

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVI Number 12 December 2012



Editorial

One Witch and one Goblin, albeit a very fine witch and goblin, were not enough to consume all the horrid treats the editors had purchased for Halloween. Where was everybody?? We heard spooky

goings-by, but they never called! Now, there *are* some people who don't like visitors on the 31st (considerably fewer than those that do), so next year, let's have a *secret sign*: candle/pumpkin in the window, spooks welcome!

We are so sorry to hear the Burwell & District Chronicle has closed. It was a brilliant magazine and Kevin Glennon should be congratulated for his achievement: there is such a big difference between what works on a voluntary basis and what on a commercial, he's inspired the voluntary sector to try and pull its socks up anyway!

Meanwhile, the Crier hears alarming reports that they have been using snares "up Cadenhams" Happy Ch with dire warnings handed out to dog-walking passers -by that recently a dog was caught in one. The RSPCA would like to see **Iot* *Iot* During the Duri

these banned. This because they cause SO much suffering, unlikely to be checked once a day (as is the law) and their inspectors do indeed find that only one third of the animals caught in traps were the species intended: cats were trapped in the largest numbers, but also many badgers dogs, deer. hedgehogs, squirrels...

See you carolling and on the Boxing Day Hockey Field, and don't forget to sign up for the Winter Walk this year, it was an excellent do last year with a real Feast afterwards. Oh yes, and Crier copy date for the New Year is...

10th December!

Let's try and make it! Wishing you a Very Happy Christmas and New Year from All the Crier Team....

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caught in one. The Caroline & James Matheson, Ruth Stinton and Pat & RSPCA would like to see Peter Cook

Cover Picture: The Red Lion by Hannah Webb



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the quiz night in October. The evening, we hope was enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank Andrew for being our quiz master, and not doing too many bad jokes this time. The ladies did a good job again serving food and in the kitchen.

Thank you, Shirley, Dee, Linda and Margaret. A big thank you goes to April who organises the raffle and the people who donate the prizes.

Congratulations to our winners, The Incompatibles, well done. We raised £260 for St. Mary's Church. The date for our next quiz for you to put in your diaries is 2nd March 2013.

We hope you can make it.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

No Dogs at School

Please can I remind people that dogs should not be walked on our school field. Unfortunately some of our children have stepped in dog mess on several occasions this term and it has caused discomfort and upset to them. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Hannah Curtiss
Headmistress

Boxing day hockey match



SWAFFHAM PRIOR vs SWAFFHAM BULBECK

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck Wednesday 10.45 am (10.30 am players) COME AND SUPPORT YOUR TEAM! All proceeds to MAGPAS

Contact Mandy Kingsmill for further information or if you would like to play in the winning team! 01638 742482 (kingsmills@btconnect.com

Hillage Carol Service SUNDAY DECEMBER 16th at 4.30pm

St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Hear the Christmas Story



Sign the traditional Carols

Get in the Christmas spirit with the

VILLAGE CAROLS

Wednesday 19th December

6.30-7.30pm at the Village Hall

Singing ability not necessary - just bring your enthusiasm!

Mulled wine and mince pies

Everyone welcome



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

No sooner had apologies been accepted and Councillors granted newfangled dispensations than Geoffrey Woollard expressed his displeasure of being misquoted

in last month's report. Apparently he didn't find the recent councillor training session "amazingly interesting", he had found it "helpful". There were a few mumblings from our regular Reporter sitting by my side but no official response was made. Not wishing to take sides, I would just like to say that our local reporters are not trained stenographers experienced in recording discussions verbatim. (Note to self: ask the Clerk if Parish Council Standing Orders allow the tape recording of meetings to prevent further misquote challenges)



District Councillor Allen Alderson then joined the meeting. One of the many meetings Allen had attended recently was the annual Association of Drainage Authorities in London which he may have described as boring. Then it was a case of déjà vu. Allen informed the meeting of ECDC's need to increase recycling and to achieve this, it had put in a Central Government bid for £5 million to give everyone wheelie bins. Not one wheelie bin per household of course but two to start with and, if all goes well, in five years time, three per household. Wasn't this reported the last time I stood in as Reporter back in May? Members were not happy then and they definitely are not happy now - they feel this is being imposed on the community without proper consultation, that wheelie bins will impinge on people's lifestyle and will be a detriment to the village visually. All in all, and quoting David Almond accurately I hope, "totally out of order". Members asked Allen what evidence there was of wheelie bin systems increasing recycling rates, what other options were considered and whether ECDC had been made aware of parish councils' concerns. Allen did not know the answers to these questions but he was led to believe that recycling rates would be improved by AmeyCespa sorting the recyclates instead of parishioners. During the Open Question Time at the end of the meeting, Michael Limb asked why AmeyCespa couldn't sort the recycling currently if that was the way to increase recycling rates. Unfortunately Allen had left the meeting by then so that question remains unanswered too. However Allen did know that the Central Government contracts were due to be awarded in October but had been delayed until the end of November. After further questioning, it was decided that the parish councils in Allen's ward would join forces to discuss the way forward and hopefully meet with the Chairman of the ECDC Community & Environment Committee, the committee that oversaw the bid and, coincidently, one of the committees that Allen sits on.

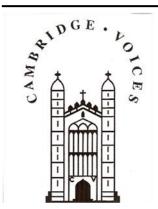
Members then rattled through agenda items very quickly with Steve Kent-Phillips multitasking by completing an ECDC Sport & Recreation Facilities Audit whilst still taking part in discussions, suggesting a cunning conservation plan for the village sign and presenting the budget. You will be pleased to hear the precept is to remain the same as last year.

The Clerk reported that the Scouts have offered to clear up the Pound as part of their community services badge. David suggested fixing a plaque on the Pound informing people of its social history so that parishioners know a little bit more about this Listed Building and therefore why their money is sometimes spent on it. I swear the Clerk whispered to the Chairman that it would make an ideal place to archive the overwhelming Parish Council documentation that is fast filling her home. Hey, all those unwelcome wheelie bins could be used as filing cabinets in the Pound. Two problems sorted!

As the meeting drew to a close, members were informed that Geoffrey is avidly following the Boundary Commission review of parliamentary constituency boundaries in light of revised proposals whilst Andrew Camps is avidly following wind directions in his quest to burn rubbish at the cemetery.

L. G.

STOP PRESS: Latest news on ECDC website "Waste and recycling bid a winner" Oh dear. Wouldn't want to be in Allen's shoes at next month's Parish Council meeting.



Advent by Candlelight Concert presented by

Cambridge Voices

in the two churches of Swaffham Prior 4.00 – 6.00pm, Sunday December 2nd 2012 Tickets (all £8) only available on the door. All profit goes to the locally-based charity *Emmaus*

NEW YEARS EVE WITH THE CYRIACS

If you are wondering what to do for New Year's Eve how about joining us at the Missing Sock in Quy?



Lots of music, dancing if you want, some great meals, lovely venue, great company, Auld Lang Syne, the full works!

http://www.themissingsock.co.uk/

Call Hugh on 01223 812660 to get further details. Look forward to seeing you.

Andrew Noves

PS Catch us on Radio Cambridge with Antonia Brickell on Thursday 29th November 7 pm.

https://www.facebook.com/#!/thecyriacs

Join the

WINTER WALK

From St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior a circular walk to Reach of approximately 6 miles

to be held on

FRIDAY 28th DECEMBER Starting at 10am

Followed by Soup and a Ploughman's lunch

Book your place by no later than 21st December Tickets cost £10.00 each

Enquiries: 01638 742974 / 01638 743693 or e-mail a.e.everitt@btinternet.com



Proceeds will go to the conservation and improvement of St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church

Information

Meet at the Church of St Cyriac & St Julitta, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. OSL map 154 GR 568639.

Be ready to start at 10 am. Doors will open from 9.30 am.

The centre of the village of Swaffham Prior is off the B1102 Cambridge to Burwell road.

From Cambridge, at first village sign, fork left to the High Street. From the east, at the crossroads after the water tower, turn right down Cage Hill and at the T-junction left into the High Street.

St Cyriac's Church shares its churchyard with St Mary's, the Parish Church.

Wear stout shoes or walking boots and warm weatherproof clothes. We plan to stop at The Dykes End Public House mid morning.

Well behaved dogs are welcome.

For more details please contact: Elisabeth Everitt 01638 742974 or Francis Reeks 01638 743693

Participants accept responsibility for their own safety and that of any children and dogs that accompany them.

) D
Swaffham Prior Winter Walk, Friday 28 th December, 2012	
Name	
Contact details: phone / e-mail	
Please reserve places for: No. of adults @ £10	
Total Remittance £ (Cheques payable to Swaffham Prior Festival)	
Please send this section with your remittance to: Elisabeth Everitt, 5 Lower End, Swaffham Prior, Cambs CB25 0HT	



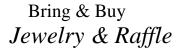
 $10.30 - 12.00 \ Noon$

Wednesday 23rd January 2013

5 Lower End (the Everitt's)



Cake & Produce Stall





All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

Eat, drink and be merry this Christmas!

As the party season approaches and we stock our cupboards for the festivities, many of us are also watching the pennies. Everybody likes a bargain, especially when there are presents to be bought, journeys to be made and all sorts of other expenses chipping away at the bank balance.

With this in mind, Trading Standards would like to warn readers about the pitfalls of buying alcohol from unconventional sources such as car boot sales, strangers at the pub, workplace or selling from the back of a vehicle or any other unusual sources.

In recent times there has been an increase in the amount of counterfeit and fake alcohol found in the county. Counterfeit alcohol, just like any other counterfeit product, mimics a genuine branded article and tries to pass itself off as the genuine product. Usually the counterfeit product is very convincing and most consumers wouldn't notice any difference in the packaging.

As well as counterfeit alcohol there are drinks designed to look like new and appealing brands. Often these products do not meet the required legal standards of composition – either having too little or too much of certain required ingredients or featuring ingredients that shouldn't be present at all. Often these ingredients can be harmful to health.

Indeed, both counterfeit and other fake drinks should be avoided at all costs. They may contain either much more or much less alcohol than stated on the label and than is required by law but worse than this, however, is the fact that many counterfeit and fake drinks contain chemicals that are normally used in products such as cleaning products, antifreeze and screen wash. For example methanol, isopropyl, propan-2-ol, acetone and chloroform are commonly found in illicit alcohol.

Needless to say, these products can be dangerous if consumed and pose a risk to health. For example, people have been known to be sick or suffer dizziness, breathing difficulties, kidney damage, blindness and even death after consuming fake alcohol.

Nobody can tell what's in a bottle of fake drink and so the risks are unpredictable. The simple message is to not buy or consume any drink of questionable source.

So if you choose to eat, drink and be merry this Christmas, please do so in a way that is safe and doesn't risk your health or that of your guests.

If you see any alcohol that you suspect to be counterfeit or fake, please contact our partner, Citizens Advice Consumer Service, on 08454 040506. For business advice and support contact 0345 0455206.



Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme

(SPCCS)

Sorry, no service over Christmas – 17th December to 4th January



Ring 9am-6pm, Monday to Friday, preferably with 48 hours notice

spccs@adventurersfarm.co.uk

A voluntary car service for residents of Swaffham Prior for all essential medical appointments

Supported and Subsidised by Swaffham Prior Parish Council

The Cantilena Singers

Christmas is Coming

Bassingbourn Parish Church North End Bassingbourn Cambs SG8 5NW

Saturday 8th December 7:30 pm Director Daniel Spreadbury

A selection of carols and seasonal music by Mendelssohn Ord Rutter Walker Warlock Warrell Willcocks Wood and others including Adam Lay Ybounden, Deck the Halls, Ding Dong Merrily on High, A Merry Christmas, Cradle Song, Bethlehem Down, In the Bleak Midwinter, Frohlocket ihr Volker auf Erden

plus Komm Jesu Komm - JS Bach; Ave Maria and others Anton Bruckner
Interval refreshments
Tickets £7 and £5 on the door

Anglesey Benefice
Samaritan's Purse
Christmas Shoe Box
Appeal - our 70 boxes
being loaded and taken
away on the start of
their very long journey
to Kyrgyzstan. Many
thanks again to
everyone who helped
make this such a
success. With my best
wishes for Christmas
and the New Year.

Janet Willmott



Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

Since the last edition of the Swaffham Crier, when we published a provisional date for **Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club 40th Anniversary Exhibition**, the date has now been arranged for Saturday & Sunday 19 & 20 October 2013. The exhibition will be held at Mandeville Hall Burwell. Further details will be announced in the New Year.

On Wednesday 24 October 2013, **Ian Kippax** AFIAP DPAGB BPE3*, a member of the club, attended a prestigious awards ceremony. This was held on HMS Belfast, moored in the Pool of London, to announce the results of the annual National Historic Ships UK 2012 Photographic competition. This competition is now in its third year, with their highest level of entries yet. There were five categories, with a panel of expert judges looking for entries with imagination, creativity and unusual perspectives in capturing the spirit of the UK's maritime heritage. The guest of honour was HRH The Princess Royal who presented the awards. The overall winning image chosen from over 450 entries was **Ian's** for his winning image entitled 'Scorpio'. The judges described the photograph as a 'powerful, almost haunting' image. Scorpio was said to show the most imagination, creativity and unusual perspective in capturing the spirit of the UK's maritime heritage. A copy of Scorpio was presented to the princess as a commemorative gift.

The club has received a certificate in recognition for one of our members who submitted images earlier in the year to the prestigious International Exhibition of Art Photography, held in Macedonia. One of his images was accepted and was one of 6848 images submitted by 524 photographers from 61 countries around the world. His image was entitled 'Fallen Angel' and was in the Open Monochrome section.

On Friday 26 October 2012 the club took part in the ICON, an interclub competition which was held at Bishops Stortford. The competing clubs were Cambridge, Chelmsford, Ware, ICON & Bottisham & Burwell. The competition was judged by Paul Radden LRPS DPAGB from Waltham Cross. Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club won the competition with a score of 166, second Chelmsford 160, Ware 151 and Cambridge & ICON joint 4th with 148. Paul Radden gave particular commendations to two of the entries from our club and we also had 4 out of the 5 top marks that were awarded in the competition.

Forthcoming Events:

Tuesday 29 January 2013

Ken Payne from Waltham Cross Camera Club will be giving a Photoshop Demonstration with practical tips and techniques on Photoshop software. For those who are new to Photoshop this may be an interesting evening to attend the club, see below.

Tuesday 19 February 2013

'An Evening with Alan & Annie' - Ann & Alan Millward from Midland Counties Photographic Federation, show how two photographers can live together and create completely different print images, sponsored by Fotospeed.

Tuesday 26 February 2013

'A Passion for Nature' - Ann Miles MPAGB from the Cambridge Camera Club, will

be giving a print presentation of her images.

Tuesday 12 March 2013

'Underwater Photography' - Lesley Maw, a member of The British Society of Underwater Photographers, will be showing not only her photographs but also the equipment that is required to capture photographs in such different conditions. The club breaks for Christmas from 18 December 2012 until 8 January 2013, with the 'EAF 2012 Annual Exhibition Portfolio'. A recording of the images exhibited at the Gibberd Gallery, Harlow in May 2012.

New members are always welcome as a guest at any meeting, paying a fee of £2:00, refunded on joining the club. The annual fees: Adult membership £30.00, Joint membership £50.00, Student £15.00. There is a weekly fee of 50p which includes refreshments. Alternatively further details can be obtained by contacting the Secretary, Daphne Hanson, Telephone: 01638 741106 or

email: hanson943@btinternet.com.

www.bottburpc.org - Members gallery and further details of the club and our programme for the 2012/2013 year can be viewed.

Barry Coles

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month: jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, or c813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and



nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offers

Trailer chassis, 4ft x 3ft, with wheels and mudguards. No bodywork, ideal restoration project. Oliver n742003

Lloyd Loom style bedroom chair and linen basket/stool; Bicycle suitable for child of 8 - 10 years. Anne c812395

Britax Renaissance child's car seat 9kg - 18kg only used occasionally for grandchildren; NEW HP inkjet cartridges 1×57 tricolour 2×56 (2 pack) black. Teresa c811517

Wooden ironing board (needs new cover) – adjustable height, but top height is quite low, perfect if you are small like me (5ft)! Jun c813362

Wanted

The Penguin Book of Jams, Pickles & Chutneys, by David & Rose Maby (paperback, out of print). Mrs Armstrong c880232.

Large soft dog bed (i.e. not hard plastic). Susan c811584

Old kitchen wall cabinets, with or without doors. Will collect. Garry c812419

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.

News from Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen

The iconic Himalayan silver birches are washed and scrubbed, cabling in place and entertainers booked as we begin the final countdown for our in-augural **Winter Lights Festival** at Anglesey Abbey.

The Festival being held on Saturdays and Sunday's over the first three weekends of December, from 18.00 – 21.00 promises to be a magical start to the Festive season. Tickets (£10 adults, £7 Children or £30 for a Family Ticket) are available from the National Trust Box Office on 0844 249 1895, online by following the links from our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey or in person from the Anglesey Abbey Visitor Centre.

Whilst talking of Christmas - **Father Christmas** will be making his traditional appearance at Wicken Fen every Saturday and Sunday from 8-23 December. Timed sessions to see Father Christmas in his secret grotto are available at 10.30, 11.15, 12, 1.45 and 2.30pm - tickets are £6.95 per child (includes present). Young preschoolers are invited to help Father Christmas get ready for the big day on **Mucky Pups –Christmas Elves**. This year there are 3 dates, Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Tuesday 18th December – tickets are £5.95 (includes present). Tickets for both events can be purchased from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 - please book early as places are limited.

If you're scratching your head for inspiration, why not join Anglesey Abbey Head Gardener, Richard Todd, for a master class on **Making the most of winter plants** on Monday 10 December at 10am. The master class is the perfect opportunity to pick up some top tips on how to use colour and shape to give your garden that special 'winter wow factor' Tickets £15, are available from the Anglesey Visitor Centre on 01223 810080.

There's nothing like the taste and satisfaction of growing your own food. If you fancy having a go we currently have 4 vacant plots on our Sunray Allotments in Lode. If you fancy taking on a plot, please contact Community Gardener, Janet Jephcott, on 07833 294614 or e-mail janet.jephcott@nationaltrust.org.uk.

A quick reminder that Rangers, Lois Baker and John Hughes are leading **Vision Tidy-up Work Parties** on Sunday 2 December and 6 January, from 10am -3pm. If you would like to get involved in helping to clear the Vision lands of litter and redundant agricultural equipment please call Lois on 01353 720274 or e-mail lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk. Talking of volunteering, we are always on the lookout for volunteers – whether you want to meet new people, learn new skills or just enjoy yourself, we can find a role for you. We have an amazing range of volunteering opportunities at Anglesey & Wicken from room guides to cycle hire assistants - if you're interested please contact our Volunteer Manager, David Craig – email david.craig@nationaltrust.org.uk

In recent weeks we've been lucky to enjoy the fantastic twisting and twirling flying display of a murmuration of starlings (estimates of up to 10,000 birds) over Sedge and Adventurers' Fen just before dusk. The birds eventually settle down to roost in the reedbeds around the mere. Hen Harriers are regularly seen coming into

roost on Sedge Fen and up to 6 short eared owls have been spotted on Burwell and Tubney Fen's.

If you're planning to head over to Wicken Fen, I would recommend you bring wellies or boots with gaiters. Whilst the all weather Boardwalk Trail is in perfect condition, the unseasonably wet summer and high water table has left the Nature & Adventurers' Trail's very muddy in places.

Finally, all staff and volunteers at Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen would like to wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Howard Cooper National Trust -Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen



Crossword Number 95

Compiled by **BYWELL**

Sponsored by The Red Lion

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 December 2012. 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.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9								
10				11				
12					13			
14			15	16	17		18	
19						20		21
22		23		24	25	26		
27						28		
29								

Name:	••••
Address:	
Tel:	

Across

- 1 Second-rate rugby player has joint broken by German comic act lifting machinery (5,3,6)
- **10** Slow tempo ending after fast (5)
- **11** Provide weapons for powerful lunar lander (9)
- 12 Bees can riot, when not being around (7)
- 13 Come across curious iron nut (3,4)
- **14** I competed covered in leaves (5)
- **16** Black liquid spoilt topless bikini covering last of tan (6,3)
- **19** Minced Alsace veg seen between milk producers (9)
- **20** Tender like this street in Paris going back (5)
- 22 Recruits work in coniferous secretion (5,2)
- **25** Sat comfortably on glued fragments (7)
- **27** My French ex-PM initially left African party for European summit (4,5)
- 28 Thanks to Moon for small pieces (5)
- 29 Funny men in black and white left gold about country lane covered in grass (6,3,5)

Down

- 2 Country's top drug produces overwhelming election victory (9)
- **3** Croatian leader and king have appropriate headgear (5)
- **4** Doctor knew again reason for morning call (9)
- **5** Take exception to bird in the back street (5)
- 6 You dined quite late, we hear, to

- become weaker (9)
- 7 Recognised king at this point in time to end of reign (5)
- **8** Leggy folk beheaded for soldiers to dip into (3,4)
- **9** Lil, aka Dicky, turns litmus blue (6)
- **15** Princess seen as liable to be separated (9)
- 17 Forced to move spiced dal concoction (9)
- **18** Supplied drink and angry about outfit last weekend (9)
- **19** Sweet beast carrying ancient god (7)
- 21 Inspired by French delivery of pain, but ultimately after unhappy lives (6)
- 23 Infant bird purring strangely after losing runs (5)
- **24** Manuela upset after me leaving Irish girl (5)
- **26** US states around one ancient city (5)

Solution to crossword no. 94



We congratulate John Cook, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Tansy Budd, Robert Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd, Sue Richards, Shirley Wilkins and Tricia Whitehouse.

School News

The Pumpkin Parade, organised by FoSPS, took place on Wednesday 24th October and was a tremendous success! The standard of presentation this year was extremely high and we were treated to pumpkins disguised as a hamburger, planets and a baby, scary pumpkins in the form of witches and ghoulish faces,



creative pumpkins covered in spider webs and turned into paralympic vehicles and houses, small pumpkins made into Cinderella's coach and snowmen and cleverly carved pumpkins including an angry bird and a variety of clowns. FoSPS awarded prizes to all and we all enjoyed looking at them and acknowledging the children's talents as designers!

Grounds Day took place on the last Friday of half term and was a very productive day. We were joined by parents, carers, Lois from Wicken Fen and members of staff and their partners. Throughout the day children and adults worked alongside to weed, prune, clear leaves, mend fencing, and generally tidy the school grounds.

'It was really fun because you were outside enjoying the fresh air and shaping the bushes' Ollie

'I liked helping Mr Godfrey pull the bags of bark chips and seeing the school



looking better than it was. Now it is nice and neat.' Toby

'It made a big difference!' Molly

'I enjoyed spreading the bark...it was nice seeing everyone working together as a community...parents, FoSPS, teachers and the school community' Robert

Key Stage 2 had a visit from Peter Young. He led two sessions based on traditional story telling and used a 'Best Jango' (a unique musical instrument made from a small



Grounds Day

log, with added door knobs, bicycle horns and a metal strip from a kitchen sink and played with a stick called 'Mr Pencil') to help him. There follows a brief summary by Saturn Class:

'He told two stories, one about a head teacher and one about Ollie and his Best Jango. The story about the head teacher was frightening and sounded quite real. You got a picture in your head of the school and head teacher because his storytelling was so good. You could picture the details and the character. The second story was about a gypsy traveller called Ollie who was moved to different towns as his father looked for work. When he heard he was moving again, he went for a walk in the woods and found a log which he used to make a 'Best Jango'. Mr Young said there are only two Best Jangos in the world and he had been practising on his at home (apparently!). He got Robert, Mr Godfrey, Mrs Cole and Miss Curtis to play the Best Jango whilst we were singing a song about an ogre. It was the best story we have heard for a while. He was a really good story-teller.'

Libby and Lucy

On 8th November, we had a visit from our new vicar, Reverend Susan Giles. She met members of staff and children and will be coming into school soon to lead an assembly for us. She will also be joining us for Decoration Day and will lead our Christmas celebration at St Mary's.

We are looking forward to 'Children in Need Day which has been organised by the School Council and hope that we raise lots of money for such a good cause. Christmas is also looming and Decoration Day, the Key Stage 1 play and our Christmas celebration in St Mary's are already being planned for. Nearly time to find the decorations and write the Christmas cards!

Hannah Curtis Head teacher

Thefts from Cars

POLICE are warning motorists to take security precautions following a series of thefts from vehicles in East Cambs.

This month, there have been 22 thefts including two of number plates from cars in Burrough Green, near Dullingham, and Soham, and five thefts, or attempted thefts, from vans.

On most occasions the thieves have targeted vans containing power tools under cover of darkness and have smashed windows to get in.

Half of the crimes have taken place in villages in the south of the district.

Sue Loaker, community safety officer, said: "Officers are patrolling and using various tactics to catch the people responsible for these thefts, however, as the evenings get darker at this time of year it is also a good time to take extra security precautions. Doing so could prevent your vehicle becoming a target for thieves."

Security advice:

- Avoid leaving your vehicle in isolated areas and where possible park in a garage or on a driveway. The use of security lights is a benefit as they alert you of any movement. If you have to park on the roadside, try to park near a street light and where surveillance is at its best.
- Always lock your vehicle, even if leaving it for a short time. Never leave the vehicle running and unattended to de-ice the windows.
- Remove items on display, this includes Sat Nav cradles and the marks they leave behind on the windscreen. Leave the glove box open to indicate that there is nothing of value to steal.
- Consider using an alarm, Immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, removable stereo, handbrake lock, steering wheel lock, window grills, tool vaults and warning stickers displayed on the vehicle.
- Remove tools and equipment from the van whenever possible, particularly overnight. Park the vehicle tight up against a wall to prevent the back doors being easily accessible.
- It is a proven deterrent to mark and/or register your property. This can be



done in a number of ways: the use of a bright coloured paint, engraving or anything that identifies the property as being yours makes it less attractive for thieves. Look at www.immobilise.com to register your property.

Mothers' Union



On Wednesday 24th October the Anglesey Group were hosts for the Deanery Afternoon, attended by fellow members and friends from Burwell, Soham and Three Rivers Branches. We gave a warm welcome to our guest speaker Ely Diocesan MU President Joan Cameron and Reverend Sue Giles new vicar of the Anglesey

Benefice. After a short time of worship Joan, aptly dressed in salwar kameez, gave us a most interesting talk on her recent visit to the Diocese of Vellore in the Church of South India. Joan together with three other representatives from the Ely Diocese, including Bishop Stephen, made the visit to build on the existing partnership between Cambridge Ecumenical Council and the Indian diocese. This also gave them the opportunity to meet the new bishop of Vellore, Bishop Rajavelu. Joan described how it felt to be a Christian in a country where you are in the minority, and the work that is carried out by those dedicated to helping the needy among the The group attended many different events confirmation, poorest communities. wedding, baptism and church dedication. Visits were also made to church schools, a cerebral palsy home and nurse training institute. A significant part of the visit was to attend the dedication of two schools built through the fundraising efforts of Ely church schools and others across Cambridgeshire during 2011. Joan also gave us some information on general day to day life in the south of India and brought an excellent display of photographs she had taken, together with garlands and shawls presented to her during the visit.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was Jenny Kartupelis MBE, Director of East of England Faiths Council. Jenny began her presentation by explaining the Council is a multi-faith body acting together with government and other organisations, and the importance of faith working together with public bodies. The East of England Faiths Council was established in 2002 and covers 6 counties in the East of England one of which is Cambridgeshire. Jenny reminded us of how faith has inspired justice campaigns in the past – abolishment of slavery – factory acts and proper sewerage. Giving us examples of faith going where others fear to tread such as Mothers' Union training people to help sex offenders in prison learn parenting skills. Jenny went on to tell us that a major part of the Council's work is to offer support to local inter-faith groups. This is done by offering networking, training, consultation, publications, FaithNetEast website and research. Jenny concluded by explaining how faith can work in many ways, finding common purpose promotes dialogue. Dialogue can be purposeful, leading to trust and personal relationships.

It can be enjoyed by sharing in each other's festivals, foods and family occasions.

Members will be enjoying Christmas lunch in December, when our programme for 2013 will published and copies available in all 5 parish churches. The programme begins with a New Year Communion Service on Thursday 17th January, 2.30 in Lode Chapel. You are most welcome to join us.

Shape Your Place

Help put your community in the spotlight with ShapeYourPlace You can help your village shine online by volunteering to become a community reporter with East Cambridgeshire's award winning community website www.ShapeYourPlace.org Community reporting is a fun thing to do. You can help promote all



the great stuff going on where you live, including community events, activities and projects.

We'll show you how to use a video camera, how to interview and share it with the rest of your community. This role is perfect for anyone wanting to get involved in their local community, meet new people or learn some new skills.

www.shapeyourplace.org has received thousands of visitors since its launch in East Cambs in April this year. Local groups and individuals regularly share their news and promote events so it's a great source about what's happening where you live.

People can also raise issues where they live. When this happens, local councils, the police and the fire service are notified and will respond on the site about how they will try and resolve the problem if possible.

Want to report an issue or promote an event? Here's how you do it:

- 1. Go to <u>www.shapeyourplace.org</u>
- 2. Click on your area on the map
- 3. Click on 'Have your Say' and start blogging. It's that easy!

Contact

If you would like to find out more about community reporting or want to know more about the project email matthew.hall@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 07799 861339.

ShapeYourPlace has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council and works in partnership with East Cambridgeshire District Council, the Police and the Fire Service.

BON MOT NUMBER TWENTY EIGHT

"Quickly, bring me a beaker of wine, so that I may wet my mind and say something clever."

Aristophanes

Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning

New Year: New Skill?

We have the following new courses from January 2013

A Taste of India (cookery)

Authentic Indian Cookery Made Easy (February start)

Bookkeeping and Accounting Skills (Level 2)

Excel at Spreadsheets

IT Skills for Today's Office

Counselling – Introduction (Level 2)

Ceramics

Felt Making (February start)

Garden Design – Introduction

History of Art: The Artists

Quilting and Stitching (daytime)

Research your Family History (February start)

Sugarcraft

Saturday Workshops - 9th March 2013

Why not spend the day learning something new? Choose from:

Dressmaking

Fabulous Felt Making

Photoshop

Quilting for Easter

Upholstery and Chair Caning

Woodturning

Saturday 16th March

Email and Internet Made Easy

(you may be eligible for a FREE place on this course – please enquire)

Full details of all courses are available on our website: www.bottishamvc.org/commed, or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372, email: commed@bottishamvc.org.



From our Local County Councillor David Brown

Full Council met on 17th October. Council agreed changes to contract regulations to make it easier for local companies to do business with the Council. Council also received reports from the pension fund, police and fire authorities and debated a number of motions including support for widening the A14.

Cabinet met twice in October. The first meeting, on 2 October was held in St Neots and was combined with opportunities to visit various Council projects in the town. Amongst decisions at Cabinet were the response to the Northstowe first phase planning application, expansion of primary schools in St Ives, agreement of surface water management plans and responses to local plans for Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire. The second meeting was at Shire Hall on 23 October. Items for decision included building new primary schools in East Chesterton and Soham, adopting strategies for Health and Well Being and Corporate Parenting, taking the next steps to commercialise a project called Smartlife, and I presented the Ofsted report into arrangements for safeguarding children.

The Ofsted report resulted in a number of media briefings and interviews as well as 4 staff briefings around the county and meetings to agree and implement an improvement plan.

I sat on an assessment panel to recommend a sponsor for the new primary school to be built in Soham and a trust headed by Soham Village College was our preferred sponsor.

Business planning for the next 5 year plan is well in place and we had a number of meetings to consider the plans.

I attended meetings of the Schools Forum to consider education funding reform; the Child Poverty Action Group; the High Demand Families Key Decisions Group; and the Transitions Panel.

On the less formal side I had the privilege of presenting long service awards to our Foster Carers at Anglesey Abbey, and also attended the official opening of the Trinity School, which is a multi-site special school for those children and young people with social and behavioural difficulties.

David Brown



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

A MIDWINTER WREATH

Like a great many traditions today, the custom of weaving a Christmas wreath to pin to the door has its basis in the ancient practice of bringing evergreen plants into the house to mark the midwinter solstice. Green with life while all around is bare and unproductive, evergreens represent the miraculous continuity of life through the dark months and presage the spring to come.

An ambivalent and sometimes downright contradictory canon of lore surrounds 'the holly and the ivy', both plants native to Britain and mainstays of classical Christmas decorating. While cutting sprays of holly laden with scarlet berries to bring luck and life into the house is encouraged, it was



widely believed that cutting down a whole holly tree would unleash all sorts of nasties. Richard Mabey in his indispensible Flora Britannica, for example, cites a Buckinghamshire belief that witches would appear when a holly is felled. And yet holly is well documented in certain areas as an important winter browse, with 'hollin' being an old English word for a grove of hollies that is regularly lopped for winter cattle feed. Local superstitions notwithstanding, the holly's prickly foliage and bright red fruits were easily assimilated into Christian iconography to represent the thorn of crowns and drops of Christ's blood. As the carol goes, 'Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the Crown'. Ivy is our only native evergreen liana. Following the tenets of 'sympathetic magic', early herbalists observed how ivy smothered grape vines and therefore adduced that ivy could counteract the malign effects of alcohol. Wine goblets were often made of ivy wood while alestakes, used in medieval times to advertise pubs, were frequently carved as though entwined with ivy. In the garden, ivy's tendency to overtake trees is not a wellloved feature, but the profuse globose flowerheads produced in September and October are a vital autumn source of nectar for bees and late-flying butterflies.

The Botanic Garden is its very own, enormous mid winter wreath, woven together from a diverse range of evergreens and evergreys! A great many of the trees are hung with enormous globes of mistletoe, mature hollies are used to great effect throughout the Woodland Garden, several with unusual yellow or orange berries shining out against the glossy foliage, and gold and silver variegated ivies are used extensively in the Winter Garden. And just as the plant compositions of our gardens evolve, so do the ingredients of today's Christmas wreath which are now just as likely to include lavender, rosemary, olive leaves, callistemon and myrtles, chilli and citrus, so that even our Mediterranean Beds and seasonal Glasshouse displays have a Christmas resonance.

Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 8th November 2012

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public in attendance.

Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensations:

As required by the new Code of Conduct, councillors had submitted a request for a dispensation to allow them to consider the Parish Council Budget/Precept. This was granted to enable Parish Councillors to participate/speak and vote in respect of this item and was granted on the below legislative grounds as stated in the Localism Act:

[Under Section 33(2)(a)] without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business;

[under Section 33(2) (c)] granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Authority's area; and

This dispensation was granted for the period from November 2012 – May 2015.

Public Participation:

General discussion.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown was unable to attend the meeting and sent his apologies. A written report was read out by the Clerk.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:

CCC – Consultation on the Local Enforcement Plan for Minerals and Waste Development in Cambridgeshire. The details were noted.

CCC – *Local Highway Improvements Scheme 2013/14*. Following discussion it was agreed not to submit an application for funding at this time. It was suggested that an application might be made for funding towards the reinstatement of the footpath on Station Road but Steve Kent-Phillips reminded the meeting that this was already on CCC's schedule for work to be carried out.

CCC – Street Lighting Energy 2012/2013. Confirmation of energy charges for 14No street lights - ± 304.22

ECDC – Independent Remuneration Panel – recommendations on the level of Members' Allowances. Notices displayed.

ECDC – Sport & Recreation Facilities Audit 2012/2013. Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to complete.

ECDC – *Development Envelope Changes*. As part of the preparation of the draft East Cambridgeshire Local Plan the development envelopes across the District were reviewed in order to remove any minor anomalies or errors. The attached map was reviewed by Parish Councillors. It was confirmed that there would be further consultation on the draft Local Plan early January 2013.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Car Scheme: The Clerk was asked to confirm with Janet Willmott that the Parish Council's donation of £250 was not an agreed annual payment and that future donations would be considered subject to the success and development of the scheme.

Refuse and Recycling Collections:

There was considerable discussion throughout the meeting on this item. Cllr Alderson's report noted that ECDC's current waste and recycling contract finished in 2015 and the cost to renew the contract in its present form would cost an extra £1million. To try and ease the burden of this cost ECDC are considering changing to a wheelie bin collection service. This had led to ECDC's bid for £5million to the Dept for Communities and Local Government to launch such a scheme.

Parish Councillors were very concerned about the lack of consultation on the possible introduction and cost effectiveness of using wheelie bins and the impact on the village. As a consequence and following discussion with Cllr Alderson, the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr Richard Hobbs, Chairman of ECDC's Community Services Committee to request a meeting to explain the consultation process and the details of any proposals. John Covill was to speak with Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Councils and ask if they would like to attend.

Maintenance & Protections of the Village Sign:

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the sign was showing signs of wear. He told the meeting of a company that could take a cast of the sign and make one in resin. Once painted this could stand in place of the original sign. This would allow the original sign to be stored and protected. Following discussion, Steve was asked to look into this further.

Lighting of the Footpath Steps leading to St Cyriac's:

A letter was received drawing the Parish Council's attention to the lack of lighting for the three steps by the side of St Mary's leading to St Cyriac's making it difficult for people using the footpath. In light of the late John Norris' involvement with the Church it was suggested that perhaps additional lighting could be installed as a suitable memorial and the Parish Council was asked to include an amount in the next precept.

Following discussion members agreed that as this was on Church land, the Church should initiate the installation of a light but that the Parish Council could contribute. It was agreed to await the outcome of the next PCC meeting when this was to be discussed.

Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2013/14:

Following review of the budget it was agreed that the Precept would remain at £14,500. No increase on current year. This is subject to final confirmation at January 2013 meeting.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Reports:

Emptying of bins: Darren Hughes of ECDC was informed of the ongoing problem of bins not being emptied. Darren confirmed that he would ensure Veolia

did empty the bins and this would be monitored.

Parish Councillor's Reports:

The Pound: Steve Kent-Phillips noted that the gate to The Pound was in need of replacing and asked if it was made locally. Eric Day confirmed that it was. Steve said he would follow up on cost, etc.

David Almond asked if it was possible to display more information about The Pound. The Clerk was to check for details on file and pass to Steve Kent-Phillips who offered to organise a suitable notice or plaque.

Village seats: The seats outside the Village Hall were reported as in a bad state of repair. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for new seats.

Cemetery: Andrew Camps reported that whilst clearing some of the rubbish in the cemetery, he had found a vase in the incinerator.

Open Question Time:

Proposal for a cycleway between Lode and Quy: Councillors were asked for their support. There followed discussion on the benefits of a cycleway.

Wheelie bins: It was asked if the meeting with ECDC was to be a public meeting and it was confirmed that it was.

Stile at Rogers Road-Devils Dyke: It was noted that this was in need of attention. Peter Hart confirmed that he already had this in hand.

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, 13th December 2012, 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

RE:NEW PEOPLE #4

Thanks again for the feedback from those who have been enjoying the stories from people at RE:NEW. Here are some more thoughts, with a Christmas connection, from Lynn Hawkins who lives in Burwell with her husband Paul, and her two daughters. She has been part of RE:NEW for the last few years, and is a member of our children's ministry team.

A Mother's Ponder (by Lynn Hawkins)

When I first gazed at the baby beside me, nine years ago; I wondered if this immense love emulated God's love for us. This small wrinkled up face, was beautiful to me in every way.

I imagined Mary feeling exhausted and yet beaming in awe of baby Jesus, beside her.

Everyone wanted to see my baby; imagine how people would travel to see a new born king. Maybe saying "He's got his father's eyes". Baby Jesus would gaze up with love through His "Father's eyes" at his visitors. Later he would see pain, injustice, hypocrisy and jealousy; He would use love in each situation to encourage, guide and

correct.

I loved my baby Katie, so much I would do anything for her. Was this the love Jesus felt for us as he looked down from the cross?

Katie, was a happy baby, I was very proud of her. God brought me down to Earth with my second bump. Esther, cried and cried, my heart felt sad and helpless. The doctor explained Esther was healthy and just had a strong character. Now Esther makes us laugh one minute and drives us mad the next; Does God shake his head and tut at us in a similar way?

Esther, like Katie, has no doubts about God and asks anyone, she is able, if they are a Christian; followed by a "Why not?", if they answer in the negative.

Katie and Esther can argue, swiftly forgive, forget and carry on playing. Both will give away their last sweet. No wonder Jesus tells us to be like children; with such ease they spread God's love; demonstrate forgiveness and show simple kindness.

RE:NEW is a great way to introduce Christian life skills to your children – come along!

You'll be particularly welcome to join us at 10.30am at Bottisham Primary School any Sunday during Advent, or for our special all-age service at the same time place on Christmas morning. RE:NEW wishes all of you a very happy Christmas, and every blessing for 2013.

Simon Goddard

RE:NEW Services in December

Sun 2nd Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 2nd Dec, 5.30pm – Sacred Space Contemplative Service (Lode Chapel)

 $Sun\ 9th\ Dec,\ 10.30am-RE:NEW\ The\ Bigger\ Picture\ (School)$

Sun 9th Dec, 4pm – Christingle (Holy Trinity, Bottisham)

Sun 9th Dec, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)

Sun 16th Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 23rd Dec, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 23rd Dec, 6.20pm – Carol Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

Tue 25th Dec, 10.30am - RE:NEW All-Age Christmas Service (School)

Sun~30th~Dec,~10.30am-RE:NEW~The~Bigger~Picture~(School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

Web: www.re-new.me.uk Twitter: @renewchurch

PASTORAL LETTER, November 2012

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

Even as the summer holidays were ending and the back to school aisle was being dismantled, the Christmas goods were beginning to appear on the supermarket shelves.

Every year the shops are keen to begin their Christmas marketing because they hope it will be one of their busiest and most profitable seasons and they would like us to begin spending as soon as possible. Nearer to Christmas magazines are full of articles about how to decorate the house for Christmas and how to cook the perfect Christmas lunch or cake, and the advertisements on television begin to plant in children's minds the things that they would really like from Father Christmas.

But with each step towards Christmas there are those who begin to feel stressed about the season and others who begin to stack up debts. There are families where tensions mount and arguments flare, and others where the grief of missing a loved one makes Christmas a painful and difficult time.

In these times of recession and cut backs, there are many charities who will struggle to raise the amounts they need to maintain their work with those in need.

At the heart of all our activities and celebrations lies the arrival of a baby, a tiny individual whose needs were straightforward. The infant Christ simply needed to be loved, cared for and protected. When God gave that first Christmas, he gave himself. His gift to us was his love, his peace, his joy. He came to share our human life so that we might understand his presence with us and his love for us. None of the things God gave to the world can be bought or wrapped up. They are gifts that cannot be shopped for or summed up with a price tag. So maybe this Christmas we could choose to follow God's pattern and celebrate a simpler Christmas.

Close to home we could choose to make a gift, investing not money, but our time and thought and creative energy for our friends and family. This Christmas we could read one of the many appeal letters that charities send asking for help and support. We could take time to discover more about their work and the people they seek to help. Rather than giving to those who are already richly blessed we could choose to give to someone in need. We could have a simpler Christmas and bring some love, joy or peace to an unknown person just as God in Christ did for us.

Sue Giles

Free to a good home:

- Back issues of the RHS Garden magazine 1998 2002 (approx 70 issues)
- Back issues of National Geographic magazine 1993-1996 (approx 50 issues) Lots of lovely pictures!
 - Large, home-made guinea pig cage.

Big enough for several piggies or a rabbit

Contact Clare on 01638 741316 for more info.

Services in December

Sunday 2 December, Advent Sunday

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Holy Communion (CW1T)} - 11 \text{am} \\ \text{Advent by Candlelight Concert with Cambridge Voices, in the two churches} \\ -4 \text{pm} \end{array}$

Sunday 9 December, second Sunday of AdventChristingle Family Service – 11am

Sunday 16 December, third Sunday of Advent Village Carol Service, with school choir – 4.30pm

Sunday 23 December, fourth Sunday of AdventMatins – 11am

Christmas Eve

Carols around the Crib Family Service – 3pm

Christmas Day

Benefice Holy Communion (CW1T) 10am

"How far is it to Bethlehem?

How far is it to Bethlehem Is this the way to go?" "Well, yes, you could go this way Through the ice and snow."

"But how far is it to Bethlehem?"
"It's a long, long way I fear;
So far away, unless you've all day I wouldn't start from here".

"Yes, but how far is it to Bethlehem? I don't really want to go; It's just idle curiosity, But I'd like to know".



Ophir

Dates for Your Diary December 2012

Sun	2	Advent By Candlelight, 4-6pm, St Mary's & St Cyriacs
Wed	5	Book Club, Kent House, 8pm
Fri	7	Bulbeck Christmas Fair, School Hall, S. Bulbeck, 3.30pm
Mon	10	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	16	Village Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Wed	19	Village Carols, 6.30-7.30pm, VH
Tues	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Wed	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 10.45am, The Denny, S. Bulbeck
Fri	28	Winter Walk, 10am, St Cyriacs
Mon	31	The Cyriacs at the Missing Sock, Quy

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Kelly Mead	741069	Fri	9:30- 11:30am	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00- 7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15- 7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues Thurs	7-8:30pm 7-10:00pm	Youth Club Hut

Village
Clubs
&
Societies