



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 23 Number 9

September 1999



Editorial

The summer has *whizzed* by this year, not helped by the Weather, which sloped off into Autumn in the middle of August. Well, the children have had a good time with an extremely successful Playscheme (congratulations all those involved — see letter page 2). After the usual (slight!) summer lull the Diary is getting hard to squash onto the back page again, and the village Autumn Season kicks off with the newly styled Harvest Produce Show (it *was* the ‘Pumpkin Fair’ but... have you ever *tasted* pumpkin pie?). We shall be exhibiting our own plum jam, with plums from our very own tree picked and made by our very own fair hands. Oh alright, Grandma’s fair hands.

Councillor Fitch tells us that waste disposal costs have rocketed. That’s not the only thing that’s rocketed. The waste in our bin has rocketed. It rockets from zero to over-flowing lid won’t go down it’s-not-my-turn-I-did-it-last-time *every* day. This never used to happen. Personally, I put it down to junk mail—you know, those unsolicited ex-bits of tree that plunk through the letter box that we don’t read. Yes. The Vicar has things to say on this subject this month, but I’m not sure I agree on all points...what is this ‘reported readership percentage’? When was this survey conducted? We should be told!

Looking forward to the Millennium celebrations, there is a report from the Millennium Group (page 6) on the plans for marking the event in the village. And this month, we introduce two fascinating (and quite eye-opening!) series of articles which will run in the *Crier* in the editions between now and the beginning of next year. The first is by Francis Riggs (page 8) and starts with a look at our area at the time of the Domesday Book and will continue with “That Other Millennium” one thousand years ago. The second, by Alastair Everitt (page 12), is about William Shakespeare, “Our Man of the Millennium”. Or not, as the case may be!

Jean Moore’s MBE Celebration Party at the Red Lion on the 8th of August was a very pleasant and memorable occasion much enjoyed by all those present. Many thanks to Jean for this and for everything else which she does for the village.

Caroline & James Matheson

PS: WE NEED MORE COVER PICTURES!

Cover Picture: Entrance to the Village by Barbara Ives



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor

The Red Lion

Way back in May I was fortunate to win a prize at the Swaffham Prior Feast of a 'Meal for 2 at the Red Lion'. Due to circumstances I was not able to take up this invitation until Friday 6th August.

May I just say that the meal at the Red Lion was superb. The service and friendship given to us really made the evening most enjoyable. I must confess that we do not really use our local pub very often but after such a pleasant evening we will be venturing there a lot more often.

So thank you very much to Paula and Adrian for helping us enjoy a very pleasant meal in very pleasant surroundings.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sandra Butcher
7 Rogers Road

Dear Editors,

Thanks

On behalf of Philip, Janice, Andrew, Glyn and myself, I would like to thank those who sent the beautiful floral tributes and kind messages of condolence we received following our recent sad loss.

Our special thanks to Mark Haworth for a lovely service and to the friends and relatives who attended, it was a great comfort to us all.

Donations at the service totalled £140 in Sylvia's memory.

Yours sincerely,

Bubbles Sheldrick
Sylvia Anne Butcher
Bramble Tye

Dear Editors

Summer Playscheme

Wow! What a week. The sun shone, the children were there in great numbers and the team leaders and their helpers were ready to go. Of course, there were new leaders in charge this year - could they match the superb efforts of the retired team? Yes, they could and did and what fun was had by all.

For the youngest (just 6 months) to the oldest (yours truly in charge of refreshments), there was so much to see and do. There were some of the old

favourites - crafts, outings, games on the school field, visiting entertainers plus some new things to do. I particularly enjoyed watching some of the older boys cooking 'upside puddings' under the guidance of Ruth Dalton, watching the skating in the School Hall, the Jazz Exercise/Dance session led by Jane Newberry and many many more. Hilary Sage with her anaconda snake skin and story (complete with 'snake willies in a bottle' - yes really!) was hilarious and soon gathered a large crowd of helpers to listen. Filming was taking place throughout the week and we all sat and watched the end result, complete with popcorn, on the last morning.

The only criticism I heard was "why is it only a week?" We should ask the organisers and helpers - their hard work and enthusiasm for just 5 days was, I'm sure, very tiring - longer and they would have been completely exhausted.

Well done ladies, here's to next years' Playscheme.

Pat Cunningham
Carters Cottage, High Street

Dear Editors

Speeding

Good, at last the miscreants have been identified. The Neighbourhood Watch report last month quoted with great approval PC Smith's comment "that in his experience those who complain about speeding are often the biggest culprits." Now the finger can be pointed squarely at the speeding sub-committee, at some of the Neighbourhood Watch, and at some of the PC, though how many of the PC is difficult to know as two thirds have never expressed any opinion one way or the other.

This revelation is a great relief to those who have written in the *Crier* complaining about the ineffectiveness, nay incompetence, of the speeding sub-committee. Now its one remaining remnant can put everything to rights.

The 1998 statistics quoted from the Watch report were taken from the official figures issued on 17 June. They are interesting as far as they go. But, just taking the number of fatalities, why weren't we told that the 3,421 fatalities (not 3,600) were five per cent down on 1997 and 39 per cent below the average of 1981-85 despite a 60 per cent increase in traffic over the same period? Maybe it was to save SP villagers from thinking they can now drive as fast as they like with less worry.

Of course there is no room for complacency but in the broad picture everything is moving in the right direction and Brian Stinton and his ilk must be doing something right. What a pity that the speeding sub-committee has never listened to Mr Stinton but just kept driving along the same alley

flushed with righteousness and a few impressions and anecdotes.

But, while it has been relatively quiet so far this year, for the next two months or so the heavy lorries in great numbers will begin entering and leaving both ends of the High Street, and the “yellow perils” will be rushing around. As the PC Chairman once said, “This is an agricultural area” and we have to put up with it. There may even be so many lorries there will be several traffic jams for a minute or two. And the whole merry-go-round could start up once again.

Alastair Everitt



The Swaffham Prior
HARVEST PRODUCE
SHOW

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 3.00 PM

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

- *CREAM TEAS * *CHILDRENS REFRESHMENTS***
- *FUN COMPETITION***
- *FOSTERS MILL STALL***

GRAND AUCTION OF
PRODUCE
4.00PM

New Classes this year for the children:

- *HAPPY FACES BISCUITS* *A VEGETABLE OR FRUIT ANIMAL***
- *AN ORIGINAL**
- LEGO/KNEX (OR**
- SIMILAR) MODEL***



What's in a Name?

“What’s this?” we hear you say. Companies change, politics change, doctrines change, names change and now the name of the old ‘Autumn Show and Pumpkin Fair’ has changed. For why? Pumpkins have been very thin on the ground for the last few years, therefore, we can’t include that. This leaves us with ‘Autumn Show’ which could be of boats, of horses, of what you will. We searched for a name which would evoke the time of year, the time when villagers *harvest* their *produce* and bring it to the Village Hall. And so ‘**Harvest Produce Show**’ is the name.

We have made other changes which we hope will attract both adults **and** children. This slight change of gear caters not only for the 21st century but still retains the old harvest time traditions, the old-style and very popular **Auction** of produce and a grand gathering together of the village at harvest time.

With this copy of the *Crier*, you will find a full list of the classes for your exhibits and the usual entry form. There is no entry fee, you can enter as many classes as you want, **nor** do you have to live in the village to exhibit or join us for the Show. There are no prizes (except for the children's classes) but the prestige of showing your veggies, fruits, flowers, jams and pickles, your cakes, bread, scones and ‘vintage’ wines in a friendly yet competitive spirit is rewarding and **fun**. All you have to do is pop your exhibits to the Village Hall any time between 8.30am and 11.30am and we do the rest. Judging and allocation of prize cards takes place ‘behind closed doors’, then promptly at 3.00pm the doors will be re-opened for you all to come and look round, enjoy a cream tea then join in the fierce, fast and furious bidding of the **Grand Auction at 4.00pm** with the Auctioneer wielding his hammer with diligence, dexterity, and deliberation! It’s all great fun, so do come along and join us.

Pat Cunningham

Burwell Orchestral Society

Meets on TUESDAYS during term time from 8:00 - 9:30 pm at
The Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

The society is mainly for adults who:

- wish they played more regularly
- prefer an emphasis on enjoying music

For more information phone: Angela (01223 811722),
Kate (01353 721826)



World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief

At last year's Coffee Morning in Swaffham Prior we raised £285 which boosted the Cambridgeshire total to £36,500 and the national total to £2 million.

The nationwide annual Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Relief's most important fundraising event of the year and, certainly in Swaffham Prior, it is a very sociable occasion.

Newcomers to the event will be most welcome as, of course, will our regular loyal supporters. We look forward to seeing you all for a coffee and a chat on:

**Friday, 1st October
10.30 am – 12 noon
at Ruth and Robin Scovil's,
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End, Swaffham Prior**

Action on the Millennium

The "Millennium group" thought people might like to know where we have got to in pursuing the ideas put forward at the public meeting on March 23rd.

1. The **Sundial** for the school playground is up and running. The Parish Council has decided that this is the project it would like to fund on behalf of the village. Dr Stanier has completed the design, and the making of the sundial should soon be in hand. The sundial will also show the proximity of Swaffham Prior to the international meridian line and we hope to indicate the line in paint on the school playground. We plan some kind of "unveiling" ceremony in Spring or Summer 2000 with perhaps a group photograph of everyone present.
2. A **Millennium Mug**. It emerged at a meeting of the Parish Council in July that, unbeknownst to us, the School had already ordered mugs which are to be given to all its pupils, though as far as we know not to anyone else. Rather than proliferate mugs (Reach is also issuing one) we have decided not to continue with this project.
3. A **Village Map**. We have been offered 50% grant up to £2000 towards this by ECDC, but must submit three estimates, which we are in the process of getting. If the cost is not too high, and if we can find a suitable position for it in the village, this project will go ahead. There will of course be the

question of raising the other 50% of the cost over the next twelve months. The first rough estimate we received was for £1500, towards which we would receive £750.

If you would like to express an opinion on, or know more about, any of the foregoing, you are welcome to telephone any one of us: *Pat Cunningham* (741183), *Elizabeth Everitt* (742974), *Mark Haworth* (741409), *Elaine Malster* (743894).

ZION BAPTIST CHAPEL

We have recently been awarded a £500 grant from the **Historic Churches Preservation Trust** towards necessary repairs to the vestry at the Chapel.

The Historic Churches Preservation Trust, a registered charity, is not very well known. It was set up in 1953 to assist in the repair of churches and chapels of all denominations in England and Wales and it does this by awarding grants and interest free loans to parishes that apply to it for help. In recent years the Trust has been receiving nearly 1,000 applications each year from hard-pressed parishes and has made awards of about £1,000,000 to approximately 300 churches each year.

The Trust is rare in that it is a grant-making charity that is itself very dependant on donations. Hence, if it is to provide a reasonable level of assistance to applicant churches, it needs to raise a considerable amount of money each year from voluntary donations. The Trustees are keen to help parishes as much as possible and are only limited by the availability of funds. To put the situation in perspective, recent average repair bills faced by parishes were about £55,000, but the average award by the Trust was only £2,500. The Trust would dearly wish to do more to help but cannot do so without more funds.

Fund raising by the Trust is less than easy, particularly as most people are not aware that the responsibility of maintaining a church rests squarely on the parish - and some parishes, often with beautiful yet irreplaceable Medieval churches, have very few people living in them.

If you are interested in the work of the Trust and would like to help it in its unending task, why not contact the Secretary, HCPT, FREEPOST, Fulham Palace, London SW6 (0171 736 3054) and become a 'Friend' of the Trust and thus play your part in helping save our wonderful heritage of parish churches and chapels.

Ruth Stinton
Chapel Secretary

DOMESDAY BOOK AND SWAFFHAM PRIOR

The Domesday Book - so called by the defeated English, meaning the "Day of Judgement Book"- contained in written form, for the first time, all that existed as a taxable and fiscal entity in the newly conquered England. The Normans called it the "Liber de Wintonia"- the Book of Winchester, the then capital city. The story leading to the reasons for its compilation and how it was done shows just how William the Conqueror was able cleverly to use the English and their existing systems.

In the years since the Conquest, William had much to trouble him, border wars with the Scots and Welsh, the Danes still attacked, the English were not entirely subdued and his son was giving him problems in Normandy. All these ate into his available funds and the booty he had gained from his victory over the English at Hastings. He brought a great army over to England in 1085 from France and Normandy and billeted the soldiers over the whole country where they were supported by taxing the populace at the rate of 72 pence for each hide. This was a monstrous tax as a good many of the hides were not producing that amount of income. William also found that there were many exemptions from taxation, especially the Church which was one of the biggest land owners, and others of the old aristocracy who were likewise favoured.

It was Christmas 1085 when the King held court at Gloucester and there decided to find out just what he now had and who controlled it."Florence" of Worcester wrote: "king William caused the whole of England to be surveyed, how much land each of his barons possessed, how many enffoeffed knights, how many ploughs, how many villeins, how many animals and what livestock everybody had from the highest to the lowest in all the kingdom, and what rent could be obtained from every estate".

Ely Abbey records stated that the Commissioners were to find out:

- ◆ The name of the place. Who held it before 1066, who now?
- ◆ How many hides? How many ploughs, both those in lordship and the men's?
- ◆ How many villagers, cottagers and slaves, how many free men and Freemen?
- ◆ How much woodland, meadow and pasture? How many mills and fish-ponds?
- ◆ How much has been added or taken away? What the total value was and is?
- ◆ How much each free man or Freeman had or had?
- ◆ All threefold, before 1066, when King William gave it and now; and if more
- ◆ can be had than at present.

The whole to be arranged by County and by the land holders within the Counties and numbered consecutively.

The cultivated land and pasture, fished marsh or water and mill was owned by a “lord” and they were “held” of the lord by tenants whether Freemen, free men, or villeins. The variation between the classes of Freemen and of villeins was vast and is still not entirely understood. A villein could be richer than his free neighbour, but he could not sell land. A free man could own land but not be able to sell it except with permission, and so on.

The “manor” was that part of an Hundred which was recognisable as an entity within that Hundred, and which everybody knew by whom it was now owned and had owned it. It could be very large or very small, and not as envisaged now, with a “Manor house”.

The Hundred was of one hundred hides and each hide, according to Bede was that land needed to feed an extended family over the yearly seasons. Obviously this would vary over the whole country and was not a measure able to be regarded as standard except locally. The Cambridge hide is reckoned to be about 120 acres

Thus 1 hide = 120 acres

A virgate = one quarter of an hide = about 30 acres.

Teamland or Carucate = 8 oxen [unless otherwise stated], with plough.

The East Anglians by this time were a mixture of Vikings [Danes], Angles [Schleswig], Suevi from northern Germany [hence the name “Swaffham”], and Frisians as well as the older British and Roman stock all now making the English. They had a more or less common land measurement and land tenure system. The country was set up in to shires and had a Sherriff in overall charge. This name itself is a corruption of “Shire Reeve” who, initially was a kind of weights and measures Inspector, later a very senior steward. Next as an administrative unit came the Hundreds [our present District Councils!], where the representatives of each manor would go to a Moot or meeting to thrash out problems, then came the Manor, as the lowest of the administrative entities. Where the Parish entered into the equation is not quite clear yet.

William had already decided that the English had a very viable system of government and that it would be counterproductive to interfere with a system which the people already understood and which obviously worked well. As is no doubt well known, Swaffham at the time of Domesday included the whole of what we now recognise as the separate villages of Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck and Reach, and is in the Staine Hundred.

The Commissioners had been told to find eight men of each hundred, four Frenchmen and four Englishmen to swear on behalf of the Hundred the truth of the statements made to them when they asked the Domesday questions.

These were those chosen for Staine Hundred:

Aleran the Frenchman.

Roger, Walter Giffard's man.

Richard the Reeve of the Hundred.

Farman.

Harold, Hardwin de Scalers man

King Edward's housecarl [probably a retired soldier]

Leafwin of Bottisham.

Aelfric of Wilbraham.

“and all the other Frenchmen and Englishman of this Hundred swore”.

To be continued

Francis Riggs



Working for Wildlife

At this time of year on our nature reserves most inhabitants are frantically preparing for their winter survival.

However, this is not the only activity to be found around and about the reserves. It is about now that wardens are sharpening tools and volunteers are polishing boots in anticipation of the work season ahead.

By working through the winter, trees can be coppiced with no danger to nesting birds, the lack of foliage also improves visibility and safety. Scrub can be cleared with no damage to butterflies, there should be no mammals with young and all the wildflowers will have set seed.

The work parties are an ideal way to get out and experience the countryside while providing valuable help for local wildlife. The groups are very informal and friendly and the work can be as hard or gentle as each individual desires. The work can involve anything from putting up fencing, coppicing trees, and pond surveying to counting flowers.

Tea breaks are frequent and the kettle is usually on the boil, equipment is provided and a great sense of achievement is guaranteed.



To take part in a work party near you, ring the wardens of the reserves below or The Wildlife Trust on Cambridge 712400 or Bedford 364213 for more information. Alternatively email us at cambswt@cix.co.uk or bedswt@cix.co.uk



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Calling all gardeners — let's make a big effort this year to enter the Autumn Show on 18th September. Last year the entries were very sparse, and with a Gardening Club in the village we really ought to be able to put up a good show of flowers and vegetables. The participants do not necessarily have to live in Swaffham Prior so our members from Swaffham Bulbeck, Reach and Burwell can take part. So come along folks, on with the fertilizer and let us see what we can do.

The next meeting of the Village Gardeners is on 21st September at 8pm in Reach Village Centre when Bridget Smith will talk on 'The History of the Flood Meadows'.

Betty Prime



BURWELL TIGERS IS A NEW Club set up to provide the boys of Burwell and the surrounding villages the opportunity to learn to play and ENJOY football.

It has been formed primarily to enter teams in the Cambridgeshire Mini Soccer League and is planning to run Three teams at Under 8 level [7 years old on 31st Aug 99] and One team at Under 9 level [8 years old on 31 Jul 99].

The U-8's will play 5-a-side games on a reduced size pitch and the U-9's will play 6-a-side on the same pitch. Games are played in three periods of 15 minutes with 5 minute breaks and matches take place every other week. The League is Non Competitive and no points are awarded, the emphasis being on having fun and enjoying this, their first venture into organized football. Any child interested in finding out more about the Club should contact the Manager:

Doug Hunter
Tel 01638 742780

Our Man of the Millennium

Ever since the name William Shake-speare appeared on the scene there have been deception, lies, forgeries, honest scholarship, doubts, passion, inadequate scholarship, all culminating in the latest piece of wishful thinking with the Hoghton Towers initiative. It is a long story but people generally imbibe with their mothers' milk the simple fact that William Shakspere of Stratford upon Avon is truly Our Man of the Millennium.

But, not many people (and I doubt if Michael Caine does) know that:-

1. There is not one shred of evidence that William "Shakspere" (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon wrote any of the works by William "Shake-speare".
2. The only examples of his writing are six signatures. Three appeared on the pages of his will and three on legal documents. They are all partly legible, spelt in different ways, written in different styles, and all spelt 'Shaks...'. Experts at the Public Records Office claim they are not all by the same hand.
3. There is no evidence he went to school, let alone his being a brilliant scholar and receiving an excellent education.
4. "Shakspere" never claimed to be a writer, and none of his children, grandchildren or their families ever claimed he was a writer.
5. Phillip Henslowe, the proprietor of several London theatres, kept the most detailed theatrical records of the time and makes no reference to "Shake-speare", "Shakspere", or any other "Shak..." either as playwright or actor.
6. When writing about Stratford upon Avon, the historian William Camden (1551-1623) in his book *Britannia* recording famous people, includes an Archbishop of Canterbury and Hugh Clopton who became Lord Mayor of London, but not "Shake-speare".
7. William "Shakspere" of Stratford upon Avon was a hard headed businessman and was assiduous, almost ruthless, in pursuing debts, yet he apparently allowed his works to be pirated on a scale far greater than any Elizabethan writer. Most literary piracy was perpetrated on works of dead writers or on those of men of rank who would have considered payment unacceptable.
8. He makes no reference in his will to the publication or ownership of plays he had written nor to any manuscripts or books he could be expected to have possessed. Nor is there any reference to shares in the Globe and Blackfriars Theatres.
9. His death went entirely unnoticed by the literary world.
10. The name "Shakspere" which appears on his monument in Stratford

upon Avon and in the burial register is spelt as those who could write would spell it - as they heard it - with a short 'a'. The playwrights name was consistently spelt "Shakespeare" and in most cases hyphenated - a sign that would be recognised as a pseudonym.

11. The engraving by Sir William Dugdale in his book *Antiquities of Warwickshire* (1656) shows the original monument of "Shakspere" as being a man clutching a sack with four corners tied, most probably a wool-sack. There was no sign of a quill and sheet of paper. Were these substituted when the monument was "restored" in the eighteenth century? So we have this man, who may or may not have had a grammar school education, who became a successful man of business, probably conducted by him in his local Warwickshire accent and dialect, and of whom there is no mention in court or literary records. YET...
12. 36 out of the 37 plays are set in courtly or wealthy society. The noble characters are all natural, convincing and at ease. No other playwright has ever written from such a consistently aristocratic point of view. Characters from the ordinary world ("Shakspere's" world) are almost always introduced for comic effect - Snug, Bottom, Stout, Starveling, Dogberry etc.
13. Fourteen of the plays have Italian settings. There is no evidence that "Shakspere" ever went to Italy.

These and many other reasons point to the fact that William "Shakspere" of Stratford upon Avon could not have written the plays of William "Shakespeare".

All the above is anathema to 'Stratfordians' who claim their man had such a 'natural genius' that he rose from obscurity, produced the greatest literature in the English language in obscurity, and then sank back into obscurity - while all the time conducting his own small-time business.

Perhaps the last word should be left to a Stratfordian, Robin Bearman. In his *Shakespeare in the Stratford Records* (1994), published by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, he says: "Certainly there is little, *if anything* [my italics], to remind us that we are studying the life of one who in his writings emerges as perhaps the most gifted of all time in describing the human condition. Here in Stratford he seems merely to have been a man of the world, buying up property, laying in ample stocks of barley and malt, when others were starving, selling off surpluses and pursuing debtors in court, and conniving, as it seems, in the Welcombe enclosures."

Next month - "Rogues, Forgers and Scholars".

Alastair Everitt



Recipe of the Month

If you are a chocoholic like me or have a budding cook in the family who would like to try their hand at making biscuits, these two recipes are ideal. One requires cooking the other does not, but both are very easy to make and a sure winner with everyone who is not trying to lose weight!

Chewy Chocolate Cookies

Ingredients - makes about 18 biscuits

75g (3oz) margarine or butter

100g (4oz) caster sugar

50g (2oz) soft dark brown sugar

1 egg beaten

100g (4oz) choc drops.

75g (3oz) porridge oats

25g (1oz) cocoa

50g (2oz) self-raising flour

1 tablesp. milk

Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas Mark 4

Method

1. Cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy
2. Add the egg and beat for 1 minute.
3. Mix in half the choc drops and fold in the remaining ingredients.
4. Place large teaspoonfuls of mixture onto a greased tray and sprinkle over the remaining choc drops.
5. Bake in the oven for approx. 15 minutes. The biscuits will spread. Cool on a wire rack.

Chocolate Oats

Ingredients – makes about 20 squares

200g(8oz) margarine

200g(8oz) white sugar

2 tablesp. cold water

350g(14oz) porridge oats

50g(2oz) desiccated coconut

2 dessertsp. Cocoa

Topping

150g(6oz) bar of cooking chocolate

Method

1. Place margarine, sugar and water in a pan and bring to the boil.
2. Take off the heat and stir in the remainder of the ingredients. Mix well.
3. Pour the mixture into greased swiss-roll tin. Press well down and leave to cool and set.
4. Melt the bar of chocolate gently in a pan and spread over the mixture. Cut into squares.

Hilary Mengham



LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday evening 26th July the Ladies Circle visited the old Gaol at Ely Museum. Fourteen members (plus two husbands) were given a guided tour around the museum and we all found the evening very interesting. There had certainly been a lot of hard work put into renovating the Old Gaol which proved to be very worthwhile. After looking around the museum and purchasing a few gifts we finished the evening off with a cup of coffee and biscuits.

Forthcoming meetings:

27th September Jeff Evans - Life on a Stud

25th October Joan Bradley from the village will talk on her life in the Land Army

New members are always welcome. We meet at Zion Baptist Chapel at 7.30pm. Dates are in the Crier.

Sandra Butcher

Bottisham Village College Music Society

Advance notice of Season's Concerts

8 Oct 1999 **Gilbert and Sullivan Summer Theatre** of Swaffham Bulbeck.
Lecture with Musical Illustrations

12 Nov 1999 **Four Hands at One Piano**. Peter Britton and Margaret Copestake

3 Dec 1999 **Operatic Extracts**. Recital by Phillida McCormick and David Price

21 Jan 2000 **Half Concert by St Mary's Players** followed by **AGM**

11 Feb 2000 **Celebrity Concert**. Pamela Thornby (recorder) and William Carter (Lute)

10 Mar 2000 **Desert Island Disks**. Lester Milbank (Radio Cambridgeshire) will introduce the castaway(s).

Ticket Prices: Season ticket £20 available from J. Denison (01223 811279)
At the door £5, concessions (students and unwaged) £2.50
Children under 16 with adults free

All concerts are at 8.00pm, Bottisham Village College

St Mary's Church

BARBEQUE

Saturday September 4th

from 6 pm at

The Vicarage
Greenhead Road
Swaffham Prior

All Welcome

Reserve Your Place with Mark or Carolyn

Before the end of August please

Call 01638 741409

Adults £4.00

Children £2.50

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges

Lifelong Learning

The Autumn programme has over 250 courses to choose from, many leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Now is the time to update your skills for the twenty first Century or take up a new interest or hobby.

General Information Evenings

8th September	Burwell VC	19.00 - 21.00
9th September	Bottisham VC	19.00 - 21.00
13th September	Linton VC	19.00 - 21.00

Accounting - Administration

Schools Administration - Customer Service

Early Years Care & Education NVQ

9th September	Bottisham VC	19.00 - 21.00
---------------	--------------	---------------

Computer Courses

8th September	Burwell VC	19.00 - 21.00
9th September	Bottisham VC	19.00 - 21.00
13th September	Linton VC	19.00 - 21.00

Diploma in Counselling

7th September

Linton VC 19.00 - 21.00

Certificate in Counselling

9th September

Linton VC 19.00 - 21.00

Term starts Monday 20th September

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



**CAN YOU HELP US TO
TURN LIVES AROUND?**

Many people with learning difficulties find it hard to speak up for themselves. This is worse when that person is facing a difficult situation such as re-housing, changing services, or even abuse.

Advocacy Solutions provides trained volunteer advocates to act as a voice for people who find it hard to represent themselves.

We are now looking to recruit new volunteers who can spare a few hours a month to help. You don't need to have done this before, full training will be given.

**We believe that not being able to speak up is
not the same as not having anything to say.**

**We need your help to ensure that people with
learning difficulties can have a voice that is
heard.**

For more information please contact Helen on:
01223 516637

E-mail: speaking-up@dial.pipex.com



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**From our District
Councillor**

Environmental sustainability dominated Council activities in July. The Carnival to launch our Local Agenda 21 was a great success. And Cleanaway announced that they had collected 2,425 tonnes of material for recycling over the two years since the roadside collection scheme was introduced.

Our Air Quality review was more mixed. We are within the government limits for Benzene, 1-3, Butadiene, Lead and Carbon Monoxide. But we may exceed the limits for Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide, so we need to do more reviews on these pollutants to see if limits are exceeded and how the levels can be reduced. We also need to carry out more reviews on fine particles (PM₁₀), because the government has not yet given us clear guidelines on acceptable levels. Air quality affects all of us, so it is important that it is monitored and action taken to improve it. We will continue to work with other local authorities and national government in order to improve our air quality in East Cambridgeshire. We may also need to find ways to work with European governments and industries, because some of our air pollutants may be blown in from the Continent.

It is also important that the Council doesn't forget to put its own house in order. We will therefore carry out an energy audit of the Council as the first stage in a full environmental sustainability audit.

People have continued to raise concerns about the local bus service. The evening service has improved, and the new £10 megarider makes the buses much more affordable for regular travellers. It is also good to have buses on Sundays. But there are still not many buses in the morning. I have written to Cambus asking them to consider more frequent morning services. In particular, I have asked them to make the 8.59 which starts at the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck, a full service starting in Newmarket or Burwell so that Swaffham Prior residents can use this service.

Charlotte Cane



**Cambridgeshire
County Council**

From our Local County Councillor

Writing these notes during a particularly wet weekend I am thankful that our holiday starts in late September. I hope you have a good break from routine with holidays, leftover jobs or catching up in one way or another to

look back on come September.

Cambridge centre road system will change by the time you read this. After 25th August only bus, taxi or cycle traffic will be able to reach Drummer St., or Parkside via Emmanuel Rd. Rising bollards are to be installed there to stop other traffic and the only approach for us to the bus station will be to drive past the swimming pool and turn right at the Catholic Church and right again opposite Joshua Taylor. At the same time it will not be possible to turn left from Downing St. All the associated works should be complete by the end of October.

Park and Ride changes Again at the end of August after the new Park and Ride opens at Babraham Rd., it will be possible to travel by bus from Newmarket Rd. P&R to Madingley Rd direct or to Cowley Rd or Babraham Rd by changing bus in Emmanuel St or the Grafton Centre. The coming of P&R has helped with Cambridge traffic as 14,000 people are regularly using these services.

On the 2nd August a new campaign against **drink driving** started. It is a grim fact that during the last 3 years there were 271 drink-driving accidents in Cambs compared with 196 in the previous three years. Maybe the extension of our bus services to Cambridge in the evenings will encourage people to use the bus and not the car when visiting pubs, clubs or restaurants.

At the **Addenbrookes Hospital** board meeting in July it was revealed that waiting lists in the catchment area still remain at around 7300 (66 waiting for more than 15 months). It is interesting that Delayed Discharge patients (new name for bed blockers) now amount to over 100 at Addenbrookes. Finding alternative solutions for those people would obviously help the waiting list.

The cost of **waste disposal** has rocketed in recent years. You and I pay for this through our taxes. The more rubbish that is recycled the less we pay. As the cost is now £25/ton to dispose of household waste there is a personal gain for each of us to recycle glass, paper and aluminium drink cans.

James Fitch

From the Parish Registers for July

Holy Baptism: Olivia Charlotte Marsh

Sophie Jane Elizabeth Bell [Reach]

Holy Matrimony: Christopher Alexander Jennings and Tracey Johnson

Blessing of marriage: Steven and Ellen Brimble

In Memoriam: Sylvia Ann Butcher (47)

Peter Richard Chapman (65) [Swaffham Bulbeck]



Church Services September 1999

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

TRINITY
14

8:00am
Holy Communion†
9:30am
Family Service

Sun
5

TRINITY
15

9:30am
Parish Communion

Sun
12

TRINITY
16

9:30am
Village Communion

Sun
19

TRINITY
12

9:30am
Parish Communion

Sun
26

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

11:00am
Parish Communion

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

8:00am
Holy Communion†
6:00pm
Evensong† and Sermon

11:00am
Mattins† and Sermon
6:00pm
Evensong† and Sermon

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY

6:00pm
Evensong† and
Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion†

11:00am
Harvest
Family Service

8:00am
Holy Communion†

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer

1st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church
Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck
Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach
Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

Sunday School

Sundays 9.30am. S. Bulbeck Village Hall/Church.
Contact Angela Roebuck on 01223 811722

Bellringing

Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs.
Contact. Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.

Housegroup

Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach
Contact Olivia Cole 743434, Juliet Vickery 742676

Mothers Union

1st Mondays, 2:15pm, c/o Free Church, Commercial
End. Contact Win Norton on 01223 811509

The vicar is never too busy to **visit** anyone on urgent pastoral or spiritual matters.

Dear Friends,

HAVE YOU NOTICED ... ?

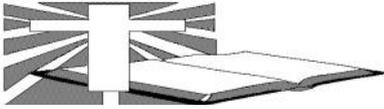
No, I'm not going to say "how much younger the police(men) look these days", but as I get greyer university students do seem *very young*! With our daughter Sarah going to college this term perhaps my hunch is not wrong. In my better moments I don't feel old enough to have an exiled student off-spring; like it will be for many families, this autumn is going to be very different for the rest of us.

This is my 71st letter to the parish, via the village magazine, and as each month comes round, I look forward to writing it, but only in the knowledge that I have the privilege, with others, of 'speaking' to every household in the village **but only if it is read!!** Sadly, the reported readership percentage is so low that it seems that my optimism is misplaced, and this is why so many people are taking the trouble to put 'fliers' in each letterbox before an event. This is wasteful of so much resource, physical and human, that I have a simple request to those of you who are reading this: **please encourage your neighbours to read their village magazine.** We are hugely fortunate that there are people willing to compile it each month; let's do justice to that effort by upping the readership.

When not at home, I am an inveterate 'church-crawler'; I much enjoy seeing other parish news and views, and am impressed by good presentation of information, including **noticeboards**. I take a great deal of trouble here to ensure that my noticeboards are displaying relevant information, and that out-of-date posters are removed. Again, the trick is to **actually take the trouble to look at them!** Maybe I am preaching to the converted if you have read this far, but I would like to feel that those of us who live locally take as much trouble to peruse posted-up information as do our visitors. Wooden telegraph-poles are an increasingly useful way-side noticeboard; please look at what is displayed, and for those of you who pin things up, please take the trouble to remove them after the date is passed!

In the end, I suspect the pressure of time, real or imagined, prevents us from really focussing on what is in front of us. Could we make it an autumn resolve to 'open our eyes and see', to give priority to what others are trying to tell us, so that we might be better informed, and often entertained? In villages of our size, another 10 or 20 people at all sorts of gatherings would make such a difference to the occasion. So I commend to you the church diary for this month, and details of forthcoming events, both here, and elsewhere.

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for September:

Saturday	4 th	3.00pm	Induction & Welcome service for D.Bousfield
Sunday	5 th	10.30am	R. Fleet
		6.30pm	David Bousfield Communion
Sunday	12 th	6.30pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	19 th	6.30pm	Joint Harvest Service at S. Bulbeck Free Ch.
Sunday	26 th	6.30pm	J. Sargent
Tuesdays		8.00pm	Home Group venues as announced

A Warm Welcome...

A very warm welcome indeed is what I have received ... and not just from the unusually hot July weather! The people of Swaffham Prior have made me feel extremely welcome around the village as I've started to get to know my way about and meet new people. I really appreciate the welcome I have received. I've also learnt a little of the village history. For instance how some children used to miss attending Chapel Sunday School to visit the sweet shop opposite to spend their collection money!

I was at the Chapel last week when two American visitors came in. They were looking for a cool retreat at the time - somewhere to get out of the blazing afternoon sun. They spent some time resting in the cool of the Chapel and I enjoyed chatting with them about the little I could tell them about the village. (If anyone can give me a potted village history I'd be extremely grateful - then I won't feel quite so inadequate next time visitors come asking all sorts of difficult questions!)

In return for the warm welcome you have extended to me, I and everyone else at Zion Chapel would like to extend a warm welcome to you. On Saturday 4th Sept. at 3p.m. there will be an informal service of Induction and Welcome for myself as the new minister at the Chapel. You would be very welcome to come along to this service and to stay for the buffet tea afterwards. It will be an occasion for me to get to know you better, and for you to say 'Hello' to me. I do hope you will be able to come and that I can return some of the warm welcome you have extended to me.

David Bousfield

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

Before I became a Catholic, the thing I found hardest about Catholicism was the reverencing of the ‘Blessed Virgin Mary’ and the ‘infallible doctrines’ about her: especially the doctrine of the Assumption - that at her death she was whisked away, body and soul, straight to Heaven. It does not trouble me any more (although now that I have raised it, I can see I ought to explain what the Church does and does not mean by infallible decrees!). Here is what I wrote as my “god-spot” in our parish newsletter for Sunday, August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady.

“At about the time I was struggling to move from a second-hand to a first hand knowledge of God - in the 1960s - I was greatly influenced by a book by a Dominican priest who I also knew from my local pub in Oxford - *The Eagle and Child* (always known as the Bird and Baby!) His book was called *The New Creation* and it was a series of meditations on each of the seven sacraments. And the one that has always stayed in the mind is the chapter on *Extreme Unction*; and within that wonderful meditation on the meaning of Christian Death (“the transition from the secular to the sacred is through death, there is no other way”) is a wonderful sentence: “For a Christian a person’s eternal life depends not on the balance of good and evil in his or her life but on whether or not he or she is suffused with the power of divine love at the hour of death.” The whole of our life becomes a preparation for a moment of choice. Some people are ready and able to say “yes” to God with all their hearts and all their minds and all their strength. Some maybe will shut him out entirely and spend eternity cut off from him by a radical refusal to accept his love and forgiveness. And most of us will say a qualified yes to God and will need that time which the Church calls Purgatory moving towards that unqualified yes which will bring us utterly and fully into His Presence. Those who learn early in their lives to say yes to God and to surrender to Him will find it easiest to say yes when that unavoidable moment of Death comes. All this is no more than a gloss on the magnificent second reading today from St Paul. That “all will be brought to life in Christ, but all of them in their proper order.” And the first to be called was and is Our Lady, who so completely, utterly and radically said “yes” to God when she was asked to carry God in Jesus Christ in her womb. “Let it be done”, she said, “according to your will”. And she kept on saying “yes”. Her obedience, her love, her agony in seeing her son so brutally killed, her witness all prepared her the moment of her own death when she was so filled with power of divine love that she was ready to move on straight into the presence of God. In so doing she received no privilege which set her apart from the rest of us; she simply received immediately what is offered and promised to each of us. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it: *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians - that is, you and me.*”

Dates for Your Diary - September 1999

- Wed 1
Thu 2
Fri 3
Sat 4 Welcome service for David Bousfield @ Zion Chapel, 3:00pm
St Mary's Church Barbeque, Vicarage, from 6:00 pm
- Sun 5 Bishop Stephen's farewell service @ Ely Cathedral, 3:00pm
Prospects Trust Open Day, 12:00pm - 4:30pm
- Mon 6
Tue 7 Back to school, Swaffham Prior School, 8:45am
Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
- Wed 8 Cubs, Swaffham Prior School, 6.30-8pm (tel: 743348)
PCC Meeting, Reach Village Centre, 7:30pm,
- Thu 9 Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
- Fri 10
Sat 11 Cambs Historic Churches sponsored cycle ride, 9:00am
- Sun 12
Mon 13
Tue 14 **Crier Copy Deadline**
- Wed 15 Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8pm
- Thu 16
Fri 17
Sat 18 Harvest Produce Show, Village Hall, from 3pm
- Sun 19 *The Main Event II*, Soham Village College, (see noticeboards)
- Mon 20 *Lifelong Learning* Autumn Term programme starts
- Tue 21 Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Village Gardeners, Reach Village Centre, 8:00pm
- Wed 22 Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8pm.
- Thu 23
Sat 25 Red Cross Autumn Fayre, Cambridge Branch HQ, 2:00pm
- Sun 26
Mon 27 Ladies Circle, *Jeff Evans- Life on a stud*, Zion Chapel, 7:30pm
- Tue 28
Wed 29 Cubs, Village School, 6.30-8pm.
- Thu 30 **Crier** Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
- October**
- Fri 1 Macmillan Coffee Morning, Ruth and Robin Scovil's, 10:30am
- Sat 2 Cambridge Voices, *Bach Mass in B minor*, St Cyriac's, 7:30pm