



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 25 Number 5

May 2001



Editorial

It is a fact universally acknowledged that when six or more residents of an English Village are gathered together to discuss street lights, there will be a major fracas. And indeed, all seemed to be going to plan on a street-lit twilight evening this April when a small band of interested parties stood beneath St Mary's trying to shout at each other above the Bell Practice. But no! The bells stopped and so did the ding-dong, all coming to an amicable conclusion. The resulting decisions (see PC Notes) seem agreeable to all. So far so good....

Meanwhile, another sticky subject, many thanks to the Vicar for relaying a recent *Times* correspondence on the subject of the excessively high pitch of hymns, a subject dear to my heart if not my lungs. One correspondent complained that it was only the Church of England that subjected its congregation to this squeaky ordeal, Catholic and Methodist churches having long since transposed *their* hymns smartly down. Another thought that it was ludicrous to demand that congregations sing in the composer's key since standard pitch has only been standard since 1938. *My* pet theory is that people are bigger than they used to be and so they sing lower, whereas the Vicar thinks it's because we don't sing enough these days. Whatever, I do notice that the *status quo* is alright for *men*.....

Although the local constabulary are severely unimpressed with Swaffham Prior's claims to be the up-and-coming crime centre of East Anglia, it sometimes seems like that, with repeated petty vandalisms to the School and Town Close play-grounds, telephone box, parked cars, and this month, a *smash and grab*, in broad daylight, on a car parked right under our windows. *And* everybody was in *and* nobody noticed a thing. Anyway, welcome to our new Community Beat Officer, PC Mark Hurry, and we hope he makes a difference.

Apologies to the WI, who did not, as reported last month, have an hilarious time practising *quilting*. Apparently, hilarity and quilting do not go together at all, and the Editors should have realised this before automatically hitting the *correct* button over the squiggly red line under *quilling*. Yes, **QUILLING**, of course: this is to do with squiggly bits of paper.

Many thanks to Colin Hadley for this month's cover, and see you at Reach Fair for the real thing!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: The Maypole by Colin Hadley



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor,

Farewell

As most people may be aware we on the move and at the start of May we shall be off to new pastures in Norfolk. We are obviously very excited about what lies ahead, but at the same time it is not without some sadness at leaving the village. We feel certain at least about two things. We would not want to have lived anywhere else for the past 23 years, but for a variety of reasons it is the right time in our lives to make the move.

For those friends and acquaintances we have not had time to see then thank you for having been part of the richness of our lives here and we wish you every happiness for the future.

Jeff & Marion Herring
27 Lower End

Dear Editors,

Shakespeare

If Mr Everitt is proposing to move his dates to suit his argument then so will I, and thereby prove using his logic that that shadowy and mysterious genius Geoffrey Chaucer wrote Shakespeare's plays after failing to set the world alight at the time with the Canterbury Tales because nobody apart from a few academics could understand middle English; so he took advice from his agent, changed his style and the rest, as they say, is history.

Facts again. Here's a few. My letter of a long time ago - kind of him to remember, if inaccurately - was not general. It was specifically about facts, inferences and opinions - and how some people choose to manipulate them for their own ends. Bearing this in mind, if he checks his facts (and I see he is seeking new levels of disparagement) he will find 'stupid' is entirely his word, not mine, and if he looks again he will see he is inaccurate to say I suggested the Crier was a 'stupid place' in any context. Indeed, I made no comment on the qualities of the Crier at all.

Last fact. This debate is about a writer at least 400 years dead, (give or take a few, depending on what you are doing with your dates). Mr Everitt has not disputed my statement in that letter that neither he, nor I, possess any facts which prove who did or didn't write those plays. Given the complete absence of facts that really make any difference at all, a deadly serious correspondence is not worth having. If Mr Everitt insists upon a wholly humourless debate, then he is welcome to it all to himself

Signing off permanently on this one for the sake of what might remain of my sanity,

Mark Lewinski
32 Fairview Grove

Goodbye to Name Witheld!

Name Witheld has bid us farewell, but in passing he'd like to point out that since Name Witheld is his nom de plume, he can spell it how he likes. He is still curious as to how Meryl Moore gained access to his attic, as she clearly knows the contents of his dressing up box.....

Eds.

**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
ON THURSDAY, 17TH MAY 2001 AT 7.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

THIS IS A MEETING FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO COME ALONG AND CATCH UP ON THE DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS IN THE VILLAGE.

OUR NEW COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER, PC MARK HURRY WILL BE PRESENT TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF & DISCUSS ANY TOPIC OF CONCERN.

ANOTHER ITEM ON THE AGENDA WILL BE NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR THE PLAY AREA.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK (742358) IF YOU HAVE A SUBJECT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA.

Donations!

Many thanks to the Ladies Circle and Anne Hollingsworth for their kind donations to the Crier this month.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The most interesting feature of this month's Parish Council Meeting was the presence of our new policeman, P.C. Mark Hurry. He was warmly welcomed by the Chairman, and invited to speak to us. He has been in post with our neighbourhood for only about a week, and is in touch with Paul, our previous policeman, about the local neighbourhood problems. Mark Hurry looks after Quy, Bottisham, Lode, Bulbeck, Prior and Burwell, and it is Burwell, the largest place, that has most of the crime-problems, mainly vandalism and theft. Mark Hurry has been going round to the Parish Council Meetings of all his villages, to introduce himself and to find out our needs. When he invited questions, he was asked to make himself as visible as possible. He said that he often went round on his bicycle or on foot, instead of his police car, and we rejoiced at this. After making his own contribution, Mark Hurry remained at the meeting to listen to James Fitch's County Council report and Charlotte Cane's ECDC report. He then withdrew after warm thanks from the Chairman.



Mr. Fitch spoke of roads and traffic. At the dangerous crossroads at the end of Heath Road Swaffham Bulbeck and the A1303, there will be installed some flashing warning-lights; but only on the A1303. People thought that warnings should be on the minor roads approaching the crossroads too. A strong case is to be made for having a 30mph speed limit along Mill Hill. There is to be a footpath/cycleway, by permission of Prospects Trust, around the bridge on the Reach Road. Mrs. Cane gave us the good news that the Farmers' Market in Ely, temporarily cancelled because of Foot-and-Mouth restrictions, is to be re-instated and will take place fortnightly.

Then came a long discussion of the various repair jobs around the village. Kim Sheldrick, who had completed the Village Hall seat repair, had sent in a couple of estimates for repairs, of different types, to the gates of the playground. Several people had their own ideas about how this job should be done. This gate-repair is like the building of a new bicycle-shed, which, as Cecil Parkinson observed, can occupy a civil service committee for an hour, while the estimate for a new power-station can go through on-the-nod. The Chairman drew our attention to the problem of garden rubbish on the Village Hall car park; in particular, fruit-tree prunings, obviously thrown over a hedge from a nearby garden, and some still resting on the hedge-top. He suggested that as people cannot have bonfires within their own garden and are not prepared to take garden-rubbish to the public dump, a small neat and dainty bonfire at the far end of the car-park itself should be permissible.

A spirited report was given about the outdoor meeting of Mr. Selby,

Conservation Officer, and the Lighting Engineer, with several village people concerned with the village street lamps. The proposals arising from it were: (a) lamp-arch over church gateway: County Council to pay for the electricity, PCC to pay for maintenance of ironwork; (b) lamp standard now close to the chapel to be replaced with one on the other side of the road (outside Mr. Hewitt's house) where its light would not be obscured by chestnut-tree foliage; (c) an additional lamp standard, more-or-less opposite the Thatched Cottage. The Chairman, after assurance that all the local residents were satisfied with these arrangements, agreed that the matter should be given the go-ahead.

One of the minor items which has been appearing pretty regularly on the PC's agenda, (so that it is in a fair way to becoming a Major Item) is the ditch along the roadway at Lower End. It has now been established that this notorious ditch, which needs clearing-out and unblocking, should be included as a part of highway maintenance and therefore the responsibility of the County Council. It is a pity that our County Councillor has usually left the meeting before this subject comes up. He would be amazed at the depth of feeling generated in the village, by just one Ditch.

The miscellaneous items that are discussed under 'Any Other Business' and 'Open Question Time' allow for the working off of steam. One such item was the problem of the occupants of the Pulpit Corner houses, with the blocking of their pathway from the road-corner to their front doors—no explanation given; so now the only access to their front doors is by way of a long pathway from their car-park. Another item was the best way of killing a white poplar tree in Tothill Road, whose roots were causing the upheaval of the footpath and a nearby driveway. (The County Council has promised to do it 'in the spring', but it is not spring yet). Another item, not really the PC.'s business, was the loss of the early-morning letter delivery, 7.30 a.m. in the Good Old Days when letters were sorted in the village instead of in Burwell; and the Chairman spoke of the present postman's devious rounds. The undesirability of mowing the grass around daffodils before the leaves had died back was touched-on. Andrew Camps was concerned about the possible loss of wild flowers along the spaces in the cemetery, by early grass-mowing before the flowers had set seed. And quite right too. We *must* keep our wild flowers: first things first.

Margaret Stanier

Paddock to Let

For two horses, Easter to Oct. Please contact Mrs Wood on 742020

The Village Feast 2000

Saturday 12 May

at

2.00 pm

You are cordially invited to join us for an afternoon of fun and games including

Maypole Dancing *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy*

Bowls *Children's Play Area* *Face Painting*

Egg Throwing *Raffle*

Teas & Home-made Cakes *Ice Creams* *Beer Tent*

Stalls Galore

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants

Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

Admission 30p. Children Free

Your help is needed....

As usual we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Janet Cooper (741326) or to the stall on the day.

Books, Books, Books - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give Alan Bishop (741681) or Ron Prime (741221) a ring, and they will be happy to receive or collect. But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Gloria Fidoe (742666).

We shall also be collecting for the **Bottle Stall**, and will be calling during the early part of May for anything you can offer.

Thanking you for your usual generous support



Paintings in the National Gallery

Next term the Art History class at Burwell Village College will be looking at paintings from London's National Gallery. This is an informal class – no homework, tests or previous knowledge required! Come and join us if you enjoy looking at paintings and want to find out more. You can make requests for paintings to be considered, hear what others have to say and make up your own mind!

Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30, commencing 3rd May

Tutor: Ann Hollingsworth

Details from Burwell Village College 01638 741901

The New Surgery at Bottisham

We are delighted to be able to confirm what many of you will already have noticed which is that, at long last, work has begun on the new surgery just a little further down Tunbridge Lane on land formerly owned by Mr John Green. After years of effort and innumerable trials and tribulations it feels wonderful to see real progress. Needless to say the weather has been less than favourable to date but progress has nevertheless been good and we hope to be able to move in in late autumn. Meanwhile apologies to our near neighbours and all users of Tunbridge Lane for the mess and inconvenience.

We feel very excited at the prospect of being able to offer both our patients and staff premises suitable for the new millennium albeit rather late. We are especially pleased to be able to share part of the surgery with a NHS dentist, Mrs Clare Jackman, and we feel sure that this will be a very welcome new facility to Bottisham and surrounding villages. Clare lives in Great Wilbraham and has already started work from temporary accommodation next door on the industrial park. Like us, she can't wait to move in to proper quarters! We will keep you informed of progress and plans are available in the waiting room in surgery for you to be able to see. Meanwhile if anyone has ideas about what they would like to see by way of features in the new building or, even better, offers of help please let Mrs Kate Wright, our practice manager, know. We are very keen that the surgery should be a part of the communities that we try to serve and that it should draw strength from and reflect those communities. Ideas please!

Kate Wright
Practice Manager



Garden Club Outing to Barnsdale 20th May



Coach leaves the Village Hall at 9.00am arriving back at 5.30 approx. Cost £16 (to include entry to Gardens, coffee & biscuits, coach and driver's tip).

There are a few remaining seats available on the coach. For bookings please contact Mike Phillips on 01638 741495.

A Gardener's Hymn

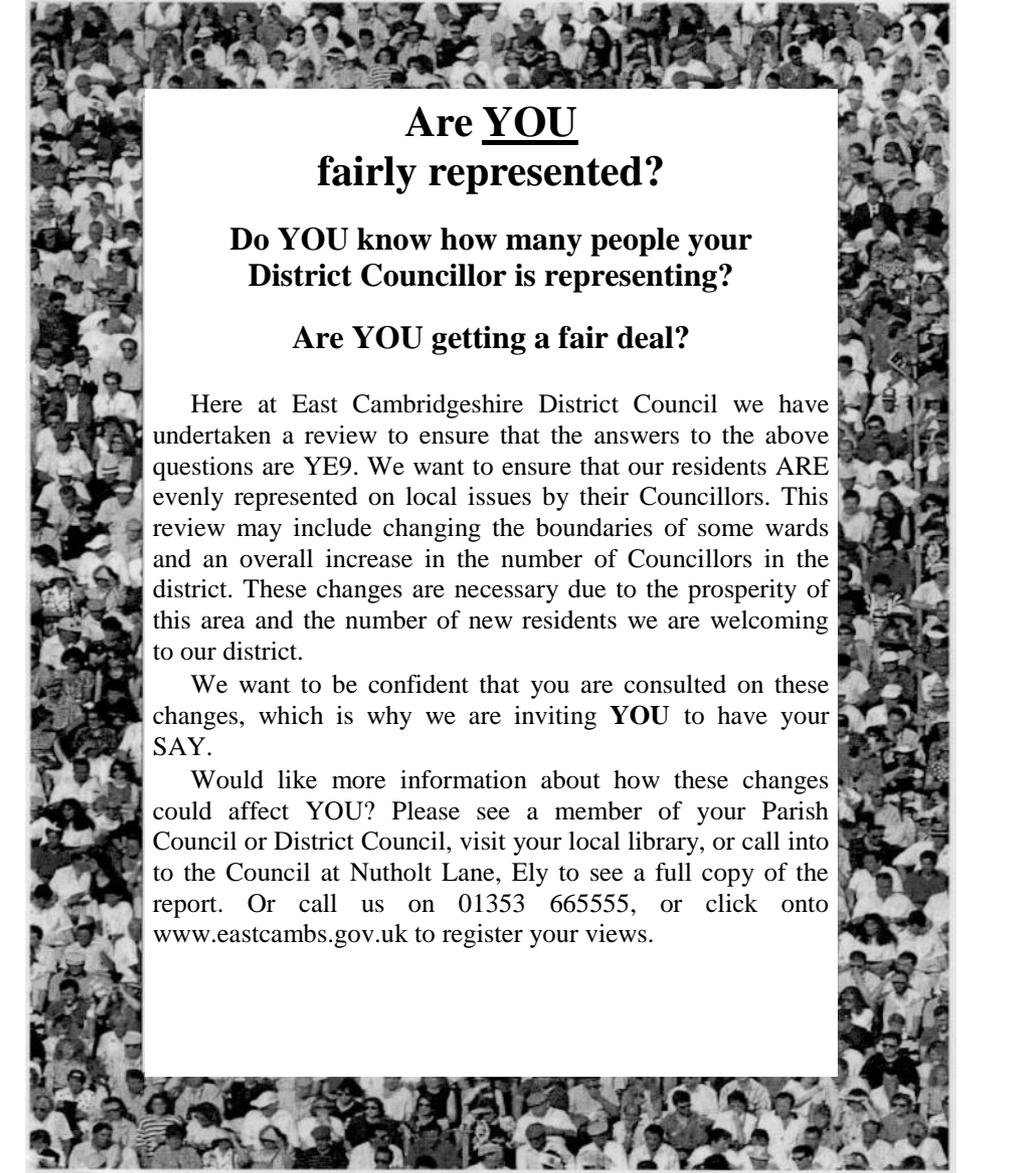
All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful the Lord God made them all.
But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true
Is when He made the 'goodies' He made the 'baddies' too.
All things spray and swatable, disasters great and small,
All things Paraquatable, the Lord God made them all.
The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.
The fungus on the goosegogs, the clubroot on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines,
The fly that gets the carrots, the wasp that eats the plums,
How black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.
But still we gardeners labour, midst vegetables and flowers,
And pray what hits out neighbours may somehow bypass ours!
Contributed by Margaret Stanier



The AGM of the VHMC

The Village Hall Management Committee is holding its AGM on Wednesday 2nd May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Janet Cooper
Secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee



**Are YOU
fairly represented?**

**Do YOU know how many people your
District Councillor is representing?**

Are YOU getting a fair deal?

Here at East Cambridgeshire District Council we have undertaken a review to ensure that the answers to the above questions are YES. We want to ensure that our residents ARE evenly represented on local issues by their Councillors. This review may include changing the boundaries of some wards and an overall increase in the number of Councillors in the district. These changes are necessary due to the prosperity of this area and the number of new residents we are welcoming to our district.

We want to be confident that you are consulted on these changes, which is why we are inviting **YOU** to have your **SAY**.

Would like more information about how these changes could affect **YOU**? Please see a member of your Parish Council or District Council, visit your local library, or call into the Council at Nutholt Lane, Ely to see a full copy of the report. Or call us on 01353 665555, or click onto www.eastcams.gov.uk to register your views.

FOR SALE

2 Matching white wardrobes with cupboards and shelves. Good condition—£30 the pair.

1 White bookcase £5.

Sarah Sharp (née Butcher) 01638 510826 — evenings preferred



The Windmill



The Windmill will be open as per usual on the 2nd Sunday of the month - 13th May from 1pm to 5pm.

The date is also National Mills Day, when mills around the country will be open. As well as the range of flours and associated products usually for sale, we will be serving teas and goodies baked from our recipe books.

If you have not been up to the mill for some time, why not drop in? We now do a wide range of flours, jams, muesli and oats.

WE ALSO NEED SOME HELP!

Can you afford a couple of hours each week to help us bag up flour and other products? The work will be on a voluntary basis, but would certainly suit a home baker - if you see what we mean?!

If you can help, or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan on 01638 741 009



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At the March meeting of Village Gardeners, Lamorna Thomas gave a talk and demonstration of Seasonal Hanging Baskets. Mrs Thomas exhibited a comprehensive range of baskets and liners, discussed various ingredients for making compost, and finally, having displayed a variety of suitable plants, demonstrated her technique by planting a hanging basket.

Janet Cooper

In April, we had a very interesting talk from Trevor Wilson on the RHS Garden at Wisley. Highlights of the progress and alterations since the big storm that devastated so much of the trees and grounds in most parts of the garden. The slides showed parts of the area that visitors often do not get to see. It made us all keen to organise a visit to Wisley.

The next thing on the programme is a visit to Janet Halls garden at Fuller's Farm on May 15th at 7 o'clock - details from 741197.

Barbara Jones

"One Day in May"

A play and exhibition are the culmination of the involvement of over 3,000 people in this project. The exhibition opens this month (25th) in Ely, the play ("The Chestnut Box") tours East Cambs next month (8th June onwards).



Spring
Production
2001

Come and enjoy a night of comedy on the 17th, 18th or 19th May 2001 in the Bottisham Village College Drama Studio from 7.30 p.m. This Spring production is a farce *Love Begins at 50* by Raymond Hopkins. The play is directed by Leslie Pilgrim assisted by Pam Daish. The action takes place in the home of Clive and Anita Debanks. Clive is to rekindle his youth but all does not go according to plan. The result is an hilarious farce that should not be missed. If you enjoy laughing you will enjoy this.

The tickets will be available from Lushers price £5.00 for adults and £3.50 concessionaries (not Saturday). Telephone bookings 01223 811094

MUSIC ON THE MOVE

THE FIRST MUSIC-ON-THE-MOVE CONCERT AT THE END OF MARCH was a magic introduction to the series. In St Mary's church on the eve of Lady Day, Cambridge Voices sang music in honour of the Virgin Mary. They began with early 12th century chant, progressed through 15th and 16th century anthems to J.S. Bach's "Magnificat" and ended with 20th century works by, among others, Britten, Joubert and Taverner. The development of the music, changing attitudes to the Virgin Mary, and the aptness of the early medieval building as a backdrop, were lucidly explained.

There will be three more concerts in the series between June and November, and each will present music relevant to the style and period of the building in which it is held. On Sunday June 24th at 6.00 p.m. in St Cyriac's, Swaffham Prior there will be a concert of Hanoverian music (including Handel, Purcell and Boyce). Roy Tricker, already known to many for his breadth of knowledge and baroque presentation, will explain the nature of Anglican worship in Georgian England and the early 19th century architecture of the church. Later concerts will present the music of the Baptist Dissenters (Zoar Chapel, September 1st) and Victorian Anglican composers (Stanford and Parry) at St Etheldreda's, Reach on November 4th.

In the old parish of Swaffham Prior with Reach there were seven chapels and churches and there will be celebrations for each of these in the course of the year. If anyone would like a detailed programme covering the complete Music-on-the-Move series and the history of the buildings (cost £1.00) please phone Elisabeth Everitt on (01638) 742974.

Elisabeth Everitt



The Easter Farmers Market went ahead with special precautions to prevent the spread of Foot & Mouth. Nobody who had contact with any cloven-hoofed animals came to the market. So the cheese stall was not there and the ostrich meat stall was the only meat stall there. This restriction meant that some of the vegetable producers were also unable to come. Despite this, it was a good market, with vegetables, fruit, beans, pulses, plants, cakes and bread. We hope that the meat producers and other farmers who have contact with cloven-hoofed animals will be back at the market soon. The market is now twice a month on 12th and 26th May.

For some businesses that have been affected by the Foot and Mouth outbreak we can give various forms of relief on the business rates. We can immediately delay payments due to us, which will help with the cash flow. If the business can show hardship we can reduce the rates or even waive them entirely. If you think you may be eligible for a rate reduction or a delay in payment, please contact Andrew Manning, our Revenues Manager, on 01353 665555.

We had just 209 responses to our ballot on which form of new Council people preferred. But several of these were from Parish Councils and therefore represented more than one person's views. 54% of responses wanted us to keep a Committee structure, 23% wanted a Leader with a Cabinet, 14% wanted a directly elected Mayor with a Cabinet and 9% wanted a directly elected Mayor with a Manager. We now have to draw up the detail of how the revised Committee structure will work and consult on that in time to tell Government by June what our new structure will be.

As if changing our structure was not enough, we also have to revise all our ward boundaries as part of a Periodic Electoral Review. We have drawn up a draft map and sent it to Parish Councils for their comment. Unfortunately, the timescale imposed on us does not allow as wide a consultation as I would like. But if you would like to see the maps and give your views, please contact Kate Peacock on 01353 665555.

The government has given us £634,000 for CCTV Cameras in Ely, Soham and Littleport. These will be monitored 24 hours a day, at a cost of about £106,000 a year. Raising this amount of money every year would have a significant impact on our Council Tax – a further £4.60 on a Band D (a 7% increase). So we are considering introducing charges for Car Parks in Ely to raise the bulk of this money. If you have any views on this, please let me know on 742509, charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk or 34 Swaffham Road, Reach, CB5 0HZ.

Charlotte Cane

Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 5 members and 2 members of the Public.

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting for CCC.

Councillor Cane reported to the meeting for ECDC.

Matters Arising.

Pc Mark Hurry introduced himself to the meeting as the new Community Beat Officer. He explained a little about his duties and what he would like to achieve. He will be attending the Annual Village Assembly to meet residents and listen to any concerns.

Play Area - maintenance: A price for the strengthening of the gate to the play area had been received and this was discussed. The Clerk is to speak with Kim Sheldrick further about the work. It was noted that one of the flat swings is cracked and this is to be replaced.

With reference to extra seating for the play area, the Clerk is to contact the PCC to see if they would be willing to contribute to extra seating. This is to be further discussed at the next meeting.

Village Maintenance: The barrier outside the cemetery is to be repaired. The noticeboard in the bus shelter is also to be repaired.

Village Enhancement Scheme: A meeting to discuss the new streetlighting was held on Tuesday, 3rd April 2001. Those present were John Selby, Conservation Officer for ECDC, Chris Sproston for CCC, 4 members of the PC and residents from the area concerned. The outcome of the meeting was that the streetlight near the Chapel will be moved to the opposite side of road. Also, a further light will be placed opposite the Thatched Cottage assuming there is no objection from the owner. The proposed lantern archway over the Church steps is still awaited. CCC agreed that the lantern itself will be 'adopted' but the framework would be the responsibility of the PCC.

Ditch - Lower End: The responsibility for the clearance and tidying of this is still being investigated. Further report next meeting. The meeting generally felt that this should be a CCC responsibility.

Correspondence Received: The Clerk reported correspondence.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications Received:

30 Green Head Road - *To remove condition 2 of the original planning consent.*

Swaffham Prior Fen - *Erection of farm manager's bungalow*

*Erection of agricultural barn and office (approval received)
Highbridge Farm - Extension to form ground floor lounge and first floor
bedrooms.*

There were no objections to the above applications.

Any Other Business:

Hereward Housing have agreed to place a salt/grit bin at The Beeches.

A. Camps noted the lack of work to the trees on Tothill Road and will chase CCC for an update.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 10th May 2001 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk to the Parish Council

The National Association of Blue Badge Holders

(Registered Charity Number 1071683)

Formerly The Association of Orange Badge Holders

Head Office: 'Badgers Rest' 18, Spruce Drive, Brandon. IP27 OUU

Tele/Fax: 01842 812459. e-mail: admin@bluebadge.org

The National Association of Blue Badge Holders is a registered charity. Its aims and object is to help people with disabilities integrate more effectively with the community. Advising on benefits, local and national legislation effecting the disabled) the disability discrimination act 1995 and be concerned with improving the use of the parking concessions badge with related privileges.

Our membership contains a wide variety of people with a multitude of experience and trades. We hold an extensive database of organisations, charities and governmental departments which was recently added to from the Cambridgeshire Council for Voluntary Service. [CCVS.].

Disabilities vary considerably as do the needs of people, should you require any information from the above, please contact Vic Stanneft, Helygen 35, Norhtfields, Lode, Cambridge CBS 9EU. Phone 01223 811704 e-mail staanett3@supanet. corn

From the Parish Registers for April 2001

In Memoriam: John Frederick Cooper (75) {SB}

**SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH: EXTRACT FROM MINUTES
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AT
SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE HALL.
MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2001**

1. Fabric Working Groups Reports

Reach

A written report had been sent by Doreen Robinson. It was proposed by Reach Fabric Working Group that part of the legacy of £47,000 left to Reach Church should be used to go ahead with the second part of the re-ordering project (that of creating a lobby area to the entrance of the church and the vestry re-furbishing). Tenders need to be made for the making of new panels and Ian Frearson (Freeland Rees Roberts) and Ranald Scott are to be approached.

Now that Reach Church has funds available, it might be sensible to prioritise Category A repairs which were detailed in the latest Quinquennial Inspection. (Doreen Robinson, Norah Smith and John Norris are to meet to discuss this).

Swaffham Prior

1. The drainpipes on the north clerestory wall were cracked and letting water run down the wall. It was proposed by John Norris, seconded by Michael Cazenove, that we should seek quotes for their repair.

2. No acceptable quotations had yet been received for the refurbishment of the vestry. John Norris was pursuing various firms.

3. ECDC had agreed to pay for the installation of the lighting “throw” over the gateway and would make a contribution of £200 towards its connection to the Church’s power supply. Voluntary labour was needed to lay the cable from the bottom of the church steps to St Mary’s. The Church would pay for the electricity consumed.

4. John Norris had received permission from ECDC for the yew tree behind the east window of St Mary’s to be reduced and reshaped by 20%.

2. Social Working Groups Reports

Reach

The Moveable Feast had been fixed for April 28th.

Swaffham Prior

The Bulb Walk and Coffee Morning had raised £265.

3. Vicar

Annual Meeting (Monday 23rd April 7.30 p.m. at School Hall)

The Electoral Rolls of Swaffham Prior and Reach were reviewed and changes made as appropriate. The Vicar requested prompt submission of reports for the meeting. The Vicar said that he had been asked by the Bishop to host a German deacon, Jan Petersen, for six months from June. He would live in the village and help out with services and social events.

Jenny Moseley

Dear Friends,

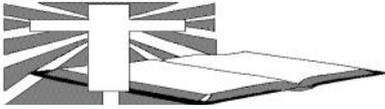
At the last Diocesan Synod on March 10, there was an excellent presentation and discussion on the subject of Church Schools in this diocese. Attention was also drawn to the importance of members of the church being involved with *all* our local schools as governors, support staff or visitors, or in other ways. For myself, I am privileged to have close involvement with both church schools here in the Swaffhams, as ex-officio Foundation Governor, leader of weekly Collective Worship, and occasional RE teacher (plus a more tenuous link with Bottisham VC), and we have two other Foundation (ie Church) Governors at Swaffham Prior (Jenny Moseley and Ian Summers), and one at Swaffham Bulbeck (Geoffrey Datson, who is Chairman of Governors). There are also other members of the church involved with both schools at a number of levels: support staff, volunteers, trustees and parents.

Having strong links with the schools enables the children to experience worship in the church too, as they come for end-of-term assemblies, the monthly first Sunday Family Service at Swaffham Bulbeck, and major festivals, and we also make the church available to class teachers so that children can come for informal visits to look at the architecture, discuss (eg) christenings, and so on. The twice weekly assemblies are an enjoyable workload feature for me, taxing the powers of inspiration and accessing visual aids, but I am convinced how valuable it is enabling the children to know and feel comfortable with me, as a representative of the Church, and to know the Lord's Prayer, which they do!

Many children these days, with all the Sunday pressures and the consequent decline in habit-forming church-going, would have little or no experience of the Church were it not for the experience gained at school, not that any absence equates with lack of faith necessarily. My experience is that most people find that there are times in their lives when they have a need for something more than the material, be it the joy of the birth of a child, or in celebrating a marriage and the sadness of parting when a loved one dies. Many other experiences too can awaken us to the possibility of the spiritual, and for many, the stories, hymns, and prayers they learned at school can be a means of getting in touch with that spiritual dimension.

Our Church Schools have been held up as shining examples of excellence; the Secretary of State for Education has said that he wishes he could bottle whatever it is that Church Schools have so that all schools could share it — praise indeed for those issues of ethos and local involvement which are our village privilege and duty!

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for May 2001:

Sunday	6 th	6.30pm	No Service. Instead join us at Reach Songs of Praise
Sunday	13 th	6.30pm	Communion - David Bousfield
Sunday	20 th	6.30pm	S. Bull
Sunday	27 th	6.30pm	P. Wells

Life's Garden

Just as I thought it was safe to try and do something in the garden, it started raining again! It seems that my grass is destined to become a natural wildlife habitat unless I can get the mower to it soon. So if outdoor gardening is not possible at present then I will have to concentrate on the kind of gardening advised by the unknown writer of the following:-

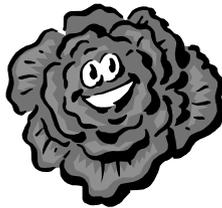
Plant three rows of peas:
 peace of mind
 peace of heart
 peace of Soul

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
 You will have much fruit in your garden if you
 abide with all of these things,
 because you will reap what you sow.

Plant four rows of squash:
 squash gossip
 squash indifference
 squash grumbling
 squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:
 lettuce be faithful
 lettuce be kind
 lettuce be obedient
 lettuce really love one another

No garden is complete without
 thyme:
 thyme to care
 thyme to laugh
 thyme for one another



I hope you find the opportunity to garden this year. If you would like any help with your spiritual gardening then do get in touch with us at the Chapel via a note in our letter box. If you would like one of our prayer groups to pray for your concerns we will gladly do so.

David Bousfield

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

We are just back from a very happy few days with my parents, celebrating my father's 90th birthday, he sprightly in mind if frail in body, my mother effectively confined to a wheelchair. We stayed in a hotel in Betws-y-Coed which had ideal facilities for them and we used that as a base to revisit the places my father had known throughout his life, for he came to the Conwy valley and estuary for a holiday every year (except when he was with the RAF in India 1941-5) from 1911 to 1992. We built in some new experiences like a visit to the Machno Falls that had passed him by; we avoided some sites wrecked by the modernisers, and we went to a score of places of special significance: to the seat in a glen where his father had once left his spectacles and had to walk 15 miles each way from Deganwy to recover: this was about 1922 so they had not been nicked! One of our many 'pit stops' was at a public convenience on the seafront at Deganwy and we recalled once seeing a man tie his dog to a dustbin while he went inside to relieve himself. Unfortunately while he was inside, the gun on top of the adjacent yacht club sounded the start of the race, and the dog took off at high speed dragging the metal dustbin behind it. We sat in a pub with a glorious view of the sun setting over Conwy Castle. It was sitting there, looking across at just such a sunset and drinking a glass of his favourite ale that Dad's best friend had collapsed and died a decade ago.

This was then a pilgrimage (from the Latin *pelegrinatio = a wandering*) in a true sense, a journey of discovery and rediscovery, a refreshing and reordering of memory, an affirmation of relationships with people and with places, a locating of ourselves in time and space. And there was a tender moment as we drove away from Deganwy, all knowing without a word being spoken, that this would be, for my father, the last time. There was, as the car slowly turned the bend and took the view away, a painful, unspoken recognition of mortality.

Pilgrimage is at the heart of religious experience, too. Those of us who have recognised the presence of God in our lives will all know the special texts through which he was spoken to us, the special people who have revealed him to us, the special places in which God has blazed forth or spoken with a still small voice. Whenever we revisit those memories, we are on pilgrimage, on a journey of discovery and rediscovery, a refreshing and reordering of memory, an affirmation of relationships with people and with places, a locating of ourselves in time and space. Pilgrimage has a special, rather restricted, meaning in the Catholic traditions. But it is in fact part of the universal Christian heritage, in fact part of all the tradition of all established faiths.

Because I learnt so much of God's love from my parents, and have come to understand so much in Celtic Britain and Ireland of the immanence, the ever-presence of God in the world he not only creates but inhabits, this last week has been a pilgrimage for me in a religious sense too. It encourages me to encourage all of us to take regular pilgrimages of every kind.

Dates for Your Diary - May 2001

Tue	1	
Wed	2	Village Hall Management Committee AGM, VH, 7:30pm
Thu	3	
Fri	4	
Sat	5	
Sun	6	
Mon	7	
Tue	8	
Wed	9	
Thu	10	PC Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	11	
Sat	12	The Village Feast, Village Hall, 2:00pm Bulbeck Auction & Church Gift Day, Downing Farm, 11:00am Farmers' Market, Ely Fordham Prom., St Peter & St Mary Magdalene, Fordham, 7:30pm
Sun	13	Windmill open, 1:00pm-5:00pm Rogation-tide walk, Reach to Sw. Bulbeck, 12:00 noon
Mon	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, visit to Janet Halls garden, 7:00pm
Wed	16	
Thu	17	Bottisham Players, BVC, 7:30pm (until Sat)
Fri	18	
Sat	19	
Sun	20	Gardening Club Outing to Barnsdale. Coach leaves VH 9am.
Mon	21	WI, "Hilary Sage Entertains"
Tue	22	
Wed	23	
Thu	24	
Fri	25	"One Day in May" exhibition opens, Red Square Art, Ely
Sat	26	Farmers' Market, Ely
Sun	27	
Mon	28	
Tues	29	
Wed	30	
Thur	31	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm

23 June Moveable Supper, 7:00pm.

30 June Jazz evening, Red Lion Garden. Families Welcome. 7:00pm.