or the Bull Kills You	18
A Bard is not a Poet	23
Donations	27
Digital Telly Switch	28

What's On

Easter Lilies	6
STREET PARTY	7,20-22
Moveable Feast	8
Flowers & Gardens	8
Quiz Night	9
Autumn Social Events	12
Village Gardener's Programme	12
Village Hall AGM	13
Pollyanna Auditions	13
G&S The Sorcerer	14
Topping Tapas	19
Bottisham Bowling Club Quiz	
Night and Fair	18
Songs of Springtime	39



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Newmarket Tip Closure

Please can you pass on news of the forthcoming closure of the Newmarket recycling centre in May and the e-petition against it on Suffolk's Council website.

The address for the e-petition is: <http://petitions.web-labs.co.uk/suffolkcc/public/Petition-concerning-the-proposal-by-Suffolk-County-Council-to-close-7-household-waste-sites>. There is no need to login. Closure of the petition is 5/4/11.

Although we are not in the proper catchment for this recycling centre, it offers a fine service. Closure of the service will only increase overall costs in managing landfill and clearing up fly-tipping.

Chris Elliston
Meadow View

Dear Editors,

John Norris and Ivy

On a sunny morning in February when the cold had finally relaxed its grip, I was watching a wren skulking in and out of the ivy at the base of a tree. It struck me that the case for the prosecution (John Norris, February issue) required a reply.

Because it gives food and shelter to a wide variety of animals, ivy has a very high wildlife value. Its flowers are a last rich source of nectar at the end of the year, not only for bees but for butterflies and moths and many other insects which may then overwinter hidden within it.

Insect predators such as ladybirds, hoverflies and queen wasps are also among the creatures hiding overwinter in its dense cover. The more successfully they do that the less we are dependent on insecticides to control aphids and other pests in the following growing season.

Many of our garden and woodland birds from robins to tawny owls, find sheltered roosting places in ivy and particularly so in hard winters. Of all the bird species, probably none is more dependent upon it than the wren, not only for warm sleeping quarters but also for breakfast, dinner and tea provided by the insects and spiders hidden there. Prolonged cold weather kills many small birds. Ivy can make the difference.

Finally, at this time of year ivy is an important food source for deer. When driving on East Anglian country roads, you may notice the "browse" line on the ivy on roadside trees. At least they are not eating the crop!

The plant is an important part of our biodiversity but there is also no doubting that it can be destructive of trees and built structures. By the sheer weight of its foliage and by increasing resistance to winter storms, branches are broken and trees and fences brought down. However, mature healthy trees can support a lot of it and their destruction is certainly not inevitable. Exuberant growth in the canopy can be reduced without killing it, by cutting the stems at some point on the trunk. Furthermore when the host is sycamore, which itself has little wildlife value, the ivy

can be considered as “value added.”

The name of the game is compromise. Sometimes the ivy is holding up the fence!

Roger Connan

Dear Editors,

Any tree lover reading John’s piece on Ivy in the February *Crier* will most probably agree that this “insidious climbing plant is becoming rampant everywhere.” Some may disagree with the word “insidious” but the word “rampant” is certainly true.

Would any tree lover like to join John and me in an attempt to bring a little relief to some of the trees in the village? For a start, take a look at the trees the Red Lion side of Coopers Green to see how great the problem is. As John says “We all too easily accept its invasion, and become unaware of the rapid growth it can make.”

No plan of action or policy has been made but if you would like to help make one or to know more please phone me on 742974 or email a.e.everitt@btinternet.com. Apart from being useful it may also be fun.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

Those Bards Again

Alas Poor Ophir

For believing we’re both a

Couple of serious poets.

I have more vital ways

To be spending my days

Than trying to think up rhymes unnecessarily.*

*(*copyright ML, self-declared Bard of SP)*

I’m being a bard, not a poet (see article elsewhere in this issue) But don’t let anyone say I’m a bit slack if someone writes a pome about me. I can do pomes.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

Bon Mot No 11

The 'Bon Mot' label is nominated

To a remark that is witty,

Not the glaringly obvious,

Which is a pity;

For Mrs T to be remembered solely for this—

(And of course that may not be the case)

It'd be akin to her having,

('pardon me ma'am')

The proverbial, egg on her face.

Ophir Catling

Dear Editors,

Horkey Supper in St Cyriacs Saturday 17th September

Just a note to say that Fleur Routley and Susan Wade have taken up the challenge to run the Swaffham Prior Village Harvest Feast this autumn. The Harvest Supper in East Anglia was known about 1800 as the "Horkey Supper"- (the spelling varies). We are planning to carry on this Anglo Saxon tradition (*possibly! Eds*) and serve traditional food in St Cyriac's church with candle lights glowing in the fading light. After supper we will clear the floor for some traditional dancing with local musicians. Do pencil this date in your calendar for your family. Tickets will be sold nearer the date.

Sue Wade

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

After the very rapid despatch of the preliminaries David Brown made his CCC report. There will be no increase of CCC tax this year and he presented a whole series of figures detailing the savings. It was impressive. With a half million here, and a one million there, £365,000 here, and £68,000 there, everything rolled out to a 13.2% saving to match the 14% reduction of the government grant. You couldn't ask for better than that.

Amongst the savings he mentioned were those from the Highways budget. This does not appear to be a bad thing. Here are some basic figures against which you can gauge the other comments in this paragraph. After many years of pressure from our PC, the Highways completed some minimal works on Mill Hill at, I believe, a cost of £30,000 including administration fees. We are all aware of the Quay 'improvements'. In comparison what was the cost? Do we multiply by ten? What would making Quay a 30mph area have cost?



Having succeeded so disastrously well in Quay, Highways then turned its attention to the Lode crossroads and took weeks erecting traffic lights. Recently they have also installed a sustainable (only works when the sun is out) flashing sign warning about the lights just 40 yards away when you can already see them from a good 300 yards distance. How much did all this lot cost? And how many people use the crossing? Has anyone seen them at red? I have seen Lode residents happily waiting on the other side of the cross road waiting for a gap in the traffic rather than cross over and use the lights. Would a sign suffice saying something like "Please allow pedestrians to cross", with white lines on the road as at the Clock Tower in Newmarket.

I think Highways must have one of those iniquitous 'use it or lose it' budgets.

Geoffrey said that the large sums quoted by David made it hard to visualise how this would affect villages and quoted the Spectator/Daily Telegraph article on 10th February by Ross Clark, the freelance journalist in Reach and currently their PC Chairman. Ross Clark questioned the wisdom of some of the cuts such as that of his disabled daughter's transport to school. He went on to range over the sins of other councils including the profligacy of Newham in London, and then had an onslaught

on the “inflated salaries” of Town Hall chiefs. David was asked “What about that then?” David explained that he had already discussed the “disabled transport” with Ross and it seems there had been a mistake in the CCC paperwork – but it had been too late to stop the article. As for Chief Execs’ pay, all pay increases had been frozen but it would cost a fortune to change any employment contracts already in force.

Allen said that ECDC tax was being increased because of the cuts, but that at present he does not have the detailed figures. He did mention that ECDC had made a profit from the concessionary bus fare scheme. Is this because ECDC only pay when the oldies travel to Cambridge with Cambridge City paying for our return? I have always believed this to be true and have enjoyed the return journey even more. Allen next reported on his findings regarding any possible breach of the original planning permission for the Chemical Factory in Greenhead Road. (It is reported that in the darker reaches of Suffolk it is known as the “Stink Shop”.) One such possible breach concerned the number of parking places. Mr Alan Dover, an important Control Officer, told Allen that the parking space stipulations should never have part of the original agreement and ought to be thrown out. Most of the PC was visibly upset by this and said there had been good reason why it was part of the original agreement. Allen had a dilemma. Dover had been adamant and, though reluctant, Allen said he would raise the matter again if the PC insisted. At this point, Steve, with his well-honed umpiring skills, asked to see the paperwork for a review. He read out that it stipulated there should be provided and maintained parking spaces for three cars. Steve said that because this had been provided and maintained there had not been any breach. “Has anyone complained about the parking?” “No”. “Why are we discussing this then?” The matter of the smell and the disposal of chemicals is in the hands of the authorities.

Always about this time of the meeting loud clapping and cheering rings out from the main hall. Some people may think it is a Poetry Reading session, but that it is not. It is Sharon Heaps and her Slimming World group who are clapping people like Beryl who has lost 2 pounds in the last week and three and a half stones in all. Good for Beryl everyone says. And then there is Fred, and Mary etc as Sharon guides her flock towards health and wellbeing. People have received an OBE for less.

At long last the repair of the Pound Wall is scheduled to begin. After an enormous amount of work everything has been approved and every ‘t’ crossed, until a member of the public asked “What about the fallen down tiles at the back?” “What fallen down tiles?” “Those at the back of the wall which have been stacked up by the person living behind the Pound.” “Ah, we’ll have to take a look at that.”

The Village Notice Board is still on the Agenda and is likely to be so for some time. Various leaflets were produced offering metal, plastic, man-made-wood, and real wood notice boards with the prices appearing to range from £600 to £1300. This brought out a variety of opinions. “We do need a notice board”; “In a way it does represent the village”; “What will villagers think if we pay that kind of money”; “The pride of the village is at stake”; “I don’t agree with spending so much”; “If we are going to have one let’s do it properly”; “Why don’t we refurbish the old one?” These were just a few of the opinions. It seems to me this would be an ideal item for

the agenda of the Village Annual Assembly and the views of the five to fifteen people who attend might make the decision. Those who walk round the village will notice that the church now has a new notice board. The previous one was tatty, one might say shabby, which almost suggested that the church was decaying. The new one is bright, cheerful, welcoming and confident. Is this not how we would like our village to appear?

Barclays made a pre-tax profit of £11.6 billion in 2009 but have just paid out £113 million in corporation tax because it was able to reduce the bill because of the huge losses made on its holdings of US sub-prime debt securities. John Covill wondered if the bank had got its priorities right because he has been trying to obtain for the PC a new cheque book since 11th January. Even a 35 minute phone call failed to produce anything. The Parish Council just has to wait, and wait, apparently just as it also had to wait last summer. This is very depressing and certainly worth a letter to Jim Paice. Just to cheer everyone up it was announced that Prospect Trust is having a Ball in the Guildhall on 3rd March.

Alastair Everitt

Easter Lilies

Each year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.





See centre spread for details. Eds



MOVEABLE FEAST

THIS YEAR'S moveable feast is to be held on Saturday 2nd April, 7.00pm start, and is as you know, for those of you who have been before, an event not to be missed.... three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. Venues yet to be confirmed but will of course, as in previous years, be spectacular! If you haven't participated before make this year your first - there will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course. Numbers are of course restricted and so it is on a first come first served basis and newcomers to the village are especially welcome. It is a wonderful way of meeting other village folk in relaxed and convivial surroundings. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head?? Price held for yet another year, no VAT increase on this one!!

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

Janet Willmott

01638 743472 / 07833 960678

CELEBRATION of FLOWERS and GARDENS

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

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

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

Please note these dates in your diaries.

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

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm ♣ Saturday

12 March 2011

Tickets: £6 each ♣ To book a table contact

Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ♣ Raffle

Bring your own drinks and glasses

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

John Norris Remembers: The Upware pumps

I recently paid a visit to the County Records Library to see if I could find any photographs of the pumping engines at Upware. I was lucky to find the ones I needed to complete my memoirs. It is all very well in looking at very old photos, but they have a lot more interest if they record a memory which has now been removed, and which was recorded as you remembered it.

I am referring to the chimney, which took away the smoke from the steam engine. This drove the water wheel used to splash the water from the drains into the river Cam. I say, “splash” because this wheel was a very poor device, lifting the water over a sill and then away down a channel to the river. It was the best available at the time, and was really an improved wind driven water-wheel.

At Upware there were two of these large buildings, one of which is there today. Conversions into dwellings do have a beneficial side, in that most of these buildings would have been demolished. The one nearest the village pumped Burwell Fen, and is still there, whereas the one over the Lode pumped the Swaffham side of the Drainage District. There must have been much activity in receiving supplies of coal, and the manpower needed to keep the fires burning. An old photo of one of the boiler houses shows the three boilers that were required to keep the wheels turning; and they were large, some twenty feet long.

These two engines were built probably as a result of a Drainage Board being created in 1853, which enabled the members to raise a tax, or drainage rate, on all the land deriving benefit from these pumps. There was an old pump built in 1817



Swaffham Pump House ~ 1930



Swaffham Pump House ~ 1960

further from the village, and on lower ground, which may have been a conversion of a wind pump installed by a nearby landowner. This pump would account for the bend in the main drain, to get the water to the site.

As time passed by the fen began to shrink because of the water being removed. This made the wheel more inefficient as it had less depth of water to paddle, as it could not easily be moved! These pumps were obviously appreciated by the turf diggers, the coprolite miners and the farmers who benefited from the lower water-table. So in 1927 a five-cylinder diesel engine attached to a rotary pump was installed next to the water wheel. This was a huge improvement. No coal shovelling, or ash removal; just an occasional squirt with the oilcan, and removal of weed from the weed-screen.

The platform for this engine is still there, although it is slowly sliding into the water. A good view is obtained from the towing path alongside the Lode. The engine itself is under a blue sheet in the compound, together with parts of the pump (at time of writing)! The use of diesel power soon caught on, and the Board decided to replace all the water wheels, and install a very powerful engine in place of the Swaffham Engine. The building was pulled down, only the base of the chimney remaining, which I remember well. This was sold for the bricks in the 1960's, and is now gone.

When the Ruston 200 HP was installed in 1939 and the Burwell wheel decommissioned, the water it removed had to be connected to the Swaffham drains. This was done by a tunnel under the Lode at Priory farm. The whole district was now drained by two Diesel engines. During the 1963 heavy rains these engines ran non-stop for three weeks. The improved drainage caused the fen to shrink even

further, so that in 1957 an electric pump was necessary to maintain the lower level of water in the drains. The diesel pumps have to be full of water before they will work, and this became harder to accomplish the further they are from the drain level

In 1992 these lovely huge diesel engines ran for the last time, being replaced by two extra submersible electric pumps. So now it is all regulated by wireless from the headquarters at Prickwillow. We were lucky in being told of the last run so that a cine film could be made of the event. The scrap merchants have left the large rotary pump in the building, as it was not easy to remove it, and at the same time prevent the river water from running back into the drains.

The Lode and locks have been modernised, all electric now. The board does have an arrangement with the electricity suppliers to provide generators should the power fail. If you have not been that way recently, it is worth a visit, even though you cannot see the pumps any more. Just the three siphon breakers all smart in their black paint, but you can imagine the activity of the old times.

John Norris

AUTUMN SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2011

A few more dates for your diary, further details will be announced in The Crier and on the telegraph poles throughout the village nearer the actual date.

17th /18th September HARVEST WEEK-END to include AUTUMN SHOW,
HARVEST SUPPER AND DOG SHOW

16th October QUIZ NIGHT

19th November VILLAGE VARIETY

Kate Child

VILLAGE GARDENERS

Programme 2011

Tues 15th Mar Peter Walker '*Gardens of Devon*'

Tues 19th Apr Peter Jackson '*Trees for modern gardens*'

Tues 17th May Mark Ekin '*Pests and disease – their identification and control*'

Tues 7th Jun Evening visit to Baldwin Barn; Mr and Mrs Chris Walkinshaw

Sat 18th Jun All day visit to Barnsdale Gardens (Geoff Hamilton)

Tues 28th Jun Evening visit to Horningsea; Mr and Mrs Don Edwards

Tues 18th Oct Janet Hall 'Autumn Berries'

Tues 15th Nov AGM

Indoor meetings: 8.00pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of summer visits will be confirmed later

Visitors and new members always welcome: £3 per evening,
including visits

Contact: Mary Hart, Margaret Joyce or Roger Connan 01638
741681 / 744390/742182





VILLAGE HALL DATES & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Village Hall Management Committee are currently planning the following events.

Village Feast – 4th June

Harvest Show – 3rd September

Village Carols – 14th December

Further details about these events will follow in future editions of the Crier but if you would like to help with organising any of the above events then the Village Hall Management Committee would love to hear from you.

The Village Hall Management Committee will also be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 7th April at 8 pm in the Village Hall. All very welcome!

Mary Charlesworth

One half of the Bookings Secretary!"

Many thanks – any queries, then please let me know.

Mary



Pollyanna Auditions

Sky Blue Theatre are presenting a new Musical “Pollyanna” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (19-26th August) and at the Cambridge Corn Exchange (9-11 Sep). Auditions are open to anyone. We are looking for enthusiastic actors with good singing voices. There are adult singing and non singing parts. A large chorus is also wanted. These auditions, which are open to everyone, will be by special appointment. If you have never been to the Edinburgh Fringe this is a great opportunity for a fantastic week of Drama. This new show, based on the popular, classic novel by Eleanor Porter will enthral the whole family. This is a wonderful family musical, with songs you will want to sing, comedy, and an enthralling story. Pollyanna’s ‘glad ‘ song will get your feet tapping and Mr and Mrs Gripe make you want to boo. All ages will love this story

And the way that Pollyanna triumphs over all her problems.

With libretto by Frances Bartram, music by Geoff Page and Directed by Frances Brownlie. Get in touch with Frances for more information

Tel: 01223 832288 or Email : frances@skybluetheatre.com

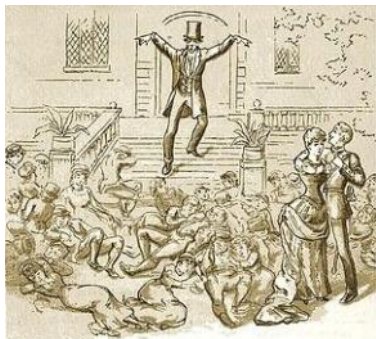
Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre present:
Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Sorcerer*

Wed. 8th June - Sat. 11th June 7:30 pm.

Matinee Sat. 11th June

Downing Farm Station Road Swaffham Bulbeck

Ticket prices: Wednesday Thursday £8; Matinee £5; Friday Saturday £10



The action takes place in and around the mansion of Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre whose son, Alexis, has become engaged to Aline, the daughter of Lady Sangazure. It is also clear that Sir Marmaduke has aspirations towards Lady Sangazure. Meanwhile Constance, the daughter of Mrs Partlet – an assistant at the village church – holds unrequited love for Dr Daly the somewhat elderly bachelor vicar of the village.

Alexis is something of an idealist who believes that marriage should be for love and not for class or station. He has arranged for John Wellington

Wells, the local Family Sorcerer, to prepare a love potion which will be given to all the villagers at the wedding feast.

To find out what happens come and see the show!

PROPOSED BOTTISHAM PRACTICE PATIENT GROUP

On 13 January the Bottisham Medical Practice invited patients to attend a meeting to discuss the formation of a Patient Group. The purpose of such a group, run by patients themselves, would be to give Bottisham doctors patients' views on their concerns about the way the practice is run, including on the new commissioning role of GPs. Attendance at the initial meeting was small but interested. There were many questions, but most thought a Patient Group could be useful.

It was suggested the next step should be a questionnaire asking patients whether they would welcome such a Patient Group, and what issues they would like to be discussed. Copies of the questionnaire are now available at the surgery. A second public meeting will be at the Surgery on Thursday 31 March at 7 PM. All patients are invited to attend. This will be the opportunity for patients to agree what they want the Patient Group to do and to help set it up.

Information on patient groups is available at the National Association of Patient Participation www.napp.org.uk

News from Wicken Fen

Many of Wicken Fen's rare wetland plants will receive a potentially life saving drink of water thanks to a new wind pump installed on the edge of Sedge Fen. The fen has suffered from a lack of water in recent years which is having a detrimental effect on the fen's delicate plant communities. The new wind pump will lift calcium rich water from Monk's Lode onto the fen during the winter months, which will gradually re-charge the fens watertable. It is perhaps ironic that Wicken's historic wooden wind pump near the Visitor Centre was once used to drain the land for peat cutting whilst its modern day metal counterpart is being used to pump water back onto the land.



**The new
Wind Pump
at Sedge
Fen**

Plans are in hand to increase the range of activities and events on offer at Wicken Fen with the introduction of cycle hire this summer. We are currently working with local tourist attractions and hospitality businesses throughout the area to help promote cycling in and around communities bordering the Vision lands.

Local basket maker and weaver, Nadine Anderson will be hosting a series of her popular **Willow Weaving Workshops** in March and early April to help you spruce up your garden. **Making Plant Supports** (Sat 19 Mar and Fri 25 10am or 2pm £28) a half day workshop to make traditional willow plant supports for your garden; **Willow Border Edges and Trellis Workshop** (Sat 26 Mar 10am-4pm £55) **Willow Birds** (Sat 2 April 10am-4pm £55) Create a natural bird sculpture for in or outdoors.

Other forthcoming events include; **Mucky Pups Springtime Art and Craft** (Wed 16 March 1030 -12 noon £3.75) – a spring trail and arts and crafts for pre-schoolers; or enjoy a **Spring Walk with the Warden** as the fen bursts into life (Sun 20 Mar at 2pm £6.50- includes tea and slice of cake). Advance booking is strongly recommended for all events – Tel 01353 720274.

Hope to see you at the fen soon.

Howard Cooper
Wicken Fen



Three local young Beauties taking part in the highly acclaimed Bottisham Players' recent *Beauty & the Beast* Production

Local students face 330 mile cycle challenge in aid of Anthony Nolan

Sam Ha, Jack Gracie, Andrew Wightwick, Joe McGee and Sean Irving (13 -16) will face the challenge of lifetime this *August* when they cycle the an independently organised route from Cambridge to Paris in aid of Anthony Nolan, the charity that takes back lives from leukaemia by recruiting to and managing the UK's most successful bone marrow register.

Joe McGee, a student at Bottisham Village College from Swaffham Prior, decided to represent Anthony Nolan after a friend's sister was taken ill with Leukaemia, and was saved by the work of the people at Antony Nolan.

Commenting on the challenge ahead, *Sam Ha, 16,* said, "*It will be hard. But we are determined to succeed.*"

There are 1,400 people in the UK and 16,000 people worldwide in need of a bone marrow transplant, which is usually their last hope of survival in the fight against leukaemia and other blood related diseases. Anthony Nolan is an independent charity and relies on public donations to continue saving lives. To sponsor us, go to "<http://www.justgiving.com/Sean-Irving>" (click the 'read more' on the speech bubble). For more information please contact Joe on 01638 743 049 or email to joemcgee95@gmail.com.

Anthony Nolan takes back lives from leukemia by managing and recruiting new donors to the UK's most successful bone marrow register. Anthony Nolan also undertakes vital research leading to improvements in the effectiveness and safety of bone marrow transplants.

There are 16,000 people worldwide and 1,400 people in the UK in need of a bone marrow transplant.

There are just over 400,000 people on Anthony Nolan's register, but it's not enough. We are always looking for people to join the register, particularly young males and people from all ethnic minority backgrounds.

To join the register you must be aged between 18 and 40, weigh more than 8 stone (51kg) and be in general good health.

THE PROSPECTS TRUST HAS LOTS TO GET EXCITED ABOUT!



Pretend to be a farmer for the day, learn to drive the famous Tilly the Tractor or help a new lamb take its first spring step? Harness the power of the 4 x 4 in a challenging Land Rover drive of your life thanks to Marshall Land Rover Peterborough? Learn to shoot like Clint Eastwood courtesy of Long Acres Shooting? Take a twilight tour of Clare College gardens while getting seasonal tips from their green fingered Head Gardener. Put down some organic roots with a sponsored vintage apple tree in the Snakehall Farm orchard or enjoy the vine courtesy of Chilford Hall. All these money can t buy experiences and lots more are on offer as part of the Prospects Trust charity auction.

The Prospects Trust, a registered charity and organic care farm, is eagerly preparing for its forthcoming fundraiser Harmony in Harlem 2011 being held on Thursday 3rd March at the Guildhall Cambridge as part of the Local Secrets Live event programme. The Jazz evening will be given an extra bit of excitement with a glittering range of auction lots to bid upon.

The Prospects Trust has just revealed the auction lots to whet the appetite of those who have already purchased their tickets and have their dancing shoes ready but for those who haven't, tickets are still on sale via Local Secrets. The auction will be expertly conducted by Martin Millard of Cheffins Fine Art.

Marianne Baker, Development Officer and Co-Manager of the Trust said the generosity of local businesses and people giving up their time and resources to create a wonderful auction list is amazing. We are hoping the auction will raise much needed funds for the charity which supports people with learning difficulties, disabilities and mental ill health gain meaning work experience and training on our 18 acre organic farm in Reach, Cambridgeshire.

For those unable to attend but wish to make a sealed bid, the Prospects Trust's Facebook Page Tilly Tractor <http://en-gb.facebook.com/people/Tilly-Tractor/100000817367983> has a full list of auction lots and their sponsors.

All sealed bids need to be pledged into the farm office by noon on Wednesday 2 March by telephone 01638 741551 or email enquiries@prospectstrust.org.uk.

Marianne Baker

Or the Bull Kills You

Some of you may remember, and were kind enough to attend, Jason Webster's talk for Topping's bookshop of Ely in February 2009. At that time his latest book 'Sacred Sierra' had just been published. This was in the genre of Travel Literature - in which. Jason had written his three previous books.

Since then he has moved into the area of Crime Fiction and his latest book 'Or the Bull Kills You' is the first in a new series which introduces the detective Max Camara. The setting is still Spain and the city is Valencia - where Jason and his family now live. The book came out on February 3rd and has already received excellent reviews - a sample of which appear below.

The Guardian—Saturday Feb 12th

'Nifty plotting, great descriptions and the most enchanting new detective I've come across in a good while'

Independent on Sunday — Feb 13th

'Webster's fine novel is a memorable paella of Mediterranean noir'

Crime Squad web site

'With extremely well written prose, Webster brings the atmosphere and culture of Spain to life, as well as giving its well-rounded characters and a sure-fire plot'

If this whets your appetite at all then you may like to come along to Jason's latest talk for Topping's on **Friday, March 4th**. (see ad for details or phone Karole Webster

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB QUIZ NIGHT AT THE BRITISH LEGION

SATURDAY 26th MARCH 7.30 PM

COME ALONG AND STRETCH THOSE LITTLE GREY CELLS

TEAMS OF UP TO 8 PLAYERS OR COME ALONE -

ALL WILL BE MOST WELCOME

£3 per person

Drinks/Snacks/Nibbles may be purchased at the bar

CONTACT HILDA BUCHANAN 01223-811689

EASTER FAIR

SATURDAY 9th APRIL 10.30 AM TO 3.00 PM

AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A VARIETY OF STALLS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

GUESS THE WEIGHT AND WIN A HOME-MADE

EASTER SIMNEL CAKE

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ANYONE WISHING TO HIRE A TABLE

CONTACT CINDY KING 01223-811220

Topping & Company Booksellers of Ely

Join us for tapas and other suitably Spanish refreshment
with the acclaimed travel writer and novelist

Jason Webster



to celebrate the publication of his debut novel

Or the Bull Kills You

Friday 4th March at St. Etheldreda's Church, Ely (CB6 1AE)

7pm for 7.30pm talk.

Tickets £8/7 - redeemable against the book.

Pop in to the bookshop to book - 9 High Street, Ely, CB7 4LJ
or call 01353 645005.



Royal Wedding Street Party

Friday 29 April

High Street, Swaffham Prior

Forget the Rio Carnival, forget Mardi Gras but you will never forget the day long street party we have in store for Swaffham Prior! We are determined to show that a controversial East Cambs planning consultation is not the only thing that can unite the village for a common cause. We can guarantee that everyone who attends the street party will have a day to remember!

There will be something for everyone from face painting to football, bunting to balloons. We will have our very own wedding cake, village photo, afternoon cream teas in the village hall and we could even try and see if we can beat the record for the number of people in a phone box (currently standing at 16) held by the village of Pennan in Scotland! We already have requests for a re-run of the 1977 Swaffham Prior Silver Jubilee game of musical chairs – other suggestions gratefully received! Similarly if you would like to get involved on the day please contact us at the details below.

At the time the copy was submitted a generous donation had been received from Sir Michael Marshall and also Henry Hurrell, the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee for which we are very grateful.

We are hosting a number of competitions during the day for all ages – a royal wedding quiz, best decorated table, know-your-neighbour wedding photo



competition and the most creative crown, tiara and hat. We will also be displaying and judging wedding invitations designed by the primary school children in the village hall.

The High Street will close between Station Road and Cage Hill at 9am to allow us to decorate the road and run back home to watch the wedding at 11am. Festivities will start from 12.30pm onwards marked by the ringing of the church bells. The road will reopen at 6pm and the Red Lion will be providing “Family Favourites for a Fiver” – traditional British meals for £5...book early to avoid disappointment.

We will provide the tables (seating 8) and you are cordially invited to bring your own chairs, picnic and to decorate your table – there is an excellent prize for the most outrageous design!

All we ask is for a £5 deposit to secure a table which will be returned when you attend just so we know how many tables to set out. We would obviously be delighted if you decide to donate this fee towards the costs of running the event.

So invite your neighbours and book your table now by posting £5 in the envelopes provided (in the porch) at 14 Cage Hill or contact Emma Fletcher on tel. 743426 or emmalingseyfletcher@googlemail.com

If you would like to get involved in decorating the street please contact Fleur Routley on tel. 743992.

We also kindly request your wedding photos for our competition before the street party which we will copy and return to you – please deliver (or we can collect) to Ann Kiddy at 32 Cage Hill tel. 742383.

For anyone needing assistance to attend the party or any further questions please contact Emma at the telephone number above.

If the weather is wet we still intend to continue in the village hall or for the hardy under gazebos on the road!

Swaffham Prior Royal Wedding Street Party Committee



Here's what they look like, readers.

Where's William (and Kate) Competition

In the month running up to their big day, William and Kate will be visiting the village stopping off at fifteen different locations. The person who correctly spots the most locations the lifesize cardboard cutout visits around the village wins a prize. Answers on a postcard with your name and address to 14 Cage Hill by 28th April ... happy hunting!

Emma Fletcher

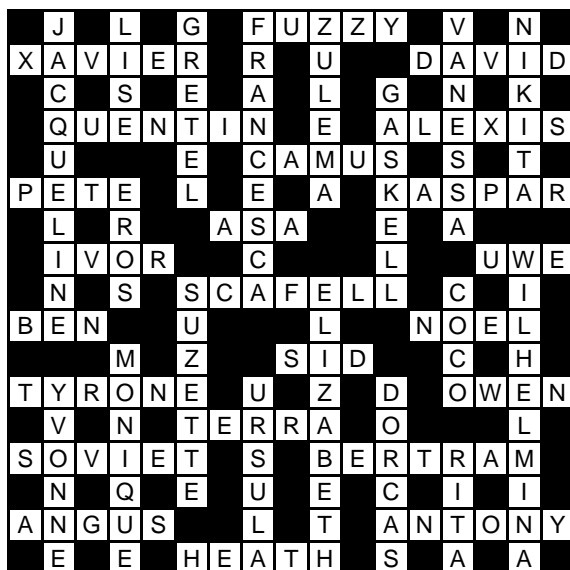


Provisional Street Party Timetable

8.30am	Decorating and set up group meet
9.00am	Road closes
9.00am to 10.30am	—
	Decorate the road and set out the tables
11.00am	Watch wedding at home
12.30pm to 1pm	Bells ring out across the village and table decorating
1.00pm	Party starts
2.15pm	Judging of the tables/headwear/invitations and awarding of prizes
2.30pm	Village photo – everyone welcome
2.45pm	Football kick about on the field behind the playground
3.00pm to 4.30pm	—
	Cream Teas at the Village Hall
5.30pm	Clear the road
6.00pm	Road reopens
6.00pm onwards	—

“Family Favourites for a Fiver” at the Red Lion

Watch the village notice boards for updates and further information!



Answers to Crossword No. 76

Such was the stunning success of the Editors' *Infallible Guide* to how to do the **Crier** Crossword, we received no entries *at all* for this one.

Well, it was a bit different, and when it comes to the things some mothers christen their children — not that *we* had any difficulty, of course. Several hours later, that is! Editors' verdict: **hard**.

Of Bards and Ballads...

In my Archers *Dirge to Nigel Pargeter* I claim the title 'Bard' in its pre-stolen (by poets, of course) form, ie a lyrical writer narrating events of the times. Bards wandered afar, entertaining people with songs. I don't wander as much as I used to, and my children tell me not to sing, but that's only because I'm their dad. I can sing pretty well if I want to.

Bardic lyrics don't have to scan or rhyme, only to work harmoniously with a melody. Mine had been provided by Elton John (formerly Reg Dwight), lyrics intended to be recognisable as pertaining to his popular ditty, just as those ancient bards did to catch the ear better than with a familiar melody. Ballads were a different kettle of fish, of course - they had to rhyme or the balladeer would be looking for a new job sharpish. (I have a book of 'Old Ballads' printed in 1777 which confirms this, although some of the rhymes are dodgy to say the least).

So to 'get' my bardic dirge you need the original verse pattern of Bernie Taupin and music by E. John. If anyone thinks Taupin's versification somewhat poor, I don't suppose he'll care, having made more money out of his lyrics than all the living professional poets in this country put together.

To reply to Ophir - of course I don't listen to The Archers, but they kept re-trailing that moment ghoulishly on Radio 4, the scream, the falling off his roof. The scriptwriters, commoners all, also don't know that if the Pargeter seat were any REAL stately home it would've had a parapet wall with lead gutter channels behind, not common ol' guttering, and he couldn't have fallen if he'd tried.

I *did* listen, yes, in the old days before it became a radio sub-genre of neo-pagan 'Soap Opera' in which characters must be violently sacrificed to commemorate high days and holidays. The best moment ever in those delightful times was when Walter Gabriel got *Snow White and The Seven Dwarves* out from the video store for Mrs P only to discover when they settled down to watch that it wasn't the Disney version. Funnier for Mrs P retelling it in high dudgeon, Greek Theatre style, rather than acting the moment for the audience. They understood good radio much better then. I laughed for days.

And I do claim authorship of another dirge, from those days - titled *John Archer and His Tractor*, to the tune of *The Leader of The Pack*, with tractor revving instead of motorbike noise. I consider that to be my bardic triumph (although truth to tell I sold my Triumph in 1988, a clapped-out Bonneville motorcycle).

I here declare: I have no pretensions at all to being a poet. I thought my Jan issue dirge would say that for me. Actually, I don't think I've seen an awful lot of poems written in recent decades that are really any good. There's lots that people *think* are good and *poets* who think they're good, but most is just poetry journalism by poet hacks. Like the modern novel, poetry's disappeared up its own bottom and believes anything can be the subject of poetry. Poetic principle? Anyone else is welcome to whatever that means nowadays.

Mark Lewinski

But wasn't Shakespeare a Bard? Perhaps shouldn't have mentioned this....Eds

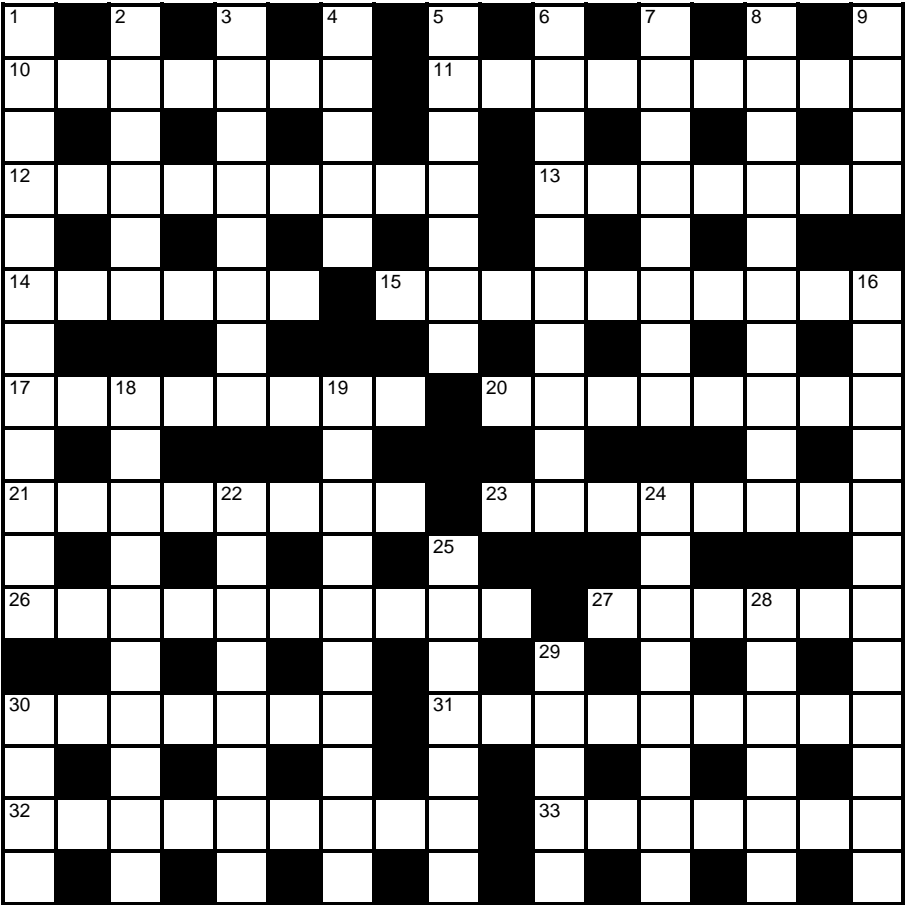
Crossword Number 77

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

OUNCE

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



Name:.....

Address.....

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

Across

- 10 Slum clearance from marvelously fabricated cover. (7)
- 11 Miserable Turner hot here? Unlikely. (4,5)
- 12 Quiet! "Den Pair" up in public (fixed?) courtcase. (4,5)
- 13 Little Albert not telling the truth when consorting? (7)
- 14 Abe leaves when queer flea bites same. (6)
- 15 Crumpled hessian map needed for sailing with skill. (10)
- 17 Gene catches weapon in grasp of the French policeman. (8)
- 20 Ken Bruno smashed? No. (8)
- 21 Ring, ring - piece within revolving. (8)
- 23 Densely planted copse envelops pole. (8)
- 26 Wait, we hear for grand memorial weekend riot. (10)
- 27 Alternative - work model charged particle. (6)
- 30 Badly lisp one Greek letter. (7)
- 31 Strangely, I poll Ohio masses. (3,6)
- 32 Rotated on fused explosive trigger. (9)
- 33 Athletics club member, Hen or Jet? (7)
- 3 I'll float out of group of boats. (8)
- 4 Suspicious person, unknown, reversing in cold first course. (5)
- 5 Uncover delicate lie relating to Renoir's place? (7)
- 6 Normal hunt astray during season of the moon. (5,5)
- 7 Little joke confused Nero about rising Nile. (3-5)
- 8 Shortcake I made from edible thistle? (10)
- 9 Tory leader gets cuddle from mugger, for instance. (4)
- 16 Prison, a horrible eternity with pain. (12)
- 18 Ben climbs it in lousy swirl of cloudiness. (10)
- 19 Anton let me produce aid to remembrance. (6,4)
- 22 Accompany uninvited nameless Tongan gal. (3,5)
- 24 Carob Pud Mix found in Hubbard's store. (8)
- 25 Jar when time lost as speed enters blood vessel. (7)
- 28 Mistakenly, nothing Dai decorated. (6)
- 29 See this place reportedly. (5)
- 30 Rose Marie's Nelson in a whirl. (4)

Down

- 1 Browning implement reward for craftily forsaking tot. (8,4)
- 2 Evil spirits lurk in modem on site. (6)

No winners for last month's puzzle, readers. See page 22 for answers.



WI Notes

Before Bob Jones- a semi retired Paramedic came to talk to us ,I thought I'd check out his website. It said-----Humorist, Comedian, Poet (he's appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe) Speaker, Writer, Suburban Child, City Accountant, Dairy Farmer and Paramedic. I stand up, I tell stories, relate anecdotes and make audiences laugh.

This he certainly did! He said when he'd put the post code for Reach (we'd retired there as our own hall was closed for maintenance) his Satnav had said "you must be joking!" He'd qualified as a Paramedic on his 50th birthday—in his own words-a late starter—and now semi-retired was working just two days a week.

Patients vary of course from the VERY large -when assistance from other agencies is sometimes required to get them to hospital (risk assessments having been completed) to their favourite kind-those that walk to the ambulance! There was very little about the drama of his profession-apart from that is of course,the tale of the holy water sprinkled on the defibrillator, but gentle and amusing anecdotes about the people he and his colleagues had been called to.

The blind man who'd navigated them from Addenbrookes all the way to his home—almost faultlessly. The "collapsed behind the door" (CBD, in ambulance speak) couple who'd got their Zimmer frames and lower limbs locked in an impossible tangle on their landing and who were still arguing-having been disentangled, as the ambulance drove away! The stone deaf old lady quietly watching "the Bill" who was deeply shocked when a policeman flew in through her window, as the paramedics thought she may have collapsed. The 91 year old lady who'd fallen and cut her leg-and refused to go to hospital because she'd be late getting her son's lunch. He was 73! Those that have diagnosed what is wrong with them before the paramedics arrive-what can you say?

999 calls are now monitored but still some absurd and inappropriate ones get through—from the extremely constipated—entonox solved his problem, to the alcoholic who'd called them, as she'd needed some cigarettes. Time wasters get short shrift.

Even off duty, his professional skills are sought-particularly it seems in the air and on one occasion, the champagne he'd received from the captain of the plane, by way of thanks, was confiscated by German customs. Not a happy ending to that story. But to end the report, I think my favourite one-the dear old gentleman who'd died peacefully in his sleep who was being carried to the ambulance in a chair, carefully wrapped in a cosy blanket, was cheerily greeted by his neighbour "Well hello Fred-you're looking better today"!

Every one is very welcome to our meetings which are one the third Monday of each month, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Margaret Joyce



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners met this month to hear another talk by Richard Ayres-returning by popular request. As most locals know, he lives in Lode and opens his lovely garden to the public, but on this occasion, with Spring in the air he was back over the hedge in his beloved Anglesey Abbey.

Of course snowdrops were top of the agenda, not only because they are currently looking spectacular there, but also because their abundance is largely thanks to Richard's creativity-when he was head gardener and Dutch Elm Disease. It wasn't until all the Elms were felled (this took eight years), that the snowdrops were "discovered" when the natural light encouraged them to flower and flourish-along with their partners, the Aconites.

He started a collection in the 70's, when National Trust gardens were closed from October till Easter. As a result, the hundred or so varieties in the collection were never seen by the public-so hard to imagine now. Richard finally persuaded a very reluctant NT to open on two Saturdays in February! It was a huge success and for the first few years the Abbey was allowed to keep the money made. This is no longer the case Of course it's still a very popular event and on 12th February this year there were 4000 visitors.

There are about 600 varieties in existence, 250 of which are at the Abbey. We were shown lovely slides of some of his favourites-Lodestar. Misdemeanour, Misadventure, Hobson's choice and a few totally unspellable ones! A rare snowdrop bulb sold last year for £300-if that's too much and you want to increase you numbers -a tip from the top-split them NOW.

There was also huge resistance to the idea of the winter walk when Richard first proposed it. No-one would want to visit Anglesey Abbey in the winter. How things have changed. But with his enthusiasm, determination and lots of connections the project took off, funded almost entirely by private donations. Fifty Acers were planted and private individuals paid £100 pounds each for the privilege of doing so. It's now a glorious scene-but one change. The white bark on the birches is no longer scrubbed by volunteers bearing brushes and buckets of water, but pressure hosed twice a year!

Margaret Joyce

Donations!

Many thanks to Sylvie Short for her very kind donation to the *Crier* this month, which is extremely appreciated!

Anglesey Abbey News.....

OUT AND ABOUT WITH FAMILY ADVENTURE PACKS!

It may be misty, moisty or even pouring with rain but it's still fun with the new *portable* explorer packs to take to the Wildlife Discovery Area. The ***Cracking Camouflage*** kits are an engaging way to discover the life of mini-beasts. What lives up? What lives down? Is that their home, or are they out travelling like you? With a bag of gadgets like bug pot, swatch booklet and catching sheet, you never know what you'll encounter. Super-sized high resolution images show the beasties scaled-up and in full colour.



When you've finished a mini-beast trail, you can seek out a cosy hide to huddle up and spot bigger wildlife or wander through the wild wood where trees take on the shapes of magical, mystical creatures from a story book. You can even gather twigs to create your own den. It's all just waiting to be discovered!

Cracking Camouflage packs are FREE to borrow when you visit – just pick one up at reception when you arrive.

Digital Television Switchover – When, What, How?

On 30th March, the BBC 2 analogue channel will be switched off in Cambridgeshire, followed by the remaining analogue channels on 13th April. From then on, if you aren't set up to receive digital, you won't be able to watch your television.

This can be a worrying prospect, and at Cambridgeshire County Council's Trading Standards Service we want to ensure that you know where to go for advice.

How will it affect me?

If you have Sky TV, Freesat from Sky, Freesat or Virgin Media you don't need to do anything (but note, additional TVs in the house may be affected).

If you have Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV you will need to re-tune your television 5 times in 2011. Guidance on re-tuning can be found on Digital UK's website (below). Alternatively you can pay a trader to re-tune it each time.

If you currently have five channels or fewer, you have three options:

Option 1: get a digital box. If you get a good analogue picture through your aerial now, you could purchase a Freeview set top box. Other options are satellite services

'Freesat from Sky' or 'Freesat'. Once purchased, these do not have a monthly fee. For even more channels, consider a monthly subscription service from Sky, BT Vision or Top Up TV. Your existing TV should work fine with any of these, provided it has an aerial or Scart socket.

Only Freeview requires an aerial, and in most cases, if your current analogue picture is OK, your aerial should work fine with Freeview. If you do need a new aerial, contact the Registered Digital Installers Licensing Body on 01353 644040 or visit www.rdi-lb.tv for a list of registered installers.

Option 2: buy a new Freeview recorder with twin tuners. This will receive digital television, acting as a digital box, and is also a recorder, allowing you to watch one channel while recording another. After the switchover, if you don't have a digital recorder, you will only be able to record the channel you are watching.

Option 3: buy a new television that has a built in digital tuner. Look for -

Where can I go for advice?

You can contact Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50 for advice or visit their website www.digitaluk.co.uk. If you have a hearing or speech impediment, contact the textphone service on 0845 2340380.

What is the Help Scheme?

A Help Scheme is available if you are 75 or over, have lived in a care home for over six months, get certain disability benefits or are registered blind or partially sighted. If you are eligible you should have received a letter from the Scheme, but if you are in any doubt, contact the scheme on 0800 4085900 or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk.



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

No Increase In Council Tax This Next Year.

Throughout the last month, Committees at East Cambridgeshire District Council have been assessing proposals to save more than £2million over the next four years to balance its budget. The tough choices were as a result of the Government announcing cuts of nearly 29 percent to the Councils main Government Grant for only the next two years without indicating what will happen from 2012 and potential issues such as the housing benefit overspend which is predicted to grow.

Members have debated and scrutinised proposals from across the council for ways to ensure the authority could meet the demands made on it. At the recent Policy and Resources Committee, Members agreed to send a four year financial plan to Full Council on Tuesday the 22nd of February, these included:



- Freezing its council tax rate for next year
- A reorganisation of committees and members allowances
- Reducing office administration costs
- Increases in some fees and charges such as licences and planning applications
- Reductions in community grants and support for voluntary groups – in the majority of cases this will be less than the scale of cuts the Council has received to its Government Grant
- Potential staff savings of over £300,000 and freezing or deferring recruitment to vacant posts

A review of costs associated with waste and recycling, including looking for efficiency savings in the current waste contract and at payments made to parish councils for keeping recycling banks on their land.

Weekly Collection Of Black Sacks To Remain.

Residents have expressed relief that we will be maintaining the weekly collection. It makes no sense to have rotting food waste and nappies being left with residents for up to 14 days at a time.

CCTV Goes Local.

CCTV for Ely and Soham used to be run from a bunker in Cambridge and cost taxpayers £113,000 per year!

That will change this year when the service is transferred into local hands. Screens and trained volunteers will be based in Ely police station. Ely City Council and Soham Town Council will run a more responsive service at a lower cost; saving you nearly £40,000 per year.

More Funds For Villages.

The council has made funding available from section 106 monies so that now any village with fewer than 3000 residents is now eligible to apply for 100% grants for local projects. These can be anything from restoring a play area to moving a bus stop, any community organisation can apply.

Allen Alderson

University Botanic Gardens

A host of golden daffodils

The first phase of the project was completed in March last year when Friends of Cambridge University Botanic Garden helped plant 5000 in-the-green snowdrops. Large-flowered *Galanthus elwesii* and *Galanthus* ‘S Arnott’ were planted in drifts, giving way to the simple, single-flowered *Galanthus nivalis* under the Hazel and Birch collections, now festooned with catkins. These combine beautifully with bright yellow winter aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) and pastel-coloured early *Crocus*.

To follow on, we have planted a spectacular show of wild daffodils, scattered and dug in last autumn in their tens of thousands. First the fresh spring grass is studded with the delicate and diminutive *Narcissus pseudonarcissus lobularis*, stars



of creamy, twisted petals backing yellow trumpets. These delightful wild daffodils are followed by the old-fashioned Pheasant Eyes (*Narcissus poeticus recurvus*), a late-flowering daffodil with a small bright orange cup surrounded by reflexed, white petals. Planted *en masse*, the fresh scent will fill the air.

The Botanic Garden is open 10am – 5pm in March. Admission is £4 (£3.50) or join the Friends & help the Garden grow! To join the one-hour highlights tour led by an expert Garden Guide that leaves Brookside Gate at 11am on the first Saturday of every month, telephone 01223 336265 to book a place (£7, £3 for Friends). Or bring the children along to one of our drop-in First Saturday Family Fun workshops. The elegantly appointed new Garden Café has just re-opened, and serves homemade, locally-sourced and delicious food. For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk



From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

February at the County Council was dominated by the full meeting of Council on 15 February, with the main agenda item being the Budget for 2011/12 and Integrated Plan for the coming 5 years. What a meeting! I arrived at Shire Hall at 08.40am to find the access road blocked by protestors complaining about the proposed budget cuts. Having driven around I managed to get in round the back. The meeting started with a large number of protestors in the public gallery. After numerous interruptions and 3 separate arrests of protestors the Council finally managed to agree a balanced budget with the proposals reported last month going through. It was a long and stormy meeting and I eventually got home at 8.20pm.

In the run-up to the full Council meeting I also attended 3 separate scrutiny committees to examine budget proposals in greater detail - the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee, the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee. I also attended 3 informal cabinet meetings.

Cllr Jill Tuck has announced that, for personal reasons, she will not be seeking re-election as Leader of the Conservative Group and therefore Leader of the Council. The Conservative Group will elect a new Leader, probably in April.

David Brown

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting - Thursday, 10th February 2011

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors in attendance + 2 members of the public present. The following items were discussed:

Public Participation: General comments.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

For information: At this point the meeting was made aware of the possibility of a future application to build some affordable housing and market value housing on the Lower End field between Rogers Road and Fairview Grove.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

CCC – *Village Maintenance Budget*. Details of possible reduction in grant payment to the Parish for cutting verges on behalf of CCC. Also details of reduced cutting of highway verges noting that there would be visibility grass cutting only.

CCC – *Cambridgeshire Library Service Review*. Summary of ways to meet savings needed – consultation ongoing.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Allotments: The Clerk confirmed the number of allotments as 5 and that they were all in full use with 2 people on the waiting list. Following discussion it was suggested that perhaps the piece of parish land opposite (other side of main road) could be offered for allotment use. The Clerk was asked to contact those on the waiting list to see if they would be interested.

Repair Works to the Pound Wall: Listed Building Consent was received. ECDC confirmed to the Clerk that approval under Building Regulations was not required.

Kim Sheldrick had provided a revised quotation for the work as required by ECDC. It was agreed to accept this quotation and ask Kim to proceed with the work as soon as possible as the wall was deteriorating very quickly due to the recent bad weather. *Following the meeting, the Clerk spoke with Kim and he confirmed that weather permitting the work would start week commencing 14/2/11.*

Purchase of New Noticeboard:

Following discussion it was agreed to confirm cost of renovating the current noticeboard before considering further the purchase of a new one.

Clerk's Report:

Review of East Cambs Core Strategy: Katie Child, Principal Forward Planning Officer for ECDC, will be attending the March Parish Council meeting to talk about this review which is to take place in 2011.

Training: The Clerk is to attend training sessions for "The Power of Wellbeing" and "Management of Allotments".

Street lighting: Faulty street lights on Cage Hill & Tothill Road have now been repaired.

Parking on verges: Letters were sent asking residents not to park on grass verges at Fairview Grove & Lower End. These were followed up by phone calls with residents agreeing not to park on verges wherever possible.

BT inspection chamber cover: Mark Lewinski had kindly repositioned the cover. *The meeting thanked Mark for his help.*

Repairs to Village Hall front gate & fencing: The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee confirmed that repair works were to be carried out during February.

Parish Councillor Reports:

Green Head Road Garages: The meeting was made aware of residents' concerns about the use of this area.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Open Question Time:

Mr Limb told meeting that he had been made aware of additional damage to the rear wall of the Pound. *Kim Sheldrick was to be asked to inspect this whilst carrying out the work to the front wall.*

.....and from December & January

John Covill chaired the December meeting & Andrew Camps chaired the January meeting. Both meetings with 7 Parish Councillors in attendance + 4 members of the public present.

Public Participation:

Problems with drains on Green Head Road: The meeting was informed that the matter was still with the Health & Safety Executive and Anglian Water for investigation. It was noted that other residents of Green Head Road were also aware of the chemical odours and had concerns about the collection of waste from the premises. The question was raised at the December meeting as to whether such a business should be allowed to operate in a domestic property and whether there had been a breach of the original planning permission. This was followed up with a letter to Alan Dover, ECDC's Principal Development Control Officer asking for his advice on the possibility of a breach of the original planning permission for the

premises. His reply was reported to the January meeting. This concluded that from the planning perspective there did not appear to have been a breach of the conditions of the planning permission.

Affordable Housing – Housing Needs Survey for Swaffham Prior: Catherine Shilton, Rural Housing Enabler for Cambridgeshire ACRE and Oliver Cook of ECDC attended the January meeting and gave a presentation on the benefits of carrying out an independent survey of the housing needs in Swaffham Prior. Following discussion it was agreed by the members that such a survey should be carried out for the Parish. *Anyone wishing to see the presentation details please contact the Clerk.*

Reports

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

CCC - *Filling of the Salt Bins*: The Parish Council had been advised by CCC that there was not enough salt available to refill the salt bins due to the increased demand during the recent bad weather but that different solutions were to be investigated.

ECDC – “*The Future of Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire*”. This was a request for a financial contribution to help safeguard the future of the NHP’s. There were concerns raised about justifying such a payment and the value of the NHP’s to the Parish and as such it was agreed not to contribute.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Geoffrey Woollard confirmed that he had cleared the rubbish bags from Pound and was thanked for his help.

Peter Hart referred to the concerns raised about damage caused by cars to the grassed area at the top of Fairview Grove. A letter was sent to nearby residents asking for their assistance by not using the grassed area for parking.

Planning Matters:

Planning Application for 32 Cage Hill – extension and alterations of existing dwelling and new boundary fence. Ref: 10/00913/FUL: This application was considered at the December meeting. There were no objections or comments. A copy of the Planning Permission was received and reported at the January meeting.

Planning/Conservation Area Consent – 69 High Street. This was reported at January meeting.

Repair Works to the Pound Wall: Following the submission of an application for Listed Building Consent, ECDC’s Conservation Officer, Lorraine King, expressed concerns about some of the details namely, following the reduction in height of the wall there was no indication of the proposed new height on the application and the indication of “infill with concrete blocks” noting this as not an appropriate material for use in a listed structure.

Following further advice from the Structural Engineers and Kim Sheldrick Building Services, amended details were to be submitted which would hopefully answer the Conservation Officer’s concerns and enable the application to be

approved.

Consideration of Tenders received for Grass Cutting Services: Four contractors were invited to tender and 3 replies were received. Following consideration, it was agreed to award the 3-year contract to K H Services starting from 1/3/11.

Final Approval of Budget/Precept for 2011/12: This was agreed as £14,500. No increase on previous year.

Clerk's Report

Dog bin, Fairview Grove: This has been repositioned as requested.

Faulty Street Lights: There have been several lights not working and these have been reported to CCC for repair.

Handrail at The Beeches: This has been erected.

Parish Councillor Reports:

Peter Hart said that the parking of cars was causing damage to the grass verge on the left hand side of Lower End as leaving the village towards Reach. A letter was to be sent to residents.

Peter Hart reported that the footpath from the Village Hall Car Park to Station Road was reopened.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Open Question Time:

It was reported that the BT concrete inspection chamber cover in Heath Road was displaced and needed attention.

If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10th March 2011, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

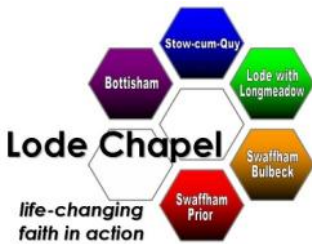
Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council

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

BON MOT NUMBER TWELVE

**“Start every day off with a smile,
and get it over with.”**

W.C.Fields



Fairtrade Fortnight 28th February – 13th March

I buy fairtrade – and I'm proud of it! I've even got a couple of clerical shirts made with 100% fairtrade cotton...

This year's fairtrade fortnight theme is 'Show Off Your Labels' and it celebrates the amazing growth in the range of fairly traded items available after more than twenty years of campaigning. Back then you had to find a specialist retailer, such as Traidcraft, but now you can walk into most supermarkets and find a range of items that carry the fairtrade logo.

If you saw the BBC series called 'Blood, Sweat and T-shirts' you will know some of the terrible stories that lie behind so many of the products in our shopping trolleys. Chocolate that isn't fairly traded may well be made with ingredients that include exploitation and violence. Most cocoa beans come from West Africa where tens thousands of children are trafficked and trapped into forced labour.

Not only is the fairtrade label a sign that its producers have received a fair price for their labour, it also ensures that children in these developing countries are educated rather than exploited. You can now buy some of your favourite bars, like Dairy Milk and Kit-Kat, with the fairtrade label on them. This is real progress, but all of the other bars manufactured by companies like Nestlé, Mars and Cadburys are yet to be traffik free.

We're a registered fairtrade church which means that all of the tea and coffee we serve after our services carry the label. It also means that we regularly take part in campaigns to try and change this world for the better. I've currently got a supply of postcards which can be easily completed and sent to one of these chocolate companies asking them to consider extending their fairtrade provision. If you'd like one of these cards then contact me and I'll get one to you.

Alternatively during this fairtrade fortnight, why not see what the ethical options are as you do your weekly shop? There are other labels, like 'Rainforest Alliance', which also indicate a supply chain that is kinder to people and to the planet. Often the prices are very similar to the unethical choices – and even if you do have to pay a few pennies more, isn't having a clear conscience worth it?

Simon Goddard

Services in March

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

Sun 6th, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 20th, 5.30pm – 'Healing Space' (Chapel)

Sun 13th, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

**For more information please contact: Rev. Simon
Goddard.**

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

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

Child's wooden playpen, size approx 1m square. Stephanie 01638 743036

Greenhouse: 6' x 8' (1.83m x 2.44m), aluminium frame, some panes need. Brian 07732773771

45 gallon (205 Litres) empty metal drum in good condition, used to contain refined paraffin; Radiator cover (expandable), 1.80 metres long but will expand further if necessary. Very good condition, painted cream. Trevor c812458

Four laying hens. Two Nera hens (hybrid cross between Barred Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red), black with gold markings; one speckled hen (hybrid cross between Maran and Rhode Island Red), and one Cambridge Blue hen (hybrid cross between Andalusian and Barred Plymouth Rock). One year old and laying well, good free range home only. Clare c811786

CRT television set in good working order. Mrs Parker, c 812361.

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.

Male mannequins for displaying uniforms at Bottisham Airfield Museum. Mark c813310

Dear Friends,

Have you read the book of Job in the Bible? It is a most extra-ordinary story. It begins with Job being on top of the world. He had seven sons and three daughters; and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred donkeys and had lots of servants! On top of all that he was 'blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil'.



The story goes that Satan sneaked into God's presence, and tried to undermine Job's faith, by suggesting that Job's uprightness and faith in God only existed because he had been so blessed, and would evaporate once trouble and strife hit him hard. God then agreed to Job being put to the test.

Poor old Job then suffered a whole series of dreadful setbacks that destroyed all his possessions, and his family, leaving him childless, and bereft of all his blessings. Yet, despite all these tragedies, Job's faith in God remained steadfast. God was very pleased with Job; but Satan was very frustrated, and suggested to God that Job's faith would soon evaporate if he were to suffer physically. God then agreed to allow Job to endure physical suffering, as a further test of his faith. Poor Job was then afflicted by the most painful sores 'from the soles of his feet to the top of his head'.

At this point even Job's wife began to doubt Job's faith, and had a go at him, but Job still remained steadfast. Then his three friends came to visit him, and discussed his predicament with him. Job's 'Comforters' tried to convince him that he should reassess his outlook on life; but Job remained doggedly steadfast in his faith in God; even at one point crying out those famous words:-

"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved on a rock for ever!

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes – I and not another.

How my heart yearns within me!" (Job 19:23-27)

Eventually, Job can take the 'comfort' of his friends any more and he cries out to God:-

"Oh that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defence – let the almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing." (Job 31:35)

God does then finally answer Job, and he does so with a wonderful sweeping statement of his majesty, might and authority. So much so, that Job is deeply overcome with humility and shame for crying out to God in that way, and he replies to God: *"My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."* (Job 42:5/6) God then, not only forgives Job, but wonderfully restores his family, his wealth and his happiness; giving him twice as many blessings as he had before his trials.

On March the 9th we celebrate Ash Wednesday, and those final words of Job tell us what Ash Wednesday is all about. It is about recognising that God knows us much better than we know ourselves, that he loves us more than we will ever fully grasp, and, in our frailty and weakness, we will never manage to fully live up to God's faith in us. So, we are marked with ashes to remind us of our frailty, and as a sign of our desire to ask God for his forgiveness. The mark is in the form of the sign of the cross, which is indeed the wonderful sign of God's love and forgiveness. The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, the anniversary of Christ's forgiving work on the cross and his triumph over death, is called Lent. The church sees that period as a time of preparing ourselves to receive Christ's love and forgiveness once again in our lives.

Why not consider marking Lent yourself this year? You could set aside some extra time to read your Bible, or spend extra time in prayer, or even fast. Whatever you do, please take time to remind yourself that God loves you very much indeed, and wants to have a deep and loving relationship with you, just as he did with Job.

May God bless you all,

David

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior March 2011
Sun 11	11:00am Matins BCP
Sun 13	11:00am Holy Communion
Sun 20	11:00am Family Service
Sun 27	10:00am Benfice Communion

Sat 16th April 2011, St James Church, Lode, 7:30pm

Songs of Springtime

The Cantilena Singers - director Daniel Spreadbury

A concert featuring a variety of secular music based around a theme of springtime.

Programme to include:

- Songs of Springtime - Moeran
- Printemps - Hindemith
- Spring's Footsteps - Sato
- Clear and Gentle Steam - Finzi
- The succession of four sweet months - Britten

Tickets available on the door. Website www.cantilena.info

Dates for Your Diary March 2011

Tue	1	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Thu	3	Prospects Trust Ball, Guildhall, Cambridge
Fri	4	Topping Tapas with Jason Webster, 7pm, St Ethelreda's Church Ely
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	12	Quiz Night, Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Fri	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	21	WI, 7.30pm VH
April	2	Moveable Feast, 7pm

Village Clubs & Societies

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	