



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXV Number 11

November 2011



Editorial

EARTHWORKS WAY? Sorry, what way is this? The route to a new Building Site? The latest Black Drove earth-redeployment efforts? Signs have sprung up all over the village, some pointing in

three directions at once—yes, all routes lead to Earthworks! It turns out (see *Our Reporter*) that “Community Led” supporting-vibrant-and-sustainable-communities-through-the-Rural-Community-Action-Network *ACRE* have got some money from the EU to promote circular walks, which they seem to have disposed of by expensively Googling “Circular Walks in Cambridgeshire”, dreaming up some rather unattractive name whereby traditional names for these paths are ignored and then erecting signs on every corner without so much as a by-your-leave.

Community *led*????! This must be some definition of “led” we haven’t yet come across, they didn’t even bother to *tell* us. Well, anyway, the *Crier* will be writing to *ACRE* this month, and we look forward to their response in next month’s issue.

Speed and parking problems get an airing in this issue — £5000 to reduce the Mill Hill speed limit to 30mph? How much have *ACRE* signs cost then? John Norris gives us the low down on Caddenhams Farm, where readers might like to know that current rather pungent “earthworks”, great heaps of the stuff, are the source of the wafting *horrible pong* engulfing the village.

And last, a plea from our long-suffering Distribution Manager, Ruth Stinton, who’d like to train up an Apprentice to take over occasionally from her the central organisational aspects of *Crier* distribution, ably aided and abetted (otherwise known as *sabotaged*) by the editors, who can always be relied upon to be not quite on time. Brilliant Quiz Night as ever, see you Adventing, Village Varieting....

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Build it and they will come* by **Lorraine Izon**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Tragic Moments

I had a Russian hamster
And when it flew away
I wrote a Russian letter
To the RSPCA

The reply I got (in Russian)
Accused me of being gay
And threatened to report me
To the U.S. CIA

But what they did - the Russians -
(and now I'm in their pay)
Was fix me a cosy flat, for two;
In Russian YMCA.

Ophir

(Prompted by last month's exchange between two SP celebs)

Dear Editors

Parish Council Elections (Товарищ, вы не правы)

Mr Lewinski has the quite extraordinary knack of lifting up a corner of the carpet in his search for the truth only to invariably turn up the wrong corner, and then to write about it at such great length.

I know he claims to be on the side of the people (Miliband style) but he fails to understand real people. The reason why we have not had PC elections over the last fifteen years or so is because people have not been willing to stand. Our PC does not bleat and belly on about this. It accepts the fact with humour, and I have reported it with humour. So let's wait until the next election and let's see whether Mr Lewinski and his people will stand. I know the PC would welcome an election. What might happen though is that some members who have long been on the PC would welcome the chance to stand down, and again there may be no election. I reported that the PC was "charged" £100. It certainly was not "fined" as Mr Lewinski claims. Did he mean to make the slur? ECDC has yet to justify this charge which came out of the blue. Also Mr Lewinski should sort out in his mind the difference between the PC and the PCC. A visiting clergyman happened to read his letter, was shocked at the behaviour of the PCC, and thought the Vicar ought to sort it out fast.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you so much for all your support at the Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September. I have recently paid in the grand sum of £477 which is about £70 more than last year! Although there were fewer people than some years we still had a very enjoyable morning - and all for a very good cause. I know that many who were unable to attend kindly sent donations which certainly helped to boost the final total. Thank you to all those who made cakes - and those who bought them! Also thanks must go to the people who gave Raffle prizes and, of course, those who worked cheerfully on the stalls selling cakes, raffle tickets and Christmas cards! Thank you one and all for helping to make it such a successful morning.

See you all again next year - last Friday in September!

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities Christmas Grant

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

I would ask that you reply as soon as possible.

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

If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me, or to any Trustee, and I stress that assistance is available at all times.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Pam Waters
Clerk to the Trustees

Dear Editors

Another Letter from Mollie

(Whose written before! See June and October 2008 Criers)

I like Swaffham Prior. It has been good to me. You even let me write in your magazine. I quietly moo away my time down the fen, hearing what walkers say, and even reading the occasional newspaper dropped by a passer-by. Three years ago in October 2008 I wrote:

"I overheard school children the other day being told that as Britain became more industrialised 200 years ago so more reliable sources of power were needed than water and wind.

“So, what is being done today – RETURNING TO WIND POWER. It seems all the coal, oil and nuclear power stations have to be kept going in case the wind drops. If the wind does blow, double the price is charged for any power produced.”

I thought it stupid then to support a power source which is only 20-30% efficient. But it is worse than this. Not long ago a newspaper blew across my field and it was the *Sunday Telegraph* (usually it's the *Mail on Sunday*). And what did I read.

“A wind farm has been paid more than £1 million to stop producing electricity for eight and a half hours. The amount is ten times greater than the wind farm owners would have received had they actually produced electricity. Because of the high winds buffeting the country after Hurricane Katia there were fears the electricity network would become overloaded. Eleven wind farms were closed during the week of 12th September at a cost of £2.6 million – all of which will be added to household bills.”

Is this not daft? It is not a woodpecker you hear down the fens. It is me yakking and chortling away as I shake my head in amazement.

Mollie

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Before the meeting began I was scanning the list of correspondence when Michael Limb, the other person in the public gallery, said “They’re very colourful tonight”. I looked up and the Chairman and the Clerk were a splendid pair, one in a bright mauve/purple shirt, and the other in a lime green blouse set off by a racing green cardigan. I looked at the other members and they were in grey, brown and black. Because two members were away Michael and I had a clear view along the length of the debating tables and it was like looking down a long avenue lined with stunted yew bushes towards a wonderful glittering palace. With this as a backdrop Allen launched the meeting with a fanfare from his mobile.



David gave his CCC report and you’ll have to read his account in the *Crier* for the full details. One good piece of news is that there will be no wind farms on land owned by the CCC. Also all libraries will be kept open and the necessary savings will be made by revamping the library service. David has become involved with children concerns and said it was an eye opener to see “the professionalism of the people involved.”

At this point Geoffrey intervened to ask why the Devil’s Dyke had been renamed Earthworks Way. It seems there had been no consultation with the various

parishes and he wanted to know why. Someone explained that a pot of money has been given by Europe to improve a circular walk route around the fens providing cycle paths, tearooms and guest houses. The money is being administered by ACRE who just forgot to consult with the parishes through which the route runs. This raises so many questions – the role of the EU, the role of ACRE, the quantity of cycle paths needed, and no doubt there are others. There is the possibility ACRE may speak to the PC. You will notice a cluster of brand new signs expensively spreading across the local countryside detailing Earthworks Way, but at least leaving Devil's Dyke with its name. One day we may get an official announcement, or is it just meant as a nice surprise.

Allen gave his report. Following Peter's request over the last two meetings for more details about the service being offered by the reopened Newmarket Tip, Allen had paid a visit to it. He produced a piece of paper which he asked to be reproduced in the *Crier*. As this piece of paper had been available ever since the tip reopened on 25 August it was surprising (or maybe it wasn't) that no-one on the PC was aware of it.

It also indicates that the Tip is not quite as vital as all the previous hoo-ha has suggested. When I have been there recently there has been one other car, and this has been the experience of another tip user. Previously there were always seven, or eight or more cars. How disappointing for all the people who had organised the reopening. Allen said he had told them they ought to extend the hours, but this probably appeared to be a bit of a nerve as ECDC did not offer one penny to help keep it open. It is a mystery why the Tip now appears to be so little used. Possibly between the closure and the reopening people discovered other solutions for waste disposal. Amongst his other activities Allen had been to a seminar on "Homelessness Solutions."

I don't know how it slipped in but Geoffrey reported on his 5 October attendance at the Neighbourhood Panel meeting in Burwell. He said that "yet again it was a complete waste of time and money." (Please remember this phrase of Geoffrey's) He said he will not go to another meeting, and that he deserves a medal for possibly being the only person to have been to everyone. Allen was probably delighted to hear about Geoffrey's future non-attendance, and justified NPs by quoting the hooligan problem in Burwell some years ago as a triumph. Peter asked Geoffrey "How much do they cost?". "I don't know" said Geoffrey. Allen was asked. "I don't know" said Allen. Steve then asked Allen "Can you find out?" and Allen said "Yes". I think this question has been asked before so everyone will be agog for the answer.

Allen reported on the Boundary Commission Review which will link Ely with Newmarket for election reasons, and will be called the 'Newmarket and Ely Constituency'. Allen said that Ely were very unhappy about this and wanted it to be

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the 'Ely and Newmarket Constituency'. Our PC was remarkably unsympathetic to Ely's concerns and thought it didn't matter. Their regret was that the county boundary was unlikely to be changed.

The result of the Village Vision questionnaire is now available and Abigail Taylor wishes to present it to the PC at its November meeting. Allen muttered something about her daring to enter the lions' den again. It seems she is game for it. It was asked whether the PC could see the report before the meeting. I am not sure this will be possible. No doubt the presentation will bring in the crowds and especially the knights in shining armour.

ACRE had also completed its report on the questionnaire regarding low cost housing and wished to make a presentation. The PC thought this unnecessary because many in the village were already confused about the need for the two surveys. A copy had been sent to Karen and it consisted of 38 pages. That is quite a commendable achievement to fill out 38 pages on the one question and it must be very thorough. It is certainly less skimpy than Sir Gus O'Donnell's 10 page survey of Dr Fox's behaviour and possible transgressions.

Traffic is always a very emotive subject and two important discussions took place. One was on High Street Parking and the other was speeding on Mill Hill. Because many interested in the subject may not wish to trawl through a dreary PC report, these two issues have been lifted out to make a separate article.

Alastair Everitt

Advent By Candlelight

**Sunday November 27th at 4pm in the Two Churches of
Swaffham Prior**

Music sung by the Cambridge Voices with Readings

Tickets £8 at the door include refreshments

Proceeds to Emmaus



ATTENTION SWAFFHAM PRIOR- ITES

Ladies, gentlemen, assorted fen folk, it is that time of the year again to pledge your allegiance to Swaffham Prior in the annual inter village hockey match against our fiercest rivals, Swaffham Bulbeck. This then, is a call to arms to defend the honour of our village and claim bragging rights for the next 12 months. No hockey experience is needed, just the wanton desire to get one up on that strange village just down the B1102.

As is time honoured tradition, the match will be played on Boxing Day on the Denny in Bulbeck. The start time will be confirmed nearer the time but is usually about midday (enough time for any festive hangovers to start wearing off) and there will be sausages and mulled wine to raise money for MAGPAS for those hardy spectators who come out to support the teams. If you are interested please either ring me on 07507876917, or e-mail at josh.willmott@hotmail.co.uk so I can get a list of players together.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Josh Willmott



MINCE PIES

On a very warm autumn day it seems strange to be thinking of ADVENT, MINCE PIES and MULLED WINE

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT will be at 4.00p.m. on SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER at which we normally provide about 150-200 hundred mince pies which are kindly donated by the villagers, it would be really helpful if you would kindly give me a call not later than the 25th to let me know how many you can provide. and whether you are able to bring them warmed in a thermal bag.



Kate Child 01638 743083.

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW

SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER
7pm

PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

Tickets: £5/£3

From 743864

FEATURING: MINI PANTO; THE CYRIACS CEILIDH;

MUSIC AND COMEDY

WINE, BEER, SOFT DRINKS, CRISPS AND SWEETS ON SALE



Winning Team “The Incompatibles” and their prize at the denouement of last month’s closely fought Village Quiz in the Village Hall. Congratulations due to organisers Jenny Brand and Lynne Rand, not to mention all their willing chefs and servers, for another highly entertaining evening.

High Street Parking together with Speed Control on Mill Hill

At the last PC meeting residents of the lane leading from No73A asked for double yellow lines opposite the lane because it was difficult to see traffic coming from the left because the traffic tended to drive on the right hand side of the road. The PC agreed to monitor the situation and to discuss at the October meeting. This is what happened.

Peter Hart took up exactly his same position and said that because residents had raised a safety issue it should be reported to “the experts”. These are the same experts who produced the Quay traffic calming and the traffic lights at Lode. Peter did not say whether he had made a site inspection. Steve had spent some time there, noticed that all the buses moved on to the right hand lane, as did most cars. He did not see any car come out of the lane so he could not monitor that. He wondered where people would park if further double yellow lines were imposed.

Paul threw in his twopennyworth and said drivers had to move to the right hand side of the road as they approached the hill...” “What hill?” interrupted Peter. “There aren’t any hills in Swaffham Prior”. Paul explained there was a hill from the school rising up past the Red Lion and the Churches, and asked if he could continue. He did. “Drivers have to move to the right hand side of the road as they approach the hill and the bend to get the best vision of approaching traffic.” Usually they slow, or are prepared to slow, while doing this. The reason for this is that cars are parked outside houses on the left hand side. This happens whether any cars are parked opposite No73A or not. The only cars which appear to stay in the left lane are those parking or those turning up the line past 73A to the parking areas up there.

The meeting was reminded that adding double yellow lines all down the High Street would give a clear vision towards the hill/bend and that there would be no need for vehicles to slow down, and traffic speed would sharply increase. Also the houses would have nowhere to park, visitors would need to go to the Village Hall Car Park, Funerals etc etc would be made more difficult, etc. Paul also thought that every driveway and its difficulties should first be reviewed to understand the full situation, because every one had to exercise the greatest care. None of this carried any weight with Peter who thought that as “Safety” was involved it must be passed to the experts. From the public gallery were mutterings of “waste of time and money”. John asked if there was a proposal. Peter proposed it should be referred to the CCC. A seconder for the motion? After a lengthy delay Andrew agreed to second it. There was an increasing murmur of “waste of time and money”.

Peter and Andrew voted for the motion, Steve and Paul voted against, Eric abstained, Geoffrey (the great “waste of time and money” man) abstained, as did the Chairman. The casting vote had to be made by the Chairman who gave it the nod of approval because people had written a letter. The “waste of time and money” chant became a mini roar being joined by some PC members. If Allen had been there I suppose he would have suggested it be referred to the Neighbourhood Panel. Then I wonder how people would have voted.

Meantime all the local drivers who pass 73A could carry out their own monitoring – and let the *Crier* or the PC know what they think. This is an easy one to give an opinion on, and it is noncontroversial.

Speed Control on Mill Hill

The High Street debate was quite lively and lengthy and it was followed by the Mill Hill question and the proposal to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. There was disappointment. After the very encouraging face to face meetings it had required two reminders from Karen to get any idea of the cost involved – which would have to be borne by the village. Two emails had arrived but they were quite confusing, quite unclear, and the only figure mentioned was £5,740. But was this the final figure? A request is being sent to ask for a formal documentation, though it had been suggested to them that a final quote cannot be given unless the PC commits itself to the work. This could be difficult if you don’t know the final cost.

There is a £10,000 fund allocated for traffic calming in Mill Hill which had been donated by a private commercial organisation. But would this be enough? Geoffrey objected to this money being used for reducing the speed limit and claimed it should only be used for traffic calming. Peter, and I think the rest, thought that a reduction of the speed limit is a contribution to traffic calming. Geoffrey said he could never vote for that. There can be no further action until the PC receives a better idea of the costs. If the speed limit is reduced drivers coming up the hill from Burwell at 50 – 60 mph may require further warning as they approach the bend leading into the village. Perhaps a warning sign a hundred yards away?

Alastair Everitt

'O Magnum Mysterium'

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

Director Daniel Spreadbury

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

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

Programme to include:

Missa O Magnum Mysterium - Victoria

O Magnum Mysterium - Victoria

A Spotless Rose - Howells

Ave Maria - Biebl

Hodie Christus Natus est - Sweelink

Virga Jesse floruit - Brucker

Cannon for 3 choirs - Mozart

Sir Christemas - Wells

Still, Still, Still - Gant

Christmas is coming - Davis

12 Thankyou notes of Christmas

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

Proceeds to the Church heating fund

Re-ablement

Being independent following an operation or illness

If you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than having things done for them. There is no charge to the individual as long as they are participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about re-ablement at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social



Why pay when you don't have to

Each month at Trading Standards we receive enquiries about things people have paid for that they could have got for free. In this article, we give advice on where you may be able to save unnecessary expense.

Warranties and Guarantees

When you buy goods, whether on their own (like a washing machine) or as part of a larger piece of work (such as a new bathroom installation), by law those goods must be of “satisfactory quality” and be “fit for their purpose”. They must be of a standard that a person would expect, bearing in mind the price paid, and be free from minor defects, be as described, and last a reasonable length of time for a product of that type. So if, for instance, the normal life of a washing machine is 5 years and yours stops working after two years due to a defect, you may be able to claim for a repair or replacement from the business you bought it from. This is the case regardless of whether you bought a warranty or guarantee. So consider carefully whether a warranty gives you anything extra.

Claiming from your debit card or credit card

If you are in dispute with a trader, instead of taking them to court, find out whether your bank may be able to help you. If you paid for something on a **debit card** and there turns out to be problems with the purchase, many banks offer a ‘chargeback’ scheme where they refund you. Furthermore, if you pay for something worth over £100 and pay for at least some of it on your **credit card**, the credit card company is equally as responsible as the business that breaks its contract with you. So, if your holiday isn’t as it was described, if your new dining table arrives damaged, or if your new TV breaks down soon after purchase, you can insist that your credit card provider helps you if the shop won’t. This is even the case if you have paid off the amount you put on your credit card.

Personal Protection Insurance

We have received a number of reports about companies offering to claim compensation for the mis-selling of personal protection insurance on residents’ behalf, whether in relation to a loan, mortgage or credit card. This is actually something you can do yourself. The Financial Ombudsman has produced a leaflet which is available on www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk on how to make the complaint yourself. If you don’t have access to the internet, you can contact the Financial Ombudsman for advice over the telephone on 0800 0234567.

European Health Insurance cards

Even though some companies sell them, you can actually obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) free of charge which entitles you to medical treatment that becomes necessary, at a reduced cost or sometimes free, when visiting a country in the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This is limited to treatment provided under the state scheme and you will need to produce your EHIC card. Visit www.ehic.org.uk to find out more and apply.

Legal advice

There are many sources of free legal advice available to residents. Trading Standards, in partnership with Consumer Direct, offers advice to residents on issues with businesses. Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/consumer to see how we can help you or call us on 0845 4040506. The Citizens Advice Bureaux offer advice on a wide range of issues including debt, benefits, employment, housing and family issues. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or call 08444 111 444. Also, many people can get free legal advice under their home insurance policies; check yours to see if you can get assistance.

News from the National Trust



Work commenced at the beginning of October on an extension to the car park at Anglesey Abbey. This is a great step forward in helping us cater for the growing visitor numbers to the property (currently around 240,000 per annum) as well as those using the car park as a southern entrance to the Vision lands.

A community picnic was held at the beginning of September to celebrate the Trust's recent purchase of 24 acres of land on the outskirts of Reach. The celebration was the perfect opportunity for the residents of Reach to come together to discuss their proposals for a Community Space whilst feasting on homemade fruit pies and freshly pressed apple juice. There is plenty of work to be done over the next 12 months, planning and fundraising to bring their proposals into reality.

Out on the wider Vision lands, a planning application has been submitted to East Cambs District Council for a new multi-user bridge over Burwell Lode. The bridge will form the vital last link in the Lodes Way cycleway which runs from Wicken to Bottisham. At present the route uses the existing pedestrian footbridge, which cannot be used by horse riders, wheel or pushchair users, even cyclists can have problems getting their bikes up and down the steps. The new bridge will be accessible for all users and incorporates a segregated channel and access point for our herds of konik ponies and highland cattle, so they can cross freely from Adventurers' to Burwell Fen.

Over the summer we held a vote to identify three iconic characters which embody the history of the fens. The three winners were, Ice Skater, Victorian Entomologist and Eel Catcher. Life sized figures of the three characters will be incorporated into a 'portrait bench' which will be placed at a suitable point on the Lodes Way.

It hardly seems possible but Christmas is just around the corner. Our Christmas programme starts with a **Christmas Decorations Workshop** on Sat 12th November, 10-1pm or 2-5pm £18 and **Christmas Wreath Making Workshops** on Sat/Sun 26-27th, 10-12.30 or 1.30-4pm £18. Other activities for November include, **Mucky Pups do Fenland Fun** – activities and arts and crafts for pre-schoolers, Fri 18th, 10.30 -12 £3.75 and a **Winter Wildlife Walk** on Sat 19th at 10.30 £8.50. Please book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited on all events. Tickets are available from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.

The Life and Times of Duck

On 20 July, the last Wednesday before the summer holiday, Tim and Francis took Swaffham Prior Scouts rafting at the Five Miles from Anywhere pub at Upware. A jolly time was had by all: as dusk fell, I picked up the tiny mallard duckling which had lost its family and which had been chasing Tim round the lawns. My intention was to return it to its family next morning, when they might reappear from the reeds where they were no doubt hiding in for the night. Thursday came, bright and sunny, but when I returned no duck family appeared. So: after a consultation with the man who keeps the egg stall in Newmarket with a broody hen with ducklings on a Saturday, sometimes (whose view was that as long as it's eating well and growing it'll be fine, you could have a good pet there) we were left to foster Duck for the summer holiday, and return it to the wild when fully grown. That was the plan.

Duck grew very quickly over the summer. At first it would spend the night in an old budgie cage with straw, water and an old trainer with the laces removed to cosy in. (it would also snooze there in the middle of the day if covered, and with a radio tuned to the World Service or Radio 4, (NOT music stations!) for company. The rest of the day it would forage around the patio under our supervision, ever watchful for cats. And with good reason - a week into its residency Dexter, the moggy from next door, made a sneak attack from behind, grabbed it from under my feet and dashed off to the woods, I gave chase (with threats) and mercifully it dropped Duck, who



scuttled back none the worse. Enormous relief all round - we were off to the Folk Festival within the hour, and how much fun would *that* have been, if we'd failed to prevent Duck from being scoffed by a moggy?

You can't ask just anyone to duck-sit. Having a duckling is like having a toddler, it really is. So it had to come with us and the Noyes family for a week in Norfolk - by the sea, but Duck stayed in the garden. It's not a sea-going mallard. Then a couple of weeks later we had to sneak it into a hotel in the New Forest for a one-night stay on a visit to a relative, where it fussed a lot, late into the evening in the spare bathroom under its cover - we'd forgotten to take a radio and it had outgrown its trainer. However, next day before we left, Duck had a grand morning worm-hunting in the rain in a garden in Lymington. Now I know why rainsd is 'good weather for ducks' - this was the day flash flooding hit some of the south coast, and we had a hideous 6-hour drive back in the rain but at least Duck was happy.

But we were also booked for a few days in Guernsey in the last days of August. You can't sneak a duck on a plane and as I said, you can't ask just anyone to ducksit....Asking the wrong person could be trouble(life-long feuds have started from less, I reckon). Friends who have chickens, who probably would have obliged, were away also. You need a family who are both most conscientious (with a tiny duck that *wants* to be under your feet, to literally put a foot wrong spells disaster) and at the same time very tolerant. I asked Bella for her opinion. 'Hebe', she replied instantly. We canvassed the Wrench family, and happily for all, Catherine and her four girls were brilliant - Duck seemed as convinced as ever when we stood them down from Duck duty four days later, that it's not really a duck at all. It's people.

We had not formally named it for two reasons. Plan A was to return it to the wild. Try not to get too attached. Two, you can't tell the gender of a duck till they moult out in spring, we're told. Till then they all look like females, brown with blue and white wing flashes.

So: now nearly full-grown, by the end of August we thought it might be able to go back into the wild. Who to ask? I found an amazing lady in Horningsea, Chris Percival, who helps all kinds of injured and orphaned birds and ducks to get them back into the wild. Bella and I delivered Duck to her, and bid a slightly regretful goodbye but knowing it can't be kept on its own. Ducks like company. She kept it for three weeks, but felt it was too tame to become a wild duck again. So it came back to us, with another orphaned duck for company, a lugubrious Muscovy, a big duck that won't swim and doesn't fly, nor do much else except wander slowly round the garden. They are sort of company for each other: Every so often Duck pecks Muscovy, Muscovy squeaks a bit, then they're fine again. As for our cats, they keep their distance now. One sniff, and you get your nose pecked. That's how it is.

Duck was delighted to be back - it has an old paddling pool to swim in, it likes people and wants to be around us constantly. When you talk to it, Duck cocks its head to look at you with one eye - they have 360-degree vision but their forward focus is limited, so anything interesting gets looked at sideways. Although it pretends it doesn't like to be caught, it loves a cuddle and will sit on a lap for half an hour or more. it lurks by the patio window during the day hoping it can sneak in -

beak under wing, beady eye ever watching. The cats go the other way round now to avoid it. If it could be housetrained I would consider letting the little monster in, but it's not. It doesn't think it's a duck, except when it flies - which it has been able to do since the end of September, always with lots of quacking to remind everyone.

Then Duck disappeared on a windy Wednesday afternoon, just before half term. Dusk fell, no sign, no sightings by near neighbours. We were all very sad. No trail of feathers - it had clearly taken itself off. We hunted high and low, calling, up and down Fairview Grove, knocking on neighbours' doors. Oh yes, we're that soft, we admit it. But no Duck, just one possible suggestion a quack might have been heard up the hill a bit, maybe in the direction of the middle of the village. We were bereft. But - nothing to do. I wouldn't clip its wings. It likes to fly, and it might need to escape the fox one day. If it chooses to leave, well...

At lunchtime next day, another bright Thursday, three months on from that first one I came home, stood in the road and listened. Did I imagine a quack, down the hill? Down in Lower End I listened again. Oh yes indeedy - there it was, behind the wooden gate of Ruth and Phil Blundell, whose house is being renovated. It had taken up in their garden the previous afternoon, pecked their cats and dog, flew round their garden, got in their caravan and jumped on the beds. They thought it was very sweet. Daft as we are, obviously, but I was more grateful than I could properly express. It seems Ruth had already had word from a friend from Reach that it might be our duck - so, we're known for our duck-harbours far and wide, are we? I duckmarched it back up the hill under my arm. Bad, bad Duck. As usual, it looked very pleased with itself. (a pleased duck wiggles its tail, and it did that a lot).

So I've reached the point where I explain why I'm writing this. It's clear that Duck, a lively, curious little busybody, has adventurous tendencies. On the day it went missing, the blustery wind, unusually, came from the south-west: Duck likes to take off into the wind for maximum lift. As that was the direction Duck disappeared to, it must have discovered a really good 'flying' wind, probably surprising itself how far it went when it flew over our gate. Although it doesn't usually fly high or far, it did in this instance also negotiate a six-foot fence.

Since for the reasons already given I'm not going to clip its wings I expect it may do it again, especially if the weather gets windy. It may be that come spring it will decide to stay with us for definite or to go forth and seek how to be a proper wild duck. But till then, we have winter quarters, a pen for night-time security and a couple of straw-filled little duck huts. In the wild it would need to have been among wild ducks to learn how to bed down securely for the night, and it's a bit late in the year to learn that now. Should it go off adventuring, I don't expect it will go far: if in the coming months you come across a surprisingly tame brown mallard in your garden which pecks your pets if they attempt to sniff it, do let us know and we will and come and collect. Thanks in advance.

Mark Lewinski
01638 744062



BIN a Good Day at the The Prospect's Trust! The *Crier's* not quite sure what they're up to with the bins down at Snake Hall Farm, but can vouch for the fact that they've had a very fine array of colourful vegetables on sale in the Honesty Shop (red *and* yellow toms) this Autumn, and their salads are *something-else*.

Burwell Flower Club Anniversary

Burwell and District Flower Club celebrates its 45th anniversary this year. We meet at Burwell Village College at 7.15 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month. Generally at a Club meeting we have a demonstrator who will produce around 5 flower designs for us. These are raffled to winners at the end of the meeting.

We are a friendly Club of about 35/40 members and would welcome more people to join us.

You can attend as a Visitor for £5. 00 a meeting or join us for all our meetings with a subscription of £28.00 per year. We are one of around 1,300 Flower Clubs across the U.K, we carry affiliation with the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. This national group was founded in 1959.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our Open evening on Thursday 8 December when Robin White from Faversham will be demonstrating. His title is "White Christmas"

Tickets are £10 from Mrs Iris Bannister, telephone 01638 662097

John Norris Remembers:

Cadenham Farm 1958

The lane at the end of the village towards Cambridge, was the only way to reach the small set of farm buildings on the heath land, and also give access to the lane running alongside the race course over a mile away. Today this lane is gated near the village, and crossed by the village bypass before it resumes its original status.

When I first knew it, the boundaries consisted of large Elm trees interspersed by May Trees, and a hawthorn hedge. The canopy of these trees met over the poor muddy lane forming a verdant tunnel in the summer. This roadway consisted of three tracks, the middle one made by the horses used for much of the carting work at that time. There was a grass track on one side for the use of pedestrians and cyclists, as the family who lived in the small cottage used to bike down hill to the hard road, and the bus. The return journey, being uphill, was usually walked, their shopping balanced on the bicycle.

These Elm trees were the home of a thriving colony of Hornet Wasps; huge brightly coloured noisy insects which buzzed amongst the branches, and whilst seeming dangerous never bothered anyone to my knowledge. The advent of Dutch Elm Disease finished them off. so that the mystery of going up that lane was lost.

After well over half a mile, the farm buildings were situated on a level patch with views over the chalk downlands towards Swaffham Bulbeck, and the tall Poplar Trees of Anglesey Abbey. This group of buildings consisted of a three roomed house of Burwell Brick, a Clunch Barn, and a cattle yard and store house. The facilities were meagre, only water from a well in the cattle yard. The lighting and heating and other necessities had to found by being very innovative. The design of the cottage was similar to one at the entrance of Bottisham Hall, and another in the wood at the end of Blindwell Drove.

I really never expected anyone in this day and age to think of living there, but I was wrong. Mr and Mrs Johnny Jones stayed there for ten years with their son Michael. The buildings were full of cattle in the winter, and needed daily attention. Johnny and Michael did the feeding here and later at Hall Farm as well, after Mr Ambrose retired from his part of the Swaffham Prior Estate. Mrs Jones helped my wife at times and was a forceful part of the potato gang on the old machines in the autumn.

The clunch Barn was too small for most equipment but was useful as a store for hay, especially after a powerful drying fan was part of the farm machinery. We used to store the hay, mostly from the droves in the fen, stacked so that a tunnel was formed allowing the hot air to dry out the bales thoroughly. It was poor stuff really, but the dealer, who's name I cannot remember, took all we could produce for horse and pony feed. My cattle never had any of it !!

With so much land up on the heath, and money being short, we built a Dutch Barn adjacent to the cattle yards, and converted it into a grain store with second -

hand materials. Railway sleepers were just the thing for the outside walls to rest against. Very strong and rot proof (mostly). The actual walls were made from the floors taken from redundant army buildings. These floors were twenty feet long and seven feet wide, consisting of joists and floor boards. They were purchased in groups of thirty two, eight houses worth, and delivered all at once by road. This arrangement lasted many years until they were replaced by proper steel grain walls when the cash was available.

After these walls were removed, they took up duties in my garage, and house, being still sound, well seasoned, and free from wood worm. This grain store would hold about seven hundred tons of grain, and was very useful at harvest time, being in the centre of over three hundred acres. Times have changed from those days with bigger tractors and trailers, so that a store several miles away can service the combines, but back in 1960 things were on a smaller, perhaps more friendly scale.

The well, when first dug, had a traditional hand pump to lift the water into a tank in the cattle yard roof. As the well was eighty feet deep, the column of water was very heavy, so a large lead weight was fixed to the long handle to make things easier. Eventually this pump was driven by a petrol engine working a cranking device to lift the water. We had to lift out the rod working the pump several times to replace the leather washer, and so we knew the exact depth of the well. Today the well is bone dry as so much water is drawn from the chalk by the water companies and irrigators that the rest level is lower than our old pump.

The area in front of the barn was used as a store for sugar beet, as it was hard enough for the beet lorry to get close in the winter. We always tried to harvest the beet crop before the 1st December so that there was no excuse of hard frost, or too much rain preventing the lifting process. Today it is hand to mouth, only lift enough beet to fill the weekly contract, often followed by regret at being unable to harvest the crop.

All in all, things do change slowly, but surely in the countryside. The old house has gone, the cattle yards no longer have live occupants, and grain is no longer stored there. The buildings do have modern new roofs, but the evidence of vibrant activity has ceased. It is still a pleasant walk, but not like it used to be. Still most old people make that comment !

John Norris

Donations!

Many thanks to Lode Chapel for their very kind donation to the *Crier* this month.

The Visit from Germany

Rev'd Jan Petersen was a visiting curate in Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior nearly ten years ago as part of the Ely Diocese's link with the North Elbe Church. He is now vicar at a church in Joldelund near the German border with Denmark. He has maintained links with Swaffham Prior – in particular the Scout troop – and in 2010 and 2011 brought over groups of his confirmation candidates to stay with families in the village and surrounding area. In September 2011 German teenagers stayed with families in Burwell, Reach, Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham as well as Swaffham Prior. Among activities were visiting Cambridge for punting and shopping; a day at Bottisham Village College - including a school dinner; leading a Family Service at Swaffham Prior – in two languages; bell-ringing; canoeing; bowling and shared meals in the Scout field and at St Cyriac's church. Jan wrote on his return:

Dear people from Swaffham Prior and around,

This is the third time in 13 months that I have visited your area with a youth group from my church. Last September I came with 17 children, in the summer with 27 people to the scout field and just now I have been with 22 people visiting you. That means you have hosted in just over a year over 60 German children. This is amazing!

The numbers tell us something about your hospitality, but the smiling faces of the children and the stories they have told at home tell the same tale. You have been really generous, friendly and helpful - wonderful examples of good hospitality.



Outside Bottisham Village College

All our visits have been prepared carefully with much thought about what we would like to have or to do. Francis Reeks and the Scout Team prepared the scout field and all the necessary things for survival. That includes the things which went into the mouth and also the "left overs" of the body. Anyone



Visitors and hosts on St Mary's steps

who has seen the field knows about the challenging job they have achieved for us.

We will never forget Dee Noyes' detailed organisation of our programme and the bring-and-share lunches in St. Cyriac's (now even with toilets!). Every single event was listed, and a thoughtful 'to do' list was written. No-one was ever forgotten on the list, when we had to travel by private cars. All the journeys were characterised by a peaceful and loving atmosphere. The hosts were prepared to lend a hand wherever it was needed. And they showed English culture at its best.

For all these we have to say a very big thank you to all of you! On the one hand you could say it is just for the children to get to know a different culture and different language. But it is more than that. They realize even when English and Germans are different and we do not know each other, the unknown is not hostile. Usually we reject the unknown things. We only like the familiar things. Here is something unfamiliar, but it is really good with an extraordinary hospitality. This is such an important experience for the children, which we cannot count highly enough. And we should not forget their great-grandfathers might have been enemies during the war.

I hope very much, that we can repeat our visit. Not next year. This year I came with children who are due to be confirmed in 2012 and 2013. I brought two groups at once. It will, therefore, be 2013 before I can come again with a confirmation group. Dee and I will decide next year - and then we will start planning. A joint summer camp 2013 in Germany/Joldelund is already in the planning for the Scouts.

I personally have really enjoyed every minute in Swaffham Prior. I have met old friends and made new ones. That was great! I wish all of you God's blessing, and again thank you very much for all that you have done for us.

Jan Petersen

WI Notes

Mary Ellis, the speaker at our October meeting, came to tell us of her many years running a B&B Guest House with her husband. Entitling it “Sheets and Sausages”, she recounted many amusing anecdotes from the early days when they first learnt the business.

Over the years, she progressed to writing poetry, becoming a naturist and practising reiki. This is a healing technique based on the principle that the therapist can channel energy into a patient by means of touch, to activate the natural healing processes of the patient’s body. This led to them running rest and healing weekends.

Altogether this was an interesting and unusual evening.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when the speaker will be David Butler, talking on “Trekking in Nepal”.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome, so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group.

Shirley Wilkins



Mothers' Union

At our September meeting the Rev. Keith Morrison talked to us about his work as a full time chaplain at Addenbrookes Hospital.

Before his ordination he worked as a dental technician in London for 15 years, after which he became a senior technician in Ipswich. Around this time he suffered great personal tragedy when his wife was killed in a road accident. This was a major turning point in his life and, having been a Christian from a young age, he felt he had been called to be ordained. Firstly he became a pastoral assistant in London for a year, after which he was a curate in Ipswich. However, as a result of his own personal loss, he was drawn to apply for work as a hospital chaplain. Keith told us that there are three full time and two part time chaplains at Addenbrookes and, despite the enormous number of patients and staff, between them they endeavour to see as many people as possible. They give reassurance for the future prospects of patients, have the ability to pick up on the needs of patients and, of course, offer bereavement care with families during this difficult time. The chaplains also conduct baptisms and baby funerals in the hospital, as well as dealing with many other aspects of hospital life.

Keith concluded his talk on a happy note telling us that he has been married to Joy since 2003 and they now have two lovely young children. Keith is a very caring person and is obviously the 'right man for the job'.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 17th November in Lode Chapel at 2.30p.m. when Richard Ayres will be talking to us about herbaceous plants. We meet every third Thursday in the month and if you would like to join us you would be most welcome.

Anne Phoenix

South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association
THE SWAFFHAMS AND REACH BRANCH

Invites you to enjoy

SUPERB SAUSAGES
and
MARVELLOUS MASH
Baldwin Manor, Swaffham Prior

Sunday 6th November 2011, 12.00 noon

Lunch £20 each

Guests: James and Ava Paice

Please reply to:

Mrs Marcia Miller
Baldwin Manor, Swaffham Prior
CB25 0LD Tel: 01638 741141

VILLAGE GARDENERS



Do you know the difference between a berry and a fruit?

Neither did many of us at October's meeting of the Village Gardeners until it was carefully explained by Janet Hall, our friend from Reach. Janet's topic was, appropriately, Autumn Berries, and she guided us alphabetically from the bright red berries of arum italicum and abutilon, the strawberry tree, to euonymus and elderberry, malus, quickthorn and rowan. Then came the sloes of the whitethorn (which gave us the wonderful mass of white flowers in the hedgerows in spring this year) and finally the poisonous red berries of the yew. Janet found at least one berried plant for each letter though she was defeated by Z! As well as showing us informative and often beautiful photographs, Janet brought along many examples of potted-up shrubs to show us their berries. It was an enjoyable and unusual evening.

Our next meeting will be the AGM on 15 November, as usual in the Village Hall at 8pm and there will be cards and Christmas wrapping paper for sale, so please bring your purses!

Mary Hart

Winter Barks & Traceries

As the last bonfire-coloured leaves of autumn are blown from the branches, winter reveals the bone structure of the Garden. The deciduous trees take on a spare grandeur, and one of the finest is the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) that stands at the junction of the snaking path from the new Brookside Gate with the original peripheral path enclosing the 1846 Garden. Once the large pinnate leaves that turn a warm butter yellow in autumn are shed, the deeply-fissured dark bark and vast, spreading crown are revealed. In winter sunshine, the statuesque yet sinuous tracery of the bare-branched canopy casts an plaited shadow pattern on nearby Brookside Lawn.



Another wonderful tree for winter is the Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), by the Systematic Beds. It is a native of the southern Caucasus and northern Iran and is named for its extremely hard wood. The flattened, spreading canopy of branches in a patchwork pattern of buff, pink and pearly grey, have self-grafted and fused into an intricate lattice. Some of the ornamental cherries and birches also display beautiful barks. The Tibetan Cherry (*Prunus serrula*), for example, has a trunk of deep mahogany red, burnished and satin shiny, striped with bands of peeling bark interspersed with elongated lenticels. It was introduced to Britain by Ernest ‘Chinese’ Wilson in 1908. At the eastern end of the Winter Garden, a special selection of the Chinese Red Birch, *Betula albosinensis* var *septrionalis* is grown as a tri-stemmed specimen. The bark is irresistible to the touch and generations of visitors have polished it to a shimmering smooth surface of rosy pink, pearly grey and warm apricot.

The Botanic Garden is open 10am – 4pm November – January 2012 (Closed during 24 December – 02 January inclusive) and is open 10am - 5pm February - March 2012. Adult admission is £4.00 (£3.50 Concessions) or join the Friends & help the Garden grow! To discover this week’s Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

Bottisham Medical Practice: news from the Patient Participation Group

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Bottisham Practice's celebration on 24 September of its 10th anniversary in its present building. This was a great success and raised over £800 for Macmillan Cancer Support. The Patient Participation Group used the occasion to start distributing 'Message in a Bottle' containers. These provide essential information to the emergency services if an elderly person or someone with a condition such as diabetes falls ill at home and is not able to answer questions from the ambulance team. We also handed out the containers at the Practice's flu jab clinics in October and will continue to do so at PPG events.

Our next event will be in the Spring. Dr Jonathan Higham will talk about the Practice, its medical team and their specialist skills, and how they can help you - the patient. Do come. There is a great deal about the Practice that few of us know. With the same thought in mind, when did you last look at the Practice website? Do you know that it has information on specific conditions (such as asthma, cancer and diabetes) and services available through the Practice (such as the Maternity and Health Visitor Team, cervical screening and counseling). It's all there at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk or just ask at the reception counter.

We may have had an Indian summer, but winter is on the way. And flu with it. So if you missed the clinics in October and are over 65; suffer from diabetes or immunosuppression; have a heart, liver or kidney complaint; or have asthma or lung problems, ring the Practice on 01223 810030 and book your jab. It's free and the jabs give real protection!

Are you a carer? Of a partner? Of a child with a long term condition? Or do you have an elderly relative who lives with you or nearby and depends on you for support? If so, have you told your doctor? If you haven't, please do so the next time you have an appointment. Or, ask for an appointment so that you can explain the situation. The Practice team can help, either directly or by putting you in touch with others who can. Never be shy about asking your doctor if there is something she or he can do to make your role as a carer easier.

Bottisham PPG Committee

BON MOT NUMBER SIXTEEN

"Man who wants pretty nurse, must be patient."
Confubius

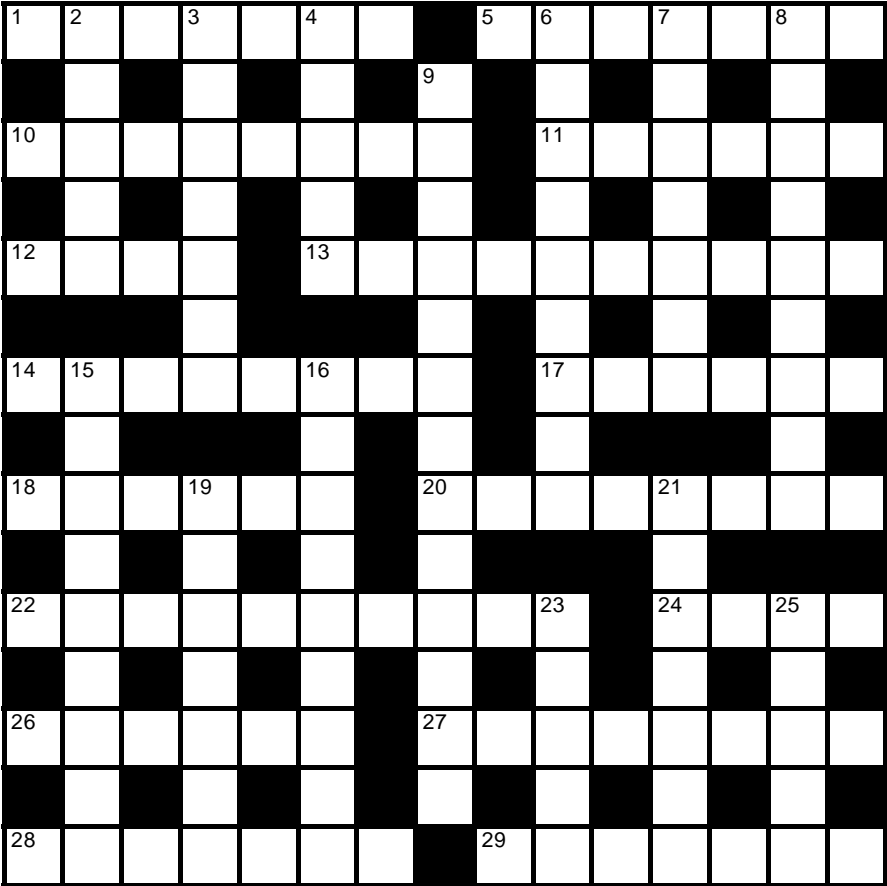
Crossword Number 83

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

OUNCE

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



Name:.....
Address.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Dribbled when ran round sick (7)
- 5 Cries out as leaves massacres in confusion (7)
- 10 Change anorak, go for jumper (8)
- 11 Facet revealed in wasp ectoderm (6)
- 12 Oafs in fracas on couch (4)
- 13 Dissertation follows sodium thiosulphate proposal (10)
- 14 Edison, for example, curiously volunteering to remove glue (8)
- 17 Children dead or published? (6)
- 18 Cecil, run amok on this Line
- 20 Easter Sunday disrupted near lost days (8)
- 22 Model turns up pixies or did they do it personally? (10)
- 24 Organise type (4)
- 26 Bewildered osteopath she deserts for Sir Walter's discovery (6)
- 27 Bird surrounded by estates - the Fens? (8)
- 28 Newlyweds admit gravity of connections (7)
- 29 One theologian on board without relating to direction (7)

We congratulate Dee Noyes, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Shirley Wilkins, Dainin O'Dowd and Robert Nunn.

Down

- 2 Quiet please, I am now offering to begin (5)
- 3 Carry plum in bags? (7)
- 4 World element (5)
- 6 Social net mixing on shore (9)
- 7 Indicate without stopping (7)
- 8 Hymn Erica sang badly into apparatus (9)
- 9 Relatively peculiar to move paralytic (13)
- 15 Bray, tedious person reportedly living nearby (9)
- 16 Hence, poor, hot reefer (9)
- 19 Order to reveal sitcom man devised (7)
- 21 Aspired to amend hopelessness (7)
- 23 Stitched ragged weeds (5)
- 25 Return of colonised Iroquois from travels on horseback (5)

Solution to crossword no. 82

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

Full Council met on 18th October, for what turned out to be a long meeting. As has been widely reported one of the most contentious issues was a report from the independent remuneration panel which recommended an increase in allowances for councillors, amongst other recommendations. The meeting also received annual reports from the pensions and audit committees. We debated seven motions in total on a diverse range of issues including the guided bus, highways maintenance, libraries and support for the armed forces.

The County Council Cabinet also met in October. I presented two papers to Cabinet, one giving an update on our placements strategy for looked after children and the other about plans to enhance our work with parents to prevent problems arising which could see children being taken into care.

Cabinet and Senior Management Team met twice, once to prepare for the cabinet meeting and the second in a workshop to develop ideas for the next Integrated Plan.

I also met with Directors in Children and Young People Services to consider the planned savings and to ensure they are on track. This was in addition to the regular

monthly 1:1s I have with the 5 directors in CYPS.

I had a Board Meeting for the Social Work – Working for Families Project to consider progress with the new structure being implemented. Work is progressing rapidly and smoothly. I also held a briefing meeting with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to brief them on a range of child safeguarding issues.

A stakeholder workshop was held to start the consultation process on drawing up a new Special Educational Needs

**Newmarket Open Door
Community Reuse & Recycling Centre
Depot Road, Newmarket**

Opening hours: 10am to 4pm, seven days a week.

Items for recycling will be accepted free of charge, including: glass, metals, paper and cardboard, mobile phones, toner cartridges, batteries, plastic bottles and film and any items which can be sold in the Open Door Superstore.

Charges apply to items that are costly to dispose of:

- general waste (which cannot be recycled)
- garden rubbish
- wood
- mixed loads (containing recyclable and non-recyclable materials)

Charges (including VAT): £3 for a car; £6 for an estate; £12 for a large trailer or van (up to 3.5 tonnes).

Commercial waste will also be accepted at: £20 for a car; £25 for an estate or £50 for a trailer or van.

Strategy for the County. This involved a wide range of interested parties, including parents.

Adrian Loades, Executive Director CYPS and I gave evidence in Parliament to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children's Centres.

Following the untimely death of Rod Craig, Executive Director for Community and Adult Service (CAS), we have asked Adrian Loades to oversee CYPS and Adult Social Care, whilst restructuring other parts of CAS. This will see is operating with one less Executive Director for 6 months as a trial to see how the organisation manages.

I performed the official opening of the Young Lives drop-in centre for Childcare Information Services at St Ives. Young Lives is a charity contracted to run the CIS for the County Council and handles some 10,000 enquiries per annum.

I attended a site meeting with Highways Officers to seek to resolve parking issues associated with the playground at Swaffham Bulbeck and also dealt with a number of enquiries on behalf of individuals.

David Brown

Press Relief - A Community Fund founded by Cambridge Newspapers Ltd

What is Press Relief?

A registered charity formed by the Cambridge News in 2003, the charity's aim is to raise social educational and health welfare of people with specific needs, in the Cambridge area. Press Relief uses the promotional power of the local paper to help raise funds for local worthy causes.

How does it work?

Press Relief has a number of voluntary trustees who give their time and expertise free of charge. They jointly decide how money raised for the charity is donated to as many good causes as possible. Requests for help can be from individuals and groups. Each request for help is considered on its own merit and if successful, awards can be made for the full or part of the amount.

Where do we get our funds from?

Through a number of organised events in and around Cambridge. We rely heavily on the goodwill of local businesses to support us through sponsorship and acts in kind to help us get these events off the ground. We also rely on the generosity of the public to support our many events, sometimes by asking for help in the form of sponsorship.

So far Press Relief has raised more than £350,000 and has made awards to a whole range of groups and individuals.

How can you apply for help?

Go to www.pressrelief.org where you will find guidance notes and a downloadable application form. Alternatively contact Press Relief on **01223 434378**

Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 6 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the Public.

Public Participation:

No matters raised.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Matters Arising *(for information only):*

ECDC's Village Vision Questionnaire: The results of the Questionnaires are now available on ECDC's website. Abigail Taylor, Forward Planning Officer for ECDC, will be attending the Parish Council meeting on the 10th November to present and discuss the results.

Housing Needs Survey by Cambridgeshire ACRE: A copy of the final report was emailed to the Clerk but unfortunately not in time for the October meeting. Cambridgeshire ACRE's new Rural Housing Enabler, Mark Deas, has requested to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the report. Due to ECDC's visit to the November meeting, it was suggested that this might be an item for the December meeting – to be confirmed.

Correspondence Received:

CCC – *Review of the Decision to remove all subsidised Bus Service Funding*

CCC- *Budget consultation*

Boundary Commission for England – *The 2013 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies*

CPRE – *How to respond to planning applications*

Commemorative tree & hedge planting for the Diamond Jubilee: In recent years new trees were planted on Station Road/Whiteway Drove but these were unfortunately destroyed by horses tethered on the verge. Geoffrey Woollard and Andrew Camps suggested that an application should be submitted for funding towards replacement trees.

Your help!

Although a very worthy plan it was considered that the above tree planting was possibly not a suitable project for the Diamond Jubilee.

The Parish Council welcomes any ideas residents might have for a commemorative planting scheme possibly linked to an event. Please let the Clerk know.

Concerns raised about High Street Parking: Following a monitoring exercise between the September and October meetings, members were of mixed views on what, if any, action needed to be taken in relation to parked cars. Following a vote taken it was agreed to ask CCC Highways Department for their advice about possible measures.

Reduction of Speed Limit on Mill Hill: CCC Highways provided outline costings amounting to several thousands of pounds for the work needed to reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30mph. Generally this included the changing/removal of the flashing light units, Traffic Regulation Order/s, adverts and signs. The detail was considered to be unclear and the Clerk was to ask for a formal quotation and specification from CCC before making any decision. The meeting was reminded that the Parish Council would be responsible for the costs involved in this work.

Village Hall Driveway – repairs to surface & cutting back of trees: Eric Day told the meeting that he had filled in some of the holes in the driveway and this had improved the surface. Everyone was very grateful to Eric for his hard work and following discussion it was agreed to monitor the condition of the driveway over the Winter. With regard to cutting back of vegetation, the Clerk is to ask the Probation Service if one of their teams would be available to carry out this work. It was considered that the trees did not need any attention at this time. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested that the Clerk also asks the Probation Service to trim back the low level growth on the trees in the play area at the same time.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Report:

No additional items.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Steve Kent-Phillips told the meeting that he had cleared the cemetery footpath of weeds and sprayed. *Everyone thanked Steve for his help.*

Steve Kent-Phillips reported some vandalism in the village. Steve carried out repair work in the play area.

Paul Latchford reported that he had seen cyclists going up the slip-road out leading out of the village the wrong way and asked if the signs for the cycleway were adequate.

Paul Latchford said he was asked why the Church clock chimed late into the evening and during the night. *Andrew Camps confirmed that the clock was waiting on some repairs.*

Open Question Time:

Mr Limb thanked Steve Kent-Phillips for keeping the play area repaired.

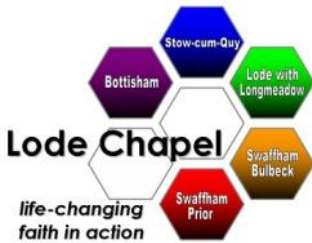
Alastair Everitt expressed concern about asking CCC Highways to advise on the High Street parking. He suggested that cutting back or removing some of the hedgerow might help.

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 November 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



A Life Remembered

November is a time for remembering... on the 5th November we recall a failed plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament, and on the 11th November we remember all those who have lost their lives in conflict. As chaplain of Queen's Court this month is also when, at a memorial service on 27th November, staff and relatives remember all of the residents who have died during the last twelve months.

At this time of year, however, there is another event which helps us to remember people, and the contributions they have made. The Nobel Prize is awarded in a number of categories, and one of the most significant of these is the Peace Prize. This year three women – Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman – will be given the award for "their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights". These names may be unfamiliar to us, but it is important not to forget those who, in a variety of different ways, work tirelessly to bring peace to our world.

Another winner of the prize, Professor Wangari Maathai, died from cancer in September this year. In 2004 she was recognised for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace". Although, as a Kenyan, she was the first African woman to win a Nobel prize, her obituary didn't make many headlines. Wangari, however, had overcome a variety of social and political obstacles to achieve what she did – constantly reminding governments (and anyone else who would listen) that, in our over-consumption, we are borrowing the earth from future generations.

Earlier this year she was listed by Forbes' as being amongst the '100 Most Powerful Women in the world'. Her vision was to leave the world a better place for our children and grandchildren and to this end her organisation has so far planted an estimated 30 million trees. Her environmental achievements, as well as her other work to alleviate poverty and combat corruption, points to the fact that she was someone who wisely used the 71 years God gave her.

The season of advent, the time when Christians remember the coming of the Prince of Peace, begins at the end of this month. Although few of us will win a Nobel Prize, let us, like Wangari, seek to follow the Christ and live as people of peace.

Simon Goddard

Services in November

Sun 6th Nov, 11.00am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 6th Nov, 5.30pm – Contemplative Service (Chapel)

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

Sun 20th Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

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

Sun 27th Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

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

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;
Kirtling: Sun 0900;
In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month: jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, or 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Should you be unsuccessful, please try your offers/wants on <http://freebiefreakz.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle/>. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offers

A quantity of plant pots, plastic and terra cotta, mainly small. Ann/David, c811620

Ladies bike (3 speed, needs a bit of TLC); red child's bike with trainer wheels; Pure Power Hoover upright (1500W with accessories); Hoover Sprint bag-less barrel cleaner (1700W with accessories). Teresa c811517.

Worm composting bin (excluding worms) - ideal for small gardens. Jane c811592

Peppa Pig pink welly boots (child size 6), Jun c813362.

Old pine wardrobe 55cm deep, 175cm high, 100cm wide (suitable for garage storage); Chicco 4-wheeled pushchair with rear-facing baby car-seat (bought in 2003). Vicky/Andy c813360.

2 wine racks (each holds 42 bottles); gents bicycle with 10 gears (suitable for 5 ft 8 tall or less). Mike/Hazel c811606.

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.

Bookshelf (3 – 4 feet across); small corner cupboard. Bel, c811070.

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

**Bottisham Village College
Counselling Training**

**Introductory, Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Level Training in
Adlerian/Integrative Approaches**

**Open Evening
for Courses Starting 2012**

**Find out more about all the courses, meet the tutors and talk to
current trainees**

**Wednesday, 9th November 2011
(7.00 pm to 9.00 pm)**

Bottisham Village College, Lode Road, Bottisham, CB25 9DL

**For more details contact the Community Office
on 01223 811372 or email commed@bottishamvc.org
www.bottishamvc.org/commed**

**BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB
COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 26th November 10am – 12.30pm
at the British Legion Club**

CAKE STALL – PRESERVES – CRAFT ITEMS

BOOKS –JEWELLERY- RAFFLE

**GUESS THE WEIGHT AND WIN A
HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS CAKE**

ENTRANCE £1 INCLUDES COFFEE & BISCUITS

**FREE Dyslexia Conference for
teachers, TA's, parents and carers
of dyslexic children**

Thursday 24th November

The Courtyard, Reeves Way, Peterborough

**Presentation 1 : 3.30pm – 5.15pm for teachers
and TA's**

**"How dyslexics learn and how to make your
school dyslexia friendly"**

**Presentation 2 : 7pm – 9pm for parents,
relatives and carers of dyslexic children**

**"Dyslexia explained and how to support your
dyslexic child"**

**Launch of Peterborough and Cambridge Dyslexia
Associations**

Free light refreshments, **Free** dyslexia handbook
Meet TV's Jonty Hearnden whose twins are dyslexic
Browse, compare and buy products from leading
SEN suppliers

**For more information and to book your
free place**

email : pamelat@live.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary November 2011

Sun	6	Conservative Lunch, 12 noon, Baldwin Manor
Thu	10	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	15	Village Gardeners' AGM, VH, 8pm Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Thu	17	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm Lode Chapel
Fri	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	19	Village Variety Show, 7pm, Primary School Hall
Sun	20	
Mon	21	WI VH, 7.30pm
Thu	24	Dyslexia Conference, 3.30-5.15pm, Reeves Way, Peterboro
Fri	25	
Sat	26	Bottisham Bowling Club Coffee Morning, 10-12.30pm, British Legion
Sun	27	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm St Mary's & St Cyriac's

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