



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVI Number 7

July 2012



## Editorial

Why is it that some village events draw the crowds and others a more *select group*? This is what Lynne Rand wants to know in this month's issue (*see Letters*), and as co-organiser of the perennially popular Quiz Night, perhaps here's someone who knows the secret of success!

We had some great events in June and we await more intelligence from our roving reporters to find out how things went, but welcome to our special reporter Zoe Nunn who is telling us all about the Molly dancers at the Red Lion this last month. Zoe also wants to photograph people's gardens for the Swaffham Crier, so come on all you volunteers, where do you keep hiding? Get in touch with Margaret Joyce if you would like your garden to appear.

June was sadly marked by the sudden loss of John Norris, one of the village's most well-known figures, who first came to the

village more than 50 years ago. Very much the "Elder Statesman" of Swaffham Prior and a regular contributor to this magazine, he will be sorely missed. This month's issue contains a tribute to him by his youngest brother, and we hope in future issues to run more as yet unpublished material from his series "John Norris Remembers".

If you didn't get to the Village Assembly yourself, you can at least read about it in this month's issue — and don't forget, next month's issue is a double one August AND September, get your copy in early!

**Caroline Matheson**



*Midsummer Tea Party in waiting*



*Molly dancing at the Red Lion*

**Cover Picture: Hay Time by Ludwig Benelmans**

### Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Donations	7
Bottisham PPG	16
CROSSWORD	20
School News	23
Photographic Club	24
WI	25
Mothers' Union	25
Bon Mot	25
Ophir	27
David Brown	28
Jolly Jingle	28
Botanic Gardens	29
PC Report	30
Re:new	33
Church Services	35
Freecycle	35
Diary & Clubs	36

### News, Views & Reviews

SP Jubilee Street Party	3
Molly Dancers Visit Pub	6
The Belle Affaire	7
Mark Towriss Bursary Fund	8
Annual Village Assembly	10
John Norris—A Tribute	13
Reclaim Stolen Property	22
Lode Half Marathon	26
District Burglaries	26

### What's On

Art Exhibition	2, 18
Harvest Supper	9
Macmillan Coffee	17
School Summer Fair	17
Dance Classes	19
Harvest Show + Feast	34



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Midsummer Tea Party

I went to the Midsummer Tea Party with a friend on Sunday 16th June. We thought we would see villagers there we don't often see during the winter months, but it was disappointing to see such a low turn-out. We still enjoyed tea and cake, their loss. It is a shame when, I am sure the people who gave up their time to organise something for the village felt that, perhaps it wasn't worth their time and effort. I was also surprised that the Village Feast seemed to have disappeared this year, is it something else the village is going to lose, so sad!

**Lynne Rand**

*See page 35 for that elusive Village Feast. But the Midsummer Tea Party couldn't compete with our Jubilee do —see below right! Eds.*

---

Dear Editors,

### OH NO HE HASN'T!

The report on PC business in the June **Crier** claims that the Cage Hill Fly Tipper has admitted his heinous crime. Sorry to put the cat among the pigeons but he, or she, remains as elusive as the Scarlet Pimpernel.

I was approached by an Enforcement Officer regarding an entirely different transgression, which has been taking place, without comment, for thirteen years, and did indeed own up, whilst pointing out that any other incident was not of my making.

My sins have of course been terminated, however I'm afraid that your problem, if problem it is, still remains.

*Name and address supplied*

## OUTSIDE EDGE JULY ART EXHIBITIONS

**July 7/8 and 14/15**

A group of six artists exhibit their paintings at St. Cyriac's Church during July as part of the Cambridge Open Studios initiative.

The works of Joss Goodchild (Reach), Dafila Scott (Reach), Hannah Webb (Reach), Vee Wallace (Exning), Cathy Parker (Cambridge) and Julia Suddaby (Sudbury) cover a wide variety of subject matter including landscape, portrait, wildlife and trees in realistic, semi-abstract and abstract painting styles.

The painters recently formed a new art group known as Outside Edge and their show runs from 10am – 5pm during two weekends 7/8 and 14/15 July.

See page 18 for details, including other Open Studio events in the neighbourhood. All are very welcome and admission is free.

Dear Editors,

## **Dangerous Bird Droppings**

I have just read pages one and two of the latest Crier. I cannot believe that the Editors are unaware of the dangers of raw bird mess to children. The world has not "gone completely insane". Some of the transmissible diseases are histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, and psittacosis. Those spikes are there for a reason. They stop the birds settling upon the cross beams of the swings and depositing upon the swing seats. In the past we have had RoSPA criticise us in their playground annual inspections for the dangers present to children in swing seats covered in bird poop.

I trust the Editors are joking when they say they stole the spikes to protect their picnic table. I can supply several websites where they may buy their own spikes; in fact I have some spares if they had only asked me.

All joking aside, this is a serious matter and I, for one, am not amused.

**Steve Kent-Phillips**

*Oh, the perilous youth we baby-boomers nevertheless survived. I suppose we should be grateful RoSPA didn't ban the even more dangerous swings. Eds.*



Swaffham Prior 2012 Jubilee Street Party

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

John Chalmers just missed the deadline for the June *Crier* with his report on the Annual Village Assembly held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Lucky for me that I've seen a pre-publication copy as it saves covering the same ground on many of the concerns, news, opinions which came up at the last PC meeting. So you should read John's report first, especially if you wish to know a little more about the village. It is quite astonishing that there are some PC members who would like to junk the Annual Village Assembly.



At the PC meeting Katie Child, ECDC Forward Planning officer, presented a draft 'Village Vision' for Swaffham Prior based on a questionnaire circulated last year. 27% of the village had responded which ECDC thought was very good. And the draft was based on this 27%

Two of the most important items had already been discussed with the PC and there were no quibbles with the housing allocation off Rogers Road or the encouragement of small businesses. Some reservations were expressed about the "approximately 1 hectare of land allocated for residential development." "What is approximately?" Katie was asked. Plus or minus 10%, 20%, 100%? Katie did not know. Nor did she know what "Policy xx" was, even though "development on infill sites will need to be in line" with this.

All was going well until Section 5 – "Infrastructure and community facilities". Amongst the various suggestions was "Properly enforced 20mph limit on High Street." Was this a serious village proposal, and how many people had requested it, Katie was asked. Katie looked through a long list and eventually reported that only one person had suggested it. Geoffrey expressed his serious doubts about the methodology used to analyse the questionnaire.

Looking at many of the items included reminded me of the time when 'Three Men in a Boat' made an Irish Stew.

"We put in a cabbage and about half a peck of peas...We overhauled both the hampers, and picked out all the odds and ends and the remnants and added them to the stew. There was half a pork pie and a bit of cold boiled bacon left, and we put them in. Then George found a tin of potted salmon, and he emptied that into the pot...a couple of eggs that had got cracked, and we put those in...**Nothing was wasted**"...Montmorency the dog turned up offering "a dead water-rat in his mouth."

There then followed a discussion which reminded me of the PC. Should "the rat go in or not"? One said it was best to play safe "and not try experiments." Another said "If you never try a new thing, how can you tell what it's like. It's men such as you that hamper the world's progress."

The PC had such a discussion about the contents of the draft version. Steve thought "Provision of a roundabout at the B1102 at Cage Hill" was totally unrealistic as it would cost a quarter of a million at today's prices. Some disagreed and said it was not a matter "of what may be possible" but of "vision" and "desire". In other words, "**put it all in**".

Geoffrey has never appeared to be in favour of footpaths and he objected to one of the entries which mentioned just one possible footpath rather than the unspecific provision of more permissive footpaths which many in the village wanted. He said it was pointless putting this in as landowners would never agree, and he had brought along a landowner for support though I suspect the landowner may have wondered why he was there. Peter Hart, our footpath representative, disagreed with Geoffrey, and once again explained to him that with support (which he has had though more would not go amiss) he could follow certain procedures and attempt to add a few “permissive footpaths” to village walks. The wording was revised.

**As most PFI schemes have been extremely profitable in the past now may be the time to invest in Balfour Beatty.**

There were other curiosities (not raised by the PC) such as the wish to have “Traffic calming at Lower End, between Manor house and the National Speed Limit” which remains a village “desire”. Is someone really serious about this 100 yard stretch, with a bend, being given over to traffic calming. Is this really what the village wants? And how many suggested “Provision of a stage and stage curtains” in the Village Hall? Will this not fundamentally change the functionality of the Village Hall? What do the users think? **It has all been thrown into the pot.**

But there were some interesting facts. SP has a population of 740 including children. Of the 27% who completed the questionnaire *and are in employment*, 11% work at home, 71% travel up to 20km to work, and 13% travel over 20km to work. Here is a GCSE question – how many people work at home?

The proposed new street lighting was raised by John Chalmers in his letter to the PC, making the same points he had raised at the Annual Village Assembly, as recounted in his report. He is especially concerned since a new replacement light has appeared outside his bedroom window. Since the meeting new information has come to light and you can find out about it on [www.lightingcambridgeshire.com](http://www.lightingcambridgeshire.com) where you will learn that all the lighting in the High Street, and most of it elsewhere, will be replaced or removed. With what you may well ask. Following a CCC briefing it is probable that in conservation areas columns will be replaced with like for like. Apart from that the lamp posts may be pretty standard. We have yet to discover whether the new lamp post outside John Chalmers is the new version.

CCC is funding this through a 25 year PFI agreement with Balfour Beatty to change all 55,000 Cambridgeshire street lights over the next five years and they are now already 11 months into this five-year changeover. As most PFI schemes have been extremely profitable in the past now may be the time to invest in Balfour Beatty. More will be revealed to Parish Councils in September.

The next Neighbourhood Panel meeting will be on 20 June and Allen said the Panel still needed a representative from Swaffham Prior following Andrew Camps standing down. He chivvied the PC to provide one, as did the Clerk, but there was only what you could call “a sullen silence”, until Steve said “We don’t want one, seeing as they (Neighbourhood Panels) are useless.”

*Alastair Everitt*



## Molly Dancers visit Village Pub

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June the village pub was visited by a group of Molly Dancers who travel around the Fenland area, practising the old tradition of dancing, music and drinking!!! Molly dancing is a tradition that stems back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when men dressed up as women and performed dances in the cold

winter nights. It later faded out, only to be reformed and brought back to life in 1970's. Today the dancers are men and women who dress up in black and white and perform through out the summer months. The dancers are based in Peterborough and the musicians of the group are based in Fordham. They had a warm and friendly welcome from Steve and Karen & the customers of the Red Lion who enjoyed their visit greatly.

*Zoe Nunn*





# ***The Belle Affaire***

Everything was planned down to the finest detail. Nothing could go wrong. Everything would be alright on the night. The MOBILE BELL was coming to Swaffham Prior for people to have a chance to ring it before the Celebratory Diamond Jubilee Quarter Peal on the bells of St Cyriac's at 7.30pm.

Rain was expected. The plan was to install the MOBILE BELL in the heart of St Cyriac's. The planks were in place on the steps. For the push were two old men with one healthy yeoman, together with a variety of ladies of various ages, all equally willing to have a go.

The MOBILE BELL turned up. It was large, like a mini Fire Engine ladder, looked and was extremely heavy, and so wide there was only a one inch gap to



*Lesley Boyle teaching Elisabeth*

get it through the door. The idea was

abandoned. It was left outside the door in full view of the village and we waited, and waited, for the crowds. The first people to try the bell were two innocent visitors who were preparing a treasure hunt for their office. They loved it and went away enriched. And so did the many others who also tried the ringing, ranging from a 4 year old to a 74 year old.

After the loyal toast the bells rang out continuously for three quarters of an hour. Was this not a fine and genteel village tribute to our Queen?

***Bob Minor***

## **Donations!**

Many thanks to Francis Reeks for his very kind donation to the ***Crier*** this month.

## Mark Towriss Bursary Fund

The generosity of so many people who knew Mark and his work as a GP has raised more than £32,000 over the past four years. Thank you to everyone who contributed. It means that we can now support three doctors through their family medicine (GP) training in Kenya.

I have given many talks about the fund and people often ask about how health care provision compares to General Practice in the UK.

In Kenya there are:

**4, 000 doctors for 32 million people**  
(including all specialities)

**1,000 rural doctors for 26 million rural people**

(because 80% of Kenyan doctors practice in urban locations)

**1 rural doctor for each 26,000 people**

Bottisham Medical Practice has more than **3 full-time Family Doctors (GPs) to serve 5,400 people** excluding the hospital specialties accessible within 10 miles of Bottisham.



The World Health Organisation recommends that **‘the majority of physicians should be trained to practice as family doctors**. This may be even more important in developing countries, where it may be prudent to limit the utilisation of costly hospital-based technology.’

Family Medicine in Kenya is still in its infancy. At present the Kenyan government does not fund family medicine training; it only provides salaried study leave. For those doctors based in rural settings who have family dependents the costs may well be too great for further training. Yet many of the challenges rural doctors face are those dealt with by specialists in the UK: Emergency caesarean sections, appendicectomies, childhood accidents and abnormalities, diabetes, TB, HIV/AIDS etc Newly qualified doctors take on immense responsibility: two years after qualification Dr Towett the second Mark Towriss Bursary recipient was a District Medical Officer of Health only two years after qualifying. He says ‘I was in charge of all health centres and dispensaries and all preventive health services in the district’.

If we can help Kenyan doctors build a firm family medicine foundation they will introduce this to the next medical generation - having themselves developed the skills to pass on. Dr Osborn Tembu, the first bursary recipient will graduate this year. He writes: ‘The level of awareness of Family Medicine is going up and many junior doctors are showing interest. I believe your efforts will help them achieve their dreams and be able to serve their patients more effectively’. But at present there are far too few family doctors. They need our support.

We are keen to spread the word about the work of the Mark Towriss Fund so please contact me if you want me to speak to your organisation or have ideas for fundraising.

*Ute Towriss*

[ute.towriss@btinternet.com](mailto:ute.towriss@btinternet.com)



St Mary's Church would like to invite you to this year's

# HARVEST SUPPER

Saturday 29th September 2012

6.00—9.00pm

By candlelight in St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior

- Hearty casserole
- Vegetarian option
- Scrumptious puddings
- Licensed bar
- Live music
- Raffle for fair-trade hampers
- Children welcome

In aid of St Mary's church and the Mara Well Appeal.

Food, entertainment and welcoming drink included.

£8.00 per adult

£7.00 concessions (OAPs/under 16s)

£5.00 children (under 11s)

Bring your own plate, bowl and cutlery

Tickets available from: Dee Noyes 743864, Kate Child  
743983, Fleur Routley 743992 or Sue Wade 741736

A warm welcome also to the Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church,  
Swaffham Prior, Sunday 30th September 2012 at 11.00 am.

# ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012**

There was a fair turnout for this year's meeting – most of the usual suspects plus a few more. They

heard John Covill as Chair of the Parish Council open the proceedings with the PC report, of which the most important news was that the Chestnut tree in town close will have to go (it is not safe), and before the conkers are ripe – probably a good idea in case a stick thrown up brings the whole thing down. It will be replaced by a sweet chestnut. Other news included imminent resurfacing of Station Road and footpath, and some tidying of the Pound. We know from the Crier that the PC actually covers much more ground than that during the year, but they just stuck with the immediate agenda for this meeting (thanks).

Then the County and District: David Brown is busy with lots of Cabinets and Committees, with a particular brief for Children and Young Persons, and involved in the restructuring of Childrens' Social Care (now 'much less adversarial'). The list of CC topics that might interest us included investing in Broadband, Ely level crossing and proposed new southern bypass bridge, school places, footpath improvements, generally antisocial driving around BVC, and residents' issues (including some of the above). Council tax has risen by 2.95%. Geoffrey popped up to ask about the future of the Bulbeck and Burwell Fire Stations (which some reports have suggested may be merged into just one); the only news was that recruiting is under way for more volunteers from Bulbeck – perhaps with bicycles that will get them reliably to Burwell...

For the District, Allen produced lots of statistics, including the fact that the Council Tax increase would cost a Band (? can't remember) resident 7.6p per week, very good for a small council with a small budget. Ely featured largely in the report (tourism up, market full, level crossing changes etc.) but there was also good local news of much reduced fly-tipping and unauthorised Travellers' encampments in our parish, thanks primarily to our local Enforcement Officer, Mark McAfee (hope I have spelled that right) who was praised by all, sundry and Geoffrey for his excellent work. And Allen does his share, knocking on the doors of any newly-parked vans and enquiring politely how long they planned to enjoy our hospitality. However, his most important topic was housing (lack of): there are 1,446 people on the local housing register, and 260 new (affordable) houses should be being built each year - but they aren't. There was discussion about what constitutes 'affordable', and the merits of the old council-house-style rental.

All of which led seamlessly on to an interesting presentation by Adrian Dickens, one of the co-owners of the 'Dencora' field (between Rogers Road and Fairview Grove). They bought it following the rejection of the extensive plans put forward some years ago by Dencora, and to prevent it falling into the hands of a company who wanted to sell off individual plots without planning permission as an 'investment'. They are considering a small development (which I assume would be opposite the existing houses in Rogers Road, but don't know for sure) of some com-

mercial and some ‘affordable’ houses, the latter specifically for the benefit of people with local families and connections.

But it transpires that an ‘affordable’ house can be offered by a Housing Association to applicants from all over the country, with no points for local connections. However there is an alternative, in the form of a Community Land Trust which would own the houses and make (and publish) their own rules about qualification to rent them. This ticks two boxes, the local interest and the fact that the houses can’t be bought or sold and will remain available. Adrian and Allen are both very enthusiastic about the idea, and hope that a local Trust can be established (it would be the first in the district). So all they have to do is recruit a small number of interested people prepared to commit a bit of time and energy to the cause; A meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. for anyone interested. Roll up.

Then (in rapid sequence) reports from the School, Village Hall, Parochial Charities, and Burwell Tigers, and the regular stars of the show (Cubs and Scouts). We learned that the school is full and flourishing, and has got off relatively lightly by only having to build a middle-sized fence round most of it, and not have armed guards on the gate (pupil protection as determined by current correctthink) and thanks to the PC and Village Hall for subs towards the cost. The Village Hall has made more money from fewer bookings (nice one) but is worried by an inexplicable drop in the number of wedding receptions – the CLT might provide a fix for that in the long-term. The Burwell Tigers now have over 250 players, 7 categories of team of which four reached cup finals and one won their league. They are continuing improvements to the ground, and offering its use to other local organisations. I don’t have any notes about the Parochial Charities (may have nodded off), but am sure they are continuing with various good works and causes around the village.

Tim Doe and Amanda Parton managed (this time without help from any of the troupe) to give an impressive account of the Swaffham Prior Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, which go from strength to strength (over 50 members and a dozen or more leaders and helpers). They paraded on Remembrance Day, were visited by a troupe from Germany, won the local Incident Hike (Google it) and held a traditional Gang Show. They have transformed the area of scrub donated to them by the Hurrell Estate into a wonderful field for scouting activities, and built shelters and a toilet block (both since vandalised – and I heard from Tim this evening that it has happened again, the light evenings bringing the local Neanderthals out of their caves). The troupe is always on the lookout for more helpers, and deserve all the support they can get.

Almost as an aside, Tim mentioned that they are still looking for a permanent indoor base; the school hall is OK but fairly costly, and they can’t store things there. It is clear that the Youth Club hut on the Town Close could fill the bill, but for some reason the two organisations have never quite got it together, and there is a reluctance to tread on toes. I am sure that I reported exactly the same state of affairs some two or three Village AGMs ago – come on folks, get a room...

Then a final roundup, dominated (I’m sorry to report) by me, with views on

street lighting (why have they put the old yellow sodium bulb back into the new lamppost outside my bedroom window when new ones are supposed to give white light?), why I think the recycling facility in Newmarket is better than ever (fewer queues, lots of help and advice, and I don't mind paying a few quid to get rid of things), and Broadband (as a committee member of RASP). The most important thing about the latter is for everyone to register with [www.connectingcambridge.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridge.co.uk) to make sure our area gets recognised as having a demand for better connectivity. Funds will be available (eventually – two years away) to improve the poor local infrastructure; they will probably never come to RASP, which is a pity because we could offer you all full-spec superfast service in a matter of months given just a tiny fraction of the cash that will go elsewhere.. Heigh Ho.

Back on the ground, the closing plea came from Betty Prime, who reminded us that some years ago the WI planted hundreds of daffodils around the village, which are now getting a bit thin (not to mention the several raids by passing motorists over the years who have been seen to stop and gather armloads of them). She suggests that a younger (and possibly more flexible) generation might consider some remedial action to fill in the gaps. Now there's a project which shouldn't take two years and a huge budget...

*John Chalmers*



*Hard bargaining at the Midsummer Tea-Party*

# **Tribute at the Funeral of John Tobias Norris**

**23 June 2012**

John was the eldest of us three brothers, Tom is the middle one and I, Toby, the youngest, 10 years younger than John. By the time I came to recognise him properly we had moved from Chorlton-cum-Hardy to Brooklands, Sale, Cheshire.

John was at the William Hulme's Grammar school. Friends were Laurie Scot, Mike Mather who became a banker and Dickie Bowett who became an international lawyer and later President of Queens' in Cambridge.

John played lacrosse which you could do in the north in those days. He was in the OTC and blew cornets as well as the French horn. He began a lifetime interest in odd mechanisms and making things work. I can still smell the solder flux in the room where he assembled valves and circuits. He found a much battered cello at school, brought it home and stuck the bits together. It made a convincing sound. He came home once to announce imminent delivery of a harmonium - - also needing attention. Mother sold it later on advertising that it was by Smith of Boston - to give it some cachet - it sold promptly.

John had Meccano ( of course) which I inherited and a Hornby O-gauge set whose pride was the Caerphilly Castle.

I do not remember John on family holidays. His school had arranged for summer camps in Worcestershire on farms. These wholly captivated him. He made lasting friends with Jim Froggatt, 3 years older than John, son of the farm where he worked. Alas Jim is no longer a good traveller and was unable to be here today - at least not in body.

Father was keen for John to become a professional engineer. John started at Manchester University. He soon went on technical adventure to make a small chemical explosion for Rag Week. Initial trials were too puny. But a larger mixture gave so much effect that his hands were badly burned. Fortunately the infirmary was not far off. I believe he was taken lashed to a hand cart. He came home with each hand enclosed in large bag containing I suppose nitrogen. He was rather accident prone.

Daddy was the Chief Transformer Designer at the Ferranti works in Failsworth Oldham and took John to see the factory. Perhaps it was the grime of war years, perhaps the enclosed space and the smell of resins and compounds. Perhaps it was the office. But John felt it was not for him.

This was at the end of his first year at Uni.. Daddy never asked how he fared in the exams.

At the suggestion of our uncle, Denys Bullard, John went to Mr Gifford near Huntingdon. He started with five pounds in his pocket and a bike. The experience suited him though the living was primitive - he was soon helping Mr Gifford with cheque writing and accounts.

Then Denys asked John to join him at Elm. John had earned his colours. Denys had aspirations to enter parliament - which he did, first for Norfolk South West.

The two men were complementary. Denys knew all about soils, crops, rotations, animals, pests, fertilizers - he had a degree in agriculture from Cambridge. But seemed to feel insecure when faced with a machine - unless it was horse drawn. Machines were John's forte. Wont work - says Denys: yes it will says John - and of course, perhaps after an adjustment, it does.

Later it was not only Denys who benefited from John's skill in front of broken down gear. The grandsonly cry of "Poppa mend it" was frequent and never ignored. And not only grandsons. John was a fixer.

At Wisbech John joined the YFU - and later the Masons. ( Father had joined later in life and was fro a while Provincial Organist in Cambridge: His father too was a mason.) John was a founder member of the Wisbech Rugby Club. He met the wholly charming Marion. For me John was the cynosure of youth and Marion a beautiful and lively a girl. - her smile and words uplifting, you felt better with yourself when you had met her.

The courting had ups and downs, relatives interfering mostly. But in November 1950 at the Rugby Club Annual Dance they announced their engagement. "Just before midnight paper hats, balloons and blowers were thrown down among the dancers from the balcony." ( Wisbech Advertiser) It was quite a night. Wild in modern parlance. Fancy getting married at 23.

Their marriage itself was at Wisbech St Peters, grandpa Norris' church . Denys had bought Twyfordbury next door to Elm House. It was smartened up for the new couple and still does good service even today.

Richard and Kate arrived & the farm flourished.

Around this time I spent two or three summers at Elm - mowing lawns, collecting eggs, painting doors and tumbrels and for much of the time standing on the platform of a miraculous tractor drawn yellow contraption labeled Minneapolis-Moline - an early combine harvester. My job was to fill railway sacks from the hopper as John drove along. Then I let them down a shoot onto the field for later collection. I could just about shuffle them across the platform but, unlike John, could not carry one - I collapsed..

1959 was a threshold autumn. I went across the Atlantic to MIT at Cambridge, Massachusetts. At that time our middle brother Tom was touring Africa and the Americaa advising on dam building and national electricity supply. The elder Norris family moved to Swaffham Prior.

John and Marion engaged all round. Marion cared for the church and for some of the people, I doubt if there is a smooth surface in this church that Marion has not at sometime or other scraped, cleaned or polished. John became church warden and a trustee of the Swaffham Charities. He was active in the rebuilding of the tower of this church and in the putting up of the steel spire, shaft or flèche on top. It still makes a boom as it heats in hot weather: I suppose someone will write a poem about that.

" And does the spire of Swaffham Prior boom still

As in the summers long ago .. " Or something of that sort.

He became a magistrate ( Daddy supposed that now he had letters after his name he felt he was on a par with father and brothers), He was later genuinely surprised to be asked and elected to be Chairman of the Cambridge Bench.



A boast ( I think it was a boast) was that he had never read a novel. But he had a way with words and could be relied on for an interesting comment or an impromptu speech. His views sometimes cut across the initial views of his fellow magistrates but were carefully considered and based on his experience of a wide variety of people. He was a firm advocate of probation rather than prison wherever possible

"John Norris Remembers", his contribution, to the Swaffham Crier over recent years is a well written almost verbal history document. I hope the collection is published.

Kate married Charles and they presented John and Marion with two fine grandsons. They have a love of the outdoor life and a love and ability to care for animals. They are also charming companions. Kate and Charles's house is always welcoming.

The loss of Richard in a car crash on an icy night was the greatest sadness for John and Marion and Kate and us all.. Both John and Marion were brave as from time to time the sadness welled up.. For those not familiar with the church I should mention that the glass doors at the entrance were set up in memory of three young men of the parish including Richard who died in road accidents about that same time.

John retired more than 20 years ago. Magistrate and Inland Commissioner activities went on for about ten years. His clock repairing and construction, the building of steam engines and models, tending the garden, the pond and the swimming pool continued unabated. He and Marion could not resist the temptation to collect interesting objects.

When Marion became ill John was exemplary in caring for her. She, he said, has cared for my domestic wants for 50 years and he would cherish her when she was poorly. He tackled the domestic. It seems less than four years since she died. But over that five years he spoke to her every night.

Those of his family like me who lived some distance away were very glad that neighbours came to visit him some bringing food, asked him out and generally gave him attention. I know that this was a great encouragement to him.

He served his fellows in many ways: and was determined to keep at it so to speak. In all but the very last few days and despite weak legs but with strong arms he was able to get upstairs by hauling himself up on rails and ropes and handles that he had cunningly installed over the last years.

After he retired his piano playing probably expanded. Like our father he liked popular tunes. He developed his gift. Some gifted pianists can make a good sound by ear but are thrown by a score. John was lost without a score - though he usually embellished it with an arpeggio or two. He played tunes and songs that people liked. He beguiled the ladies (mostly ladies) at Cornwallis Court in Bury. At Anglesey Abbey where he became a room steward he played the piano which is in one of the rooms. This resulted in joyful people humming the tunes as they went on their way to the next part of the visit.

And I suppose that we too having heard the music that John provided -- if I may put his life that way -- should, on our way to the next part of our visit, carry some of his tunes, so to speak, with us.

***WTN June 2012***

## **News from the Bottisham Patient Participation Group**

The Bottisham Patient Group's Committee met in May under its new chair, Sylvia Thomson. The committee members for 2012-13 are: Bruce Cleghorn, James Fitch, Steve Gilson, Emma Jerman (Vice Chair), Jenny Langdon (Secretary), Roger Liles, Graeme McCubbin, Diana Raikes, Vic Stannett, Carole Stevens, Arthur Tomlinson and Christopher Welton.

We discussed activities over the next few months. Our first date was the Swaffham Bulbeck village market on 23 June. We hope many of you were able to attend and looked in on our stall at Downing Court (our thanks to the Manager Carole Stevens). One idea we agreed to explore was the formation of a PPG health walking group. With 61% of adults in this country over-weight or obese, all too many of us need to do more to tackle the flab. So why not get out your walking shoes or boots. We intend to start modestly; perhaps 2 or 3 miles beside Bottisham Lode and the Cam. If you are interested, please e-mail [brusals2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brusals2001@yahoo.co.uk) or ring 01223-813321.

### **The Practice's telephone system**

For those of you who have had difficulty in getting through quickly to the Practice, don't think your concerns have gone unnoticed. The Practice intends to modernize its telephone system very shortly. This should ensure that calls are handled promptly and that when you ring you don't just get an engaged tone.

### **The NHS reforms: local impact**

Out in the wider world, the process of setting up the new GP-led commissioning system, i.e. the arrangements for buying the services (blood tests, X-rays and CT scans, hospital services etc.) on which we all depend, goes on apace. The Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and underneath it Local Commissioning Groups (LCGs), are all working in 'shadow' format, setting up systems and agreeing policies, before they take over for real next year from the PCT, NHS Cambridgeshire, which will disappear. In fact there will be a lot of continuity, both in people and policies. The PCT Chair and its Chief Operating Officer will both move across to the CCG. And the latter will also inherit the PCT's main planning documents. Public Health Services (e.g. the monitoring and control of infectious diseases, anti-obesity policies) are also moving - from NHS Cambridgeshire to the County Council. The key to all of this will be careful transition planning and close collaboration between all those concerned. The need to keep up the pressure for services to be kept to the mark in a time of change and budget cuts is illustrated by the failure of Addenbrooke's in recent months to meet the target for handling Accident and Emergency (A & E) patients. Only just over 90% were dealt with in less than 4 hours, rather than the target of 95%. We can help relieve the pressure (and reduce costs for our Bottisham Practice's budget) by going to the Practice for the treatment of minor problems, rather than rushing off to the A & E Department.

*Bottisham PPG Committee*

# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday, 28th September 2012

at

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court,  
Lower End, Swaffham Prior



This will be the 20th year that we have held the coffee morning in Swaffham Prior!

Our High Sheriff, Penny Walkinshaw, will be here in her official capacity and we hope that many of you will be able to come.

There will be the usual cake stall as well as a raffle so start planning your cakes now and we look forward to seeing you on Friday, 28th September any time between 10:30 am and 12:00 noon!

*Ruth Scovil*  
01638 743720

## ADVANCE WARNING!

Friends of Swaffham Prior School would like to invite you to their annual Summer Fair and Café on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 12.30 pm in the School grounds. There will be all the usual fun events and favourite attractions!

We look forward to welcoming past, present and future pupils and their families and extend an especially warm welcome to other members of our community.

*Andy Dawbarn*



# Cambridge Open Studios

## Mini-Guide

Below are your most local artist open studios. You will find the information concerning the days and times the artist will be exhibiting as well as their location, the genre of their work and their contact information as some studios are only available to visit by appointment only.

The codes indicating which weeks the artist's will be exhibiting are as follows...

7th and 8th July (1)  
14th and 15th July (2)  
21st and 22nd July (3)  
28th and 29th July (4)

149 Matthew Blakely

Potter

9 Abbey Lane, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9EP

01223 811959

smashingpots@uk2.net

www.matthewblakely.co.uk

Fresh, translucent, porcelain pots with aqueous glazes and earthy, wood-fired stoneware and porcelain. Please park on Lode High Street.

Weeks: (2) and (3) Yes, this artist has disabled access.

150 Emma Mitchell

Jeweller

Greenview Cottage, 31 Fair Green, Reach, CB25 0JD

01638 741063

emma@minniedog.co.uk

www.emmamitchelldesigns.co.uk

Nature-inspired designs in hand-worked silver, enamel and gemstones. Blossom, hares, birds and structural plant forms. Beach-hut-style studio.

Weeks: (2) and (4) No disabled access.

151 Susie Turner

Artist-printmaker

Printroom, The Old Station, Station Road, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AJ

01223 750280

susie@susieturner.com

www.susieturner.com

Nature-inspired traditional and contemporary fine-art printmaking in a picturesque and unique location, with easy parking and riverside walks nearby.

Weeks: (1) (2) and (3) Yes, this artist has disabled access.

Working Studio

152 Kari Karolia

Jewellery

Eyore's Tail, 99 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge, CB25 0LX

kari.karolia@gmail.com

www.karidesign.co.uk

Unique beaded jewellery, influenced by vintage work,

nature, architecture and other cultures. Studio in picturesque surroundings, opposite the Church.

Weeks: (3) and (4) Yes, this artist has disabled access.

Working Studio

153 Outside Edge

Painters

St Cyriac's Church, High Street, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0LD

Joss Goodchild, Cathy Parker, Dafila Scott, Julia Suddaby, Vee Wallace and Hannah Webb. Six painters create abstract, narrative and landscape works.

Weeks: (1) and (2) Yes, this artist has disabled access.

154 Paul Abbott

Oil painter

The Mill House, 11 Mill Hill, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0JZ

01638 741537

paul@vividcity.com

www.vividcity.com

Bright, happy paintings from a vivid palette. Beaches, huts and rural views reflecting the local and east coast landscape.

Weeks: (1) (2) and (3) No disabled access.

Working Studio

155 Tina Jost

Fine pen & ink

The White House, 32 Lower End, Swaffham Prior, Cambridge, CB25 0HT

01638 741750

Tina.Jost@Swaffham-Prior.co.uk

Working studio filled with fine 'pen & ink' drawings and illustrations of flora and fauna, houses and other works of art...

Weeks: (2) and (3) No disabled access.

Working Studio

# BURWELL FITNESS

*Presents*

## Tots Ballet



**9.00-9.45am ages 3-5 Yrs**

## JUNIOR DANCE FIT



**10.00-10.45am ages 6-10 Yrs**

## TEEN DANCE FIT



**11.00-11.45am age 11-15 Yrs**

**All classes held at Swaffham Prior village hall**  
**All classes are run as 6 week block sessions which start on**  
**Saturday the 15th of September**  
**FREE taster session on 1st September**

**For all bookings & enquiries contact Kelly Reed Banks**  
**kellyreedfitness@hotmail.co.uk 07731 424879**

[WWW.KELLYREEDFITNESS.COM](http://WWW.KELLYREEDFITNESS.COM)

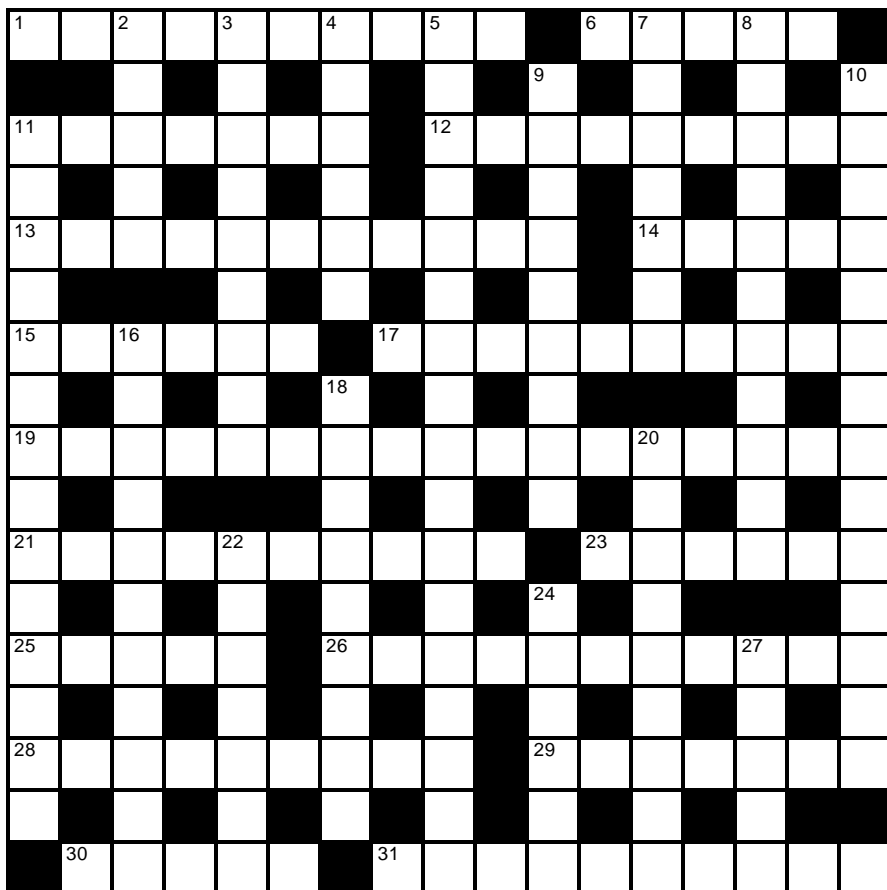
# Crossword Number 91

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

**OUNCE**

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



Name:.....

Address:.....

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



## Across

- 1 Having knowledge of unusual casing once (10)
- 6 Right about waist size (5)
- 11 Salty lake poorly desalinated while extracting lint (4,3)
- 12 Aircraft person, we hear, lives on prairie (9)
- 13 Acne cured with atheist knock-out drug (11)
- 14 Battle scene discovered in Blossom Meadow (5)
- 15 Lots and lots of crooked lodes containing nothing (6)
- 17 Real Celtic storm? Or type of storm? (10)
- 19 Scampering kits and pups beholding computer and printer set-up (7,10)
- 21 American contrail twisted but inaudible (10)
- 23 Advance company I ring with first of news (4-2)
- 25 Intestine begins interminable looping, ending unusual muddle
- 26 Abominations as Bishop North organises horse race (11)
- 28 French and Lawrence embrace quiet revolutionary - that's just good manners (9)
- 29 Awful! Magnanimous gnus leave pungent gas (7)
- 30 Corset remains (5)
- 31 Aim achieved when worker unravels a mitten (10)

## Down

- 2 Fruit from Antigua, Valerie delivered (5)
- 3 Demanding little sister found hiding under canvas? (9)
- 4 Take core from sad apothecary? Can't be bothered (6)
- 5 Execution of penalty for Paris, for

example (7,10)

- 7 Air conditioner, Norse one, I fancy (7)
- 8 Caine met him breaking Tardis (4,7)
- 9 Get viral infection when old French cat carbon-copies convertible (5,4)
- 10 Spurious legalities in book for educated elite (14)
- 11 One buddleia Jim hybridised for special anniversary (7,7)
- 16 Did he thirst badly for gossip? (4,3,4)
- 18 Top fiasco proved by itself (4,5)
- 20 Representative set smoke adrift in Spain after I left (9)
- 22 Arsenal uncovered as we alarm our yawning allies (7)
- 24 Sobs escape shaken ambassador seeing defeated fleet (6)
- 27 Ocean craft? (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 90

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

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors

## Stolen Property seized in Ely

BURGLARY victims have the chance to claim their property at an open day to be held in Ely.

Police are holding three viewing days on Monday (July 2), Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

Officers seized a number of items including jewellery, watches, figurines and power tools from a vehicle in the Wentworth area of the city earlier this month.

It is believed the property may have been stolen in burglaries around the area over the past few months.

Community Safety Officer Sue Loaker said: "We are keen to trace the owners of the property and would urge anyone who has had property stolen to contact police and arrange to come along to the viewing days next week."

There will be viewings between 9am and 5pm on the three days. To arrange an appointment call Ely Police Station on 101.

---

## School News

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee as a school. There was a tree planting ceremony during which the oldest and youngest children in school planted our 'Royal' oak. The oak sapling is part of the Jubilee Wood which has been organised by the Woodland Trust. The children also prepared some pieces for a time capsule, including poetry and thoughts about the Queen, which has been buried next to the tree. Each child was presented with a medallion celebrating the Jubilee and the day culminated in a FoSPS cafe.

Recently, three Year 5 and 6 children took part in a History quiz at Bottisham Village College and came third which is a great achievement. They are at present deciding what to spend the prize money on that will inspire future Historians in school.

We held a Music Concert last half term and the children performing did so with enthusiasm and confidence. There was a wide range of instruments represented, including violins, the piano, a drum, an oboe, a flute, cellos and a saxophone. We have some very talented musicians!

Our theme of the Olympics and Paralympics is progressing well and the children are about to start work on a banner. We are grateful to Diana Ridsell-Smith and her group for the advice they have given to us on how we can do this.

**Torch Event reminder:** We are excited as a school that the Olympic torch will be travelling through Cambridge and past the school on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Four local schools have got together to organise their own torch event on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012.



'The Queen is dancing  
It's her Diamond Jubilee  
The Queen is happy'  
*Mercury Class wrote this  
haiku poem about the  
Queen. A copy has been  
put in the 'time-capsule'*

Two children will be leaving Bottisham Primary School at approx. 9.30 am to run with an adult (and a torch of course!) to Swaffham Bulbeck CofE Primary School. Here they will be met by the children waving flags and cheering them on. They will be presented with medals and the torch will be handed over to the runners from Swaffham Bulbeck. These runners will then carry the torch to Swaffham Prior CofE School where they will be greeted by cheering children ready for their presentation. The torch will be passed on to be carried to Burwell. On the outskirts of the village, children from Burwell School will meet them so that they can then carry the torch back to their school. They will also be met by enthusiastic children encouraging them on ready for their special presentation event.



We are continuing to advertise this event in the hope that local folk might watch out for the children along the route and cheer them on – flag waving to also be encouraged!

Below is a reminder of the approximate timings – please watch out for us!

Bottisham Primary School 9.30

Swaffham Bulbeck CofE Primary School between 9.50 and 10.10

Swaffham Prior CofE Primary School between 10.30 and 10.50

Outskirts of Burwell village 11.20 – 11.40

Burwell VC Primary School 12.00 – 12.20

**Important date:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, School Fair

***Hannah Curtis***  
Head teacher



**Enjoying the  
Jubilee  
Celebrations**

## Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

In May, Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club saw the last event of our year which was the annual dinner and presentation of Cups and Trophies. The evening was very successful with over thirty-six members and their guests attending.

The Club will commence its fortieth season on **Tuesday 4 September 2012**. November 2013 will be the anniversary of the first meeting of the club, originally held at Burwell Village College. Some of the founding members are still very active in the club and last year our membership rose to over fifty. During the summer next year the club is planning to hold a special print exhibition to celebrate. This will be held in Burwell, location and date to be announced early next year.

For those of you who have had an SLR (Single reflex camera) camera for a relatively short time and are now beginning to enjoy photography, you may now like to develop your knowledge further and meet like-minded people. The club invites you to consider joining our club, or come as a guest to see if it will suit your needs. The club meets at Lode Chapel **CB25 9EW** on Tuesday evenings, from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. The club has a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, during the evening there is a tea/coffee break when members are able to exchange knowledge and experiences. There is a very wide range of experience represented at the club and during the season invited guest speakers give presentations. In addition there are member's practical evenings and internal competitions, leading on to area and national events.

On the first evening, members are invited to bring a selection of their photographs taken during the summer. Images from new members would also be welcome either as prints or digital images on a USB stick (ideally sized as 1024 X 768). Members who were competition winners last season are also invited to display some of their images.

Lastly if there are any previous members of the club that are still living locally perhaps they would like to contact the Secretary Daphne Hanson, details below, so that the club can consider how you might be included in next year's celebrations.

Guest speakers for the next few weeks:

### **11 September 2012**

**'Perfect Photo Suite 6'** Presentation by: onOne Software, featuring products that can be used as plug-ins or as standalone applications.

### **18 September 2012**

**'The Best of Barbie'** Presentation of her excellent prints by Mrs Barbie Lindsay MPAGB EFIAP

### **21 September 2012**

**'The Art of Print Presentation'** Demonstration of print **mounting** methods for competitions and print finishing. Bring your prints for mounting on the evening.

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 are: 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, T: 01638 741106 or email: [hanson943@btinternet.com](mailto:hanson943@btinternet.com).

Web site: [www.bottburpc.org](http://www.bottburpc.org) Members gallery and further details of the club and next year's programme can be viewed.

## WI Notes

In June we had our annual garden party and despite our worst fears the evening was warm and sunny. Our President hosted the event in her beautiful garden suitably bedecked with flags, bunting and red, white and blue cloths for our jubilee theme. All the members brought delicious food and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by members and guests. A lively debate (and a suspicion of cheating) took place over the answers to the quiz but no red cards had to be issued!

Our next meeting is on July 16<sup>th</sup> when the speaker will be Christine Brown - Her talk 'From Nits to Knitting' I am sure will be entertaining as she charts her career change from School Nurse to Owner of the lovely wool shop in Ely.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September we are having a coach outing to the V&A. Any non-members who would be interested in joining us should ring Margaret Joyce on 744390 to check availability of seats.

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

**Pat Cook -**  
**01638 742224**



## Mothers' Union

At our last meeting Katy Coutts talked to us about The Cogwheel Trust which is an independent counselling charity. They are based in Cambridge and have been helping people in and around this area since 1988.

The Trust provides counselling for a wide range of difficulties and help for people to come to terms with events or changes which have made their lives unhappy. They offer help to individuals, both men and women. couples and families - to anyone, in fact, who would like to discuss their problems, regardless of faith.

Katy said that at Cogwheel they are predominantly there to listen.

Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel at 2.30p.m. and all are welcome. In July Ian Taylor will be talking to us about Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child.

**Anne Phoenix**

## **BON MOT NUMBER TWENTY FOUR**

**"He who sups with the devil should have a long spoon."**

*Anonymous*

# **LODE RUNNERS HALF MARATHON & 3 MILE FUN RUN SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

**Starts at 10 a.m. from Lode Social Club, Lode,  
Cambridgeshire.**

Entry by Post (on the day entries subject to numbers)

Numbers limited to 200

Flat, fast course

Entry Prices are:

£20 Unaffiliated entry fee, £18 Affiliated entry fee

“On-the-Day” entries (+£2) subject to numbers

Fun Run £5 entry fee (£2.50 for under 16’s)

Entry Forms – can be downloaded from our website

[www.loderunners.co.uk](http://www.loderunners.co.uk) (under events)

ARC Race Permit No: ARC12/246

*Raising money for East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (Registered Charity No. 1069284)  
and Lode Social Club*

For further information contact Tessa Shrubbs – telephone 01223  
811812 or email [lodefarm@aol.com](mailto:lodefarm@aol.com)



---

## **Elderly People Targeted in District Burglaries**

POLICE are appealing for information after three distraction burglaries over two days in South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire. In the latest incident three men tried to distract an elderly woman at her home in Littleport. The men, claiming to be from the ‘gas board’, called at her home in Upton Place, at 7.50pm last night (Wednesday). They asked to turn the gas off as there was a problem in the area, one of the men went through to the kitchen while the other two stood outside. Nothing was stolen. The men left in the direction of Parsons Road when neighbours chased the men off. The first man is described as white, about six foot and slim. He had black hair and was wearing a blue shirt. The second man was white, about 5’6”, with brown hair and was wearing a brown suit. The third man is described as white and smartly dressed.

A further two incidents happened in South Cambridgeshire. The first in Butts Green, Whittlesford, at 10am on Tuesday (June 19). A man knocked at the home of an elderly couple asking for a pen and paper. While they searched for a piece of paper the man left, the couple later noticed two handbags were missing and money



had been stolen. The man is described as white, between 16 and 20, 5'11" and was wearing blue bottoms with a white stripe, a white tracksuit top and white trainers.

The second incident happened shortly after 10am in Fincham's Close, Linton, on Tuesday. An elderly man opened the door to a man claiming there had been an explosion and water needed to be flushed in his pipes. The victim let him into his house but was suspicious, when he threatened to call the police the man left and nothing was stolen. Detective Inspector Ian Simmons, who is investigating, said: "All of these offences are targeting vulnerable people and are despicable crimes.

"I would urge the community to look out for their elderly neighbours, be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour." Anyone with information should contact DI Simmons on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

### **Garage burglary**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a garage burglary in Wicken.

The incident happened on Sunday (June 17) at around 10.55pm at a property in the High Street, when thieves broke into the garage and stole a Specialized mountain bike.

PC Kelly Purkiss said: "I would like to hear from anyone who has any information about this burglary."

Anyone with information should contact PC Purkiss on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## **NHS 2012**

I had to go in hospital  
For a fairly minor, 'Op'.  
But, I had to be fit enough –  
I had to be quite 'Tip-Top'.

If there was the least thing wrong  
with me,  
I'd never have been admitted.  
The staff there is quite adamant;  
And is totally committed.

They said they have their own  
wee bug –  
Or was it called 'a virus?'  
It sounds like something I didn't  
want  
and not at all desirous.

They said that if I wasn't fit  
There's no hope that I'd survive  
it,  
But I'm as resolute as they,  
So somehow I contrived  
it.

They treat all patients just the  
same  
So I was not alone.  
They have an entrance test for  
bugs-  
We weren't allowed to take our  
own.

So there then, I got well prepared,  
By popping pills like Smarties;  
They helped me survive the bugs  
and op,  
And return to the 'Welcome  
Home' parties.

***Ophir***

June has felt a relatively quiet month at the County Council with the long bank holiday weekend for the Jubilee and also managing to take a week's holiday. Having said that there have still been a number of meetings and other activities to keep me occupied.

I have been helping Burwell Day Centre (and Burwell Parish Council) to try to speed up negotiations to renew the lease for the Day Centre. Hopefully that will reach a conclusion at the July meeting of Cabinet.

Cabinet met on 12 June with a number of items for decision. We took the decision to seek a new design and build framework contract for the Council's capital programme. In a departure from traditional design and build framework contracts we decided to reserve 15% of capital projects to be tendered outside the framework. This should give more companies opportunities and will also give us evidence that we are achieving value for money across the programme. Cabinet also agreed consultation responses to the ECDC paper regarding developer contributions and to proposals to develop North West Cambridge (including Section 106 contributions). Cabinet also agreed an exemption from current tendering rules for 3 services for homeless single people in Cambridge City.

East Cambs Strategic Partnership met in June. Following the demise of the LPSA funding the partnership took the decision to cease meeting. It was agreed that any of the partners could request a partnership meeting if they felt the subject could not be adequately addressed elsewhere.

I chaired a meeting of the re-shaped Children's Trust Board, held at Police Headquarters, Hinchingsbrooke. This meeting agreed to set a priority for the coming year of bringing together relevant partners to work with some of those families requiring most help from public sector agencies.

We are seeking to re-invigorate the role and work of Councillors as corporate parents across the County and a number of meetings have been held with officers to draw up a paper to present to Cabinet.

And finally, I had 2 meetings in June to start the planning process for next year's business plan and budget.

**David Brown**

## Jolly Jingle Number Seven

The Duke of Rutland urged *The Times* to pray  
For rain. The rain came down the following day.  
The pious marvelled, sceptics murmured "Fluke".  
The farmers late with hay said "Damn that Duke."

*Anonymous*

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC  
GARDENS

## Meadows and hedges: go wild!



At the Botanic Garden we have a strong collection of British wild flowers, focused on the different ecological communities of Cambridgeshire. The Fen Display demonstrates the transition in the vegetation from deep open water with waterlilies through reedbed and wet margins to woodland (fen carr). Opposite, the Limestone Mound, yellow and blue with rock roses and meadow cranesbill, demonstrates some of the huge array of British wild plants that can be found on chalk and limestone (calcareous) soils, conditions which

predominate particularly in our Eastern region. Closeby, is the Cambridgeshire Hedgerow, modelled on a boundary hedge of the ancient Hayley Wood in west Cambridgeshire. One section was laid over this last winter, a technique that consists of cutting into stems of hawthorn and other woody species, bending them down and holding them in place with hazel stakes. This encourages a mass of new shoots to grow up from the stems giving a dense impenetrable base to the hedge, which increases its effectiveness as a barrier, and its desirability as a nesting site for birds. The flora is typical of old hedgerows of the area, including guelder rose, spindle, hazel, dogwood, with dog rose and bryony scrambling through. The hedge bottom flora is a species-rich habitat and includes bedstraw, wood avens, common knapweed and woundwort, and supports a wide array of insect and bird life.

We are also experimenting this summer with different wildflower meadows. To mark the Olympics, a field of gold meadow flowers will shine up at Station Road with some additional sunflowers self-sown from last year's display. Along the new curving path through the research plots we have broadcast sown a patriotic mix of red white and blue to fly the flag in flowers for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee! The mix features red flax, shirley poppy, red orache, bishops flower, baby's breath and cosmos with cornflower, larkspur and purple tansy. The elegant curved ground in front of Cory Lodge has been sown with a mix that has been carefully balanced for colour and succession of display, so do come and enjoy our meadow floras throughout the summer. They should be looking stunning in time for our late 'til 8pm openings every Wednesday this July, with Sounds Green cushions concerts courtesy of the Cambridge Summer Music Festival, starting at 6.15pm.

The Botanic Garden is open 10am – 6pm in April - September. Adult admission is £4.50 (Giftaid admission £4.95) or join the Friends, get free admission & help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk)

# Notes from the Parish Council June Meeting

## Annual Parish Council Meeting – 10/5/12

The Clerk took the meeting for apologies and the first item. There were 9 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public in attendance.

**Election of Chairman:** Following the formalities, John Covill was elected as Chairman. This was unanimously agreed. John confirmed he was happy to continue as Chairman and took the rest of the meeting.

**Election of Vice-Chairman:** Peter Hart was elected as Vice-Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

Confirmation of Parish Council Representatives for:

*Village Hall Management Committee:* Peter Hart.

*Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities:* John Covill, Eric Day and Andrew Camps.

*Swaffham Prior Sports & Recreation Committee:* Steve Kent-Phillips.

Confirmation of RFO (Responsible Financial Officer): The Clerk – Karen King.

Confirmation of PCRf (Parish Councillor Responsible for Finance): Steve Kent-Phillips.

Andrew Camps stepped down as Parish Council representative for the Neighbourhood Panel meetings. Everyone thanked Andrew for attending the meetings. Unfortunately no-one came forward to take Andrew's place.

## May Parish Council Meeting – 10/5/12

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 8 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public in attendance.

### Public Participation:

No items raised.

### Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

### Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:

CCC – *Street Lighting Briefing*. Paul Latchford was hoping to attend this briefing to find out more detail about the CCC/Balfour Beatty proposals for maintenance and replacement of street lighting columns, etc.

ECDC – *Community Infrastructure Levy – Draft Charging Schedule*. This item was discussed with Cllrs Brown & Alderson.

ECDC – *Council Design Guide SPD (Supplementary Planning Document)*. The Clerk had requested a paper copy of this and was to circulate to Parish Councillors.

Steve Kent Phillips/Clerk reported that CCC Highways had confirmed dates for resurfacing, etc to Station Road.

### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only)

*New fencing for School:* Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that the new boundary fencing for the School had been erected.

*Parking at Fairview Grove:* Andrew Camps reported on his meeting with Natalie Osbourne of Sanctuary Hereward Housing to look at the parking issues. AC

explained the problems to Natalie. Natalie said she was unable to commit to any course of action at the present time but would reply to the Clerk in due course. There were mixed views on whether the Parish Council could do any more to resolve this problem but it was agreed to wait until a reply was received from Natalie.

*National Trust – use of cattle grids:* The National Trust had acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council's letter of concern and confirmed that responses were being collated.

**Approval of Accounts including Annual Audit Return & Governance Statement:** Steve Kent-Phillips reported on the end-of-year accounts. The Annual Return and Governance Statement were completed and agreed. The Clerk was to submit to the external auditors for their approval.

**Accounts for Payment:** These were agreed.

**Clerk's Report:**

*Precept:* Half-year payment of £7,250 received.

*Coopers Green bin:* This has now been emptied.

*Fly-tipping on Cage Hill:* This has now been resolved.

*Tree works – Lower End:* Cathy White, Trees Officer for ECEC, confirmed that tree works were to be carried out on the boundary of the Manor House, Lower End. Works would include one of the Beeches but as the tree was badly diseased it was considered necessary. Permission was not required the trees were outside the Conservation Area.

*'General Power of Competence':* New training requirement to update professional qualifications as notified by SLCC.

**Open Question Time: General discussion.**

**June Parish Council Meeting – 14/6/12**

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 8 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the Public in attendance.

**Review of Draft 'Village Vision' for Swaffham:** Katie Child, ECDC Principal Forward Planning Officer, attended the meeting to discuss the draft 'Village Vision'. Copies of this document had been circulated to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. Katie started by thanking the Parish Council for its work over the last year and confirmed that the document was very much a draft and invited comments and input from the meeting.

There followed discussion on several points in the draft; employment, housing, traffic calming, highway improvements and footpaths.

*Relating to the issue of additional footpaths for the Parish, the Clerk had received an email from a representative for a parish landowner expressing concern that consideration was being given to the creating of a footpath across his land without any prior consultation or consent. Peter Hart explained that there was some support in the village for additional footpaths but that this was at the very early stages and would certainly not go ahead without consulting with landowners and CCC.*

Katie Child noted the Parish Council's comments and was to make some changes

and forward to Clerk. *(Should anyone wish to see a copy of the draft 'Village Vision', please contact the Clerk).*

### **Public Participation:**

With reference to the draft 'Village Vision' Adrian Dickens referred to local Fire Station provision and the possibility of the closure of Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Station. Although not part of the original consideration he felt it should now be included. There followed general discussion on the purpose of the 'Village Vision' and how it should move forward.

### **Consideration of Quotation to Resurface Driveway to Village Hall Car Park:**

Following a request from the VPMC and reported at the May Parish Council meeting, the Clerk obtained a quote from Mead Construction for the levelling and resurfacing of the driveway to the Village Hall car park. This was agreed.

### **Consideration of Annual Play Area Safety Inspection Report:**

Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that there were no medium or high risks items requiring attention. One minor item was the removal of the moss on the surfacing around the pieces of play equipment. Steve confirmed that he had sprayed the surfaces and the moss had now gone.

### **Transfer of Earmarked Funds:**

This was first discussed at the May meeting. It was agreed to transfer £10,000 to the NS&I account for earmarked funds.

**Accounts for payment:** These were agreed.

### **Clerk's Reports:**

**Play Area:** The Parochial Charities wrote informing the Parish Council that the Horse Chestnut tree in the Play Area was to be felled and a new one planted in its place. This was necessary as the tree was badly diseased and considered unsafe.

**Trees at the Beeches:** Concerns were raised by a resident about some of the trees at the back of the bungalows on The Beeches – those on the boundary of the Lower End field. It was not clear who held responsibility for the trees but Mr Adrian Dickens offered to meet with his Tree Surgeon to inspect the trees and see what could be done.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

As reported at the May meeting by Peter Hart, Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that he had replaced the missing 'spikes' on the play equipment.

As requested by Eric Day at the May meeting, Geoffrey Woollard confirmed that he had sprayed the Village Hall car park with weed killer.

*At this point the meeting was informed that John Norris had sadly passed away. John was Chairman of the Parish Council for many years and everyone agreed that there should be some suitable recognition of his work and support for the Parish. To be discussed further at next meeting.*

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, 12<sup>th</sup> July 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](mailto:karen.king5@btopenworld.com)



## JAM-PACKED JULY

We've got a really exciting month ahead of us at RE:NEW and we hope you and your family will be able to join us at one or more of the events below...

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2.30pm – 4.30pm**

This is the day when the Olympic Torch will be passing through Newmarket and Cambridge, and people up and down the country are using this as an opportunity to celebrate. For this reason we're holding our **LODE CHAPEL OPEN DAY** to showcase some of the many groups that regularly use the building. The various stalls will be accompanied by cream teas and live music, concluding with a short act of thanksgiving at 4.00pm. Everything will be over in time for you to get to the route and cheer on the torchbearers.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30am-12noon**

During June we began our Gold'n'Goals series which explores some of the sporting illustrations used in the Bible. To conclude this series we're pleased to be welcoming the **Bishop of Huntingdon** to a special **CAFÉ-STYLE SPORTS QUIZ** and **KIDS CLUB MINI-OLYMPICS**. All are welcome to come along and join in the fun – there'll be the usual yummy refreshments as well as some live music from the RE:NEW music group.

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 9.00am-12.30pm**

Like most other years we'll be providing a holiday bible club during the first week of the school holidays. As the London Olympics Opening Ceremony takes place at the end of this week we didn't have to think hard about the theme this year... and so what better way for your children to gear up for and appreciate this unique event, than by coming to our **CHAMPIONS HOLIDAY CLUB**. There'll be the usual fun, games and crafts for children of primary school age (currently in years R-6) as well preparation for our own closing celebration taking place at 10.30am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

Please do contact me for more details about any of these events, or visit our website – details are below. Alternatively find us on Facebook by searching for **RE:NEW**, or on twitter **@renewchurch**.

*Simon Goddard*

### ***Services in July***

*Sun 1st Jul, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)*

*Sun 8th Jul, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)*

*Sun 8th Jul, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)*

*Sun 15th Jul, 10.30am – RE:NEW Café & Kids Club Special (School)*

*Sun 22nd Jul, 10.00am – Holiday Club Opening Ceremony (School)*

*Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)*

*Sun 29th Jul, 10.30am – Holiday Club Closing Celebration (School)*

Swaffham Prior Village Hall presents:

# Combined Autumn Show and Feast

*which will take place in*

The Village Hall on  
**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

with CREAM TEAS

All the fun of the Feast - and vegetables!

✿ Show your fruit and vegetables, cakes and preserves, eggs and flowers.

✿ Lots of categories for children.

✿ Demonstrate your cake-making expertise.

More details including the full list of categories will be available on the Village Hall website:

**<http://swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk>**

## St Mary's Services in July

### **Sunday 1 July fourth Sunday after Trinity**

11am - Holy Communion (CWIT)

### **Sunday 8 July fifth Sunday after Trinity**

11am - Matins

### **Sunday 15 July sixth Sunday after Trinity**

10.30am - Combined Family Service with RE:NEW/Benefice and the Bishop of Huntingdon

Bottisham Primary School

### **Sunday 22 July Mary Magdalene**

10am - Benefice Holy Communion Service

St Mary's, Quy

### **Sunday 29 July eighth Sunday after Trinity**

8am - Holy Communion (BCP)

6pm - Evensong

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> of each month: [jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk), or c813362, 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.



## 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.

Windbreak for beach/camping. Jun c813362.

## Dates for Your Diary July 2012

Mon	6	SP School Cake Stall, 3pm
Wed	8	PC Meeting, VH, 8pm
Sat	11	St Mary's Singers, Bulbeck St Mary's, 7.30pm
Sun	12	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Mon	13	SP School half-term starts
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Mon	20	WI Waitrose Visit, 6.30pm, Waitrose Newmarket
Tue	21	Alpha Supper Village Gardeners, VH
Wed	22	SP School Book fair (continues until 28th)
Thu	23	Friends of St Cyriac's, VH Meeting Room, 7pm
Sat	25	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	28	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Re-cycling 7am

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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