



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVIII Number 4

April 2014



## Editorial

Many thanks to Pat and Peter Cook, who did such a brilliant job last month in getting the Crier out when the editors singularly failed. This is no small undertaking even if you're used to it, and with no notice whatsoever, they produced a lovely magazine.

Welcome back to Charlotte Cane to these pages. Many of you will remember her when she used to write as our District Councillor, and this month she has given us the low down on what the European Parliament actually does. Gobble up expenses and produce ludicrous laws no-one ever wanted in the first place surely? Well, we should think again, read Charlotte.....

Many congratulations to Janet Willmott and her Car Scheme Drivers, who have produced a system which is quite unique in the area (see Our reporter). For the more able-bodied, plans are afoot to extend our cycle path network to the stretch of B1102 between Lode and Quay (see Letters). Excellent, but as long as it's not another

glorified footpath! How often do we see seemingly perverse cyclists on the road rather than the path? But poor surfaces can make things very hard going for pedal-power and poor visibility at side-road intersections can be positively dangerous. So a nice Dutch affair would be the thing, we hope they can do it!

Did anyone realise that in days gone by, Swaffham Prior High Street was part of the main road from Ely to Cambridge? Before the A10, before the *bypass* even, it was the only way to go, and this means that many famous people have ridden along it — we hope to hear about one such very shortly...

Happy Easter everybody!

*Caroline Matheson*

### Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Anglesey Abbey News	8
BVC Courses	11
CROSSWORD	12
School News	14
Ophir	17
WI	18
Village Gardeners	18
Bottisham Patients	19
Cllr David Brown	20
Botanic Gardens	20
PC Notes	22
Re:new	24
Freecycle	25
Bon Mot	25
Sue Giles	26
Church Services	27
Diary & Clubs	28

### News, Views & Reviews

What does the European Parliament Do?	6
Burwell Print Centre	10
Extra Bins	17

### What's On

Buildings of Local Interest	
Nominations	3
Murder Mystery Evening	5
Midsummer Market	7
Madingley Hall Open Day	8
Village Gardeners Trip	9

### For Sale

Simnel Cakes	3
--------------	---

**Cover Picture:** *Innocent village Gossip?* by **Honoré Daumier**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme is**

The Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme is delighted that the Parish Council has so generously continued its financial support which will greatly assist the immediate future of this important voluntary service for the residents of the village. We currently have six drivers who happily give of their time to take passengers to and from medical appointments that they would otherwise have difficulty getting to. Contact details for the Scheme are shown on the inside front cover of this magazine every month.

Yours sincerely

*Janet Willmott*

---

Dear Editors,

### **B1102 Cycle Path**

We are working hard at Lode Parish council to try and get a cycle path along the 2km stretch of B1102 between Lode and Quy. Money is being collected with Sustrans in a ring fenced account, and it is possible to donate online to the account (see below). I would like to bring this issue to a much larger group of people who might well be keen cyclists and recognise the difficulties of this rather intimidating stretch of road.

This is what you do:

Go to the Sustrans website ([www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)) and click on the blue “donate” sign at the top right of the screen and then click on “make a single donation”. You then have to go through all the palaver of filling in name, address, etc. and then right at the bottom it says “additional details, please tell us what prompted your donation”. In the drop-down list select “Lode/Quy cycle path” and then make your donation.

Please have a go. The path will cost an estimated £300,000 and so far we have raised a spirited £1,250 mainly from jumble sales. We now need to step up a gear to raise funds from the wider community - with your help we can do just that.

Thank you

*Fran Platten*  
For Lode Parish Council

**ADVANCE NOTICE!!**  
**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY**  
**WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**  
**7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

It has been suggested that this year the Annual Village Assembly might have a less formal format. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions or would like to be involved, please contact the Clerk – Karen King.

---

### ***Simnel Cakes for Sale***

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



Orders can be placed by contacting Janet, 01638 743472 or [janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk](mailto:janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk) by no later than 14th April. For just £12.00 your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Please feel free to provide your own serving plate for an extra personal touch. Cakes can be delivered to your home or collected by you in time for Easter Sunday (20th April).

***Janet Willmott***

---

### **Buildings of Local Interest – Nomination Process** **(East Cambridgeshire District Council Project)**

Following consultation in 2013, ECDC are now seeking nominations for buildings/structures to be included on a local register of 'Buildings of Local Interest'. It is hoped that the project will identify and formally recognise the significant assets which define the District from: houses to bridges, war memorials and walls, as well as street furniture, monuments and designed landscapes.

Nominations must be received no later than 4pm on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. If you would like further details on the project or how to nominate a building/structure, please contact Parish Councillor Paul Latchford on 07825 188022, the Clerk-Karen King ([karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk) or telephone 01638 742358) or visit the ECDC's website.

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Last month's meeting was described as a star, this month was less exciting maybe but was quite informative. In discussing the options of refurbishing the village sign whose creosoted insides are reacting with the painted exterior, there was some speculation as to its history. Rumour has it that on her way to Sandringham, Queen Victoria thought it would be rather nice if villages had signs to identify them. This would account for a preponderance of them in East Anglia maybe. Or was our sign linked with Dr Beeching's cuts to the railway lines in the 1960s? However it seems more likely that it was erected to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee in 1977. If anyone has any recollection, the Parish Council would like to know. And let them know if you think the very pretty paint detail should be stripped from the sign and the carved wood left *au naturel* or whether to have a resin cast made to keep it looking as cute as it does now. By now you'll have guessed your usual Reporter isn't reporting this month. And what better time to put your views to the Parish Council than at the Annual Village Assembly on Wednesday May 28th. The Clerk has finally been given a free hand at organising a friendlier format this year that will hopefully include refreshments and a whole host of local clubs.



Steve Kent-Philips enlightened the meeting with the specification of a lorry passing place (two thirds of a vehicle's width) and with financial speak of a "Logical petty cash account" (the holding and transfer of the Community Land Trust funds from the Parish Council coffers). He also relayed the latest development in the ongoing saga of the cemetery water leak. Hopefully they'll find the source before an enormous sinkhole appears.

Worth a mention too is that Geoffrey Woollard praised the Community Car Scheme which is so ably organised by Janet Willmott. Three cheers to Janet and her drivers for providing such an asset to the village. Although Bulbeck has two surgery car schemes to both Bottisham and Burwell, which are funded completely by the generosity of the surgeries themselves, there is no scheme to provide transport for hospital appointments or treatment. So residents in Prior are very fortunate indeed to have this service.

And finally, Paul Latchford is colouring in a village map with listed buildings so that other buildings of local interest can be highlighted for inclusion in this new listing with the District Council. Geoffrey has suggested the Little Chapel in the Fen. How about taking your suggestions, and a crayon, to the Annual Assembly in May?

**L G**



**Calling all budding Sherlocks...**

**MURDER MYSTERY EVENING  
AND SUPPER**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2014**  
**7.30pm**  
**Somewhere in Swaffham Prior!!**

***Limited places available – don't delay***

**Reserve your place by calling  
Janet, 743472, tickets £17.50 each**



**Profits in aid of St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior**



# What does the European Parliament do?

A Swaffham Prior resident asked me what role the **European Parliament** plays in decision making in the European Union. With European elections this May, I thought there might be wider interest in this question.

The European Union started out in 1957 with only 6 member states. Since then, it has grown to 28 member states who have pooled their national sovereignty through democratic institutions, taking decisions which have the force of law. Whenever it is proposed that new countries are admitted, new powers are pooled through the EU or decision-making methods are changed, they have to be agreed through treaty changes agreed unanimously by all the member states. The EU institutions were created by the member states, to serve and protect their interests.

The **Council of Ministers** is the main decision-making body in the EU, representing the national governments. Sometimes it votes by qualified majority voting, sometimes by unanimity, depending on the issue. The ministers of the 28 member states gather depending on the subject under discussion. For example "Justice and Home Affairs" gathers Justice and Home affairs ministers, "Foreign Affairs" gathers Foreign Affairs Ministers. There are about a hundred meetings every year during which the ministers decide on new laws and policies. The ministers are politically responsible to their own national parliament and electorate.

The **Council** decides together with the **European Parliament** on the adoption of new laws and policies and to pass the annual budget. It also oversees the intergovernmental cooperation in terms of Common Foreign and Security Policy and in terms of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and of the external policy of the European Union.

The **European Parliament** (through its 751 Members elected for 5 years) represents 500 million Europeans from the 28 member states of the EU. The seats distribution is proportionate to the population of each European country: the biggest countries in terms of population getting more seats than the others. The UK has 73 Members of the European Parliament (MEP).

The European Commission are the civil servants to the EU. They prepare and implement the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. The Commission can also propose new laws and policies.

**The European Parliament** influences decisions in four different ways, depending on the type of decision. Many decisions are taken through codecision, where the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament have to agree any new law; some through consultation, where the Council of Ministers consult Parliament for its views on new laws; some by the power of veto (the assent procedure), where Parliament can veto proposed laws; and finally through using its power of appointment to the Commission and other European institutions.

Furthermore, the European Parliament has the power to adopt a motion of censure against the Commission as a whole if it has been tabled by at least one tenth of the MEPS. The Parliament also has the power to dismiss the Commission by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. The power of censure means the European Parliament can exert democratic control over the European Union.

These procedures may seem overly complex. But the EU has brought together 28 member states which require checks and balances in decision making so that even smaller counties know their voices are heard while larger countries know that their citizens cannot be undemocratically overruled.

**Charlotte Cane**



# **The Annual Midsummer Market**

***(In support of St Cyriac's Church)***

**will be held on  
Saturday and Sunday  
14th and 15th June**

**Full details will be announced in  
next month's Crier**

**Meanwhile, please reserve any plants,  
books, bric a brac, furniture etc.,  
you may wish to donate**



## Madingley Hall Open Day

Next month we are holding our annual open day here at Madingley Hall. This free, all-day event is a great way to find out more about the kind of courses available from the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. It also provides an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful setting of Madingley Hall and its extensive gardens, with tours

available throughout the day.

The open day will take place on Thursday 17 April and will run from 9.30am to 7pm with feature talks and workshops given by University experts, drop-in sessions, advice and information stands and tours. Food and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Madingley Hall is located in the village of Madingley, three miles west of Cambridge, and ample car parking is available within the grounds.

Although there is no charge for any of the events, we recommend visitors book places on the events they wish to attend as many are expected to fill up before the open day takes place.

For more details and to book visit [www.ice.cam.ac.uk/openday](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/openday), email [enquiries@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ice.cam.ac.uk) or call 01223 746222.

**James Burton**  
Marketing Assistant

---

## News from Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen

If you fancy a little gentle exercise and some good company why not join us for our new weekly Heart Beat Health Walk at Anglesey Abbey. The walks will depart the main car-park every Thursday at 1.30pm from 17 April. The walks will explore the local countryside lasting around an hour covering 3 -4 miles. Don't forget we also hold weekly Health Walks at Wicken Fen on Wednesday's at 10am.



This year we are opening Wicken's historic Fen Cottage 7 days a week. To do this we hope to recruit additional volunteers who can show visitors around the cottage and answer their questions. The hours are flexible to fit in with your lifestyle and reasonable travel expenses are re-imbursed. Please call the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 and speak to Isabel if you're interested.

We are also on the lookout for volunteer family adventure guides to help other families enjoy their visit to Wicken Fen over the school holidays and weekends in 2014. Family adventure guides can choose to spend time in the visitor centre, hides

or fen cottage, welcoming other families and encouraging them to get involved with different activities – there are also similar opportunities at Anglesey Abbey too. If you're interested in finding out more please call Lois Baker on 01353 720274

Our Talks at Wicken series continues on Wednesday 2 April, with a talk by Peter Green on the history of the National Trust. The talk will be held in the Learning Centre at 11.30am – admission free.

For the Easter Bank holiday weekend both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen are hosting **Cadbury Easter Trails**. Search for clues around the garden or fen to claim a delicious Cadbury chocolate Egghead. Collect your trail (£2 per child) from the Visitor Centre's upon arrival.

At Wicken, Easter school holiday events include, **Springtime arts and crafts** on Monday 7 April, **Pond dipping and minibeast hunt** on Tuesday 8 & 15 April, **Den Building** on Wednesday 9 April, **Bug Hunters** on Friday 11 April, **All About Birds** Monday 14 April, **Painting the Fens** Tuesday 15 April, **Wicken Willow Craft** Wednesday 16 April. Information for all events can be found on our website at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wickenfen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wickenfen) Tickets can be booked on-line or by calling the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895 – advance booking essential.

THE VILLAGE. GARDENERS.  
are going to  
CAPEL MANOR GARDENS  
on  
SATURDAY. 21st. JUNE

If you are interested in joining us, please contact  
Peter Hart, 1638 741681.



## ***In the very heart of the Community***

Nestled in the centre of Burwell is a small charity making a huge difference to the lives of (28) adults with learning disabilities – as well as providing excellent services and resources to the community.

Burwell Print was set-up as a Social Training Enterprise in 1988 to provide work experience and training in a real work environment for adults with a range of learning disabilities, known as Printers within the organisation.

The ‘Printers’ have a job description and are trained to learn, develop and maintain specific work skills in tasks needed for customer service, working in reception, copying, printing and print finishing jobs for customers. Also, we have several contracts with customers who want and need a reliable business mail-shot service - a very popular job with many of our Printers.

### **Services supporting the charity**

Whilst first and foremost Burwell Print operates to support and train adults with learning disabilities, that can only be achieved through the support of the ‘enterprise’ part of the charity which generates income through its print-related services. And the scope and range of services available for customers – whether an individual, small business or national company – may surprise you!

Whether it’s booklets and brochures or magazines and mugs you need, these and many, many more items can be printed by Burwell Print - did you know that your Swaffham Crier was printed here too?

But that’s not all. As well as a full, professional graphic design service is offered and we have many delighted customers who have used us for either a new business launch or a complete make-over and re-branding.

You can also get your photo’s printed (from a USB, disk, camera, etc) at Burwell Print and not forgetting the full passport photo service that is available too.

As Burwell Print has grown over the years and been able to add such a wide and varied range of products and services, it gives the ‘Printers’ new opportunities for training and adding to their skills.

Last year Burwell Print celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we held several events to highlight the essential work being done by this local charity.

If you’d like to find out more about Burwell Print, its work and its services, then contact Sue Anderson (01638 613102) and/or got to our new-look website [www.burwellprint.co.uk](http://www.burwellprint.co.uk)

But if you’d like to come and see for yourself, then you can find us at The Causeway in Burwell, in the centre of the village next to the Village College.

In fact, in the very heart of the community.

***Sue Anderson***

**Manager, Burwell Community Print Centre Ltd**



# **Bottisham Village College**

## **Adult and Community Learning**

**You can enrol now for Summer Term courses  
starting after Easter, including:**

**Introduction to Counselling (evening)  
Sewing for Beginners (evening)**

**Paediatric First Aid (daytime)  
Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June  
£65 for a 2 day course**

**or try out something new at one of our  
FREE Taster Sessions on  
Saturday 21 June 10.00 – 12.00**

**Including:  
Guitar for Beginners  
Simple Thai Cookery  
Bake and Decorate Cupcakes  
Make a Fascinator  
(Please book in advance)**

*Do you have a skill you could teach to Adults? If so, please contact the  
Community Office. In particular we are looking for qualified tutors for  
Maths GCSE (Adults) and Ballroom Dancing.*

**For further details of our courses visit:**

**[www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning](http://www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning)**

**or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372**

**email: [adultlearning@bottishamvc.org](mailto:adultlearning@bottishamvc.org)**

**Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott**

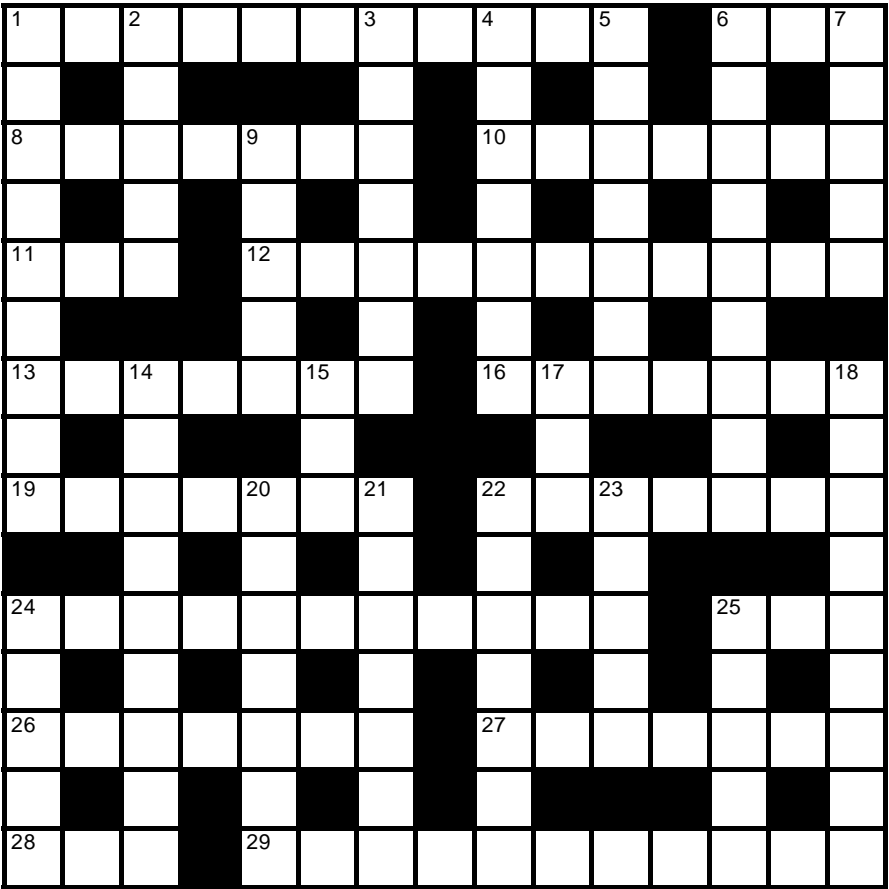
Crossword Number 110

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**OUNCE**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 April 2014. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Tel:.....

## Across

- 1 Measly sorts arranged round our sun (5,6)
- 6 Junior reporter loses article on Cuba? (3)
- 8 Mad Anabaptist not apt to turn down alcohol (7)
- 10 Party leader's signal to make picket fence (7)
- 11 Nothing! We are in arrears (3)
- 12 Wild heroic trips, to Jurassic for example (11)
- 13 Finish minus constant (7)
- 16 Miserable virtue fifty revealed in stream (7)
- 19 Gangster joins Georgia, supporter of branch of mathematics (7)
- 22 Stupidly dose oaf with crabs for instance (7)
- 24 Sid returns, in gear so strange, to remove order (11)
- 25 Nose into parking queen's ponytail (3)
- 26 Want a drink? Try this concoction (7)
- 27 Tactile property of cat's tail bearing true cross? Weird! (7)
- 28 Grant's colour, we hear (3)
- 29 Lost Macbeth near reception hall? (11)

## Down

- 1 Detergent works in East End? (4,5)
- 2 Lime scale came free of twisted cotton thread (5)
- 3 To start with, you Americans (Northern) knavishly echo English speech (7)
- 4 Esprit I develop as more drunk (7)
- 5 Look, after short moment, to Victor, Russian cocktail maker (7)
- 6 Singer against crazy Art lot (9)
- 7 Non-acidic staple (5)

- 9 Quiet, the French found after morning, more than enough (5)
- 14 Biscuit tract? (9)
- 15 Title for some I respect, at first (3)
- 17 One king, Egyptian leader or president? (3)
- 18 Presidential namesake, little Edward Ursine (5,4)
- 20 Coffee-maker, old, falls off broken tailboards (7)
- 21 Financial advisor made from nasty aluminium? (7)
- 22 Southern spies twitch - what a nerve! (7)
- 23 Little brother departed Bordeaux in error, now just the two of us (1,4)
- 24 Crash Princess against Middle Eastern church (5)
- 25 Measure vertical drop in peplum behind back (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 109

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

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

## School News

There has been a lot happening in school...

Kick-Ash came into school to talk with the Year 6 children about the dangers of smoking.

‘One of the activities was based on answering some questions e.g. ‘Does smoking affect you immediately?’ Year 10s came in and talked with us about what we thought. We thought that the smoking wouldn’t affect you immediately and the effects would happen soon after. We were partly right. Some very small things did happen immediately. We also had some pictures of Year 8s and we had to decide if they would smoke or not smoke depending on their personalities.’ By Hugh and Ruben

A team of Year 6 girls took part in a Girls Football tournament. There follows a report of the match by Lucy, Molly, Nina, Anis, Molly and Jodie

‘We all went to Bottisham Primary School and played three football matches against Bottisham A and B and Swaffham Bulbeck. We felt we were really good in the positions we were in. We had a wonderful time playing and were a great example of how to be sporting and work well in a team. In the future we are looking forward to playing more matches against other teams and hopefully we can have a rematch here at our school.’

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, we were treated to Saturn Class assembly. We were entertained with some more Molly dancing and were able to see how skilled George, Maddy, Archie and Lucy were as they danced with brooms. Not easy! Venus class retold a traditional story based on how Devil’s Dyke was created. We saw examples of animated stories (which can be seen on the e2BN website along with others). Josh

gave us a step-by-step set of instructions on how you can multiply using the grid method and we heard a traditional song, ‘Green Grow the Rushes O’. All in all it was an informative and enjoyable time.

The website addresses for the myths and legends website (-with examples



**Year 6 Tag Rugby Team**



of stories submitted by Venus and Year 6 classes) and the Enid Porter website, on which can be seen a video of the Molly dancing and photos of the Plough Wednesday event:

e2BN website 'Myths and Legends' - <http://creator.myths.e2bn.org/gallery/school/4531>

Enid Porter Project - <http://www.enidporterproject.org.uk/>

KS2 went on a trip to Prickwillow to visit the Drainage Museum. There follows a report of the visit.

'We arrived and were given a basket of food items and drink e.g. wheat, potatoes and cola and we had to sort them into those grown in the Fens and those grown elsewhere. There were some surprises e.g. biscuits made from local wheat and cola made from sugar beet. Cornelius Vermoyden came to visit us. He was a drainage engineer from Holland who designed a drainage system using windmills. He told us if there was no wind the draining would stop and the dykes would flood. We got split into groups and we went to the cafeteria and we were given small metal rotor blades which we had to bend and shape so that they would produce the most energy in a wind tunnel. We had a competition to see who could make the most energy. Windmills were used in the Fens for energy and we were learning about the wind power to drain the Fens. At the end they turned the steam engine on and it turned a big wheel. It was part of the pump. It was a very enjoyable and knowledgeable experience.' By Ollie and Robert

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Mercury Class shared their class assembly. They have been working on traditional tales this term and the whole class performed their version of 'The Little Red Hen', complete with actions. As part of the Enid Porter project, the children have been learning about playground games and we were treated to two. Following the demonstration, some of the braver adults in the hall were taught how to play the games by the children themselves. Well done in particular to Scarlett who confidently showed us how to play one of the games.

Little Windmills visited us again. They enjoyed meeting the reception children and had fun buying items from the class shop and ordering and delivering pizza!

Mercury and Mars Classes visited the Foster's windmill.

'We went up a ladder so that we could see things in the mill. We saw two millstones. They go round and make the flour. We saw the 'stitcher' to make the bags. The flour goes in the bags. I think it might be my dad's wheat that goes in. We saw a big, blue thing that the flour goes in and we saw one cog inside it. When we went up another step we saw yellow, black and yellow for safety. We loved it so much – it was fantastic and I hope we can go there again!' By Caitlyn and Rory



Neptune Class assembly took place and we were entertained by the retelling of a local folk tale, 'Tom Hickathrift'. Molly dancing featured in the play and Elena showed how to competently dance with a broom. Samuel, who took the leading role in the play, showed us how not to do it! The children finished with their thoughts on the trip to the Drainage Museum at Prickwillow. A highlight was making wind turbines and testing them in a wind tunnel.



**Visit to the Drainage Museum at Prickwillow**

There was a Tag rugby tournament on Thursday 3th March. 12 children from Year 6 attended the tournament. They played 7 games as teams of 8 and displayed excellent sportsmanship skills. They just missed out on getting to the semi-finals by coming a commendable 3<sup>rd</sup> in their group. Interestingly, they scored more tries than some of the other teams in the other groups that did make it to the semi-finals. Well done and congratulations to Anis, Daniel, Dylan, Elizabeth, George, Hugh, Lucy, Nina, Ollie, Ruben, Sam and Sebastian!

KS2 visited the Big Bang Fair on Friday and had a fantastic time!

'We made 'snot'. We had a tiny bag and we put in some glue, a little bit of water and some green food colouring. We had to squidge it together to make it a 'snot' texture. It was like jelly. Some people won a Rubik's cube. They had to go on Scratch and win three challenges. There were some amazing cars, which if you blinked your eyes you would miss because they were so fast. There was a nose tunnel so that you could see what it was like in one and there was a man who had a special chair. You had to sit in it and hold a pole with a wheel in the middle. You used the pole to steer the chair. We found out that astronauts wear nappies in space. There is a special powder in the nappies that makes the water go like jelly so it stays in the nappy. Then we had lunch. We also blew up a balloon and we had to poke a stick through it without popping it. There was also a special tunnel which showed us

how fast Usain Bolt runs. You could run in the tunnel to see if you could run as fast as him. No one could do it! The day was fabulous and we really enjoyed the trip!' By Emmett, Leah S and Lily St.

We are now nearing the Easter holidays and looking forward to celebrating in church. Still lots to do though!

***Hannah Curtis***  
Head teacher



**The Big Bang Fair**

**WOULD YOU LIKE EXTRA GARDEN WASTE BIN?  
PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING FROM ECDC**

Residents can with immediate effect apply to have an extra GARDEN WASTE ONLY bin.

These bins will be issued under license by the Council for an annual fee of £48. On receipt of an application and payment of the appropriate fee, the bin which will have a brown lid, will be delivered by the Council with the licence affixed.

Initially 500 bins will be made available on a first come first served basis, with more being ordered as necessary.

These bins will be collected at the same time as your existing garden and food waste bin.

The full terms and conditions can be read on our website at [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

To order an additional garden waste bin please call Customer Services on 01353 665555. Payment can be made over the phone by Credit or Debit card. (Please note there is a 2.5% charge for payment by credit card.)

## Empire Day

I remember Empire Day.  
I must have been at school.  
We used to sing a Patriotic Song.  
I'm sure that was the rule.  
It doesn't happen nowadays  
At least that's what I'm told.  
People tell me these things now  
I must be getting old.

I remember the baker's horse-drawn  
  dray  
Outside our house he'd stand  
I was allowed to give his horse  
A crust from my flat hand

I remember a 'girl' delivered milk  
From a churn on her horse-drawn  
dray  
She'd ladle a pint into our jug  
And do this every day

I remember whips and tops  
We played it in the street.  
There was virtually no traffic  
It was a quiet retreat  
It couldn't happen nowadays  
Too many cars are sold.  
It's not easy even to walk across;  
I know I'm getting old.

*Ophir*

## WI Notes

In March we held our annual meeting and following the normal business, we were presented with the financial and committee reports. We have good support from our members at the monthly meetings and have also attracted a number of visitors over the year. A very interesting programme for 2014/5 has been prepared and will begin in May. There was no ballot for the committee which remains unchanged and Pat Cook was re-elected as President for the next year. There was then a break for refreshments and a chance to look at the various outings and meetings being organised by the Federation.

A number of members had attended a day school at the WI office in Girton on the life of Vita Sackville West and a visit to Sissinghurst is one of the outings available later in the year. We then enjoyed entertainment provided by various members and concluded with a quiz and the raffle.

The third Monday in April is Easter Monday so the next meeting in Swaffham Prior Village Hall will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group or telephone if you would like more information.

***Pat Cook - President***

Tel: 01638 742224



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Peter Jackson from Scotsdales Nurseries came to talk to us about Houseplants and brought along a very good selection of them, for us to see—totally unfair temptation.

Scotsdales buy as many British grown plants as possible, but by far and away the most popular house plant now is the Orchid, in it's infinite varieties. Not of course grown over here, but for the British market in Holland and Denmark. They come over here in their lorry loads, having been grown in their millions in vast propagation stations.

As long as you can decide whether your Orchid is of the aerial or terrestrial variety (the pot will give that away), then growing them and keeping them is easy! Rain water, the right light, the right compost and you're away. Phalanopsis I think was his favourite, but warned us that a lot of the most unusual colours are dyed and will revert to their normal colour after a couple of years.

House plants are now bred to be more compact and floriferous and he had some fine examples. Pelargoniums, Gloxinias and Cinerarias are all easy to keep looking good if you stick to a few basic — albeit — fairly obvious rules.

Give them rain water if you can-if not, then tap water that been in a container for 24 hours and has warmed up a little.

Don't overwater plants-far more die from being over, rather than under watered.

Give the plant the right amount of light-rarely direct sunlight.

Feed with the appropriate food.

Mist/spray the foliage of plants as most homes are very dry.

Re-pot when necessary.

Cut back/dead head when needed.

There were also some very pretty miniature roses, which to date have no perfume, (the plant breeders are working on this) and can of course be pruned and planted out when the flowers are over. Advice on Azaleas, Jasmines, Cyclamens and Stephanotis (a challenging plant to grow as it hates temperature variation) and Ferns for darker places indoors, brought our floral evening to a close and the audience determined to be even nicer to their plants at home.

Our meeting next month, on April 15th, is "Through the Year in a Nature Photographer's Garden" by Jeff Harrison. Everyone is welcome.

*Margaret Joyce.*

---

## **News from Bottisham Patients' Group**

### **Annual Patients' Satisfaction Survey**

228 patients completed this survey in January – an increase on the previous three years. Of the 37 questions posed in the questionnaire, the Practice saw an increase in satisfaction or performance for 22 questions, results remained the same for 5 questions and 10 questions saw a very slight decline or a lower than normal level of satisfaction. The full results are available on the Practice's website – see the 'Patient Surveys' tab for further information. There were two main areas of concern: the current appointments system with the consequent access to doctors and nurses; and the provision of advice and information to help patients manage their own health conditions. We have met with the Practice Manager, Samantha Clark, to look at how aspects of these might be met and she has drawn up a detailed action plan which our committee considered at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March – too late to be published here. There will be more about what is in the plan next month and the full details will be published on the Practice's website.

### **Annual General Meeting**

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 Tom Shackleton talk about 'Coping with Depression'

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

A good number of you attended this event last year and commented on how enjoyable and interesting it was, so we look forward to seeing many of you again this year.

Full Council met with a long and varied agenda. Items for debate included: a new scheme of members allowances to reflect moves away from the Cabinet system; introducing a no-smoking policy across council sites; introducing experimental traffic management systems; promoting the re-opening of the March to Wisbech railway line; flying the LGBT flag at Shire Hall; introducing live broadcasting of Council meetings; moving Papworth hospital to the Addenbrookes site and forming a scrutiny panel to consider the guided bus project.

Cabinet met twice during March. At the first meeting I presented a paper launching the formal response to the consultation regarding reconfiguring Children's Centres across the County. Other items discussed included the transport strategy and responses to various planning applications including: North Ely; the Wing Development and Northstowe. The second meeting was held especially to consider the principles of the Greater Cambridgeshire City Deal as announced in the budget. Cabinet agreed unanimously to recommend support to Council.

I attended 2 appointment and remuneration committees to appoint a replacement service director for Economy, Transport and the Environment and a replacement corporate affairs director. I attended an assessment panel to recommend an academy sponsor for the new secondary and special schools being built in Littleport, the recommendation will now go to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Other meetings attended included: the Corporate Parenting Board, North Ely Growth Working Group, the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Cambridgeshire Improvement Board and the Schools Forum, which discussed the welcome announcement of more funding for Cambridgeshire schools after many years of lobbying. On the less formal side I attended the naming of a train after Red Balloon – a local anti-bullying charity.

The Leader of the Conservative Group and of the Council, Cllr Martin Curtis, announced his decision not to seek re-election to those posts in May, so discussions are now taking place about his successor.

*David Brown*

---

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

### PETAL POWER

This month our gardens begin to take on the kaleidoscope of spring and summer flowers throughout the colour spectrum. It is quite extraordinary to think that before the angiosperms – the flowering plants – developed around 200 million years ago, the world was largely green.

Petal power brought colour to the earth. The improved adaptability of flowering plants to a wider range of ecological niches fuelled their rapid diversification during the Lower Cretaceous and marked the beginning of a huge range of complex animal pollinator interactions.

Many pollinator-plant relationships have been well observed. Think of the bee orchid - its flower not only mimics the appearance of a bee but also emits a fake pheromone to lure a male bee into thinking he has found an appropriate mate, only to find he has been tricked into pollinating the orchid! Or the Madagascan orchid with a hugely long nectar spur which Darwin



famously predicted, correctly, would be pollinated by a moth with a foot-long proboscis, which at the time was still undiscovered. Even the colour of the petals gives good clues – bees can see the blue end of the light spectrum easily, including bee ultra-violet which humans cannot see, but they cannot see red light which is why there are so few red flowers in a border designed for bees, but lots of blues from cottage garden favourites such as borage, delphinium and phacelia. Conversely, birds are better at seeing the red end of the spectrum, borne out by greater number of bird-pollinated red-flowered plants, particularly in the Americas and South Africa. But actually how these highly specialised floral traits are built up in a plant down the generations is still the subject of much research, particularly in the Evolution and Development lab of Garden Director, Professor Beverley Glover.

Petal characters such as colour, texture and insect-mimicking spots, as well as structural features such as nectar spurs and anther cones, all provide vital clues to understanding the diversification of flowering plants. For example, most petal colour is produced by pigments, but some particularly glistening or iridescent colours are produced by periodic ordering of nanoscale structures in the petal epidermis that change the hue in proportion to the angles of observation and illumination. But how and why do plants produce these structural colours? Some petals are spotted, such as many in the daisy family, which appear to mimic other insects, but why? Might the different textures of petals provide grip for some desired animal pollinators, but slip for other unwanted visitors?

Professor Glover and colleagues will be trying to answer some of these questions as part of the Garden's Festival of Plants next month, a day dedicated to bringing plants into focus with pop-up plant science, talking plants with the experts, specialist tours of the Garden, a drop-in Plant Lab for families and a Plant Prom of specialist plant nurseries making sure your garden will be full of petal power this summer!

*Festival of Plants runs from 10am – 4pm on Saturday 17 May 2014. Admission is £4.50/£4.95 gift aid (£3.95/£4.30 concession) and accompanied children 16 and under are admitted free of charge. For further visitor information please call 01223 336265 or visit [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk)*

## **Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public in attendance.

**Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation:** None.

**Public Participation:**

No items raised.

**Reports:**

**CCC** – The Clerk read out report provided by Cllr Brown as he was unable to attend.

**ECDC** – Cllr Alderson reported to the meeting.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

*Request for skate ramp:* Steve Kent-Phillips and David Almond confirmed that they would be meeting with the young people who put forward request on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March to discuss further.

*Village sign:* Steve Kent-Phillips updated everyone on the condition of the sign and possible remedial works including stripping the paintwork from the upright/plinth and leaving as natural wood. Following discussion it was suggested that councillors meet to inspect the sign for themselves and then discuss further at a future meeting. Also village residents are to be asked for their views.

*Trees on Village Hall/School boundary:* Paul Latchford said he spoke with Chairman of VHMC and confirmed that they would not be taking any action.

*Proposed Solar Farm Development on Swaffham Prior Fen:* Clerk confirmed that this had been withdrawn.

**Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:**

CCC – Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15. *Confirmation received of application approval for funding to install "lorry sized passing place" on Station Road.*

ECDC – Extra Garden Waste Bins – *see separate item in Crier.*

**Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme - Request for Contribution towards Running Costs:**

John Covill had spoken with Janet Willmott about running costs and reported back to the meeting. Following discussion a contribution of £250 was agreed.

## **Confirmation of Date and Discussion on Agenda for Annual Village Assembly:**

It was agreed that the Annual Village Assembly would be on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. See separate item in Crier.

## **Discussion on Nominations for inclusion on Buildings of Local Interest Listing:**

Suggestions were put forward and Paul Latchford offered to collate list for approval by councillors and submission to ECDC by the close date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. See separate item in Crier.

## **Repairs required to Cemetery Water Supply:**

Steve Kent-Phillips had met with contractors to carry out work to try and trace leak but this proved difficult and no leak could be found. In order to keep costs and disruption down it was proposed to run a new pipe to the meter at the allotment fence. Steve Kent Phillips to follow up.

## **Accounts for payment:**

These were agreed.

## **Clerk's Reports:**

*Community Land Trust:* A meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the Allocations Policy for the affordable houses.

## **Parish Councillors' Reports:**

*Coopers Lane:* Steve Kent-Phillips reported complaints about dog fouling and suggested that a dog poop bag dispenser be erected in the area to encourage people to clear up after their pets. Clerk to look into costs.

## **Open Question Time:**

Discussion on whether there was a village sign before the current one. Request for the ivy to be removed from the Pound building. *Clerk to follow up.*

**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, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Future meeting dates:**

8<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> July.

**All are welcome to attend.**

**Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel: 742358. Email:**

**[karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk)**



*How many church-goers does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: Ten. One to change the bulb and nine to say how they liked it better with the old bulb.*

Church is not a place people tend to associate with change. The story is told of a vicar who provoked a major crisis when he wanted to move the piano from one side of the church to the other. His solution was to move the piano one inch each week! Eventually, after many months, the piano arrived at the other side – and nobody had noticed! I doubt if it is true, but it does illustrate our innate resistance to change.

Jesus, on the other hand, came with the intention of changing things. He came to shake up the religious establishment of his day; to challenge traditions which had lost their meaning, and most of all, to change peoples' lives. The message of the Gospel is one of change – new life, new birth, new creation, transformation.

Jesus offered life-changing teaching, life-changing experiences. A new way of being; a new way of relating to people; a new way of understanding one's place in the world.

Jesus was radical, revolutionary and counter-cultural. He didn't fit into any of the accepted moulds and he was a threat to the religious and political status quo. Nobody wanted to change. So they killed him! And that changed everything!

The heart of the Christian faith is that Jesus didn't stay dead. He came back from the other side. He came back changed. That's the real story of Easter. It isn't about bonnets, or bunnies, or eggs. It isn't even about crosses – it's about transformation; resurrection. It's about changing from death to life, from darkness to light, from despair to hope.

For me, as a one-time atheist, it was considering the weight of historical evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus which completely changed my life. If Jesus really conquered death then surely that changes everything? For all of us!

During the coming Easter period the whole wonderful story of God's plan to transform the world will be remembered and celebrated in various ways in the local churches near you. If you think you could do with a change why not come along and see what it's all about?

Peter Wells.

*RE:NEW Services in April 2014.*

*6 April 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)*

*13 April 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)*

*13 April 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)*

*20 April 10.30am – RE:NEW Easter Celebration (at the School)*

27 April 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)  
27 April 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact  
Rev. Keith Morrison on C.813055 or Peter Wells on C.812388.

Email: [pandawells@cheerful.com](mailto:pandawells@cheerful.com) Or visit our website at [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)

## **FREECYCLE**



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (c813362), e-mail ([jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk)) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

### **Offers**

Small plastic red wheel barrow with yellow handles for a toddler. Jun/Andy c813362

### **Wanted**

Old-fashioned cider/beer bottles with internal coarse screw thread, and jam jars with non-screw tops. John c812120

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.

## **BON MOT NUMBER FORTY TWO**

“If God had intended us to fly,  
He would never have given us the railways.”

*Flanders and Swann (1963)*

Dear Friends,

As I write this article the sun is shining. Its warmth and light are waking plants and creatures that have slept or lain dormant over the winter months and the world has a feeling of renewed purpose and hopefulness. Bats are flying at dusk once more, birds that have been largely silent over the winter months are in full song and the butterflies that have overwintered are becoming active in the warmth of the sunshine. It was seeing the butterflies that reminded me of their symbolism for Christians and for other cultures. Symbols were very important for the Christian church at times when little was written down and many people could not read or write and the early Christians often adopted symbols that were already recognised by others as symbols of their faith.



The ancient Egyptians had noted that their cloth wrapped mummies looked rather like the chrysalis of a butterfly so they used the butterfly as a symbol of the afterlife and immortality. The Greeks also recognised the butterfly as a symbols of life after death and put golden butterflies in their tombs. For Christians too the butterfly spoke to them of new life in Christ.

The caterpillar spends its life eating and for Christians it represented earthly life where people were often preoccupied with getting the material things they needed to survive and be comfortable.

Nature selected the chrysalis to appear as if it was a dead leaf and for Christian symbolism it represented the tomb and our death to this earthly life and to the material world.

The third stage of the life cycle is the emerging butterfly. The butterfly remains a beautiful graphic image, which conveys a spiritual truth. For the butterfly is free to fly, to move in a new medium in the brightness and the warmth of the sun. The humble caterpillar is transformed, not into a bigger or better caterpillar, but into something that moves and feeds and exists in a completely different way.

Not only is a caterpillar transformed into something new but in that transformation it becomes a creature of great beauty, full of colour and movement. Although the caterpillar and the butterfly are the same they are also completely different.

As the church approaches the great festivals of Holy Week and Easter it is important to recognise the power of symbols and to allow them to add their voice to the truth we proclaim. What seems dead can be raised to new and eternal life through the power of Christ's resurrection.

As St Paul put it: *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)*

*For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (1 Corinthians 15:52b)*

I wish you all the hope and the new beginnings of Easter.

With best wishes,

*Sue*

## **Church Services in April**

**(at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior, unless otherwise indicated)**

Sunday 6 April, fifth Sunday of Lent

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 13 April, **Palm Sunday**

11am Family Service with pony-led procession

Thursday 17 April, **Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Holy Communion, St James', Lode

Friday 18 April, **Good Friday**

10am Good Friday Workshop, St Mary's, Swaffham  
Bulbeck

10.30am Ecumenical Family Worship, Holy Trinity,  
Bottisham

7.30pm Reflections for Good Friday, Holy Trinity,  
Bottisham

Sunday 20 April, **Easter Day**

11am Holy Communion (CW1T), followed by Easter  
Egg hunt

Sunday 27 April, second Sunday of Easter

10am Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1T)

## Dates for Your Diary April 2014

Wed	2	Book Club, Kent House, 8pm
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	16	
Thu	17	
Fri	18	<b><i>Good Friday</i></b> <b><i>Crier Copy Deadline</i></b>
Sat	19	
Sun	20	<b><i>Easter Day</i></b>

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of	8pm	Village
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 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	