



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVI Number 3

March 2012

Editorial

And a BIG THANK-YOU to all those readers, far and near, who have donated to the Crier this month!

Readers will see that this is a not untypical 40 page issue (not counting the additional advertising pages) of a monthly magazine which similarly as many of its sister publications in the area, is distributed freely to all its readers wherever they live and does not charge its contributors. Instead, we rely almost entirely on the financial support of our loyal advertisers, to whom we are extremely grateful. I say *almost*, because there is then a necessary supplement of a much smaller but nevertheless **crucial** amount: *donations*. SO can we say thank-you very much for these, and *please*

keep them coming in!

We are very sorry to report that Steve and Karen of the Red Lion (see *Quizzing Locals* on page 7: many congratulations are in order!) will shortly be leaving us to return to their home stomping ground. We would like to say on behalf of everyone how much we have appreciated the enormous contributions they have made in restoring our pub as a happy and convivial central meeting point for our local community and wish them all the very best for the future.

Bottisham Tennis Club is about to close (see *Letters*)! They cannot find a committee! Surely, since *we* do not have a Tennis Club but on the other hand are never to be found wanting when it comes to *committees*, there is something we can do? *Our* children play their too...

After the New Year Roof Robbers Raid, the buckets are still in the church — we hope to report on their absence next month! And don't forget Mothering Sunday!

Caroline Matheson



Cover Picture: Looking Forward to Spring by Grace Zeid

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Young Persons' Guide to the Orchestra (*see page 10 for details*)

This promises to be a great concert. I'm really excited about it. The programme includes:

Britten - Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra

Ravel - Bolero

Shostakovich - 5th Symphony

There's a free ticket for under 16s to sit on cushions right in front of the orchestra with adult tickets in the front 10 rows.

Hope lots of you can come! (And see you in the pub afterwards??)

Roz Chalmers

Dear Editors,

Панели солнечных батарей

Without the profound opinions of Comrade Everitt in the *Swaffham Pravda* upon the errors of the world to guide my re-education and that of other misguided, ignorant villagers, January was a sad month.

I am relieved to see that February is greatly brightened - not by the ill-generated electricity from the solar panels on my roof, but by Comrade Everitt's revelations of the treachery of these things and of we who were foolish enough to think they might be a good thing.

How ingenious to use his Parish Council Report to pronounce upon the grasping stupidity of spending many thousands on solar panels. Comrade Everitt bravely raised this matter, although the Parish Council had not even discussed it! It should have done, and a resolution banning solar energy from the parish should have been proposed, and passed unanimously without discussion!!

Knowing that we foolish villagers would only be confused by with stupid and pointless facts and figures, kindly Comrade Everitt uses instead a sarcastic joke about how much money we thought we would make, to tell us that although we thought ecologically-produced energy was a good thing, in fact it is not so. I can confirm that even a small endowment investment I took out in the late 1980s, the worst of times, produced a better return last year after 20+ years than the solar panels I put on my roof in the same year will do in the next 25 years! He showed great restraint and should have warned you, comrades - a hedge fund, property speculation, endowment investments, the tobacco industry - all of these will very likely generate more money over 25 years than producing electricity with this insidious and worse than useless invention. It is too late for me, but I urge you, comrade villagers - remember that bonfires are good! Fossil fuels are the future! Green energy will destroy our way of life if we continue with it! Follow Comrade Everitt and save yourselves!

May my re-education continue forever!

Mark Lewinski

Donations!

Many thanks to Sylvie Short, Lorraine Calrton (Lode Chapel), Trevor Jones in Nottingham (*Trevor is our old PC Chairman.. Hello Trevor! We are so glad you are still reading . Eds*) and John & Shirley Wilkins for their very kind donations to the **Crier** this month. (See editorial)

Dear Editors,

Closure of Bottisham Tennis Club.

A decision was made last November at our AGM to wind up Bottisham Tennis Club on 31 March 2012, which is the end of our year. This decision was made on the basis that there were too few players to make the club viable and no one was prepared to take on the roles of Chairman or Secretary. It is to be hoped that tennis lovers will continue to play at the Village College courts, particularly as the hard courts have just been re-furbished with a synthetic surface, making them safer and softer to play on. Should you wish to play tennis on these new courts, please contact the Sports Centre of Bottisham Village College on 01223 811121.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Ibbitt
BTC Secretary

Easter Lilies

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

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

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



Ruth Scovill

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It was a pretty bland Agenda for the February Meeting. A member of the public pointed this out so the Parish Council promptly set about to produce an absolute humdinger of a meeting.

It all started peacefully enough. David presented his CCC report in his usual polished and convincing way until he said that CCC was turning down Eric Pickles' offer of a 2.5% grant on condition that rates were frozen. Instead CCC was proposing a council tax rise of 2.95%, which equalled an increase of £30.87 on a Band D property. He explained that this was because the Pickles offer was a one off which would leave CCC with the same base rate next year. This would lead to a severe shortfall in the following years, especially with the demographic changes, inflation, increased obligations for the elderly and social care. The Liberals only wanted a 2.91% increase. CCC put the problem to Pickles who in no uncertain terms told them to get lost.



The PC meeting was on the 9th February. On the 7th February the *Daily Telegraph* had front-paged that the CCC was defying Pickles and ignoring his statement that there was “a moral duty to sign up to keep down the cost of living.” Geoffrey, well primed by the *DT* article, objected to any increase, and asked what the Pickles grant amounted to. David was not quite sure but thought it was in the region of £3.5 million. There was disbelief. “Three and a half million pounds and you are turning it down!!” Geoffrey said that CCC had always complained about the inadequacy of the government grant and now it was turning down a substantial sum. Peter thought the Pickles money should be taken this year and just make a 2.95% rate increase next year. David tried to explain that more money was needed this year, that accepting the grant would have left the same base rate resulting in an even greater shortfall next year, and that they do have to plan forward for several years.

At this point Allen entered the discussion and said he might be able to explain and make things clear because ECDC was also increasing its tax by 2.95% which added £3.95 to a Band D house. He explained that if ECDC accepted the Pickles offer it would leave a shortage of £273,000 which is a considerable amount for a tiny council like ECDC. To balance the books next year they might have to make a 6.7% increase with the threat of being capped. He also said that in 2015 they had to renegotiate the contract with Veolia. This could cost one million more as the returns of recycled material has dropped. “How much was the Pickles money worth?” Allen did not know.

This all makes it sound as if it was a discussion with explanations being offered and understood. Not a bit of it. David and Allen were harried and jostled to such an extent that Geoffrey said “I’m not in favour of blood sports but this is just like bear baiting.”

The comments came at them from all sides. “Why don’t you save the difference between 2.5% and 2.95%?” “What is that figure?” “I’m surprised you don’t know.” “You haven’t explained it at all well.” “If you were in business you’d have to make

the saving.” “You just haven’t done your homework.”

Both David and Allen said they would bring more figures to the next meeting and meantime the full CCC Council will meet on 21 February to consider the proposals. David offered the PC the chance to consult the 600 pages of back ground documents but the offer was declined.

Two days after the meeting Andrew Gilligan had another onslaught on the CCC and ECDC in the Saturday *DT*. Gilligan, together with Greg Dyke and Gavyn Davies of the BBC had lost their jobs following the lies of Tony Blair about Iraq’s WMDs. Gilligan did report CCC’s statement that “In the last two years we have seen a 25% reduction in government funding – more than the national average.” In the circumstances one might suppose that CCC had done quite well, especially as it is the 7th lowest Council Tax County in the country. Gilligan also reported, what our PC obviously did not know, that CCC councillors had approved an increase of 25% in their own allowances for attending meetings.” What fun there would have been if only the PC had known about this.

Mind you, as Eric Pickles appears to be the flavour of the month with our PC, we must hope they will respond to his call for prayers before each meeting. This would be setting the standard and upholding a great English tradition. Maybe this could be raised at the Annual Village Assembly and all those attending could vote on the matter. I suppose either the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman would lead the prayers though it may be that one of the three fairly regular members of the public would be willing to have a go if asked.

In his new role as our Highways Warden Steve’s increased influence and responsibility has almost made him an Eric Pickles/Vince Cable all rolled into one. He had a lot to report on. He discussed with Mr Mehaffy of ECDC the vegetation being dumped on the bank in Cage Hill opposite Greenhead Road and was told that as the material was biodegradable it was not ECDC’s responsibility to move it, but that of the PC. Meantime the bald headed man suspected of the dumping has yet to be traced and there are rumours that he now wears a hat. So if you see a suspicious looking man wearing a hat it might bear fruit to ask him to take it off. Do not shirk your civil duty.

Steve has now received a very full statement from Kevin of CCC regarding the costs of changing Mill Hill 40mph to 30mph. For a full account of the amazing details please turn to Karen King’s official Parish Council Report later on in this *Crier*. You’ll enjoy it.

Steve also had a very informative visit from Paul Butcher (PB), the CCC Highways top man. Many issues were covered. Firstly, the footpath from Coopers Green to Cage Hill is not the responsibility of CCC as it is not metalled except for a short stretch near Cage Hill. Being a footpath problem it was handed to Peter Hart, our P3 man. Next they dealt with the reported problem of parking on the verge outside No 5 Fairview Grove which had again been raised by Mark Lewinski. Under Section 131 of the 1980 Highways Act, this is not illegal. If damage is caused theoretically they could fine but it would be extremely difficult to bring charges and succeed. PB also noticed that several other people also parked on the verge down

Fairview Grove. Our Clerk reported that she had discussed the matter with No 5 over the last year or so and that they now felt a little harassed. They have often asked for parking facilities by the side of their house but Hereward appear less than keen. Apart from this they would still need to drive across the grass to such the area unless a new entrance was laid. The PC wondered whether Mark Lewinski should not discuss the matter with No 5 for a better understanding of the problem.

PB had not finished yet. He was 95% sure that the piece of land at the bottom of Cage Hill is owned by Highways. Wasn't there once an interesting debate about the ownership of this land which went on for several years? Can anyone remember the details? Paul then looked at the status of Coopers Lane which leads round to the High Street. He was 95% sure this was a footpath and Karen was also pretty sure it was a bridleway. Whatever it is cars should not really be on it apart from access to houses and Highways has no responsibility for cars coming off the footpath or bridleway past no 73A.

For the first time ever the PC had a "Rescission Motion". It was a very formal procedure which, though daunting, allowed the PC to retract a previous agreement on the Lower Allotment Field and introduce a new one which allowed for further lettings in the future.

Alastair Everitt

Swaffham Prior Snowmen! Our photographer Rachel Marsh has been out and about



Quizzing locals pass on good will

Quiz night regulars at the Red Lion, Swaffham Prior took time out at their recent quiz to present a cheque for £800 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

The money, raised over the last year from monthly quizzes, was received by EAAA Representative Barbara McGee.

Barbara detailed a few of the recent improvements to the service and thanked the locals for their generosity in her short speech: "a massive thank you for what you do. Your £800 is absolutely fantastic". She reminded everyone that without government or National Lottery funding, the East Anglian Air Ambulance relies on donations to keep their two helicopters running. £4.2 million needs to be raised each year.

A big thank you also went out to Graham from Swaffham Bulbeck who has generously given up his free time to organise the Red Lion Quiz Night. Graham and Landlord Steve can be seen in the photo handing over the cheque to Barbara.

Ange Fitzpatrick & Rachel Marsh



Photo: Rachel Marsh

BON MOT NUMBER TWENTY

"Ignore rhetorical questions."

Anonymous



Simnel Cakes for Sale!

Traditionally, Simnel Cake has been enjoyed on both Mothering and Easter Sunday. This year you can serve up a delicious homemade offering with no more effort other than parting with some cash and all for the benefit of St. Mary's Church.

Orders can be placed by contacting Janet, 01638 743472, 07833 960678 or janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk. For just £10.00 (payment taken at time of order) your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Please feel free to provide your own serving plate for an extra personal touch. Cakes can be delivered to your home or collected by you in time for Mothering Sunday (18th March) or Easter Sunday (8th April).

Janet Willmott



THE VILLAGE HALL CAROL SINGING

Another carol which was sung at the sparkling Village Hall Carol Singing was *Twelve Days of Christmas*. Many have wondered about the Partridges, Turtle Doves etc and I shall now enlighten you.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. The authorities considered them naughty because they had tried to kill Queen Elisabeth, tried to kill James I, and thereafter made other revolutionary attempts to undermine the country. Someone at some point wrote this carol as a Catechism song for young Catholics. It has a hidden meaning only known to members of that church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love

Four calling birds were the four gospels

Five gold rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first books of
the Old Testament

Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts
of the holy Spirit: prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation,
contribution, leadership and mercy

Eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of
the holy spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control

Ten lords a-leaping were the ten
commandments

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven
faithful disciples

Twelve drummers drumming symbolised
the twelve points
of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



SW

Ely Sinfonia presents



A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

a concert of excitement
and musical discovery

Ely Cathedral
Saturday
3 March 2012
7.30pm

Premium tickets £20*
Other tickets £15/£5
Concessions £10 in £15 seats

* includes a free programme plus, on request at the time of the main ticket purchase, a free ticket for a child under 16 to sit on the floor in front of the orchestra (bring a cushion and a thick coat)

Tickets available from:
Ely Cathedral Box Office
Tel: 01353 660349
<https://tickets.elycathedral.org/>

Ely Sinfonia enquiries
Tel: 07798 826880 / 1353 721007
Email: publicity@elysinfonia.co.uk

By kind permission of the Dean and Chapter.

www.elysinfonia.co.uk

Britten: *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

Ravel: *Bolero*

Shostakovich: *5th Symphony*

And a new piece by Alex Cook
Cambridge Young Composer of the Year 2011

Conducted by Steve Bingham

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm ♡ Saturday

17th March

Tickets: each ♡ To book a table contact

Jenny Brand ☎ (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand ☎ (01638) 741960

Jacket Potato Supper ♡ Raffle

Bring your own drinks and glasses

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

**Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre presents Gilbert and
Sullivan's**

IOLANTHE

Wednesday 13th June – Saturday 16th June performances at 7.30pm + Saturday
Matinee at 2.30pm

Downing Farm, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck.

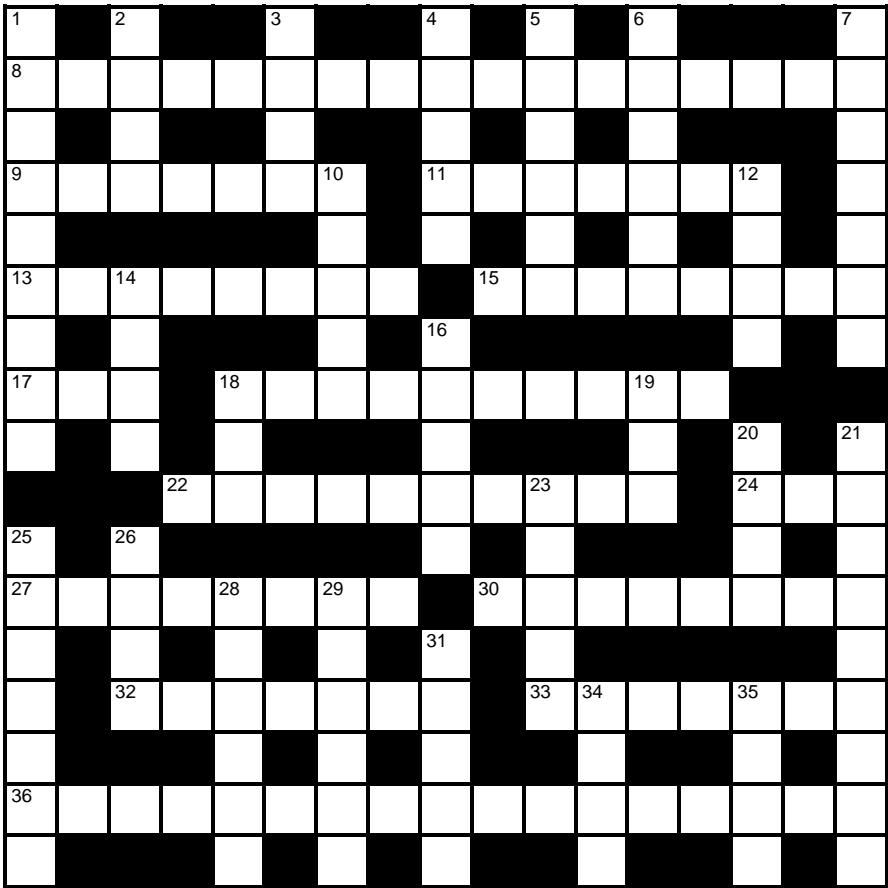
Details of ticket prices and outlets will be notified in time for later editions.

Crossword Number 87

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
OUNCE

This month's puzzle is a FUN AND GAMES crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 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

- 8 God shuns ancestors playing game (7,3,7)
- 9 Little Jonathan gains gravity after Ham returns with game (7)
- 11 Unromantic? No, not playing the game (7)
- 13 Game hidden in froufrou letter-rack (8)
- 15 Loony Pom plays on board (8)
- 17 Label game? (3)
- 18 Titular Ace runs wild at this game (10)
- 22 Old money changed to new in lexicon game (10)
- 24 Game for one Italian? (3)
- 27 Lose cars playing game (8)
- 30 Twelfth Night game on a monument (8)
- 32 Roget gets gold playing game (7)
- 33 Not a game for couples? (3,4)
- 36 Let's play with eggnog by herbarium (6,2,9)
- 14 Press to remove book from pressing (4)
- 16 Exclusive report on spa losing a company with nothing inside (5)
- 18 Baba discovered in illegality? (3)
- 19 Attempt to score in game (3)
- 20 Spoil Russian deprived of ass (4)
- 21 Misshapen to order as bullfighters (9)
- 23 Mao and little Albert combine in Texas fort (5)
- 25 Cop able to concoct harmless medication (7)
- 26 Nymph we hear again? (4)
- 28 Felon not in with the French wife (6)
- 29 Painful contractions when Monsieur and Signor follow Bath and Harrogate for instance (6)
- 31 Fishing net for river? (5)
- 34 I play construction game? (4)
- 35 Iota from unfamiliar moat (4)

Down

- 1 Count wild emu born at year's end (9)
- 2 Babe Book (4)
- 3 Daze with dollar barrel (4)
- 4 Tins piled up on keen beginner for light meal (5)
- 5 Book in which, sadly, Sian departs from Nova Scotia (6)
- 6 Fats' masquerade costume: game piece (6)
- 7 Sea hawks discomposd by unknown spores (7)
- 10 Reach to cause annoyance (3,2)
- 12 Discover Elmo on local satellite (4)

Solution to crossword no. 86

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

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



Making Time

10am-1pm

Sunday 29th April
Swaffham Prior Village Hall

A relaxing and fun craft morning. Three hours, three crafts to explore with three fantastic tutors, three beautiful finished projects to show off to your friends and family!

Printed Greeting Cards

with artist, teacher, and photographer, Kath Canning of Lightbook Photography

Cupcake Decorating

with the owner of the Carolina Girl Bakery, Kelly Mead

Decorative Fabric Door Hangers

with textile designer, Joanne Serace, of Not So Granny

£30 per person

Including all top quality materials and plenty of coffee, tea and homemade cake (to help the creative process!)

Places limited. Please book in advance.

Call/text 0795 2882 484

Email notsogranny@gmail.com



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

EXOTIC ORCHIDS

There's a surprise in store this month if you pop in to check if the carnivorous plants in the Glasshouse Range are hungry - the display has been overtaken by winter-flowering, tropical orchids!

Orchids are intricate and highly diverse, but close inspection reveals that all display a whorl of three petals, interleaved with a whorl of three sepals, with the flower being 'zygomorphic', that is symmetrical, in this case, along the vertical. The lower petal is often greatly modified and enlarged to form a landing platform for pollinators that crawl in to reach the rich nectar. In the process, the weight of the nectar thief triggers the lowering of a pollinium – a sticky globule of pollen -

onto the unwitting insect for transfer to the next flower for pollination.

The range of colour, form and decoration of tropical orchids is almost bewildering, from the pure white sprays on the *Odontoglossum* varieties to the rather sinister slippers of *Paphiopedilum* to the spidery blooms of *Encyclia cochleata*, the national flower of Belize. Massed together in this special display, the scent is rich and sweet sherbert, particularly from the exotically striped and spotted *Zygopetalum* varieties.

Epiphytic orchids adorn the trunks and branches of many trees in the rainforest displays; they are encouraged to stay in place with recycled tights, which we have found to have the perfect elasticity and give for the job! Epiphytic plants use the host plant only for habitat, and derive moisture and nutrient from the air, rain and occasionally the detritus that accumulates around the plant.

An important tropical orchid is *Vanilla planifolia*, the elongated seedpods of which give us the vanilla flavouring. Perhaps vanilla will feature in one of the special desserts created for the Mother's Day Menu, which will be available at the Garden Café on Sunday 18 March, served between 12 noon - 3.30pm!

Juliet Day

Development Officer, Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Bottisham Medical Practice PPG AGM

Thursday 26 April 2012, 7.00 pm at the Practice

All patients are invited to hear **Dr Jonathan Higham** talk about the Practice, how it works and the services it provides, the skills and interests of the members, and how they can be applied to look after you and your families. Come and learn about the Practice and what it can do for you, and let the PPG Committee hear your views about what it should be doing in the next year.

John Norris Remembers the Cold Weather

The past few days have been exceptionally cold, and have necessitated using some of the old tricks of keeping frost free and warm. The modern houses are today well insulated and have water systems of quite sophisticated design. Gone are the tanks in the roof space, the outside taps with no stopcock available, and a lamentable shortage of good insulation.

The trick in the old days was to keep the water moving, by flushing the loos, and running taps in spare bedrooms and by generally using modest amounts of water. During the hard winter of 1963, the vicarage in Swaffham Prior had only one old occupant, whose water demand was so small that the water main in the long drive to the house froze. The water company thawed this by connecting a welding plant to each end, and sending a heavy electric current down the pipe to generate enough heat to let the water flow again. Today, of course, this is not possible, as the pipes are plastic

I well remember the washing facilities in my Grandfather's bedroom in the early nineteen thirties. A marble table, with a large ornate bowl, and inside that an equally large water jug or ewer. Underneath the table was the "slop bucket", an enamelled bucket with an enamelled lid. Ablutions were done with the cold water unless you were rich enough to have a housemaid who would bring up a jug of hot water, and perhaps a cup of tea. A diligent wife could have done this, but sadly my Granny died many years before, so Granddad had to manage.

All bedrooms in those days had a fireplace, so it was possible to enjoy some creature comforts, but these did not come easily. After washing the waste water went into the slop bucket together with the contents of the Chamber Pot !! All covered with the fancy lid, this waste water was disposed of in the garden some distance from the well. There was no sewage system so one had to make do. It all seemed very primitive by today's standard, but it worked well.

The advent of the "Combi" system means no ball valves other than in loos, and nothing in the roof. My house was renovated before these gadgets, and I try to listen to the tank being filled up. These roof tanks were the beginning of the modern water supplies. In Anglesey house there is a large tank in the roof (still there I think as they are quite large and difficult to remove). Mr George Taylor used to fill this tank every Saturday with water from the nearby well. He was paid sixpence for his trouble!

The pumps for lifting water to any height were special in that they were compensated against the weight of the column of water by a large lead weight on the handle.



This in some measure helped the operator on the lifting stroke, but still had to be raised to fill the pump again. If you come across an old lead pump with a large lead weight at the end of the handle, you may be sure it had been used at some time to fill a tank in the roof.

Many houses had this system before the water main arrived in about 1932. The popular design was a two story building with a bath and loo on the top floor, and washing facilities and a loo on the ground floor. Very poor insulation for the iron pipes used at that time, made difficult because they were usually fixed straight on to the wall. Several houses in this village have this old relic; modern at the time, but right out of date by today's standards

So there we have it, in cold weather take a little time to run the water and make sure the mains is coming into the system; far better the phoning for the plumber. Best of luck for the next freeze up.

Last night I was wakened by something scratching my head . I took little notice at first, as my friendly cat is a constant visitor. The nibbling occurred yet again, this time more energetically. I still could not find or touch the intruder. As I keep a low light on in my bedroom, I noticed after a short pause a small whiskery face looking at me straight in the eye. It received a good swipe from me and landed somewhere on the bedroom floor.

My cat does bring me treasures, but they are mostly well bent and near death. This fellow had made his escape, but being unfamiliar with the surroundings was truly lost. I did find him, lifeless, amongst some of my clothes which happened to be on the floor !! I must learn to be tidier.

John Norris

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 23RD March 2012

7:30PM start @ Bottisham Village College

Form a team of up to eight and have a fun night out whilst raising funds for the school!

Advance tickets *only* available from 07881 588 971
or email: friends@bottishamvc.org

Tickets £6

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Quiz Master: Greg Alvey

Are *you* up to the challenge?





Prospects Trust's Polytunnel Partners Appeal 2012

The Prospects Trust at Snakehall Farm is seeking corporate sponsors and altruistic individuals to sponsor our polytunnels. After a windy and then snowy start to 2012, our polytunnels are in a precarious position, with our multi-span needing urgent re-skinning before the potatoes start putting down their roots. We have 9 mixed sized polytunnels on the farm which are vital to our organic herb and vegetable production. They all create a haven from the wind, rain and snow for our Co-workers during the winter months and come the summer they are abundant with perfect produce ripe for harvest. We are approaching East Anglian based businesses and companies linked to green, growth or care throughout the UK. By the end of 2012 we need to secure over £10,000 to ensure our Poly tunnels can weather the storm next winter. As a Prospects Trust Polytunnel Partner, our supporters will be formally acknowledged on professionally produced signs, receive a co-worker letter of thanks including a signed photograph of their chosen polytunnel and get regular updates from the farm. All sponsors will be invited to take a tour of the farm, meet Tilly and see how they have helped us grow in 2012.

For more details about this exciting opportunity or to discuss sponsorship rates please contact Marianne Baker on 01638 741551 or email maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk.

TILLY THE TRACTOR TREATS TOTS

Little Windmills Pre-school children were lucky to get some TILLY TIME this January when our Big Green Tractor went for a visit with Mark and Maz from the farm. Little Windmills have been saving up their plastic drinks bottles over the festive period to help us build our recycled plastic green house. We just needed a few more bottles to finish the roof of our plastic fantastic eco-green house and Little Windmills rose to the challenge. As part of our Message in a Bottle art competition, the little tots have created a gallery of farm inspired art work now being displayed within our Farm Shop. Our Co-workers have the difficult task of deciding which marvelous picture is a real winner and captures the magic of Snakehall Farm. Everyone got to climb aboard Tilly and take to her driving seat. It was a great opportunity for us to revisit the tots who helped plant our orchard 12 months ago.

We have been busily building our very green GREEN house with our co-workers and pupils from Granta School. This will be a valuable and very novel new growing space for our Eco-Garden this Summer. The Eco-garden will be blooming again this year, not just with colourful plants but also new old things, we have even put the Snake into Snakehall Farm with tired tyres, created some interesting planters and generally



reusing and rejuvenating as we grow.

GARDEN TEAM IN TOP GEAR THIS YEAR?

Over the past months we have been busy fundraising to replace our very old but very essential Garden Team vehicle. We still have some way to go, but have secured over £7,000 in grants and charitable donations. We hope that the Garden Team will be out and about in the local area in a crew cab vehicle this Spring. Can you help us go the extra mile? If you



are able to support our Garden Team Vehicle replacement scheme then please give us a call at Snakehall Farm.

If your green fingers need a little rest and relaxation this year or if your idea of gardening is sitting in a deck chair why not try our Garden Team? We have an opening for a new garden contract this season. Please call Will Hubbard Wed-Friday on 01638 741 551

Burwell & District Flower Club – 45 years and going strong!

In the post-war era, the 1950's, the country was “a buzz” with newly formed Flower Clubs. Burwell was no exception. About twenty ladies of like mind were keen to enjoy the hobby of flower-arranging too. Of course that was just the beginning and things developed.

As with fashion and interior design, styles are always changing. New ideas evolve reflecting the times; so it is with flower-arranging and design. There is always a place for the traditional “English Style”, but we also appreciate designs of other styles too. At our meetings we enjoy watching NAFAS trained demonstrators create their designs, reflecting modern trends and different techniques as well as useful gardening tips.

Over the past year Club Members have adopted St Nicholas Hospice for the chosen charity of the year. At a recent meeting, a cheque to the value of £600.00 was presented to Fund-raising co-ordinator, Mrs Sue Long. After accepting the cheque, Sue gave an extremely enlightening talk on the roll and work of the Hospice.

We will be returning to the newly refurbished, The Memorial Hall, Newmarket, on Thurs May 10th, for our Open Meeting. There will be a duo of demonstrators, Lee Berrill and Alan Smith, demonstrating, “The Only Way is NAFAS”

We are sure many will want to see the hall and also share in seeing the designs which Lee and Alan will create. Visitors are very welcome to join members and

Tickets - £10.00 are available from Mrs Bannister, 01638 662097

FAIRVIEW LITTER

Over the last three years I've been undertaking a little project. The field side of Fairview Grove has an untended wooded area behind the gardens. Some people have treated it just as a place to put garden waste; but over time there has been an awful lot of domestic rubbish deposited there.

I started to think that if it was cleared it could instead be a pleasant place to step out into, especially as there are children in this road who go and play there - yes, among rubbish and broken glass. From Lower End up to the bottom of Fairview Grove had always been quite pleasant, all ivy underfoot, little debris. I did a bit of a preliminary tidy in 2009 further up, and considered writing to everyone down that side then, to try to encourage the idea. But I thought it might not be everyone's preference, and maybe some might think I was criticising by asking them to consider clearing the bit at the end of their garden. So I just did things when I had a bit of spare time. One of my neighbours calls this wombling, and that's fine.

There were a lot of ancient non-garden items - the remains of an old sewing machine, barrel hoops, a motorbike tyre, bed frames, iron frames, a huge metal window frame, ancient corrugated sheets, to name some. The main materials were metal, plastic, glass and hardcore. There has been some more recent material, including a complete glassed exterior door. I cleared a lot of baggable rubbish, and a huge quantity of broken glass to the tip - big bucketloads.

I separated out wood and hardcore, and cleared cut garden branches to the sides to make walking through a bit easier. I had some scrap metal collected.

The hardcore I've left in little cairns. You won't trip over it and anyone who had a use for any of it would be welcome to it. I stack scrap wood for kindling when dry. I'm not claiming Anglesey-Abbey-spinney standard, tho' I made ages ago a hedgehog hotel with old branches, before Anglesey Abbey did theirs, to try to get some of our long-lost hedgehogs to come back. Not much sign so far, just a couple of sightings early last year. It might have disappeared again. But I do some composting with other degradable stuff out there.

It isn't our property, but it is our environment. I can't see that anyone else is going to clear it, and the dumpers are mostly - but not quite all - of the past. It has been not a pleasant location in this village, a leftover from the days of the midden, before recycling, when rubbish went to the midden at the end of usable land where it stayed, 'midden'. being midway between house and somewhere else. We're past a time when it was ok to dump household rubbish on someone else's unmanaged land and I think the owners of the field and wood would be inclined to agree.

Now is a the time to write because spring is approaching and children will be playing out there. The cow parsley hasn't sprouted at time of writing (it barely showed last year - too dry), there's still odd stuff the ground throws up and which I still collect; but it's better-ish, with some places still having scope to clear more. Maybe some reading this will look to their garden ends and at the very least, no more tipping non-degradable, foul and hazardous waste in the wood.

Some ivy-strangled trees are starting to die off, but small birds and furry things like the cover. I've not been invited to join the Ivy Club, for all that I wrote in support of them a while ago. Their most recent correspondence seemed to imply they are the licensed ivy-managers of the village.

I think it might look nice with a few spring bulbs out there. Maybe next year.

Mark Lewinski

Jolly Jingle Number Three 'Public Art?'

Pardon my titter;

Isn't it precious

Legalised Litter?

Steel yourself to meet metal silhouettes

of Fenland figures. (See Vol. 36.No 1 pp 4/5)

Ophir

Cantilena Concerts

**Friday 20th April 2011, Bassingbourn Parish Church North End,
Bassingbourn, SG8 5NW 8pm**

**Saturday 21st April 2011, Emmanuel United Reformed Church,
Trumpington St, Cambridge, CB2 1RR 7:30pm**

British Choral Anthems

director Daniel Spreadbury

Mark Dawes - Organ

An evening celebrating the best British Choral Anthems from the last 400 years.

Programme to include:

Sing Joyfully - Byrd

Bring us, O Lord God - Harris

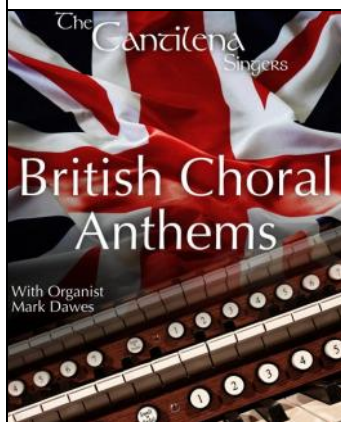
Hail, Gladdening Light - Wood

If ye love me - Tallis

Hear my prayer, O Lord - Purcell

I sat down under his shadow - Bairstow

Tickets available on the door



The Olympics 2012 – a great opportunity to celebrate and get involved in Cambridgeshire

For the sporting....

As Olympic fever spreads across the country, many of us might feel inclined to get involved in some new sporting activities, whether in a competitive manner or just for a bit of fun.

Numerous events are going on nationally – the Big Dance Week in July, the ‘Gold Challenge’ where you can raise money for charity by trying 5, 10, 20 or 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports, ‘Hopscotch to Victory’ which is a world record attempt taking place in June, and for those who fancy something a little less strenuous, there is ‘All the Bells’ which calls on residents to ring any kind of bell they can between 8am and 8.03am on 27th July. More information about these activities and many more can be found on the main Olympic and Paralympic website www.london2012.com. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to find out more about the national activities, telephone 0845 2672012.

There will also be many sporting events and activities taking place locally. These will be listed on www.livingsport.co.uk or you can contact LIVING SPORT on 01487 841559. Events will also be added to the www.cambridgeshire.net website as they are announced. If you have an event planned that you would like to publicise, it can be added to this website. If you have a disability, you can find out what activities you can get involved in locally at www.abilityplusgroup.co.uk, by calling the Ability PLUS Group on 01487 849929 or by contacting your local District Council.

For the not so sporting....

The Olympics also bring people together and are a reason to celebrate. Large events will be taking place across the county along the Olympic Torch route as it passes through Peterborough on 3rd July, Cambridge (as part of the Big Weekend on Parker’s Piece) on 7th and 8th July and St Ives and Huntingdon on 8th July. Route details and times will be announced by London 2012 nearer the time.

Local people are also being encouraged to organise their own celebrations and the **2012 Local Leaders** initiative has been set up to help you do just that. By signing up, you will receive information on a range of themed celebration ideas and be in the front row to receive free London 2012 event materials. You can find out more at www.london2012.com/get-involved or by telephoning 0845 2672012.

The County Council is keen to encourage local events and street parties, and has added simple guidance to getting a street party road closure on their website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street_parties.htm. If you don’t have internet access, you can call 01223 507176 to arrange this or to discuss any other events that you would like to organise.

Cultural events will also be taking place, including the UK’s biggest ever cultural festival and the ‘Walk the World’ campaign which encourages residents to join the race to find local connections to all 206 nations taking part in the Olympics (see www.walktheworld.org.uk). Information on local cultural events will also be available on www.cambridgeshire.net as they are announced.

*Cambridge Concert Orchestra
presents*

A French Connection

French, Irish and Movie Theme Music



Saturday 17th March 2012, 7.30pm

*In support of the
Burwell Twinning Village Association
at St. Mary's Church,
High Street, Burwell, Cambridge, CB25 0HB*



Cambridge Concert Orchestra
www.cco.org.uk
Reg charity no 263524

TICKET PRICES:

Adults £10

Children £5

Price includes wine and cheese in the interval

CONTACT:

01638 610 143 or

dianem17@yahoo.co.uk

If you need help or advice with daily living – just AskSARA!

A website offering help and advice to people with a range of day-to-day needs is now available with information localised for people living in Cambridgeshire.

AskSARA is a self-help guide that enables you to identify equipment that may help in your daily life. It will take you through a series of guided questions leading to general advice and recommendations on what equipment would be suitable to meet your particular needs and where to get this locally.

The website is easy to use and widely accessible regardless of age or ability. It will be featured as part of the Staying independent, safe and well roadshows taking place in libraries across the county during 2012.

To visit the AskSARA website or for the dates when the roadshows will be in a library near you see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social

Swaffham Prior School News

Firstly may I introduce myself as the new head teacher at Swaffham Prior School. My name is Hannah Curtis and I was privileged to be appointed as Mrs Hawke's successor in September 2011. Everybody has made me very welcome and I am very much beginning to feel part of the Swaffham Prior Community!



In school we have been busy and it seems incredible that we are now half way through our school year. During this time we have welcomed our new reception children, celebrated the Harvest and Christmas in St Mary's Church, made a range of school trips e.g. to Ely Cathedral and Burwell surgery, enjoyed some FoSPS events including several cafes and the Christmas Fair, had a Pumpkin Parade, carried out a 'Grounds Day', met Bishop David, raised money for Children in Need and three schools in India and enjoyed 'History off the Page'.



Meeting Bishop David

'History off the Page' made a visit to the school on the last Wednesday of the autumn term. KS2 children dressed up as Tudors and were taken on a trip back in time. They experienced life as a Tudor and in the morning were able to take part in a range of activities. Some became scholars and practised writing using a quill pen, some were chandlers and made candles by dipping long wicks in melted beeswax, some practised their leather working skills and others made posies of spices and herbs to ward away the plague. Another group became apothecaries and offered to drill holes in your skull if you had a headache! The day culminated in a feast during which they entertained each other with songs and dance. All in all it was a fantastic day and a wonderful day of learning!

We made a positive start to the spring term and the children thought about New Year resolutions. Our elephant tree sculpture in the hall is covered in leaves written on by children and adults who form our school community, outlining what we would like to achieve by Easter. It will be interesting to see who meets their target.

Saturn Class went to Burwell House at the beginning of February. Throughout the three days, they participated in team building activities and were challenged in design and making tasks. One of the favourite activities was to design and make packaging for an egg so that it could withstand a fall from the top of a fire escape. A couple of groups managed this, including the adult group!

Despite the snow, school life continued as normal. In several of the classes, teachers took advantage of the snow and incorporated it into the children's learning. For instance, Mars Class did some graph work based on how far the children could throw snowballs.

We have also enjoyed our first class assembly this term. Neptune performed dances inspired by Indian music and poems based on Shakespeare and rap. It was lovely to share the children's learning.

We have lots of events planned for the rest of the term including more class assemblies, a Choir Festival and Science week. We are also starting to think about the Olympics and Paralympics and will shortly start following the progress of some of our British athletes. Exciting times are ahead!



History on the Page

Hannah Curtis

Shopping Service

This service is for Cambridgeshire residents, aged over 60, who are unable to, or may have difficulty in doing their shopping. Many supermarkets now offer online shopping but unless you have a computer you cannot take advantage of this convenient service.



Phone your order to our Shopping Service and we will make all the arrangements, and arrange delivery to your home. There is no commitment to shop every week.

Age UK Cambridgeshire makes no charge for this service but supermarket charges for delivery may vary.

Enquires and orders can be taken from Monday-Friday between 9-12.30 on 01354 696650
Available until 31st March 2012

WI Notes

Our speaker at the January meeting was Avril Hayter Smith, Official Town Crier for Ely. She was accompanied by her husband, Graham who dislikes the title of escort and prefers to be known as the keeper of the bell. She described how she has held the position for ten years. At that time, circa 2002, Ely Town Council decided to re introduce the role of Town Crier, after a lapse of some fifty years, and invited candidates to 'audition' in public, before a panel of 8 judges. Many women held rank in the Town Council, so Avril asked 'why not a Lady Town Crier?' and in due course was elected. In 2005 she won a Competition for Criers, and was invited to compete in the European Championships in 2006. With thoughts set on overseas tours, and bags almost packed, she was a bit disappointed to find the contest was to be held in Cromer! Her sponsor for the competition was the local WI who supported her on each of the three days and in return she obliged with promotional proclamations on their behalf as she walked around the town. It was surprising to learn of all the different costumes she has for different occasions, an expense which she has to pay herself. She was even married to Graham in a special costume that could be used for other town crier events. Oyez, Avril is a very entertaining speaker and is devoted to her work as town crier. She will be crying at Ely Eel day on 5th May if you are interested in hearing her in full voice.

Our next meeting is on March 19th when we have our annual meeting and election of committee. This will be followed by wine and cheese and entertainment

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

Pat Cook

01638 742224



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Alan Shipp, from Waterbeach, who has the largest collection of Hyacinths, I think, in the world-180-190 different varieties (60 more than the Dutch), came to talk to us this month, with of course some lovely slides from his collection.

He works very closely with the keepers of the National Collection of Hyacinths, which is at Barnard Castle in Northumberland and has propagated over a 100 varieties for them.

The plant comes originally from the wild species found in the Levant-Turkey and Northern Iraq and is a member of the Lilly family. It was first described and illustrated by the then most prodigious of collectors-Ferdinand of Austria, in 1562.

By 1702, the bulbs had reached Holland where they were being cross pollinated and new varieties were being developed. Hyacinth mania was at its peak in 1735, (about a century after Tulip mania) when there were about twelve hundred named

varieties- when bulbs could change hands for several hundred kilders-a years salary for the average labourer. The Victorians had Hyacinth clubs and of course they have remained a very popular plant They are not difficult to grow and as long as they are planted deep enough with 4-5" of soil on top of the bulbs (the flower is intact inside the bulb) and have a good cold spell, the stem will grow to a good length. Alan suggested the best way to deal with a pot of bulbs that were over, was to bury the whole thing in the ground, covering the bulbs completely with soil, keep damp and leave undisturbed till the leaves had completely died away. Then replant, when you might find some little bulbuls had developed too.

The slides were many and various-from the most stunning White "Ben Nevis" to a beautiful burgundy "Distinction" with all shades of both single and double blooms -pinks, yellows, pearls and reds in between.

Alan's currant favourite is a dark blue plant-"King of the Blues" but has recently added to his collection from a source in Lithuania. Minsk is his next stop, where he believes other varieties can be found.

Several of us took pots of his bulbs home, but he has an "Open" weekend in Waterbeach on the 31st March/1st April when he said there would be plenty of signs up. Saying "Hyacinths".

Our next meeting is on the 20th of March when Peter Jackson is going to talk about Drought Resistant Plants-pretty topical!. Every one is welcome.

Margaret Joyce.



Mothers' Union

In February Richard Ayres made a welcome return as our speaker. It brought some floral warmth to a winter's afternoon as we listened to his most interesting talk about how snowdrops were first found at Anglesey Abbey in the drainage ditches, and how the collection of varieties has grown over the years. It amazed us to learn that some rare species are very expensive. Richard also told us about how the winter walk at Anglesey Abbey came into being, and how it was planned and planted. To accompany this we were shown some wonderful slides.

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Great Britain hosting the Olympics a Book of Inspirations will be making a marathon relay around the Ely Diocese Mothers' Union branches. This is held by each branch for a week during which they enter their branch contribution to the compilation. At the time of writing delivery to our branch is imminent on Saturday 18th February from Burwell. A separate article will cover this event in due course. Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm. All are welcome to join us and copies of our programme for 2012 are available in the Church. Our speaker on 15th March will be Jeff Prosser from WaterAid and we will be holding our 'Spring' theme Bring and Buy.

Ann Langran
C. 812797

News from Bottisham Medical Practice

Patient Participation Group

As you know the Practice staff have been busy getting to grips with the up-graded IT system. The new system went live on Monday 23 January. Inevitably there have been some delays in processing requests for prescriptions and appointments. Thank you all for your patience. The doctors and staff have been working very hard to get service back to their normal high standards and are grateful for your understanding.

Practice Survey

That most patients think very highly of the Practice and the service it provides is clear from your answers to the annual questionnaire about the Practice's performance. Your PPG Committee discussed the results (available on the Practice's website www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk) on 26 January. It is clear that most patients are very happy with the service they get from the Practice, in particular with the help and support provided by the doctors and nurses. There was general satisfaction with opening hours and with access to the medical team. The one issue that clearly troubles some patients is the requirement placed on reception staff by the doctors to ask patients booking an appointment or a home visit to say why they wish to see a doctor. At the PPG Committee's request, Dr Margaret Elliot has given the following explanation:

"We do require our receptionists to ask for more information if possible. This helps us to try to ensure that you see the appropriate doctor, with the appropriate type of appointment, within an appropriate timescale. Our doctors and nurses have developed areas of special interest and expertise. With additional information from you, the receptionist can direct you to the doctor or nurse whose expertise best matches your needs. Some conditions or procedures may need a longer appointment or special equipment. By understanding your problem we can make this available. When preparing for a home visit, if we know what the condition is likely to be, we can bring with us the necessary medicines or equipment. Finally, by gaining a better understanding of your problem, we can prioritise our work so that we see the most urgent cases quickly."

We appreciate that there may be occasions when the nature of your problem is personal and you do not wish to discuss it with the receptionist. In these circumstances please tell the receptionist that you do not wish to give further details. She will then make your booking. We are arranging extra training to help our receptionists make these necessary enquiries as sensitively and discretely as possible."

New Cambridgeshire NHS Consultation

Following the consultation on Cambridgeshire Mental Health Services described in the last edition of the magazine, NHS Cambridgeshire is seeking views on services which might be opened up to non-NHS suppliers under the 'any qualified provider' rubric in the new NHS legislation. These 'other qualified providers' are likely to be commercial.

The eight areas identified by Government as possibilities for this are: musculoskeletal services for back and neck pain; adult hearing services in the community; continence services (adults and children); direct access diagnostic tests; podiatry services; wheelchair services (children); leg ulcer and wound healing; and primary care psychological therapies for adults ('talking therapies'). Of these, NHS Cambridgeshire says the 'collective view of local GPs' is that three services offer the 'potential to improve local access and quality: non-obstetric ultrasound; Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI scans); and vasectomy.

We are asked to submit comments by 5 March using the questionnaire available in the 'Have your say' pages at www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk. Your PPG Committee will be considering these issues, including questions such as: Would commercial provision of any of these

services seriously damage revenue flows to Addenbrookes and other hospital trusts? Are there disadvantages in separating diagnostic tests from treatment, e.g. ultrasound is used both to diagnose and treat kidney stones (with - in Addenbrookes - the same equipment being used for both)? Are there advantages in going outside the hospital environment for these treatments (e.g. potentially lower exposure to infection)? Could any of these services be provided at the practice level, thus giving better local access than at Addenbrookes?



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

We are proposing to increase the council tax by 2.95% in 2012/13 (£3.99 per year on a band D property, 7.67 pence per week) Accepting the Governments Council Tax Freeze Grant would result in a budget gap of £273,000 by 2014/15 equivalent to an estimated 6.7% increase in band D council tax.

We are presently in the process of setting a balanced budget for the next three years. But we do not know if the Council Tax Freeze Grant would be given again next year. Also we are expecting a further cut in next years Government Revenue Support Grant to the district council.

Despite this council having made many efficiency savings we still have to absorb many significant increases in our costs. For instance our homelessness budget has had to be increased substantially due to the recession.

Also we will have to renew our waste contract in 2015 for the following five years. We are expecting a significant increase in the new contract.

On a lighter note, last year a number of key statistics showed that East Cambs was continuing to grow despite the tough economic outlook.

A 44% increase in the total number of homes completed compared to the 2009/10 monitoring period.

A total gain of 2,137 square metres of employment space developed, showing that business is continuing to invest in the area.

Retail vacancy fell in the three main towns in the district to 3.3% in Ely, 3.7% in Littleport & 3% in Soham. These are much better than the national average.

A new community website designed to give local people the power to improve their neighbourhood is set to launch in East Cambs this spring. 'Shape your place' which began in Fenland in 2010, is designed to be a one stop site for everything to do with the place you live. So from suggesting ideas to improve your street to voting in polls on local issues or finding out what happened at the last neighbourhood panel – the new website will be the place to go.

I have recently been involved in sorting out problems of tenants of Sanctuary Herewood housing associating. If any tenants have unresolved issues with the association, please contact me and I will do my up most to help.



As reported in January the Integrated Plan for the next 4 years was the main item discussed at Full Council in February. Following a 5 hour debate the proposed plan was passed by a majority vote. The plan, including the programme for capital investment will come into effect from April 2012.

For the villages in Burwell Ward this means our council tax for 2012/13 for a Band D property will be:

Burwell	£1,498.35
Reach	£1,501.23
Swaffham Bulbeck	£1,496.28
Swaffham Prior	£1, 493.67

Amongst other meetings that I attended in February was the Burwell Masterplan Working Party, which agreed the latest document for public consultation. After much discussion with public and members five options were put forward for comments in this stage of the project.

I also attended a meeting of the Transitions Board, which considers arrangements for individuals moving from receiving services from Children and Young People's Services to receiving services from Adult Social Care. "Voices Matter", which gives a forum for Looked after Children to tell the Council of their ideas for improvements to processes, was a lively meeting. The Project Board overseeing our restructuring of Children's Social Care also met to consider progress. I also had the pleasure of attending the official opening of a Breaks Children's Home. This facility, in March, offers short breaks for children with disabilities.

Spring Jumble Sale Saturday March 10th

There will be a huge spring jumble sale at Lode Social Club from 2-4.

Please bring any jumble to the club in the morning between 10.30-12.

Entrance is £1 for adults and free for children.

The proceeds will be shared between the Lode Social Club and a charity which provides holiday activities for children with special needs. It is called CJP activity club, and caters for children from 3-18.

Have a good clear out and ring me if you need me to collect stuff. Thank you

Fran Platten 01223 813 016

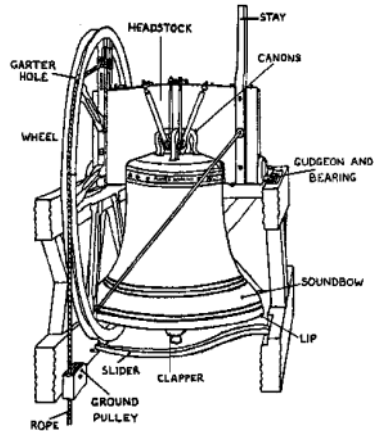
LET THE BELLS RING OUT

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

Those who listened to the Peal on February 10th were disappointed when it stopped after only one and a half hours – half way through the Peal. An irretrievable error occurred which meant the Peal had to be abandoned. Alan Barber, whose 50 year anniversary peal it was, and who had driven down from Newcastle that very day, was especially disappointed.

But, let's move forward. Another treat is in store with a top notch ringing band. On the morning of Friday 30th March is the installation ceremony of Penny Walkinshaw as High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire. The ringers will ring the guests into St Mary's at about 11.15 and will then follow up with a jolly good ring about an hour later after the successful installation.

Alastair Everitt



Friends of BVC

FASHION SHOW

in association with **Wardrobe Mistresses**
www.wardrobemistresses.co.uk

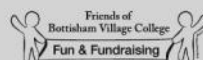
Friday 27 April 7pm for 7.30 start

High Street brands at up to 50% discount.

Credit/debit card, cash cheque accepted

Tickets available from friends@bottishamvc.org
 or by calling 07881 588 971

Adult £5 inc. glass of wine
 Under 18 £3 inc. soft drink



Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

The meeting was chaired by John Covill with 6 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the Public in attendance.

Public Participation:

Non-agenda items referred to. See 'Open Question Time'

Presentation on Transport for Older and Isolated People in the Swaffhams by Helen Randall, *East Cambridgeshire Development Officer for Care Network Cambridgeshire*:

Unfortunately due to the bad weather Helen was unable to attend. The presentation was to be rearranged for the March meeting.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received:

This was reported.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (*for information only*):

Dumping of vegetation – Cage Hill: This was again reported with photographs to Mark Mehaffey of ECDC. He replied that he was aware of this and was monitoring the situation. It was noted that small amounts of organic waste if not causing an obstruction was usually left to rot down.

Water tap in cemetery: Following a burst pipe caused by the cold weather, the water supply was turned off. Work was to be carried out to provide better lagging.

New fencing for School/Village Hall boundary: Steve Kent-Phillips reported he would represent the Parish Council at a meeting to consider quotations obtained by the School and report back next month.

CCC - Streetlighting PFI: There was concern about CCC's plans to change/replace street lighting columns and the Clerk was to ask that the Parish Council be kept informed and given the chance to consult on any proposals. *Further details can be found on CCC's website.*

Grass Verge at top of Fairview Grove: Steve Kent-Phillips contacted CCC Highways. Adam Cobb, Traffic Engineer for CCC, replied and the main points are summarized below:

In this location it is not illegal or legal to park on the grass verge. When restrictive yellow lines are placed on the carriageway, such as prohibition of waiting, this covers both on and off carriageway locations. As these are not on street, parking is not enforceable.

Through section 131 of the Highways Act 1980, The Road Authority can fine a guilty person found guilty of causing damage to the highway. However, this is a very lengthy process, the fines are minimal due to the age of legislation and proving the guilty party has caused the damage is very difficult and resource dependant. At this time where staffing resources are stretched, this would be of very low priority for rectification.

It was suggested that consideration could be given to restricting access to this section of highway via physical means such as bollards. This method would be very unsightly and require a vast number due to the centre spacing that would be required which would be very costly.

The Clerk was to write to residents asking for their assistance in not parking on the verge.

Notice of Rescission Motion – to re-open discussion on the decision taken by the Parish Council on the 10th November 2011: This was required as the Parish Council wished to review and possibly change the decision previously taken when agreeing the terms of renting the allotments. In line with Parish Council Standing Orders, no decision could be changed within a period of 6 months without this motion. This was put forward and agreed.

Use of Lower Allotment Field: Following the above, there was further discussion on the terms of the allotment agreement. An updated plan of the site was drawn up to give a better idea of allotment numbers and sizes. It was agreed to rent the larger allotment area to Alastair Lee but for the reduced rent of £35/annum. The smaller allotments would be available for a rent of £5/annum.

Reduction of Speed Limit on Mill Hill: Steve Kent-Phillips reported on the estimated costings received from Kevin Hall. Summary of estimated costs and comments below:

“New traffic signs (Terminal signs) £470

New traffic signs (repeaters) £168 (Required outside of illuminated area)

Remove existing signs and posts £100

Traffic Order advert (assume £350 each) £700

Patch Carriageway to remove existing road markings £700

Total before consideration as to interactive £2,138

Remove existing interactive sign completely incl. electric £250 = £2138 + £250 = £2388

Remove interactive take to company store off site and replace and fit new interactive signs that reads 30mph.

(Cost obtained from actual sign company) £2,920 = £2,920 + £2,138 = £5,058

It was noted that there was no guarantee that CCC would be able to continue maintenance of interactive signs in future years. Therefore, if the Parish Council wished to replace with new interactive signs showing 30mph, it was possible in the future that if they were damaged, or failed to work, that only full contribution by the Parish Council would enable the possibility for repair.

In light of the £10,000 contribution to traffic calming measures held by the Parish Council, it was asked what could be done for £10,000.

Recent speed check on Mill View indicated average speeds of 40.13mph for NB traffic and 38.64 for SB traffic indicating compliance to the existing speed limit of 40mph. You are correct if you assume that addition measures would be ideal for any self compliance to a reduced speed limit of 30mph. Signs alone may bring the above figures down by only 2 to 3 miles per hour as average likely speeds.

The Parish Council has indicated that some of the more regularly used methods of speed management like speed humps and give way features would not be supported so it would be difficult to suggest many other physical features that may be suitable that would only cost up to £10,000.

Estimated Costings for alternative measures:

Mini roundabout at Cage Hill: As this is a 4 way junction and a mini roundabout design this would possibly be seen as

unsafe. With a larger roundabout layout the cost would drastically increase the £250,000 figure by a much increased sum. Also there may not be existing sufficient highway to construct a roundabout and therefore maybe land acquisition would be required.

Mini roundabout at Fairview Grove: 3 way junction so mini roundabout potentially ok. Rough estimate of £250,000 would be needed.

Puffin Crossing on Mill Hill: Estimated cost for such crossings £65,000 to procure and only if compliant to assessment.

Zebra crossing on Mill Hill: Similar to Puffin crossing. Other than at the top of Cage Hill or maybe nearer to the crossroads there is no good location where visibility is good and sufficient. Also similar to puffin crossings it is envisaged that the pedestrian demand would be very small in comparison to vehicular use and therefore unlikely for a zebra crossing to be considered a safe feature. Estimate cost for zebra crossing construction £15,000 to £18,000.

Pinch point. In middle of Mill Hill: This is the B1102 and as such likely to have large vehicles travel on it. (Believed to form the accepted abnormal road route between Cambridge and Newmarket). There should be an absolute minimum of 6.0 metres and preferably a 6.5 metres carriageway width, to allow two large vehicles to pass in unison.

There has also been received some criticism by the Haulage Association over the road narrowing that was completed and therefore virtually at the limit as to suitable and possible width of road for the majority of the length of Mill Hill.

Traffic island in middle of Mill Hill: As there are many accesses and turnings such a traffic island is really only possible

at the Cage Hill end of the road. It would need further investigation but potentially possible and may affect the speeds of vehicles but really only from the Cambridge direction. Very difficult to cost as illumination would be needed and EDF would need to cost this work. Very rough cost of £25,000 to £30,000.

Speed bumps: Could only be done if road was 30mph. Environmental noise can be a real issue.

Give way features like Quay: Community representatives have already dismissed.

Reference was made to the gateway features installed at each end of Mill Hill and the minor road narrowing. It was considered that these measures have reinforced compliance to the current speed limit of 40mph.

There followed considerable discussion and it was agreed that there was still a need for speed reduction measures on Mill Hill but it was reluctantly felt with the high costs involved, the lack of support from the Police in enforcing 30mph as indicated at an earlier PC meeting and the complaints received from the Haulage Association, the Parish Council had done all it could at this time but would continue to review.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Report:

Planning Permissions received for 52 Green Head Road & Land at Reach Lode Bridge, Split Drove.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that he had repaired the second gate at the back of the play area.

Open Question Time:

Alastair Everitt asked if councillors had any views on the lorries currently parking on double yellow lines on the High Street.

Alastair Everitt asked if the Parish Council would consider a donation to the Crier.

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, 8th March 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@bopenworld.com

Burwell Tots

Nearly New Sale

If you have a baby or children 5 years and under you'll be only too aware of the cost of clothes, toys and equipment for your little ones...

Why not save money by coming to our Second Hand Sale of high quality clothing, toys, equipment, maternity items, games and more.? You'll be surprised at the amount of great bargains to be had. The sale is run by local baby/toddler group Burwell Happy Tots and will be on Saturday 21st April from 10.30-12.00 at the Gardiner Memorial Hall, High Street, Burwell CB25 0HD. Entry to the sale is 50p which supports Burwell Happy Tots. For more information including how to be a seller, please contact Libby Lomas 07766335174 or e-mail

burwellhappytots@hotmail.co.uk

What is RE:NEW?

This year RE:NEW is using Lent to reflect upon its core values – those aspects of our life together which form, as it were, our church’s DNA. You’re invited to join us week by week, but here is a brief overview...

R is for RELEVANT. Statistics consistently show that for every person in church on a Sunday morning there are up to nine others who would call themselves a Christian but who choose not to go. The church has a distinctive message to offer, but by not responding to the changes we see in society, church has sometimes become outdated and irrelevant. At RE:NEW, our desire is to find relevant ways for people engage with, and express, the Christian faith.

E is for ECUMENICAL. In previous generations people strongly identified themselves as either ‘Chapel’ or ‘Church’; as Baptist, Anglican, Methodist or Catholic. Whilst diversity is a good thing, it is also important to realise that what unites us is more important than our differences. RE:NEW is therefore an ecumenical expression of church, working in partnership with the parish churches, and welcoming people whatever their background.

N is for NURTURING. For us, church should be a place where people can grow and fulfil their God-given potential. Just like a healthy family, we believe church should be a supportive community where together we can explore what it means to be people of faith. As well as Sunday gatherings we have smaller midweek groups in which people are able to receive practical and pastoral support from one another.

E is for EMPOWERING. The Bible tells us that when God’s people gather together He is present amongst them. If church really is an opportunity to encounter the living God then anyone who comes should leave transformed by the experience. At RE:NEW this is our hope: that through God’s Word, and by His Spirit, lives are changed, and people are empowered to face the challenges that life inevitably brings.

W is for WELCOMING. Occasionally churches are accused of being a ‘holy huddle’ or some sort of ‘exclusive club’ – and unfortunately sometimes this is true. At RE:NEW we’re striving to make our church community one that is characterised by its warm welcome of visitors. This isn’t just about a handshake on the door, or a cup of coffee afterwards... it means listening to people, and recognising that none of us have all of the answers!

Simon Goddard

Services in March

Sun 4th Mar, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 4th Mar, 5.30pm, Sacred Space Contemplative Service (Lode Chapel)

Sat 10th Mar, 10am-4pm, Quiet Day, £15 (Lode Chapel)

Sun 11th Mar, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 11th Mar, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)

Sun 18th Mar, 11am – Mothering Sunday (at Holy Trinity)

Sun 25th Mar, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 25th Mar, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

In Bottisham Parish Church, Sun 0900 (Served from Cambridge).

FREECYCLE



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

Offers

Kenwood food processor + variety of blades, old but in good working order. Jacqui c811190.

Do you have an iPod/iPod dock or CD player/radio that you don't want and would like to give to the Swaffham Bulbeck Youth Club? Liz Raby c811264/Debs Welton c813007.

Bamboo steamer (3 levels). Well used, very old (~40 years) electric black & decker drill – still works! Jun/Andy c813362.

Wanted

Your old light fittings, brown bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895064727.

Bookshelf (3 – 4 feet across); Fiction books by Betty Neels. Bel, c811070

Acting Workshop Week

7ys to 12yrs 2nd - 6th April David Lloyd Centre, Coldhams Lane, Cambridge.
Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination as we bring to life some of Dahl's best-loved poems from Revolting Rhymes to Dirty Beasts; your children will have a great week of drama and games.

Not only that, but by the end of the week, participants will have a range of new skills which they will put into practice for an end of week concert. *Those who don't believe in magic will never find it* 10am - 4pm* *Late Collection until 5:30
All you need is a packed lunch and soft shoes Prices: £25 Day Ticket, £100 Full Week Ticket

10% Discount - Book before 12th March.

Email

- workshop@skybluetheatre.com www.skybluetheatre.com

St Mary's Services for March



Sunday 4 March
11am Holy Communion (CW1T)
Sunday 11 March
11am Matins
Sunday 18 March, Mothering Sunday
11am Family Service – flowers for all ladies!
Sunday 25 March
10am Benefice Service, with Communion, Swaffham Bulbeck

St Mary's Services for April

Sunday 1 April, Palm Sunday

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Thursday 5 April, Maundy Thursday

7pm Agape Meal, Lode Chapel

Friday 6 April Good Friday

10am Children's Workshop, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck

10.30am Open-air Service, The Triangle, Bottisham

12 noon All Age Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 8 April Easter Day

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)
Led by Archdeacon John Beer

Sunday 15 April

11am Family Service with Communion

Sunday 22 April

10am Benefice Service with Communion

Sunday 29 April

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
6pm Evensong

Dates for Your Diary March 2012

Sat	3	Young Persons' Guide to Orchestra, Ely Cathedral, 7.30pm
Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	10	Spring Jumble Sale, 2pm-4pm, Lode Social Club
Thu	15	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel
Sat	17	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm A French Connection, 7.30pm, St Mary's, Burwell
Sun	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	19	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Fri	23	Bottisham Quiz Night, 7.30pm, BVC
Tues	30	Installation of High Sherriff Penny Walkinshaw, 11.15am, St Mary's

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

**Village
Clubs
&
Societies**