



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 10

October 1998



EDITORIAL

Three or four moons ago, I was talking to my wife about the Government's figure of four million new homes being required within the next few years. (Rising numbers of single parents, many of them unable to afford to but because of the benefits system, brownfield sites vs encroachment on the greenbelts etc.) and I recalled an incident in my own past when I was working, mercifully briefly, for a Building/Developing company based in the Midlands. At that time, I had been required to pay some travellers to occupy a piece of land owned by the company, and upon which planning permission had been withheld, in order to convince objectors that there was a far worse alternative to the thirty or so houses that we were planning for the site. I was also instructed in the subtle art of submitting a planning application for what it was thought that we could get away with, and subsequently amending the application to what we actually wanted, once principles had been established.

I am sure that Dencora are an honourable company who would not deliberately attempt any similar subterfuge but, once one field has been developed, other fields and other companies are likely to follow. A skilled interlocutor would no doubt detect a gleam in the eyes of some of the owners of other pieces of potential development land in the vicinity of Swaffham Prior in anticipation of the outcome of the present planning application which seems not to be being opposed by the Parish Council despite the opinions of the majority of the residents who elected them.

On an entirely different and more positive note, we draw your attention to an Open Meeting about the proposed Village Shop, to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 22nd October, starting at 8.00pm. The Action Group will report upon activities to date, and ask for your help and contributions to future policy. A successful shop is the heart of a village, and I doubt if there are any residents of Swaffham Prior who do not wish the committee every success, so a good turnout of active minds will be a great help.

It is also nice to be reminded by Sidney Hewitt's letter of the excellent work done by the Parochial Charities at Christmas time.

John Fidoe

Cover Picture: by Gloria Fidoe

Dencora Open Meeting on 7th September

Including latecomers, 59 villagers attended. Malcolm Hall introduced David Hughes (MD of Dencora Homes) and Paul Brighton and Deborah Wenham (both of BWPP, chartered town planners acting for Dencora). Deborah kicked off with a general introduction in which she said their research had shown that Swaffham Prior *needed* and wanted affordable low cost housing and more large luxury houses. Paul said his address would provide satisfactory answers to most questions which might be raised. His main thrust was that Dencora would sign a legally binding agreement with ECDC restricting Dencora to the outline plan displayed on the wall and that nothing else would ever be built.

The questions. "Where did Deborah carry out her research - it had not asked the village." *"Hereward and also from the ECDC Draft Local Plan."* "How does Dencora know we really need and want it?" *"Our research shows you do."* "How much will the affordable housing be?" *"We don't know."* "Why don't you know - you must have a working budget." *"No, we don't have a budget."* "But you must have worked out some rough figures." *No, because we don't know what will be allowed or what will be built."* "How much will the luxury houses be?" *"We don't know, we don't live here. People in Swaffham Prior will have a much better idea of this than Dencora."*

Charlotte Cane doubted that the proposed legal agreement could ever be permanently binding and said there was nothing stopping Dencora appealing against it later, and probably winning. Paul disagreed and said the agreement would be permanently legally binding, for all time. Charlotte repeated her doubts. David admitted that Dencora had badly handled it's application some 9 years ago, but things had changed ever since he became MD. He really cared, Dencora Homes was now a company of high achievement and integrity. "What happens if you stop being MD?" *"I'm not going."* "How much will you spend on the Sports Complex?" *"We don't know."* "How do we know you will do anything?" *"TRUST."* "You will provide the Sports Complex; how much will you give to maintain it?" David was nonplussed - *"But the village will maintain it"*. "No, and the Parish Council certainly won't. No one has ever asked the village if it wants such a Sports Complex".

David acknowledged the negative vibes. He warned that Dencora could sell the land on to a large developer (his predecessor had also threatened the village with this). He said a large developer would offer nothing to the village in exchange for supporting development. He now realised that the Sports Complex was unpopular. *"So what do you want? Someone said the School wanted a covered swimming pool. Ah, yes, schools! I have been a school governor and know how short of money schools are. We'll talk to the School."* "Why were you talking to the SRC?" *"We will talk to anyone. We really want to talk to the Parish Council, and could do so when Henry Hardiment was Chairman."* It was explained that the Parish Council considered most people to be against development, so why talk.

Village Shop and Post Office

* OPEN MEETING *

in the

Village Hall

Thursday 22nd October

commencing at 8.00pm.

Come along and hear what has happened.

This is the meeting at which important decisions must be taken regarding the future of the project.

*** Refreshments will be provided ***



Neighbourhood Watch

SAFETY FOR WOMEN

**Come along to a talk by P.C. Anne Fairbanks
on Monday 2nd November in the Village Hall
at 7.30 p.m.**

ALL WELCOME



Visiting Bellringers

A visiting band of bellringers from Kessingland near Lowestoft will be coming to ring at St. Cyriac's Church on Saturday 10th October from 9.30 until 10.15am.

Margaret Stanier



Mothers & Toddlers

We meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall 1.45-2.45pm
Why not come along and join us....

Cost £1. per session.

St. Mary's Church Swaffham Prio

The Cambridge Citadel Brass Band of the Salvation Army play “**In Concert**” at St. Mary’s Church, Swaffham Prio on **Sunday October 11th at 6.30pm.**

Members of the Zion Baptist chapel will be joining the congregation of St. Mary’s and their friends. All visitors are most welcome to greet the Band together with the residents of Swaffham Prio.

There will be a retiring collection.

Refreshments after the concert will be available - prepared by the members of the Prospect Trust.

For further information, please contact Rev. M. Haworth
Tel: 01638 741409 Fax 01638 744169.

Swaffham Bulbeck Bright Sparks Playgroup

Have a clear-out before Christmas ...

Make space — or come and buy

Cake Stall

Light refreshments

Indoor Table Top Sale (like car boot)

Saturday 24th October, 10am - 2pm

Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall

£5 per table. Please telephone to reserve first as space is limited. Profits to playgroup funds to buy new equipment and toys.

Bottisham Village College
Music Society

Solaris String Quartet

will play in

Holy Trinity Church

Bottisham

at 8.00pm

Friday 16th October 1998

Haydn - Op. 76 No. 2

Piazzolla - Four for Tango

Purser - Skyline 3

Brahms - C Min. Op.51 No.1

Tickets: £4.50. Members & Concessions £3.

Family (up to 4 members) £9.00

Available at the door.



4th QUY ART EXHIBITION

in

Quy Village Hall

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th October

10.30am to 4.30pm

Exhibition of Paintings by Quy and Bottisham Art Groups

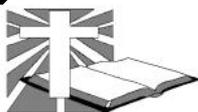
Free Entrance *Craft & Gift Stall* *Tombola*

Refreshments

All proceeds to **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY**

Welcome

to **Sue and John Seed** who have recently moved into Lower End. We hope they will be very happy living here and soon make many new



Zion Baptist Chapel

Come and hear.....

NEWMARKET CIRCUIT CHOIR

Wednesday 14th October
7.30pm



Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges Day and Weekend Workshops

Saturday 3rd October: *First Impressions Colour and Style; Introduction to Chinese Medicine; Introduction to Yoga; Jewellery Workshop; Pottery Workshop; Quilters Fabric Dyeing Day; Rock Climbing; Tracing Your Family Tree; Traditional Thai Cookery; Woodturning*

Saturday 3rd / Sunday 4th October: *Wordprocessing - An Introduction*

Saturday 10th October: *Appointed Persons First Aid; Basic Food Hygiene; Build Your Own Garden Pond; Colour Analysis; Computers and the Internet; French Polishing 1; Homeopathy Level 1; Life Drawing*

Saturday 10th / Sunday 11th October: *Excel for All*

Sunday 11th October: *Drawing from the Human Figure; Orchestral Play In*

Saturday 17th October: *A Day of Sandtray; Chinese Brush Painting; Colouring Textiles; Emergency First Aid for Childcarers; Garden Design; Self Defence; Speaking with Confidence; Upholstery and Chair Caning*

Further information from the Community Offices at the Village Colleges: Bottisham: 01223 811372 Burwell: 01638 741901 Linton: 01223 892400



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It was 'Back to School' for the PC at the September meeting. But not everyone appeared to relish the thought of those tiny chairs - James Fitch and Charlotte Cane were otherwise engaged, Peter M. went on holiday and Andrew C. was camping in the middle of the Grand Canyon, allegedly watching out for birds. Even some of those attending thought "we've come down in the world again."



As the clock reached 7.30 the PC was pretty thin on the ground with more people being in the public gallery. Then Peter W. turned up having spent some time waiting outside the Village Hall. The Chairman, with a wan sigh, asked if Peter had seen anyone else there. With the number up to 5 the meeting began and Mrs Karen King was voted in as the new Clerk, and Mrs Erika Condy was co-opted as the replacement PC member.

At last the Speeding Sub-Committee has released its report and the results of the police traffic census. Andrew read out a few of the fascinating details but as I suppose it will be published in full in the *Crier* I won't give those I noted down. Some were quite surprising and everyone appeared to agree that Mill Hill had the greater problem. The Sub-Committee made various suggestions with costs, and the secretary, James Chesterman, asked for comments by the PC in writing. The various ideas included reducing the speed limit on Mill Hill to 30mph, adding yellow lines at the top of Station Road, making all lorries turn right at the top of Station Road, while Andrew proposed writing to the School asking it to tell parents to park more responsibly. Peter W. wondered if the suggestions were those of J. Chesterman, or a Mengham/Chesterman combination, and was miffed that, having requested to be on the sub-committee, he had not been involved in the analysis. Surprisingly, the PC members had not been given a copy before the meeting so any comments made were "on the hoof" without the full facts being known. Still, this speeding report will require careful study and thought by many people before any decisions can be made.

Accounts for payment. The PC unanimously agreed to pay what it owed to the Village Hall and to sign a new agreement. But the PC's June malfeasance had obviously caused great concern in the Church. It had instructed Eric to obtain payment for two years' worth of electricity for the light on the side of St Mary's which runs off St Mary's power supply. Eric explained that he had to take the cheque for £45 to the Church Council meeting on the following Monday, or else....? Andrew asked whether the PC had agreed to pay for it; and whose light was it anyway? Both Eric and Henry became very nervous and hastily assured him that it was by "mutual

agreement." "But is it in the minutes?" Eric explained that it "goes back quite a long time". "Not too long, I hope", said Andrew. "Well", continued Eric, "when John Norris was chairman of the PC, and living in Anglesey House, he wanted a light at the top of his garden to light up the steps. He didn't get one, but when he moved to Shadworth House he put one on the side of St. Mary's." "So it's John Norris' light then?" "No, yes, er no, not really, but...."

It was agreed the PC would pay and Andrew said he would then and there write out a cheque for £5. "No, no, no - its got to be £45; I can't go to the meeting unless I have £45." Out of general interest Elaine asked Eric how the Church Council was getting on with the replacement gate - "Ah, they've forgotten all about that", said Eric. And the PC agreed that possibly the main reason for the change had gone away.

The conversation moved on to the possible future Charity Housing and that it may not be available for village people. Elaine thought there ought to be a Village Petition to Hereward who most likely will control the tenants. Martin explained that Hereward are governed by the rules, though this does not negate Elaine's excellent suggestion. Peter W. was irritated by organisations "asking us what we want for local housing, and then ignoring it." Martin was concerned about the real need for bungalows for old people and listed a number who shortly will not be able to make it up the stairs (phew!, I was glad not to be on that list). Andrew reminded the meeting that, prior to Hereward, the bungalows in Greenhead Road had served that very purpose but now were quite often allocated to young people.

At this point Martin introduced Dencora and gave his thoughts of the meeting, where Dencora had gone wrong, where perhaps the village had not focussed on its real needs, how we must give more thought to the elderly, how desirable a Downing Court type of residence area would be, and that just by chance the Dencora field could be an ideal position. As I limped away from the meeting in the blustering wind, I reflected how quietly it had been conducted, how measured. There were no histrionics, there was no posturing, almost as if they were all determined to be on their best behaviour. And so they were.

Alastair Everitt

Time, Ladies & Gentlemen please

This is your last chance to sign the Statement supporting ECDC in opposition to deveopment on the Dencora field. If you want to sign, telephone Robert Hollingsworth (741613), Caroline Matheson (744008) or myself (742974). The very last date for signing is Sunday 11 October.

Rags to Riches Beauty

01638 612069

Apple Tree Grove
BURWELL



Essential & Indulgent Beauty Treatments
in my salon or your own home

	From		From
Facials	£10.00	Body Massage	£ 9.00
Body Treatments	£19.50	Manicures	£ 8.00
Eye Treatments	£ 3.50	Pedicures (1 hour)	£12.00
Make-Up	£11.00	Indian Head Massage	£12.00
Waxing	£3.50	Luxury Packages	£16.00

Please ring for further details or an appointment



Melissa Goss

IHBC • IIHHT • BAPTAC

The Phoenix Singers have vacancies in all parts for new members. So, if you enjoy singing, you would be most welcome to join them in Burwell Village College at 7.30pm on Thursday evenings during term time.



Recipe of the Month

It is sometime since cakes and biscuits appeared in the Crier, so this month's recipe is for some delicious crunchy biscuits.

Abbey Biscuits

Ingredients - makes about 25

1 cup self-raising flour	1 tsp. bicarbonate of soda
1½ cups porridge oats	300g margarine - melted
¾ cup sugar	¼ tsp. ground ginger
1½ tbsp. golden syrup	1½ tbsp. hot water

Method

- 1 Mix together all the dry ingredients in a bowl and add the melted margarine. Mix well and then add the hot water.
- 2 Wet hands and roll the mixture into balls about the size of a walnut.
- 3 Place on a baking tray and flatten slightly.
- 4 Bake in a moderate oven - 10 to 15 minutes

Hilary Mengham

Queens Court Day Centre

August gone already. Our short break from activities and fund-raising went very quickly as did the day centre staff holidays. We are looking forward to October 5th when we are taking some of our friends on holiday - "Butlins Skegness, look out here we come".

The home has a remarkable lady having a short holiday with us. She will be 104 in October. She remembers Queen Victoria's funeral, she was six at the time. When as a child visiting a relative with an indoor toilet, she thought it very rude to go to the toilet inside the house - hers was outside at the back! A very interesting lady to talk to and "bright as a button".

Future events:

October 2nd	Coffee Morning/Cake stall/Bingo
October 20th	Bygones by Cambridge connections 1.15pm
October 29th	Tea Dance - Sing & Dance with Leigh Murfitt
October 30th	Coffee Morning/Christmas cards for sale/Bingo

Do join us any time - we charge £1.50 to come to the tea dances.

Sheila, Lynda, Hilary, Brian and Derick

Health for Life

Volunteer drivers needed for this very successful local community project.

Health for Life is the local community project that helps older or lonely people regain their health and confidence by encouraging them to attend Community Education classes or village clubs. The project has been running now for over two years and is helping so many people that it needs more volunteers to drive them to their activities. These activities include classes in Tai Chi, needlecraft, painting, local history, pottery, creative writing and much more.

If you have a couple of hours spare a week and would like to take someone on the Health for Life project to their class, we will help you with the cost of your fuel. Also you will be able to take part in the class free of charge. For more information about becoming a Health for Life volunteer, please contact Samara Philpott at the Community Office, Burwell Village College 01638 741901.



The Prospects Trust



We are delighted to report that the Vegetable Store and Packing Room, with integral cold store, has now been completed. Many thanks to everyone who

has provided financial support for this project and to our development officer, Bridget Orchard, for her hard work in helping to bring our plans to fruition.

This year, the growing season has posed many challenges to us, with a very wet April and the failure of our garlic crop in June. Onion production has also been less successful this year. However, the Farm Shop is very well stocked and we are doing twice weekly deliveries to our various outlets in Cambridge - Arjuna WholeFoods, Daily Bread Cooperative and Farmer Giles Organic Shop.

In July, we had a very thorough annual inspection by the Soil Association and after a favourable year last year, NIAB have again selected the Farm as a good location to conduct their trials of organic lettuces and oriental greens.

In May, we said a fond farewell to our Administrator Ann Gilbert and welcomed her successor Annie Saunders.



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Parochial Charities

The summer (!!) now being nearly over, it is time to remember once again those entitled to a Christmas grant. As usual, the majority of those eligible will be the pensioners among us but the Trustees are always ready to consider applications from anybody suffering hardship or in real need.

If you believe that you qualify for a grant, please apply to me or to any Trustee, if possible by the end of November.

My thanks to everybody for responding to my request last year for early applications. It really does make life easier if all requests are to hand by the beginning of December.

Yours faithfully

Sidney Hewitt

Clerk to the Trustees
63 High Street.

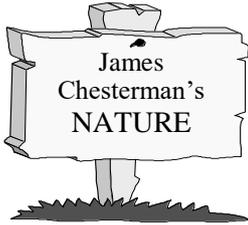
Dear Editors

Autumn Show and Pumpkin Fair

I would like to say thank you to all those involved in the Autumn Show and Pumpkin Fair - both organisers and exhibitors for providing such a lovely event. Just a short distance from home on a gloomy Saturday afternoon, a warm welcome (free admission - a rare event anywhere these days!), then a chance to admire the various exhibits, exercise the grey cells with the bygones quiz, chat with friends over tea and home made cakes and then the cut and thrust of the auction. How much better things taste when you have had to barter for them. I hope what we lacked in numbers we made up in enthusiasm. Even then the fun was not over - after staggering home (did I say a short distance - it seemed much further now) under the weight of armfuls of fruit and flowers, we enjoyed a pleasant supper using those prize-winning vegetables and home-made wine and fruit for the lunch box this week. I do hope the event will be repeated next year, it will certainly have my support.

Pat Cook

The Red Lion is still in need of lunchtime help. If you are interested



Richard JEFFERIES was a 19th C. gamekeeper who wrote the following in his **LIFE OF THE FIELDS** published in 1884.



The illustration is by AGNES MILLER PARKER.

The Hovering of the Kestrel

There has lately been some discussion about the hovering of kestrels; the point being whether the bird can or cannot support itself in the air while stationary, without the assistance of one or more currents of air. The kestrel is the commonest hawk in the southern parts of England, so that many opportunities occur to observe his habits; and there ought not to be any doubt in the matter. It is even alleged that it will go far to decide the question of the possibility of flight; or of the construction of an aerial machine. Without entering into this portion of the discussion, let us examine the kestrel's habits.

This hawk has a light easy flight, usually maintaining an altitude a little lower than the tallest elms, but higher than most trees. He will keep this particular altitude for hours together, and sweep over miles of country, with only occasional variations - excluding, of course, descents for the purpose of taking mice. It is usually at this height that a kestrel hovers, though he is capable of doing it at a much greater elevation. As he comes gliding through the atmosphere, suddenly he shoots up a little (say, roughly two or three feet), and then stops short. His tail, which is broader than it looks, is bent slightly downwards; his wings beat the air, at the first glance, just as if he was progressing. Sometimes he seems to oscillate to one side, sometimes to the other; but these side movements do not amount to any appreciable change of position. If there be little or no wind (note this) he remains beating the air, to the eye at least perfectly stationary, perhaps as much as half a minute or more. He then seems to slip forward about half a yard, as if a pent-up force was released, but immediately recovers himself and hovers again. This alternate hovering and slipping forward may be repeated two or three times; it seems to depend on the bird's judgment as to the chance of prey. If he does not think a mouse is to be had, at the first slip he allows himself to proceed. If the spot be likely, or (what is still more tempting,) if it is near a place where he has taken prey previously, he will slip and bring up several times: Now and then he will even fetch a half-circle when his balance or impetus (or both) is quite exhausted, and so return to the same spot and recommence. But this is not often; as a rule, after two or three slips, he proceeds on his voyage.



W.I. Notes

Unfortunately, our September meeting was held too late to get a report in the Crier. However, I can invite you all, gentlemen included, to a talk by Mr. Cecil Nash of Swaffham Bulbeck on 'Farming in the Fifties'. It should be very interesting to compare farming then and now, and I do hope you will come along to the Village Hall on Monday 19th October at 7.30pm.

It is time to send in nominations for the 'Gay Bulleid Good Neighbour' award. So if there is someone you think has been a good neighbour to anyone in particular or to the village as a whole, please give your nomination, with an accompanying letter stating your reasons for choosing them, to any member of the W.I. committee before the end of November. Those nominated must be residents of Swaffham Prior.

Betty Prime



Ladies Circle

On Monday 24th August we met at Zion Baptist Chapel for the Ladies Circle. Alan Maskell came to talk about work at The Blue Cross. It was most interesting to learn about the tasks involved in caring for animals: the Blue Cross not only take in cats, but also rabbits, birds and any other small animals that are brought to them. They never turn animals away. The Blue Cross is open 7 days a week and visitors are always welcome to look around even if they do not wish to adopt any of the animals.

Forthcoming meetings:-

26th October Mr. Wright from Waterbeach - Life as a Registrar

23rd November. Jenny Fairbairn - Ways of using Scarves.

We would welcome any new ladies who would like to join us, so why not give us a try - come along and see for yourself.

Sandra Butcher



Scoop that Poop!

We are pleased to advise that there is a new supply of dog bags available from the Village Hall. Mrs Karen King at 10 Mill Hill also has more available.



Village Gardeners

Mr. Geoff Hodge, the gardening editor of 'Gardening News' was the speaker at our meeting in Reach on 15th September. His subject was 'Gardening in the Shade' and he advised us to grow variegated plants and white Busy Lizzies to brighten up shady areas. He also suggested the use of mirrors to reflect the light, and painting walls white or light colours in areas that get no sun at all.

One of his tips, when buying plants from a garden centre, was to pick the plant up by its stem, not just the pot. If the plant stayed in the pot, it had a good root system, but if the pot fell off, discard the plant and try another. Mr. Hodge illustrated his talk with slides showing the various plants we could use in shady areas.

Next month is the Village Gardeners' AGM and, following the business meeting, Carole Adams, a specialist Clematis grower, will be showing slides and bringing plants for sale. Her husband will demonstrate propagating Clematis. Visitors are always very welcome, cost £1. So come and join us on Tuesday 20th October at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Betty Prime



Village Hall Report

As "bookings" clerk for the Village Hall, one of the perks of the job is to receive many complimentary remarks about the "new" Hall. These come not only from you living in the village now, but also from others who return to attend a special event and remember the hall as it once was. One such instance recently was a lady who some 20-odd years ago remembered playing table tennis (roughly where the kitchen is now!) with condensation running down the windows and walls in the middle of winter. She told me you had to play fast and furious to keep warm...

The Autumn Show attracted fewer exhibitors this year - seems the dire warnings by gardeners "I've got nothing to show, it's been a bad year - too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet" were true for once. Alastair's "Memorabilia Quiz" was very popular and he took charge of the Auction with great gusto, encouraging some fierce but good-natured bidding from those present. I *still*

don't know who I was bidding against for some of the items which made their way into my shopping bag! May we thank: the four judges; Ruth Scovil for completing the prize tickets; and everybody else who helped. Our net profit this year was just over £45.

The Post Office & Shop continues to thrive and more and more of you enjoy a visit and the chance to sit and chat with friends over a cup of tea. This is now a regular feature on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons so why not pop in when you are passing. You will see elsewhere in the *Crier* that there be a second Open Meeting on the progress so far, and the future of the Post Office & Shop Project. Please try to come along - your support is very important.

Pat Cunningham

Burwell Surgery Newsletter

Dr. Andrew Perrett has now completed his year with us as GP registrar and has moved to a new post in Cambridge. We are all very sorry to lose him, and wish him well for the future. As yet we have been unable to refill his post, so he will be greatly missed.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be available for patients with diabetes, chest diseases, including asthma, heart and kidney problems and for all those aged 75 and over. Clinics will be held throughout October and November at the surgery, please ask at reception for an appointment. There will also be a clinic at the Day Centre on **Thursday 15th October**. If you wish to attend this, please book your appointment at the Day Centre in advance.

Non-attenders

There are still on average 80 patients a month who fail to keep their appointments. This is a waste of resources especially for visiting professionals such as the dietician and physiotherapist who have long waiting lists. Please inform reception if you do no longer require your appointment.

Change of Address/Telephone

It is important that we have your correct address/telephone number on our records. Please inform the surgery of any change, especially if you have moved out of our area, as we can no longer provide medical services. In these cases, it is in your interests to register with a doctor in that area as soon as possible.

News from **Bottisham Village College**

Pupils and staff have returned refreshed from their summer break. We were very pleased with our examination results again this year as pupils of all abilities achieved success. For the third year running, over 60% of pupils passed 5 or more GCSEs at the higher grades. OFSTED Inspectors reported in March that “the school is doing well for pupils of all abilities” and this year’s results support that finding.

We were very proud to hear that one pupil, Karen Messenger of Ashley, was nominated for a prize for the best Geography coursework in the country! Only 30 pupils were put forward out of a total entry of 28,000.

As these pupils move off to College in Cambridge, or elsewhere, so our new year group arrives looking splendid in their new green uniforms. It has been an enormous undertaking for the school to provide over 3,000 garments in preparation for this change, but it has been well worth it because it has raised the standard of appearance of all pupils. Some of the teachers have been so impressed with the quality of the sweatshirts that they have bought their own. If any parents or other supporters of the college would like one, larger sizes are available!.

Area meetings

As last year, there is an opportunity for parents of pupils at the College, or pupils in local Primary Schools, or anyone who is interested in education, to come along to one of the four Area Meetings where the Warden, Peter Hains will speak about the College and will answer any questions.

Dates:-

Thursday 1st October	Fulbourn Primary School	7.30pm
Thursday 8th October	Bottisham Village College	7.30pm
Thursday 15th October	Fen Ditton Primary School	7.30pm
Tuesday 20th October	Burwell Village College	7.30pm

Lifelong Learning and Sport

Adult Classes begin again this term, and we are always pleased to welcome new students. With over 150 Classes to choose from, from aromatherapy to upholstery, there is something for everyone. Please contact the College for more information. You could also take advantage of our excellent sports facilities, heated pool and ‘Bodytone’ fitness centre, open to the public all year round. Why not take the plunge?

Peter Hains
Warden

Rural Housing Enabler



Roger Symons was appointed to the post of Rural Housing Enabler in July 1998. This newly created post is managed by Cambridgeshire ACRE, and its purpose is to co-operate with a number of key partners, principally the Parish Councils, District Council and Housing Associations, in the provision of affordable housing in the rural areas where a need has been demonstrated.

Roger answered the following questions:

What exactly is a 'Rural Housing Enabler'?

What it means is that I will be independent of the Council and developers and working firstly to find out whether a village actually has a need for new affordable housing. An example would be families who have lived in a village for generations and who don't want to move out when their housing requirements change.

And if a village does?

If the village can show, by way of a survey, that there is a shortage of a particular type of housing provision for local people, then we can look to the next stage. Please don't run away with the idea that there is going to be developments in all villages of East Cambridgeshire: it just won't happen. Even when we know what we do have to provide, we still have to find the site and money.

So it's new building you're involved with?

Not at all. It may mean restoring an old home that is not in use, converting a building that is not presently a home or a demolition and a new building. If villagers contact me, I will look into it.

How much money have you got to spend on this project?

Not a bean. My job is to enable others to get on and build houses. I'm a go-between - doing surveys and pointing people in the right direction.

Wanted - a dog sitter



Is there anyone willing to look after an ageing black labrador dog for a week at the beginning of December? He has grown rather arthritic, is a bit hard of hearing, and cannot see too well but he does enjoy his two walks a day and has a very good appetite! He is well behaved, and loves human company. If you think you could help, please phone us on 743883.

Notes from the Parish Council September Meeting

Mr Badcock chaired the meeting with 6 members and 4 members of the public.

Matters arising:

Speeding: The Chairman delivered the report from the Committee, set up to look into the problems of speeding in the village. Several solutions were noted. After discussion, it was agreed that reducing the speed limit of 40mph on Mill Hill to 30mph with suitable signs along the road would be useful as well as a sign routing HGV's onto the By-pass turning right out of Station Road.

Grass Cutting: No change. Mrs E Malster expressed concern about the grass covering the damaged manhole cover at the top of Heath Road. M. Mead agreed to find out who is responsible for this manhole.

Village Sign: This is currently being refurbished.

Neighbourhood Watch: The Chairman noted that there has been an increase in activity, particularly the theft of garden equipment. Next meeting is 5th October.

Village Shop: Mrs P. Cunningham reported that progress was going well.

Pound & Keep: Details of the cost of refurbishment has now been received for the bier. It was suggested that Cambridgeshire Fire Service might help with the renovation/painting of the fire engine.

Vacancies:

Mrs. Erica Cundie joined the Parish Council as Councillor. Karen King was appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Correspondence:

Details of the considerable amount of correspondence that had been received since the last meeting were outlined by the Chairman.

It was agreed that Mrs. E. Cundie would represent the Parish Council at the Transport Meeting on 5th October. The Parish Forum on 23rd September will be attended by the Chairman and Clerk.

Accounts:

It was agreed that a Hiring Agreement for the Village Hall be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council for future Council meetings. A payment to the Audit Commission was withheld pending clarification of their invoice.

Planning Applications:

Three Applications had been received since the last meeting in July: (1) Conversion of redundant farm buildings to five units of working and living accommodation at Sterling Farm, Heath Road. (2) New house with associated parking and new garage to land adjacent to No. 34 Lower End. (3) Four new

terraced houses - Heath Road.

The Council has no objections to these applications but felt that the new development in the Heath Road area might lead to further traffic problems. The possibility of funding to help with traffic calming solutions might be sought from these projects.

Planning Applications decided: (1) Conservatory at Bridge Farm House, 5 Rogers Road. (2) Two-storey side extension at Goodwin Farm, 1 Heath Road. (3) 2A Green Head Road - to Appeal.

Any Other Business:

Mr D. Jackson requested that the Parish Council pollard the trees alongside the Village Hall Drive. Parish Council to obtain quotes and the relevant permissions. The Council was reminded that the trees are within the Conservation Area. Concerns were raised about litter in Barston Drove and alongside the A14. Parish Council to contact ECDC to clear.

Open Question Time:

Mr. A Everitt asked about the missing road sign at the left fork into Swaffham Prior from Swaffham Bulbeck. This was due to an accident. CCC had been informed previously.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 8th October 1998.

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County

Did you have a good break in August? I had hoped for sufficient time to tackle my hedges and had just started when the 'phone rang - "Travellers", fires, rubbish, help!

A couple of weeks later after many phone and face-to-face conversations and several visits to Haycroft Lane, Burwell, we have now achieved peace again. With the help and tolerance of local farmers and co-operation between the local authorities, Haycroft Lane is blocked temporarily from unauthorized 4-wheel vehicles (and caravans). On 28th September a site visit there involving those parties most concerned will, I hope, arrive at a consensus of a more permanent policy for Haycroft Lane.

An obvious word of warning is that travellers do not disappear. We may find unauthorized short-term encampments on unfamiliar pieces of land similar to the three families on the Dencora field in Swaffham Prior. The more lanes stopped up the more likely unwelcome arrivals elsewhere. It is worth remembering that the County and District will look after public land,

but it is up to the private owner to repossess private land.

Turning to another rural matter, I have been increasingly aware of the needs of private horse riders to get safer access to the countryside where they are able to ride. Although there are some good rides scattered around our area, there is no coherent network of access to them. Clearly there is no problem where bridleways exist, but not many footpath/cycleways also permit casual horses. Now I am hoping for more cycleways between our villages, it seems a good time to talk with private horse owners about common use on those paths that happen to run alongside busy roads. At present riders may find themselves forced into the four-wheeled traffic. I am hoping to arrange a meeting between the horse riders association and the county officers concerned for later this Autumn. Any horse riders interested could call Helen Kent, tel: 01353 720610.

Well, you cannot win them all - Newmarket Magistrates Court now seems doomed. I have been keeping our Parish Councils informed about the possible closure of Newmarket's Court on the recommendation of the Magistrates Court Committee (MCC). As it was, Cambridgeshire had a minority interest as we only had the use of it for one day a week. I led a protest through Cambs. Policy committee in July to appeal against closure on the grounds of removing a valuable local service in a rural area. This was agreed by Council and protests were made. As our own County's MCC has now accepted the inevitability of closure, after rejection of an appeal, there is little point in continuing to fight the case. I shall make one more verbal protest on rural deprivation grounds but I know it will not affect the decision. I believe from now on court appearances for those accused, witnesses or those asking for, for example, alcohol licenses will have moved from Newmarket to either Ely or Cambridge.

My revenge is to enthusiastically back a proposal that Cambridgeshire should join a campaign for recognition of the additional costs of providing local authority services to rural communities. As East Cambridgeshire has already decided to sign the charter, I hope I can help persuade my colleagues in the Policy Committee to do likewise.

James Fitch

Volunteers Needed

Arthur Rank House Hospice in Cambridge

Volunteers work alongside staff to care for patients.

If you would like to help, please phone Chris Mulvey on Cambridge 723145



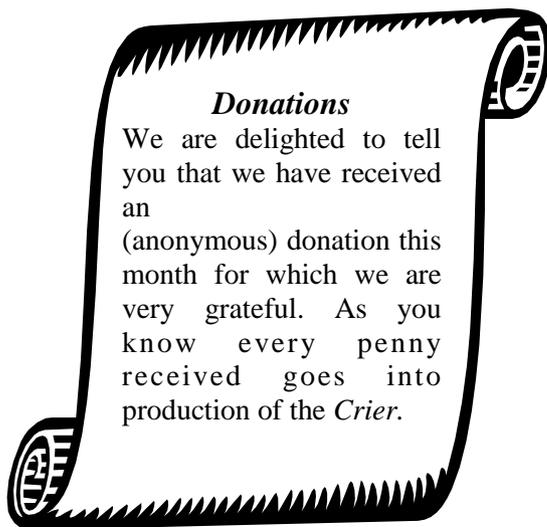
We are compiling the Electoral Register for 1999. You should have received a form in the last few weeks asking you to confirm who will be occupiers at your address on 10th October. This includes people who are normally resident but will not be there on the 10th October, e.g. University students. Please make sure that you complete your form and return it promptly. If you have not received a form, please 'phone Electoral Services on 01353 665555 to request one. Next year's elections include the Parish Council, District Council and European Parliament. There may also be referenda on the European Single Currency and a new voting system for the Westminster Parliament. You will need to be on the register to take part in these decisions.

We have had our first Planning Committee meeting at which the public were given the right to speak. There were only a few applications on which people chose to use their right to speak, but those who did speak presented their case very well. All speakers kept to time and gave useful background views and information to the Committee. If the system continues to work as well as it did at our first meeting, it will support the argument for extending public speaking rights to other Council meetings. For example, I would like us to introduce a chance for the public to ask questions or make short statements to full Council meetings.

There has been concern about Travellers camping locally, first in Cowbridge Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck and then in the 'Dencora' field in Swaffham Prior. Our Travellers Liaison Officer was able to move the Travellers off Cowbridge Lane fairly rapidly because it is a sensitive natural habitat, e.g. the rare bee orchid grows there. But the Travellers only moved a short distance and stopped in Swaffham Prior. As this was private land, the Council could not take direct action, so our Travellers Liaison Officer discussed the issue with Dencora's solicitors. Fortunately the Travellers moved on within a week, otherwise it could have taken several weeks to resolve through legal action. The Council has produced a very useful leaflet which details the legal issues affecting the Council when moving on Travellers. If you would like a copy, please contact me or drop into the Council's reception when you are in Ely.

The open meeting held by Dencora on 7th September was very interesting, with a wide range of opinions expressed. There was a lot of discussion over the details of Dencora's proposals. But the Local Plan Inquiry will not be

deciding on detailed proposals. It will decide whether or not to accept Dencora's general arguments. In all, Dencora are asking the Inquiry, on 19 November, to consider 12 representations. In summary, these representations ask for Swaffham Prior to be designated as Group Development, rather than Infill Development; for the Council to allocate a greater number of new housing than proposed to Group Settlements; to introduce a policy specifically to provide for larger houses; to allocate Swaffham Prior as a suitable location for larger houses; and to include the 'Dencora' field in the development envelope for Swaffham Prior. I remain opposed to these representations. If we retain Swaffham Prior's status as Infill only and keep the 'Dencora' field outside the development envelope, the Parish Council and ECDC retain control of developments in the village. If the community as a whole believes that an exception is justified, for example to build some affordable housing or to provide more village facilities, this can be accommodated. This is already happening in Swaffham Bulbeck, where larger developments than would normally be permitted under Infill Development have been given Planning Permission with the support of the Parish and County Councils.





Church Services in October

Sunday 4th
Trinity 17

11.00am Parish Communion (Rite B)

Sunday 11th
Trinity 18

11.00am Family Service and Holy Baptism
6.30pm Salvation Army Band Concert

Sunday 18th
St. Luke

11.00am Parish Communion (Rite B)

Sunday 25th
Trinity 20
Bible Sunday

8.00am Holy communion (BCP)
11.00am Mattins (BCP) and Sermon
6.00pm Evensong (BCP) and Sermon

- ◆ **Holy Communion** is celebrated every Thursday in Swaffham Bulbeck Church at 10.00am, and at Reach Church at 8.00am on October 11th and 18th.
- ◆ **Evening Prayer** is said on Wednesdays at 5.00pm in Reach Church.
- ◆ **Bellringing:** Tuesday practice in St. Cyriac's every fortnight at 8.00pm, Sundays at 10.30am and before 6.00pm Evensong. Contact Dr. Margaret Stainer on 741328.
- ◆ **Church Flowers:** we would welcome more names on our rota; offers please to Sue Rust on 741738.

The Vicar would be pleased to know of anyone needing a home or hospital visit or who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

Church Diary for October

Monday 5th 2.15pm - Mothers Union at Free Church, Commercial End.
Friday 9th 7.30pm - Ely Cathedral Choir Concert at Burwell.
Saturday 10th 9.30am - Village Bellringers from Kessingland, Norfolk
Monday 12th 8.00pm - Social Working Group at The Barn, 44 High St.
Saturday 17th 10.00am-noon - St Ethelreda's Fast, Reach V.C.
Thursday 22nd 12 noon - Home Communion, 15, Tothill Road

Parish Register for July 1998

Holy Baptism - Madeleine Jane Bishop
Helena Kate Pumfrey
Madeleine Anna Lewinski-Grende



Dear Friends

Thank God older people still come to church!

One of the questions often asked of the Church is “is the Church, and Christianity relevant today?” Another is “if the Church is relevant, how come most of those attending seem to be older people?” The answer, in my view, is that the attendance of proportionately more older people over an average month proves that Church and Christianity are relevant, and of practical importance in our country today.

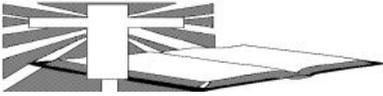
People who have reached retirement age (assuming 60+) were born before the outbreak of the 2nd World War; many have vivid memories of that conflict, the inhumanity of man to man, newsreels from the concentration camps, the return of the injured and disfigured from the front-line. Later came the horror of the prisoner-of-war camps in the Far East, told by those who made it home. All this will be remembered next month at our usual services on November 8th.

Those who are retired lived, and often raised young families, through the austere years following the war, as rationing continued, and our industrial base was slowly re-built. Jobs were available but the living was hard; electrical, ‘consumer goods’ and the modern convenience foods were unknown; how many people in our villages hanker back to those days, despite the privations we now recognise then? The adventurous 60’s, the wild 70’s, the selfish 80’s, the anxious 90’s; the older person has experience of them all, on top of all that went before. Alongside the many achievements and joys of the past at home and at work, come the sorrows of the loss of parents, friends, siblings, even children. Added together, the sum of experience of the older person is clear; they have seen tremendous changes in the way life is led, they have survived in a world that must often have seemed cruel and vindictive. If anyone should find the concept that the world is ruled by a God of love difficult, it should be this group of people. If the experience of life is inclined to disprove the existence of God, then our churches should be bereft of the over-60’s but this is not so. The older generation get to church, often at some personal cost of discomfort both in the getting there, and sometimes the sitting and the temperature (though we do as much as we can to minimise these problems); so who do this generation still feel it is worth the effort? Ask 20 people and you will get 20 different answers; the unifying thread is the fact that people really want to be in an act of public worship where they can meet God. The language might change with the churchmanship, the tradition or the class, but the message is the same - older people know from experience that Christ is indeed relevant today as He always has been. Long years of life have proved the value of Prayer, Faith and Fellowship. So the next time a comment is made that the church is full of old people, the answer is “yes, isn’t it encouraging!”

Yours Sincerely,

Mark

PS If there are any of you out there would like to contribute some of your time, energy and skills to the work of your parish church, I would be delighted to hear from you; we have one or two vacancies.



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for October 1998:

Sunday 4th	10.30 am Family Harvest Service 6.30 pm Harvest Thanksgiving
Monday 5th	7.30 pm Harvest Praise - Rev Richard Underwood (Soham)
Sunday 11th	6.30pm Joint meeting at St Mary's with the Salvation Army
Sunday 18th	6.30pm Steve Ayres
Sunday 25th	6.30pm Steve Ayres

First of all, an Invitation...

Everybody is welcome to visit us at Zion Baptist on Wednesday October 14th at 7.30pm when we welcome the Newmarket Circuit Choir. The choir is well known in the area and we are privileged to have them with us. They bring a mixture of traditional and modern church music and their programme will, I am sure, bring pleasure and inspiration. There is no admission charge. We look forward to seeing you.

... and now A Poem (extract from a poem by Eddie Askew of the Leprosy Mission).
Read the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10 - the poem will mean that much more.

So easy, Lord, to sit and dream.
To bask, a lizard on a rock, in the warmth of future hopes.
Eyes alert against a sudden onrush of reality.
Ready to skitter swiftly into shelter
against the shadow swoop of present problems.

But Lord, to build my life on future hopes, however bright,
does little justice to myself or you.
It's now that matters, both to you and me.
The present moment is the only one of which I'm sure.
And if I am to live for you, it's now that counts.
Not promises of future faithfulness.

If Zaccheus, standing there, had said, "Just give me time,
I'll change my life tomorrow,"
I have a feeling Jesus might have turned away, a hint of sorrow in his eyes,
at chances missed.
Another weak excuse, like those I make at every turn.
Today, you say. Today, you ask,
and stand and wait for my response.

But lift your eyes and look at me.
Beckon me down from the branches of my hesitation.
Invite yourself into my life.
And help me start, today,
to live in your salvation.

Steve and Sylvia Ayres

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

Frances and I had a very special summer holiday this year, because it was our 30th wedding anniversary and we went back to Inishbofin, an island three miles by two lying eight miles off the western tip of Connemara, just about as far West as you can go in these islands before 3,000 miles of ocean. When we were there in August 1968 there was one boat a week, one bar and one hotel with six rooms, more beaches than rooms in the hotel: it was the perfect honeymoon spot. Things have changed in thirty years: there are now two hotels, three bars and a daily boat when weather permits. So they have not changed much!

It is a wonderful place. St Colman founded a monastery there in 667 on his way to develop Lindisfarne and it has always been an island of prayer and peace. That peace has seen its share of tragedy. Every priest Oliver Cromwell could lay his hands on in the 1650s was locked up there (in a grim fortress which guards the entrance to the harbour) before they were transported as slaves to Barbados. In 1927, 28 fishermen (out of an island population of only 150 folk) were drowned in a freak storm and the pain of that event tearing the community to shreds can still be felt in the memorials; and only a few years ago two American students drowned when a party of them came on a sort of pilgrimage to the island. This is not heaven-on-earth but it is a beautiful place with its priorities right.

In the little guidebook to the island's church, the parish priest reveals the values which govern the place. The lights fail in the church and one of the parishioners offers to replace them: "we shook hands in front of the Blessed Sacrament. This was almost like the Covenant between God and his People; At that point we had not decided on the type of shades we wanted." Back on the mainland in Cavan, the parish priest meets a friend who knows just the man for the job. In no time the brackets and shades are ordered and the priest is sure that the benefactor will share his liking for the work. In due course the fittings arrive at the jetty and a local boatman will not hear of money changing hands to convey them to the island. At Mass the priest tells the parish that help is needed "but anyone who volunteered did so on the clear understanding that it was voluntary". Many do so and the work is completed on Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass is by candlelight and then each person who had helped was asked to switch on one light.

On 20 September, the gospel reading had Jesus telling us that "no servant can have two masters ... You cannot be the slave both of God and Money". In Inishbofin they know that and they have a healthy view of what matters: Fr Sheridan ends his account of the fitting of the lights: "There is no money left in St Colman's but, please God, we will get some money to pay our way."

Dates for Your Diary - October 1998

Thu	1	
Fri	2	World's Biggest Coffee Morning, 10:30-12noon
Sat	3	
Sun	4	
Mon	5	Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	6	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	7	
Thu	8	Area Meeting at Bottisham Village College, 7:30pm PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	9	
Sat	10	4 th Quy Art Exhibition, Quy Village Hall, 10:30-4:30 & Sun Zion Chapel Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Sun	11	Cambridge Citadel Brass Band, St Mary's, 6:30pm
Mon	12	
Tue	13	
Wed	14	<i>Crier</i> Copy deadline Village Management Committee, Small Hall, 8:00pm
Thu	15	Flu Clinic, Burwell Surgery Day Centre WI Group Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	16	Solaris String Quartet, Holy Trinity Ch, Bottisham, 8:00pm
Sat	17	
Sun	18	
Mon	19	WI, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Village Gardeners AGM, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	21	
Thu	22	Village Shop and PO Open Mtg, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Fri	23	
Sat	24	Bright Sparks Playgroup, Table Top Sale, 10:00am-2:00pm
Sun	25	
Mon	26	Ladies Circle, Zion Chapel, 7:30pm
Tue	27	
Wed	28	
Thu	29	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	30	
Sat	31	

November: ~ Neighbourhood Watch: Safety for Women, Village Hall 7:30