



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 23 Number 6

June 1999



Editorial

That was the **Feast** that was - and very good too. For those newbies like me who didn't know, the *feast* bit doesn't refer to the cakes and buns. It's feast as in church feast, hence fête, festival etc. They took £1000! (see report, page 13) the larger part of which was surely contributed by Master B. Matheson in order to pay for the extensive bowling practice needed for his top-scoring lucky strike. Anyway, as a representative of those propping up the beer tent, can I say thank you very much to those who did all the hard work, and the only thing that was missing was the greasy pole. Whatever happened to the greasy pole? We *need* a greasy pole. Oh yes, and the eggs had *too thin shells!*

Does anyone know anything about the history of the old **Village Bier** (see page 5)? If so, please get in touch - its refurbishment is nearly finished, and it would be good to have a plaque giving a short history.

Seen on the lawn early on Monday Bank Holiday morning: a **hawk** (slate-grey back, whitish front, about 18" long) plucking a pigeon. It flew off carrying the carcass, leaving a neat circle of feathers behind. I saw a circle like this in the garden last year. Have there been other sightings? Bird buff friends tell me the hawk was probably a Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines are particularly partial to pigeons, apparently. They're on the increase, and in the absence of crags like to nest on church towers and the like. So, pigeons, all is not so rosy in the garden...

Neighbourhood Watch are holding a meeting about road safety (see page 8) with Vic Smith, who's our local Advanced Driving guru. I did this course once (it's fun! and it's free) but did it make things safer? The problem is, it involves sticking to the speed limit, and *that* involves having a white van attached to the back bumper. Why is this? Is it the same white van? I don't know.

The **cover picture** by Tina Jost signals the start of her new career as a botanical artist and illustrator, and as an advertiser in the *Crier*. Judging by the quality of this artwork she should do very well.

Don't forget the new date for the **Church Fête**: 26 June. See you there.

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: by *Tina Jost*



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Kosovo Crisis Appeal

Many thanks to everybody who baked cakes, bought them or made donations at the cake stall and Coffee Morning held at my house on Friday 30th April.

Your very generous efforts raised the magnificent sum of £475. Thank you so much for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Scovil,
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court

Dear Editors,

Thanks

Could I please thank all my kind relatives, neighbours and friends for all their visits, cards, presents and good wishes while I was in hospital. It was much appreciated.

I am home now and hope to make a good recovery.

Once again my sincere thanks

P. Mead
1 Tothill Road

Dear Editors,

April's Editorial

As a former editor of the Crier famous (infamous?) for speaking his mind, and subsequently a correspondent on the subject of free speech, I find myself unexpectedly in the position of being appalled by the recent contributions from Mr Fidoe on the subject of dog fouling.

The original editorial was intemperate and ill-advised - OK, I have been guilty of that myself in the past - and was not a constructive way to approach the problem. A reasonable climb-down in the next issue could have sorted that out.

What we got instead was a condescending belittlement of a detailed apology from the family involved, and a lengthy rant which had little to do with what purported to be the original subject, dog fouling. The only thing it may have achieved is to shed more light on the curious preoccupations of Mr Fidoe, which he might be advised to keep to himself in future if he is

concerned about the number of villagers who bin the *Crier* without reading it.

John Chalmers
19 Lower End

Dear Editors

April's Editorial

Sincere apologies should be accepted with good grace. Mr Hodgson wrote to you, doing the decent thing; you have published for all to read. I found the reply uncharitable and excessive.

Small wonder some choose not to read, while some others may take a sneaky pleasure in the bickering and sniping they can follow within the pages of the *Crier*, as a monthly serial - one which they hope they will never be dragged into. I recently read extracts to a friend - whose profession is urban planning and conservation, so I thought she would be interested - and she thought I was composing on-the-spot satire.

If you wish the *Crier* to be a community publication filled with something for everyone, can it be encouraging not critical and disbelieving? We are all capable of thoughtlessness, and the fear of appearing as the bad guy in the next editorial is not pleasant.

I would be interested to hear whether the *Crier* has a mission statement, and an editorial policy on apologies and replies.

If it is of interest, my father fought Germans on the ground in Warsaw when he was a teenager. I think the experience made life harder rather than easier for him to manage.

Name and address withheld by request

Editors note: It is, as this letter suggests, probably time to draw a line under this discussion. However a question is asked about editorial policy which it does seem appropriate to answer. Our policy is the same for all copy which we receive for the *Crier*: we publish everything within the constraints of space, legality and trying to avoid undue offence. On this occasion, the reply to the letter was by a member of the Editorial Team but it was in a private capacity not as Editor. In general, where an article or letter is about something someone has done or written and we think they might want to reply in the same issue, we offer that person the opportunity to do so. Perhaps with hindsight we should also have offered the Hodgsons this opportunity. We apologise if we caused offence by not doing so.

And a final comment from John Fidoe (who, other Ed's note, it should be remembered became involved in the original incident out of a sense of public spirit):

I suppose I might have left out bile, condescension, belittlement, ranting, curious preoccupations, intemperance, poorly advised, appalling and not constructive, but I hold my hand up and admit that *'OK it was a fair cop, I was stupid and I hope I don't have to do it again'*. I would also like to ask these contributors 'just how many times **we** should ask **nicely** for people to stop antisocial behaviour, before we bow to pressure **from the offended** to 'Name and Shame'. Six or more times in two years was obviously not

Dear Editors

Thanks

My family and I would like to convey our sincere thanks for all the kind messages and cards received following our recent sad loss.

It was very comforting to see so many of our friends and neighbours at the service in St. Mary's Church and may we thank you for the donations which will go to the British Heart Foundation.

Sid Prince
12 Green Head Road

Greetings from Ghana!

As many of you already know, I am living in Ghana for three months during my gap year, staying with a family and teaching English in a nursery and primary school. I chose to come to Ghana because it is such a vibrant and colourful nation with amazingly diverse culture, and it is proving to be a fascinating country to live in.

I arrived in Accra, Ghana's capital city, with Nikki (my boyfriend Andrew's sister) about two and a half weeks ago, and since then we have been adjusting to life out here in what is still very much a developing third world country.

Trying to teach thirty, six- and seven-year-old, Ghanaian children to speak proper English is an interesting experience! The level of spoken and written English varies a lot; the first language in this area is Twi (pronounced Chwee) but as English is the official language in Ghana, not speaking it would be a severe disadvantage. The children are lovely, really enthusiastic and keen to learn, but our instructions on what or how to teach them have been a bit vague to say the least! We're gradually getting the knack of devising lessons and homework at the right level, though not without many mistakes! We are also taking PE lessons (difficult: any sort of exercise in

this heat and we're bright red and panting, while the children are still bouncing around...), rhyme and storytelling, and I'm hoping to teach a few of them to play the recorders I brought over with me.

Being on the coast we have been eating a lot of fish, mostly very spicy fish stew with rice, boiled yam (bread potato) or fried plantain (tastes like a cross between banana and parsnip!). Today we have giant African land snails as a treat, though having seen them crawling contentedly round the bucket earlier I'm not sure I can face eating them - especially since a friend of mine has one as a pet! Other delicacies include jaloff rice: fried rice as a spicy vegetable / fish risotto, and kelewele: plantain fried in palm oil with ginger and spices - lovely! A lot of fufu is eaten as well; this is boiled yam pounded to a pulp using a huge (~1.5m) pestle, and mortar (to scale) - a very impressive procedure, and you can hear when someone is pounding fufu from at least half a mile away!

We are free to travel at the weekends, so last friday we went up to the rainforest nearby and walked along the only canopy walkway in Africa, at Kakum. It's basically made from planks laid along rickety ladders and suspended between trees by steel rope and some netting, but it was a relief to stand on firm ground again! We stayed at a hotel that not only had a resident monkey, but hundreds of huge insects and a frog in the swimming pool which we discovered at 6am! The restaurant was built out over a lake which was home to fifteen crocodiles who came to keep us company at breakfast! We visited Elmina castle as well: this was one of the main castles in the slave trade in the past four centuries and has a fascinating if gruesome history.

We have been made very welcome - a typical example of Ghanaian hospitality, as everyone is very friendly (over-friendly in some cases - we've already had a few proposals of marriage!!) and I hope the remaining time we have out here is as enjoyable.

Lindsay Whitehead

Village Bier

Graham Jackson has been retoring the village bier at the request of the Parish Council. The work is now nearly complete and he would like to include a short history to go on a plaque. All he has been able to find so far is that it was bought from Charles Webb, Wood House, Lower End in the late 50's or early 60's. If anyone has any more information please could they let Graham know, either directly (tel. 742164) or via the *Crier*. It would be nice to be able to publish an article in the *Crier* about this bit of village history.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There were seven of them. The new Parish Council sat there beaming, all polished up, in their best bib and tucker. The two new members looked particularly pleased. One had latterly attended a few PC meetings and must have been so impressed he wanted to get in on the act. And the other was one of many who had pledged to stand for election, so that the village could have the first election for many years. But, just as a group of young fellows agree to jump into the water from a bridge, so there was a change of mind once the others had seen the first one hit the water. By the end of the meeting, however, it looked as if this new member would certainly be a survivor - waving, not drowning.



Meantime two of the previous PC were sitting in the public gallery, and I was impressed. Such enthusiasm! Henry had an open note pad on his lap so I asked if he was going to report the meeting. Certainly not, he said, we are both hoping to be co-opted. And so they both were. Then there were nine - without any of the unnecessary fuss and mess of an election. If there had been a public notice about the need for co-opted members there might well have been five in the public gallery chancing their lot. This happened a few years ago.

There is a customary ritual at the beginning of each new PC and Eric has usually conducted this. His job was usurped this time but, being a stickler for correct procedure, he was able to put his replacement right several times, and advised "If you are going to do it, do the job properly".

Andrew was re-elected as Chairman, and Eric as Vice-Chairman. Andrew went through the 15 pages of accounts he had prepared. The ECDC auditor apparently doesn't make life easy. He insists the accounts should be horizontal rather than vertical. I wasn't able to see a copy but I noticed that several members did tilt their heads on one side as they read them. Andrew explained the main features very carefully and clearly so that everyone had a full picture.

Peter Mengham then said he had had "his ears burnt over the last few weeks" by many people because of the high precept. He said that we are very high in comparison with most other villages, and that he "could not justify the increase" to the people who had complained to him. He proposed that the PC should guarantee not to make any further increase for 3 or 4 years. Andrew thought this very unwise. Trevor (one of the new members) asked PM if the PC had prepared a budget. "Yes", said PM. "Was the precept based on this budget?" "Yes", said PM. "Then tell these people what the budget is, and you will be able to justify the precept", said Trevor. Ole!! Later it transpired that only PM had had his "ears burnt" - he explained this by saying he walks round the village.

Andrew, who had been through it all at other meetings, again explained the reasons for the increases, that the government says at least 50% of the precept ought to be in the reserves, etc. Everything was made clear once again and there seems to be no reason why any PC member should not be able to explain the increased precept, providing they remember a little of what Andrew said. Gone are the days

A NEW DATE FOR
St Mary's Church
Summer Fête
at the
Village Hall
Saturday June 26th at 2:15pm

Featuring: The Grand Summer Draw
Brass Band
Competitions, Sideshows, Stalls
Refreshments

Adult Entry Tickets 30p, Children Free.

when a parish council could think it had done well if it was £231.97 pence in the black at the end of the year.

Peter Whitfield has looked into the cost of a possible replacement for the serpent in the Town Close play area. The cheapest was a balance beam on the ground, with three mushroom steps nearby, which would cost a mere £965. Andrew said it sounded like a very expensive piece of wood. And another was a "small log structure with a scramble net", costing £4,827. This included £300 for keeping the equipment secure during installation. Someone, quick as a flash, said "Put a dog in there to save £300." The matter has been put on hold until they see pictures of the above two items, but there was general disquiet about the cost - "Every time the play area comes up it seems to cost us about £1,000".

All the rest of the business was conducted at an easy purposeful pace. Two PC members made objections to the planning application for the changes in St. Mary's. Lode has written to the PC asking it to tell all our village organisations not to arrange anything on 24th and 25th June 2000 as Lode is planning a special event on these dates. There is to be a welcome revival of the village General Maintenance Programme, and even the decrepit litter bin near the Vicarage stands a good chance of being noticed.

And then on to Open Question Time. This is a great feature of Swaffham Prior PC meetings. There can be an interchange of ideas and information, an opportunity for the public to raise matters of particular concern, a time when the PC can receive feedback on its policies rather than just having people grumbling in the background. It makes the PC accessible and is a welcome reward for those who have sat through a whole meeting in the public gallery.

But I often wonder if the PC makes the best use of Open Question Time.

Perhaps it ought to look at Prime Minister's Question Time for a few lessons. Here you will have the member from Upper Salford asking "Does the Prime Minister think the Government should be congratulated on controlling inflation so effectively?" The PM will look as if he is giving the matter a little thought and will then say "er, Yes." A similar question could be put by a member of the PC. "Does the Chairman agree that this is the best Parish Council Swaffham Prior has had for the last ten years?". Andrew may need more time to answer this as thoughts such as "What's his/her game?", "You bet your life it is", "Is this a wind-up?", flash across his mind; followed by a searching look at his team (how many are good SWIB members?); followed by a tortuous struggle between truth and diplomacy, until he eventually produces an answer like, "er, It's Possible".

Alastair Everitt



Burwell Scout Troup

Were you ever a Boy Scout, Venture Scout or Warranted Leader?

Burwell Scout Troup (founded in 1923) are losing their long-term leaders (to have a baby Scout of their own!). We are looking for enthusiastic and committed adults to take over the troop from September. Training and support will be given and with 36 Cubs and 30 Beaver Scouts relying on a Troop to transfer to, your help would be invaluable.

If you would like more information or you feel you could only commit time to help out at weekly meeting, please contact me on 01638 601508.

Thank You

Mrs. Sally Harrison
Group Scout Leader.

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Mellisa Goss . IHBC . IIHHT . BABTAC



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New for 1999! *The Cathedral City Cruise*, a day excursion to Ely.

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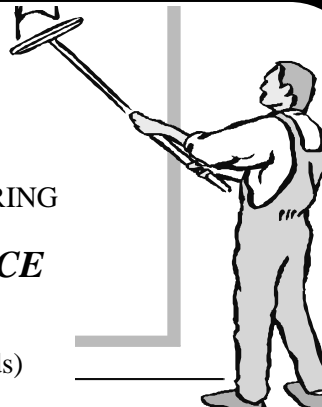
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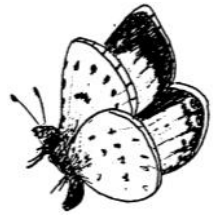
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ENTICING THE BUTTERFLY



Summer is here and what better way to spend spare time than by relaxing in the garden and watching butterflies dance from flower to

flower.

One way to guarantee a good display is by providing the right nectar flowers for the emerging butterflies. Of the smaller plants aubretia seems the most popular, together with other members of the cabbage family, such as alyssum, wallflower, honesty and sweet rocket Plantings should be in full sun and sheltered.

Shelter is essential if butterflies are to feed and breed and sunshine is important for females searching for a place to lay their eggs.

For Summer and Autumn, classic butterfly flowers are; budleia, hebe, ivy, lavender, hysop, thyme, Michaelmas daisy, red valerian and various scabiouses. Concentrate on plants that flower late, from August to October, as this is when butterflies fatten up for hibernation or migration.

Butterflies you should hope to see for your endeavours include the cabbage white family (including large and small whites, green veined white and orange tip), brimstone and holly blue butterflies. Skippers, small coppers, common blues, peacocks, small tortoiseshells, red admirals and commas tend to be found in larger gardens.

For more information on gardening for wildlife and on how to join The Wildlife Trust please telephone 01223 712400.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the Village Gardeners meeting on the 18th May over 30 members and visitors strolled round Janet Hall's 2 acre garden in Reach. We were able to admire the wood, the wild flower areas and the many colour co-ordinated flower beds.

Later, Janet demonstrated how to propagate by taking cuttings. She made it seem so easy - why do only half of mine survive? After coffee all round we were able to walk round her nursery and buy plants at very reasonable prices. A most delightful evening - thank you Janet and Andrew.

Next month, on 15th June, we shall be walking along Devil's Dyke with Sharon Hearly of The Wildlife Trust to look at the wild flowers. (What, all the way? asked one member - well, perhaps not quite!) If anyone would like to join us we meet at 7pm in the Burwell Road car park.



Recipe of the Month

Well, summer is here with the advent of June, let's hope the weather will prove that it has arrived! To celebrate the mid-year, I thought I would include a recipe very suitable for a dinner party whether you are eating indoors or outside. Thanks to Kate Childs for this one. If you are a fish enthusiast, you will love it.

Roast Salmon with Herb Crust served with

Ingredients

300g (1 2oz) thick end of salmon fillet (skinned)
1½ level teasp. chopped parsley
1½ level teasp. fresh or dried tarragon
1½ tablesp. Olive Oil
50g (2oz) white or wholemeal breadcrumbs
Small clove of garlic - peeled and crushed
½ lemon -juice and zest
salt and pepper

For the Sauce

1 egg yolk
2 tablesp. white wine vinegar
8 tablesp. olive oil
4 tablesp. groundnut oil
2 heaped teasp. chopped dill
4 teasp. Dijon mustard
½ teasp. demerara sugar
1 small onion - finely chopped
Knob of butter
Salt and pepper

Dill Sauce

Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas Mark 6

Method

- 1 In a bowl mix together the breadcrumbs, herbs, zest, juice, olive oil and salt and pepper.
- 2 Dry the surface of the salmon with kitchen paper.
- 3 Press the breadcrumb mixture over the top and press down well.
- 4 Place salmon in a roasting tin (you may prefer to line the tin with foil) and bake for 25 - 35 minutes
- 5 Meanwhile to make the sauce, melt the butter in a pan and add the onion and cook for 2-3 minutes without colouring - allow to cool.
- 6 Mix the egg yolk, mustard and vinegar in a bowl. Mix the two oils and whisk them into the mustard mixture. Add the chopped dill and the onions. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Mobile Library - Use it or Lose it!

Videos, reference books for homework or projects. Help for hobbies! It is all there, with a very friendly and helpful librarian.

Toddlers, newcomers, anyone!! Welcome.

Every other Tuesday. See the Diary for dates and times.



Village Feast

Despite some concern about the weather, we set up the stalls on the front lawns and luckily the showers did not materialise to spoil the arrangements.

The traditional start to the Feast, Maypole dancing by children from the school was, as usual, of an impeccably high standard and deserving of the warm applause at the end of their demonstration. The stalls were crammed with exciting things to buy and in particular, it was rewarding to see that the Millennium Stall sold out quickly - all monies going towards our Millennium Fund. The Ladies Circle's tempting array of home-made sweets and biscuits did a roaring trade, as too the Cake and Bottle Stalls - always very popular - and generally, all the stall holders were very pleased with their results this year. The children were well catered for, with a Bouncy Castle, play area and face painting. Our genial M.C. John Chalmers kept the "pot boiling" throughout the afternoon, in between visits to Pete & Trevor's Beer Tent, and managed to keep us to schedule.

May we say a big thank you to all those who donated raffle prizes, bottles and jars, cakes and preserves, assisted with the setting-up in the morning (and clearing away at the end of the show), the tea ladies, in fact to *everybody* who helped in whatever capacity. In particular, I would like to thank Betty Prime for all her invaluable assistance in the preparations beforehand and on the day itself.

Of course, the biggest thank you goes to you for coming, spending your money and we hope enjoying the afternoon. The Village Feast is the major fund-raising event in aid of the Village Hall for its maintenance and upkeep and we are delighted to advise that just under £1,000 was taken on the day.

Pat Cunningham



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday 26th April the Ladies Circle met at the home of Mary Cook where we all enjoyed a Social Evening. We played a game of Beetle, had a bring and buy stall and a raffle, and generally chatted over coffee and biscuits.

Our aim of holding a Social Evening was to raise a little money for the Chapel where we hold our meetings and also to boost our own funds. Work is needed on the vestry floor so, as we use their premises, we thought it

appropriate to try and raise some money to help towards this. In all we raised £50, £25 of which will be given to the chapel and £25 for our own funds.

Forthcoming meetings:

28th June Mrs Brewer from Newmarket will talk on 'the spinning wheel'

26th July Trip to the Ely Museum - details later

New members are always welcome



STAINÉ HUNDRED

A Walkabout in Newmarket on Wednesday 12th May was most enjoyable. The first guide showed us round Palace House Mansion which is now the Tourist Information Office, having been very well restored. We were told of the royal connections with Newmarket from James I, Charles I and II, Queen Anne, William and Mary, and included some amusing anecdotes. The first Palace was pulled down and the present building was built for Charles II.

We then proceeded to walk through the west end of the town led by a local guide. All Saints Church is a Victorian replacement of an earlier one. Money was left, by someone who got lost on the heath, for the bells to be rung at 5 am every morning but this practice has now been discontinued. The Jockey Club was started in 1750 and Edward VII had a suite there but they were partly destroyed this century by fire and rebuilt on the same site. On the opposite side of the High Street was Crockford's Coffee House. The northern side of the High Street was hit by a string of bombs during WW II and caused much disruption as it was an important link road from east to west. The Scotch Tea Rooms date back to the 18th century when they were the kitchen quarters of Godolphin House which still stands next to them. We proceeded uphill by Gibson the saddlers, who make the racing silks for the Queen, to Tattersalls where we were received by the manager's son who gave a lot of fascinating information about the horse sales. Tattersall was started in London in 1776 near Hyde Park, moved to Knightsbridge in 1865 where their offices remained until 1977. There are 758 boxes which may each be used four times over during the December sales. The magnificent building where the auctions take place was put up in 1965. At the main sales 25 horses are sold every hour. Tattersalls sponsor 52 races in the UK and also some in Dubai and Ireland. All in all it was a most interesting evening

Peggy Day



WI Notes

Several visitors joined us at the meeting on 17th May when we were taken back to the Second World War and life in the Land Army by Joan Bradley and her friend Peggy Mole. Peggy had lived with her sister in Harlow and was assigned to the stables as she came from Newmarket, although she knew nothing about horses! She worked hard muck spreading, sprout picking in the freezing cold, bird scaring and singing and dancing round the runner bean wigwams to keep her spirits up. She had no social life and because of the shortage of hot water often wondered if she smelled!

Joan, on the other hand, lived in the splendid surroundings of Swaffham Prior House which was then a hostel. She was provided with food and drink for the day and worked mainly on Swaffham Prior Fen where the trainee pilots often flew so low over them that trysts were made by wrapping notes round stones. Social life was good as soldiers camped in the grounds and Americans with nylons, queued at the gates. Joan frequented the Rose and Crown where she played the piano and met her husband.

The Land Army was always the forgotten Service but is now being recognised, now that few are left. On 21st June we shall be learning about the work of the MacMillan nurses and look forward to welcoming more visitors.

Margaret Phillips

Friends of Bottisham Village College 4th Annual Summer Ball

(Theme: "The Last Tsar's Ball")

Saturday 3rd July 1999

Live Music

Buffet - Licensed Bar - Raffle

7.30pm to Midnight

Dress: - Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit

Tickets £15

For Tickets - Telephone: 01223 812354 or 01223 812194



Neighbourhood Watch

At the co-ordinators meeting on 26th April, we welcomed representatives from both Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck. PC Anil Soni, a Crime Reduction Officer, came to talk to us about the changing face of Neighbourhood Watch in the light of the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act. He also up-dated us on the Southern Division's initiatives regarding communication and cooperation between ECDC, the police and the community in the light of the new Act. It was an informative evening.

Although there is no further information to report on crimes within our village since last month's Crier, we do urge you to be vigilant and to take extra care in keeping your sheds and garages shut and locked at all time. With gardening in full swing, thefts of mowers and other gardening equipment is high on the list. Also do try to mark your mowers in some way to help deter the thieves.

Our **Open Meeting** is on **Wednesday 23rd June** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm when PC Vic Smith, the Division's Road Safety Officer, is coming to talk on traffic issues such as car safety, speeding and other bad driving habits. As this is a subject very dear to many hearts in the village we hope you will make a point of coming along to here the talk and air your views!

Hilary Mengham

Notes from the Parish Council May Meeting

A M Badcock chaired the meeting with nine members and two members of the Public. Also present was Councillor Fitch. Prior to the commencement of the meeting, elected Parish Council members signed their "Declaration of Acceptance of Office".

The first business of the meeting was the election of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A. Badcock was elected Chairman and E.Day was elected Vice-Chairman. The two remaining places on the PC were filled by co-option.

The Annual Accounts for 1998/99 were presented to the meeting. After discussion these accounts were agreed.

Matters Arising

Lay-By Water Tower: A letter from Brian Stinton, CCC is still awaited. The Clerk contacted Mr Stinton, who said a reply would be with us for the May meeting but to date no reply had been received. Further report next month.

Village Shop: T Jones reported to the meeting on progress. Finding someone to run the Village Shop/Post Office was proving to be very difficult, with a second applicant dropping out.

Playground Equipment: P Whitfield had obtained two quotes for a replacement piece of equipment. The costs involved were discussed and considered quite considerable. This is to be further considered at the next meeting.

The Millennium: An update had been received from Mrs Malster. An application has been sent into ECDC for Millennium Funds. The cost & design of a village map is being investigated.

Annual Village Assembly: This will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday, 27th May 1999, starting at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be posted on the village noticeboard.

Village Hall Driveway: Three estimates have been received for the re-surfacing of the Village Hall driveway. These were discussed and it was agreed that Kim Sheldrick Building Services be asked to carry out the work.

General Maintenance Programme: Estimates are to be obtained for the work needed to the village seats, village hall fencing, noticeboards and the fixing of the access bars outside the Cemetery gates.

Grasscutting: Some confusion had arisen regarding the grasscutting at Fairview Grove. Mr Shreeve has cut the grass as requested by residents and the PC will ask him to continue. The Clerk is to contact CCC to confirm which areas they are responsible for.

Reports

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Correspondence

The Chairman reported the correspondence to the meeting.

A letter had been received from IO Ltd assuring the PC that every endeavour would be made to limit the parking on Lower End.

Accounts for Payment

Payments were agreed.

Planning Applications

The following **application** had been received: The Erection of a Disabled Toilet at St Marys Church, High Street. No objections - although it was asked why the above could not be included within the existing structure.

Planning Approval: Erection of earth bank along road verge to a maximum height of two metres. 30 metres south west of Laundry Cottage adjacent to the B1102.

Planning Refusal: Retention of metal and wood sheds for the storage of

agricultural equipment at The Orchard, Mill Hill.

Any other Business:

Neighbourhood Watch: A meeting was held on 26th April 1999. A. Badcock reported to the PC meeting.

Open question time: Further discussion about grasscutting, in particular, the area outside the cemetery gates. To be further investigated.

The **next meeting** will be held on 10th June 1999.

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

The results of the local elections on May 6th have brought important changes in the way that the District Council is run. The 20 Liberal Democrat Councillors have a majority, so the new Liberal Democrat Group now controls East Cambridgeshire District Council. As I have been elected as the Liberal Democrat Group Leader, I am the Leader of the Council. At the Annual Meeting on 18th May we elected Sheila Friend-Smith (Ely) as Chairman for the coming year and Valerie Leake (Bottisham) as Vice-Chairman.

The next sale of compost bins and water butts at bargain prices will be held at the old David Smith Site on Reach Road, Burwell between 10am and 3pm on Sunday June 13th. We have pushed hard to persuade the Councils to hold these sales at more convenient venues so if you haven't already got one - come along and get composting!

My next Councillor's Surgery is on Tuesday 15th June at Reach Village Hall between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home.

Botanical Artist & Illustrator



Tina Jost

invites commissions for high quality 'pen and ink' illustrations

Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire

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**SWAFFHAM
PRIOR SCHOOL
SPORTS DAY &
SUMMER FAIR ON
SUNDAY 11TH
JULY AT 12PM**



**BOUNCY
CASTLE!**

**GRAND RAFFLE
PRIZE**

**BBQ
LUCKY
LOLLIES**

LUCKY DIP

**1ST.FLIGHT IN A
DEHAVILLAND 87B
HORNET MOTH**

**FACE
PAINTING**

**SALAD
BAR**

**SPLAT
THE RAT**

2ND HAMPER

**WINE OR
WATER**

**ICECREAMS
CAKE STALL**

**PLUS OTHERS
GO-KARTS!!!**

**TEA STALL
POP A BALLOON**

**BOOKS &
BRICABRAC**

**PATCHWORK
CIRCUS**

**TOMBOLA
PLANT STALL**

**HUMAN FRUIT
MACHINE!!!!**

**BAR
(PIMMS GALORE!)**

PLUS MUCH MUCH MORE



Starting a new financial year coupled with better weather means an outburst of action on our **HIGHWAYS**.

Resurfacing and reconstruction works, already completed or soon to start include roadside (haunch) repairs along the Newmarket Road in Burwell up to the county boundary, similar smaller scale repairs on Heath road, Swaffham Bulbeck, patching and earthing up of the Great Drove area in Swaffham Prior, to re-surfacing of the Bottisham to Lode road. Burwell Causeway and part of High Street will receive attention shortly as will the remainder of High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck.

In the longer term I still hope for money to pay for work on the right-hand side (looking south) of Bell Road, Bottisham, which gives at present a bad impression as one enters or leaves the village.

Turning to paths and footways, the weed sprayer is literally walking round our villages so as to pin-point sprouting weeds at their lushest. Later this summer he will return and, one hopes, put on the knock-out blow on any weeds trying to recover. I have asked for flattening of weed eruptions on tarmac paths, but our officers think cutting out the worst ones is the best treatment.

Once again the **COUNTY FARMS** estate has contributed several million pounds to County coffers. We should be in a parlous state indeed without these transfusions each year. The estate is very large at 36,000 acres and offers a livelihood to about 380 tenants.

Work proceeds on the repair to **BOTTISHAM POOL**, although the reopening date may fall back to the late autumn. Meanwhile, the Newmarket Pool is full of former Bottisham swimmers and now the refurbished pools in Cambridge and Ely offer temporary more distant alternatives. Grant aid towards the Bottisham Pool has been received from East Cambs District Council, Bottisham, Bulbeck and Lode parishes, and the County will be feeding in the first quarter million from its Risk funds. The rest will be covered by insurance.

It now seems to be confirmed that the **FIRE STATION** located on the D.S. Smith site in Reach Road, Burwell is to be given free to the Combined Fire Authority, thus securing some protection from fires and speedy help at accidents.

James Fitch

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes from the Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held at the Village Hall, on Monday 12th April, 1999.

Vestry Meeting

Election of Churchwardens

As James Willmott had to tender his resignation as Churchwarden because of pressure of work, there was a pressing need to elect two churchwardens, the church having operated with only one churchwarden for the last year. The Vicar suggested that the time might be ripe to re-amalgamate Swaffham Prior and Reach as a single parish, from which the churchwardens and PCC could be elected. and serve both churches.

Francis Riggs, from Swaffham Prior, and Andrew Graham, from Reach, were proposed and duly elected. Francis Reeks from Swaffham Prior was proposed and elected as Deputy Churchwarden.

Parochial Church Meeting

1. Electoral Roll

Erie Day reported that there had been three additions to the Electoral Roll, bringing the number up to 60.

2. Treasurer's Report

Paula Ingram, who had been the approved Examiner, presented the Parish Accounts, pointing out that expenditure had considerably exceeded income, but this had been made good by drawing on the interest of funds like the Fisher and Symonds fund. The Treasurer, Michael Cazenove, felt that this could not go on and said that people must be encouraged to take out more covenants. The accounts were adopted and signed, and Paula Ingram was appointed as Examiner of the accounts for next year.

3. Deanery Synod

Francis Riggs and Tricia Harrison were elected to continue as Deanery Synod representatives for the next three years.

4. Election of Parochial Church Council

The following were elected to serve on the Parochial Church Council: Ex-Officio: Frank Riggs (Churchwarden), Andrew Graham (Churchwarden), Michael Cazenove (Treasurer), Jenny Moseley (Secretary), Francis Reeks (Deputy Churchwarden); and Tricia Harrison, James Willmott, Eric Day, Carolyn Cazenove, Jan Summers, Kate Child, Rosalind Wood, Alex Mead.

5. Election of Sidesmen

The following were elected to serve again as sidesmen and readers: Frank Riggs, John Norris, Hilary Sage, Catie Whiteley, Sarah Haworth, Lucy Haworth, James Willmott, Elizabeth Everitt, Michael Cazenove, David Boughey, Mark Lewinski, Kaye Lewinski, Francis Reeks, Jenny Moseley, Jan Pattinson, Rosalind Wood, Brenda Wilson, Margaret Cook, John Cook, Tricia Harrison. Sir Robert Ropner tendered his resignation as a reader.

6. Future P.C.C. Meetings

These were fixed for May 17th, July 12th, September 13th, November 8th, January 10th, February 14th, April 10th (Easter Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting).

Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Reach on Tuesday 20th April

As suggested at the Swaffham Prior Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the equivalent meeting at Reach agreed and voted to amalgamate with Swaffham Prior, thereby returning to the administrative arrangements that pertained in the united parish of Swaffham Prior with Reach in the 1950's. Reach would retain independent Working Groups for Fabric and Finance, and Social Events for the duration of the re-ordering project.

The following people from Reach were elected to serve on the united PCC: Andrew Graham (Churchwarden), Norah Smith (Deputy Churchwarden), Alasdair Coles, Jen Holmwood, Doreen Robinson, Jan Robinson (co-opted), David Thomas.

Jenny Moseley
PCC Secretary

From the Parish Registers for April

Holy Baptism: Amy Francesca Judge.

Holy Matrimony: Simon Thomas Bryant & Sallyann Melanie

Help - Accountant Wanted

Is there a friendly accountant in the village who would be prepared to audit the School's PTA's books? If so please contact Angela Watts on 612320.



Church Services

June 1999

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

TRINITY
1

Sun
6

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
9:30am
Family Service
12:30pm
Holy Baptism of
Jack Peter Aldridge

TRINITY
2

Sun
13

9:30am
Parish Communion

TRINITY
3

WORLD
CHURCH
WEEKEN
D

Sun
20

9:30am
Parish Communion

TRINITY
4

Sun
27

9:30am
Parish Communion

SS
PETER
AND
PAUL

Tue
29

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

11:00am
Parish Communion
6:00pm
Evensong[†]

11:00am
Family Service
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

11:00am
Parish Communion
6:00pm
Choral Evensong[†] and
Sermon (in St Cyriac's)

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]
11:00am
Mattins[†] and Sermon

6:00pm
Holy Communion

ST ETHELREDA AND THE HOLY TRINITY, Reach

11:15am
Holy Communion

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

11:15am
Family Service
6:00pm
Taizé Service

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer
Sunday School

Bellringing

Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church
Wednesdays, 5pm. Reach Church
Sundays 9.30am. Bulbeck Village Hall/Church.
Contact Angela Roebuck on C. 811722
Tuedays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs.
Contact. Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.



Dear Friends,

FOOTBALL CRAZY

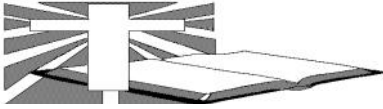
Some of you will be aware of my undying allegiance to Blackburn Rovers football club; these are dark days in the home of the dark, satanic mills; as Premiership status has been surrendered by an undistinguished campaign, bedevilled by a number of factors, some of which are pertinent away from the world of soccer.

The house-that-Jack (Walker)- built, on seemingly unlimited money from the steel industry (courtesy of Channel Island tax haven benefits) has collapsed. Money, in the long run has not built success. Journeyman soccer stars, bought at values in excess of their true value, have not had the good of the club burning in their souls, or so it has seemed. There will always be another club willing to invest venture capital in a big-name signing, with wages to match; I am reminded of the parable of the Good Shepherd, and the critique of the hireling, "who cares nothing ...". We might justly bemoan the inflated number of overseas players in some clubs, denying local talent the opportunity to take centre-stage at the culmination of good youth policies. This has not been a particular feature at Blackburn; it has been the attempt to buy success at an unfashionable non-metropolitan club, which worked in 1994/5 when they won the Premiership title, but which had within it the seeds of its own decline.

Leadership is obviously a crucial area, from the team manager down; its hallmark is that of inspiration, enabling players to rise above their own self-imposed abilities, and the creation of a culture of hope, even against overwhelming odds. In all this, the cult of the individual is both a blessing and a curse; selfishness on and off the field of play, often linked to aggression and a 'questionable' life-style, undoes the benefits of flair and sheer entertainment. It is a team game which demands discipline and system, which was how Sir Alf Ramsey brought us the 1966 World Cup success.

Of course, football is taken far too seriously by far too many people, in pursuit of far too little glory; but maybe that is the whole point. Bill Shankley's (Liverpool) aphorism that football was "far more important than a matter of life or death" tells us something of the passion, a word that means suffering for love, and the uniting of people in a common cause, whose worst feature is the tribalism and violence, but whose best is pride and endurance.

We must salute the victors, commiserate with the losers, and above all remember the referee is always right!



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for June:

Sunday	6 th		No Family Service this month
		6.30pm	Cecil Nash (communion)
	13 th	6.30pm	Association Sunday Rev Sheila Martin (Landbeach)
	20 th	6.30pm	John Martin
	27 th	6.30pm	No service

JUST AS I AM

An Artist saw a little street urchin and promised the boy he would pay him if he would sit for him while he painted his portrait. The urchin said 'yes' but the next day he showed up with his face washed, his hair combed and wearing new clothes which his mother had borrowed from a neighbour. The Artist said to him 'I'm sorry - I can't paint you like that - I wanted you to come 'just as you are'.

And that's the way God wants us to come to him 'Just as we are'.

There's nothing you can do to make yourself more acceptable to God. He wants us just as we are.

The Hymn says '*Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee - Oh Lamb of God I come*'.

Come while the door is still open.

Sandra Butcher

Donation

We are delighted to have received a donation from the Baptist Chapel.

Thank you!

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses: Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 0900,1030,1700;

Kirtling: Sun 0945; Soham 1700

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

As I was dozing in bed this morning, I became aware that there was a report on Radio Five Live that the Vatican was about to announce a new patron saint for computer users: St Isidore. Unfortunately, the expert they got on the show to discuss this great event became sidetracked and never explained the relevance of Isidore and why he got this new job in Heaven. In fact he was Archbishop of Seville from 600 to 636; and in the darkest of dark ages, with Visigoths and Vandals (not to mention Ostrogoths) behaving like marauding bands of lager louts, he acquired and communicated a polymathic knowledge through his books, which became for hundreds of years the central training manuals of monastic education. He wrote a great work on etymology, a digest of Christian history, a digest of Christian doctrine and a remarkable book *On the Wonders of Nature*. If computer-users are to have a patron saint, he will do nicely. And most other groups have their patron saints: Bernardino of Siena looks after advertisers, Joseph of Copertino looks after astronauts, St Barbara looks after gunners, St Dymphna after the mentally ill, St Nicholas after perfumiers, and St Amand looks after those who work in the wine trade (I think distillers have to look to their spiritual well-being).

The idea is a good one. The saints are those whose lives are an inspiration to those who come after them. They were sinners (often gross sinners) whose response to the call of God was to transform them so that in their life and (often) in their death, they showed themselves utterly devoted to bringing God's love into the world. For many Christians, including Catholics, speaking to God in prayer is natural and sufficient. For many more, and not just Catholics, communication with God is often difficult. It is too much like looking at the Sun with our naked eyes. In those circumstances praying to a holy man or woman believed now to be in the presence of God is a way of getting the message through. And while God does not need anyone to hear those prayers we find it hard or impossible to put into words, it is helpful to us to think of a saint with a special duty to put our hopes, and fears, our remorse, our grief and our adoration, into words more appropriate than we can manage. So it is a comfort and a help to think that the saint or saints whose names we are given at Baptism, or the saint whose name we choose for ourselves at Confirmation are always there for us, to help us to get our prayer right even when we are muddled or forgetful. And certainly, I will feel better saying 'St Isidore - help me out of this pickle or let me accept that I have lost the last hour's work' than shout out: 'that *** computer has *** well crashed again.' And if your computer has gone down and all your work is lost, there is not only St Isidore, but St Jude, the patron saint of Hopeless Cases or St Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost articles...

Dates for Your Diary - June 1999

- Tue 1 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Sat 5 Mothers Union, outing to Walpole St Peter Flower Festival
Sun 6 Concert: *Stabat Mater* (Karl Rütli), St Cyriacs, 4:00pm
Mon 7 Mothers Union, Free Church, Swaffham Bulbeck
Thu 10 PC Meeting, Village Hall,
Sun 13 Compost bin/ water butt sale. David Smith Site, Reach Rd,
10am-3am.
Mon 14 **Crier Copy Deadline**
Tue 15 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Village Gardeners, Walk on Devil's Dyke, 7:00pm
Councillor's Surgery. Reach Village Hall. 7:30 - 9:00pm.
Mon 21 WI, talk on MacMillan Nurses
Wed 23 Neighbourhood Watch Open Mtg, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thu 24 **Crier** Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Play: The Actor, The Jeweller & Cromwell's Head,
Burwell Village College, 7:30pm
Sat 26 St Mary's Church Fete, Village Hall, 2:15pm
Concert: Mozart Handel and a little ... Bach,
Soham Village College, 7:00 for 7:30pm
Mon 28 Ladies Circle, talk on 'the spinning wheel'
Tue 29 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
School Governors Meeting, 7:30pm

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges Day and Weekend Courses

Saturday 12th June - Appointed Persons First Aid

IT in the Pre-School setting * Learn to Juggle * Rock Climbing

Saturday 26th June - Arabic Dancer * Internet Workshop

Library and Internet Extravaganza

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th June - Powerpoint

Monday 12th - Friday 16th July &

Monday 26th - Friday 30th July - Computer Summer
Schools

Further information from the Community Offices
at the Village Colleges: Bottisham: 01223 811372

Burwell: 01638 741901, Linton: 01223 892400

