



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 23 Number 8

August 1999



Editorial

The Sinking of the Pirate Ship

One of the most poignant moments of the end-of-year assembly held on the last day of Swaffham Prior School's summer term occurred in the moving poetry and song composed and performed by the 21 leaving children as a farewell tribute to the school. The children listed the things they had loved most about the school, and of course, this included 'Mrs Davies' Pirate Ship', a ship constructed by the infants as the central theme of their study of maps and co-ordinate systems, progressing to a delightful dénouement in which the children dress up as pirates and use maps to search for treasure round the village.

Who sank it? Why, the inspectors, of course. Not 'in keeping with the school's display guidance'. And the Captain went down with the ship. Well, if that's the way they want it, up with the *Jolly Roger*, I say. There may be more sinkings before the year is out. Watch this space.

Thanks to Hilary Mengham for her excellent report on Vic Smith's Road Safety lecture in June. We needed this report, because *most of us didn't turn up*. Ulp. And what's more, if we had turned up, we'd have learned that it's not only *mothers* that do all the speeding (last month's *Crier*), it's those of use who complain about it all the time, in these pages even. Double ulp. Well, I'm still in denial (but I do wish I'd not MISSED it — Hilary is quite right!).

Many apologies to PEGGY Day, who our 'optical character recognition' (OCR to the cognoscenti) software metamorphosed into PENNY Day last month. The trouble is, we proof readers don't expect these sort of wilfully deliberate *obvious* mistakes. We're on the look out for misplaced apostrophes, split infinitives, that sort of thing.

This month, don't forget Jean Moore MBE's (no, I've not idea where that apostrophe goes) Celebration Party at the Red Lion. Or the Solar Eclipse—see the article on Wicken Fen for a good venue. Happy holidays, everyone!

Caroline Matheson

Please send all copy for the *Crier* to Kent House (by the 14th of the month but as **early as possible** please for August). We will try to return disks etc promptly but please nag us if we don't!

Cover Picture: Two Churches by Barbara Ives



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Could I please thank all my kind relations, neighbours and friends for all their visits, cards and presents and good wishes while I was in hospital.

It was much appreciated. I am home now and hope to make a good recovery. Once again my sincere thanks.

P. Mead

Dear Editors,

Celebration Drink

May I, through the Crier, thank all the kind people in Swaffham Prior and also a gentleman in Soham who were helpful in getting me this Prestigious Award MBE. This will be my fifth award. "Pardon the pun" but this last award is the icing on the cake. Also many thanks to everyone who sent lovely cards and bouquets.

Anyone is very welcome to join me in a celebration drink "In The Red Lion" on Sunday August 8th 12pm to 1.30pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Moore
39 Cage Hill

Gardener Required

Gardener to assist with grass cutting and general garden maintenance at the Windmill. Hours and rates negotiable but anticipate one morning per week. Please contact Jonathan Cook on 01638 741009.

St Mary's Church Fete

Thank you to everybody who contributed so generously to the Grand Summer Draw and made it so successful by raising the tremendous sum of £670. So many of you kindly bought and sold raffle tickets and, of course, thanks are also due to those who donated the prizes, without which there would have been no draw. The quality and variety of prizes certainly encouraged the sale of over 1400 tickets.

The prizes and winners are listed as follows: 1st, Television, Hilary Sage;

Flight over Swaffham Prior area - Clyde Prowse; Dinner at Swynford Paddocks - Bill Smith; Print by Thomas Newbolt - Mrs Linda Bull; Set of Cambridge Voices CDs - Philip Kingsmill; Use of Jaguar XK8 or XJ8 for weekend - Jenny Moseley; Dinner for two at Quy Mill - Mrs Levie; Family Tour of National Stud - Michael Gazeley; £75 Voucher from Pocock and Shaw - Mrs Drysdale; Dumbleton portrait voucher - Ian Arksey; Boots surprise pack - Robin Scovil; and Peter Simpson's Garden Voucher - Mrs E. Cheesley.

Many thanks to you all for your support,

Ruth Scovil

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

This year, the Swaffham Prior Coffee Morning in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Relief will be on Friday 1st October in Ruth Scovil's house. Further details nearer the time.



The Prospects Trust



We would like to invite everyone to our **Open Day** on Sunday the 5th of September, starting at 12pm till 4.30pm. There will be various attractions for all the family to have fun and enjoy. Bouncy castle, rides, prize winning stalls, ice creams, tea and cakes to mention a few. This Open Day will be particularly special as we're celebrating our 10th Anniversary of opening. We have also organised a Grand Draw and tickets will be on sale from early August. There will be three top prizes and many others!!

The Prospects Trust is a registered charity which provides work experience for adults with learning disabilities. It has an 18 acre organic market garden which produces vegetables, herbs and bedding plants. It also runs a mobile garden maintenance team which works in the local community. We are situated between the villages of Swaffham Prior and Reach on Swaffham Road. Our farm shop is open daily, 9am to 7pm, and you are all welcome to buy our organic produce [seasonal produce as available]. It has been highly recommended by various cooks.

We are also **looking for someone** with a few spare hours who would like to do something very worthwhile, we really need some help with our deliveries to a couple of warehouses in Cambridge. Should you be interested please contact The Prospects Trust on 01638 741551.

From our Reporter at the July Parish Council Meeting

On a lovely warm summer evening, the meeting started promptly with 6 members of the public in the gallery. The order of dress was definitely casual but the meeting started in a brisk business-like manner (“not too brisk please” came the plea from Karen) with the Chair asking for approval of the Minutes of the last meeting. At this point, Eric appeared to be reading them for the first time and there was a perceptible pause until Andrew again asked for permission to sign them. We all waited for Eric to make a comment but as none came, Andrew flourished his pen and we all breathed a sigh of relief.



Peter Whitfield, tasked with identifying a new piece of play equipment for Town Close, was not present at this stage of the meeting so the item was “rolled over”. One of the entrance gates needed re-hanging yet again (have these ever worked satisfactorily?) and Andrew asked Eric whether the repair to one of the tyre swings had been done. “Not yet”, replied Eric “but I’ve oiled the nuts”. “Ah yes, good but what about the repair?. We have to ensure compliance with the Insurance and it needs to be done quickly”. “Very good” replied Eric.

Then on to the Millennium projects and the Millennium ‘Committee’s’ report. The cost of the Sundial designed by Dr. Stanier amounts to £332.20 and the PC undertook to pay this. The question of mugs was not so easily settled. The PC had been asked which children should receive a mug but Eric said it was irrelevant as the school was already providing one. This news was greeted with surprise and some disbelief - are they “Millennium” or “leavers” mugs - how many are there, who are they going to, etc. “Are they perhaps 2-handled mugs” asked Henry with a wry smile. The matter was put on hold until someone could find out more.

Next the Village Map. I felt a sense of déjà vu when Peter M. asked “Do we need another one? The WI - oops I mean ‘the ladies of the village’, not the W.I., are already producing one. Why do we need two?”. Surely this had all been said before at the June PC meeting! It was patiently explained “one is for inside but we are talking now about a map which will be *outside*”. I was left pondering- the WI initiated the tapestry and asked other women to help. Are some of these women not ladies then? or are members of the WI not ‘ladies’ Very confusing. However, all that apart, the *external* map is proving to be a real challenge - what should it incorporate, where should it be sited, and what was its purpose. The cost is likely to be not less than £2,000 and although we could get a grant of 50% from ECDC, the PC decided it could not fund the other 50%. Andrew felt the village should be able to raise the money. with some other organisation being responsible for

management of the project. Thus ended the Millennium discussions with some confusion in the minds of the 'committee' re mugs and more detailed investigations needed for the *external* map.

Discussion on general house-keeping around the village included maintenance of four seats, repairs/refurbishment to notice boards and the village hall fencing. The PC felt the quote for repair and painting of the hall fencing very high. "A 4" brush and a pot of creosote and the job's done" said Eric. "Are you volunteering Eric?" asked Andrew. "Not really". Complaints about various overgrown footpaths around the village bought forth a comment from one member "I always carry my secateurs with me and lop the offending greenery down". Maybe as well as dog bags, we should all keep a pair of secateurs handy in our pockets! But what does one do with any "offending greenery" thus removed, I wondered. Then, the perennial grasscutting saga reared its ugly head, again. It seems there is still confusion with the "maps" issued to the new contractor as to who should cut what, and when. Ah well. And what about the ditch at the bottom of the Dencora field? - again overgrown and full of rubbish. Andrew felt that as Dencora had lost their battle to develop this land, their response to a request to clear it would bring forth a very short, 2-word response and we must look elsewhere for help. One worthy member said he cleared that part of the ditch outside his own property but I don't *think* he offered to clear the whole length!

Andrew reported that he now had the Sports & Recreation Club file in his possession and would personally "take the matter under his wing" Very reassuring, and good luck to him.

Henry brought to the attention of the meeting that he still has the village safe in his possession along with the original purchase deeds (it cost 7s.6d originally). Karen quickly said "I have no room for it, I definitely have no room for it". Eric said Parish documents should be stored in it as they always were. "We are not talking about what goes *in* it, but where *it* should go. Do you want it?" asked Andrew "No" said Eric. There being no takers, Henry agreed to remain the custodian of this valuable piece of village memorabilia. But I recall some two years ago, the PC, under the chairmanship of Henry, voted to sell the safe for 'scrap' as it was not fit to store Parish records - correct me if I'm wrong!

There will be no meeting of the PC in August (*unless* a Planning Matter needs discussion) - time for the PC members to enjoy their summer break and return refreshed to take up the cudgels on our behalf.

Pat Cunningham



Recipe of the Month

As summer is with us, it seemed a good idea to include something we have neglected up to now – drinks. Here are a number of suggestions using milk, yoghurt, juices and alcohol, hopefully to cater for all tastes!

Lassi – a sweet yoghurt drink

Ingredients – serves 3 to 4

1 large carton (400g) natural greek yoghurt 2 tablesp. caster sugar.

Fill the same amount of water in the empty yoghurt carton

Method

Pour the yoghurt into a bowl. Add the water and sugar. And whisk until frothy. Pour into glassed and serve.

Banana Flip

Ingredients – serves 4

300ml (½) fresh milk

1 small banana, peeled and sliced

1 level teasp. sugar.

Crushed ice

Nutmeg

Method

Place all ingredients into a blender and mix until thick and frothy. Pour into chilled glasses over crushed ice and grate over some nutmeg and serve

Satin Slipper – for the weight conscious

Ingredients- serves 1

4 tabbsp. Low-calorie bitter lemon

6 tabbsp. Tomato juice

1 teasp. lemon juice

crushed ice

mint leaves

Method

Combine all the ingredients and serve.

Cranberry Surprise – a non alcoholic cocktail

Ingredients - recipe can be adapted to any number

3 measures of cranberry juice

2 dashes of angostura bitters

1 measure of orange juice

1 dash of lemon juice

Orange slices

Fresh mint leaves.

Sparkling mineral water

ice to taste

Method

Mix all the juices together in a jug and stir well. Add the bitters and ice and stir again. Top up with sparkling mineral water to taste, add orange slices

and mint leaves.

White Wine Cup – an excellent alcoholic summer drink

Ingredients - makes approx. 4 litres (6½ pts)

Crushed ice	3 bottles of white wine of your choice
¾ bottle of dry sherry	4 tablesp. Curacao (or other orange liqueur)
1 litre Tonic water	
3 slices cucumber/a slice of apple and a sprig of mint per jug	

Method

Mix all the ingredients in one or more jugs and chill before serving

Rosy Punch – good drink for a bar-b-que

Ingredients - makes about 2 litres (3¾pts)

¼ litre raspberry syrup	½ litre tonic water
2 bottles of rosé wine	1 glass of brandy
1 lemon thinly slices	Ice cubes

Method

Combine all the liquids in a large bowl, mixing well Before serving add lemon slices and ice.

Hilary Mengham

Health for Life ***Activities for older or lonely people***

This very successful community project urgently needs drivers who are willing to take older or lonely people living in or near Swaffham Prior to their activities. Drivers receive help with their fuel costs and can choose to stay and enjoy the activity too, free of charge.

Health for Life clients attend village clubs and Community Education classes in art, crafts, creative writing, Tai Chi, local history, scrabble and much, much more. They and their drivers thoroughly enjoy the activities - and so could you if you have a couple of hours spare a week and would like to spend it helping older or lonely people get out of their homes, meet other people and start feeling better.

If you would like to find out more about Health for Life and would like to help, please contact Samara Philpott, Burwell Community Office, 01638 741901.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT WICKEN FEN

Only a few miles from Swafllham Prior, this National Trust property is celebrating its centenary this year, making it the oldest nature reserve in the country. Wicken Fen is the most important surviving area of the Great Fen of East Anglia, escaping drainage in the 17th century because of intensive use by the local community and complex ownership patterns. The first 2 acres were acquired by the National Trust in 1899, early naturalists having recognised the importance of the Fen for the diversity of its plant life and insects. The reserve is now over 800 acres a designated National Nature Reserve, SSSI, a Special Area of Conservation (a European designation) and a RAMSAR site (international wetland designation).

Special events in the next month include:-

- Wild Art, Thursday 5 August, 10am-12 noon or 2pm-4pm, Adults/Children (7-12 year olds) £2.50
- Wildflower Walk, Sunday 8 August, 2pm-4pm, Adults £3.75/Children £2.50
- Solar Eclipse Day, Wednesday 11 August, 10am- 12 noon, Adults/Children (7-12 year olds) £2.50
- Fun at the Fen with Trusty, Thursday 19 August, 10am- 12 noon or 2-4pm, Adults/Children (3-7 year olds) £2.50
- Minibeast Magic and Mayhem, Thurs 26 August, 10am- 12 noon or 2-4pm, Adults/Children (7-13 year olds) £2.50
- Mask and Mobile Making, Thursday 2 September, 10am- 12 noon or 2-4pm, Adults/Children (3-7 year olds) £2.50
- Fen Wildlife Day, Saturday 4 September, 11 am-4pm, Adults £4.50/Children £2.50

Please book tickets in advance as most events have limited places available. Call in at the Visitor Centre, open every day 9am-5pm, or telephone 01353 720274. The reserve is of course open daily, and Fen Cottage is open on Sunday afternoons 2pm-5pm.



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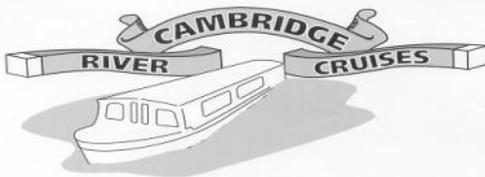
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VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners spent a delightful evening walking round Dr. Ruth Chippendale's garden in Harlton on 6th July.

She has large borders, each with its own colour scheme, all full of flowers. She has beautiful roses growing up to the tops of trees about 20ft. high. She has a vegetable garden with everything growing abundantly. And she has a beautiful view across the fields.

We left feeling very envious, but as Dr. Chippendale does most of the gardening herself we realised she must spend all her sparetime, summer and winter, working in her lovely garden.

Linda Draper's cottage garden at Bradford St. Clare, which we visited on 20th July, was a complete contrast. The many flower beds were separated by grassy paths and little lawns giving new vistas at each turn. Here again the flowers grew in great profusion and were tightly packed giving no room for weeds. There was so much of interest here that it gave the impression of being much larger than it actually was, and once again we left full of ideas for our own gardens.

There will be no meeting of the Village Gardeners in August. On Tuesday 21st September at 8pm we shall be in Reach Village Centre to hear Bridget Smith talk on 'The History of the Flood Meadows'. We welcome any visitors who would like to join us.

Betty Prime



**British Red Cross
Cambridgeshire Branch**

BRANCH AUTUMN FAYRE

This year the British Red Cross have decided to hold an Autumn Fayre at their Branch Headquarters in Cambridge on Saturday 25th September from 2.00pm-5.00pm - Something for all the Family to enjoy.



Bring along your Family and Friends to enjoy Afternoon Tea with interesting First Aid Demonstrations, Stalls for both Adults and Children with a chance to investigate an Ambulance and the Fire Victim Support Vehicle. For more information contact Jenny Clements Tel. 01223 354434.





LADIES CIRCLE

On Monday 28th June the Ladies Circle met at the Baptist Chapel for their monthly meeting. Mrs Bowers from Newmarket came along and demonstrated the art of the spinning wheel. She has been 'spinning' now for 14 years and makes all her own cardigans, jumpers etc. She showed us the fleece direct from the sheep, when it had been washed and then spun. It was very interesting and fascinating to watch her use the spinning wheel. An enjoyable evening was had by all.

Forthcoming meetings:-

23rd August Miriam Day - Work of the Salvation Army

27th September Jeff Evans - Life on a Stud

New members will always be made welcome - do come along and enjoy a pleasant evening with us.

Sandra Butcher



Neighbourhood Watch

The bad news is that only 19 people attended the Open Meeting on Road Safety held in June, but the good news is that that number included 6 young men who gave up their football game at the school to hear a very thought provoking talk by PC Vic Smith. It is a great pity that those people who have been so vocal over the past year, especially in this magazine, about speeding and traffic calming were very noticeably absent.

They would have been interested to hear from PC Smith that in his experience those who complain about speeding are often the biggest culprits. This was backed up by PC Paul Davies, our Community Beat Officer who told us that at a recent speed check in Burwell showed that 65% of the people caught actually lived in the village! In the week prior to the meeting 706 people had been prosecuted for speeding in Cambridgeshire alone.

We saw a very harrowing video on road accidents involving car drivers, motorcyclists as well as pedestrians and heard some very interesting statistics.

Last year:

- ◆ there were 3,600 deaths - 10 each day
- ◆ there were 40,000 serious injuries
- ◆ there were 328,000 slight injuries.

- ◆ the cost to the tax payer (not insurance companies) was £13.2 billion.
- ◆ the cost to Cambridgeshire for 1997 was £1.68 million.

The message to all of us, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, is to think about our actions, keep within the speed limits and look out for others. Traffic calming in our village would not be necessary if we followed these simple rules.

The next Co-ordinators meeting will be on Monday 4th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Hilary Mengham



WI Report

On a cool summer evening a group of us met near Cromwell's house in Ely for a guided tour of the Cathedral area by Margaret Haynes. We learned some of the history of Ely and were told about various buildings such as Cromwell's house, the Old Fire Engine House, the Chancery, Bishops' Palaces, the Cathedral and, the gem of all, a tiny chapel which is hidden away behind a locked door (because of recent vandalism) and up a flight of stone stairs.

The evening finished with a delightful meal provided by Ely and Northwold WI.

Our next meeting will be the Garden Party at 50 Lower End on Monday 16th August starting at 7pm. Please bring your friends and good weather!

Margaret Phillips

Notes from *The Crier* of 20 Years Ago

Cyril Rowlinson was about to step down as Editor of the *Crier*, which he had edited since its inception 2½ years earlier, and hand over to Zandra Houston as Editor and Andrew Wardill as Assistant Editor.

Valerie Booton (then Headmistress at the School) reported on the twinning of East Cambs. and Kempen in Germany. She represented the East Cambs. Primary School Heads at the ceremony and had previously lived for 6 years in that part of Germany.

Plans for the development of the remaining part of Tothill Road had just been passed by the District Council and there was some concern about the likely disruption to existing residents from the building work.

The "Swaffham Feast" had just been revived and featured the Wicken Coronation Band and the Sword of Asgard.

School Report, Summer 1999

A busy half term. Years 5 & 6 had their residential trip to Derbyshire which by all reports, and the state that Mr Hunns and the helpers returned in, was pretty good! The exhibition of work which the children put on to illustrate the trip, was excellent, although some of the reports received, showed a certain lack of understanding of the natural world!

Quote: "Mr Hunns, Mr Hunns, can I borrow a ladder?"

Mr Hunns: "What for?"

Boy: "There's a squirrel stuck up a tree!"

Class 4 took part in the celebrations at Devil's Dyke which were wonderful. They came back very excited by the Anglo-Saxons. The Infant trip to the Butterfly Farm at Long Sutton was also a great success.

A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to deal with the issues raised by the OFSTED report. We present our Action Plan in its draft form to the parents at the Annual Meeting for Parents before it goes to the LEA for final clearance, just before the end of term.

21 children will be leaving us at the end of term to start their secondary education. We also say goodbye to Mrs Davies who is retiring, and to the three supply teachers who have been such an important part of school this half term. We wish them all well. It's hard to imagine life without them.

The final week of term will be filled with the usual traditions: Swimming Gala; church assembly in Reach followed by a picnic and games on the Green; and the final School Assembly. I'm sure it will all be just as draining and emotional as it always is; we'll all feel like collapsing in a heap at the end of it, but I'm sure we'll all come bouncing back, full of enthusiasm again at the beginning of September.

Special Request

1. Our volunteer pianist will not be able to continue in school in September. Is there anyone who can spare half an hour on a Tuesday morning to play for us during hymn practice, please? We would like it to be at 8.55 but we can easily accommodate a change to fit in with a volunteer. Please contact me (Brenda Wilson) on 741529 if you can help.

2. Our wonderful Cleaner-in-charge cum Caretaker, Mrs Day, has decided she is ready to retire. She will be sorely missed. However we will need to appoint a replacement. The hours are not too arduous, fifteen hours a week, can be fairly flexible and there is some opportunity for overtime. It really needs someone who is local who can slot the hours into their own timetable. If you or anyone you know are interested please get in touch.

Brenda Wilson,
Headteacher

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

A Badcock chaired the meeting with seven members and six members of the Public.

Matters Arising

Playground Equipment: Further investigation needed. The tyre insert was being dealt with by E Day. The gate to the play area had been re-hung.

The Millennium: A report was handed to the members of the PC. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the making and fixing of a sundial. Further discussion continued about the possibility of a village map. A draft proposal for the map was shown to the PC. It was agreed that the PC would consider a possible donation towards the cost of this map but that the village should contribute with some fundraising. A Grant from ECDC had been offered but this Grant would be subject to certain conditions.

General Maintenance Programme: It was agreed that Sheldrick Building Services be asked to carry out the work needed to the village seats and noticeboards. The question of the village hall fencing was discussed at length and further investigations are to be made into this.

Reports: Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Accounts for Payment: Payments were agreed.

Planning Approval: The following approval had been received: Two storey extension - Lords Ground Ltd., Lords Ground Farm.

Any other Business

Neighbourhood Watch. A meeting was held on the 23rd June 1999. A Badcock reported to the meeting (full report included under separate heading). The next meeting will be on the 4th October 1999.

Lay-By - Water Tower: A meeting was held on the 25th June with Mr Stinton, CCC. The closing of the lay-by and creating a cycleway/footpath was one possibility discussed and will be further looked into by CCC. Other areas of concern were discussed but it would appear there are only limited funds available.

Village Shop/Post Office: As from the 1st August 1999, the Post Office will only be open once a week on a Thursday. The search for someone to take over is still ongoing.

Sports & Recreational Committee: To be discussed further at next PC meeting.

Ofsted Report - School: P Whitfield reported to the meeting.

Open question time: Concerns were expressed about the condition of some highway verges and footpaths in the village. The Clerk is to write to CCC.

It was agreed that there would be no August meeting. Should any matters arise that require attention, a meeting will be called. The next meeting will be on the 9th September 1999.

Karen King
Clerk of the Parish Council

Botanical Artist & Illustrator



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COUNTY NOTES MID-JULY 1999

In my last article I said I would keep you up-to-date with the debate over where to place homes and associated developments in the Cambridge area over the first decades of the next century.

CAMBRIDGE FUTURES presented an important report to the County on 7th July which sums up that group's ideas under seven different options. Before briefly describing these options it is worth mentioning that a Government-appointed panel reckons the County will need to build say 66,000 homes over the next 20 years over and above the nearly 39,000 homes already planned (35,000 have planning permission).

The County's political parties strongly dispute this massive total and suggest a more moderate figure of 35–50,000 homes. Whatever present guesses are, there is no disputing the economic fact that growth within the Cambridge area will continue. More jobs mean homes needed to house the people taking them.

So what are the choices presented by Cambridge Futures in their efforts to make us face up to some radical actions that will never be fully acceptable to all of us but may be acceptable to a majority.

(1) **Minimum growth.** Do nothing much in Cambridge but allow new housing in market towns and beyond. That means Ely and Newmarket to us.

(2) **Densification.** Squash in more housing within the city boundary using old industrial sites (so-called brownfield) and under-used back gardens and scraps of under-used land such as allotments. This would protect the rest of the area from a lot of change.

(3) **Necklace.** Building only allowed in a necklace of villages beyond the Green Belt. Remember, Bottisham is already surrounded by a tight "corset" Green Belt (G.B.). Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck have the G.B. butting up on their village edges. Swaffham Prior, Reach and Burwell lie outside the G.B. Meanwhile, some building would be allowed in the market towns, as above.

(4) **Green Swap.** Provide development on the open land nearest the City. Also there would be some building permitted on a few sites, with the land taken from the G.B. replaced outside the G.B. or possibly poor inaccessible areas within the G.B. would be upgraded into e.g. parks.

(5) **Transport Links.** Increase the use of public transport, new dwellings and factories or commercial building near rail stations. Reuse the St.Ives line.

(6) **Virtual Highway.** Increase tele-working to reduce reliance on the car.

New building only near a new communication network, e.g. a wide swathe covering the centre and west of the City. Requires very advanced tele or radio connections.

(7) **New Town** Concentrate all new building into another larger Bar Hill type town well tied to road or rail links with the City. Examples might be Waterbeach or Oakington (Defence redundant bases), or more worryingly for us Six Mile Bottom.

My own view is that we will not find ourselves facing one of these solutions but a selection of parts of 3 or 4. Watch this space!

James Fitch



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor

We have taken the first steps towards opening up the council. All panel and working party meetings are now open to the public in addition to the full council and committee meetings, which already were open to the public. Sometimes we discuss items that the law says are confidential and, where this is the case, we keep these items to the end of the meeting.

People can now also present petitions to the council and the petitioner can speak for up to 3 minutes to explain their concerns. This will allow you to raise issues of major local concern with all the Councillors. For example, under these new arrangements Swaffham Prior's petition against housing on the 'Dencora' field could have been presented to full Council and a speech made in support of it.

The Council is progressing well with plans to ensure that we will be prepared against the so-called 'Millennium Bug'. Although we have resolved many of the issues, we still have work to do. The Public Auditors have confirmed that our progress to date and our plans for the rest of the year should ensure that we are ready for the year 2000.

My next surgery will be at Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall on Tuesday August 10th from 7.30-9.00. Please come if you wish to discuss any matters with me. Or, if you prefer you can contact me at home.

Charlotte Cane

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges ***Lifelong Learning***

The Autumn Term brochure will be delivered to your home this month.

Look out for:-

- ◆ An extensive range of computer courses
- ◆ Early Years Care and Education courses
- ◆ Languages for business and pleasure
- ◆ A levels and GCSEs
- ◆ Many general interest courses
- ◆ Day and weekend course

The office at Bottisham will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.00am - 12.30pm from Tuesday 10th August and every weekday 9.00am - 12.30pm from 1st September.

Autumn Term programme starts Monday 20th September

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



From the Parish Registers for June 1999

Holy Baptism:

Jack Peter Aldridge (Swaffham Bulbeck)

In Memoriam:

Davis George Bailey (Exning)

Constance Ruth Theobald (Fordham)

Evening Prayer

will be said as follows (see Vicar's letter on page 21):

Swafflam Bulbeck	Tuesdays 5.30pm
Reach	Wednesdays 5.30pm
Swaffham Prior	Thursdays 5.30pm



Church Services

June 1999

	ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck	ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior	ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY, Reach
<i>TRINITY</i> 9	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 9:30am Family Service	11:00am Parish Communion	6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon
<i>TRINITY</i> 10	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Family Service 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
<i>BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	9:30am Parish Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†] 6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	11:00am Family Service
<i>TRINITY</i> 12	9:30am Parish Communion	11:00am Mattins [†] and Sermon	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
22	6:30pm Deanery Choral Evensong @ Fordham		
<i>TRINITY</i> 13	6:00pm Evensong [†] and Sermon	10:00am United Parish Communion	8:00am Holy Communion [†]
Sun 1			
Sun 8			
Sun 15			
Sun 22			
Sun 29			

Holy Communion	No Thursday 10am services during August
Evening Prayer	No regular Wednesday 5pm service during August
Sunday School	Does not meet during August, Restarts 12 Sept. Contact Angela Roebuck on 01223 811722
Bellringing	Tuedays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact. Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
Housegroup	Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676
Mothers Union	Mondays 2:15pm, 1st Mondays c/o Free Church, Commercial End. Contact Win Norton 01223 811509



Dear Friends,

“SAY ONE FOR ME”

Some of you will be aware that clergy are required to say Morning and Evening Prayer daily (sometimes called the Daily Office [officium = duty] When you work on your own as I do (i.e. no curates), this is often most easily achieved in one's own time at home, in a quiet moment. The discipline of this gives rise to the term 'Vicar', for prayer is offered vicariously, meaning 'on behalf of others'; such is the privilege of the ministry, to pray for the whole parish, and its needs.

It is now 2 years since I began saying Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at Reach at 5.00pm, and there have been precious few occasions when I have been alone. I well remember joining the clergy in Ludlow Parish Church for Evening Prayer some days on my way home from the-office in our time there (1983-88). Thus it occurs to me that the discipline of saying my prayers could be more public, in each village of the benefice; the proposal, backed by the PCCs, is therefore as given on page 19. Might you find this short 'space for God' a helpful discipline in the midst of a busy week? You should hear the bell tolling to remind you that prayers are about to be said.

The value of other people being there, is that self-evidently I cannot always be there for reasons of meetings, funerals etc (on such days I say my office when time permits), but at Reach it has been particularly valuable for a core of regulars to be able to 'say the office', to maintain the framework of prayer, in any absence, thereby facilitating others who might have come for the first time, or at a particular moment of crisis. The service is in contemporary, accessible, language, moving through Greeting, Confession, Absolution, Psalm, Reading, Canticle, Prayers and Dismissal, and lasting no more than 20 minutes.

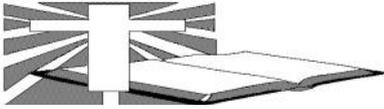
This pattern begins in September, and is linked to the 'laying down' of 3 of the 4 services of Holy Communion on Thursdays @ 10.00am in Swaffham Bulbeck. This will become monthly on 1st Thursdays @ 10.00am, which, quarterly, is the Mothers Union Corporate Communion. On 1st Thursdays I will be taking the sacrament to the housebound, as I do now to two people. Anyone wishing to receive similarly need only ask, and I will schedule the end of the morning accordingly.

The really valuable thing about all this, is the sense that the worship of God goes on daily, and it helps fuel the belief that we are not 'Sunday-only' churchpeople. Sundays, sadly not now what they once were, remain, though, the cornerstone of commitment, church-going folk being together on the Lord's Day. (Last month's letter spelt out the basic pattern of 4 services each Sunday in the 3 villages).

I hope you have a really good summer and return refreshed, able to find your niche amongst the 'fine-tuning' of the pattern of worship as we enter the autumn. Your comments on any of these proposals will always be welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Mark



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for August:

Sunday	1 st	10.30am	Joint meeting at Lode Chapel
		6.30pm	David Bousfield Communion
Sunday	8 th	6.30pm	<i>Four Point Turn Musical Group</i>
Sunday	15 th	6.30pm	Joint meeting at Swaffham Bulbeck Free Ch
Sunday	22 nd	6.30pm	Jack Chalklin
Sunday	29 th	6.30pm	David Bousfield
Wednesdays		8.00pm	Home Group venue as announced

New Beginnings...

The end of the first month of my full time role at the Chapel is over already. However like all endings it really marks the beginning as a new chapter opens. I am enjoying spending more time locally rather than spending half my week commuting to London and back. My family especially appreciate this! And I have to say I don't miss the travelling at all. I have more time to get out and meet people. If I haven't met you yet and you would like to meet up then do get in touch with me. Seeing people from both Zion Chapel Swaffham Prior, and Lode Chapel working together is an exciting development. Both Chapels are enthusiastic about this arrangement and I'm equally excited about it. It promises to be a great adventure for the two congregations as we join forces where ever we can yet retain the individual heritage of each.

In order to formally mark the start of this new adventure with the two Chapels there will be a special service at Lode Chapel at 3pm on July 31st. This service is an opportunity for my college, the local Baptist Association and the Chapels to come together to celebrate their invitations to me to be minister. You would be very welcome to come and join in this special time... and stay for the buffet tea afterwards.

In the Bible we read Jesus' words: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13). Jesus our Lord and Saviour was there at the beginning of the world and He will be there at its end. He is present in all our beginnings and all our endings. So come and celebrate with us and praise him in our new beginnings together.

David Bousfield

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945; Soham 1700

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

On the 28th August our eldest daughter Rachel is to be married; so it is all go in our household. I have never seen so many lists or so many bills. I have to confess that I expected to experience many crises, but thus far (I am tempting providence, for there are six weeks still to go as I write) the nearest we have come to a real problem was whether or not I should wear a brand-new lounge suit or a borrowed frock-coat and waist-coat. It was a problem easily solved: I gave in; the frock-coat has it.

It is one of the oddities of English law that there are now hundreds (thousands?) of places other than churches in which civil weddings or Anglican marriages can be held. But a Catholic rite recognised by the state can only take place in a licensed place of Catholic worship. So if Matt and Rachel are to have Catholic nuptials in my college chapel at Selwyn College, they must have a separate civil ceremony first; otherwise it will be illegal and the happy couple face a honeymoon in separate remand prisons! Actually I do not consider it a disaster for Matt and Rachel to have two ceremonies; quite the contrary. It makes crystal clear that there are two aspects to a wedding: a civil *contract* regulated by the state which lays down many terms and conditions of their union, and regulates what happens if they decide not to fulfill the terms of their contract (*divorce*); and a religious *covenant*, an agreement between the bride and groom to invite God into their relationship of fruitful love: a covenant to bind themselves freely, irrevocably, and with an openness to the ultimate demonstration of fulfilled love - children. The contract can be broken, but the covenant, involving a third party (God) cannot.

In the course of the previous paragraph, I have used several words that describe what Matt and Rachel are undertaking on 28 August. They are to have a *wedding* (from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning *pledge* or *wager*), they are to be *married* (from a Norman-French form), they are to celebrate their *nuptials* (from the Latin meaning *covered by a veil*): the *bride* (Celtic root) will become a *wife* (from the Norse). When any event draws on so many of the language roots that together make up the English language, we can be sure it is something really central to our experience. And let it long remain so. Now it is a general rule in English that the lower operations arise from Celtic and Saxon words and the higher ones from Latin and Norman-French ones (thus when an animal is walking around in a field we call it by an Anglo-Saxon name: *cow*, *sheep*, *pig*; and when we put it on a plate and eat it we call it by a Latin-French one: *beef*, *mutton*, *pork*). So at last I understand why they taught me when I was in formation for the diaconate that couples would knock at the door asking for a wedding [Anglo-Saxon], and I would have to sell them a marriage [Norman French]!

Dates for Your Diary - August 1999

Sun	1	
Mon	2	Summer Playscheme (until Friday)
Tue	3	
Wed	4	
Thu	5	Wild Art, Wicken Fen, 10am
Fri	6	
Sat	7	
Sun	8	Jean Moore's celebration drink at the Red Lion, 12pm Wildflower Walk, Wicken Fen, 2:00pm
Mon	9	
Tue	10	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm Cllr Cane's surgery, Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hall, 7:30pm
Wed	11	Solar Eclipse Day, Wicken Fen, 10:00am
Thu	12	
Fri	13	
Sat	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI Garden Party, 50 Lower End, 7:00pm
Tue	17	
Wed	18	
Thu	19	Fun at the Fen with Trusty, Wicken Fen, 10:00am
Fri	20	
Sat	21	
Sun	22	
Mon	23	Ladies Circle, Miriam Day - <i>Work of the Salvation Army</i>
Tue	24	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:05, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	25	
Thu	26	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm Minibeast Magic and Mayhem, Wicken Fen, 10:00am
Fri	27	
Sat	28	
Sun	29	
Mon	30	
Tue	31	