



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 8

August 2000



Editorial

This time of year should be known as ‘Treasurer’s Delight’ as the month of August is the one month of the year when traditionally the *Swaffham Crier* makes a *profit* by dint of publishing less copy than is actually financed by our loyal band of advertisers, thus making up for some of the unfortunate lapses incurred during the other 11 months. But *No!* Saved by the bell, a chime in time, even. Ask not for whom the bell tolls, but consult our overflowing *Letters* pages and all will be revealed on the current state of affairs, chime-wise, in our (mostly!) good-humoured correspondence regarding the exact nature-to-be of the chime of our re-instated Village Clock. The clock itself, we have just heard, is now running again, bell-less so far, as of ten to five this Wednesday (19th July).

Also hot off the press, Swaffham Prior School’s Summer Fair raised an amazing £1,300 for School funds. Coming in the middle of this summer’s cold snap, the weather did not bode well, but in the event, it did *not* rain, and that’s all that was needed to make this not only an excellent fund-raiser, but a very enjoyable event for all who attended. Congratulations to the organisers, the Friends of Swaffham Prior School, and many thanks to all those villagers who donated the prizes, cakes and books.

We see from James Fitch’s report that the great majority (80%) of the child-seats sported by the cars of parents with young children won’t in fact work in the event of an accident. This is because they are “fitted incorrectly” and probably to the wrong type of car. As ever. Given the length of time this type of seating has been around, it has taken the authorities rather a long time to come to this startling conclusion. Anyway, if you use special *bébé* seating, you can have it safety-checked for free by Marshall’s in Newmarket Road.

Many thanks to Jeremy Mitchell and to Catie Whiteley for their kind donations to the magazine. These, as hinted above, help to make our finances work and are much appreciated. And finally - special request - please get your copy in for *copy date* next month! This time we really mean it - August 14th is the cut-off and otherwise-get-published-in-October-instead date.

Have a happy holiday, everybody!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: The Old Forge by Claire Warren



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Alterations to St Cyriac's - The History

This past week has seen much activity concerning the alterations to St Cyriac's Church. Much has been written in the past about the lighting of the path through the church yard, and about the idea of reinstating the clock bell.

If I may comment on the bell first. When I first came to look at a farm to let in this parish, I discovered that the farm house was directly under the two churches, both of which looked very sad and neglected. The clock however was at the correct time and cheerfully struck the hours. After we moved into the house in 1959 with my two children, we spent many happy years there, and eventually took part in many improvements. At that time we were the nearest to the bells, as there was no development in Tothill, or the end of Greenhead Road.

In 1964 the work of restoring the top of St Mary's was completed, and photographs of the new fleche show the clock bell on St Cyriac's. The church council had at that time the responsibility of looking after St Cyriac's, which had deteriorated further, indeed the gantry in which the clock bell was hanging had rusted so badly that it had to be removed, and the bell fixed near the parapet wall. This work was done sometime between 1964 and 1972 when the Redundant Churches Fund took over the responsibility of the church. There was less than a month with no bell.

After the R.C.F. had taken over, we had little say in what was done to the building, and in 1990 after a thorough refurbishment the clock bell was taken away, and placed in the lower bell chamber, where it still is, and the clock silent. Why this was done I cannot say, as it was very satisfactory on the top for over twenty years.

What do we do now? Most who I have spoken to see no reason why it should not be returned to its original (1970) place. We shall have to wait and see, as the Churches Conservation Trust as it now is, will make the final decision.

Now to the light. The PCC's intention is to make attendance at Evensong in the winter easier for the residents of Tothill, Adams and Greenhead roads, as well as giving better access for concerts and exhibitions. I also believe that the Parish Council are mindful of the poor lighting for these residents to get to the lower village. Our advisors originally suggested a row of five lights to illuminate this path, which was roundly rejected by us. A new suggestion of one light on the buttress of St Cyriacs would do the job if the PC installed

one extra lamp at the cemetery gate.

This idea has got the thumbs down by the Trust, as their advisors do not want a cable hole in the old buttress!! Instead they suggest a light over the door (how do they get the cable to that?), and another on a newer buttress on the south transept. Back to multiple lights again, which many of us do not want. Parish politics can be fun, but fighting those who do not live here, and regard our problems as just another job, make life too frustrating, and yet if we let them get on with it with no comment we shall be accused of apathy - you just can't win.

Finally back to the clock bell again. The Trust caseworker has decreed that the Parish must be in full agreement before it will install a bell. They favour using one of the big bells of the peal, and not the original chiming bell, which is much smaller. That idea does not get many marks from some those who live near. I believe the Parish Council in supporting the refurbishment thought the original position would be used, on the top, as it was in 1990.

If it was installed on the top, its volume can easily be adjusted, but from past experience that would not be necessary. I hope we can tell the Trust our agreed position, and ask them to alter their thoughts, and have our clock working fully - hands and chime.

John Norris

Dear Editors,

Just a short note of appreciation for the inclusion of my recent suggestion regarding the clock bells,

In advance of a predicted outpour of criticism, May I be the first to correct my illusion of time. I had been informed that the bells had been out of commission since the war era, subsequently I stand corrected that time has only stood still here for a decade. Thank you EVERYBODY who has kindly or otherwise corrected me,

Tom Robson
52 Greenhead Rd

Dear Editors,

The Clock Bell

Mr Brown's dislike of church bells is legendary and he has every right to express his disapproval. But he ought to check his facts before writing to ECDC (copy reproduced in last month's *Crier*).

1) He says that the ringing bell (diameter 30 inches) is "**20 times larger**" than the clock bell (diameter 21 inches). This is incorrect.

2) He says that the bells were "abandoned post war and only rehung about 6 years ago." This is also incorrect. **The bells in St. Cyriac's have rung almost continuously since they were first hung in 1791**, though they did stop ringing during the second world war.

3) In his letter of 3rd of June to ECDC Mr Brown says "I will provide a list of upper villagers if you would like this". Early July the PC asked for a copy of the signatures - "Ah, I don't have any signatures". "OK, a list of the names then" - "Ah, I will have to ask people whether they mind having their names given". Again Mr Brown is incorrect - he could not supply a list of names when asked.

4) On 3rd July Mr Brown wrote to Mr Farrington of the Churches Conservation Trust signed by Mr Robson and himself, and **12 other people**. Of these twelve 6 were **not** asked and wish to have their names deleted from the letter. A complete survey of the "signatories" was not completed but at best 6 out of 12 support Brown/Robson; at worst only 2 out of the 12 support them.

But Mr Brown is not just talking about the clock bell. **He also wants to block off three louvres so that the "upper village" will not be able to hear the church bells ringing.** The Trust has taken this seriously and has asked the architect to cost out the work. Mr Brown has also told the Trust he might sue it. So - those who follow Mr Brown are being led into many new exciting pastures.

In his letter last month Mr Robson also made errors, probably gleaning his facts from Mr Brown, and it is difficult to take seriously a proposal that the clock should only strike from 7.00am to 7.00pm. Even if striking for the whole 24 hours the clock will be striking for less than 3 minutes throughout the 1,440 minutes. Is this noise pollution? Why, the birds at dawn are worse than this (Tom Lehrer knew how to deal with that problem).

Mr Brown wants the clock bell back on top of the tower and probably everyone in the village agrees with this. The Trust decided after an inadequate consultation with the village, that the clock bell would be abandoned and a ringing bell used in its stead. This was a great disappointment to those contributing towards the cost of the work. **If Mr Brown indirectly enables the clock bell to be returned to its rightful place then all his errors and exaggerations are forgiven and three cheers for Mr Brown.**

On the first page of the St.Cyriac's Churchwardens records for 1799 to 1800 appears the entry:- "*November 1799. Expenses getting the clock-bell up the tower - - 1s. 0d.*"

We all hope there will be a similar entry for the year 2000.

Alastair Everitt
Anglesey House

Dear Editors,

The Village Clock

In response to Alastair Everitt's article on page 8 of the July *Crier*, I would point out that until his article headed "Will the Clock Stop at Ten to Three?" in the June issue, there was no indication to the ordinary villagers, that a ringing bell was to be brought into action.

When the clock was made 300 years ago the church authorities incorporated a small clock chiming bell, they could have used one of the ringing bells, but this would have been considered excessive and anti-social. If a ringing bell had been used there would have been 300 years of tired farm workers turning up in the morning having been kept awake by the clock on the hill!

I am not against bells, but like most people, noise in general. We are surrounded by noise sources, we have the roar of traffic from the by-pass and many aircraft overhead on the flight path into Marshalls, this is essential fabric of 21st century living, but a new loud ring from a reconstructed clock is not, it is just an anathema.

A request last week by Tom Robson, No. 52 Greenhead Road, to shut down the ringing at night, was dismissed out of hand by Alastair Everitt. It is sad that the upper villagers are not able to appeal to the Councillors, this is because the majority of them appear to have two feet in the past, so we are on our own.

The only recourse for us is with the Churches Conservation Trust who have total responsibility for St Cyriac's, we must contact them and point out that we hold them responsible for allowing the planned blight of our environment and property by the fanatical Ringers.

Henry Brown
25 Greenhead Rd

Copy of letter from Mr T Robson to the Parish Council (dated 10th July)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council,

I refer to the recent discussions in your meetings concerning the planning and expenditure for the "restoration" of the clock bells, (previously the hour was rung from a small bell atop the church tower, now it is planned to clang a major church bell). By way of introduction, I live next to vicarage and my upstairs windows are semi parallel to the church tower, I am not opposed to church bells, and in fact enjoy them during the day.

Attendance apart, the only method of reviewing PC activities is the

reading of the Crier. It is intriguing, therefore, that the most recent edition of the Crier carried TWO articles concerning your last meeting, one a resume of the activity during the meeting, the other a separate resume of the discussions about the clock bell. Since I would not dream of considering this as of special interest to the author, (singular), I can only assume that the second report contained that item which slipped his mind in the first.

Never the less, it seems fair to assume that the council is established for the purpose of representing the wishes of the majority of the village, to investigate any enquiry and to find in favour of those affected by any decision, maintaining harmony throughout. (Planning permission, for example, would take into account the effect and wishes of those homes geographically close to the planned construction)

If we accept this, then the recent reference(s) to villagers' views on the bells, (Everitt/Crier/july2000 page 8) would no doubt have been based on a fair survey of those close to the church. That, however, does not appear to be the case. The response reported in the article, (reporting on your meeting) was from an unreported number of people, who having read an article somewhere in the Crier chose to voice their opinion.

In Betterment of such method, Mr. Brown established a petition and surveyed each of the homes in the upper village and close to the church. That petition would appear to bring the initial information you, as a body, had received into question. (ie. those directly affected may NOT wish for the big bell to toll 12 times at midnight!)

The ECDC has asked you to arrive at a compromise, meeting the wishes of all those affected. Mr. Everitt's report in the Crier states that you found: "as Mr. Brown does not want the bells striking at night AND THE PC AND VILLAGE DOES, the PC found no room for compromise." also "because nothing is striking at present the PC found it hard to measure the nature of the complaint". Councillors, if this reporting is accurate, and there is no reason to assume otherwise, your style of judgment does you and the village no credit.

The ringing of a clock bell is a beautiful feature during the day. BUT the tolling of a large bell, twelve times, in the still of midnight is not so amusing if your small children sleep semi parallel to the church tower, and only a short distance from it too. I feel that you are honour bound to investigate this problem with greater effort than to date. Your present standing would appear to be based on unfounded evidence, you have been presented with significant other evidence, and as a result can no longer assume that everyone wants the bells to toll 24 hours a day.

Your readiness to discard the "potential" noise based on a lack of

knowledge as to the expected volume is unworthy of such an important body as yourselves, (much as we would expect you to be able to have some perception as to the effect a new construction might have on neighbouring properties). Thus, I ask you to reflect on your decision(s) on this matter and reconsider your recommendation. An ideal compromise would be the substitution of 24 hour ringing with 12 hour ringing.

A clock mechanism, (and chiming mechanism) works solely on a 12 hour cycle. The inclusion of a gearing to make the chiming active only once every two cycles is a simple procedure and not cost prohibitive. Such a compromise would give each interested party proportional satisfaction, show forethought on your part and not let it appear that you have played to the front rows, forgetting those in the back row of the circle.

Many thanks for taking the time to review this letter, I apologise for its length.

In good faith

T Robson
52 Greenhead Rd

Copy of reply to Mr Robson from the Parish Council (dated 14th July)

Dear Mr Robson,

Re: Church Clock - chiming

Thank you for your letters dated the 14th June & 10th July 2000, both of which were duly reported to the Parish Council meeting on the 13th July.

The Parish Council have asked me to reply and suggest a compromise for the interim.

Many suggestions, alternatives, etc., were discussed at great length at the meeting but no definitive conclusion could be reached and it was strongly felt that until the chiming facility to the clock was fully operational, no impact on the surrounding houses could be judged and, if necessary, action taken to lessen this impact. Would you be agreeable to this?

The P.C. members would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and any other concerned residents and were greatly disappointed at your absence from the last meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Karen King (Mrs)
Clerk of the Parish Council

Dear Editors,

Shakespeare

I am surprised at Alastair Everitt misreading my June letter. He is concerned for facts, so I respectfully offer a few. I did not say accepted wisdom is truth; nor that knowledge of an author's context adds nothing to one's appreciation of his/her work; nor that Mr Everitt is batty. Nor do I wish to spark a debate on any of the above. I wrote of the views tended to by A level students, and the boundaries of the subject, which we seem to agree are sensible. My own opinions are quite separate from any of the above.

The trouble with 'facts' is what people do with them. A fact on its own doesn't tell you much. You have to add it to other facts and draw conclusions. Often the other 'facts' are simply incorrect, or are not truths at all but the speaker's own opinions disguised as facts; or simply a selection of convenient items of information, leaving out the ones that somehow don't fit; or in the absence of sufficient facts, much conjecture. Result: the conclusions are wrong.

The next problem is what the hearer infers: 'if X said that then they must think...' was a favourite inference in my family, I recall, where some members considered the wilful drawing of wrong conclusions to be their birthright - and soon you are no longer in the realm of truth, but in that special land where what you *wish* had happened actually did. The trouble here is that you are the only inhabitant of your imaginary land and you are likely to be at odds with everyone else whenever you mention the subject.

Thus it is, I use the word 'batty' in reference to my students, and Mr Everitt infers I mean him. Likewise, the 17th Earl of Oxford was paid a compliment by a friend who *said* he was a secret writer, and that puts him in the running for the title of a major playwright.

It's a brilliant compliment, actually (one which Mr Everitt and I have foolishly passed up the chance of, by putting our names on our writing): first, you don't actually have to write anything. You can impress people just by allowing them to think that you have. Second, not only do you not have to prove you are any good as a writer, but nobody can criticise your work at all. Thirdly, people will think you must be both terribly modest and clever - if you haven't put your name on it you cannot be a showoff and, let's face it, nobody who was stupid would have the wit to write in secret. Last, and best of all: if there is any question mark over the authorship of a major work, everyone you know who thinks you are a secret writer will want to believe it's you so that they can imagine basking in the reflected glory of knowing you and all the other important people they will now meet as a result. It's a delightful daydream - imagine your best friend turned out to have written all

those Harry Potters! ... See what I mean?

In any case, anyone who was anyone in Shakespeare's day was a secret writer or had some other mystery around them. It made one fashionable and important. Hence the Rosicrucians, that enigmatic and irrelevant secret group of clever educated people who created a lot of twaddle; also alchemy, which was more popular, but equally mysterious and twaddlesome; and later, the founding of the Freemasons, whose initiation ceremony was kept secret for so long because it was so silly. Indeed, Good Queen Bess herself has had dark questions raised over her identity and whether she was a man or not. She clearly intended to have a mystery that nobody else could match.

Rather a lot of 16th century playwrights are of unprovable identity, and some are known to us only as names on title pages of not always very good plays. So perhaps the pleasure to be taken is in the not knowing for sure, rather than trying to argue down the other person. To date, I have seen little evidence that Shakespeare didn't write those plays, and rather less that anyone else did, especially as nobody seems to have questioned (secretly or openly) his name being on them during his long and prolific career, when there were people who knew for certain; and if W.S. were some country gent who couldn't write plays, it wouldn't have been very secret for long. But the necessary facts just aren't there. Mr Everitt doesn't have them, and neither do I.

It could be conjectured that the writer of Shakespeare's plays might be laughing in his/her grave to know that people still dispute his/her identity: after all, the plays are full of perfect possibilities rather than fixed certainties: they are the mark of that writer.

Differences of opinion can equally be pleasurable, if we can allow each other's imaginary constructions of facts and surmises to coexist with ours rather than take up intellectual arms and sally forth to defeat the wicked foe who has the temerity to think differently.

Incidentally, when I mentioned this matter to my A level students they were greatly entertained - but not remotely interested in the authorship of the plays, I am sorry to report. Instead they gave me to understand that in their opinion adults who engage in this kind of discourse in a village magazine ought to have their sanity levels reviewed; from which I must infer some reference to myself.

Yours sincerely

Mark Lewinski
32 Fairview Grove

P.S. Who the heck was Geoffrey Chaucer?

Dear Editors,

A Message to All Dog Lovers/Owners

My daughter Sarah got married at the Church on Saturday 1st July and because there was another wedding following that, our wedding party had to move over to the right of the churchyard to have our photographs taken.

This was fine with us all except that we spent the whole time treading in dogs' mess. Sarah's wedding dress was getting ruined as well as the bridesmaids. The other guests within the party had mess on the bottom of their shoes and we spent the whole time telling each other to 'mind where you are treading'.

Our churchyard (as well as the Church) is a lovely setting and it is such a shame that mindless dog owners do not have the courtesy to take along a carrier bag or whatever to pick up any mess their dogs decide to make. Its not the dogs fault - they have to do what they have to do - if only the owners would take a bit more care.

I hope any other future brides do not have to be subject to having this happen to their lovely wedding dresses on their special day.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Butcher
7 Rogers Road

Dear Editors,

The Countryside Bill

As some people may be aware, the government has been compiling a new Countryside Bill, with the intention of all persons who wish to, to present their views on the draft version of the Bill, by writing any comments about each proposal.

I, as a member of a small group called the Fenland Bridleways Ass. sent off my comments having spent some time reading in detail the proposals and then writing them in a well presented manner.

Many more members, the BHS, as well as myself, brought up valid points for and against all proposals.

Each received a card to say the letters had been received and were to be taken into consideration. Why then, have we received a secondary draft of the Bill, after amendments, where there are no visible changes to each and every proposal!!! Were our efforts in vain? There were, in the summary analysis of responses, 1934 letters received, from all types, e.g. Cyclists, walkers, motorists, and landowners, every group imaginable it seems. Is it any wonder that people are so frustrated with government? I hope there are

some out there who do have some feelings on the matter!

It is likely that the Bill will be lobbied in Parliament, possibly soon, so if you do have any comments, get hold of a copy of the Bill and write to a Politician!

Kari Karolia

Marketing Officer, FENLAND BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION

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Exhibition of Local Art & Crafts and Flower Festival

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The Village Hall, Grantchester
Friday 25th to Monday 28th August
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Admission £2.00
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The Parish Council Meeting, 13 July 2000

The July meeting opened auspiciously with the co-opting of a new member of Council, Mr. Kevin Glennon of Mill Hill, who was invited to take his seat at the Council table. He did so in a literal sense, moving his chair from the Strangers' Gallery to the Table; and we all rejoiced that one of the two vacancies in the Council had been filled.



The Church Clock Bell occupied the Council for some time as there was a lot of background correspondence to be read and events to be described. But no action could be made in the absence of a reply from Mr. Farington of the Churches Conservation Trust. A more satisfying item was the Village Map: site has been chosen, Map easily visible at eye level, overhanging branch to be removed.

Playground equipment occupied us for some time. There is money coming in for such a purpose from Landfill sources, so to qualify for a grant the playground has to be within 10 miles of a landfill site, and we are just about that distance from the Milton Road site. Councillor Fitch of the Cambs County Council knew about this and urged us to insist on proper asphalt not bark-chippings which go to nothing very quickly.

Then came an item about a Skateboard Ramp, which (apparently) had been suggested by the Youth Club, who had asked the P.C. for support. Such an item would cost about £1000, and numerous difficulties were foreseen, apart from the cost. (Where? Likely to be a source of noise. Who would own and maintain? What about insurance? And adult supervision? It would attract people from outside the village; should have high fence and lockable gate. Could it be used for mountain bikes too?)

When Councillor Fitch had his turn, he remarked that village activities and entertainment were being directed increasingly at the 14-16 age-group because this age group of bored teenagers is responsible for much vandalism and petty theft. As soon as the youngsters can drive a car or ride a motor-bike they manage to get out of the village and become somebody else's problem. Mr. Fitch also told us of the proposed changes in local government structure: a 'Leader', plus a 'cabinet' of ten people for a County or 6 for a District; and all the elected people would be a 'parliament'. There would be a referendum about this next May, or before, about the time of local government elections. At a more mundane level Mr. Fitch talked about the salting and gritting of roads in winter. There is only a limited mileage available to us and we are already up to the limit, so if we want more roads salted we must say which roads can be taken out of the system. Mr. Fitch left soon after this item, and on his way out he congratulated Mr Glennon, on

getting through his first meeting without hearing a mention of ‘dog-fouling’.

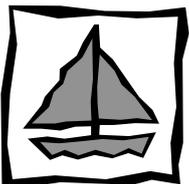
A letter from Mr. Norris requested some rationalisation of the burial plots in the cemetery. It was noted that at present burial plots and the much smaller cremation plots are becoming all higgledy-piggledy. They should be in separate rows, and Henry offered to make a 2-foot-by-2-foot template, to mark the size of each cremation plot

The Clerk told us about courses for new councillors, and mentioned that she herself had been on a course for new Clerks. We then heard a letter from Rosamund Chalmers, the Chair of Governors of the School, who was appealing for more governors, and told of the (pretty heavy) demands which such a position entailed. The P.C. appoints one of the Governors, and this place is now vacant. The Chairman looked round hopefully, but not surprisingly after Mrs. Chalmers’ letter nobody was in a hurry to put themselves forward, and the item was held over until September.

Rats and rat-catching were again on the agenda, and after discussion we agreed to the school's request to pay half the costs of 'Rentokil'. (But the school must not take it as a precedent). Overgrown hedges and obstructed pathways came in for notice, not surprisingly in view of the rainy summer. It was no doubt while doing some preparatory investigation for this item that Karen, Eric and Andrew Camps were seen, peering into the hedges around Coopers Green. This was on one of the few fine warm evenings; Eric and Andrew were in light summer wear, and Karen was in oilskins. When asked why, she said, ‘Well, I was going out with these two and I didn’t know what to expect’.

Margaret Stanier

Congratulations to Ena and Peter Partridge, who celebrate their Golden Wedding at the end of July. They have been helping collate the Crier since Cliff Curtis was Editor in the mid 1980's.



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QUY SCHOOL REUNION
Sunday September 3rd, 2000
10 am to 5 pm

If you went to Quy School, anytime before it closed in July 1978, you and your family would be most welcome to come along to the Village Hall (our Old School!). We shall have an exhibition of school photographs and Memorabilia - and we expect plenty of people with whom you can share old memories and have a laugh together. Why not arrange to meet your friends there? It is good to keep in touch in this Millennium Year.

If you know anyone who went to Quy school, please tell them about the Reunion.

Tea and Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Peggy Day 01223 812342

Jim Watts 01223 811232

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Sunday, 3rd September • 7.00 pm
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by kind invitation of Mrs Rosalind Wood

Tickets (including glass of wine): £6.00 • Children: £3.00
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Jancis' style is a simple one accompanying herself on the guitar and blending songs and stories to provide a most entertaining evening. She has many TV and radio broadcasts to her credit and we are indeed fortunate to have her perform here in Swaffham Prior. She has her own following so, to avoid disappointment, get your tickets early.

Ample parking
Gracious, warm, dry surroundings in marquee

PROGRAMME

7.00 for 7.30 pm: Welcome and glass of wine
7.30 pm: Concert
8.30 pm: Picnic supper time
9.00 pm: Raffle draw and departure

Proceeds to St Mary's Church Restoration Fund

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges *Lifelong Learning*

The Autumn programme, with over 250 courses to choose from, many leading to nationally recognised qualifications, is available now and will be delivered to your home this month.

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Community Office opening times:
Week days only 9.00am-12.30pm
Bottisham and Linton from Tuesday 29th August
Burwell from Wednesday 30th August

Term starts Monday 18th September

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

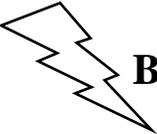


Register of Electors 2000/2001

Registration forms for the 2001/2002 Register of Electors will be sent to every household in East Cambridgeshire at the beginning of September. It is important that these forms are filled in and sent back as soon as possible in order that the new register can be drawn up.

The qualifying date for the new register is 10th October 2000. However, please do not wait until then to fill in the form. You should give the information even if you intend to move home after 10th October.

If you do not complete the form you may not be able to vote in any forthcoming elections or referenda. If you do not receive a form, please contact Mrs Joan Human at East Cambridgeshire District Council (telephone: Ely 665555 ext. 338) and a form will be sent to you.



SWAFFHAM BULBECK BRIGHT SPARKS PLAYGROUP



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

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



Working with people with learning difficulties, providing training and work opportunities in horticulture and organic market gardening.

What a start to the Year 2001

The first half of the year has been very busy for the Trust - hence the delay in bringing out the first newsletter of the year! Read on to see what's new at Snakehall Farm....

We have got a new tunnel which two men came to the farm to build. We will grow potatoes in the new tunnel. We have also got a new orange tractor, I have helped to plough the field on it.

We have had some new volunteers come to the farm. Becca has worked hard planting lettuces with me. Ann is a student and she has been helping us on the farm. The chickens have now got a new run with long grass and more space. Annie brings her dog Teal to the farm — he is a good boy (most of the time!).

Maggie Sinclair

Volunteer views: "Snakehill Farm is a great place to volunteer - the

people are lovely, the work is interesting and there are lots of new things to learn, like driving the tractor. I had never driven a tractor before, my lines were all wiggly. Maggie said I was dancing all over the potatoes! I also had a small crash into the fence! The new brushweeder is a brilliant machine, I steered it while Phil drove the tractor and we weeded the garlic and onion crops.”

Becca Royce



WI Notes

The W.I. enjoyed their annual summer party on Monday 17th July.

It was held in Margaret and Mike Phillip’s delightful garden. The evening was warm and sunny and members had provided a delicious supper. Definitely an evening to remember.

At the next W.I. meeting on August 21st we shall have a visit from a representative of the Raptor Foundation bringing birds of prey. We are making this an ‘open’ meeting so you are all invited - adults £1.50, children 50p, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

A coach trip to Belvoir Castle, the home of the Duke of Rutland, is being organised for Saturday 30th September. If you would like to join us please contact Betty Fox on 742000 for more information.

Betty Prime



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The Village Gardeners began their tour of Robinson College Gardens with a visit to the chapel to admire the magnificent stained glass window.

We were then taken round the extensive gardens by Mr. Desmond O’Grady, the head gardener. The area is divided up into smaller gardens with smooth green lawns, herbacious borders and magnificent trees. It is bisected by Bin Brook and there is a lovely pool and fountain. Mr.O’Grady is very interesting and extremely knowledgeable and made it a most enjoyable evening.

On 19th September we shall be back in Reach Village Hall at 8pm for an illustrated talk by Mr. Barry Gayton on Alpines and Rock Plants.

There will be no meeting in August.

Betty Prime



LADIES CIRCLE

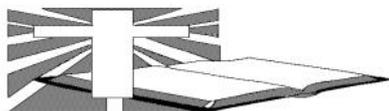
On Monday 26th June at 7.30pm the Ladies Circle met for their monthly meeting.

Mrs Elisabeth Everitt from the village spoke to us about her job as a Blue Badge Guide. Elisabeth has been a Blue Badge guide for ten years now and obviously has had to study the history of our local towns, i.e. Cambridge, Ely, Bury St Edmunds and Newmarket so that she can answer any questions put before her. The majority of her tourists are French, German and American, as well of course as the English. She told us about the amusing things said to her during these guided tours, specially from the young French children. Elizabeth certainly gave us an insight into the work involved with the Blue Badge which at times can prove very hard work.

We all thorough enjoyed our evening and promised Elizabeth that we would all 'book her' in the near future for a guided tour ourselves!!

Our meetings are very relaxed and friendly and we would of course welcome any new members. Please come along and see for yourselves.

Sandra Butcher



Zion Baptist Chapel

As most villagers know, we have just completed necessary repairs to the vestry at the Chapel. We would like to thank the various organisations and charities which have made grants and donations. In particular we are very grateful for:

1. The £2,000 less £200 (10% third party funding through the WREN grant) from Waste Recycling Environmental administered through the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust using East Waste Ltd and the Anti Waste Ltd Landfill Tax credits.
2. The donation from the Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities.

We now have a modern and functional room which together with the new kitchen makes it ideal for meetings etc.

Do come and have a look at how this money has been spent. You will be very welcome at any of our services or just ask me or anyone from the Chapel if you can have a look round.

Ruth Stinton
Chapel Secretary



The Government is making local Councils change the way we are structured. Over the last few months we have been consulting locally to see which of the three choices given to us by the Government should be adopted for East Cambridgeshire. Many people expressed the view that we should not change but that if we had to have one of the Government's options, the model with a Leader and Cabinet elected by the Council was the best option. And those who thought we did need to change also had a majority in favour of the Leader/Cabinet model. So we are going to introduce a Leader with a Cabinet of 5 people, each with an area of responsibility within the Council. All other Councillors, apart from the Chairman, will serve on Scrutiny Panels to guide the Cabinet and monitor the work of the Cabinet. We shall be consulting further on exactly how this should operate and will implement the changes from January next year. If you have any views on this, please let me know.

It's the time of year when Travellers start to camp around the village. When they are on public land it is the District Council's responsibility to take action to move them on and clear up any mess left by them. Where they are on private land it is the landowner's responsibility. The District Council Travellers' liaison officer will visit Travellers as soon as he is told of a new camp and assess whether or not any action is required. If they are on private land he will contact the landowner to request that they take the necessary action. In many cases the families are well known to us, do not cause trouble and intend to move on shortly, so lengthy and costly legal action is not needed.

The Council has concluded its negotiations with the Developer to whom the previous Council had sold the land off Broad Street in Ely. We have therefore retained 2.5 acres of land for open space instead of the proposed housing. This land will therefore be available for the residents of, and visitors to Ely to enjoy as open space. It is a part of Ely that is very rich in archaeology and a 20-week excavation has now begun to uncover evidence of the industrial zone of Saxon and Medieval Ely. Channel 4 TV's Time Team programme will be filming throughout the excavation, with members of the Time Team helping at various stages. Because of contamination from recent industrial activity on the site, it cannot be continuously open to the public. But we will have a public open day towards the end of the dig at which people can see what has been found and meet members of the Time Team.

Charlotte Cane



The County Social Services Dept has launched a new freephone information service to coincide with a change of name for its fostering and adoption service.

Previously known as Homefinding, the new name is **Fostering and Adoption Services** and for those people interested in caring for a child the freephone no. is **0800 052 0078**. This telephone number will allow people to make initial enquiries and request an information pack.

There is a great need for more carers in this field, so you will be very welcome if you would like to explore the possibilities.

Whilst on the subject of child care, I was shocked to learn that around four out of five **child car seats and restraints** in cars are fitted incorrectly. Often this is because they are not suitable for the vehicle in which they are fitted. In a collision badly fitted car seats could throw a child from the car still strapped in the car seat.

The County Road Safety Officers have just recently organised expert training at Marshall's Car Centre for staff from local shops selling child car seats about how they should be fitted and used. Any reader who is concerned about the safety of their child car seat can get it checked **FREE** by a trained member of staff at Marshall's, Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

There is good news about the extensions to the **PARK & RIDE** site in Newmarket Road. The number of spaces will double and work has already started. At the same time **Newmarket Road will be widened** from the Airport Way roundabout to the Park & Ride entrance to allow a central third lane to be used solely as a car access.

Further, the existing westbound **bus lane** from the Park & Ride park will be lengthened to a new junction controlled by traffic lights at Marshall's showroom and citybound buses will receive priority.

The existing **footpaths** on both sides of **Newmarket Road** along this section will be **widened and cycles will be allowed on them**.

I give early warning that in October the County starts work on improvements in **Bridge Street and Magdalen Street**. The work will be spread over 12 months and will involve some road closures in the area, starting now because TRANSCO has started to replace the gas main along Bridge Street. Detailed enquiries to Sue Hewitt on 01223-712428.

The six **FIRE BRIGADES** in East Anglia have joined together in a scheme to work together where there are common problems and other matters of interest. This is unlikely to affect our local stations at Swaffham Bulbeck and Burwell to any great extent. However, I have been to an Equal Opportunities seminar already and I foresee a push to employ a few more female and ethnic minority fire fighters. We are always looking for more retained (part-time) fire fighters round here, so do ask if you are interested.

James Fitch

Notes from the Parish Council July Meeting

Mr T Jones chaired the meeting with 6 members and 3 members of the Public.

Matters Arising

Parish Council Vacancy: Mr Kevin Glennon attended the P.C. meeting after expressing his wish to become a Parish Councillor. Mr Glennon was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council and after completing the necessary paperwork, the Chairman invited him to join the meeting. One vacancy still remains on the P.C. Anyone interested, please contact any member of the P.C. or the Clerk.

Church Clock: The striking of the hour was discussed at great length. Letters had been received from villagers expressing their concerns. Generally the meeting felt that until the chiming mechanism was in place and working, it was very difficult to judge its impact on nearby houses. The Clerk was asked to reply to concerned residents.

Village Map: Mrs Everitt had written to the P.C. with reference to the siting of the Map. It is hoped to place the Map outside the Village Hall alongside the noticeboard. Certain shrubs will need to be cut back or possibly removed. The P.C. confirmed that they would action this cutting/trimming back. It was reported to the meeting by Mrs Malster that the Map will hopefully be completed by late August/early September. An opening ceremony will take place at the end of September.

Playground Equipment: Brochures had been obtained by the Clerk and suggested ideas for pieces of new equipment were shown to the meeting. The Clerk is to obtain more detailed estimates plus costs of surfacing, etc., and look into possible Grants towards the costs. The 'tyre' swing is to be repaired. The Clerk had contacted Stadia Surfaces about the unsatisfactory repair works to the surfacing below the swings and asked them to return and correct. This they said they would do.

Skating Ramp: Copies of the details submitted to the P.C. at the June meeting had been circulated to the P.C. members to allow more detailed consideration. All members congratulated the young people involved with the putting together of this package. The enclosed details were discussed at great length and it was generally felt that there were several aspects that needed to be further investigated, i.e., security, insurance, funding, overall responsibility and noise. Further report at next P.C. meeting.

Reports

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Correspondence Received: This was reported to the meeting.

General: A letter had been received from Stagecoach noting the complaints about buses speeding through the village and stating that all drivers had been instructed to abide by speed limits.

A letter expressing concerns about **overhanging vegetation** and obstructions with reference to pavements and footpaths was received. The Clerk was asked to reply.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Applications Received

2A Green Head Road - Demolition of existing dwelling and outline application for two dwellings. Amendment: “the submission of details of dwellings”. There were no objections to this amendment but comments on traffic issues and possible over-development were recorded with ECDC.

Anchor Lodge, Upware - Single-storey extension to dwelling including relocation of existing single-storey garage. There were no objections to this application.

Planning Approvals Received:

16 Fairview Grove - Loft conversion to include two dormer windows to rear elevation.

24 Mill Hill - two bedroom two-storey extension.

Any Other Business

Mrs Maister reported the difficulties of residents at The Beeches in having to carry out their own grasscutting. This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact Hereward Housing/ECDC to seek their assistance.

Repair work needed to one of the seats outside the Village Hall was reported. This will be put in hand. There will be no August Parish Council meeting. Should any matter arise that requires attention, a meeting will be called at that time

The **next Parish Council meeting** will be on Thursday, 14th September 2000 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King

Clerk of the Parish Council

Swaffham Prior Parish Council — Chairman

Many thanks to Andrew Badcock, for his two year stint as Chairman of the PC and who retired in May, and welcome to Trevor Jones, the new Chairman. His contact details are:

Mr Trevor Jones,
Sheldricks Cottage,
42 Lower End,
Swaffham Prior,
Cambs. CB5 0HT
Tel: 01638 741197

From the Parish Registers for July

In Memoriam: Hilda Hiner (83) {SB}

Gordon (Tony) Pulford (74) {SP}



Church Services

August 1999

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

*THE
TRANSFIG-
URATION*

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

11:00am
Parish Communion

6:00pm
Evensong[†]
and Sermon

TRINITY 8

Sun
13
Parish Communion

11:00am
Village Communion
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

TRINITY 9

Sun
20
Village Communion

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

3:00pm
Holy Baptism of
Olivia Thompson
11:00am
Family Service and
Holy Baptism of
David Cane

*TRINITY
10*

Sun
27
Parish Communion
*Preacher: The Bishop of
Dover*
12:30pm
Holy Baptism of
Ben Lecocq

11:00am
Mattins[†] and Sermon
3:00pm
Holy Baptism of
Emily How
6:00pm
Evensong[†] and Sermon

8:00am
Holy Communion[†]

Holy Communion
Evening Prayer

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

Bellringing
Housegroup

Tuesdays, fortnightly 8pm. St. Cyriacs. Contact: Dr Margaret Stanier on 741328.
Tuesdays, 8pm, fortnightly in Reach.
Contact Olivia Cole 743434 or Juliet Vickery 742676

Mothers Union

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

Toddlers Service

3rd Thursdays @ 11:30am for 15 minutes in Reach Church or Centre

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

Dear Friends,

PASS OR FAIL?

“I was so pleased - after all the revision, the tension of the actual exams and the long wait for the results, I opened the envelope to find myself the proud owner of 2 grade ‘A’s in French & English, and a ‘B’ in History. What great news!.... news I hurried home from college to share with my parents. My mother was delighted, and when my father came home and heard the news, he paused and thought for a moment, then said ‘what happened to the History?’”

That was a story I heard some time ago, from someone who was still carrying the hurt of not being good enough in her father’s eyes. Despite the hard work and having done her best, she hadn’t met his expectations.

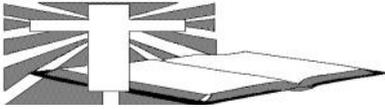
In the vicarage family, we are in the ‘eye of the storm’ with all this, awaiting the results and their consequences for both GCSE and ‘A’ level exams, and the eternal question of ‘gap’ year or not? In this, I am conscious throughout of the pressure on young people, how much *is* expected from them, and the twin pressure of both peer-group and parents/grandparents. Perhaps we should be grateful to be spared the pressure-cooker of selective schooling, (though I imply no criticism of them by this, being a ‘grammar-school’ lad myself) - the danger being that of making children an extension of one’s own success, or indeed *lack* of success, sacrificing their more rounded education and nurture on the altar of parental ambition alone.

We live in a world of competitiveness and job insecurity, so, of course, we want to see our young people trying to secure their future, BUT at the same time we need to help them into an understanding that academic achievement isn’t the only thing to be valued. Paper qualifications need not be the only tangible evidence of a full and rounded education, nor of an automatic ticket to a full and contented life. I rather enjoyed the recent story of a head-teacher who has given it all up to be a coach-driver!

I don’t imply a ‘dumbing-down’, but we do need to affirm that “you can only do your best” (as long as they *have*, and had encouragement and help at the right time so to do), and that there is no sub-text “but we’ll be disappointed if you fail”. Whoever we are, and whatever our contact with young people, we should let them know that they are valued for the person they are. The culture of success extends far beyond the classroom; many are afraid of not just failing, but of being seen to fail, and we go to extraordinary lengths to attempt strategic cover-ups. Some live their lives in fear of a patriarchal God whose approval needs to be gained, and for whom we sense we can never be good enough, wretched, miserable sinners that we are; BUT this is a failure of true understanding of the Christian faith in God-as-Trinity. We can find it hard to believe in grace, that we are loved in Christ without needing to earn it, amazing as that grace may seem. God delights in the ‘A’s & ‘B’s but also in the ‘D’s & ‘E’s as well. God can deal with failure; it’s us that find it difficult.

The story of the carpenters son from Galilee was riddled with disappointments, rejections and failures along the way, but He knew He was loved. At the heart of it all was His sense of worth and value in the eyes of His Father. That is *grace*, and we could do with believing in it for ourselves, and sharing it with others.

Mark Howarth



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for August 2000:

Sunday	6 th	6.30pm	Communion - J.Chalklin
Sunday	13 th	6.00pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	20 th	6.30pm	(No Service)
Sunday	27 th	6.30pm	Evening Worship - John Swezey

Smile...

People I meet often have this nightmare idea of what it's a like to be a Christian. They often think I'm living this miserable life, always doing the opposite of what I really want. So they think I really want to get drunk, but I'm not allowed to. They think I really don't want to tell other people about Jesus, but I have to (like Jehovah's Witnesses). But it's not like that at all. Once you know Jesus has forgiven and accepted you, believe it or not, what you want is to change. You actually want him to be Lord of your life. And that is certainly something I can and do smile about.

And anyway, Church can actually be great fun. We certainly have a good laugh from time to time. I hope the following extracts from some Church bulletins will make you laugh - or at least smile.

- Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It is a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on Water... The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.
- National Prayer & Fasting Conference: 'The cost for attending the Prayer & Fasting conference includes meals.'
- The agenda was adopted... the minutes approved... the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- The peace making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to conflict.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Mrs. C remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Jack's sermons.

David Bousfield

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

Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

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

Kirtling: Sun 0945;

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

From John Morrill, Deacon to the Roman Catholic Community

This month I am going to write about Catholic schools. What has prompted me to do so is there has been a death in the family of Catholic schools in our area and as I sat down to think about what I should say in this column, the memory of the Mass that marked the closure of St Alban's school in Bury St Edmunds is very clear in my mind. All schools in this country are arranged into 'pyramids' of secondary schools and their feeders (or, as in the case of West Suffolk, secondary, middle and primary schools). In fact the Catholic pyramid is more like an inverted 'T', with one 13-18 school (St Benedict's in Bury) and one 9-13 School (St Louis in Bury) being fed by five primary schools (St Edmund and St Alban in Bury, St Felix in Haverhill, St Joseph's in Sudbury and St Louis in Newmarket). But with the closure of St Alban's school it will be four not five. St Alban's was built around 1970 where a vast new estate had been planned; an estate then abandoned, and it has always struggled to keep its numbers up and it has finally succumbed. Every funeral should be a mixture of grieving, gratitude and hope, and the mix and emphasis varies according to the context. The funeral of St Alban's school was suffused with gratitude for all the good things that had been made possible by its existence, and the icon of St Alban given by the school to the parish church was a symbol of remembrance, just as the altar cloths with the emblems of St Alban presented to the schools to which the pupils will now transfer (St Edmund and St Louis Middle) were symbols of hope.

The Catholic schools represent a close knit family. St Louis Newmarket is the primary school for the parishes of Newmarket and Mildenhall. Seventy five per cent of children baptised and resident in the parishes attend the school, and conversely about seventy five per cent of the children at the school are Catholic, the other twenty five per cent being children of parents who want their children to be brought up in the Christian faith via the forms of worship, and the language of the Catholic Church. The school mission statement is explicitly Christian rather than Catholic: *By recognising Jesus Christ in ourselves and others, our school strives to be a living Christian community which values and nurtures each individual through a sound education, and which encourages responsible attitudes towards our changing world.* Our Catholic schools all offer a *holistic* education: the religious education is not tacked on, added to the 'national curriculum'; it pervades every lesson and every activity. It seeks to live out with the children our belief that God is in everything and at the heart of all that we do.

The above paragraph is a bit of a commercial in case there is anyone reading this (Catholics specifically, but anyone drawn to what I have said) who had not considered St Louis for their children). But it is also to allow me to make another point. In Catholic schools we find the ecumenical spirit especially alive and well. There was a time, when no non-Catholic would have been welcomed to a Catholic school, and all Catholics were exempt from attending worship in non-Catholic schools. Nowadays, not only do Anglican, Methodist, Baptist parents find the *Christian* atmosphere at our school powerful and non-threatening to their own tradition; but there is a spirit abroad for the churches to build ecumenical schools where they can work together in the christian formation of young people. St Bede's in Cambridge is a working example; and a joint ecumenical primary school has recently opened in March. If this is not a road to unity, I do not know what is!

Dates for Your Diary - August 2000

Tue	1	Playscheme 2000, 9:30 am, continues until Friday
Wed	2	
Thu	3	
Fri	4	
Sat	5	
Sun	6	
Mon	7	
Tue	8	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	9	
Thu	10	<i>No</i> PC Meeting (unless an emergency arises!)
Fri	11	
Sat	12	Farmers' Market, Market Place, Ely. 8:30am - 4:30pm
Sun	13	
Mon	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i>
Tue	15	
Wed	16	
Thu	17	
Fri	18	
Sat	19	
Sun	20	
Mon	21	WI Meeting, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Tue	22	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	23	
Thu	24	
Fri	25	Cambridge Quilters Exhibition of Work, Grantchester Village Hall, 10:00am - 4:00pm - daily until Mon 28 th
Sat	26	
Sun	27	
Mon	28	
Tue	29	
Wed	30	
Thu	31	<i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm

September

Sun	3	7pm Summer Picnic, the Manor House Marquee 10am-5pm Quy School Reunion, Quy Village Hall
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