



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 22 Number 3
March 1998



Editorial

Once again we've had a magnificent response from our contributors and once again we're filling 32 pages with the excellent material you've sent us. Alas (or hooray!), we could fill even more pages. Even at this length, we are having to postpone copy until the next month and trim some regular articles to fit. As with so many things, the limitation is **cost**: our current revenue will only sustain about 24 pages on a regular monthly basis.

Over the next few months, we shall be looking at ways to deal with this problem. The "editorial blue pencil" is not much in favour with contributors (!) and even less so with the editors (it's jolly hard work, not to mention the ear bashing!). Perhaps we shall need to re-assess the balance of material in the *Crier* - eg one-off items as opposed to regular features, long-standing material as against some of the recently introduced features (if things aren't popular, they won't stay!). It may be that the sheer breadth of interests and activities in the village merit a larger magazine, in which case we must look to ways of increasing our revenues. Comments please (for publication or not) on any of these points. And whatever happens, please keep those contributions flowing!

Special thanks this month to all those children who sent in their contributions to the Childrens' Corner - I very much enjoyed reading them. And to Pat for her first Swaffham Profile - an excellent idea, especially for us "newbies". If you know of anyone in the village you'd like to profile (including yourself!) please send it along.

Lastly, to all our readers, I hope you enjoy reading this month's issue of the *Crier* as much as I have.

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Cover Picture: by *Tina Jost*

From Our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting



Mr Peter Young from the Highways Department had come to discuss speeding and traffic calming measures. Martin's main concern was why the speed limit sign on the Cambridge side of Mill Hill is so far out. Mr Young sympathised and explained it had been put there following the philosophy originating in the 1960s that lorries take time to slow down. He said that the current philosophy is that speed controls should be what drivers find reasonable - otherwise they often deliberately ignore them. CCC funding of traffic calming in the village is unlikely as Mr Young explained that the accident department (which controls most of the budget for traffic control) is only concerned where accidents occur. "You mean we need a few local road deaths before anything is done?" asked one - "Yes", was the reply. But Mr Young said there was nothing stopping the PC funding its own traffic improvement and his department would happily discuss it and offer lots of technical advice. But he warned (a) traffic improvements are expensive (b) any scheme must have the general approval of the village and the CCC would want details of village support (c) any scheme must pass the safety auditor who generally insists on many extras (d) most calming controls are designed for the urban environment and people in rural areas often dislike them.

The procedure for introducing a traffic calming scheme into the village now seems clear. The PC agrees what it wants; It discusses and costs with Mr Young; The PC submits the plan and cost to the village for approval and passes results to Mr Young; Mr Young submits it to the Safety Auditor who adds and changes; The revised plan is discussed and recosted with Mr Young; The PC submits again to the village with the inevitable increased costs; The PC submits to Mr Young; The PC finalises the necessary loans.

Some years ago another traffic expert suggested that parked cars in the road offer the best traffic calming. And near the Chapel this advice has been followed with good effect. Maybe the PC should purchase one or two cheap old bangers and park them at the end of the village towards Reach, and residents there could take turns in leaving their cars out in the road. It's just a thought!

Malcolm Hall, chairman of the Sports and Social Club (SSC) has replied to say that he is very happy with the present arrangement and that the SSC should continue to control the money. The PC wondered why the original Fenland Fair had tied the PC into the donation and quite specifically had stipulated that the PC be in overall control. Several very interesting reasons

were suggested. Members agreed that, whether they like it or not, the PC is involved and that they would be criticised by the village if they did not assume their responsibility for the safety and use of the money. The PC is taking legal advice.

The Park and Ride (P & R) took up some time but there is only room for a short comment. James Fitch handled it well, without conceding very much, though he did suggest that individuals should write to Mr Gent (ask the Clerk for his position and address) with *their own personal* comments and suggested solutions. James said that a survey of those who use P & R liked it, but of course this is only about 0.5% of those travelling into Cambridge. He maintained that the new traffic lights will improve the situation, but this can only help buses. At present buses in the rush hour often travel in the normal lane because the frustrated car drivers rarely let them out of the bus lane. And there was much more, including Martin's conviction that a car containing four people should be allowed to travel in the bus lane - I suppose this could lead to a massive market for blow up rubber passengers. He also wanted a whole range of works buses which would collect people from the P & R, and he especially targeted Boots employees, all of whom he claimed only have to arrive at work at 9.00 am. Someone else thought the Marshall's workforce was the problem up to 8.00 am.

Charlotte Cane made her maiden visit and appeared to be very professional and open. Henry gave her the good wishes of the PC. The 111 bus to Reach has a big question mark on it; in 252 journeys there were only 200 passengers. James said the social reasons for keeping it mainly depended on how many use it from Prospect Trust. The Swaffham Prior service is profitable.

The Church Council has written to the PC to say they are considering whether to proceed with the possible installation of a wicket gate to replace the famous stile in the churchyard. They wished to know whether the PC had any views which ought to be taken into account. Inevitably the PC went at the "wicket gate" like a bee to honey. They struggled hard and in vain to find a definition of a wicket gate and it was some time before Henry came up with:- "It's the size, which is the same as that between the stumps and the crease." Members heard this with relief and, because they were now so mentally exhausted, they could make no comment on the scheme especially as they had proposed a gate about twelve months previously. As the Church Council had come up, Peter Mengham said that he had heard from one member that the Church had abandoned all idea of lighting the churchyard. Eric, as a Church Council member, refused to confirm this though he did say



PRIOR PROFILE

Congratulations to our own talented Barbara Jones. She has been invited by the British China & Porcelain Artists Association to demonstrate her very considerable china painting skills at their Regional Show to be held later this year in Essex.

Barbara lives with husband Trevor, collies Jet & Penny and Siamese cat Pickle in Sheldricks Cottage, Lower End. She has a small studio there, where her many china-painting friends come for help and advice and where some of her work is on display. She also teaches china painting at Adult Education classes and demonstrates for groups and organisations. Barbara is prepared to take commissions for specially painted items for anniversary or birthday gifts or the like.

Some of you know her work well, others of you may not. Her portraiture of favourite pets in particular, is remarkable, and those who own a piece of her work are indeed fortunate.

Barbara is a regular contributor of cover pictures for the *Crier*, a keen

Bygones & Hobbies Exhibition

March 14th & 15th 11 am to 4.30 pm

Quy Village Hall

Admission £1 (Accompanied children free)

Proceeds to: Quy Play Equipment

Protection of Ancient Hedgerows

The government has published draft regulations to protect the remaining ancient hedgerows of England and Wales. These are contained in the Environment Act 1995. These regulations will only apply to hedgerows of 20 metres or more, grown on, or adjacent to, common land, nature reserves or agricultural land. Regulation 5 will outlaw the removal of hedgerows to which the regulations apply, unless owners have officially notified the local planning authority with a 1:2500 plan and the reasons why it has to be removed. Some purposes, such as temporary emergency access, or the eradication of plant or tree disease, do not require permission.



Congratulations to Lisa and Ian Arksey of Greenhead Road on the birth of their daughter Rebecca on 2nd February - a sister for Joshua.

Punters Dream

How come I never win the pools
When money goes to other fools?
Some extra cash is always nice
Gives life a lift, a bit of spice.

I do not worship money, friend,
But would be pleased if He would send
A little extra cash my way
Instead of just my paltry pay.

I'd travel more, and buy a house,
No shrinking violet, me, or mouse,
I'd dine with friends (too oft perhaps!)
But keep my lolly under wraps.

As this is just a dream, I say,
It seems a million miles away,
My luck might change, we all can dream,
Must really find another scheme!

Anon Inhabitant.

Mrs Rosalind Wood invites you to a:

Coffee Morning and Bulb Walk

**Thursday 5th March 10.30 am to 12 noon
The Manor House, Lower End**

**Other attractions include a Cake & Produce Stall and a
Collectibles and Gifts Stall**

Suggested donation £2-£3. Proceeds to Church repairs

**(If you can offer anything for the Collectibles/Gift Stall, please call Gloria
on 742666 or Kate on 743983 - we can collect!)**

1998 David Urwin Arts Award 10th Anniversary

This Award was established in 1988, to commemorate the life and work of David Urwin whose active support and encouragement for artistic development provided the inspiration. In the 10 years since then 40 awards have been made to winners ranging from 7 to 77 years of age. To mark the 10th Anniversary the Trustees have chosen to host events which celebrate David Urwin's love of music and to encourage a greater awareness of the Award. On **Wednesday July 1st** there will be:-

- An Outreach programme with the instrumental ensemble Mobius, for Bottisham Village College Children
- An evening concert with a selection from the Outreach work at St Cyriac's church, Swaffham Prior
- An exhibition of David Urwin's multidisciplinary artwork, along with a selection of artwork from the community created for the event (more details later)
- Presentation of this year's award(s)

Opening of Award applications for 1998

The Trustees of the award are now pleased to invite applications for the Award(s). Individuals, groups or organisations connected with, or resident in villages within the catchment area of Bottisham Village College are eligible. Previous applicants and award winners may also apply. Successful applicants will be expected to write a report for the Trustees on the use of their Award. The Trust reserves the right to display material produced by support from the Award.

Applicants should supply the following:

- (i) A completed application form
- (ii) A referee's report - the pro-forma on the reverse of the application form may be used as is, or photocopied and sent separately by the referee
- (iii) A letter giving further details if it is felt this would be helpful to the Trustees.

Please send the above to the Honorary Secretary, Kathie Neal, The Hall, Abbey Close, Burwell, Cambridge CB5 0HN (Tel No: 01638 741475)

The closing date for applications is **30th April 1998**. The Award(s) will be decided in May and presented on July 1 1998.



Pre-Festival
GAMES EVENING
at Anglesey House on Sat 14 March



We are having another Games and Supper Evening in March to raise funds towards the running of the 1998 Festival. Two years ago it was a popular event, and the recipe will be the same.

Come and play a variety of games for all ages from Boggle to Pit, Chess to Trivial Pursuits, Roulette to River Voyage - or simply watch other people. There will be about nine games tables from which to choose.

Doors will open at 6.45 pm. There will be about one hour's play between 7.00 and 8.00 followed by an hour's buffet supper from 8.00 to 9.00. After this, there will more games for as long as you would like.

Tickets: £5 per head, children £2.50, family tickets (parents and children) £15. Your ticket includes supper and a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival. You are welcome to bring your own wine, etc. (with a voluntary corkage contribution) to drink with supper and throughout the evening but we shall have no licence to sell any.

**Contributions of a Pudding, a Quiche, a Salad
or anything else would be very welcome**

Numbers are limited to the size of the house, so book early.

Tickets are available from 1st March.

Elisabeth Everitt - 742974
Anglesey House, 59 High Street



Dial-A-Ride Village Service



The Cambridge Dial-A-Ride service is to extend into the villages around Cambridge thanks to support from the Rural Development Commission's 'Rural Transport Development Fund', which is providing a third of the capital costs of the project. The service is expected to begin in September/October and will cover our area on a Friday running from Burwell through to Cambridge. This service is specifically for elderly and disabled people who are unable to use ordinary public transport. Their carers can accompany them on the journey in order to assist them.

For further details contact: Cambridge Dial-A-Ride, Zion Baptist Church, East Road, Cambridge CB1 1BD. Tel: 01223 506335

I have received more complaints recently about dog mess on the footpath behind Greenhead Road, on Town Close and other open spaces. This is not only very unpleasant for other users of these areas but is also illegal. The fine for offenders is up to £1,000.



I have a good supply of “dog bags” courtesy of East Cambridgeshire District Council which are available from me at Carters Cottage, High Street. Please use them and keep our paths, walkways and open spaces clean and safe for others to enjoy. I shall shortly be asking the dog warden at ECDC to target our village to catch any offenders so SCOOP THAT POOP!.

Peter Cunningham

East Cambridgeshire Care & Repair



This is a non-profit making organisation which helps people who are elderly, disabled, or on low incomes to stay in their own homes in safety and security. This is done through sensitive advice, discussing options and where needed, arranging building repairs and adaptations.

Problems may range from small repairs through total renovations, to adapting someone’s home to suit their needs if they are disabled. The emphasis is always based on the client’s needs. We will visit you at your home at your convenience.

Our Advice is Free and Confidential.

For further information speak to David Ireland, Project Manager on 01353 723777 or write to:

East Cambridgeshire Care & Repair

11B Churchgate Street, Soham, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 5DS

Swaffham Prior Church Flowers

On behalf of the Church flower fund, we would like to thank the family and friends of the late Mrs Smalley for their very kind donation of £73.00 which will be very much appreciated when we hold our “Festival of Flowers” again this summer.



Family Service - St. Mary's Sunday 8th February

Over 80 people attended the Family Service with a “difference” at St. Mary’s on Sunday! Staggering turnout and what a good Service. The children were most definitely involved all the way through, right from the start by placing their named apples on a painted cardboard tree by way of “registration”, through to a very noisy accompaniment of “He’s got the whole World in his Hands” with various percussion instruments.

Different children came up to recite prayers and a reading, and enjoyed being a part of a very active Service. It was all wound up with some splendid singing by more junior members of the parishes with two pieces taken from *Les Miserables*. One four year old was heard to remark “What a loud noise they make”!! A little friend and herself were helping Jeremy to conduct!

Coffee, biscuits, smarty cakes and juice followed and many people lingered to stop and chat afterwards. Looks like the start of a winning formula. We look forward to the *Baptism* of **Henry Kingsmill** on 10 May which will also take part in a new style Family Service. Look forward to seeing you there.

Cambridgeshire County Council Can you Care?

Caring people are wanted to help families with children who have physical and/or learning difficulties. By looking after children for anything between an occasional few hours, an overnight stay, weekend or part of the school holidays, you can offer the parents a much needed break and the children an enjoyable change. You don’t need any special qualifications, just lots of energy and understanding. Whether you are single, married, divorced, working or not, we’d like to hear from you. You will need to be assessed and approved as carers for Cambridgeshire County Council. In return you will receive training, support and expenses for the care given.

If you would like to know more, please contact

Family Link Scheme
Social Services Department
18-20 Signet Court
Swanns Road
Cambridge CB5 8LA

Tel: 01223 718433



What's A Senior Worth?

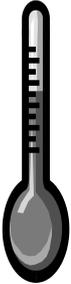
Did you know that old folk are worth a fortune? Silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last. A few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old girl, I am seeing five gentleman a day! As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I visit John. Next it is time for Mr. Kellogg followed by the refreshing company of Mr. Tetley, or my other friend I just call by his initials P.G. Then comes someone I do not like - Arthur Ritis. He knows he is not welcome but he insists and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. He does not like to stay in one place at a time so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I am really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! Oh yes I am flirting with Al Zeimer.

The minister called the other day and said that, at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him 'Oh I do all the time.' No matter where I am, in the sitting room or even in the garden I stop and ask myself 'what am I here after?'

Ann Jyna

Burwell and District Day Centre



Happiness is a rising thermometer! A few weeks ago we established an appeal for help in raising funds to buy a new ambulance for elderly people. We drew a large thermometer on a chart and hung it on the wall in the Day Centre, in the forlorn hope that one day the red line would go up towards the magic goal of £25,000! We wrote letters to local tradespeople and well wishers and the Editors if the Crier kindly offered to distribute our appeal envelopes for us. These were also circulated in Burwell.

After a slow start, when the 'mercury' remained stubbornly in the bulb, it all took off marvellously and the funds and envelopes started rolling in. They contained amounts varying from widow's mites to cheques for £5, £10 and more. We even had one cheque for £5,000. We are now half-way to our target and absolutely over the moon with delight and gratitude. Thank you so much for all your help and please keep the envelopes rolling in.

Shirley Wilkins
4, Adams Road



Easter Lilies

Last year many of you were kind enough to contribute to the Easter lilies in St Mary's Church, in memory of a loved one. If any of you would like to do the same this year, we would be most grateful.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies last year cost £2 per stem. All contributions will be very welcome and hopefully enable us to fill the church with lilies.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road with the name of your loved one, and your own, unless of course you wish to make your gift anonymously.

Did You Know ...?

About 41% of the moon's surface is never seen from the

East Cambridgeshire Community Development Fund

Planning a community project for your village?

Looking for funding to set up a new community initiative?

Hoping to help people participate in local activities and events?

Is transport a problem?

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund can assist local voluntary and not-for-profit groups develop and expand activities and projects which have a community focus, enabling people to take part in local activities and helping to help themselves.

Examples of projects could include holiday play scheme, village information points, community environment projects, items which help local youth groups, family groups, senior citizen clubs and similar to expand. Grants of up to £1,000 can be offered.

Help is also available towards transport costs for group activities, where this will reduce rural isolation and improve access to local facilities.

For further information contact the Community Education representative
Burwell Village College - Colin Thomas 01223 890296
Bottisham Village College - Fred Peeling 01223 811372



Recipe of the Month

This month sees 'Food Awareness Week' from 9th-15th March. The theme of the week is '*Give Me 5*' encouraging us to eat a minimum of 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Look out at the supermarkets, on TV and in magazines

for ideas. So this month's recipe reflects this theme with a delicious easy recipe from Sainsbury's for a spicy supper.

Spicy Chicken and Vegetable Curry

Ingredients - serves 4

1 large onion chopped	2 tbsps oil
2 cloves of garlic(if liked)	2 tbsps curry paste
2 skinless chicken breasts cut in strips.	2 tbsps. flour
350ml chicken or vegetable stock	Salt and pepper
1 can of tomatoes	50g. sliced mushrooms
*50g. fresh or frozen cauliflower florets	*50g sliced carrots
*50g frozen green bean	*50g can baby sweetcorn

Method

1. Lightly fry the onion and crushed cloves of garlic in the oil until soft.
2. Add the chicken strips and cook for 1-2 minutes. Remove from pan.
3. Add the curry paste and flour and cook gently for a minute.
4. Gradually add the stock stirring all the time and bring to the boil.
5. Add the vegetables along with the tin of tomatoes and baby sweetcorn.
6. Return the chicken strips and cook gently for 15 minutes
7. Serve on a bed of rice.

* Replace these with any of your favourite vegetables.

Hilary Mengham

Any Offers?

The Village Hall Committee is running a Market Stall on Saturday 21st March. We want to offer, amongst other items, home-made cakes, scones, cookies, preserves etc.

If you could help with any of these, please let Betty Prime (Tel: 741221) or Pat Cunningham (Tel: 741183) know.

Many thanks.....



Children's Corner



In our art lessons this half-term, we have been drawing landscapes. Mr Newbolt came in and worked with us for two lessons. We have learnt about horizons and vanishing points. How you can put the horizon in different places on the picture. We have learnt about perspective and proportion in our drawing. Lots of us enjoyed him showing us how to draw horses.

By Class 3.

A walk on Wicken Fen

I saw bog oak and mole holes, birds and mouse holes. It was windy. We walked over two miles. We saw a tower hide and in the tower hide there were loads of steps and up the top of the tower hide you could see lots of birds and there were lots of different birds. It was muddy and slippery and sticky and it was so sticky, I was running so fast I didn't realise that there was a muddy puddle ahead and I went splash and then I went splash, my welly got stuck and fell off and I didn't realise so I got a wet sock.

By Leanne Turner.

On Friday, class 3 went to Wicken Fen. There was lots of reeds. We went for a 2 half mile walk and there was lots of mole hills. It was very muddy. We went up to the Tower hide. We jumped in the peat and we dug for moles and there were lots of snail shells. There was a bog oak, it was 4000 years old. We learned that reeds are round and sedges have edges. The leader was called Catherine. There was lots of drains. I saw rivers. I saw a grater spotted woodpeckers hole. Everyone got muddy and wet. But it was great!

By Gemma Manchett

Guys and Dolls

On 9th February 1998 class 4 went to see a play called Guys and Dolls. It was a production by Bottisham Village College. I saw lots of people I knew. A few of them are Alex Beton, Jane Charmes and about ten more people I know but I don't know their names. The settings were excellent. It was a street scene of Broadway. The play was set in the 1940 at New York amidst the street life of Broadway, shooting craps refers to a popular but illegal gambling game played with dice. I think the best bit of the play was all of it. I liked it when they were in the missionary and they were singing and dancing to "Sit down your rockin the boat". That one and Guys and Dolls

were my favourite songs. The songs were really good because they were sung well and they sounded good. It was all really funny and had a few serious parts. I gave the play 10 out of 10.

I went to Bottisham Village College on Monday 9th February to see a performance held in the ~~drama studio. I saw Guys and Dolls.~~ There was lots of people watching it from different schools. I thought the best bit was when Miss Adelaide was dancing at the Hot Box and the back dancers stripped to their leotards! It was funny. I really enjoyed it because it was funny but the story line was hard to follow. It was boring when they were changing the scenery. The music was okay. I thought that the key-board player was really good. The songs were good because the people sang clearly and most of them had a nice singing voices. I had a nice afternoon because it was interesting and I didn't have to do any work. A couple of people fell asleep around me which was funny. It was a really good day, even though we were sitting for such a long time.

By Rosi Almond

(Editor note: All the above Definitely Un-edited!!)

Children's Puzzle - for children young and old!



*Brothers and sisters have I none
But that man's father is my father's son*



Who's that man? Answers, including name and phone number, to Carter's Cottage or Kent House by March 14 please. First out of the hat wins a special prize!

Answer to Last Month's Puzzle -

11 2 8 4 5 6

or 1,2,3,4,5,6 with their mirror images.

Congratulations to **Robert Millett** and **Claire Warren** for the only two correct answers. Prizes to both.

All prizes kindly donated by the Sculpture Gallery, Cambridge (tel: 01673 741188).



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Election

May I, through the columns of *The Swaffham Crier*, thank all of those people, many of whom live in Swaffham Prior, who voted Independent in the District Council by-election on January 22nd.

Their support was greatly appreciated by ..

Yours truly

Geoffrey Woollard.
Chapel Farm, Upware.

Dear Editors,

Traffic Calming

My letter in the *Crier*, entitled Death on the Road, in the December issue was something of a bow at venture but I was heartened to see that it stimulated considerable interest. To recap: I had suggested that the village might have to experience the death of a child before a satisfactory method of dealing with speeding cars was found and I suggested a few remedies.

To my great satisfaction the PC picked it up as did James Fitch, our Councillor; and I attended the PC meeting on January 8th as an observer. It was decided to get alternative estimates for different traffic calming schemes and to approach the Council for advice. On February 13th a further PC meeting had, in attendance, a local Highways Officer named Peter Young and once again I was an interested observer.

Amongst much of interest Mr Young said:-

1. No Government money is available to help villages unless they can prove it is a blackspot (i.e. death or two). This relates back to my first question as to the need for a death on the road.

2. 20 mph limits may be agreed to by the Council if other methods fail - but the likelihood of cars taking any notice of a slower limit is remote. This cheapest (!) way-out of the problem is therefore of no use.

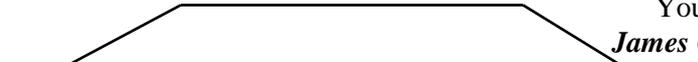
3. Traffic calming comes within the definition of 'remedial roads expenditure' which receives only 10% of the total roads budget. New roads command 90%. Therefore traffic calming is very low priority.

4. If a village raises its own funds and agrees upon a scheme or schemes, the Council will help with advice and even provide interest-free loans if, of course, they approve such schemes.

The upshot of all this is, I think, to recognise that if we want to reduce speeding we will have to do something about it ourselves. The PC are, I am

glad to say, actively seeking costs and schemes and I think it is up to us villagers, to help as far as we can.

I have studied several village schemes and I suppose the cheapest and easiest devices will be mini-roundabouts and sleeping policemen. Mr Young estimates that a roundabout at the bottom of Cage Hill will cost £2,500 (with lighting). Sleeping Policemen (or humps to give them their other name) need not cause havoc to a) cars' exhaust pipes b) people living nearby c) agricultural vehicles towing their trailers full of sugar beet (or worse still, towing empty trailers). These can be levelled off so that vehicles merely have to slow down. The shape of these (as in Cherry Hinton) can be:-



Yours faithfully
James Chesterman

Dear Editors,

Neighbourhood Watch at its Best

On Saturday, 7 February just after 10 pm, two worthy men were exercising their dogs on the footpath surrounding the school when they disturbed a man rolling a gas cylinder over the school playing field towards the road. On being disturbed, he climbed the school stile and made for the village. The dog owners made for the telephone and bells were ringing far and wide. The school caretaker and her husband were quickly on the scene, closely followed by three policemen in two cars. The gas cylinder was recovered later. Thanks to the quick action of the dog owners and four teenage boys, damage was kept to a minimum. A white van was seen leaving the area.

Eric Day

Dear Editors,

Sports & Social Club

After reading the Parish Council report in the February issue, I think it may be helpful to the new Parish Council if the events of 1988 and the ensuing inactivity regarding the Sports & Social Club were restated.

Ten years ago, with the arrival of several new families, it was noted how poorly off the village was in sporting facilities. The ground on Lowbridge Hole was far too far from the village to allow children to play there safely, and the facilities were of the most primitive. Alistair Everitt was amongst the most vociferous, and I am pleased he still appears so.

Also at that time the development of the field between Rogers Road and Fairview Grove was under discussion. The last suggestion, which was to be put forward for planning permission, contained the idea that the lower part was to be developed for housing, whilst the top part was to be set aside for leisure activities. Tennis, bowls and football/cricket had the most votes.

It was in the above circumstances, and following a most successful Country Fair, that £11,000 was set aside for the provision of a Pavillion to enhance the new sports complex. During the following months, the housing marked collapsed and Dencora put their plans on hold. They own the field, so I suppose in time the issue will rise again. For my part I think it was a good idea, it is “infilling” as the houses on Rogers Road form the real edge of the village. It would be perverse in the extreme to exclude or ignore them. In the plan, a shop and/or Post Office would be included, and finally the school and all other institutions would benefit from an injection of new blood.

So, the money still awaits the purpose for which it was earmarked. Only after being spent, was the Parish Council to take control.

John Norris

Dear Editors

Newmarket Road Traffic

I write with concern about the traffic problems caused since the opening of the bus lane along the Newmarket Road. As a regular (daily) user of this route, my frustration grows as does the congestion which is now a routine experience. The queue of traffic is often as far back as Quy and Bottisham and, because a percentage of drivers are now using the already busy A14 to bypass the tailback, the problem on this road is exacerbated as well.

My daily journey from Swaffham Prior to the Ring road, leaving at around 8.00am, which used to take 20-25 minutes in the rush hour **pre-bus lanes** now takes between 40 minutes to an hour - twice as long! This is totally unacceptable timewise and the amount of pollution along these routes with traffic at a standstill must be phenomenal and surely not in line with the Council's policies.

The benefit of the Park and Ride to the very few people who are able to use it does not justify the enormous inconvenience to the tens of thousands of people trying to get to work on time.

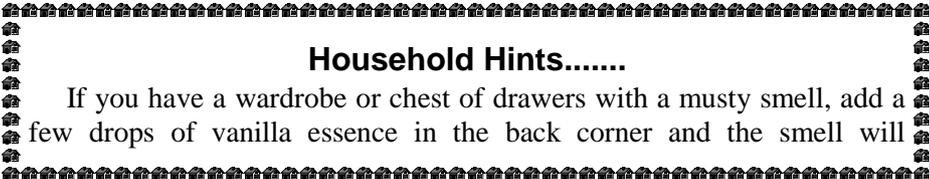
The answer is simple, get rid of the bus lanes. Yes, there was congestion in the rush hour before but it was a great deal more acceptable than the present situation. The excuse that people are still not aware of the Park and

Ride scheme but will eventually use it, will not wear. In the couple of months it has been in action, any driver who uses this route regularly is only too well aware of it.

Wearily

Elaine Malster

16 Cage Hill



Household Hints.....

If you have a wardrobe or chest of drawers with a musty smell, add a few drops of vanilla essence in the back corner and the smell will

Bottisham Burwell Linton Village Colleges

Lifelong Learning

Day and Weekend Courses

Sat 7th March: A Beginners Guide to 'Tracing Your Family Tree'; Calligraphy Workshop; Drawing from The Human Figure; Fly Tying Part -2; Enriching Human Relationships; Wine Appreciation; Writing for Radio&TV

Sat/Sun 7th/8th March: Introduction to Computing

Sat 14th March: Arabic Dance; Chinese Brush Painting; Colourful Calligraphy; Defeating Stress & Learning to Relax; Develop your Potential through Creativity; Dressmaking Workshop; Dru Yoga; Exploring the Internet; Garden Design; Homeopathy for the Family; Increase Your Confidence; Introduction to the 'Alexander Technique'; Introduction to Black and White Portraiture; Life Drawing; Organic Gardening; Self Defence for All; Patchwork Workshop - Part 2; Silk Painting; The Science of Genes; Upholstery and Chair Caning

Sun 15th March: Drawing from the Human Figure

Sat/Sun 14th/15th March: Word Intermediate/Advanced; Pottery Weekend

Sat 21st March: Rock Climbing

Sun 29th March: Orchestral Play In; Tai Chi - Intermediate

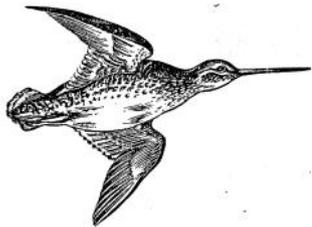
Further information from the Community Offices at

Bottisham Village College 01223 811372

Burwell Village College 01638 741901

Linton Village College 01223 892400





Snipe



On our doorstep in the Swaffhams are these unusual birds - the Snipe - of which there are really three varieties. They are all waders and enjoy wet marshland or creeks and gullies where water is prevalent; thus our lodes and draining ditches are good places to find these elusive birds.

The daddy of the species is the woodcock and he is about double the size of the blackbird. He is mainly a woodland bird, flies low along the hedgerow and is a perilously dangerous target to shoot at, if you are out with other 'guns'. His low trajectory means that if you are out with a full shoot of eight guns and he barrels low out of a wood near to your position, you might be wise to duck out of sight, even to throw yourself on to the ground. That way you will avoid being baptised with fire. Having said that, the woodcock is considered the greatest delicacy of all game. It is recommended that it be grilled with its innards in place and sitting on a raft of toast - the entrails that melt on the toast forming the most delicious sauce. All other game has to be gutted (except the hare).

The woodcock is the bird we are perhaps less likely to see down the fen than its cousins - the great snipe and the common snipe.. The great snipe is in fact the same size as the woodcock. I had the thrill in the summer of seeing a pair of these flitting down a ditch and disappearing behind a tuft of grass. I did not explore further for fear of disturbing what was undoubtedly their nest.

And lastly the common snipe, not much bigger than the blackbird and to be seen in pair or small flocks. They are probably the fastest British bird (or is the swift faster?). They rise rapidly from the ground with a jinking flight left, right, up, down, so fast that you can hardly see them in detail. If you succeed in shooting a brace, i.e. a left and a right, I believe there is a wine company which will give you a jeroboam of sherry if your prowess can be proved. And that is a bottle six times the size of a normal one!

One attractive habit of the male bird in spring is to dive from a great height with wings to his side to show off to a female bird. It is called 'drumming' from the noise of the air through his side feathers and the further he freefalls and the greater his speed so is the female impressed accordingly. It sounds fun. Would that I could be metamorphosed into a male snipe!

James Chesterman



Village Gardeners

Geoff Peck spoke on garden ponds and bog gardens at the Village Gardeners meeting in Reach Village Hall on 17th February. His view was that ponds, other than formal ones, should look as natural as possible and need not be very deep. Ideally 2/3rds of the surface should be covered with oxygenating plants. He was particularly informative about fish, especially Koi carp and we were surprised to learn that they do not need feeding between the end of September and early April. His talk was illustrated with slides of ponds, bog gardens and unusual water features.

The Village Gardeners are planning a coach trip to Beth Chatto's garden at Elmstead Market, just south of Colchester on Saturday 13th June. Beth Chatto has a large garden full of unusual and interesting plants, with attractive lakes. She is also experimenting with plants for drought conditions. There is a well stocked area with plants available for sale. We expect the coach to leave Swaffham Prior between 11-11.30 am arriving at the garden at 1 o'clock. We shall then picnic and spend the afternoon touring the garden leaving for home at 4.30. The cost will be £7.50. If you would like to join us please contact me on (01638) 741221 or Tricia Franklin on (01223) 812360 to book your seat on the coach.

Our next meeting will be on 17th March at 8 o'clock in Swaffham Prior School Hall when Mark Williams, Trials Manager of Unwins Seeds will speak on 'Getting the most out of seeds' The charge for non-members is £1.

Betty Prime



W.I. Notes

In February, we visited Waitrose in Ely for a fascinating look behind the scenes. The next meeting is our Annual General Meeting on 16th March at 7.30 pm at the School when we will elect a Committee for 1998/99. This will be followed by a light supper and games. Don't forget, your subscription is due!

An outing to **Windsor Castle** is planned for **11th July**, coach leaving the village at 9.30 am. The cost will be £17 and if you are interested, please call me on 742000 before 16th March to be sure of a place.

All are welcome.

Betty Fox



PTA

When reading this newsletter, the half term holidays will be over and the children back at school working hard. This term has seen the completion of the long-awaited library for which the PTA have agreed to donate a substantial amount to help with the stocking-up of books. It's lovely to see a project being fulfilled.

Classes 2, 3 and 4 have been out on school trips during January and February all of which were thoroughly enjoyed and, on the Childrens' Page, you can read some of their own comments. Class 2 went to see a performance of "Push off" by the Floating Point Theatre Company which was with Circle Schools; Class 3 visited Wicken Fen for the day as part of their topic on 'The Fens' and Class 4 went to Bottisham Village College to see the dress rehearsal of 'Guys and Dolls'. Class 3 have been very fortunate to have Mr Newbolt come into class to help them with art work, which is much appreciated.

The PTA's fundraiser this term is the Race Night which should prove to be an enjoyable evening and we shall give details of how the evening went in the next issue of the *Crier*. The PTA would like to thank the many Companies who sponsored a race for this event.

Once again, the PTA will be holding a Hockey Match on 14th March at 10 am. This is a morning of fun and is open to all experienced or not. If you would like to join in, please turn up at the school field. All kit is supplied and a creche will be available (cost £1. per child or £2. per family). Hope to see you.

March 20th is the Circle Schools major fundraising event, which is an 'Auction of Promises' and is to be held at Bottisham Village College. Tickets and information available from the school.

I would like to finish with a plea from many of the parents of the school. There is a recurring problem of dogs fouling the footpath and grass verge which runs alongside the school. My daughter was a recent victim, having stepped in some mess and this seems to be an everyday occurrence for one parent or another. Dogs mess is unpleasant, but more worrying to parents of young children, it can cause toxocara. I have been informed that it is a fineable offence and that the District Council dog warden will be on regular patrol. **MANY THANKS** to all those who do take care where their dogs foul and to those who do clear up. From reading the last issue of the *Crier*, I understand that free pooper scooper bags are available from Peter Cunningham, Clerk of the Parish Council. Let's hope that we can have a foul-free grass verge and pavement from now on.



Ladies Circle

Our first year of the Ladies Circle seems to have been very successful and I am pleased to see so many ladies turning up regularly to support us. We are now into our second year, and we hope this will be equally successful.

On Monday 26th January, Cecil Nash from Swaffham Bulbeck came to talk about 'life on a farm'. Cecil was brought up in Swaffham Prior and helped his father and grandfather on the farm for many years after leaving school. His talk was very lighthearted and brought back memories for many of the ladies present. He spoke about delivering milk around Swaffham Prior and Burwell and then about the cattle side of farming. The evening was very enjoyable and ended with coffee and biscuits and a chance to ask Cecil questions on his talk.

On Monday 23rd February Paula Sykes from Bottisham talked about herbs and on **Wednesday** 25th March John Howe (retired) will tell us about life in the Police Force.

We would like to see some new faces at our monthly meetings - so if you feel you would like to pop in to see what happens you will be more than welcome. We meet at the Zion Baptist Chapel at 7.30 p.m.

Sandra Butcher

Zion Baptist Chapel Report 1997

1997 has been quite a dramatic year. Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Mike and Vera Finnis, although they still sometimes worship with us. We have lost one of our older members Hepsie Waldoock who went to be with her Lord in November. The Sunday School closed in the summer but we are praying that the children will come back when activities start this year. On the brighter side, we give thanks that Steve and Sylvia Ayres have taken over the leadership of the Chapel.

On Good Friday, the Chapel's 135th Anniversary, the open air services were held as usual and following tea in the Chapel, the Rev. Jim Clarke conducted the evening service. Capt. David Waters of the Church Army conducted the Easter Sunday evening service. At the Harvest Thanksgiving Mrs Pat Heap, CBA President led the family service and Steve Ayres led the evening worship. On the Monday, Pastor Jim Morris took the service. The combined Church/Chapel family services were discontinued after the April one. The Chapel monthly Family Service has been restarted, although we did not have any children present during the rest of the year.

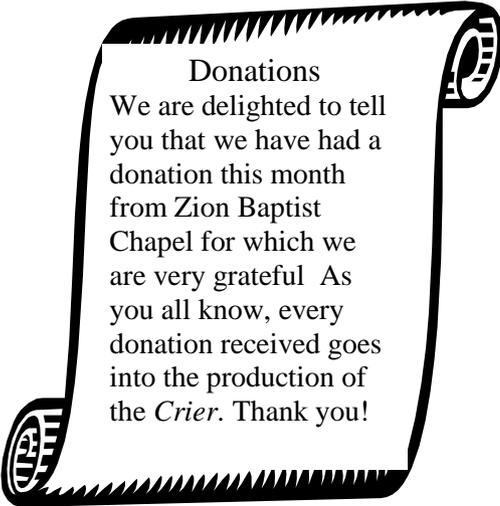
In June, Diana (nee Badcock) and Arthur Ison came back with their family to give thanks at Zion Chapel where they were married 60 years ago. We sang the hymns they had at their wedding and the fellowship was very grateful for their kind donation of £60 (£1 for each year of their marriage).

We have continued with our bible study/prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings and we have again joined our friends at Burwell, Prickwillow and Gt. Wilbraham for the N Eastern Area Group Prayer meetings. On 6th September we were host when the four churches came together for an informal tea and meeting with Brenda Earl who was our 'link missionary' in Zaire, until her retirement. We have had fellowship together, through the outing to Hunstanton with the Sunday School, the summer barbecue at Mary and Roger Cook's home and the harvest supper, when 48 friends including the Sunday School children, enjoyed a meal and entertainment. In August we had a Sankey evening and Four Point Turn visited us in October.

We united with St. Mary's for their Epiphany Service (at Church), the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (at Chapel), a Songs of Praise in October (at Church) and with Reach Church for their Reach Fair Songs of Praise. We celebrated the Harvest Thanksgiving services with our friends at Swaffham Bulbeck Free Church when Steve and Sylvia were welcomed into our fellowship by Mike Finnis. The Lent meetings held in each of the three villages were a great blessing and gave us much food for thought.

Mike Finnis took his last service on 14th September, and presented the Chapel with two NIV bibles in memory of the time Mike and Vera spent

with us. At this time, Mike relinquished his duties as Deacon and members agreed not to appoint another one until the AGM. We give thanks that Sheila Smith continues to clean and care for our Chapel with such dedication and that Dennis and Mary Badcock continue to cut the grass at the back of the Chapel.



Donations

We are delighted to tell you that we have had a donation this month from Zion Baptist Chapel for which we are very grateful. As you all know, every donation received goes into the production of the *Crier*. Thank you!

Staine Hundred

The February Meeting attracted around 70 people to hear Mike Petty MBE talk about the Fen and Town Floods. Fittingly, the meeting was held in the Drama Studio, as it was probably the most dramatic talk ever given to the Society! His superb slides and graphic descriptions kept us enthralled, as he described the 1947 Floods, when the banks were breached by the water from Bedfordshire, as the snows melted very quickly while the ground was still rock hard with frost, and the ditches full of ice would not take the water. Maps of 300 years ago showed that the fens were like a saucer surrounded by higher land. Cornelius Vermuyden succeeded in getting a new river round the edge of the Fens, but still the land flooded, so the New Bedford Level was dug with washland between the high banks. As the land shrunk, the banks were higher than the land and windmills and engines needed to pump the water up into the rivers. Eventually Nature had its own back and a 90 foot breach in the bank resulted in 100 square miles being flooded. Roads were flooded and boats could not get to the scene because they were trapped by bridges too low to get under when the waters rose. Even a D-Day Duck had to turn back. Haystacks floated around, houses came down as the bog oaks floated and then acted as battering rams against the walls. I will remember Mike's vivid description, as told by a fenman of going back to the house when the waters receded to find half the house had collapsed, in the bedroom the rats had eaten the cats, half the furniture had floated away, the rest was sodden beyond repair and everywhere the mud and smell pervaded. The only consolation was the prolific crops which grew on the revitalised soil the following year.

The next meeting will be on March 11th at 7.30 p.m. at Bottisham Village College, when Tony Carter will be talking and demonstrating 'timber dating' of local buildings.

Peggy Day

Village Hall Update

All continues to go well with the Project and with the almost spring-like weather recently, one is heartened to realize that re-opening of the Hall is not too far away. Plans for the Village Feast on Saturday 16th May are under way, with this annual popular event coinciding this year with the start of the bi-annual Village Festival. Truly a day to note in your diaries. If you want to book a stall for the Feast, please let me know as soon as possible, it will be on a "first come, first served" basis. All offers of help are of course very welcome. More details in next month's *Crier*.

Pat Cunningham

Notes from the Parish Council

The meeting held on Thursday 12th February was well attended (with apologies from A. Badcock), and 4 members of the public present.

Speeding

Mr Peter Younge of CCC Highways Department was present by invitation, to discuss speeding in the village, and offer advice to the Council. He explained that unfortunately there was no funding available for ‘calming measures’ in Swaffham Prior (not designated as an ‘accident black spot’) and any measures considered, would have to be at our expense. The Council will discuss the matter further when budgetary information for calming measures requested from CCC is to hand.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Open meeting (February 23) will be attended by members of Council to hear an update on the scheme from A. Badcock.

Travellers

The Chairman recorded appreciation for the work carried out on the B1102 by CCC and for the kind offer of Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, to plant trees and shrubs to landscape the area.

Sports & Recreation Club

Following correspondence received, the Council agreed to take legal advice on their position and review the situation after this has been received.

CCC Report

Cllr. Fitch’s report is included in the Crier. He also stated that the new Park & Ride scheme was strongly supported; Funding is being sought to extend cycle paths in the district; Bus service subsidies are being reviewed.

ECDC Report

The Chairman welcomed the newly-elected Cllr. Charlotte Cane to the meeting. Her full report is printed on page 27 of the *Crier*.

Churchyard Gate.

The Council had been asked by the Parochial Charities if they had any comments re: the proposed wicket gate. There were no comments offered.

Any other business:

The Clerk has issued the Grass-cutting tender for 1998.

There were no planning applications received since the last meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 12 March in the Mobile Classroom starting at 7.30 pm.

Peter Cunningham
Clerk of the Parish Council



From Our Local County Councillor

Future housing growth to 2016

I have often mentioned how fast Cambridgeshire is growing, the evidence surrounds us in the form of new factories, businesses and homes. The government now forecasts a UK need of over 4 million new homes between 1991 and 2016, although the number required in Cambridgeshire is still not agreed. The County is now consulting widely on a possible 45,000 more, over and above those built since 1991 and those already provided for in existing planning permissions or Local Plan allocations.

I must quickly reassure you that the above comments take into account the probable outcome of the East Cambs. Local Plan (up to 2006) currently going through its consultation and testing stages. You can remember this would allow for groups of eight (rarely more) in Burwell and Bottisham, with infill for the Swaffhams, Lode and Reach. Nevertheless, depending on how it all works out, there could be significant growth of housing in Littleport, Ely and Soham inside East Cambs. There is a public consultation at The Manor School, Cambridge on March 3rd at 7.30p.m.

The County Budget

After a long and strenuous 6 hour debate, the Budget was finally settled on the 10th February. As I have hinted previously the Council Tax will rise to about £519 for a Band D property, with the usual variations for the other bands. To this figure you should add the District charge of £56 (Band D) and the Police precept, which I expect will be more than last year. The new Conservative administration has had a difficult time trying to balance Government public spending restraint with a rapidly expanding population particularly the young and elderly. Also the policy of increasing the proportion of local government expenditure borne by the Council Tax, imposed by the last Government, has been continued by the new one.

Cambridgeshire has been especially hard hit by a severe 'cap' or limit to total spending, and the continued failure of the Government to honour its pledge to give us a cost of living allowance. Attempts to limit the damage to services (schools and old people's homes spring to mind), put forward by the Liberal Democrat and Labour opposition groups, failed to win the day, although some of the suggestions will be investigated in the near future. My own contribution to the debate, was to promote the idea of transferring the disposal of rubbish from the County to the Districts who already provide a collection service as you know. There would be a substantial saving if this could be agreed.

James Fitch



From your District Councillor

First of all, I'd like to thank you for electing me as your District Councillor. It was a hard fought and generally good-natured campaign and I think that the high turn out (51% across the ward) was due to this.

At my first meeting of full Council on 29 January, I was elected onto the Planning and Licensing Committees, and the Computer Working Group. I have already attended one meeting of the Planning Committee and it is clearly a very interesting committee to be on. One of the issues which we need to decide over the coming weeks, is whether or not to allow members of the public to speak for and against planning applications at our meetings. I am in favour of allowing people to speak and I know that there are many councils where this works well.

The Local Plan was discussed, by the Strategic Development Panel, on 5th February. I attended the meeting and spoke in favour of Swaffham Prior, Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck retaining 'Infill' status. The Panel decided to recommend this to full Council. Full Council meets on 26th February and I hope to be able to report shortly that Swaffham Prior, Reach and Swaffham Bulbeck have retained 'Infill' status in the Local Plan.

If you want to discuss anything with me, please come to one of my 'Councillor's Surgeries'. All are between 10.00am -12.00 noon in the Village Halls on Saturdays:

7th March, 12th September

Reach

9th May, 7th November

Swaffham Bulbeck

11th July, 9th January 1999

Swaffham Prior

I want to make these regular events - times when you know that I will be available in one of the villages to discuss any issues with you. You can visit any of the 'Surgeries' regardless of which village you live in. There is no need to make an appointment - just come when it suits you.

As well as these 'Surgeries' I can be contacted at 34 Swaffham Road, Reach, CB5 0HZ. If you prefer, you can 'phone me at home on 01638 742509 or on my mobile 0976 607512. I am also on e-mail at ccane@cix.compulink.co.uk. I shall keep in touch about what I am doing through this magazine and through the Focus Newsletter. I look forward to working with you all as your District Councillor.

Charlotte Cane

St Mary's - Services for March

Sunday 1st	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong and Sermon
Sunday 8th	11.00 a.m.	Mattins and Sermon
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong and Sermon
Sunday 15th	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion
	6.00 p.m.	Evensong and Sermon
Sunday 22nd	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Mothering Sun	11.00 a.m.	Family Communion
Sunday 29th	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.00 a.m.	United Parish Communion at Swaffham Bulbeck

+ **Holy Communion** is also celebrated every Wednesday in Burwell Church and every Thursday in Swaffham Bulbeck Church at 10 a.m.

+ **Evening Prayer** is said on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in Reach Church

+ **Bellringing** - practice nights in St Cyriac's belfry every fortnight at 8p.m. from 3rd March, Sundays from 10.30a.m. and before 6p.m. Evensong
Contact Margaret Stainer 741328

+ **Drama Workshops** in St. Mary's Sundays 1.30-5.30p.m. Contact
Jeremy Webb 742978

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

Lent Groups

As usual the three parishes and two chapels are meeting during Lent. This year we will be studying the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 1998 - 'The Shape of Living' by David E. Ford, Divinity Professor at Cambridge. The meeting time is 7.30p.m. and the venues are the respective Chapel vestries:

Monday 2nd March (S.B)

Thursday 26th March (S.P)

Tuesday 10th March (S.P)

Thursday 2nd April (S.P)

Wednesday 18th March (S.B)

Please make a note in your diaries and come to as many as you can, it promises to be a lively and interesting series.



From the Parish Church

In Memoriam

Oliver Spencer Herrod (child)



Dear Friends

Xenophobia!

With a title like that I hope that you are all intrigued enough to read on; either like me until fairly recently, you don't know what it means or, if you do, what relevance does it have in these villages?

Xenophobia means 'fear of foreigners'. In our context, I don't just mean racial dislike of, for example, someone whose skin is a different colour, or inter-village rivalry (a strange and rather primeval past-time) but within the village, the equally curious mind-set of 'us-and-them'.

My basic thesis is that in villages like ours, with a total adult population of under 650, we really cannot afford to lead our lives without constant reference to others. Just like for our political parties, national disunity is a curse; 'Those who are not with me are against me' (Matthew 12:30). We all need each other, whatever our endeavour, unless you are into total isolationism which can sometimes be the by-product of a bad experience of community life.

None of this is to deny the very individuality which is implanted in each one of us, quite uniquely; the lesson we all need to learn is that we can't have our own way, we have to be team-players, collaborators, so that the totality of our efforts is greater than the sum of its constituent parts, a process called 'synergy'. There need be no sense of 'them-and-us' rather, 'us together', understanding the opposite view by getting alongside, rather than by confrontation or antagonism which breeds its own mistrust.

The Lenten diary gives us all an opportunity to get it right; to understand that God reaches out to everyone not just to 'them', the church-goers. Parish churches are for the parish; It is your church not mine, and its cross-shape bears testimony to its Lord who went to his death for the sake of others - you and me. What little we can do to mirror that sacrifice, in our dealings with others, is at the heart of the Christian message.

Yours sincerely

With love

The Revd Mark Haworth



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for March

Sunday 1st 10.30am Family

Service

	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 8th	6.30pm	Steve Ayres
Sunday 15th	6.30pm	Robin Fleet (Exning)
Sunday 22nd	6.30pm	Rev Pat Brandon (Ely)
Sunday 29th	6.30pm	Steve Ayres

Two kinds of Space

I'm not thinking of the space that rockets travel through, but of two kinds of space much closer to our hearts and lives. Firstly, the space which allows us freedom to move, freedom to choose and freedom to be what we ought to be. Most would agree that this is a good kind of space, and more of it would be welcome! It is the kind of space that results from not allowing things to clutter our lives; Like a room without too much furniture or a garden without too many plants, the things which are there can be seen clearly, used properly, grow fully and be enjoyed to the full. I talk to many people whose lives lack this kind of space and who suffer as a result. Their priorities have become confused and the important parts of their lives get submerged by the many other demands made by less important but seemingly more urgent matters.

Secondly I have in mind a different kind of space; That dark space that many of us know as 'emptiness'. The space that ought to be filled but remains an aching void. We all know this kind of space in different ways: A child's friend moves away and is badly missed; A soldier is posted to a distant war; We lose our job and miss all the friendship, security and self-worth that it gives us. We know it most of all when we suffer the death of a loved one and feel a loss that leaves an aching void in our hearts that is inconsolable.

Over the years Sylvia and I have known the difficulties of not having enough 'good' space and too much 'bad' space, and although we have not found all the answers to sorting them out, we do know where to start. Jesus said that to know truth was the secret of freedom. The journey away from the prison of the aching void and the cluttered life is not necessarily easy, but knowing the truth about ourselves and our situations helps us to set out in the right direction. The saying 'a friend in need is a friend indeed' is never truer than when the friend we refer to is Jesus. If you would like to talk to us about how to know him better please feel free to phone us on 01638 720690.

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

Masses

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945; Soham 1700

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

Lents aren't what they used to be! Lent represents the forty days (exclusive of Sundays) that culminate in the celebration of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. Over the centuries the Churches developed those forty days as a period of abstinence and self-denial. Worship itself, became austere and downbeat - no singing or organ accompaniment, a ban on saying 'Alleluia', the omission of the 'Gloria' (the song of the angels at the birth of Jesus). The Church banned the eating of meat and wedding ceremonies, discouraged sex and generally told people to think about their mortality. Priests would place the ashes of the palms waved the previous Palm Sunday (which had recalled Jesus's triumphant entry in Jerusalem) on the foreheads of worshippers with the words 'remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt remain'. Like so much else that the medieval church did, theology worked with hard practical reality: this was the time of year when the poor were at their poorest, when food-stocks were at their lowest and casual work at its slackest. The husbanding of what was left for a celebratory binge made perfect sense!

All this has gone in Western society. The poor are poor all the year round, and most of us have more than enough all of the time. And yet it is good once a year to focus on the significance of Easter when the Resurrection changed the inevitability of our mortal death into the prospect of immortal life. It is good to get our priorities back in perspective. On the first Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading at Mass is the story of the temptation of Jesus's forty days in the wilderness. What the medieval Church took as central to Jesus's desert retreat was self-denial, but behind that lay a need for solitude and silence, A search for time alone with God. Most of *us* will not get closer to God by giving up meat, chocolate or cigarettes. We will get closer to God by giving up noise, busy-ness, bustle. What I would most like to give up for Lent is the telephone, but I will probably settle for giving up listening to my CD collection for two days a week. Because it is not what you give up for Lent that matters, but what you take up instead: time for thinking about where I came from, where I am, and where I am going to. I have confessed what I am taking up for Lent. What will you take up?

Dates for Your Diary - March 1998

Mon	2	Mothers Union, Free Church, Commercial End, 2:15pm Lent Group (S.B), 7:30pm Village Hall Cttee Mtg, Carters Cottage, 8pm
Tue	3	Parochial Charities Mtg., The Vicarage, 7:30pm
Thu	5	Mobile Library, Outside Post Office, 11:20-11:40am Coffee Morning, Manor House, Lower End, 10:30-12 noon
Fri	6	Womens World Day of Prayer, St. Mary's, S. Bulbeck, 2pm Film Night, Reach Village Centre, 7:30pm
Tue	10	Lent Group (S.P), 7:30pm
Thu	12	Parish Council Meeting, Mobile Classroom, 7:30pm
Fri	13	Confirmation Class, The Vicarage, 5:00pm
Sat	14	Crier Copy Deadline PTA Hockey Match, School field, 10:00am Games Evening, Anglesey House, 6:45pm
Mon	16	WI AGM, School Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, School Hall, 8:00pm
Wed	18	Lent Group (S.B), 7:30pm
Thu	19	Mobile Library, Outside Post Office, 11:20-11:40am
Fri	20	'Auction of Promises', Bottisham Village College
Sat	21	Market Stall, Newmarket, from 9:30am
Tue	24	School Governors Meeting, 7:30pm
Wed	25	Ladies Circle, Zion Chapel, 7:30pm
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Zion Chapel, 2:30 PM Lent Group (S.P), 7:30pm
Fri	27	Confirmation Class, The Vicarage, 5:00 PM
Sun	29	Concert: Stainer's Crucifixion, St Mary's, Burwell, 6:30pm
Mon	30	Church Spring Clean begins at St Mary's

Advance dates: Sat 16 May - Village Hall reopening, 10:30-12 noon
Village Feast, Village Hall, 2:00pm
Sat 16 thru' Mon 25 May - Village Festival