



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVII Number 8/9

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Editorial

Many congratulations to Thomas Newbolt, who has just won the prestigious Ruth Borchard Self-Portraiture Competition. Deservedly this beautiful and haunting picture has caused quite a stir at national

levels, although inevitably some local critics are more censorious: “but Thomas is far more *handsome* than that” one was heard to mutter! The *Crier* is very fortunate because Thomas is a frequent contributor to its cover page and we are very privileged to have an original by the same artist for this August issue.

If you missed Roy Tricker’s excellent talk at the St Cyriac’s 40 year On

celebrations now is your opportunity to catch up, because this month Roy has very kindly agreed to send us an article about his life as a “church crawler” and a childhood spent in the company of elderly vicars. Not to be allowed these days of course, where few of us (including Roy) can have failed to notice that the smallest flicker of a smile or attempt at conversation

with an infant is inevitably met with hostile glares from suspicious parents. Poor children, poor adults, what a world.

FOSPS are having a Quiz Night to follow their AGM on the 24th of September which they’d like you to know about — Happy summer holidays, see you in October!



Thomas Newbolt’s award winning self-portrait

Cover Picture: *Toasting the Summer* by Thomas Newbolt

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Caroline Matheson



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

John Norris's Paths

The church bells were rung on 26th June (a glorious sunny morning) in memory of my father's passing a year ago. They were lovely to listen to and much appreciated. Thank you to those involved. Whilst enjoying a coffee afterwards with my son Tom and his girlfriend Natalie (who now reside in my father's house) I happened upon the Swaffham Crier which always makes interesting reading.

As church warden, Brenda Wilson wrote a touching piece in appreciation of Dad's legacy (the two new paths) then onto the Parish Council's report....!

Well! My heart sank at such ingratitude and the ungracious comments, and I really wondered why we had bothered. The two paths in question were previously a nightmare particularly for pallbearers, the elderly and handicapped people (I am sure a few of you can remember my father's struggle trying to get my mother to church in her wheelchair when so poorly?) and in cold and inclement weather something of a hazard. Regarding comments about slippery tarmac, are not most of the village paths tarmac, and quite a few on inclines too? Tom is more than happy to salt the paths if necessary, but only in the churchyard note! Colour and materials would always be debated and probably never agreed upon as Alastair Everitt rightly says, 'Some people are never grateful'!

Of course, most comments have been in appreciation. I witnessed my father dedicate over fifty years of his life to the well-being of both churches and he maintained the paths in immaculate order when he was young and fit, and towards his inevitable end we would chat together about his legacy as he wanted to ensure that those who followed after him would find the paths easier to navigate, especially the elderly and infirm.

May I quote his often used quote, 'Never look a gift horse in the mouth'!
..and one of my Mother's favourites 'Blessed are the peace makers...'

I hope that everyone will come round to recognising the paths are in fact an improvement.

Kate Comins

Dear Editors

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2013 CHANGE OF DATE

I am unable to hold the Coffee Morning on the usual Friday this year so it will be on **Saturday, 28th September** from 10:30 am till 12:00 noon at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior. Maybe this will be an opportunity for some more people to come who are working on a Friday; as well as all the loyal and faithful regulars. There will be a raffle and home-made cake stall – all contributions gratefully received!

Everybody of *all* ages is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Heritage Project

Next academic year will see our involvement in a Heritage Project in partnership with the Folk Museum and we are hoping that you may be able to help and support us. The project is based on a book written by Enid Porter who outlines traditions and stories from the local area. Her book contains several references to Swaffham Prior village and we will be finding out about some of these including, Plough Monday and the May Garlands. Do you have any memories of either of these events?

Mary Humphreys, one of the people who is involved in the project is interested in finding out more details about the May Garlands. She would like to find out about the song connected with the May Garland custom which was certainly still being celebrated in the 1960s. It was probably called May Dolling by the participants as it involved children decorating hoops with may blossom and flowers, then suspending a doll in the centre and covering it with a cloth. When knocking on doors in the village the children would sing:

Sing a song of May-time
Sing a song of Spring.
Flowers are in their beauty
Birds are on the wing.
May time, play time,
God has given us May time;
Thank him for His gifts of love,
Sing a song of Spring.

They would raise the cloth after a donation had been put into the money box (usually held by a boy.) The song was given to Enid Porter in text form, no music, by members of the WI.

Anyone with any remembrances of the custom, or who could provide me with the tune would be most welcome. They can contact me on 01638 720444 or email me: mary@maryhumphreys.co.uk

Hannah Curtis

Headmistress, Swaffham Prior School

Organising an event and don't have enough seats? We can solve the problem!

For Hire: Grey hard plastic stacking chairs, black metal legs, can be used indoors and out, hirer collects and returns, deposit required, 50p per chair per hire. Contact Janet 07833 960678.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

At one time we were up to four in the Public Gallery. So what was so special about this particular PC meeting..

Startling though her entry was it certainly wasn't the talk by ECDC Elaine Brown who burst into the room like a volcano, gave her talk, and made a whirlwind exit. She was telling us about ECDC's wish to list buildings of local interest (as distinct from Listed Buildings). It did cross my mind that ECDC may have better things to do until I read the official minutes and discovered the scheme was being promoted by both the National Planning Policy and Government guidance. If you are in the Public Gallery you often don't find these things out until later. The PC supported the idea, made a number of suggestions, and an examination of the list of Current Listed Buildings revealed that the Zion Chapel, opposite Bramble Tye, had not been listed. This is to change.



There was the usual complaint or observation that certain litter bins had been emptied or not, and one member triumphantly said that the one on Coopers Green had been emptied. "Well, mine hasn't", a new strong firm voice from the Public Gallery exclaimed. This was Mrs Joan Mann from the Beeches, a lady who had been a local authority Insurance Risk Officer, and who obviously knew how councils should behave. She was advised that she could express her views in Open Question Time, once the meeting had closed.

There is the seasonal partial blocking of the back path and many of the usual people will receive the annual letter asking that some hedges should be cut back. A member of the public had phoned the Clerk to complain that someone from Greenhead Road was dumping vegetation waste on the back path. Peter had seen no evidence of this, but it is reminiscent of the old bald man who dropped his waste on the side of Cage Hill last year.

Dumping waste vegetation is a sensitive subject because an allotment holder or allottee had emailed to the Clerk at the last minute his objection to some of the decisions reached by the PC as reported in the *Crier*. Earlier in the meeting a decision on what to do with the Clunch Heap in the cemetery was deferred until another quote came in and a further idea had been explored.

So let's return to the email from what must be a very sensitive, caring, thoughtful, and shrewd allottee, with a fine reasoning brain and a very good way with words. Karen did not name the person but the above description may offer a clue or two.

A number of important points and questions were raised. **First**, why close the allotments off from the cemetery when people often use it for a round walk, and when it is the only way to move bulky items such as a ton of manure onto the allotments, **PC Response**. It was agreed there was no reason to close the gap and it was proposed to put in a proper gate and straighten up the fence at some point. **Second**: who said that allottees put rubbish on the Clunch Heap, implying that this is something so heinous that no allottee would ever sink to it. "Who said it", was the

demand. Both Peter and Andrew puts up their hands and quoted raspberry prunings as evidence. Unless a bald headed man has walked up from Cage Hill or Greenhead Road it is a reasonably fair assumption to think it was an allottee.

Third: where are the chickens going to be – on which side of the bye pass? Geoffrey asked where the chickens had come from claiming that he had been at every PC meeting and there had never been any mention of chickens. Even the best people go to sleep occasionally and it was explained that the chickens were introduced when geese had been turned down because geese do not get on with bees, whereas it seems that chickens can develop quite a healthy relationship with them. On the question of the location of the chickens everyone, including myself, missed David Almond's dry comment – "It depends whether the chicken has crossed the road". Someone from the Public Gallery pointed this out to me later, for which I am grateful, and readers now have the leisure to decide whether the PC was right or wrong to have missed the joke. Our allottee correspondent went on to say that he hoped the PC stipulate that there should be no cocks, because nearby residents may be disturbed. One PC member reminded the meeting that a cock is a "rural feature". It does seem a little unfair to do in the cock before he's even opened his mouth. Leave the poor chap alone is what I think. I'm not sure what the PC decided, if anything.

While this was being debated there was another flurry of feminine energy (matching that of Elaine Brown), which burst in on the meeting in the form of our own Emma Fletcher. The famous poet's description "With all her bravery on, sails filled, and streamers waving" came to mind. From all her other activities and commitments she had but a short time to make one single request of the PC, which agreed to close the meeting while she spoke. Emma is helping, possibly even spearheading, the Dencora development. A Community Land Trust (CCT) is being set up to manage the 40% affordable section of the development, plans for which in association with a housing association are at an early stage. ECDC is offering a £4,000 grant to help set up the CCT, which is good news. The snag is that the money needs to be paid into an established bank account, our CCT has yet to be finally formalised and therefore does not have a bank account, and the offer is only open for seven days. Thereafter it is too late. The single question was "Will the PC agree to having the money paid into its account?" As quick as a flash the answer was "Of course, and we'll ring fence it for you. With a radiant thank you and flourish Emma left – and the meeting returned to normal.

Then 'Open Question Time' was reached and Mrs Mann had her say. She reported that there was a beech overhanging the Beeches car park and that it needs some trimming. Kathy White, the ECDC tree officer had agreed this last year. It is not Adrian Dickens' responsibility, the PC disowns it, which leaves the solution in the hands of Hereward Housing, which may mean nothing is done. She also reported that about three times a month a car, usually an estate, drives down to the end of Lower End and empties rubbish into the bins. This brought the subject back to waste bins and the need to empty them. But as the Wheelie Bins will be rolling in very shortly the problem may go away – or not.

Alastair Everitt



St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior

With the Churches Conservation Trust

A Concert of

West Gallery Music

and

Spirituals and Gospel Songs

presented by

Ian de Massini

and Cambridge Voices

St Cyriac's is a Georgian church with a West Gallery, built to accommodate a band of local singers and musicians. Such choirs produced uniquely unsophisticated, but characteristic, music -

and this is your chance to hear the result

In complete contrast, Part II of the concert will be a rousing performance of Spirituals and Gospel Songs,

including

'Dem dry bones', 'Deep River', 'Amazing Grace', and
'Mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord'

Audience participation will be invited in both halves

Saturday 28 September at 7.30pm



Autumn Produce and Photography Show

**in the Village Hall on
Saturday 14th September**

 **FREE TO ENTER** 

**Bring your produce between 10.00 and
12.00**

Results and Viewing at 14.30
with CREAM TEAS

Grand Auction of Produce at 15.30

**If an entry form isn't delivered, see the Village Hall
Website:**

www.SwaffhamPriorVillageHall.co.uk

or email: mcarrington@me.com

phone: 01638 741659



See Page 25 for Photography Rules



COFFEE MORNING

Ruth Scovil's house

The Oaks, Manor Farm Court

Lower End, Swaffham Prior

SATURDAY: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon

28th September 2013

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Every cup will help improve the lives of people living with cancer.

Swaffham Prior Dog Show



Saturday 14th September 2013

Village Hall, **2pm**, in conjunction with the
Village Feast and Harvest Show
Six Classes, to include Fancy Dress and Most
Obedient Dog

Classes £1 each or £5 for all six classes
Entries on the day, enquires in advance to
Janet Willmott on 01638 743472

Prizes and rosettes for first place and
a gift for the runner up in each category
Generously supported by Alan's Ark at Soham



All proceeds to St Mary's Church

Roy Tricker Remembers

When I came to S. Cyriac's 'Festive Fortieth', a conversation with your esteemed Editor brought memories of my childhood and teens flooding back to me (and that was in the 1950s and 60s and NOT the 1350s)! I was an odd little boy – the

only son of parents who were well into middle age and who were determined that I should stand on my own two feet and make my own amusement. My passion was then (and still is) the sheer joy and wonder of 'church-crawling'.

I was 13 when I first discovered your fascinating side-by-side churches - by ancient bicycle whilst staying at my eccentric friend's bed-sit in Tenison Avenue, Cambridge, from which I saw much of Cambs, Hunts and some of West Suffolk. Anthony was in his 50s and inhabited a room which was piled high with books, papers, endless records of Bach and Vivaldi and spare parts of wireless sets which he repaired. We had to do a major shifting session in order for me to sleep on the settee and he on the floor each night. He taught me to love the harpsichord, Scarlatti and Cambridge College choirs, introduced me to Cambridge clergy and dons, also to the



Roy Tricker

A crusading “church crawler” since the age of four, Roy Tricker’s fascinating talk at our 40 year on St Cyriac’s celebrations was not to be missed, but just in case you did....

world of proper coffee, frying in the matured reused fat of ages and the skills of hitch-hiking.

My real friends during my childhood and teens were always adults – and mostly elderly ones. I had little in common with my contemporaries – they were mad on pop music, sport, cowboys and Indians and bashing each other (and me) up, whilst I was chasing Norman fonts, wild organ music, flying buttresses, Evensong and parish magazines (which I collected – and still do). My love-affair with churches began when I was four years old, when we went to live next-door to one (then in the country but now part of Harlow New Town). The building fascinated me – and I could go inside it – and the sound of its eight bells sent me into the seventh heaven. A never-to-be-forgotten treat was when our milkman, who was captain of the ringers, took me up the spiral staircase into the belfry and

showed me the bells. I crazed my mother to take me to churches in the area and on holiday in Suffolk.

We moved to a Hertfordshire village when I was five and a half and I was given a tricycle which opened up for me the Herts lanes and nearby churches. I remember great jaunts to Standon, Much Hadham, Widford, and other nearby churches. As time went on I saved my pocket money (which I had to earn) for bus trips to even more ‘far-off’ places like Royston, Watford, St Albans and Cheshunt, where, armed with a map, I spent the whole day walking miles to see all the local churches. Our white-haired old vicar became my adopted grandfather. I helped him tune the massive pipe organ that he’d built in the vicarage stables, and maintain the little railway which he’d developed in his vicarage garden; he involved me in the life of the parish church, which grounded me in my faith. Life got even better when my grandmother moved back to her native Norwich when I was eight, enabling me to visit and revisit the shoals of churches in that heavenly place, which has more mediaeval churches by far than any other English city (including London) – also wonderful Norfolk churches.

We moved to Suffolk when I was ten and I graduated to a boneshaker bicycle and the joys of British Railways Runabout Tickets which lasted a week for 13/6 and took me to far-off churches via pre Beeching railway lines. I saw bits of Cambs from delightful stations like Bartlow, Linton and Shelford and wonderful Norfolk lines, now long gone, and the fading glories of Melton Constable – the ‘Crewe’ of East Anglia..

I met wonderful people in and around the churches, many of whom became my friends for life – and what characters they were. If people discovered a little boy in their church in the 50s and 60s, they did not rush for their mobile phones to summon the police – they taught me to love their churches, showed me things, answered my questions, opened up their safes to reveal their treasures and took my up their towers. Often they took me home for tea and sandwiches and were often happy to keep in touch with me. I give talks about eccentric clergy and have been privileged to know a few – who freely gave me of their wisdom and their friendship. Wonderful ladies and gentlemen doing the flowers or cutting the churchyard had time for a precocious little brat and I soaked up their wisdom and knowledge. I adored them – they were my real childhood friends and I cherish their memory.

And not one of them ever harmed me. During my 23 years teaching RE, my classroom became a refuge where those ‘odd’ students who didn’t fit in with the youth culture (and were the target of bullies, as I often was) could spend time in peace, quiet and safety. In these days when our TVs bombard us with scandals of horrendous abuse of children, it is a tragedy that this has derived young folk of the company and friendship of adults, which has so shaped and enriched the life of an oddity like me. During the last year of my wife’s life, she used to like to go to ‘Constable’s Country’ and once when I was sitting waiting for her in East Bergholt churchyard, a delightful brother and sister aged about six and eight came over to talk to me. After about five minutes’ conversation, their parents came out of the church, called them over, and gave me such a withering glare. That look has stayed in my

memory and has made me wary now when I talk to young people. Nobody could blame those parents - but it still hurts!

But the love-affair with the churches gets more and more intense the older I get. Every church is the most interesting in the country because there's not another like it – every one a gem! They stand there, fascinating, intriguing, amazing and beautiful and what's more, they never answer back! Beware the lure and fascination of Church-Crawling – it's absorbing, infectious and, once hooked, you'll not go for long without wanting your 'fix' of more and more churches. And thank you for making me so welcome and so thoroughly 'at home' when I come to Swaffham Prior.

Roy Tricker



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk

*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

Dog Walking

Affordable, reasonable and friendly

Would your dog like a regular walk?

Do you struggle to find the time or energy for him to exercise?

If so, then I would be happy to do it for you!

Reasonable rates for 30 minutes or longer walks

Call Mia: 01638 741558



On the train

Based upon an actual incident

I am reading my book,
And snatch a quick look
At the girl on the opposite seat
My book's by James Thurber
And it seems to disturb her
Especially when by chance our eyes meet .

For the dust cover's inverted,
And I am diverted
As her face puckers into a frown
Though I think it's the book's title
About something quite vital
And not that it appears upside-down.

But I can't help but smile
At the text -- and my guile;
She's stunned, and she's fully entitled.

She can't help looking askance
And I get one more puzzled glance;
For, 'Is Sex Necessary?' **
is how the book has been titled.

Ophir

**or – 'Why You Feel the Way You Do'.
Written in collaboration with E.B.White.
Published;1929; May 1947; Oct 1947.

BON MOT NUMBER THIRTY FIVE

"At its best, cynicism is a greater force for progress
than optimism.

Julian Baggini (1968 -)

HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2013

6 – 9 p.m.

By candlelight in St. Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior

Supper w/ vegetarian option Entertainment

Scrumptious puddings. Raffle for fair trade hamper

Licensed bar

Children welcome

In aid of St. Mary's Church and the Mara Well appeal

Bring your own plate, bowl and cutlery !!

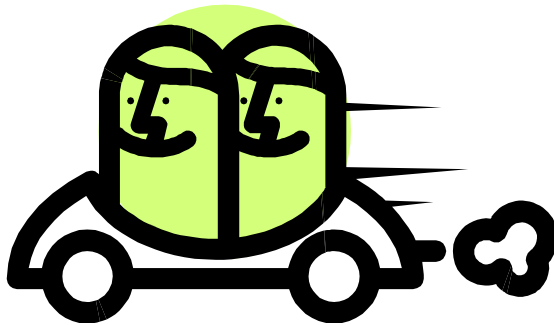
£8 per adult, £7 over 65 / under 16 / £5 under 11

Tickets available from
Kate Child 743983 & Dee Noyes 743864



Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme

DRIVERS WANTED



Call Janet on **07900
351742**

spccs@adventurersfarm.co.uk

A car service run by volunteers for residents of
Swaffham Prior for all essential medical
appointments and trips to the Day Centres at
Bottisham & Burwell

Supported and Subsidised by Swaffham Prior Parish Council



STRAWBERRY TEAS

Strawberry Teas in a village garden with friends and neighbours, a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and that is exactly what we had in the beautiful surroundings of Francis and Jutta Reeks' home. Despite the recent heatwave the garden looked magnificent and we were so grateful to them both to be able to take it over for the Teas. The sun shone, the children played games and the tea kept coming, served by the smiling and efficient waitresses Helena Pumfrey, Emily Noyes and Maddy and Bella Lewinski to whom we would like to say a big thank you. The event raised £216 for St. Mary's Church and was much enjoyed by everyone. We even provided some takeaways! Other thank yous must go to Kate Child and Mark Lewinski for all their hard work, Brenda Wilson and Anne Clayton for their help on the day and of course to the 50+ folk who came and supported the event.

Janet Willmott







Strawberry Teas 2013

**Waitresses taking
a well-earned
break while
customers relax**



Force campaign short-listed for national award

A CAMPAIGN that aims to reduce the number of victims of crime in the county has been short-listed for a national award. Cambridgeshire Constabulary's "Get Closer" campaign lines up alongside national campaigns for American liqueur Southern Comfort and Channel 4 in the "data and planning" category of the Brand Republic Future 5 Awards.

The awards recognise innovation in marketing and public relations and the short-listed campaigns were selected by judges from those nominated nationally.

A public vote has begun and the force is asking members of the public to show their support and vote at www.brandrepublic.com/future5

Get Closer uses crime analysis to produce a seasonal trend calendar, which allows effective and efficient communications with the aim of reducing the number of victims of crime in the county. Marketing manager Sarah Cooper said: "We are delighted to have been nominated for the award, in a category alongside two such established and recognisable brands, and we are now looking for as many votes as possible from members of the public.

"The Get Closer campaign has made our approach to communications smarter and more cost efficient by identifying the most problematic crimes through trend analysis.

"By using data to identify victim and offender profiles and locations and times of offences, we ensure we are targeting the right people with the right message at the right time in the best way we can.

"Also recognising the difficult economic times, we identified key stakeholders and partners to help us deliver innovative free or low cost marketing activity."

The awards are run by leading communications website Brand Republic, published by Haymarket Brand Media, which also produces titles including PRWeek and Media Week.

The Future 5 Awards seek to highlight and celebrate radical and ground-breaking campaigns across advertising, marketing, media and PR.

As the title suggests, it has five categories, which for 2013, as well as "data and planning", are "the big idea", "audience participation", "brand collaboration", and "tech innovation".

Other companies short-listed in categories include O2, Samsung, Mercedes Benz, EDF Energy and the National Trust.

The citation for the Get Closer campaign highlighted the use of shoplifting analysis, which identified two main types of thief - prolific and juvenile, first-time offenders – as well as the goods being stolen and from which shops.

This allowed marketing materials including banners and posters to be positioned in shop entrances and bespoke shelf-edge artwork in aisles where the most commonly stolen goods were being taken.

The analysis also indicated juvenile first-time offenders were usually achieving good grades and were shoplifting for "fun". Advertising was placed on toilet doors in schools, Facebook advertising was targeted at pupils in schools with the most offenders and radio adverts were broadcast during the school run with the message, "It doesn't matter how many A*s you get, no one wants to employ a thief".

All the key crime trends identified by the campaign fell during 2012/13.

The public vote will close on August 26 before a young people's panel pick their overall winner in September.

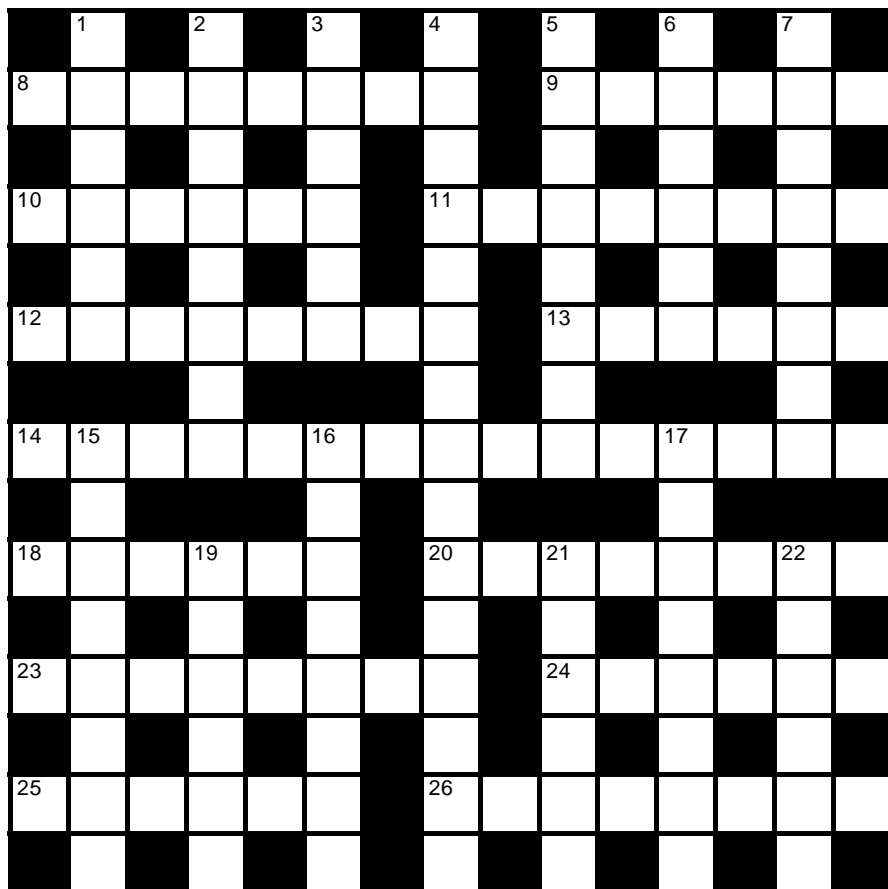
Crossword Number 103

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

NIBOR

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



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 8 Strange opera gig notes (8)
- 9 Good cheer for Henry perhaps (6)
- 10 Expected raw beginner in a good French setting (6)
- 11 Neighbourhood with young Victor in it at day's end (8)
- 12 Pollution from a police department shower (4,4)
- 13 I must be in Belgium; everyone starts to drink (6)
- 14 Confused? Kneel down Mac, get recognition (15)
- 18 Unusually, Proust is in a daze (6)
- 20 Included protocol on 1 alcohol settler (8)
- 23 Tick sounds like Uncle Vanya's writer (5,3)
- 24 Is on first counter but the pressure's the same (6)
- 25 Tools for workers (6)
- 26 Monarch is in work; fit and functional (8)

Down

- 1 Chaotic Victorians lacking vats - How paradoxical (6)
- 2 Obligated to have been around cargo area (8)
- 3 National guard, battered but not on trial, in this African country (6)
- 4 Roughly conceive no end of pizzas perhaps (11,4)
- 5 Carol drinks German wine - that's disgraceful (8)
- 6 Socialise! That takes the biscuit (6)
- 7 Wet basin rubbish and where to put it (8)

- 15 Municipal offices in US or London building (4,4)
- 16 Steed is an old stager (8)
- 17 Frankly how Cameron meets Obama (3-2-3)
- 19 Pale sentry (6)
- 21 See it, um, hang about (6)
- 22 Can gunners start to go back to this type of farm (6)

Solution to crossword no. 102

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

We congratulate **Malcolm and Eileen Creese**, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Trish Whitehead

School News



The residential trip to Aylmerton has come and gone. The year 5 and 6 children spent the week on the North Norfolk coast and had a wonderful time. Highlights included, a walk across mud flats and a boat journey to see the seals at Blakeney Point, orienteering around a 'Monster Trail', climbing on high ropes, exploring rock pools and playing a 'Sea Defence' game, watching a display of birds of prey and being introduced to snakes.

Year 6 have had two days at Bottisham Village College, in readiness for their transition in September. They have also had a special assembly and were presented with special books from the parish by Simon Goddard and Reverend Sue. The rest of the school have spent an afternoon in their new classes for September. We welcomed Miss Helen Cranness, our new Mercury Class teacher, to school and she had the opportunity to meet children and parents, and join the new reception picnic. The picnic was held for the new incoming reception children and their parents and they were able to meet their future Year 6 'Buddies'.

We have had sporting events for Key Stage 1 (5-7years old). Year 1 took part in a tennis festival at Bottisham Village College with other children from local primary schools. The children played well and won a trophy for making good progress during the day. Year 2 attended a multiskills session. They participated in a series of games which involved a variety of skills ranging from throwing balls into hoops, dribbling footballs between cones, balancing balls on racquets and undertaking a complicated obstacle course. The children joined in enthusiastically and were complimented on their good behaviour. Well done, Year 1s and 2s!

At the time of the last edition, we had found out that our Year 5 Maths Challenge team were waiting to hear if they got into the final. They did! The final took place and the team of George, Hugh, Josh and Dylan participated extremely well. They finished in the top eight schools out of twenty-nine taking part and had a score in the nineties. The winning team got ninety-nine so it was very close. Congratulations!



The Summer Fair was held on Saturday 6th July and proved to be a very successful event. The total raised was £850 which is a tremendous sum, and over £100 more than last year. The sun shone and we enjoyed a range of stalls and games, cakes and tea and burgers and hot dogs. We were entertained to maypole dancing by children from Saturn Class and Mr Godfrey organised some team games, including tug-of-war and pass the water



balloon! It was a very happy occasion and many thanks go to FoSPS and all those who helped and those who came and supported.

Year 3 went to a Multicultural Day, based on Eastern Europe, at Bottisham Village College. They enjoyed a day of being creative and came away with pieces of artwork, including collages based on Russia.

Banham Zoo was the venue for Mercury and Mars Classes' trip. They spent a day at the zoo and enjoyed in particular a train journey around the zoo. The highlights were watching the feeding of the penguins and seals, seeing the tigers and meerkats, and standing on a platform so they were at head height with the giraffes!

Sports Day was held on Thursday 11th July and the children demonstrated their many athletic skills once more. It was followed by a picnic with parents and carers.

Janet Wilmott and Elisabeth Everett, who organised the art competition based on St Cyriacs, came into school to present prizes. Congratulations go to Mia and Phoebe from Mercury Class, Hugh and Rowan from Mars Class, Archie and Skye from Neptune Class and Kathryn and Finnian from Saturn Class. Ruben's picture was chosen for the front of the Swaffham Crier.

Rehearsals are continuing for the KS2 production, 'What a Knight!' and there is still an Olympic Legacy sports day with Swaffham Bulbeck and the Leaver's Assembly. Our school year is drawing to a close once more but there is an exciting new term to look forward to in September. We wish you a good summer, with continued sunshine!



Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

UFO

I can't explain my dogma,
But what follows is the gist;
I don't believe in UFOs ---
But I know that they exist.



Mothers' Union

At our last meeting Liz Elson talked to us about her role as the World Wide Link Officer for the Ely Diocese Mothers' Union.

She told us that the main links are currently with Southern Sudan, Rwanda and Nigeria - with four of the six link diocese located in S. Sudan. There the Mothers' Union is thriving, despite the challenges of tribal conflicts, wars in the border areas, natural disasters, insecurity and the abduction of women and children.

The Mothers' Union has made a difference to families in this region through the promotion of its five objectives, including bringing up children in faith, maintaining prayer and fellowship in families and interfaith prayers with other churches and other religions. Members also provide counselling services for families who have problems, as well as visiting the sick in hospital and those in prison. Through all this, the Mothers' Union has given hope to many families in difficulties.

Liz told us that there had also been instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for some time and consequently large numbers of refugees from this country have been fleeing into S. Sudan. Recently the Archdeacon of Morobo (part of the Yei Diocese in S. Sudan) contacted the Mothers' Union to see if they could offer support to these refugees. So the good work goes on and is likely to increase into the future.

In August we will be holding our annual summer cream tea and this year Jill Jenyns has kindly invited us to Bottisham Hall for this event.

Our Mothers' Union meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel at 2.30 p.m. and you would be most welcome to join us. In September we look forward to welcoming the Reverend Sue Giles as our speaker.

A. Phoenix

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.

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.

Any photographic/darkroom equipment. From cameras to chemicals. Beginner wanting to learn about film photography and development. Also looking for a working flatbed scanner. Mark c813919

2013 Autumn Show

Photography Competition Rules

The competition is open to all residents of Swaffham Prior and Reach.

The competition will be divided into three age groups:

Ages up to 10 (on 14th September 2013)

Theme: **Pets and Family**

Ages 10 to 16 (on 14th September 2013)

Theme: **Action and Abstract**

Ages over 16 (on 14th September 2013)

Theme: **City and Landscape**

Individuals may submit a maximum of three photographs.

Printed copies of the photographs must be submitted between 10.00 and 12.00 on Saturday 14th September.

Maximum size of photograph: A4

All entrants must indicate which category they wish to enter, and include their name and the title of the image.

If you would like the image to be displayed on the Village Hall website, please email it to mcarrington@me.com, making sure that you include all relevant information.

It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that all the necessary permissions are obtained from people featured in photographs.

The photograph must be the original work of the entrant.

If photographs have been significantly edited, please explain how on your entry form.

No 'adult' themed photos will be accepted.

Winners will have their work put on display in the Village Hall and online at www.SwaffhamPriorVillageHall.co.uk

Copyright remains with the photographer.

The decisions of the judges are final.

Full Council on 23 July had several motions to consider. It was agreed to reduce the number of signatures on a petition to trigger a debate in Council to 3,000. Unanimous support was given to a call for Government to introduce a fair funding formula for schools to address the current situation whereby Cambridgeshire schools are funded at the lowest level of all 151 education authorities. Motions calling for: immediate withdrawal from national pay bargaining; referenda to be held before contributing to major infrastructure projects; and announcing a freeze in Council Tax for the next 4 years were all voted down. The dynamics of the new Council, being in no overall control, are interesting.

Cabinet also met in July. Plans to provide a new primary school in Ely were approved as were plans to increase the size of 2 primary schools, 1 in Littleport and 1 in Wisbech, to meet current demand.

There has been a number of meetings and events about children in care during July. I chaired a seminar for all members regarding safeguarding and corporate parenting. This included presentations from 3 young people about their experiences of being in care. I also chaired a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board to consider performance issues. I took part in an evaluation of our current partnership with the national adoption partnership, Coram. The partnership is up for renewal and the evaluation will help to inform that decision. As Chairman of the Eastern Region portfolio holders for children and young people I attended an Eastern Safeguarding Partnership meeting to consider future plans for working together and sector-led improvement across the East of England. I also attended a fun day for Looked After Children and Carers. This was a great success with almost 300 people attending.

I chaired the Appointments and Remuneration Committee to interview candidates for the posts of Service Director: Enhanced and Preventative Services and Service Director: Learning. After a long day of interviews the Committee appointed to both posts.

Business planning for the next 5 year plan is also taking place and I had a number of meetings with Directors, both individually and as a group.

I presented 2 papers to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding special educational needs and social care. I also attended a number of other meetings including: the Cambridgeshire Improvement Board; the Local Safeguarding Children Board; the Children's Trust; the High Demand families working group and a stakeholder event looking at partnership working for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

David Brown

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
BOTANIC GARDENS

Summer expeditions of the junior plant hunters

Backpack? Check. Map? Check. Magnifying glass? Check. Binoculars? Check. Passport? No! There's no need to go anywhere near an airport, because intrepid young explorers can discover plants from all over the world in the Botanic Garden. And, with the support of Microsoft Research Ltd, each week this August we will be launching a new plant-spotting activity trail to inspire young Darwins on their summer holidays.

The four trails all reveal just how many weird and wonderful stories plants have to tell. *Be a Bee* comes first: spot all sorts of different bees on the flowers they love best in the Rose Garden and Bee Borders, but also can your mini Darwins observe bees collecting up propolis from pine trees, which they use as a glue to patch up the hive or perhaps the nibbled notches from the soft furry leaves of lamb's ear, which carder bumble bees like to use to line their homes made in old mouse nests! The following week we say PAH! and look at the interactions between Plants, Animals and Humans. On a journey through the Glasshouse Range, look out for the 'shrew loo'. This tropical pitcher plant lures shrews with a rich nectar source to perch above the pitcher which they use as toilet, thus supplying the plant with essential nutrients! And did you know that the female poison arrow frog climbs high into the rainforest canopy and plops her tadpoles into the protected paddling pools of water collecting in the base of bromeliad plants? In the third week, young explorers can rate the superpowers of plants around the Garden from most poisonous to most explosive and play plant battle cards. Finally, collect up a plant passport and travel the globe in the Garden, collecting stamps and finding out just how far some of these plants have travelled to get here. On the way, try to spot the names of some famous explorers commemorated in the plantnames. The mountain flax that has come 11,630 miles from New Zealand is called *Phormium cookianum*, named after Captain James Cook who mapped the islands on his first voyage (1768-71). Who knows how far a journey around the Botanic Garden might take you this summer!

Swap over day is Friday, with new trails coming out on 2, 9, 16 and 23 August and supplied in totally overhauled backpacks kitted out with everything a budding naturalist might need, which are available to borrow free of charge from the ticket





Shock of My Life

I went rushing along at the normal pace,
Feeling part of the human race,
When suddenly I was brought up short,
All my plans I had to abort,
I met the Master face to face.

I cannot describe what it was like,
I thought I had fallen off my bike.
Prostrate on the ground,
I couldn't hear a sound,
I knew ahead of me was a hike.

I was arrogant, selfish, critical and proud,
Shouting my opinions out loud.
I was ok – I didn't need him,
I could run my own life, sink or swim.
All that changed as before him I bowed.

A new neighbour came to live next door,
Through her my knees were brought to the floor.
She lent me a book,
Ok, I'll take a look.
When finished I knew I wanted more.

The book was called 'The shock of your life',
And truly I realised sin was rife.
The Holy Spirit moved me to tears,
I knew then I had wasted years
Chasing things that mattered not:
Money, status, does the Lord care for them? Not a jot!

He sought me out, saved me and showed me the way.
Now we talk to each other all day.
He showered me with his grace.
Now I look differently at the human race;
Kinder, non-judgmental. I know my place.

I love you Jesus. Keep me close to your side,
In you I want to abide.
You show me a better way ahead.
Thank you neighbour for the book I read.
Baptise me Lord – keep me as yours.
I'm in your hands with no clause.

**A poem written by Rita Lane and read
at her baptism on Sunday 16th June 2013.**

Services in August & September

*Sun 4th Aug, 10.30am – Holiday Club Celebration Service with
Picnic, Bouncy Castle and Ice-Creams afterwards (School)*
Sun 11th Aug, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)
Sun 11th Aug, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)
Sun 18th Aug, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)
Sun 25th Aug, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)
*Sun 25th Aug, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham
Chapel)*
Sun 1st Sep, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)
Sun 8th Sep, 10.30am – RE:NEW Café & Kids Club (School)
Sun 8th Sep, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)
Sun 15th Sep, 10.30am – RE:NEW The BIG WELCOME (School)
Sun 15th Sep, 5.30pm – Contemplative Service (Lode Chapel)
Sun 22nd Sep, 10.30am - RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)
*Sun 22nd Sep, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham
Chapel)*
Sun 29th Sep, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

For more information please contact: Rev. Simon Goddard.

Tel: (01223) 812881

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

Web: www.re-new.me.uk

Twitter: @renewchurch

Dear Friends,

As you will know from my article last month, a group from the Anglesey Benefice recently visited Tanzania. We went to visit the village of Karukekere that we are linked with and the school there which Swaffham Bulbeck and Swaffham Prior schools are partnered with. We also went to Tairo School that Bottisham Primary school is newly twinned with. It is taking time for our hearts and minds to process fully all the experiences we had and the things we saw and learnt and that is one of the reasons why I am writing again about that visit as images and ideas arise.



One of the things that struck me most forcefully is the gulf between our level of wealth and that of the people in the villages of Tanzania. In this country there are many appliances and gadgets that have become basic items we could not live without. When our ancient fridge freezer finally gave up keeping things cold and could not be repaired we were fortunate enough to be able to replace it. In a generation, this item of kitchen equipment has gone from being a luxury to an absolute essential. Yet, in the countryside of Tanzania most people live without electricity so the option of having a fridge does not exist, even if you could afford it.

The size of the gulf between our wealth and the people we met has one major advantage: any support we can give has leverage many times greater than it would in this country. The gifts from the Anglesey Benefice have had a major impact on whole communities. Life is simply transformed if you have a well at the heart of your village where previously you might have had to walk up to six miles there and back each day carrying a full container of water on your head. The cost of digging a well, a very substantial and labour intensive undertaking where no mechanical aids are available, is around £2000. The gifts we have given have substantially enriched the lives of a large number of people.

Our enrichment, as visitors from such financially rich communities, is a deep well of challenge. Coming face to face with such extremes of inequality in our one world cannot be allowed to fade into the farther reaches of our memory. But it challenges us at home too. Inequalities exist within our own country and within our own communities. What we saw in Africa were poor communities who worked together to overcome the shortages of basic essentials for living. In our country, the focus of life has increasingly been on self-sufficiency – we have lost some of the inter-dependence which sustains so much of life in poor communities. Where individuals fall out of employment or encounter other hardships, they may be less visible and much more isolated in their poverty – they simply can't afford to participate in the activities that form part of our social life. And, paradoxically, it literally does cost much more to help those in need nearer to home where the basic commodities of life are more expensive. There are no easy answers, but the challenge of Africa is here in the heart of our lives and communities.

Sue Giles

Services for August

Sunday 4 August, tenth Sunday after Trinity – Green
11am Holy Communion (CWIT)

Sunday 11 August, eleventh Sunday after Trinity – Green
11am Matins

Sunday 18 August, twelfth Sunday after Trinity – Green
11am Family Service

Sunday 25 August, thirteenth Sunday after Trinity – Green
10am Benefice Service, Holy Trinity, Bottisham

Increase your chances of Living Longer

Avoid riding in cars because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets because 14% of accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid travelling by air, rail or water, because all accidents involve these forms of transportation.

Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals, so above all else avoid hospitals.

But you will be pleased to learn that only 0.001% of all deaths occur during church services, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore logic tells us that the safest place to be is at church! And Bible Study is safe too: the percentage of deaths during bible study is even less. So for safety's sake, attend church and read your bible – it could save your life.

With thanks to the Wesley Parish quarterly.

Brenda Wilson

Dates for Your Diary August/September 2013

Aug	30	Lode Star Festival (to Sunday, 1st September)
Sat	14	Dog Show, 2pm, VH Autumn Show and Photography Competition, 2.30pm, VH
Sun	15	
Mon	16	
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Sat	28	Macmillan Coffee Morning, 10.30—12 noon, Farm Court, Lower End West Gallery Music, St Cyriac's 7.30pm
Oct	5	Harvest Supper, 6-9pm, St Cyriac's
	30	
	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	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 Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	