



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 10

October 2000



Editorial

Where have all the letters gone? After some bumper editions early in the summer, almost no one seems to be writing to the *Crier* these days. Last month we thought it was because people were on holiday or just back from holiday and not thinking about such things, but now? Still the one letter we do have this month records a very noteworthy event for the Village, the hundredth birthday of Mrs Violet Betts. Like most people of her age, she is a living link with history, in her case with a time when the railways played a more universal rôle than they do now.

Kate Childs provides a humorous take on a similar theme in her article on page 9 looking at changing times and changing meanings of words. The recent petrol shortages and our, and I suspect many others', realisation of our dependence on our motor cars, again question the wisdom of the drastic cutbacks in the rural rail network during the last century.

Looking to the future, it is good to see confident and positive reports from the two main local schools which so many of our children attend: the Village School and Bottisham Village College. The Village School is now able to settle down again after the difficulties of last year and has a more manageable number of children for its size. Bottisham is justifiably proud of its Beacon School status and excellent recent GCSE results. We're very lucky to live in an area with such good schools.

One advantage of writing the Editorial at the last minute, just before the copy goes to the printers, is that one can comment on things which would otherwise have to wait until next month. This month it's the Summer Festival, which is happening as I write, and where Caroline was talking to Betty Prime yesterday. Betty asks us to note that: "Summer Festival was the right name for it - it really was a beautiful day in more ways than one. The flowers, the pictures, the crafts, the music, the cream teas, all were much appreciated by those who came. There are too many names to mention but thank you, thank you to everyone involved who made it such a successful first day. I'm sure tomorrow will be the same." We're sure it will too and add our thanks to all those who contribute so much to the Village with events like this and the Harvest Produce Show last weekend.

James Matheson

Cover Picture: *Village Hall Entrance*, Laura Haird (Class 4)



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Happy 100th Birthday

I would like Swaffham Prior Residents to join with me in wishing our ex-station master's wife, Mrs Violet Betts, a very happy 100th birthday on October 19th. Mrs Betts now resides at Queen's Court Bottisham.

We hope she has a lovely day.

Harold and Shirley Levitt

What a shame!



Again, the swings are repaired. Again, they are damaged. A bolt connection to one of the swings is missing. This piece is vital to keep the swing safe! If anyone knows the whereabouts of this missing part, please contact any member of the P.C. or Karen King, the Clerk. Thank you.

Karen King

STUDY DAY AT BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE

ITALIAN ALTARPIECES



Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

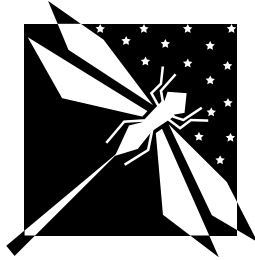
Saturday 21st October 2000
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enrolment details from
Burwell Village College (01638 741901)

Many Italian panel paintings that we view in galleries today were commissioned as altarpieces, intended to stand on the altar of a church. This illustrated course will trace the history of the painted altarpiece in Italy from 1250 to 1500. We will study the changing shape of the altarpiece and its frame, the function of the altarpiece, imagery, artists and patrons.



THE NATIONAL TRUST



Open Meeting
Wicken Fen
the next 100 years;
the next 10,000 acres?

Wednesday 18th October 2000

7.30pm

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

**Come and find out about the National Trust's 100 year proposal to create
new landscapes.**

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting



This Parish Council continues to notch up success after success. A Beeches' resident complained about cutting grass on a slope, the PC wrote to Hereward who said it will cut the grass of those who wish it. A Fairview Grove resident complained about the roots of the pavement trees breaking up her drive - the PC contacted CCC and ECDC. CCC will remove the White Poplars which are unsuitable trees for the location, and ECDC will supply more suitable trees once Fairview residents have told the PC which trees they prefer. All to be done at no cost to the PC as far as it could see.

The true test will be whether anything can be achieved with the Dencora Field. Everyone deplors the state of this but as it's flanked by the Chairman, by Andrew Camps and by Elaine we can rest assured something will be done. So far phone calls and letters have produced little result and the chairman was a bit miffed to be told, after he had eventually got through to a "person in authority", that because "Dencora is in the process of being taken over, grasscutting is not a top priority". Elaine said they must threaten Dencora with a bill for cutting the grass, clearing up all the mess, and digging a trench to stop future travellers. I bet the PC achieves a result even before this *Crier* is published,

But it is not all success as the PC still cannot find a replacement member after a recent resignation. Someone believed that Henry (not at the meeting) "had had a thought" but no-one could remember what the thought was, and some were astonished that such an event had even occurred. A more serious setback was the result of the Inspector's report on 34 Mill Hill. Not since its opposition to Lower End House has the PC been so incensed. The Chairman announced the result, Elaine said "Shame!", and Eric just could not believe it. On the other side, no doubt No 34 thinks the result is the correct one and that everything has been carried out per the book.

So why has there been such a huge gap between the two sets of opinions? This is an interesting case because any of us could be involved in a similar situation and it is important to understand the role of ECDC planning department, of East Cambs Planning Committee, and of our own Parish Council. A brief background of the affair is:- No 34 knocked down an existing garage and built a larger and much higher one about 15 feet or so further back so that it ran alongside the neighbour's patio. Whatever the reason, No 34 did not ask for planning permission. The neighbour

approached ECDC which said planning permission was required and Retrospective Planning Permission (RPP) was sought. When Henry was chairman any RPP was the one thing guaranteed to make him angry. Time and time again he found that once a building was up there was a reluctance to enforce its removal or to make any alterations.

The PC opposed the RPP and it now becomes a little complicated. Mr Brown, a planning officer, gave No 34 his whole-hearted support. On the whole it would not be unfair to say that Mr Brown and No 34 received fairly minimal support: many elected councillors (including Charlotte Cane) opposed the building, as did some officers of the planning department. Twice East Cambs Planning Committee told No 34 to reduce the height or take it down; after the second time No 34 appealed to the Secretary of State. The Appeal Hearing was held on the 16th August.

Meanwhile Charlotte Cane had written in the *July Crier* that "A recent audit report has indicated that the East Cambs Planning Committee goes against officer recommendations more often than the average for similar authorities." If you read her articles carefully you will see that ECDC is trying hard to improve procedures so that the correct decisions are made. But, reading between the lines it seems a lot depends on which officer you first approach. If it had been another officer rather than Mr Brown perhaps the advice would have been to make the usual planning application *before* building. *The big question is whether some planning decisions just depend on the whim and bias of a single planning officer?*

The other interesting point which came up is the great disparity between the conception of RPPs by the general public and the official conception. In the *May Crier* Charlotte Cane wrote "*People sometimes make their planning applications retrospectively. Usually this is because they have misunderstood the planning rules, which are very complex. We cannot take account of the fact that the application is retrospective, simply judging the case on its merits.*" Mr Brown had forcefully made this point at one of the ECDC meetings, and the Inspector also made the point at the beginning of his inquiry. This must be the official line which everyone has to tout. But the PC does not. Towards the end of the recent PC meeting the point was made that once the garage was up there was no possibility of building it closer to the site of the original garage, a position which would have created no aggravation for the neighbour. The present position causes the maximum aggravation. What annoyed the PC was that if a normal planning application had been made it would have been refused for that particular site. The PC was also convinced that the existence of the building influenced the Inspector's decision.

The Inquiry started at 10.00am in Ely and ended at 2.30pm in Swaffham Prior, the only break being the journey time. From all accounts the Inspector did a very thorough job -- and he found for No 34. From his 8 page report I quote "*The condition which I shall impose will restrict the use of the building to use for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of Windmill Cottage [No 34] as a dwellinghouse. This condition is needed to ensure that the purposes to which the garage may be put are clear. It is not necessary for the condition specifically to prohibit any industrial or commercial uses. Conditions designed to prevent the primary use of the building being changed are unnecessary as such a change would involve a material change of use requiring express planning permission.*" Well, that's pretty clear! Or is it?

Alastair Everitt

PS. See Margaret Stanier in the April Crier for an earlier report on the case.



AUTUMN PRODUCTION OCTOBER 2000

This October on the 12th 13th and 14th we hope to make you laugh but not before we make you shiver in your seats.

Curtain Up On Murder written by Bettine Manktelow is a tale of an amateur theatrical group who are left stranded and locked in the pier theatre. All is not what it seems especially when the power fails. Is the theatre haunted? You will have to buy your tickets and see.

Tickets are on sale from Lushers the newsagents priced £ 5.00 for adults and £ 3.50 for concessionaries (Thursday and Friday only). Telephone bookings 01223 812911

Doors of the Drama Studio open at 7.30pm

The play is in association with Samuel French and is a joint production effort of Chris Brown and Jane Seakins.

Some new faces on the stage as well as some old friends.

Come and be entertained.

**7.00 for 7.30 pm, Saturday
7th October 2000
St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior**

HARVEST SUPPER



Tickets

**Adults: £4.00 each
(children: £2.50)**

available from

Ruth Scovil ☎ 743720

Marion Norris ☎ 741465

**Raffle proceeds to
Farm Africa's Harvest Appeal 2000**

Baby Watching

I am doing a child care course at Cambridge regional college. For this, I need to do a study on a child under 3 months.

I would like to come to your house once a week for about 6 hours, taking notes and watching to see how your baby grows.

If you could help, please give me a ring on (01638) 741193

Amanda Joy

The Burwell Surgery: FREE FLU JABS

AVAILABLE FOR ALL PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OVER.

PLUS THOSE IN THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE

ASTHMA

CHRONIC HEART DISEASE

DIABETES

CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE

WEAK IMMUNE SYSTEM

AND PEOPLE IN LONG-STAY RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

CLINICS WILL BE HELD AT THE DAY CENTRE, NESS COURT
AND AT THE SURGERY

PLEASE CONTACT RECEPTION FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT.

SWAFFHAM PRIOR SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
FUND RAISING



**HALLOWEEN DISCO
& BAR-B-Q**



SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 00

800PM TIL LATE

STRICTLY OVER 18

£3.50 EACH

We are the survivors

This is an article for those born before 1940.

We were born before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees, and the pill.

We lived before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens. Before dishwashers, tumble-dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be!). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent. A big Mac was an oversized raincoat, and crumpet we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer-dating, dual careers, when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day-care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word-processors, yoghurt, young men wearing earrings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood, or, a fried potato, hardware meant nuts and bolts, and software wasn't a word.

Before 1948, made in Japan meant junk, the term making-out referred to how you did in your exams. A stud was something you fastened a collar to. a shirt, and going all the way meant staying on a double-decker bus until it reached the depot.

Pizzas, MacDonalds, and instant coffee were unheard of. in our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was kept in the coal-house. A joint was a piece of meat you had on Sunday, and pot was something you cooked it in. Rock music was grandmother's lullaby. El Dorado was an ice cream. A gay person was the life and soul of a party, and nothing more. Aids just meant beauty treatment and help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the ways in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap.

But, by the grace of God we have survived. ALLELUIA!!

Kate Childs

Cleaner Required

Swaffham Prior. Private House.

Couple with no children, no pets. Good references essential.

Tel: 01638 742975

News from Burwell Community Print Centre

We have now been in our new, purpose built premises, on the site of Burwell Village College, for nearly a year and have witnessed the benefits of a greatly improved working environment and more up to date equipment. In April, we purchased an off-set litho printer thanks to a grant from East Cambs District Council. This has proved to be a great training tool, giving the trainees access to equipment that would be found in most small printers. The Print Centre aims to provide value for money printing services for community groups, local businesses and individuals. With the increase in print quality produced by the new equipment we have been able to expand our customer base by offering a service to small local businesses with the printing of letterheads, compliment slips and business cards.

We have been running the Vocational Access Course for 3 years through a franchise with Huntingdon Regional College and this year we have been delighted that our first group of trainees have gained their qualifications. The course covers a range of work-based skills including health and safety, team working, communication skills and independent working. VAC gives trainees a real understanding of their capabilities and provides them with a portfolio of work which they can use as evidence of their skills and potential to possible employers.

The new Print Centre also contains a community IT facility that is used by Community Education, Burwell Village College, local training organisations and *us*. We have recently installed our own equipment and the room is now furnished with 10 networked work stations with up to date software and access to the internet. The room is available for hire at very reasonable rates. For further information about the IT Room or the printing services that we offer, please telephone 01638 613102.

Di Shimell, Project Manager

In the old building it was crowded and the school was full of children. In the new building there is lots of space for us all to move around. We can use the off-set litho and all sorts of things. I like to work on the guillotine which I use to cut straight edges. In the new building we can use the telephone and the fax machine and I can work on the computer. I like printing as my work. We also have a tearoom now where we can take our breaks in comfort — I really liked being able to go with Di and choose and buy the clocks for the new building.

Janet Holden, Trainee



**Cambridge Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness
FREE VOLUNTEER TRAINING COURSE**

A Thursday morning, six-week training course for volunteers to help the hearing impaired starts on 18th January 2001. CAMTAD, Cambridge Campaign for tackling acquired deafness, runs hearing help sessions where volunteers clean, check and retube NHS hearing aids and advise on regular maintenance and best listening conditions. They also loan out equipment. They can help with hearing doorbells, telephone, television and household alarms. Training courses cover such subjects as the ear, types and causes of deafness, NHS hearing aids, procedures for assessment, communication methods and so on. If you are interested in the training course or would like to discuss it further please phone, fax or minicom Sue Hempstead on 01223 460616 or write to her at Buchan House, Buchan Street, Cambridge CB4 2XF. We have facilities for hearing impaired volunteers on the course and there is a lift etc. if you are wheelchair bound. Training is compulsory for our volunteers but there is no obligation to volunteer at the end of the course. Most of our volunteers help at monthly sessions but many help in other ways.

We are most grateful for your co-operation. We are a small charity with limited means and depend on our volunteers to exist. We have many excellent people including one lady in her nineties but even she can't go on forever.

Yours sincerely

Sue Hempstead
Organiser

Professional Fruit Tree Pruning

IAN PITCAIRN M.I Hort. 20 years a fruit farm manager

01440 - 786467

Restoring Old Fruit Trees a Speciality

Apples & Pears pruned October to April

Plums & other 'stone fruit' in May or June

New fruit & nut gardens designed.

Help with choice of varieties, planting, training etc.



Village Hall News

There will be no Village Hall Carol Concert this year. At a recent meeting it was decided not to compete with those in Church and Chapel. But next year we will explore restarting Carols round the Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall. This is a more impromptu affair, people have to wrap up, bring torches, have mist dripping off the end of noses, and bawl away for 20 minutes or so before enjoying mulled wine which would have been well and truly earned. It is a "happening", and that distinguishes it from other carol offerings. All we need is an accordion player or similar to provide the basic music; other instruments can be added as people wish. Our one regret is letting down Hilary Almond and her All Stars and we hope they are offered another venue.

Our Treasurer has reported that there could be a fairly hefty deficit this year, so we have to do some more fund-raising. At the end of February next year the Village Hall will be having a **GRAND JUMBLE SALE**. So, if you are thinking of throwing anything out, please don't. More details will be announced later.

Alastair Everitt

FOREST HEATH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FORUM COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP



The FHVOF were successful in getting a grant from the National Lottery Charities Board recently to provide community transport for East Cambridgeshire and Forest Heath.

The funding will provide 3 accessible minibuses, to be based in Mildenhall, Newmarket and Brandon. These buses will be used for 2 schemes initially: Dial a Ride (including a hospital patient visiting service) and Community Group Hire. The buses can carry up to 11 passengers, but can be configured to carry up to 3 wheelchairs.

Belinda Metson
Community Transport Manager



STAINED HUNDRED

A brief AGM was held before the talk. Robert Hill, Chairman, gave a report on the year's activities which had included 8 talks and two outings. Eric Jennett, who had organized the outings, was resigning but Stewart Bell and Mel Walden had agreed to go on the committee. Peter Arnold gave the Treasurer's report. Membership had dropped slightly as had the number of visitors; fees to the Village College had gone up; and the Society now had to pay £40 insurance premium to cover public liability; but fortunately as the coach was full for the Outing there was still just over £500 in hand. The meeting agreed that the subscription should be raised to £6.50 per year or £2 for visitors, to cover the extra costs involved in running the Society.

The speaker was Janet Jeacock, who gave a fascinating talk on "Wicca, the ancient religion". She made it quite clear she was not a witch, but had visited a couple of witches who had given her lots of information. She was fascinated by the superb black cat which the female witch was continually stroking (both men and women are now called "witches"). Witches do not believe in Satan, but that there is a spirit in every tree, cloud, or stone etc. Witchcraft is "black" or "white" according to the purpose for which it is being used, and witches learn to know themselves, use their powers for good and never seek converts. A coven consisting of 13 witches and there are some 400 covens now in Great Britain. A novice has to be 18, to prove her worth, and to attend weekly classes without fail before being admitted. Janet described the initiation ceremony and the witches 8 festivals. Witchcraft is based on ritual from pagan times but much of it has a parallel in other religions. The north door of the church was the Devil's door and the font was placed just inside the north door (as at Quy) so that when the child was baptised the devil could go straight out of the open north door! Tens of thousands of "witches" were put to death in Europe between 1450 and 1750 in Europe, but persecution in England began about a century later. We heard about Mother Shipton, Agnes Wharton of Warboys and Matthew Hopkins of Manningtree who, with his 4 assistants made over £1000 in a year by getting rid of witches. Their right thumb was tied to their left big toe and the left thumb to the other big toe, they were thrown in the water (a pure element) and if they drowned they were innocent and if they floated they were guilty! One of the members said her great-great-grandmother had been a witch and made great use of herbs and always kept a pot boiling. Next meeting October 11th at 7.30 at BVC 'Restoration and Stonemasonry' by Grant Barker.



LADIES CIRCLE

It was decided that this month we would have a break from speakers at our meetings and have a 'girls night out', so on Tuesday 22nd August we all met at the Black Horse Public House, Swaffham Bulbeck for a night of relaxation.

Eleven members met at 7.30 pm and we all sat down to a most delicious meal and a chance to have a good old 'chat'. It was a very pleasant evening in enjoyable surroundings and the meal was excellent. Everyone had a good time.

We have various speakers lined up for the rest of the year - why not come along and join us - you would be most welcome. If you do not like the idea of coming on your own, any of the members would be pleased to call for you. Just let us know.

Sandra Butcher

WI Notes



Members and friends gathered in the Village Hall on August 21st for a visit from the Raptor Foundation. Two representatives brought five beautiful owls Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl, Indian Eagle Owl and Short-eared Owl.

We learned a lot about the Foundation, how they care for over 300 birds, most of them casualties, and only keep those that cannot be returned to the wild because they are not capable of looking after themselves. We were then treated to a flying display, Bayley the Barn Owl being very reluctant to come down from the beam in the roof. There were all sorts of goodies to buy and several members went home clutching furry toy owls.

Mr. Nick Abbey from Hereward Housing was our speaker at the September meeting.

In 1993 the council's housing stock was handed over to Hereward Housing which now owns over 4000 dwellings. It is run by a board of mainly local people and its aim is to provide, manage and maintain the best affordable housing service in the Eastern Counties. Repairs and maintenance are carried out as quickly as possible and it is hoped that no home will remain empty for more than two weeks. Mr. Abbey illustrated his talk with slides and handed out useful leaflets.

Next month, on October 16th in the Village Hall, Clare Wilson will be bringing her dog and talking about Guide Dogs for the Blind. Before that,

however, we shall be at Quay for the half-yearly Group Meeting when four of our members will be models at the fashion show given by Edinburgh Woollen Mills. Watch out Naomi Campbell!

Betty Prime.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Mr. Barry Gayton, T.V. and radio broadcaster, spoke to the Village Gardeners about growing alpine and rock plants at our September meeting. He has been fascinated by growing plants from seed since the age of eight and now has a vast collection in his one acre garden at Branden.

He showed slides of the many varieties of cacti grown in his glass houses and of the pretty low growing plants for sinks and scree beds.

The Village Gardeners' A.G.M. will be held in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 8pm on 17th October, and will be followed by members' slides and a bring and buy plant sale.

Betty Prime.



School Report - Autumn 2000

A new term, a new year, a fresh start. The HMI report on the school, clearing us from Special Measures, together with the lessons learned from the past eighteen months, have made us all the stronger and better able to face the coming year with confidence, whatever it brings.

We have a total of 98 children on roll, Class 1 as always being the smallest, the other three all under thirty children. We have welcomed three new members of staff this term; Mrs Veronica Hanke, as teacher, Mrs Beverley O'Dowd, as secretary and Mrs Sarah Northrop as General Assistant, all of whom may be known to some of you from other circles.

Our Summer Fair, to which many of you contributed (many thanks if you did) raised nearly £1400. This we have put towards new curtains which have made a tremendous difference to the school, making it look much more cheerful.

A slightly less cheerful note. People who use the school field out of school hours are giving us cause for concern. A goalpost went missing last term, the other has been removed from its storage (damaging the locks in the process) and the perimeter fence round the playing field has been damaged

again. The damage to the fence has meant that the horses in the field beyond have found their way onto the playing field on more than one occasion. I have no objection to the responsible use of the school grounds outside of school hours, but damage is expensive. If you know of anyone who plays football on our field, I would be grateful if you would impress upon them the need to respect school property for the sake of the children who use it during the day.

Brenda Wilson,

NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM SURGERY

We have two important items of news this month. Firstly we are delighted at last to report forward progress on the building of the new surgery. I know that, like us, many of you have been frustrated by the lack of progress over the many recent months. However, things are now moving ahead and some of you may have been able to see some of the fascinating Roman remains uncovered in the recent archaeological excavation of the site. These have included a knife, a large number of animal bones indicating the site of a Roman abattoir and some small dwellings but the suspected larger villa remains elusive. We hope to be able to make the report of the findings available to those who may be interested. The next step in the building is the siting of the new access road and we hope that you will be able to see signs of building activity from the end of September. We will keep you up to date as the project continues.

The second item of news is that Dr Towriss is going to be away from the surgery for a period of twelve months from late September. He is pursuing a course of study in London leading to a Masters degree in Medical Ethics but will be returning to surgery in September 2001. We are currently finalizing arrangements for a doctor to be taking over Dr Towriss' work and will let you know further details as soon as we have them.

Additionally we are delighted to be able to welcome Dr Susan Gillard as an extra doctor to the surgery who will be working on two days each week. Dr Cathy Mallet has just left to have her second baby and we look forward to her return at some point in 2001. We wish her well for her forthcoming event. Meanwhile many of you will already have met Dr Fiona Head who is our current GP Registrar who will be with us for a further twelve months before completing her training in General Practice.

SWAFFHAM BULBECK SUMMER THEATRE

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's production of 'Iolanthe' which proved to be a great success.

Thoughts have now turned to next year's show and we are delighted to announce that Philip Upton has agreed to direct the ever popular 'Mikado'— it will be 10 years since the Company last put on this G and S operetta.

Please book the dates now — June 7th, 8th and 9th 2001 — the venue Mitchell Lodge Farm Barn as usual, thanks to Kate and Frank Turner and Joan and Tom Banks.

Auditions for principal roles will be held on Saturday 18th November in the Village Hall. For details please contact Philip on 01638 612173 —new singers always welcome.

Potential chorus members are also welcome — rehearsals start in February. Again please ring Philip or Geoff Reed on 01223 811777. And if you have back-stage talents — scenery building, painting etc. — please ring too — we need you badly.

Geoffrey Datson, Business Manager 01223 812395

NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

Bright Start for Beacon School

The atmosphere was very up-beat at the beginning of term at Bottisham Village College as it began its first year as a Beacon School. Beacon Schools are schools which have been recognised by the government for very good all-round performance and which are encouraged to share some of their good ideas with other schools around the country.

Teachers and pupils were delighted by the record beating GCSE examination results this year, 69% of pupils passing 5 GCSE subjects at the higher grades and real success being shown at all levels of ability and across all departments of the school. *Deborah Harward* from Bottisham achieved outstanding success, scoring 9 A* grades and 1 A, and a number of pupils achieved straight A grades across all subjects,

During the summer break, the college has benefited from extensive refurbishment to the computer rooms and a complete re-fit in Food Technology.

The stage is set for another good year.

Peter Hains
Warden

Free Computer Courses for Job Seekers

**at
Bottisham Burwell Linton
Village Colleges**

If you are

Unemployed and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

Disabled and claiming Incapacity Benefits

In receipt of Invalidity Care Allowance or Widow's Pension

***Telephone 01223 811372
For more information***



CAMBRIDGE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICE

A free and impartial service to help you resolve your dispute

If you have a disagreement with a neighbour, family member or anyone else that you cannot solve what do you do? Why not try the Cambridge Mediation Service which since 1993 has helped hundreds of people in Cambridge and the surrounding area solve their disputes. Through mediation, anger, tension and fear that arise from conflict can be overcome and peace of mind in home and neighbourhood restored.

Mediation is confidential and free.

A case usually begins with a telephone call to the office. If the problem is appropriate for mediation, two trained mediators visit each of the people in dispute separately in their homes. If both parties are willing, a mediation session is arranged in a convenient neutral place. Solutions are not imposed but mediators help people to work together to come to an agreement.

For further information contact the CMS office on 01223 301514 or write to Cambridge and District Mediation Service, Llandaff Chambers, 2 Regent Street, Cambridge C32 1AX

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges
Lifelong Learning
Day and Weekend Courses

Saturday 30th September

*Alexander Technique & Presentation Skills; Antiques & Collectables
Basic Food Hygiene; Chair Caning & Upholstery
Chinese Brush Painting; Reflexology*

Sunday 1st October

Orchestral Workshop

Wednesday 4th October

Internet Workshop

Saturday 7th October

*Basic Food Hygiene; Create your Own Garden Pond; Feng Shui
French Polishing —1; Homeopathy; Introduction to Computing
Introduction to Fruit & Vegetable Carving; Life Drawing
Love In Art; Playing Games for Positive Behaviour
Pottery for All; Speech & Language Development in the Early Years*

Saturday/Sunday 7th,8th October

*Family Learning Weekend; First Aid for Childcarers
Introduction to Computers*

Saturday 21st October

*Communication & Speaking in Public; Chair Caning & Upholstery
Design Your Own Garden Pond; Introduction to Sign Language
Italian Frescoes; Portrait Painting*

Saturday 29th October

The Adlerian Approach to Lifestyle Analysis

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





**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

Producers and customers alike hailed the first three Farmers' Markets as a success. We now have to evaluate the pilots formally to decide whether or not to make them permanent. Because of the success to date we want to keep up the momentum and are therefore holding three more Farmers' Markets while we carry out the evaluation. They are in the Market Place Ely from 8.30am to 3.30pm and will be held on 7th October, 11th November and 9th December. The October Farmers' Market will be a Harvest Festival special. There will be even more stalls, as the pilot pedestrianisation of the High Street has allowed us to offer stalls to farmers who had expressed interest but for whom we didn't previously have the space. If the evaluation of the pilots confirms our initial impression that these markets should be a permanent fixture, they will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from January 2001.

Last month I advised you that students who live away from home during term time should register at their home address and their college address for the electoral Register. I should have made it clear that if they register at both addresses they can vote at both addresses in local elections but must only vote at one address for Westminster and European elections.

At the time of writing this article it looks as though the petrol blockade is over and supplies should soon be available again. However, at the start of the blockades we did not know how soon they would be over. East Cambridgeshire District Council reviewed our services to decide which had highest priority and made sure that what supplies of fuel we had were protected for the high priority services. So, for example, we cut back on street sweeping and collecting recyclable materials to ensure that the normal refuse collection would continue for as long as possible. We told the local press and radio what services were affected so that people would be informed. I hope that none of your services were affected, but if they were I hope you will understand why we made the decisions which we did.

We are putting together our budget for 2001/2002 and we want to know what residents think before we make our final decisions. We are therefore having a 'Listening Week' from 7th to 13th October. During this week we will be asking people for their views. There is a questionnaire inserted in this magazine, please complete it with your views and return it to the Council, or drop it in to me at 34 Swaffham Road Reach if that's more convenient. If you want more copies, please contact me. I hope also to visit some of you during the week to discuss your views.

Charlotte Cane



SWAFFHAM BULBECK BRIGHT SPARKS PLAYGROUP



Bright Sparks Playgroup is now accepting reservations for the Autumn Term. If you are looking for a small, friendly group for your child then our playgroup is for you. We offer sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:15 - 11:45 am. We are located in the village hall next to the Primary School. Children are able to attend playgroup age of 2½, if they are potty trained. Fees are £3.50 per session.

The maximum number of children for our playgroup is 12, so make your reservations early! If you would like more information about joining our playgroup please call Sarah Gibb at 01223-811624.

GEOFF BARTON PLUMBING & HEATING

12 Murton Close, Burwell

For all your plumbing and heating needs, large or small ...

Everything from tap washers to full bathroom suites, dish-washer or washing machine installations to power showers, central heating maintenance and boiler servicing.

No call out charge during office hours - 24 HOUR SERVICE

Free no obligation estimates given. Corgi Reg'd Installers used.

☎ (01638) 743407 or MOBILE (0378) 002947

Notes from the Parish Council September Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 4 members and 2 members of the Public.

Parish Council Vacancy: One vacancy still remains on the Parish Council. Anyone interested, please contact the Clerk or any member of the P.C.

Trees - Tothill Hill: Two White Poplar trees outside No.9 Tothill Hill had been reported to the Clerk as causing considerable problems with roots disturbing the surface of a nearby driveway and the footpath. A site meeting took place at which Stephen Hayden of ECDC & Stephen Hill of CCC were present. It was agreed that the trees should be removed and suitable smaller growing trees should be put in their place. Nearby residents are to be contacted for their comments & suggestions on the type of replacement tree.

Lower End Field (Dencora): After several phone calls and letters from the Parish Council, Dencora contacted the Clerk to say that the field is to be cleared of rubbish. The question of closing the access to the field was discussed at length. The Clerk was asked to contact Dencora further on this point.

Playground Equipment: Further information has been obtained by the Clerk. The possibility of a climbing frame was discussed as well as extra seating. Grants are to be applied for.

The 'tyre' swing had been repaired only to be damaged again along with other pieces of the play equipment.

In light of efforts to add to the play area, this news was considered very disappointing.

Reports:

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

General: A letter has been received from Hereward Housing in response to the P.C's request for help for the residents of The Beeches in getting their grass cut. If agreeable to the residents, H.H. have agreed to include this area in their regular grass cutting rota.

A letter has been received informing the P.C. that the overhanging trees, etc., on the footpath outside No.2A Green Head Road would be dealt with when the clearance of the site started. It was agreed that this would not be soon enough, as the trees, etc., were fast taking over the footpath. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners again.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications Received:

- Kent House, 9 High Street - Internal alterations, partial demolition of chimney, raising part of roof, bay window & replacement glazed screen.

- School, High Street - Retention of 1x3 bay classroom for educational purposes.
 - 20 Mill Hill - Single-storey extension providing garage and porch.
- There were no objections to the above.

Planning Approvals Received:

- 2A Green Head Road.
- 7 Green Head Road.
- 16 Fairview Grove.

Planning Appeal: 34 Mill Hill. Approval granted.

Any Other Business:

Breaking up of the surface at the top of Station Road was reported. The Clerk was asked to contact Stephen Hill of CCC.

Concerns were raised about the entrance path to the new houses (Pulpit Corner Cottages) at the top of Heath Road. It was felt that some form of staggered barrier should be erected to prevent the possibility of children running into the road. The Clerk was asked to contact the Developer to discuss.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12th October 2000 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

From the Parish Registers for August

Holy Baptism: David Kwame Bourne Cane {R}
 Olivia Rachel Susan Thompson {SB}
 Ben Alexander Le Cocq {SB}
 Emily Bronwyn How {SP}

Holy Matrimony: Lee Edward Sharp & Sarah Jane Butcher {SP}
 Bruce Raffie Wilson & Julie Claire Wilson {SP}
 (Blessing of Marriage)
 Steven John Prentice & Nicole Lee Bridgeman {SP}

Visiting Bellringers

A band of bellringers from Hertfordshire will be visiting Swaffham Prior on Saturday 21st October. They will be ringing a quarter peal at St Cyriac's from 5.45 to 6.45 p.m.



Church Services October 2000

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

*TRINITY
15*

**Sun
1**

8:00am
Holy Communion
9:30am
Family Service
6:00pm
Harvest Evensong

*TRINITY
16*

**Sun
8**

9:30am
Parish Communion

*TRINITY
15*

**Sun
15**

9:30am
Village Communion

*TRINITY
22*

**Sun
22**

9:30am
Parish Communion

*LAST
AFTER
TRINITY*

**Sun
29**

11:00am
United Parish
Communion

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

11:00am

Parish Communion

11:00am

Harvest Family Service
Baptism of Isobella Lewinshi

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

6:30pm

Salvation Army Band &
Songsters

11:00am

Mattins[†] and Sermon

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon

6:00pm

Evensong[†] and Sermon

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

3:30pm

Harvest Family
Service and Baptism of
Felicity Blocksage

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

11:00am

Blessing of Animals
Family Service

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

8:00am

Holy Communion[†]

Holy Communion 1st Thursdays 10am, Swaffham Bulbeck Church (followed by coffee)
Evening Prayer Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck
 Wednesdays, 5:30pm, Reach
 Thursdays, 5:30pm, Swaffham Prior

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

PASTORAL LETTER, October 2000 The Vicarage

Dear Friends,

The celebrations of Harvest, as appropriate as ever this Michaelmas-tide, are tinged by the events of the recent fuel-crisis: the economic and political fall-out of which are not the purview of this column but the nature of dependency shown by our lack of free mobility perhaps is.

In time of plenty, how little regard we pay to conserving our scarce fossil-fuel resources!; in time of dearth (to the point where the country nearly came to a stand-still) how much did we all feel a sense of powerlessness and a creeping anxiety? Would the 'tiger-in-my-tank' last longer with less "roar"? Would there be food in the shops? Somehow we expect the infrastructure of the public utilities (privatised or not) to always be there; the possibility of restriction of personal freedom in choice and movement is something we have not often needed to face; we *have* made gods of choice and mobility, and pretended that *we* are in control. It takes a fuel crisis like this to startle us into an understanding, not of God's bounty in creation and harvest on which we may rely at least here, but on our mutual *dependency*

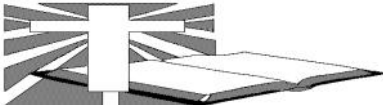
We need to respect afresh our interdependence - the heart surgeon needs petrol for his car, and his dustbin emptying, as much as we need the skill of his hands. Our society needs to honour all work with appropriate levels of pay, but above all, needs to protect the weak and vulnerable in society, not least those in rural areas.

The undignified rush to top-up petrol tanks already 2/3 full, and to clear the bread-shelves of loaves that will often just clutter up the freezer, has rightly led to forms of imposed rationing. How sad that our confidence and trust in an early and equitable solution to the current crisis has been destroyed and we resort to forms of selfishness which seems to care less for others whose needs may be greater than our own.

So, there are no easy answers to the many imponderables of the instability we have recently gone through, save that of increased bicycle sales and the re-emergence of a certain 'wartime' spirit! Hopefully, though, some questions have come up from the dark recesses of our minds, which have lain dormant in the years of plenty; questions about meaning, purpose, and fairness.

Ultimately, being "safely gathered in" needs the work of human hands, yet the providence which overshadows the world is still beyond our control - we must surely still be in awe of the majesty which sustains life. Some like me, therefore, still want to thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all His love, on which, in the final analysis we all depend, and without which we have no hope at all.

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for October 2000:

Sunday 1 st	10:30pm	Family Harvest service
	6:30pm	Harvest Service - D.Bousfield
Sunday 8 th	6:30pm	Communion - D.Bousfield
Sunday 15 th	6:30pm	Ecumenical Service at St. Mary's
Sunday 22 nd	6:30pm	P. Wells
Sunday 29 th	6:30pm	S.Ayers

Whilst away on holiday over the summer I had time to browse various wonderful second hand book shops. I dipped into all sorts of books that I wouldn't normally have had time to look at. It's the sort of thing you can do on holiday! On one of my other 'browsing expeditions' I came across this article in a church magazine that reminded me just how much God loves me.

"Who would like a £20 pound note?" Hands started to go up. "I am going to give this £20 to one of you but first let me do this." The preacher proceeded to crumple up the note. He then asked "Who still wants it?" Still the hands went up. "Well" he replied "What if I do this?" And he dropped it to the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth £20."

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value in God's eyes. To Him, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to Him. As Psalm 117:8 says God will keep you *as the apple of his eye*.

The worth of our lives are not measured in terms of who we are but in terms of *whose* we are. You are special - don't ever forget it.

God loves each one of us very much. So share this with everyone in your phonebook or email directory. You will never know how many lives it may touch, or hurting hearts it may speak to, or the hope it can bring.

So if you are just browsing this edition of the Crier pass it on for someone else to browse.

David Bousfield

For further information, transport, or a home visit please call
David & Janet Bousfield on 01223-563307.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

Some of you may have seen that the ‘Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith’ (the body of theologians appointed by the Pope to guide the Church on questions of fundamental importance about the nature of God, the nature of mankind and the reality of salvation) had published, with the Pope’s blessing, a rather uncharitable statement about members of non-Catholic churches and other Faiths. Since the secular press has been very negative about this 32-page declaration, I thought perhaps I had better offer you my own gloss. The declaration’s Latin name is *Dominus Jesus* (after its opening words)

There are optimists who looking at a pint glass with half a pint of beer in it would say it was half full; and there are pessimists who would call it half empty. I fear this document was produced by the half empty brigade. But the fact is that a half empty glass is half full.

Dominus Jesus is principally concerned to defend the proposition that God has made a full revelation of Himself in his creation, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and in the Church which He founded. That Church is the one he entrusted to Peter. It says that that church is the true church and that it is wrong to think that other churches have different bits of the truth (that there is some and different parts of the truth in each church or each religion). Catholics are “required to profess that there is a historical continuity between the Church founded by Christ and the Catholic Church”. The half empty glass comes in the phrase that other churches “are not churches in the proper sense”. But the half full glass is that all baptised persons in any church community are “tending towards the full development of life in Christ”, that “the various religious traditions contain and offer religious elements which come from God”, and it wrestles with a paradox that is too complex to unravel here, but is a pleasing paradox: “there is the real possibility of salvation for all mankind and the necessity of the Church for this salvation”. It confirms the teaching of the second Vatican Council, that ecumenism is not an option but a commandment of Christ, and that although the Catholic Church has been endowed with all means of grace, yet its members fail to live by them with all the fervour they should”, so they need to learn from the example of others. This is a generous half pint.

So there is no claim at all that Catholics are better than other people; no claim that only Catholics can be saved. There is a claim that the Catholic Church possesses the truth about salvation more fully than other churches; and some might be offended by that claim. But for those of you in other churches there is the challenge: why are you in that church and not another - because it is convenient, because it is where you happen to have been born, or because in some important sense you think your church reveals God’s truth to the world more fully than others do? If you think the last, you are in the same position in your church that I am asked by *Dominus Jesus* to be in mine. All this assumes that there is a truth revealed by God and upheld by authority, a teaching authority that is immune from error - the dreaded Catholic doctrine of infallibility. If two or three readers want to know what that means and does not mean, I will write about it on another occasion. But I can feel the half full glass of your patience draining rapidly. This is more than enough theology for one month!

Dates for Your Diary - October 2000

Sun	1	Car Boot Sale, BVC, 9:00am-1:00pm
Mon	2	
Tue	3	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	4	
Thu	5	
Fri	6	Quy Art Exhibition, 7:30pm (and Sat, Sun 10:30am)
Sat	7	Farmers' Market, Market Place, Ely. 8:30am-3:30pm Harvest Supper, St. Cyriac's, 7:00pm
Sun	8	
Mon	9	
Tue	10	
Wed	11	Staine Hundred, BVC, 7:30pm
Thu	12	PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm Bottisham Players, Autumn Production, 7:30pm (until Sat)
Fri	13	
Sat	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI, Guide Dog, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Village Gardeners AGM, Village Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	18	Healing Service, Reach Church, 7:30pm National Trust, Open Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Thu	19	
Fri	20	
Sat	21	Art Study Day, Burwell Village College, 10:00-4:00pm Visiting Bell-ringers from All Saints, Kings Langley, Herts.
Sun	22	
Mon	23	
Tue	24	
Wed	25	
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm
Fri	27	
Sat	28	Sports and Social Club, Halloween Disco and BBQ, 8:00pm
Sun	29	
Mon	30	
Tue	31	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm