



The Swaffham Crier

Volume 24 Number 5

May 2000



Editorial

Since this is the May Crier, I'm starting with a topical gardening tip from a friend who is an expert on butterflies. Don't think that just a few nettles are enough to attract the breeding habits of our butterflies: you will need a good two square metres in full sun-light and with a frilly edge. Fortunately we have just such a patch next to our rose bed!

And now for some Household Tips from recent personal experience. Firstly, when doing the housework, remember to wear some of those 'nearly new' clothes which you don't wear very often, if at all. You may spill something on them and so will be able to throw them out with a clear conscience. Secondly, if harassed by ants, only sweep the middle of the floor and let the corners look after themselves, especially the corner where you think the ants are scuttling in, because then they will scuttle out again, if a little slower, carrying large cake crumbs and other things you don't want.

Lastly, but that is enough household tips. It is the last episode of "Our Man of the Millennium" (or is it Millenium as on the placard in the church? There wasn't any Word spell-check then!) this month; and as correctly predicted by the Editorial Team, by careful reading of Francis Riggs' revealing "That Other Millennium" essays, it is indeed **our** man who is revealed - well almost! The Earl of Oxford (for it is he!) owned lands in Swaffham Bulbeck. So there.

And the Moveable Feast was very good (as reported on other pages of this issue). This was not only because I had nothing to do with the food but also because we all had a jolly good time and can't wait for the next one.

Apologies as ever for the Editorial mistakes! There are two reports from the Village Gardeners this month because last month's got electronically lost under another article! There are also two from The Ladies Circle but that's the fault of the calendar and copy dates. Electronic gremlins have also crept into some adverts (mainly phone numbers dropping off the end) but we hope we're gradually finding and eradicating these but please let us know if you spot any.

Don't forget Reach Fair Tug-of-war. See you there!

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Wild Flowers by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dog Poo!

Please please please can you clear up your dog mess! I got down to the school via the back way from the corner of Greenhead Rd to Cage Hill to find my push-chairs wheels — my daughter's wellies — tights — and dress — covered in poo! I think its disgusting that after all the messages — in the Crier — all the signs around the village that people are still not clearing the dog mess up!

It's bad enough dodging the poo on the pavement along the High St — but hiding it in the grass down the backway — well — words can't say!

Lisa Arksey
Greenhead Road

PRIORY YOUTH CLUB

Thorpe Park Trip

On Sunday 11th June

Seats are available

Anyone welcome

The Cost is only £16, which includes the coach cost and entry to the park,

If you are interested contact

Alan or Jill on (01638) 742228

Moveable Feast

What a super evening we all had. Many of us weren't really sure what we were in for but by the end of the evening the cry was "When can we have the next one?"

When any event goes with a swing, it is always due to the organisation and preparation beforehand. So a very big THANK YOU to Elizabeth Everitt who master-minded the evening and to the hosts and hostesses at Old Barn, Anglesey House and Kent House for opening their homes to 30 people and for making them so welcome.

For those of you who were unable to come this time, you missed superb food and wine, excellent company and an opportunity to meet other villagers who you may not have met before. Watch this space for the date of the next Moveable Feast.

Kate Child

The Village Feast 2000

Saturday 13 May

at

2.00 pm

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

Maypole Dancing *Bouncy Castle* *Can Shy*

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

Egg Throwing *Raffle*

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

Stalls Galore

Bottle Stall, Cakes and Preserves, Books, Plants

Gifts and Collectibles and more.....

Admission 30p. Children Free

Your help is needed....

As usual we are appealing for donations to the **Cake Stall**. Anything in the food line will be most gratefully received - cakes, flapjacks, scones, jams and preserves, etc. All offers to Betty Prime (741221) or to the stall on the day.

Books, Books, Books - if you want to make space by clearing out some of your books, just give Alan Bishop (741681) or Ron Prime (741221) a ring, and they will be happy to receive or collect. But, if you have **Collectibles** or **Bric a Brac** please phone Kate Child (743983).

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

Thanking you for your usual generous support



Congratulations!

A baby boy, Nicholas, has been born to Peter and Tina Jost, 7
The Stables, High Street.

ART HISTORY

The Sassetti Chapel, Santa Trinita, Florence

An illustrated talk by Ann Hollingsworth

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Thursday 25th May 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

Entrance £2 (includes refreshments)

The Sassetti Chapel is a rare example of a Renaissance family funerary chapel that has kept its original frescos, altarpiece and tombs.

Who are the people portrayed in the frescos? What do the paintings and tombs tell us about Francesco Sassetti? These questions form the basis for an interesting study of this beautiful chapel and will be the central theme of this evening's talk.

The next Art History Talk will be on Thursday 6th July, 7.30 p.m.

'The Representation of Heaven in Art'

Enquiries to Ann Hollingsworth (741613)

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY 2000

A very big thank-you to all who have so generously made donations towards the Chernobyl Children's Holiday 2000 Appeal.

We have been able to sponsor one child and also provide some of the toiletries needed through the kindness of villagers and also the Ladies Circle who held a coffee morning to raise money for the appeal and to show off our new kitchen and refurbished vestry at the Chapel.

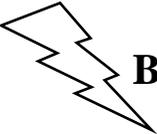
Ruth Stinton

Zion Baptist Chapel

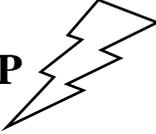
Lost!

A set of Keys on Mill Hill, Rogers Road, or Lower End.

Reward if returned via the Editorial Team.



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 from the term in which they are 3 years old. 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.

Bellringing in May

On Monday 1st May a band from the Ely Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers will be coming to ring at Swaffham Prior, St. Cyriac's. The ringing will probably start about 2.30 or 3.00pm.

M. Stanier.



The 800th Anniversary of

REACH FAIR

Declared open by the Mayor of Cambridge at 12 Noon.

**Come and join the celebrations,
with fun and entertainment for all.**

Enlarged for this special occasion with extra activities and food

Entrance to the Fair is free. Parking (inc. Programme) £1. Programme raffle First Prize £50.

Reach Fair is a fund-raising event and is a Registered Charity.

Report on Parish Council Meeting, 13 April 2000

At the start of the meeting the Chairman told us that this was the last meeting at which he would take the chair. He was about to join the Police Force, employment which would exclude him from his present role. We must therefore give thought to the choice of his successor. References to the Police throughout the meeting thus had a *double entendre*, and the Chairman's blushes were not spared.



The meeting spent some time on the cemetery: burial-plots (another row needed); cremation-plots (getting too large); exclusive grants of burial; cost of trimming the sides. It was a relief to dispose of what the Chairman called 'this macabre subject' (graves and worms and epitaphs) and to get on to the County Councillor's report.

Mr. Fitch shows unfailing interest in roads (repairs to cul-de-sacs now promised), traffic, park-and-ride (more places in Newmarket Road P-&-R), laybys (new ones promised, water-tower one improved). He gave us a couple of good news-items about Schools: fifty-two % of children gained A-to-C at the last GCSE; and there is to be a 'Sensory Garden' made on a patch of waste land behind Bottisham Village College.

There was a period devoted to Pathways and Numbers, which involved much unfolding and study of Maps; and to Harrison's Drove (Right-of-way? Permitted path?). But the main part of the meeting was devoted to the item 'Correspondence':

- A letter from Mr. Mundin offered his resignation from the Council, and this was accepted.
- A letter complaining about parking in Cage Hill and Greenhead Road very close to the junction between these roads described the situation as 'an accident waiting to happen'. (Eric or Henry remarked that this was 'clearly a matter for the Police').
- A letter from Hereward Housing who are building the group of houses at the Heath Road/Mill Hill corner tells us that the ECDC is planning to call these houses '2a, 2b, 2c and 2d Mill Hill'. (There is at present no Number 2 Mill Hill). Hereward Housing themselves wanted to call the group 'Greenhead Hill', claiming that this was the original name for the site, and wished the support of the Parish Council in the matter. The meeting expressed mild surprise that the houses were not to be given Heath Road numbers, as the main entrance appears to be off Heath Road, but the P.C. was on the side of the ECDC over the numbering issue. The letter from Hereward Housing, dated 28th January, had been misdirected to 55 High Street, Swaffham BULBECK, and reached our Clerk only about 10 days

**ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
ON THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2000
AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

ago; obviously too late for any expression of Swaffham Prior's views

- The reading of a letter from Brenda Wilson at the Primary School caused immense interest: the meeting really sparkled at this point. Mrs. Wilson said that rats had been seen in the School Playground, and the rat nest had been traced to a stump on the boundary between the School and the Parish Hall. Mrs Wilson had at once dealt with the matter by means of two baited child-proof rat traps and the nest had been destroyed. This had cost £120 per trap. She had asked for the cost to be shared, the rats having been found on the boundary. Everyone had something to say on this. Why would a trap cost £120? Do we keep the trap? If so, where? Was £120 the cost of the trap or the rodent-officer's fee? Someone said 'I shot three rats down on the fen last year'. 'I saw rats along the Reach Road Ditch'. 'The Health and Safety people don't remove rats free, except from Residences' 'Of course Brenda Wilson had to take prompt action.' 'We can't refuse.....' 'One couldn't wait to get 3 estimates from contractors over a matter such as this.'..... In the end it was agreed that Sandra Wilson would look into the matter and question Mrs. Brenda Wilson to obtain clarity.

On the way home I felt relieved that Swaffham Prior is not Hamelin where haggling over the cost of rat removal might lead to the loss of all the schoolchildren. A mere hundred and twenty pounds is not a thousand guilders. However, Hamelin Town Council did not have to think about Best-Value-and-Three-Contractors'-Estimates, but only about the depth of the municipal coffers.

Margaret Stanier

THE FRIENDS OF BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

INVITE YOU TO OUR

SPRING FAIR

BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

ON

SAT 13th MAY

2.00pm - 4.30pm

COME AND JOIN THE FUN

SOME THING FOR ALL THE FAMILY

INCLUDING

**BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE-PAINTING, DISPLAY OF CLASSIC AND
MODERN CARS, BALLOON RACE, SONG COMPETITION, CAKE
STALL, PLANT STALL, LOTS OF GAMES STALLS
AND HIDDEN TREASURE**

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

BOTTISHAM OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND

on

Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd July 2000

from 2.00pm onwards each day

**LOOK OUT FOR THE YELLOW POSTERS OUTSIDE THE
12 GARDENS PARTICIPATING**

Entrance is £2.00 per adult which gives access to all gardens during the weekend and free entry for children under 12 if accompanied by an adult. Pay at the first garden that you choose to visit. The ticket will give all relevant addresses of gardens that will be open and should be kept as proof of payment for entering the other gardens during the weekend.

SO DO COME AND TAKE A PEEP AT OTHER PEOPLE'S GARDENS



NEWS FROM BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE

We are now at a point where local parents have made their choice of secondary school for September 2000. Once again, we are oversubscribed and have a waiting list. Naturally we are very pleased about this because it is in line with our plan to maintain a manageable school size of 1000 pupils.

In making their choices, parents have considered the strong academic record at Bottisham and the fine range of extra curricular opportunities.

This week a very strong cast have been performing a demanding play - *The Royal Hunt of The Sun* - about the Spanish conquistadors and the Incas in Peru. Audiences have been very impressed by the quality and maturity of the performances.

Also this year, members of the College attended a presentation at the Guildhall in Cambridge, to celebrate the success of school sport in the District. Seven of our pupils received awards for their outstanding contribution this year. Two of them, Matthew Mitchel-King from Burwell (soccer) and Neal Flynn from Bottisham (cross country) were nominated for sports personality of the year.

Our sports teams continue to do well and this year so far we have achieved the following successes: *Cross Country District Champions (for the 2nd year in succession)*; *Basketball U16 District Champions*

We are confident that swimming will be back on the college timetable very soon indeed. Fourteen months after the disastrous fire of February 1999, we are soon to re-open and we will be delighted to see many old friends from the local community 'take the plunge', and get back to full fitness.

Another important development this year has been our link with Marshalls, who have agreed to sponsor the College. We are very proud of this and it has already become a very positive relationship: one spin-off has been that Marshalls staff from the aircraft design office have supported our pupils at an after-school club, designing and building a hot-air balloon which will be capable of rising to 1000 feet. This will be launched at Marshall's airport when testing is complete.

A busy year then, and a lot for pupils to enjoy.... but the proudest moment was when Bottisham Village College was named in Parliament this year as one of the 66 most outstanding secondary schools in England and Wales.

Peter Hains
Warden

News from The Windmill

The weekend of May 13/14 is National Mills Weekend. A number of mills in the area will be open to the public over the weekend, including Steven's Mill, Burwell, Downfield Mill, Soham, Lode Watermill and of course Fosters Mill, Swaffham Prior.

We will be open on Sunday 14th May from 2.00pm onwards. Visitors will be able to tour the mill, hopefully - weather allowing see it in action, view our collection of pictures of the mill which date back to around 1890 and of course purchase our range of flours and associated products.

Last year we launched our appeal to raise £2,000 for the Year 2000. A year on, we still have some way to go, especially as the goal has had to change, and we are now looking for a sum of around £6,000. East Cambridgeshire District Council have grant aided some of our current restoration work on the sails.

We therefore invite you to **Sponsor a Sail**. For £20.00, we will inscribe your family name on a sail shutter, and thus you will be remembered on the mill for years to come. In this way, we should be able to raise some £1,600 towards the cost of the sail repairs. Come along and find out more.

The good news is, that by late July, the mill will once again have four sails! A new 48' long timber is being lifted into place in June, and two new sails will then be hoisted into position.

See you on 14 May to support your local Mill.

Jonathan Cook
01638 741 009

Bottisham Players *Variety 2000*

The next production takes on the theme of a Variety show that spans the 1st the 21st century: music from *Jesus Christ Superstar* to *The Spice Girls*; Comedy extracts and sketches from Shakespeare to The Two Ronnies; dance from Tudor to Rock and Roll will be placed before you.

The event takes place in the main hall at Bottisham Village College on the **18th, 19th and 20th May 2000**. The atmosphere will be a lively night where you can sit at tables with friends for an evening of fun. It is intended that you bring your own refreshments although soft drinks will be on sale.

The fun starts at 7.30pm each evening, the cost £6.00 with concessionaries available on Thursday and Friday only at £4.00.

Tickets can be purchased from Lushers the Newsagents or at Bottisham Supplies High Street Bottisham. Telephone booking on 01223 812911 or 01223 812779

Come and watch 2000 pass before your eyes in 2 hours!

PLAYSCHEME 2000!!

Update - April 2000

Planning is going well, and we can now identify specific requirements - please call me if you can help or advise on the following.

1. Cooking is a great favourite and we are short of a leader for this. We can use the Village Hall kitchen but what the children consider a real treat is to visit someone's kitchen and cook there. Can you help?
2. We would like to introduce a magic session this year - are you a magician prepared to divulge some tricks of the trade? Please let me know.
3. We do have possibilities for hiring a drama teacher - but is there any home grown talent we can tap into? My son would never forgive me if we didn't have a drama session!
4. I am hoping to do some traditional french skipping, marbles and cat's cradle type games - do you remember any from your school days? I'd love to hear of them.
5. And still we would welcome offers of help on anything else - new sessions for consideration or an extra pair of hands for cutting out, serving orange juice, or escorting a trip, for example.

Thank you.

And just a reminder of the basic details:

Playscheme will take place from 31 July to 4 August, daily 9.30 - 12 noon. All primary school aged children in Swaffham Prior and Reach, or who have attended Swaffham Prior School, are welcome to attend. The cost will be £2.50 per day, or £6.00 for a family ticket, with some subsidised places available. Application forms will be issued through school in the summer term; please get in touch on the number below if you will not be included in this circulation.

Dee Noyes - 743864

Our Man of the Millennium - VIII

Does it matter a fig who wrote the plays? Some people argue that it doesn't. They maintain that only the plays count, that any debate about authorship is irrelevant. I find this puzzling. The two main contestants for the authorship are like chalk and cheese. Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (1550-1604) was a writer from a young age, always had strong connections with the stage, a favourite of the Queen and an important member of Court. William Shakspeare (1564-1616) was a provincial business man. And their dates are very different.

There is no firm evidence to show when any play was first written or first performed. If Shakspeare is the author, the plays are fitted into his life span. If Oxford is the author everything has to be shunted forward. **The plays would need to be redated, and the history of Elizabethan literature rewritten.** Instead of Shakespeare being influenced by so many writers, he becomes the major influence of the age. Yet, some people still say it doesn't matter who wrote the plays! So, I throw in another possibility.

Last year Mark Lewinski, quoting an impeccable source, proposed **Anne Hathaway** (1556-1623) as the author. If he is right, would the fact that the author was a woman be significant? No doubt some people would still say it doesn't matter who wrote the plays?

A valid question from the average person is to wonder why the Shakspeare myth continues when there is so little evidence to support it. The reasons are: vested interests, the academic establishment, money, and reluctance to give up a faith.

The Stratford and national tourist industry quite understandably cannot support the Oxford claim. Publishers know there is money in the Stratford Shakespeare, and see no reason to reject the advice of their academic advisers, who are generally "Stratfordians". Theatre directors and actors do not have time for the necessary background reading, and they have other concerns. Which leaves us with the academics.

Well-established professors who have spent their lives working on Shakespeare will not change, especially when prompted to do so by amateurs. Up and coming academics will not jeopardise their appointment or promotion by becoming "heretics". Anyone seeking funding for a Ph.D. would be foolish to select Oxford as a subject because those controlling the grants are bound to be "Stratfordians". Teachers at 'A' level should be careful about introducing pupils to Oxford and must certainly tell them not to mention him in exam answers - the examiners are generally "Stratfordians". The standard response from "Stratfordians" is harsh, swift, unthinking and easy - "Nonsense. Palpable nonsense!"

So, am I saying that academics are to blame for the continuation of the Shakspeare myth? Yes, academics have not behaved well over the authorship question. They should guide the general public. They have the time and opportunity to look objectively into this longstanding problem. And yet they don't, won't, can't. Why? Apart from the immediate risk of jibes from colleagues, there is also the question of pride, and shame. After so many years of denial, they cannot admit that some

amateurs are right. Sadly, academics, with a blind faith in the Stratford man, usually only resort to sneers and denigration.

From 1997 to 1999 three new biographies of Shakespeare were published - by Professors Bate, Honan and Holden. These are all totally inadequate, have poor scholarship, and their arguments rely on new make-believe. Work of this nature ought not to be applauded by the academic establishment, but alas it is.

It is not just the academics but also the commentators who perpetuate the myth. Allan Massie reviewing Honan's book in the *Daily Telegraph* (1998) writes "**A.L. Rowse claimed, correctly I think, that we know more about Shakespeare than about any other Elizabethan except the Queen herself.**" (*This is simply not true, and even the most ardent Stratfordian should disagree with that statement*). John Mortimer reviewing Holden's book in the *Observer* (1999) says "**so his character is left a blank. This has an inestimable advantage. We can receive his works free from worries about minor meanness or major character defects, which may infect our enjoyment of other writers.**" (*Mortimer is saying that it is preferable to know nothing about any creative artist!*). Margaret Drabble in her Oxford English Literature Companion accuses those who doubt Shakspeare of "**Snobbery - reluctance to believe that a man of humble origins wrote many of the world's dramatic masterpieces**". (*This is just a piece of inverted snobbery rather than a serious argument*).

Something is truly rotten in the state of academia when it is accepted, without question, that after 250 years of diligent labour, make-believe and forgery, not one shred of documentary evidence has been produced showing that the Stratford businessman had written the plays or could even write. Shakespeare is the only major author over whom there has been such a longstanding authorship dispute. James Boswell in 1821 said "there is something fishy" about the First Folio. And so there is, and about Shakspeare's Will, and about almost everything else connected with Shakspeare.

But, enough! We do indeed have the plays to enjoy and admire, no matter who wrote them. And each year the "Oxfordian" Societies in England and in America grow stronger and stronger.

Alastair Everitt

ST. MARY'S CHURCH. SWAFFHAM BULBECK.

BULBECK AUCTION

ON 20th MAY 2000

AT DOWNING FARM. SWAFFHAM BULBECK

Friday 19th May - Goods received between 5pm-9pm

Saturday 20th May - Viewing from 9am. Selling starts at 11am.

Commission Fee 25%

Further information from 01223 811722 / 811772

Bottisham, Burwell, Linton Village Colleges

Lifelong Learning

Weekend & One Day Workshops

Saturday 13th May

Essential Italian

Fruit & Vegetable Carving - The Thai Way - Part 1

Introduction to the Internet Magic of Play

Time Management

Using IT in the Preschool Setting

Saturday & Sunday 13th & 14th May

Stained Glass with Copper Foil

Saturday 20th May

*A New Look for a New Era * Arabic Dance*

*Chair Caning & Upholstery * Essential German*

Fruit & Vegetable Carving - The Thai Way - Part 2

Neurolinguistic Programming - Advanced

Planning to Start Your Own Business - Part I

Silk Painting

Saturday & Sunday 20th & 21st May

First Aid for Youth Workers

Introduction to Computing

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



Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

proudly presents

Iolanthe

by W.S.Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan

At Mitchell Lodge Barn, Quarry Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck

on

Thurs 8th (£5), Fri 9th (£6), Sat 10th (£6) June at 8.00pm

and Sat 10th June at 2.30pm (£2.50).

Tickets are available from Rosemary Upton on 01638 742933.



One Day in May Save the Day!

25th May 2000 faces extinction! It needs your help. Please don't let this day pass the same way as forgettable others.



How can *you* help?

If you live or work in East Cambridgeshire you can save it. Write it, paint it, film it, video it, photograph it, it doesn't matter how you do it.

Just save *your* day!

25th May 2000 doesn't end there. Whatever you save will be archived, used to form an exhibition and a show to be written and performed by local people in 2001.

Don't leave it to somebody else to do it.

May 25th 2000 needs you.

Make 25th May 2000 the Day that Lasts Forever.

What shall I do with *my* record of 25 May 2000?

If possible please send or deliver it to:

One Day in May,

Babylon Gallery, Babylon Bridge, Waterside, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4AU.

Otherwise please ring one of our members as below:

Stephen Adamson, (01353)-648685

Fiona Gilbert, (01353)-862990

Barbara Hogger, (01353)-7771 11

Liz Quinn, (01353)-668722

Graham Waterhouse, (01638)-743095

One Day in May is sponsored by ADeC and an 'Awards for All' National Lottery Grant.

THINKING OF STARTING A BUSINESS IN THE FENS?

Advice, support and guidance is available from Fenbet: Fenland Business Enterprise Trust Limited, Fenland Business Centre, Longhill Road, March, Cambs PE15 OBL. Tel: 01354 660900. Fax 01354 660021, email: business@fenbet.demon.co.uk



LADIES CIRCLE

MARCH

The monthly meeting of the Ladies Circle was held on Monday 27th March at Zion Baptist Chapel. The speaker this month was Colin who told us about the work of the Samaritans. There are approximately 120 volunteer workers at the Samaritans and anyone can ring them any time of the day — 24 hours a day. Colin said that he receives calls for many different reasons, from young and old alike. People telephone that are depressed, lonely, having family problems, young people taking drugs — and so on. Every call is confidential and sometimes calls can last from 5 minutes to 5 hours.

We all found Colin very easy to talk to — we could ask various questions throughout the evening and in all everyone found the topic very interesting.

APRIL

On Monday 17th April the Ladies Circle met at Zion Baptist Chapel for their monthly meeting. This week Mr Vic Stannett from Lode told us about the work involved with the Orange Badge. This was most interesting and made many of us realise just how the Orange Badge system works, how one goes about getting an Orange Badge and the many uses and misuses of the badge itself. We certainly learnt a lot and are now aware of the aim of the Orange Badge holder.

The evening was finished off with coffee and biscuits.

COFFEE MORNING

Despite a very wet Saturday morning (15th April) the coffee morning at the Chapel proved to be very successful. £110 was raised to help fund a child from Chernobyl later in the year. A Chain of Coins around the vestry walls had not quite been completed as it was being left over the Easter period but hopefully a further few more pounds will be raised — I will let you know in the next issue of the Crier. As well as providing money to sponsor a child from Chernobyl a list of toiletries was circulated for people to provide for other children. It was a most successful venture for us and we thank all those people who kindly donated and came along to our coffee morning and to view the newly decorated vestry. Thank you everyone.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

26th June - Elizabeth Everitt - Work of a Blue Badge Guide

31st July - Ghost Walk around Ely - details later

We have a selection of speakers throughout the year along with a couple

of outings so anyone who wishes to join us would be more than welcome. If you are anxious about attending a meeting for the first time I would be more than pleased to collect you — we would welcome any new members.

My telephone number is 742585 — why not come along and see for yourself.

Sandra Butcher



VILLAGE GARDENERS

March

Mr. Paul Heavens, Chairman of the Mid Anglian Fuchsia Society, spoke to the Village Gardeners about growing these lovely plants at their meeting in March.

His slides illustrated the many different varieties there are and he gave us tips on growing and propagating and how to keep them through the winter. Most of the plants he brought with him were snapped up by the members.

April

At the Village Gardeners April meeting Mr. David Bond gave a talk and demonstration on hanging baskets.

We were advised to consider the situation of a basket before deciding what plants to include so that the colours complimented the surroundings. Mr. Bond then showed us many types of basket and recommended the right compost to use, and the advantage of using water retaining granules to keep the compost moist. He had brought a large selection of plants and proceeded to fill a wire basket which he then presented to us for a raffle prize. Ros Wood was the lucky winner. The evening ended with a show of slides illustrating some beautiful baskets and window boxes both in this country and abroad.

Next Meeting

Next month on 16th May we shall be meeting in Swaffham Prior Village Hall and learning from Susan Stancombe how to make wigwams for our gardens. Anyone interested should bring some secateurs and 50p for materials.

There are still seats available on the coach for our Vicarage Garden at East Ruston. If you would like ring our Secretary Dorothy Hones on 01223 811925 for visit to the Old to join us please details.

Betty Prime



WI Notes

Mrs. Oldman transported us to India when she talked to us at our April meeting. She had spent three weeks there with a friend staying at up-market hotels like the Sheraton, so we saw little of the seamier side of Indian life.

Her slides illustrated some of the beautiful buildings to be seen including the Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jehan in memory of his wife who died bearing their 14th child. We also saw maharajas' palaces, and forts on the hill tops where they retired in the summer to escape from the heat in the cities. Mrs. Oldman kept us amused with her anecdotes of her very interesting visit.

Next month, on 15th May, Ros Wright will be talking on the History of Toilets.

I am asked to remind you that the attractive W.I. crockery is available for hire, £2 for a charity event and £5 for personal use.

Betty Prime

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Notes from the Parish Council April Meeting

Mr Andrew Badcock chaired the meeting with 5 members and 2 members of the Public.

Andrew Badcock told the meeting that due to his recent recruitment into the Police Force, he would be resigning as Chairman to the Parish Council. He thanked the Councillors for their support during his time as Chairman.

Matters Arising

Annual Village Assembly: It was agreed that this would take place on Thursday, 18th May 2000 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome. Please come along to express your views or concerns!

Cemetery matters: An estimate had been obtained for the cutting of the trees and vegetation in the cemetery, including the forming of an archway over the gate. This estimate was discussed at length and it was agreed that further estimates will be needed.

Exclusive Grant of Burial: This was agreed.

Reports

Councillor Fitch reported to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Cane.

Correspondence Received

A letter of resignation was received from Mr I Mundin.

Mrs Brenda Wilson wrote to the Parish Council informing the members that there had been some sightings of rats on school grounds along the perimeter line with the village hall and that immediate action was being taken. She asked if the P.C. would consider sharing the costs involved.

A letter was received expressing concern about the parking on the bend at the top of the slope into Greenhead Road.

Accounts for Payment: These were agreed.

Planning Matters

1st: Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street : Proposed First Floor Extension and Alterations to House. Erection of Garage (for domestic use). Part Demolition (Roof to Single Storey Part).

2nd: Dovehouse Cottage, 84 High Street : Proposed First Floor Extension and Alterations to House. Erection of Single Garage. There were no objections to the above applications.

Any Other Business

Mr Limb thanked the members for their efforts in securing the building of the footpath at the lay-by on Mill Hill, noting that it was a great deal easier and safer to use.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 11th May 2000 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Karen King, Clerk of the Parish Council



Our first Full Council meeting to be held outside Ely went well. About 40 members of the public came to the meeting at Bottisham Village College and two people asked questions in the Public Question Time. One questioner raised the problems with contacting the Police on their non-emergency line. We have written to the Police to raise this issue and hope that we can work with them to improve communications. The other question related to making public transport accessible to people with disabilities. We will raise this matter at the Joint County and District Committee and with Cambus.

The presentation by Mr Eden, the Managing Director of Cambus, was very interesting and encouraging. He picked up on the question about access to buses for people with disabilities. Saying that as buses were replaced they were being replaced with the sort of buses which can get down to kerb levels, making it easier for people in wheelchairs, with pushchairs, and with difficulties walking to board the bus. He also talked about the commitment to future investment in buses and drivers to make the service more reliable. And he undertook to consider carefully any suggestions for new services. He does, however seem to think that our Cambridge-Newmarket/Ely service is more reliable than it really is. It is therefore important that you register complaints with Cambus if your bus is too early, late, does not run or is too small for the number of passengers.

Planning issues have been causing concern, locally and across the District. To improve the service given by our staff we have recently increased their numbers and provided them with modern computer technology. The next step will be to provide them with computer based maps which can more easily be kept up-to-date than their current paper based maps. People sometimes make their planning applications retrospectively. Usually this is because they have misunderstood the planning rules, which are very complex. We cannot take account of the fact that the application is retrospective, simply judging the case on its merits. If we refuse the application then the building must be taken down or modified in order to comply with planning regulations.

Jon's and my baby is due on 3rd May. I shall therefore be spending May getting to know our baby. If you need help with any District Council matters, please can you contact my colleague Cllr Valerie Leake who is a District Councillor in Bottisham. Her address is 16 Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham, Cambridge, CB5 9BE, tel 01223 811324.

Charlotte Cane



NEW HOUSING IN THIS AREA

The Government's proposed planning guidance for East Anglia has just been published. There is a 12 week consultation period before the final judgment is confirmed. This is not just an obscure academic exercise for planning boffins, its consequences could have a dramatic effect on our County, District and Parishes.

Let me explain: First of all Cambs. seems to be destined to accept the building of at least 4000 houses per year until 2016 (80,000 in all). This compares with an average of 3,350 actually built in the County since 1991.

The advice will be to build in locations where the least amount of greenfield land will be used. Previously used land (known as "brown—field") will be first choice. The County target will be half brown half green field land although in areas like our own there is very little brownfield land available.

It is foreseen that from 2006 seven out of ten new houses will be built in the **Cambridge Sub-Region** (roughly within a circle round Cambridge reaching out to Ely, Haverhill, St. Ives, Huntingdon.). Once sites within Cambridge have been developed, the **edge of the Green belt** will obviously be in line. A review of the Green Belt is under way. Those of us living in **Bottisham, Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck** need to be aware and awake.

Further building will be likely in market towns and larger villages, e.g. **Burwell**. The already foreseen development of the DS Smith site in south Burwell will obviously influence **Reach** and **Swaffham Prior**.

Over the next 6-9 months studies relating to the future of the Cambridge Sub-Region will take place. They will include studies on appropriate infrastructure, particularly transport and also health, education, leisure and recreation. Already we see improvements to the A14 are badly needed and the above future prospects will give rise to even more traffic on feeder roads to the A14 such as the B1102.

A lump sum windfall means that the County can now consider at least some repair and maintenance of **residential culs de sac and lightly trafficked roads**. Hitherto there has been a virtual ban on such work.

A trial scheme piloted by the County selling **Compost** made from recycled household garden waste has now been extended to the Milton recycling centre. A 25 litre bag costs £1.50.

James Fitch

SWAFFHAM PRIOR WITH REACH

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND
PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING AT SWAFFHAM PRIOR SCHOOL HALL.
MONDAY 10th APRIL at 7.30 P.M.

VESTRY MEETING

1. Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar thanked Frank Riggs for his good work yet again as Churchwarden for the last year, and also Andrew Graham, who has moved away from the area. John Norris and Carolyn Cazenove had agreed to stand as Churchwardens for the next year, and Norah Smith was willing to be Deputy Warden with special responsibility for Reach. These three were duly elected, having been proposed by Frank Riggs and seconded by Tricia Harrison.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Electoral Roll

Eric Day reported that there were 54 on the Electoral Roll at Swaffham Prior. Jen Holmwood reported that there were 17 on the Electoral Roll at Reach. There had been some discussion as to whether Reach and Swaffham Prior should amalgamate their Electoral Rolls, but it was decided that the time was not yet ripe for this, especially as the accounts of the two churches were separate.

2. Treasurers' Reports

Paula Ingram presented the accounts for Swaffham Prior and for Reach for the year ended 31.12.99. The Treasurer, Michael Cazenove presented his report. He and Carolyn were thanked by the Vicar for all their hard work keeping the accounts.

Paula Ingram explained the new arrangements for gift-aided giving. Any planned giving (including Gift Days) could now be treated as money on which you can get tax refunded. There was no ceiling for Gift Aid, as there had been for covenants. Four year covenants are now to be phased out, but FWO envelopes can now be regarded as gifts and liable for tax rebate.

Paula Ingram was warmly thanked for her good work in examining the accounts.

3. Deanery Synod Report

This had been prepared by Frank Riggs, and he, Tricia Harrison and Jan Robinson were thanked for all their work on the Deanery Synod for the past year. Tricia would no longer serve, as she has to be out of the country a good deal, but Frank and Jan would continue to represent Swaffham Prior with Reach.

4. Bellringers' Report

Margaret Stanier had drawn attention to the fact that we are very short of ringers, and she hoped to be able to recruit more. She and her team were thanked.

5. Social Working Group Reports

Francis Reeks and Jan Robinson reported on the social events at Swaffham Prior and Reach, respectively, and thanked all parishioners who had supported these.

6. Churchwardens' Report

Frank Riggs presented this report. He drew particular attention to the work of

NADFAS in the church, and to the musical contributions of Ian de Massini. Ruth Scovil was thanked for her work on the flowers and for her calligraphy in the Gift Book, as were all those who had made gifts to the Church over the year. The Vicar thanked Eric Day for his floor-polishing and Kate Child for overseeing the cleaning. John Norris was thanked for looking after the churchyard. Thanks were given to the ladies who were responsible for flowers and cleaning at Reach, and to Doreen Robinson for her work on the Fabric and the garden, in which she had been helped by Norah and others.

The Vicar showed a draft of the Centenary Restoration Appeal Leaflet to the meeting. This was now with the printer, and would be distributed soon. The Reach Appeal would soon have to be launched for improvements to the vestry and lobby and the removing of the font to the front of the church.

7. Election of Parochial Church Council 2000/2001

The following were elected to serve: John Norris (Churchwarden); Carolyn Cazenove (Churchwarden); Norah Smith (Deputy Warden, responsible for Reach); Jenny Moseley (Secretary); Michael Cazenove (Treasurer); Frank Riggs (Deanery Synod); Jan Robinson (Deanery Synod — co-opted); Francis Reeks; Eric Day; Rosalind Wood; David Thomas; Jen Holmwood; Rhoda Limebear (new member, proposed Jan Robinson, seconded Jen Holmwood) This left two places for parishioners of Swaffham Prior. These could be co-opted later.

8. PCC Meetings

The Vicar thanked the Secretary, Jenny Moseley, for her hard work. He suggested that the PCC should in future meet in the fourth week of the month, to enable the Secretary to prepare reports of the meetings to Swaffham Crier, Out of Reach and Contact in time for publication.

The meetings were suggested for the following dates: Wed 24 May (Reach); Mon 24 July (Swaffham Prior); Mon 25 Sept (Swaffham Prior); Wed 22 Nov (Reach); Wed 24 Jan (Reach); Mon 26 Feb (Swaffham Prior);

9 Election of Sidesmen 2000/2001

Sidesmen were elected as follows: Swaffham Prior: Kaye Lewinski, Mark Lewinskii, John Norris, Hilary Sage, Jan Pattinson, Francis Reeks, Margaret Cook, Jenny Moseley, Michael Cazenove, Ros Wood, Elizabeth Everitt, Frank Riggs, Rhoda Limebear, Sarah Haworth, Catie Whiteley, Brenda Wilson, John Miller, David Boughey. Reach: Alasdair Coles, Rhoda Limebear, Jen Holmwood, Doreen Robinson, Jan Robinson, Ann Fuller, David Thomas, Sue Jordan, Norah Smith, Freda Lloyd, Jenny Moseley, Charles Moseley.

10. Vicar's Report

The Vicar presented his report. He then explained the new arrangements for Common Worship, which would replace the ASB after Advent this year. The next meeting of the Worship Group would discuss all the details.

The Vicar deplored the fact that Family Services, especially in Swaffham Prior, were so poorly attended. He suggested that it might be preferable to hold a family-friendly Communion Service on the second Sunday of the month, perhaps using material from Common Worship and calling it Village Communion.



Church Services

May 2000

ST MARY'S Swaffham Bulbeck

ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior

ST ETHELREDA & THE HOLY TRINITY

EASTER
3

Sun
7

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

11:00am
Parish Communion

3.00pm
Holy Baptism
of Alexander Coles

Sat
13

5:30pm
Fordham Deanery
Confirmation

EASTER
4

Sun
14

9:30am
Parish Communion

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

8:00am
Holy Communion†

EASTER
5

Sun
21

9:30am
Village Communion

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

11:00am
Family Service

EASTER
6

ROGATION
Sun
28

9:30am
Parish Communion

11:00am
Mattins† and Sermon
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

Dear Friends,

A THREE LETTER WORD

The merry month of May falls hot-on-the-heels of Easter this year; did you find God amidst the eggs and holidaying, or did he find you?

I hope the answer is “yes”, in whatever way you felt touched by the Divine, for it is by *the grace of God* that we ‘live and move and have our being’. Grace is perhaps known only in its absence, gracelessness, and we all have our own examples and experiences of that! The christian watchword is always found in 2 Corinthians 13, with which we often conclude our prayers:- ‘The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore, Amen.’

The christian greeting in many of the New Testament epistles ‘*Grace* and peace to you ...’ is dependant on the unconditional love shown in the life, work, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the impact of the Holy Spirit, whom he bequeathed to humankind.

Jesus was full of grace and truth (St John’s Gospel), through his infancy and childhood, baptism, parables, healing miracles, even including his reaction to the scandalising of the temple and the sabbath, and in the final week of his life, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, the beast of burden, pre-figuring his carrying of our sins to the Cross, his treatment of the penitent thief on Calvary, and of Thomas some days later in the Upper Room, as well as his patent love, concern and commission of all the disciples.

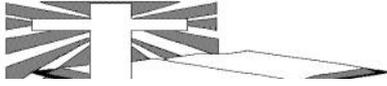
His was, and is, a love that, in the words of the hymn, ‘wilt not let us go’; God loves us anyway, whatever we do to Him, or however much we reject Him. Isn’t that truly our own experience? Into our ultimate powerlessness to really affect our own destinies comes the grace and love of God; our response, surely, needs to be one of *openness, listening to God, and sharing our struggles with Him*.

The amazing thing about *grace* is simply this reliance on God. Sometimes it takes us by surprise, as the novelist Fay Weldon wrote recently, “I have no strong belief in heaven or hell, but it feels appropriate that I belong to some kind of community which has roots. It is a great relief to give up the (solely) rational. You can pursue *disbelief*, but actually the comfortable human state is *belief*. As the prayer runs, ‘Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you’. My prayer is that the Church continue in its faithfulness, to be a channel of God’s good grace for a needy world.

Your parish priest, *Mark*

From the Parish Registers for March 2000

In Memoriam: Sylvia Christine Mary Woolley (58) [SB]
 Violet Winifred Priscilla Carlton (94) [Bottisham]
 Albert Walter Johnson (79) [R]



Zion Baptist Chapel

Services for May 2000:

Sunday	7 th	10.30am	No service
		6.30pm	David Bousfield - communion
Sunday	14 th	6.00pm	David Bousfield
Sunday	21 st	6.30pm	Peter Finnis
Sunday	28 th	6.30pm	David Smith

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

The Christian Faith...

A common belief about Christianity is that it involves a lot of people trying to live good lives in the hope that when they die they will have been good enough to get into heaven. In fact, this view is in direct contradiction to what the bible says and to what Christians actually believe. No one is 'good' enough to get into heaven. To get into heaven by our own efforts would require us to behave perfectly, completely without sinning, since God is perfect and could not allow sin to enter His presence. The only means of salvation (which means having eternal life with God in heaven) is through God's mercy. He became a man and died a horrible death nailed to a cross, to pay the penalty for our crimes. He died in our place so that justice would be done and we would be 'clean' enough to stand before him.

We cannot earn our way into heaven. There is no way of getting there except through faith in Jesus. He did not die in our place so that we would be able to earn salvation through obedience as some people teach. He died in our place, once and for all. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no-one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) All we need to do is accept His love, believe in Him and say sorry (repent).

Of course we will carry on sinning, through weakness, but if Jesus is living in us our lives will be transformed, not through our own efforts, but by the power of God. We will not be perfect until we are in heaven, but God's work of changing us will begin immediately.

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

I promise not to write about Oliver Cromwell again after this, but I cannot resist one last thought about him! Cromwell has always been one of the most contentious of Englishmen. On the 300th anniversary of his birth there was a furious parliamentary row about whether to erect a statue of him outside the Houses of Parliament and if so who was to pay for it. On the 350th anniversary there was heated disagreement about whether a statue of him should be erected in his home town of Huntingdon (in the end it was erected in St Ives and very good it is too). To mark his 400th year a less controversial (though not wholly uncontroversial) decision was made to mark his importance by works of art in Huntingdon. The solution hit upon was to have a number of Caithness stone flags laid around the town, with views about him beautifully cut into the stone (in scroll form). There are seven all told scattered around the town, some positive (*'he never entered battle but through the port of prayer'*) and some negative (*'The King chastised us with whips, but Cromwell chastiseth us with scorpions'*). There is a logic to their positioning - one is outside the house where he was born, another outside his schoolhouse, another by the inn in which he beat the drum to raise his first regiment and so on. People shopping or just walking through the town will keep on encountering them and hopefully being challenged by them. But they will be able to pick up a leaflet from most public buildings and make a purposeful tour of the seven in sequence. Cumulatively they tell the story of this troubled genius who was a pioneer of religious liberty and wished to allow as many people as possible in England to enjoy not only the right to worship God according to the light of their own conscience, but also - whether or not they were members of the national church to have full access to public office (something no other government was willing to concede until the 1880s); but who was also capable of terrible brutality towards the Catholics of Ireland, killing in cold blood. I find him endlessly fascinating and was at a conference in Lavenham recently which read his speeches and letters systematically. Someone said: *"we take religious freedom for granted nowadays and find it hard to see why earlier periods found it so hard. But Cromwell's dilemma over whether to allow people to worship outside the state church is like the dilemma we have about whether to allow ethnic minorities to educate their children separately, to protect them from the 'corruptions' of western materialism - whether it be in Muslim, Sikh or Jewish ways. When a group, born here and fully entitled to live here want purposefully to be different from our culture and our values, we still feel threatened."* Now that did make me realise that Cromwell still has ways to challenge us. He was willing to permit a multi-cultural society and to carry the risks. Not the first time, the pendulum of anxiety about his Irish campaigns (about which I have written in the May issue of the BBC History Magazine if anyone is interested!) has swung back to admiration for that other side of his nature.

Dates for Your Diary - May 2000

Mon	1	Reach Fair, 12 Noon Ely Diocesan Association of Bellringers, St Cyriac's, 2:30pm
Tue	2	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	3	
Thu	4	
Fri	5	'Renewal' - exhibition, St Cyriac's. Until 14 th
Sat	6	
Sun	7	
Mon	8	Mothers Union meets at S. Bulbeck
Tue	9	
Wed	10	
Thu	11	PC, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	12	
Sat	13	Village Feast, Village Hall, 2:00pm Spring Fair, BVC, 2:00pm
Sun	14	<i>Crier Copy Deadline</i> National Mills Weekend - Fosters Mill open 2:00pm
Mon	15	WI - Ros Wright on the History of Toilets
Tue	16	Village Gardeners, Village Hall
Wed	17	School Governors annual meeting with parents, 7:30pm
Thu	18	Annual Village Assembly, Village Hall, 7:30pm Bottisham Players, BVC, 7:30pm nightly until 20 th
Fri	19	
Sat	20	Bulbeck Auction, Downing Farm, 9:00am for 11:00am
Sun	21	
Mon	22	
Tue	23	
Wed	24	PCC, Reach Village Centre, 7:30pm
Thu	25	One Day in May - Save the Day! <i>Crier</i> Collating, Village Hall, 2:30pm Art history, talk by Ann Hollingsworth, Village Hall, 7:30pm
Fri	26	
Sat	27	
Sun	28	
Mon	29	
Tues	30	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2:40-3:30, Chapel 3:35-4:00pm
Wed	31	