

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVII Number 4 April 2013



Regulars

Editorial

Finally! Some very kind energetic people in the form of the Ramblers Association are attempting to do something about the footpath that used to run between Swaffham Prior Station (as was) and Commercial End. When the old railway line was dismantled so was

the path, but it is of great interest to dog-walkers (and even those readers, possibly reader singular — we know who he is! voluntarily take a walk without one) as being the only way to get from here to Commercial End without going along our local version of the M25. See page 8, and don't forget to get in touch if you would support the Re-Open It campaign.

Readers will welcome Mark Lewsinski back to the Letters page (he has been moonlighting in the Nationals as usual). although the editors are a bit nonplussed as when we give our reporters permission to make things up, as Mark is sure we did. Careful reading of this month's edition-don't miss our highly entertaining new reporter *LG*— will reveal this never happens, albeit we're not too sure about mineral mines to be built on Cooper's Green.....

Meanwhile, someoneelse from Swaffham Prior to be in the national spotlight: *Jo Arksey* has won a place on ITV's Game Show, *The Chase*, so best of luck Jo, and we look forward to seeing you on the box, especially if you win! Yes...

Many apologies Village Gardeners this month, where technical difficulties prevented us from publishing their copy — we-ll reprint next month. Alas, Easter has taken us all napping, and too late, we realised church we had no services listing. Sorry all, we'll do better next month.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner by Tina Jost

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Eds

Being Glared At

By his own rather bizarre account in the March *Crier*, Geoffrey Woollard's short attendance at the Wicken Community Liaison meeting was pretty useless. He went, he says, as a representative of the Parish Council (an unelected group of people who organise themselves to prevent an election and thereby avoid having to seek any mandate to speak for us, which ought to be pretty shocking but when the 'reporter' to the PC meetings described some time ago how this happens, there was no village insurrection and no-one from the PC denied it even when I wrote in this magazine that this is the sort of thing Stalin would delight in).

Mr Woollard, who I understand no longer lives here, shows no sense that the PC should represent the views of the village and that he attends such meetings to become informed on our behalf and to voice the views of the residents of this village, both those who agree *and* those who disagree with him. He promotes his own opinion but claims to speak for the unelected PC, which he says is against the Wicken Nature reserve; but it has no mandate from the village to take this stance. Actually, for Mr Woollard a mandate is irrelevant as he makes no secret that he doesn't care that there are a lot of people he is on the PC to represent who do support the Wicken reserve; he doesn't actually represent the village at all but is openly and rudely a representative of the anti-nature reserve farming lobby. So he goes along to a meeting, is rather unpleasant, then leaves early.

It appears from the comments of the 'reporter' in the March Crier that he went to the meeting although it is well-known that Mr Woollard doesn't really intend to represent Swaffham Prior and goes only to rubbish the project, which will continue no matter how rude he is; and he attended on our behalf although everyone knows he thinks unploughed land is wasted land,. only because the PC was not able to put up a more balanced representative. This too is pretty useless, and we lose our say in a major ongoing and long-term project by his behaviour.

The 'reporter' also at the last PC meeting said that the members of the PC were perplexed by the idea that some training might be useful for them. The Eds tell me that the 'reporter' in the Crier has licence to write things that aren't true (*What??! Eds*), which is why I put the title in parenthesis, and perhaps really the PC is keen to learn how better to be the first line of local democracy. But if true, this 'report' sounds like old dogs way past being able to learn new tricks, or even to understand what they are there for. Next time, please send someone who actually has some sense that they are our representative.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

Recycling

ECDC has recently re-tendered the contract for the Paper Banks and the Tins & Can Banks at the recycling bank sites throughout the district and they have been awarded to different companies.

The paper banks are due to be changed over next week by our new contractor (Palm Paper), they have arranged with the existing contractor to remove and replace the banks with the same vehicle to avoid multiple vehicle movements, this will also ensure that banks remain in their current locations.

The tin & can bank contract has been awarded to AmeyCespa who currently provide the plastic bottle banks, they are planning to combine the plastic and can banks as at present the plastic banks are emptied either once or twice a week depending on how busy the site is, they are also liaising with the current contractor (Viridor) regarding the removal of the can banks and marking up the existing plastic banks at the same time to avoid confusion for residents.

If you have any questions regarding the changes or have any enquiries from your residents please do not hesitate to contact me.

Darren HughesClient Officer (Waste), ECDC

Dear Editors.

Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who came to the village quiz, we hope everyone enjoyed it. We raised £350 which will go to St. Mary's Church. A big thank you goes to Julian, who stepped in to be our quiz master, and a very good job he did too. Andrew was unable to do it this time but we hope to see him back in October. If not we know who to call. Congratulations to The Incompatibles who won. Thank you to those who donated prizes for the raffle, we would also like to thank Shirley, Jo, Margaret and Linda, who helped in the kitchen and served the food. We would also like to thank Kate Childs, who does a lot of the organising behind the scenes. Hope to see you all at our next quiz which is on Saturday 19th October.

Lynne and Jenny

TWO CHURCHES TO BE FLOODLIT

The two churches of St Mary's and Sr Cyriac's are to be floodlit during the hours of darkness from the end of May. Mr A Lamplighter of the Churches Conservation Trust told our reporter: "These churches, in such close proximity in the same churchyard, are of enormous historic interest. We feel that by installing this lighting, they will be afforded the prominence that they deserve. At the same time, the access paths are currently dangerous at night since there is otherwise no lighting at all, and we have had a number of complaints. This should finally solve the problem."

The electricity costs will be funded by St Mary's.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Maybe I must get out more but I do enjoy Swaffham Prior's Parish Council meetings. So much so I persuaded my other half to join me.

County Councillor David Brown gave his usual slick précis of his month's activities and confirmed that the new high speed broadband contract had just been signed with BT. Geoffrey Woollard ask about the Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Fighters and was reassured to hear that the crew would not be merged with Burwell's until the new fire station facility has been built.

Paul Latchford tried to seek clarification on a Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) newsletter promoting awareness on direct

payments being made to people who require social care. Steve Kent-Phillips thought that it was the scheme run by a few councils where they paid housing benefit directly to the recipients rather than to the landlords. According to media stories, 40% of tenants were tempted to fritter the money away then, low and behold, found themselves in arrears with their rent. Not that I know much about it, I think the CCC newsletter refers to another scheme where people who require social care found it preferential to be able to buy in the care they needed as and when they needed it. However it was all a little unclear and maybe Steve was right. In the absence of District Councillor Allen Alderson, the Clerk presented Allen's report. Geoffrey was very pleased to hear that finally, following consultation, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) has dropped its plans for charging for car parking in Ely. A "Yay!" was heard to my right in the public gallery which is strange because we never go to Ely but at least my other half was enjoying his evening out.

In *Matters Arising* it was revealed that firstly, the two new wooden seats replacing the worn ones outside the village hall are awaiting better weather before they can be installed. Steve will have a go at trying to see if the old ones can be refurbished and then, when he's discovered it involves a huge amount of work, the wood will be removed and the old metal frames stored in the Pound for a future Parish Council to throw out. Or perhaps that's just what would happen in our house. And secondly, the good news that the shrub and thicket in the Lower End ditch has been cut. Andrew Camps remarked that unfortunately not all the cuttings have been removed. As the responsibility for the upkeep of the ditch is unclear, Steve will contact Paul Butcher of CCC Highways for clarification before he retires. Paul that is, not Steve.

Then as David made his exit, there were calls "David Brown for Leader" from Geoffrey. Now that his crusade against car parking charges in Ely has been won, at least for the time being, and never one for resting on his laurels, perhaps Geoffrey is ready for a new campaign.

During *Correspondence* Steve requested that the "no changes to waste collection over Bank Holidays" is advertised in The Crier but I fear Easter may be over by the time you read this. But if not, remember to put the cardboard and aluminium foil from your Easter eggs out for recycling on Thursday 11th April. The plastic

moulding will have to wait for the wheelie bins though.

The potentially exciting agenda item of an application to register mines and minerals for land on the north-west side of Green Head Road was actually a less than exciting formality under the Land Registration Act 2002. Church Commissioners are registering interests on a piece of Coopers Green which was historically manorial land. From my understanding, when the land passed to the Church, the title to mines and minerals might not have passed with it. So although the Parish Council owns the amenity to the surface land, the Church Commissioners own all its riches underneath it, apart from oil and a few precious metals which the Crown would lay claim to.

The Clerk then brought up an offer for two councillors to have a morning of Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) playground inspection training being organised by Exning Parish Council. Steve said no, the other councillors said nothing. The Clerk recommended that a weekly inspection of the play equipment would be a good idea. Steve said pointless, the other councillors kept their heads down and the despairing Clerk muttered about her wasted efforts in encouraging training.

Moving on, the Clerk had received a response to her letter to Andrew Powell of the Wicken Fen Community Liaison Forum "Attendance does not imply support for the Wicken Vision" or words to that effect. The general consensus of the councillors was that it is worth continuing attendance at the Forum meetings to keep a watching brief and that Swaffham Prior Parish Council reserves its position of opposition to the Wicken Fen Vision Project. Peter Hart commented that there was feeling in the village that Swaffham Prior should continue to be represented but, trying to be as tactful as possible, suggested that maybe, perhaps, in view of Geoffrey's exit from the introductory Forum meeting, the Chairman or possibly someone else, should be the village representative. Being the amenable chap that he is, the Chairman asked Geoffrey if he would be willing to continue to attend the meetings. With a yes from Geoffrey and the backing for a "dissenting voice" from Steve, it was agreed that Geoffrey-The Glared-At (hope you read last month's Crier) would attend future meetings of the renamed Wicken Fen Development Group or whatever it's now called since the "Vision Project" bit has been dropped from its name. At least Geoffrey's attendance at the introductory meeting achieved something.

Not newsworthy in itself perhaps but there has been a request for an allotment. The applicant however would also like another allotment to keep three to four geese on. With the geese having to be neighbours with the resident allotment bees, Paul expressed concerns for the welfare of the geese as apparently chickens can succumb to anaphylactic shock if stung. Is a goose a big chicken when it's stung? Given his evident caring nature it is probably a good thing that Paul is too young to remember the story of Chicken-Licken where Goose-Loose and Gander-Lander were eaten by Fox-Lox (so was Hen-Len). I believe it was Peter, on the other hand, who expressed concerns for the welfare of the crops on the other allotments with geese as neighbours given the grazing potential of geese. So, after pondering the efficiency of goose wing clipping, it was decided to say yes to the leasing of one allotment, for the sum of £5, but no to the geese on a second allotment.

A final demand had been received from Anglian Water. Following a bit of detective work from Steve it has come to light that for six and a half months during our wet summer and long cold winter, the equivalent water that a modest family uses over the same period has been clocked up on the cemetery water meter. Apparently some time in the past, I'm not sure when, a hose-pipe running from the cemetery tap to a trough with a defective ball valve in the neighbouring horse's field was found and intercepted. But what has caused such a high usage this half-year will have to be investigated. A cheque to stop the bailiffs visiting the Clerk was duly signed and Steve delegated to read the water meter forthwith. Maybe a word in the horses' ears to shower rather than take baths wouldn't go a miss. I did note that later in the meeting Andrew informed members that he is continuing to burn the rubbish at the cemetery. Given that the last time I came to the Parish Council meeting back in November he reported the same thing, maybe all this burning is causing changes to the distribution of rainfall and drought conditions in the cemetery, some sort of bonfire induced microclimate?

Now for something completely different. There has been a request from a local resident to commemorate the Land Army Girls that were stationed at Swaffham Prior House during the war. Sixty to seventy girls, mainly from the North of England, worked on the land to help provide food for the nation. There is no definitive list of names but it has been suggested that some sort of memorial be placed in Swaffham Prior to mark their presence and efforts during the war. Steve was keen to suggest a plague be placed on one of the new oak benches which conveniently are suitably constructed with scroll backs for such purposes. Other councillors were not so keen but failed to come up with an alternative. So if you can think of a fitting memorial, I'm sure the Parish Council would love to hear from you. And if you do wish to contact the Clerk, please be aware that she is changing her email address.

With the meeting drawing to a close, there were no questions or comments from the two regular dedicated observers. There was one from me however. Did anyone know who owns the two rams on the stretch of Devil's Dyke from the Burwell Road to the old railway bridge on the Swaffham Road to Reach? At the beginning of March my daughter was charged at and butted in the back by a horned ram whilst walking along this public right of way. Admittedly she was wearing a jacket with a sheepskin collar but she wasn't aware of the ramifications in doing so. I have tried to find the rams' owners so that maybe the one with attitude (the hornless one is quite biddable) can be relocated. When I say I have tried to find the owners, I really have tried. None of the local farming and long standing residents I asked knew but suggested Ditch Farm for which I have been unavailable to find a telephone or contact number for, the CCC rights of way problem reporting website had a "webpage error", the CCC Rights of Way telephone support team said they would find out and come back to me (still waiting) and the non-urgent Police asked me if I had reported it to the RSPCA Why?!! It's not Mr Horny that needs protecting.

In conclusion, despite it being a quiet meeting, it was interesting nonetheless. So it's confirmed then, hubby and I really must get out more.



It is forty years since the Churches Conservation Trust adopted St Cyriac and St Julitta Church in Swaffham Prior and we are proud to be celebrating this in 2013. Below is a brief account of how we got here.

- Swaffham Prior has had two churches in one churchyard since Norman times. There were two separate parishes
- In 1667 the parishes were joined under one vicar
- In 1779 St Mary's was abandoned following a lightning strike on the steeple
- In 1806 the church of St Cyriac's, derelict through disuse, was rebuilt in the Georgian neo-gothic style and adopted as the parish church
- In the 1890's Squire Allix decided to restore the crumbling St Mary's in the then popular "medieval" style
- In 1902 St Mary's became the parish church and St Cyriac's was abandoned as "ugly", allowed to deteriorate and be vandalised
- In the 1960's there were plans to demolish St Cyriac's leaving only the medieval tower
- Under local pressure the decision was reviewed and the Churches Conservation Trust adopted the building in 1973

FORTY YEARS ON FROM THAT DATE we are celebrating the recall to life of a graceful building of elegant proportions

St Cyriac's still needs care and improvements, towards which we enthusiastically raise funds. This is why we hope you will come and support the events that we are organising in the course of this 40th year.

See next month's Crier for more details of events or contact Elisabeth Everitt, 742974, or Francis Reeks, 743693, for more information.

Request to re-open a Footpath route from Commercial End, to the former Swaffham Prior Station

The Ramblers' Association has been asked, by a resident at Swaffham Prior, to assist in trying to re-open a footpath which once ran from Commercial End to the former Swaffham Prior Station. We understand that the path was set up whilst the railway was running, as a short cut to the station for people in Swaffham Bulbeck, but fell out of use when the railway closed in 1965. The map below shows the approximate route in red dashes.



This path could provide a pleasant country walk from either village, with a minimum of interference with land usage, given that a small diversion could be made at the northern end to avoid intruding on the property of the former station house. It would, however, require the consent of the landowners involved, and we think this is most likely to be given if a number of people from the villages are interested in using the path.

Anyone who would like to see the path re-opened is invited to contact us directly using the details below. Names and addresses will be treated as fully confidential, and not passed on without your explicit permission.

Roger & Janet Moreton Dr R.B. & Mrs J. Moreton,

Ramblers' Association Footpath Secretaries, 23 Emery Street, Cambridge CB1 2AX Tel. 01223 356889

e-mail: roger.janet@care4free.net

Swaffham Prior Village Hall presents:

The Village Feast

which is returning after a brief absence

to The Village Hall on Saturday 18th May

All the fun of the Feast without vegetables!

- Old favourites, and some shiny new attractions
- Food and drink cream teas and ice cream

If you have skills in Fete-running, would like to help with the organisation of the event, or can lend a hand on the day, please contact Mike Carrington (01638 741659 / mcarrington@me.com)

More details of the attractions will be available on the Village Hall website:

http://swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk

BON MOT NUMBER THIRTY ONE

"Going to church seems to me so poor a substitute for religion"

Georgie Burne-Jones
(1840-1920)

Jumble Sale Lode Social Club on Saturday 11th May from 2-4pm

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 are going to Sustrans for our future cycle path between Lode and Quy.

Get rid of all those woolly jumpers and stuff in murky corners, and help to raise money for a really important cause.

Thank you, Fran Platten 01223 813 016

BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 4TH MAY 7.30PM
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
TEAMS OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE
£5.00 PER PERSON

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE CONTACT HILDA BUCHANAN ON 01223-811689





NIBBLES AVAILABLE AT THE BAR

St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church Swaffham Prior

7.30pm Sunday 7 July

CHORAL CONCERT

Cadenza

directed by Martin Gent

with Brass Tacks

motets by Josquin des Prez, Monteverdi, Vittoria; madrigals by Morley & Weelkes; part of the Byrd 4 part mass; English folksong arrangements & two of Btitten's Flower Songs

Tickets priced at £10. For further information, please email: pianoappeal@bottishamvc.org

in aid of the Grand Piano appeal Bottisham Village College

Piano sketches by BVC Year 7 Students

Bottisham Village College Adult and Community Learning We have the following courses starting after Easter (from 22 April):

Ceramics

Traditional Indian Cookery Made Simple Counselling – Introduction (Level 2) The Craft of Felt Making (from 4 June) Life Drawing (daytime)

Sugarcraft – 'A Posy of Sugar Roses and Carnations'
Sugarcraft – 'Miniature Shoes and Handbags' (from 4
June)

Upholstery and Chair Caning French Conversation – Intermediate (daytime)

Saturday Workshops – 11 May 2013

Learn something new in a day
Dressmaking
Woodturning
Sugarcraft
Upholstery and Chair Caning

For full details visit our website: www.bottishamvc.org/
commed or contact the Community Office on 01223
811372

Email: commed@bottishamvc.org.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CommunityEdBott

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bottisham-Village-College-Adult-and-Community-Learning/360377503982558

The Cantilena Singers

Spring Concert

Saturday 20th April 7:30 pm St. Mary's Church, High Street Swaffham Bulbeck

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Programme selections:
Byrd - Mass for Four Voices
Harris - Faire is the Heaven
St. Saens - Ave Verum
Wood - Hail Gladdening Light
Lotti - Crucifixus

Tickets £10 and £8 (concessions) on the door; refreshments available

Heart Beat Healthy Walks celebrates 10th Anniversary

The Heart Beat Healthy Walks scheme is currently celebrating its 10th anniversary and we would like you to join us!

Heart Beat Healthy Walks is part of the national Walking for Health initiative and offers led walks for beginners. The scheme welcomes new walkers of all abilities throughout the year and currently runs 7 walks each week starting from a variety of locations around East Cambs.

Your nearest walk is held in Burwell on Thursdays; 10am, meeting at the war memorial

Walks also run from:

Soham; Mondays, 10am, meet at St Andrew's Church

Littleport; Tuesdays, 10:30am, meet at Harley Davidson Sculpture

Ely; Tuesdays, 2pm, meet outside entrance to Ely Cathederal

Wicken Fen; Wednesdays, 10am, meet at Wicken Fen car park

Littleport Buggy Walk; Wednesdays, 11:30am, meet at Littleport Childrens Centre

Sutton; Fridays, 10am, meet outside the Brooklands Centre.

If you would like to attend a walk simply turn up approximately 5 minutes early at any of the walks and look for your friendly Walk Leader Volunteer.

If you'd like further information about Heart Beat Healthy Walks or would like to train as a Walking for Health Volunteer Walk Leader please contact the Scheme Co-ordinator, Gemma Mott on 01353 865393.

Crossword Number 99

Compiled by **BYWELL**

Sponsored by The Red Lion

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 April 2013. 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.

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27						28		
29								

Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	

Across

- 1 Composer to reform NHS banjo masher (8,6)
- **10** One staring right at Lego puzzle (5)
- 11 Making putty echo as girl in pool might do (5-4)
- **12** After net loss from emigration new format for paperwork (7)
- **13** Opposed to one more road (7)
- **14** Unprepared remark altering Garibaldi's conclusion (2,3)
- **16** Not to be distinguished from blinis I've cooked (9)
- **19** Former correcting of hernias (9)
- 20 Left a German one to stay in bed (3-2)
- 22 Swirling brew of dyed gin (7)
- 25 Waterproofing soothes relations (7)
- 27 Happy eating in Australia for example (9)
- **28** Brian oddly has a model put into wastebasket (3,2)
- 29 Russian composer making my kir or kvass OK (6-8)

Down

- 2 Ill and dies of ruptured fluid aggregations down below (9)
- 3 Shake oar at main vessel (5)
- **4** Italian in black Parisian uprising follows companion to bolt food (9)
- **5** Second young animal one helps underwater (5)
- **6** Preparatory session tries gangster again (9)
- 7 Composer's handy variation (5)

- **8** It may appear as mushrooms over a pruned woody plant (7)
- **9** Cigar embedded in decor on abattoir (6)
- **15** Release a Scottish town's sphere of authority (9)
- **17** Rev Merton transformed into a statesman (9)
- 18 Enter old linesmen bearing a relative's model duck (5,4)
- **19** More intense form of second stage of cancer rife (7)
- 21 Ulster city sheltering alien product of 5 and 18 (6)
- 23 Jeans cloth is dug up (5)
- 24 Force kings to eat peeled beet, unintelligible to me (5)
- **26** Star group held back by star billing (5)

Solution to crossword no. 98



We congratulate Tricia Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Commiserations to runner-up, Bob Nunn.

Power tools recovered in East Cambs

POLICE recovered a haul of power tools which are suspected to have been stolen from the East Cambs area.

Officers seized a number of tools from several addresses yesterday (Tuesday).

People can attend Ely Police Station to see if they can identify the property.

An image of some of the property is available via the force website.

Call 101 to make an appointment to attend the station.

Four men were arrested and have been bailed pending further enquiries.

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre presents Gilbert and Sullivan's

Ruddigore

Wednesday - Saturday 12th - 15th June 7.30 pm (matinee Saturday 2.30)

Downing Farm, Station Road, Swaffham Bulbeck.

We look forward to seeing you. Ticket prices available in later



'There's no way I'd keep up if I still smoked'

CAMQUIT can help you quit smoking for good. We will arrange Nicotine Replacement therapies at prescription only cost and for those who don't pay prescriptions these are free.

Call 0800 018 4304 or visi www.camquit.nhs.uk

Open July

'Open July' is being planned for 2013. This is an opportunity for you to benefit from shared promotion of events across the County.

The range of events and activities will be wide - Sports, Arts, Culture, Community Games, Recycling, Access to Countryside, etc. Events that have worked well in the past have been family activities, taster sessions, accessible and participatory events. There is no specific theme this year as we'd like to enable as many organisations as possible to be a part of this, and for the event to be open to all.

One year on from an excellent Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is essential that work continues in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to ensure that the County benefits from the value that legacy development can bring.

The Group for Olympic Legacy Development, GOLD, (consisting of elected members and senior officer of the local authorities, Living Sport, Volunteer Centres and Health professionals) has developed 6 strands for legacy development; this is one of them.

The Cultural Olympiad opened up opportunities for people across the UK to visit spaces, places and people and get them involved in imaginative, thought-provoking creative activities. We are keen to capitalise on the successes of the previous years of 'Open Weekends' as they helped to promote cultural and community-led activities to the residents of Cambridgeshire. Particularly popular were the joint arts, culture and sport activities that allowed taster opportunities and a vibrant atmosphere for families to try something new.

If your event has sporting and cultural elements you could apply to be part of the Community Games, with funding of up to £250. For more information about the Community Games in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough contact Jim Hill at jim.hill@livingsport.co.uk or 01487 841559 or see http://www.communitygames.org.uk/organise-games

We will post the Open July event on Cambridgeshire.net, and will promote it widely through our communications team at the County Council.

We hope that you'll consider what events you can arrange for July. If you already have events arranged, please notify us of the details on the attached spread sheet below, and return to Charlotte.Wilson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk by Friday 5th April 2013. If you would like to send any photographs or pictures to accompany our promotion of your event we will endeavour to include it wherever possible.

Joanne Gray

Lead Officer, Participation, Castle Hall, Castle Hill, CAMBRIDGE CB3 0AP

Telephone: 01223 715476

e.mail: joanne.gray@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Web: http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/arts/

Wheelie Bins March On Part Two

The Second Part of the letter of John Hill, Chief Executive of ECDC, regarding Waste and Recycling. Part One appeared in the March Crier.

▶ Why can't black bags be accepted at MBT facilities?

Black bags normally go through the MBT facility, although as you may have heard this facility is currently out of action due to mechanical breakdown. You may be referring to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) which is where the mixed recyclable waste will be sent to under the new system. Black bags aren't accepted through this facility as this would result in contamination, reducing options for and value of material collected.

▶ Do the materials to go in the black bin have to be prepared – for example wash out cans?

As now, residents will be asked to rinse out cans, bottles & jars. This is to reduce contamination & help keep bins & boxes clean.

► If cans are not washed out, will they still be taken away by the collection agent?

They will still be taken if they just contain residue, but not if still full of the original contents – as now.

► What is the estimated improvement in recycling attributable to the green bin?

It is predicted that recycling performance will increase from 37-45%. An additional 3938 tonnes of material are predicted, 2499 of organic waste & 1439 tonnes of recycling, giving a percentage contribution to the increase of 63% & 37% respectively. Much of the green bin increase is expected to be from food, little of which is currently collected & that feedback has suggested will increase due to more suitable containment.

▶ What is the estimated improvement in recycling attributable to the black bin?

Please see above response.

► Is the green bin more important to immediate increases in the recycling rate than the black bin?

It is expected that the green bin will make a greater impact than the blue bin, although both are needed to make significant progress towards a European recycling target of 50% by 2020. The blue bin is also essential to ensure compliance with another European target to collect paper, glass, cans & plastic from households by 2015.

► I see from the ECDC website that there is an intention to segregate and collect plastics from 2015 onwards — would this mean the introduction of a third

wheeled bin (a blue bin)?

Plastics will go into the blue wheeled bin from commencement of the new service. It is acceptable that it is collected mixed with other recyclables.

- ► After distribution who owns the bins?

 The wheeled bins will remain the property of the District Council.
- ► Is there an obligation for individuals to keep the bins attributed to them off the public pathway at the front of their house?

There is an obligation to store the bins within the property boundary between collections. Residents will be asked to present them for collection on their property boundary or if on a private road, where this joins the public highway. Guidance will be issued about not presenting bins in a way that will obstruct public footpaths.

► Is there an obligation for individuals to keep the bins attributed to them out of sight between collection dates?

No, as long as they are stored within the property boundary. This wouldn't be possible where there is no side or rear access to a property as we wouldn't expect people to take them through their houses for storage between collections.

► It is believed that people will be able to mark the bins so that they can be identified but will vivid/psychedelic colouring be controlled?

People will be encouraged to mark bins with their house number. It is intended to have an allocated space on each bin to enter the house number, which it is



hoped will lead to a more uniform appearance. There are no current plans to specify how or where bins are marked, but this hasn't been seen as a problem in other areas of Cambridgeshire where wheeled bins are currently in use.

Some people were unaware that this new system was being introduced. Using which media methods was the consultation advertised – for example leaflets, letter drops, newspaper adverts, and posters for those who are less technology reliant (such as the elderly who may be particularly affected by this change) Internet, text messages, facebook and so on for those more technology reliant such as younger members of the community? Please list the methods used.

Consultation was carried out between 19th June & 31st July through the following routes: Council web site; Shape Your Place web site; 2 Media releases – published in Ely Weekly News & Newmarket Journal, but not Ely Standard; E-mail to parish, city & town councils; Attendance & displays at all Neighbourhood Panels; Hard copies of consultation questionnaire & supporting information available from ECDC Customer Services or by contacting Waste Team; E-mail to all ECDC councillors & staff; Neighbouring district councils notified (some staff live within East Cambridgeshire).

► Is there an obligation within the consultation process to reach all members of the community using many different methods of communication?

It would not be possible to reach all residents as part of a consultation process, but every effort was made within the resources & timescales available. Regrettably funds were not available for newspaper adverts or leaflet drops, which undoubtedly would have achieved a higher response level.

Prior to introduction of service changes a series of roadshows & communications activities will be arranged to allow residents to become familiar with changes before introduction & to speak to staff if they have concerns. Sadly this higher level of resource wasn't available for the consultation as it is being funded through the grant award.

The Council is currently recruiting 3 temporary staff to assist with introduction of changes & part of their job will involve awareness raising activities. A further 4 staff will also be employed over the roll-out period to be on the ground as services are being introduced & assist residents with any problems that they experience.

I hope I have answered your questions, but please contact me again if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

News from Bottisham Patients' Group

General Practice Annual Survey for 2012

The responses of the 200 patients who completed the survey in January have now been analysed and an action plan for 2013 agreed by the Practice with the Patients' Group. The main findings are very encouraging and show a high level of satisfaction despite the pressures which the NHS reforms are putting on primary care. You can find the full summary at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk. Here are the conclusions:

99% of patients found the receptionists helpful.

Satisfaction with various aspects of the doctors' care was always above 90%; 100% of patients said they had confidence and trust in the last doctor they saw.

Satisfaction with the nurses' care was similarly very high with 99% of patients having confidence and trust in the last one they saw.

Generally patients said that both the doctors and nurses helped them to understand their health problems with 88% saying this was done 'very well'.

98% of patients would recommend the Practice to someone else.

The survey also identified aspects of the Practice's service where some patients suggested improvements. As a result the following action plan has been agreed:

On-line reminders to order repeat prescriptions

This facility is not available on the new clinical system but in Summer 2013 a Monthly Repeat Prescription Service will be introduced. Patients who sign up to the scheme can collect their regular monthly medication every 28 days, without having to order.

Booking repeat appointments more than 3 weeks ahead

This facility will be introduced in Summer 2013.

Contacting the Practice by telephone

There are times, primarily at 8.30 am, when it will be difficult to get through as all lines can be busy. The Practice requests that patients with non-urgent queries call between 10am and 3pm. However, they have recently recruited more staff and will ensure that as many members of reception/admin staff as possible are answering the phones during peak times. A voice mail facility is not available on the new telephone system but most patients want to speak directly to a member of staff so the Practice will ensure that reception/admin staff give priority to incoming calls wherever possible.

Waiting times to see doctors

Over 91% of patients report that they wait between 5 and 30 minutes to see the doctor and 86% consider this wait acceptable. All the doctors endeavour to give the full attention required by patients but sometimes complicated cases arise and delays are unavoidable. Your understanding and patience are appreciated when this happens. Morning surgeries have recently been extended and have built-in catch up slots for the doctors to minimise delays. Wherever possible, Reception staff will inform patients of any major delays in a doctor's schedule. Doctors are allocated 10 minutes per appointment and ask that patients try to bring just one problem to each consultation. Double appointments can be booked (subject to availability) for more complex cases. Doctors and nurses are often presented with other family members during a 10-minute consultation and patients are asked to book separate appointments for different family members to ensure there is enough time for each patient.

Improving the main door access to the surgery

The Practice has asked its maintenance contractor to improve the closures on the current doors. For the future the option of new/automatic doors will be explored.

A small survey like this cannot give a complete picture of patients' experiences

of primary care provision. The Patients' Group relies on feedback throughout the year to keep the Practice informed of patients' needs. The survey showed that while 82% of patients have regular access to the internet only 42% are aware of the Group's pages on the Practice website and even fewer are aware of the Virtual Patients' Group. This is a way of keeping in touch with the Practice without being on the PG committee. Please sign up at http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ ppg.aspx.

Meanwhile, you are cordially invited to the Patients' Group AGM:

On Thursday 25th April at 7.00 pm

In the Lecture Room at Bottisham Village College

Hear Dr Margaret Elliott talk about Healthy Ageing

Let us know what topics the Group should be looking at in the coming year

Bottisham Patients' Group Committee

Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

The Club's year will be drawing to a close. Tuesday 30 April will be our last major event for this year and will be 'Gigapixel Photography' by local photographer Sophie Wilson. Sophie will present and demonstrate high resolution panoramic photography from across the world.

In February 2013 the club entered the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF) Projected Digital Image Club Championship annual competition. A total of 34 clubs entered from around the region. Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club were placed eighth and last year we were ninth. The winning clubs were first: Beyond Group, second: Cambridge Camera Club and third: Ipswich & District Photographic Society. The judges' favourite image of the day was 'New Brighton Shelter' taken by Ian Kippax AFIAP DPAGB BPE3*, one of our members and he was presented with the Martin Fry Award.

Dates for your diaries:

'Welcome Back' The first meeting of the 2013/2014 year will be held on Tuesday 10 September 2013, when members are asked to bring photographs/images which have been taken over the summer break. Members' winning prints from last year will also be on display. New members are welcome and can bring any pictures that they have taken during the summer.

'Images of Iceland' 17 September – A digital presentation by Chrissie & Colin Westgate, prolific photographers from West Mersea.

'Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club 40th Anniversary Exhibition'. Planning for our Exhibition is now well underway. The Exhibition will be held at Mandeville Hall Burwell on Saturday 19 October 10:00-4:30 pm & Sunday 20 October 10:00-4:00 pm. The official opening will be on Saturday at 10:30 am.

The club welcomes guests to any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW from 7:30 - 9:30pm. Fee of £2.00 including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £30.00, Joint Membership: £50.00, Student: £15.00, plus weekly fee of 50p (including refreshments).

For further details contact: Mrs Daphne Hanson CPAGB APAGB T: 01638 741106



Mothers' Union

At our last Mothers' Union meeting Jennifer Day gave us a very interesting talk about 'Traidcraft' when she explained its importance in transforming the lives of poor people in developing countries. The unique structure of Traidcraft operates both as a fair trade trading company and a development charity.

'Traidcraft' does more than just sell products - they support thousands of smallholder farmers and artisans in developing countries to trade their way out of poverty. She said that more than 1 billion people are struggling to survive on less than one dollar per day. They also help people to gain the confidence, knowledge and opportunities to improve their livelihoods and find a secure and fair market for their goods.

She brought along a wide range of 'Traidcraft' products for us to see - not just food but also fashion items, toys, stationery, as well as products for the home.

Our Mothers' Union meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30 p.m. in Lode Chapel and, should you wish to join us, you would be most welcome.

Anne Phoenix



WI Notes

Following the regular business at the March meeting on the 18th March, the Annual Meeting dealt with the election of a new RING WOMEN president and two new committee members. This was followed by wine and a selection of savoury foods provided by the

committee and entertainment including bingo and several quiz items organised by some of the members. Pat Airey was presented with a plant and thanked for all her hard work as president over the past two years and Pat Cook was welcomed back for a second term of office. Fortunately the secretary, Margaret Phillips and treasurer, Shirley Wilkins, who do all the hard work, have agreed to stay on for this next year. We are all looking forward to another year with an interesting and varied programme in which we try to accommodate the varying interests of our members. The next meeting is on 15th April when there will be an Antiques Road Show with Barrie Stevenson talking about items brought along by members. New members and occasional visitors are always welcome. Regular meetings are on the third Monday of the month in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30 so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group.

> Pat Cook President

School News

We have been enjoying further class assemblies this half term.

On Thursday 21st February, we were treated to Saturn Class assembly. We found out about the circulatory system in the human body and parents helped demonstrate the flow of oxygenated and deoxygenated blood around the body. We were shown pieces of artwork inspired by Picasso (during his Cubist phase) based on portraits of children in the class, which are on display in school if you wish to see them. The children have also been working on persuasive writing and we heard some very well argued opinions based on 'Reading books, watching films'. To open and close the assembly, we enjoyed their singing. It was an informative and entertaining time.



Dressing up

Neptune Class visited Burwell House at just after the half term holiday and had a wonderful time. They proved to be an enthusiastic group and comments were made by the staff at Burwell House about their good behaviour and their love of food! The majority of activities were based outside and ranged from learning how to read compasses and use them to follow simple routes and locate areas on a map of the grounds, to working in teams to solve team challenges.

Neptune class held their class assembly on Thursday7th March. We were treated to power point presentations about their time there and the amazing 'Eggscape'. The



The School Council: they organised a Fund Raiser for Comic Relief

children showed us willow stars that they had carefully knotted together and bags that they decorated had using t h e technique of batik. We found about Tanka poems a n d examples based on the school grounds and the coming of spring were read to us. We were told about working in team games and the importance of

working co-operatively. Extracts were also read and there was an overwhelming sense of the enjoyment that they had had and how wonderful the food was! We very much enjoyed hearing and finding out about their encounters.

Mercury class assembly is following soon.

School Council arranged a series of events to raise money for Comic Relief and the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Children and



adults in school were asked to come dressed in an outfit whish represented what they wanted to be when they got older. We saw doctors, firemen, fashion designers, several teachers, a ballet dancer, a fairy, a paramedic, some mad scientists, explorers



and a lot of red noses! A red circle with the initials CLDF written in the middle was chalked outside the school. Throughout the day children and adults covered the chalk circle and letters until they could be seen no more. The third event was a 'Bake Off'. Children brought in biscuits which they had decorated and each class took it in turns to judge another classes biscuits. School Council then chose two overall winners. The biscuits looked fantastic and it was a difficult choice. After

school they were sold. Congratulations go to School Council for organising the day.

On Friday 15th March, Neptune and Saturn classes went to the Big bang Fair in London. It is a huge event which centres on science and technology. Highlights were, experiencing the thrill of motor car racing, meeting robots, building models and presenting a weather forecast.

We are now looking forward to a Circle choir concert and celebrating Easter at St Mary's!

Exciting times ahead!

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher



Visit to the Big Bank Fair

News from Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen

We've now had our first full winter since the construction of a low level earth bund around part of Burwell Fen, part of a major European Union funded project looking into low cost methods of protecting vulnerable areas against the adverse effects of climate change. The bund will eventually aid the establishment of floodplain grazing marsh and has already proved extremely successfully with large numbers of widgeon and teal over wintering on the fen. The fen should provide excellent habitat for breeding wading birds in the spring.

Construction of the access ramp for the planned new crossing over Burwell Lode (part of the Lodes Way) which was delayed by the extremely wet weather over the last few months, is now underway. The ramp will be used as a viewing point complete with seating until sufficient funds are in place to complete the bridge. A small area of hard standing used by contractors will eventually be converted into a small car park on the north side of the Lode. Contractors will be starting soon on fencing parts of Burwell Fen in preparation for the movement of some 30 -40 konik ponies and highland cattle from Adventurer's Fen to Burwell Fen during the summer months. The fencing will enable us to segregate the animals from areas of high user traffic, such as the Lodes Way cycleway. A colour brochure on our Extensive Grazing Programme is available from the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre, or please e-mail your postal address to wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk and we will drop a copy in the post.

Work is currently being undertaken to restore parts of historic Fen Cottage – the roof tiles are being replaced with reclaimed pantiles and interior walls re-plastered with traditional lime plaster. Once this work is completed we hope to re-instate the loft area of the cottage into family living space.

For Easter weekend we have our popular Easter Trails at both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen (Fri 29 March –Monday 1 April £2) - follow the trail and hunt for clues to claim your delicious chocolate Cadbury Egghead prize (booking not required – normal admission applies). At Wicken we are also holding an Egg & Spoon Eggstravaganza on Bank Holiday Monday from 10.30 – 4pm, where we will have a selection of fun egg & spoon races for all the family- including obstacle and three legged races. Bring your favourite racing spoon and we will provide the eggs.

At Wicken, the Easter holiday fun continues with Pond Dipping & Minibeast Hunting on 2 & 9 April; Spring Time Arts & Crafts –Wed 3 April; Myths & Magic Fri 5 April; Den Building – Wed 10 April and Wildlife Detectives on Fri 12 April. Cycle hire and boat trips will also be running throughout the Easter holidays.

Looking slightly further ahead - May is the best time to catch the dawn chorus — so if you're prepared for a very earlier start (4.45am) we have Dawn Chorus Walks on the 4 & 12 May – tickets £12 (including bacon roll & coffee). You can book tickets for all events at Wicken Fen by calling the Box Office on 0844 249 1895 or online by following the links from the events page on our website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wickenfen

BURWELL HAPPY TOTS Second Hand 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 20th 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
<u>burwellhappytots@hotmail.co.uk</u>

Advance Notice!

Midsummer Market - 15th & 16th June, 2013

St Cyriac's Church

Donations for the following stalls wanted:
Plants and Gardens (please remember us when taking cuttings or thinning your borders)

Bric-a-Brac – everything welcome, can collect now, see contacts below

Books, Games, Toys and Tapes etc
"Pre-Loved" Clothing – sale on 50/50% basis
Look out for further information in next month's Crier of other stalls, activities, events and attractions – 2013 is a "big" year for St Cyriac's Church, find out why in April!

For collection of donations please contact:

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

FANTASTIC FIBONACCI

In late spring the Garden is bursting with life – you can practically watch the hop shoots lengthen, the chestnut leaves unfurl, the wildflowers expand in the long grass The diversity and rate can appear areas. joyously chaotic, but a closer look at many plants reveals pattern and order. One of the most prevalent mathematical manifestations in nature is the Fibonacci sequence, named after Leonard of Pisa, known as Fibonacci, whose 1202 book introduced from earlier Indian mathematics a number sequence 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 and so on – the next number in the sequence is the sum of the previous two.



When these sequence numbers are used as the side lengths of squares which are then tiled together and the corners of each square connected by a continuous arc, a spiral shape emerges. This spiral pattern is seen in plants in all sorts of ways: tree branching, the plated armour of a pineapple, the arrangement of scales in a pinecone. At this time of year, the sequence can be seen in whorled leaf arrangements as they develop around a stem. If you look down a plant such as a sunflower from above, as a bird, you can see the leaves spirally arranged so that each gets maximum exposure to sunlight and to water. This spiral arrangement is seen too in the sunflower itself which is made up of hundreds of florets arcing out from a central point. Later in the year when the seeds develop, this arrangement provides optimal packing of the seeds — they are all uniformly packed and of an even size, not crowded in the centre and inefficiently spaced at the edges.

Looking at plants this closely will be the theme of our Festival of Plants at the Garden on 18 May. As well as the Talking Plants Tent where you will be able to bring along your gardening dilemmas to ask our experts for help, a marquee devoted to the latest in plant science, Guides throughout the Glasshouse Range with prop boxes chock-full with things like the biggest seed in the world (the vast Coco de Mer), a plant promenade along our Main Walk featuring a boutique selection of local, independent nurserers, our Systematic Beds will be the focus for a range of activities, tours and talks designed to encourage you to look more closely at the structures and the mathematical beauty of plants and flowers. The event runs from 10am-4pm on Saturday 18 May, and we'd love to see you there. Normal Garden admission applies.



From our Local County Councillor David Brown

Full Council met on 19th February to debate the Business Plan proposals recommended by Cabinet (as reported last month). Following a 6 hour debate the Cabinet proposals for the plan for the next 5 years were approved.

An extra meeting of Cabinet was held in February to consider the tender documents for rolling-out Superfast Broadband across Cambridgeshire. Cabinet agreed to award the contract to BT and the contract should be signed over the next few weeks.

A meeting was held with ECDC officers to ensure that the Burwell Masterplan and Village Vision (currently out to consultation) are using consistent figures. I arranged for the Chairman of the Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer to address a public meeting in Swaffham Bulbeck regarding plans to merge Burwell and Swaffham Bulbeck Fire Stations following the building of a new Fire Station and Training Facility on Reach Road, Burwell.

I chaired meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board, Children in Care Council, Child Poverty Champions Group and Transitions Board during February. These are meetings which bring great satisfaction, knowing you are making real differences to some of the most vulnerable young people in Cambridgeshire.

Minister for Schools, David Laws MP, visited Cambridge. I met him at CRC and took the opportunity to press our case for fairer funding for Cambridgeshire schools and also to address the thorny issue of home to school transport for those attending the planned University Technical College.

David Brown



Reach Cricket Club Welcomes new members from Swaffham Prior

Reach Cricket Club is in an exciting period of expansion. We are in the process of creating our own cricket pitch on a field off the Burwell Road and are looking to bolster our membership. We currently play around 10 friendly matches a year, plus an annual performance in the National Village

Cricket Cup. Our teams are all-ability, so don't worry if your cricketing skills are mediocre. We have in the past fielded everyone from a former test player to a German boy who had never played cricket before.

If you are interested in playing regularly, or even just occasionally, please contact Ross Clark on 01638 743725 or at rossjclark@aol.com

Notes from Parish Council Meeting 14th March 2013

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

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

None.

Public Participation:

No comments.

Reports:

CCC-Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC–Cllr Allen Alderson was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report that was read to the meeting by Clerk.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (for information only):

New seats outside Village Hall: Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that the new seats had been delivered and were in storage until the weather improves. In the meantime, the Clerk was to obtain an estimate to have the old seats taken out and the new ones installed. Steve said he was hopeful the old seats could be renovated and used at the front of the Village Hall building.

Lower End Ditch: Following an enquiry about the responsibility of keeping the ditch itself clear, the Clerk had contacted the Environment Agency and received a detailed booklet on riparian responsibilities, etc. Steve Kent-Phillips said he would also speak with CCC as they had on occasion (some years ago) cleared the ditch when needed.

Correspondence for Consideration/Circulation:

ECDC – *Updates on Recycling Service Changes:* General discussion. Details can be viewed on ECDC's website.

ECDC – Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – consultation: This was noted. Details can be viewed on ECDC's website.

General – *Notice of an application to register mines and minerals* – *parts, powers of working (land on the north-west side of Green head Road).* An application was submitted to the Land Registry from the Church Commissions for England. Following discussion the Clerk was asked to confirm to the Land Registry that the Parish Council had no objections.

Local Development Plan/Village Vision:

Following discussion there were no additional comments.

Wicken Fen Community Liaison Forum – *Parish Council Representative:*

A letter was received from the Chairman of the Forum clarifying its role and purpose and following discussion it was agreed that Geoffrey Woollard would continue as Parish Council representative and attend the next meeting of the Forum in April.

Surfacing to Village Hall Drive and Car Park:

Martin Mead, by copy letter to the VHMC, had alerted the Parish Council to the condition of the drive and car park explaining the need for new shingle on top to stop the surfacing underneath from potholing. It was agreed that this work should be done and the Clerk was to speak further with Martin.

Request to Rent Allotment:

A request was received for the new 'lower' allotment area. This was agreed subject to marking out of plots and drawing up of a plan to ensure adequate access, etc.

Repairs to Pound Gate:

An estimate was received from Simon King to replace the latching post to the gate. Following discussion it was suggested that John Covill contact Simon to clarify the type of wood to be used before asking him to go ahead with the work.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Clerk's Reports:

Annual inspection of play area: To be carried out by RoSPA sometime during April.

Cemetery: Complaint received about the size of the rubbish heap. Andrew Camps told the meeting that he had this in hand and the rubbish was greatly reduced.

Memorial to Land Army Girls: Andy Prince's suggestion of a memorial in the village was received well by members. Steve Kent-Phillips referred to the new seats to be installed outside the village hall suggesting perhaps fixing suitably engraved plaques.

Annual Village Assembly: Sue Loaker, Crime Reduction Officer, to attend meeting. The Annual Village Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 22nd May 2013 at the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm

Parish Councillor's Reports:

No additional reports.

Open Question Time:

General discussion.

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, 11th April 2013, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

All are welcome to attend.

Karen King — Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel: 742358. <u>NEW EMAIL</u> ADDRESS: <u>karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk</u>



WHY?

A few weeks ago I had the sad privilege of conducting the funeral of a good friend of mine, Ali White. I worked with him at Queen's Court, trod the boards with him at Bottisham Players, and last year joined him on a fundraising trip to the top of Snowdon. When close friends or family die we struggle to make sense of what has happened, and for some of us our faith in God is shaken. More than ever we want to believe that our lives have meaning and purpose, but we are left asking why the loving and powerful creator of the universe didn't stop this terrible thing happening.

You see, it seems that he's broken that unspoken agreement many of us have with God. "We'll believe in you" we say, "we'll do our best to live good lives, and perhaps we'll even go to church once in a while", and in return we hope that God will respond by generally looking after us and stopping anything really bad happening to us. But then something bad does happen; one of the good guys suddenly gets sick and dies and something deep within us cries out: "this isn't fair".

In the midst of our pain the Bible goes some way to help. You see, it says that "Jesus wept". The unique thing about the Christian faith is that it believes in a God who lived the human life, felt human pain, and knows the reality of the suffering present in our world. It also says that when we "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" God is there offering to walk with us and to give us the strength and the comfort we need.

Most importantly, the Bible points the way along the path to a different world, to a place in which pain, sorrow and death will one day be no more. The journey starts when we receive the gift of forgiveness, offered to us on Good Friday, when Christ took on death, dying on our behalf, and paying the price for the things that each one of us has done wrong. The destination is made certain in his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday, when we are reminded that good has conquered evil, that light has overcome darkness, that life has ultimately defeated death.

The atheist says that life is a journey that ends with death. The Christian faith declares that this life is a pilgrimage, which ends with new life. May you, and those you know who are struggling with the loss of a loved one, seek God, and in the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, find hope, and One who offers to walk with you in your times of trial.

Please do contact me if you need to talk further about anything I have raised here...

Simon Goddard

Services in April

Sun 7th Apr, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 14th Apr, 10.30am – RE:NEW Café & Kids Club (School)

Sun 14th Apr, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)

Sun 21st Apr, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 21st Apr, 5.30pm – Contemplative Service (Lode Chapel)

Sun 28th Apr, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 28th Apr, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month: jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk, or c813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.



Offers

3 chairs of mushroom coloured leather. Will push together to make 2 or 3 seater sofa. Matching glass topped coffee table. All in good condition. Judith/Chris c812085

Tubes of used tennis balls, perfect for youngsters learning to play tennis [the balls don't bounce so high] and for general ball games and for dogs that love chasing a ball. Fran c813016

Tile-top pine kitchen storage trolley. Stephen c812649

Goodmans Freeview Digital Box. Model GDB 12XIT. Comes with instruction book, scart lead and remote control. Mike c8123781

Videos in very good condition on events encountered by the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force covering the following topics: Dunkirk, Midway, D Day, Battle of Britain, BBC Secret War, Resistance, Code Breaking, Blitz, Home Front, Lord Mountbatten, Churchill's War, and the Falklands War. Lis c811233

Plastic water-filter jug (white lid, clear jug). Jun 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.

Fold-up table tennis table for Swaffham Bulbeck Youth Club. Liz c811264/Debs c813007

Music stand, metronome, guitar tuner. Jun c813362

PASTORAL LETTER, April 2013

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends.

Did you ever make the mistake of ending a sentence with a preposition? If so, it was the opportunity for your teacher to offer the retort (claiming, probably wrongly, that Winston Churchill said it): "This is the type of English up with which I will not put". I'm told that ancient Greek had a similar rule, so was a little surprised to learn that St Mark's Gospel ends with a preposition, at



least at the point where many scholars believe the original manuscript ended. Even though our English translations correct the grammar, they still can't avoid the unsettling incident with which Mark ends his Gospel.

Chapter 16 records that after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James went to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body. When they arrived, the stone had been rolled away from the tomb and they were confronted by a young man dressed in a white robe. "Do not be alarmed.........He has been raised.......But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you". The passage continues: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid". And that, as far as early readers were concerned, was it!

Why it is this way is a matter of conjecture. Some have suggested that Mark was interrupted before he had been able to finish and would have added some resurrection appearances had he had the opportunity (as some later editors have done). Others see it as deliberate: as if Mark felt there was nothing more to add to this amazing truth. After all, if the Resurrection had not happened, the Gospel would not have been written. The disciples, whose dejection following the crucifixion is well attested, would have been left with memories of their great master but little else. All that he promised would turn out to be empty dreams and the sect he founded would have died out.

But the Gospel was written and what it attests is that the horror of Good Friday was not the end. The message which Jesus had brought was that love conquers all and that even death could not overcome it. The fear of the women at the tomb was replaced by the certainty that Good Friday had not been the end but the start of the Christian community. This community, with all its humanity and failing, still continues today. It cannot claim to be perfect but has a perfect vision to strive for, or even, one for which to strive.

Happy Easter

Sue Giles

FOUND

One silver chain necklace found on foot path, Swaffham Prior. Call 07703 260143,

The Arbour

No telephone and no TV, In the arbour, Just you and me

Occasionally cups of tea
In the arbour,
By the tree.

No TV, and no telephone
Just the two of us
All alone.

In Sunday's newsprint
Wars and riot
In the arbour
Peace and quiet.

Ophir



Due to long-standing illness, Ophir's wife Edna has very recently had to take up permanent residence in a care home. We would like to send our very best wishes to both.

Waste Collection

There will be no changes to waste collection days for Easter, May or August Bank Holidays. Collections will take place on normal days, even if they fall on a bank holiday.

Dates for Your Diary April 2013

Thu	11	PC Meeting, 7.30, VH
Fri	12	
Sat	13	
Sun	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	15	WI, 7.30, VH
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Sat	20	Cantilena Singers, 7.30pm, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck Burwell Happy Tots Sake, 10.30am, Gardeners Memorial Hall, Burwell
Tues	30	Bottisham & Burwell Photo Club, 7.30, Lode Chapel
Wed	31	

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Kelly Mead	741069	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Cubs	Cubs Tim Doe		Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group			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	WI Pat Cook 74222		3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues Thurs	7-8:30pm 7-10:00pm	Youth Club Hut Hut