



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXV Number 1

January 2011



## Editorial

Happy New Year, All Our Readers, and here we are with a *mini-Crier* to start off with. Small but Beautiful! Don't miss John Norris's amusing account of what happened last time it snowed round here (actually, it still hasn't *really* snowed...), Guardian columnist Mark Lewinski (well, he seems to get a letter published there every week) venture into verse and of course, our redoubtable Reporter himself, back with all the news of what goes on at the PC meeting.

Now is the time of year when we thank our Advertisers for their continued support, without whom this magazine could not exist. They and the Big Society, of course, or rather Little Society, our distributors, our advertising department, our computer department, our columnists and all those people who give freely of their time to make this little publication what it is. If you like reading the Crier, perhaps you'd like to contribute too? Give us a ring, post a snippet or snap through our door or click on the email. Or alternatively, just send us a donation — as usual, funds are on the low side!

Lastly, a tragic Christmas tale involving me, just to cheer you up. On Christmas Eve,, a friend and I set out to collect the Christmas Eve salmon from Newmarket. We are very old friends and about the same age. On the way, we picked up a hitchhiker and chatted all the way to Newmarket, finally dropping him off outside the Jockey Club. As he got out, he turned and said over his shoulder "Mother and daughter, I presume?" !!!!! Immediate end of extremely old friendship....

*Caroline Matheson*



Snowy Swaffham Prior 2009 by Caspar Newbolt. But can readers do better this year? Send your best snow and ice snaps to the Crier, and we can have a competition next month!

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**Cover Picture:** *Happy New Year* by **Grace Zeid**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **A Funeral dirge for frustrated Archers listeners, to the Tune of Elton John's *Your Song***

(- well, why not? He re-did, and massacred, *Candle in the wind* for Princess Di, didn't he? )

It's a little bit funny (It could be more if they tried)

If only Nigel

The knot had untied

His family had money

He was an upper class kid

And a very big house where they used to live

He sat on the roof

And kicked off some moss

Then just as we expected

Nigel fell off

Some people think that was unkind so I wrote this song

He was a well worn-out character

He'd gone on much too long

And you can tell everybody

This is the Pargeter song

He always meant well but

Often did it wrong

We knew he wasn't much

but it was the best they could do

He went out with Shula

And had an ice-cream van too

So we won't be forgetting

At the next anniversary too

please kill off Jill Archer

Who's too nice to be true

But anyway, the thing is, what we really mean

This storyline's much weaker than it should have been

*ML*

the Bard of Swaffham Prior

Dear Editors,

### **Grade-one-a-thon**

Along with 130 other musicians, professional and amateur, from Cambridgeshire, I am taking part in a Grade-one-a-thon to raise money for the Spinal Injuries Association. This Association has provided amazing support for a friend and local horn player following a fall which has left him in a wheelchair for the foreseeable future.

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January we all had one lesson on an instrument chosen from another family of instruments. We gather to take our Grade One exams just eight weeks later. That evening, we perform together on our new instruments in a concert.

I am going to learn the oboe!!

Please support me and give generously at <http://www.iustgiving.com/Roz-Chalmers>

*Roz Chalmers*

# COFFEE

## MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Tuesday

18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## *The OLD ALLIX ARMS*

*10 Station Road, Swaffham Prior*

*(by kind invitation of Mrs. Rosemary Riggs)*



*Cake &  
Produce Stall  
Bring & Buy*



Lots of FREE CHAT and a few surprises !!

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## THE BIG SOCIETY

### The Result of the 100 Responses to the CCC Survey

“The snapshot survey revealed that overall:

**24 respondents were positive about the idea**

**52 of respondents were negative about the idea in some way**

**19 of respondents were undecided**

On the specific issue of volunteering

**36 were negative**

**14 were positive**

**14 were undecided”**

Is this a “fascinating snapshot” and a “useful contribution”? I suppose it is in many ways because I think it means that the voluntary sector has probably been stretched as much as it can be, with the often CRB requirement being a real turnoff for some people. How would Swaffham Prior have responded to such a survey?

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

It was Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mince pies were laid out in the middle of the table for the end of year celebration of yet another successful PC year. It was a trifle cold that evening but not as freezing as the village of Shobdon in Herefordshire which two days before, Steve said, had recorded the coldest night in England – a mere minus 14c. Shobdon is where his mother lives. “Ah!, do you know Wyre Piddle down that way where my great, great, great grandmother was born” asked Geoffrey. ”I know it well,” said Steve, “and have taken many a wicket there.” At this stage the usual response should have been “What did you bowl?” Geoffrey failed to make that response – maybe he only played football.



This little exchange caused the meeting to open two minutes late. And what an evening – POISON, SEX, AND MUTINY.

During the Public Participation section at the beginning of the meeting a number of residents from Greenhead Road brought the PC’s attention to the apparently appalling situation with what was once known affectionately as the “chemical factory” in Greenhead Road. This was set up in 1996 by Dr Joan Rest and run as something like an animal testing station. There was local opposition at the time but, because the most stringent conditions were stipulated, it was approved at the time when the idea was to develop local industry which may even help to save the post office and Derek’s Fabulous Food Emporium. (Do I hear a few guffaws?) Four or five years ago Joan sold the business and all went well UNTIL JANUARY 4TH THIS YEAR.

Since then there is often the most horrible stench in nearby houses with the smell coming into bathrooms and impregnating the walls inside houses. And some chemicals have been identified as being especially nasty. A detailed record has been kept, the authorities have been approached, and now the Parish Council has taken it up and will insist on answers. One question from the public gallery was “Can we allow an industrial premise to behave like this in a domestic environment?” The answer must be NO – especially when the new owners appear to be breaching so many of the original stringent conditions. If what was said is true this is diabolical behaviour and the authorities should have taken action already.

David Brown, our CCC representative, said he would never dare mention Neighbourhood Panels again after Geoffrey’s onslaught at the last meeting. (“Never” is a very dangerous word in politics as we shall see later in this report). CCC are still working on its budget and meanwhile many farmers have offered to help clear the snow. “I haven’t seen any farmers clearing snow around here” interjected Geoffrey. “But we haven’t had bad snow” was the chorus. Not to be put off, Geoffrey said “Well, we’ve had a bit, and I don’t know any farmer who has been approached.” This topic inevitably fizzled out.

Anyone reading these reports probably has the impression that Geoffrey talks a lot. Well, he does. Undaunted by his failure to convince about the amount of snow

we've had, he went on to question the amount of money CCC spent on its journal *Your Cambridgeshire*. He thought it a complete waste of money and the only useful information he found was that the opening hours of the Cambridgeshire Collection are being extended – which he would have discovered anyway.

I share Geoffrey's reaction to *Your Cambridgeshire* but did find a little more of interest. For example you can borrow "energy consumption meters" from the Cambridge Library – which incidentally is a wonderful library. Also we were told that 100 people responded to a survey on the "Big Society" and that the survey "is a fascinating snapshot and makes a useful contribution to our thinking on local services meeting local needs." Turn to the table on page 3. You might find it a little depressing.

Allen then made his report on the ECDC which still doesn't know how much money it will be receiving. Meantime the railing at the Beeches has yet to be installed and the tale is too painful to tell. Then we moved on to SEX. If I heard Allen correctly ECDC had never approved some general Act about Sex Shops etc. This meant that up to December 8 any sex shop, sex spot, pole dancing club could have been set up anywhere in the district, including Swaffham Prior, without a licence. What an opportunity missed. Now villagers will have to continue to travel.

The meeting moved on to Correspondence and in this was a letter from Councillor Fred Brown which David and Allen would probably have preferred not to have been sent. ECDC has written a begging letter asking for money to jointly fund Neighbourhood Panels for the next 3 years. The 2 page letter concluded "Neighbourhood Panels are an admired and now proven method of engaging our communities and taking action to address their concerns." The response from the PC was MUTINOUS. "What benefit do we get?"; "Who says they are admired?"; "There is no justification for paying anything."; "What have they ever done?"; "What happens if we refuse to pay?"; "What a lousy letter."

Reluctantly David and Allen again had to try to justify NPs. David said they had been "very effective in sorting out the anti-social behaviour in Burwell." John Covill thought this an unnecessary double layer of action as Burwell should have been speaking to the police and others without going through an NP. Geoffrey inevitably supported this and said that if the Burwell PC had done its job then the NP would not have been needed. Allen also mentioned Burwell as being at the top of a list of achievements but he didn't mention the other 'achievements' on the list. But Allen did say that NPs were perhaps more suitable for large urban areas – and this could well be true.

Meantime another fact I learned from the last *Your Cambridgeshire* is that in January there are to be twelve (12) NP meetings in Cambridgeshire, with the first being held in Burwell on January 4<sup>th</sup>. That is a huge amount of time, especially by the police, to be spent on something which has proved to be not very useful. Peter

**“Anyone reading these reports probably has the impression that Geoffrey talks a lot. Well, he does.”**

Hart seemed to be the only dissenting voice; he had been to one meeting and thought it useful.

Amongst the ECD correspondence was a long document outlining the government's proposed changes to the current system of large developments making a contribution to the infrastructure and services. This is being replaced with a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will be applied to all new building including caravan/mobile homes. The scale of the levy is to be decided by the local authority. ECDC has done some detailed work on this in remarkably quick time and the District has been divided into 5 areas – Ely, Soham, Little port, the north district and the south district. Next month, the *Crier* will publish the details of the changes for the north and south districts with the south district being everywhere south of and including Fordham. The tables list out the levies for the individual services. It's quite an impressive piece of work and obviously we are in the posh area. The charge levied for building a 3 bedroom home is £18,006 for us, £11,828 for Ely, £8,608 for Soham, £7,319 for Littleport, and £9,108 for the rest of the north district which is everywhere beyond Fordham and which includes Wicken, Wilburton, Haddenham.

The Church has purchased a new notice board and has offered the old one to the PC. It needs about £300 to put it in to shape. The PC considered and refused it, with the suggestion that the scouts may like it. This reminded the PC that Karen had previously mentioned her fears that the existing village noticeboard might fall on her one day. It may take £1,000 to replace and Steve said this had been budgeted for if the PC wish to proceed. Geoffrey jumped up and down and said he would never support £1,000 being spent on a village notice board. Other members appeared overwhelmed by Geoffrey's forcefulness but I couldn't help wondering what this has to do with Geoffrey who lives 5 miles out of town and does not regularly walk past the village notice board. We must also consider the safety factor. It could become a *Midsomer Murders* situation if one day we found Karen flattened under the notice board. And if she had been helped by a friend there would be two of them side by side – squashed. I think we should treat our clerk better than this.

*Alastair Everitt*



## LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: [www.letsdanceclub.org.uk](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)

# **The Annual Boxing Day Hockey Match**



It was Christmas Day Evening. The Christmas Dinner had been a success, relations were still talking to each other, some were slumped in front of television with mulled wine in hand, and those involved with the hockey were quietly excited – the seasoned players with a steely resolve and the initiates wondering to what they had agreed. There was something distinctly in the air.

Then at 8.25pm David Towriss, Bulbeck manager/captain, phoned to say he had just been told that the match was off because the pitch was frozen. I tracked down the authorities to discuss and was informed about health and safety and insurance. I thought to myself “O dear me, that is such a great pity”. It was now after 9.00pm that David and I began informing the teams. And Janet Willmott took her mulled wine off the stove and we apologised for any disappointment caused. We look forward to next year and did at least have the cheering news about the England Ashes performance on Boxing Day.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## **Neighbourhood Crime December 2010**

### **Burwell**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> there was a burglary in a dwelling in Mill Lane, nothing was taken.

Sometime between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, metal gates were taken from an agricultural address in Hythe Lane.

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, cosmetics were stolen from a shop in the High St.

Between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a shed burglary in Mandeville where a leaf blower was stolen.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, a vehicle was damaged in Ness Court

On the 13<sup>th</sup> there was a business burglary in Heath Rd, cash was stolen.

Overnight on the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> a trailer was stolen from an address on Swaffham Rd.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, there was a business theft on North St, two males were arrested and charged for this.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> a vehicle was damaged in Westhorpe

### **Reach**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> there was a farm burglary on Swaffham Rd, power tools were stolen. Also on the 10<sup>th</sup>, there was an attempted break in at a property near Fair Green.

*Ian Hawkins*

South Neighbourhood Policing Team

# Déjà vu, the Snow

It has all happened before, but this time we do seem to have had enough of this subzero temperature. We also expect so much more from the service providers; trains on time, aircraft leaving for distant places when we expect them to go, and freedom to do almost anything our fancy dictates. But in the end we are not completely in control of our destiny.

It must be forty years ago that we had a similar snow fall here, but then we had most of it in the south east, and this village was cut off for two or three days. The drifts between the hedges on both sides of the village stopped all traffic, as they were three feet high. The fields had the measure of the deposit, perhaps ten inches, but the hedges collected the drifts.

These hedges were the remnants of the days when sheep and cattle roamed the fields, and formed an essential part of keeping them at home. Today they are an added expense, and have been reduced so as not to cost too much in maintenance. My reason of setting this background is to recount the events of a particular evening.

The phone rang about eight o'clock in the evening with a request to borrow one of the firm's tractors to get a stranded car home. Permission was of course granted, and from then on Eldred was in charge of events.

I met him next day at breakfast time at Anglesey House, but without his tractor, and looking quite red-faced

I'm sorry Governor, he said, but your tractor is stuck in the road just past Chambers Gate. I have not locked it up, but I think it is safe for time being. Why did you not leave it earlier I enquired? Spending the whole night there was not really necessary. Oh yes it was, came the reply. You know I was never alone all night. Folk were trying to get home through the deep snow, and were grateful for a rest and a warm-up in my cab.

The tractor, which one would guess could extricate itself from most situations was cast in the compact snow, the wheels spinning in the air. Next day we did manage to clear away the snow starting at the village end, and dumping it in the adjacent field, there was no by-pass in those days. This cold spell resulted in several water mains being frozen. The pipe to the Old Vicarage had to be thawed by the Water Board, using welding equipment to heat the cast iron pipe. It is a good tip to run the water now and again to help keep the pipes free of ice.

Cage Hill was the favourite assembly point as the youngsters really enjoyed the long cresta run, but the farming business did suffer. As the cold spell continued the business of selling potatoes was getting serious, as the demand for food was increasing, as was the price.

In those days spuds were stored in heaps at the edge of the field, near a gateway and hard road if possible. These heaps or clumps as we called them were about six feet wide, triangular in shape, and as long as necessary. They were covered with straw, apart from a narrow ventilation hole at the top, as a form of thatch, and finally had a layer of earth thrown over to keep the straw from blowing away. This layer of earth was later doubled in thickness, to give added protection

from the frosts.

All this work was done by hand, and if done well looked very business-like. When the time came for sending the potatoes to market, all this covering had to be removed. In this time of hard frosts the earth on the sides was firmly fixed, both to the straw and the ground. The easy way out would be to wait for the frost to melt, at which time the job would be routine, and easy. The demand grew as potatoes were at that time part of the staple diet, so they must be produced.

The only way forward was to clear one side of the clamp that had some sunshine on it, and could be broken into slabs of earth by wedges and pickaxes. The cold side was left standing and the crop processed by digging underneath it. This presented problems. It was so cold that we had to have a fire burning under the riddle. This was a machine which used to be turned by hand, but thankfully in my time was turned by a small engine, which separated out the best potatoes ready to be bagged up and sold. We all operated under a plastic sheet in the from of a tent which did give us some protection, but the best way of keeping warm was to have a go on the shovel !

These cold spells did test our ingenuity, and working far from the madding crowd tested our resolve to get the job done. No excuses. One bonus of these cold spells was the skating. The drains and rivers provided space for everyone, and the old "Fen Runners" a type of skate which could cope with reeds and un- level ice, were almost essential. Oh to be young again and indulge in these sports, but age does have it's advantages. The urge to do these things diminishes.

*John Norris*

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## **Anglesey Group Mothers' Union**



Hilary Sage gave us a most entertaining afternoon at our November meeting. Reciting prose and monologues centred around village life, including church, school and village groups. Hilary delivered a programme which included works by Pam Ayres and Joyce Grenfell. With Hilary's imaginative and witty style of presentation she made the situations come alive with amusement and laughter.

Our Christmas Lunch was held on 9th December. A group of 38 (made up of members and some husbands) enjoyed a delicious two course meal, mince pies and coffee. Following lunch Christmas Carols were sung several and Rev'd. David Lewis gave a short Christmas thought and prayer.

The 2011 Mother's Union Programme begins on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January with our New Year Holy Communion Service at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. Programme cards are available at all our five Churches, so please take one if you would like to see the full programme of events. You are most welcome to come along.

*Ann Langran*  
01223 812797

# Shut the door on high pressure selling

High pressure selling is something that we all want to avoid, and whilst it is quite easy to say 'no' to salespeople that call you on the phone, it is far harder to say 'no' to people once they are in your home.

At Cambridgeshire County Council's Trading Standards Service we frequently come across people who have been pressured into having work done or buying products having been called on out of the blue. It can relate to anything from tree felling, driveways, roofing and fascias and soffits, to mobility aids, home alarm systems and beds.

Typical high pressure sales techniques include calling through to their manager for 'the very best price', saying that that price is only available on that day, and overstaying their welcome, all used to put extra pressure on you.

We want you to avoid such problems, so below we offer a few tips:

Where possible, when looking for a trader, go on recommendation from someone you know

Get three quotes so that you know the price you are paying is reasonable and fair.

Always get quotes in writing and make sure they set out what exactly you will receive for that price

If a trader needs to visit you in your home and you will be alone, see if you can arrange for someone else to be there for extra support in case the trader puts pressure on you.

If the contract is signed in your home and is for over £35, make sure you are given a 7 days cancellation notice – you will almost certainly be entitled to this in law and means that you can change your mind up to 7 days after signing the agreement.

If you are given terms and conditions, make sure you read them before signing the contract. Be careful if you are asked to sign something to say that work can start there and then – this will impact on your right to cancel the contract.

If possible, look for a trader that is a member of a Trade Association as many of these will operate a Code of Practice for their members and some also offer a mediation scheme in case of problems.

In addition, you can get a free 'We're not buying it' sticker for your front door to discourage salespeople from calling on you at home in the first place. Simply contact Consumer Direct for one of these (details below).

You can also reduce the number of telephone sales calls you receive by



registering with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707 or online at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk).

If you need advice on this or any other consumer issue, contact our partner organisation, Consumer Direct, on 0845 4040506 for free, impartial and confidential advice. Calls cost no more than 4p a minute for BT customers -other networks may vary.

For more information on Trading Standards visit our website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/consumer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/consumer)



**BRYAN LACEY**



**LAURA LEXX**

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
IS  
COMEDY NIGHT  
@ BOTTISHAM VILLAGE COLLEGE**

**FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2011**

**7.30PM**

**TICKETS £8 each**

**BAR**

**LAUGH THOSE WINTER BLUES AWAY  
WITH**

**TOP LONDON  
CIRCUIT COMEDIANS**



**MC JAMES REDMOND**

**STRICTLY  
OVER 18's  
ONLY!**



**PADDY LENNOX**

To book tickets, please contact [friends@bottishamvc.org](mailto:friends@bottishamvc.org) 07747484058

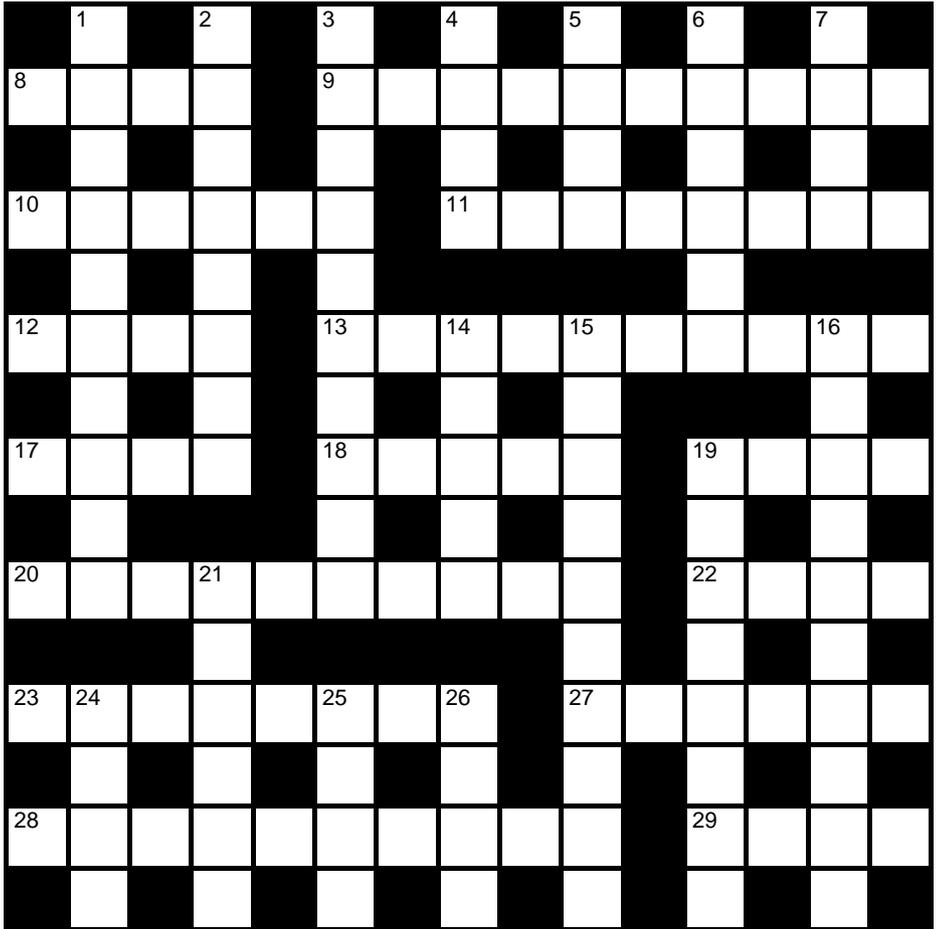
# Crossword Number 75

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

**OUNCE**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 20 January 2010. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....
Address.....
..... Tel:.....

**Across**

- 8 Small stream found in Cyril Ladbroke's garden. (4)
- 9 Cable power generating one with speedy delivery. (4,6)
- 10 Eight lines in broken cot on short street. (6)
- 11 Rock princess in Bosnia quake. (8)
- 12 Aid to the poor limbs we hear. (4)
- 13 Animal surgeon's reentry via malformation. (10)
- 17 Slander louts utter rudely at first. (4)
- 18 Merlot usually shelters flower. (5)
- 19 Fool to act with little officer. (4)
- 20 Lignite bra forged for emancipating (by burning?). (10)
- 22 Defeat salt deposit. (4)
- 23 Medium sandals arranged on large extent of ground. (8)
- 27 Religious rite for abstracting Pan from tarpaulin exotically. (6)
- 28 Reportedly grabbed building leading to trial here. (10)
- 29 Full-bodied Baldric hides within. (4)

**Down**

- 1 Choose a flower, we hear, for preserve. (10)
- 2 Queen lances nasty facial care product. (8)
- 3 Burkina Faso formerly in ludicrous rave-up plot. (5,5)
- 4 Nymph? Say that again? (4)

- 5 Bird captured by memsahib is freed. (4)
- 6 Bridge players hold tattered weed in country. (6)
- 7 Second Greek initially but easily taken aback. (4)
- 14 All in mess leaving smuttiest. (5)
- 15 Pink plot disturbs or deranges? (4,6)
- 16 Disinclination about spear, including bad cut. (10)
- 19 Adroitly manage laggard. (8)
- 21 Bear last note about ancient city. (6)
- 24 Succulent greeting is heard. (4)
- 25 Each tortured by pain. (4)
- 26 Murphy's shovel? (4)

**Solution to crossword no. 74**

T	H	E	G	R	E	A	T	E	S	C	A	P	E	N	F					
H	L	O		H	R	D		F	A	I	R									
P	E	R	F	E	C	T		E	X	O	D	U	S		V	E				
S			K		P			L		W	H	I	T	E						
I	N	N		Y		T	O	N	I	T	O			G	W					
O				A		L		N		N				A	I					
W	A	L	L	A	C	E	A	N	D	G	R	O	M	I	T	L				
M				H		R		E		I	O		O	W	L					
R	A	I	L	W	A	Y		E	S	P		P	E	T	E	R	Y			
N			A					X		E				O		T				
C		S	O	U	N	D		P	A	N		A	I	R	P	O	R	T		
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R		I	T	H	A	P	P	E	N	E	D	T	O	J	A	N	E			
I		N				L		S	A	N		Z						C		
S		A				I	S		S	A	C	K		S				B	O	B
T	E	L	L	Y		T			E											L
M		T				H	O	W	A	R	D			C	A	M	E	L	O	T
A	W	A	Y			L	V	A						L	L	Y				R
S		P				T	H	E	L	A	D	Y	K	I	L	L	E	R	S	

Congratulations to last month's winners, Elly and Paul Catling, and commiserations to runners-up Trish Whitehead and Shirley Wilkins.



Budgets and the Government announcement on the comprehensive spending review set the scene for much of my activity at the County Council in December, including 2 informal meetings of the Cabinet and a Member Briefing on the budget headline figures. The CSR and grant settlement for Cambridgeshire mean that the County Council is faced with making savings of £160 million over the next five years. Because of the Government front-loading of savings to try to tackle the national debt we are faced with making savings of £50 million on 2011/12. The scale of the required savings is bound to have implications for employment and it is likely that around 450 posts will be lost in the County in the coming year. Further details on proposed savings will be known shortly.

Another “hot” topic, in light of the weather has been gritting. Cllr Mac McGuire, as portfolio holder for highways and access has written to all parishes explaining the latest position regarding salt stocks and gritting schedules. Whilst it has been a difficult start to the winter season, I believe the gritting teams have worked incredibly hard.

The Guided Busway situation continues to cause exasperation in Cabinet. Trials have taken place on the busway and it is looking increasingly likely that Bam Nuttall will fail to remedy the faults in an acceptable time-frame. If this is the case CCC will have little option but to appoint a different contractor to complete the work and charge Bam Nuttall.

County Council met in December. In addition to the above topics, there was a lengthy debate on a motion claiming that the County Council is not doing enough to combat climate change. Probably unsurprisingly, in view of the subject matter, the debate quickly became polarised and the motion was eventually voted down in favour of an amendment calling on continued action in this area.

The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee met. The committee held a lengthy discussion regarding Rural Crime. It was agreed to set up a meeting of County and District Councillors and Cambridgeshire constabulary to discuss the best way to scrutinise rural crime. The other major subject discussed was the report of the member-led review into the Integrated Offender Management programme.

On a more social note I also had the pleasure of attending the Cambridgeshire Schools Carol Concert at Kings College.

## **BON MOT NUMBER TEN**

“I’ve been rich and I’ve been poor –  
and believe me, rich is better.”

*Sophie Tucker*

# **BOTTISHAM BOWLING CLUB**

## **JUMBLE SALE**

**at**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

**on**

**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011**

**DOORS OPEN 2:00pm**

**START THE YEAR RIGHT COME AND FIND A  
BARGAIN**

**CLEAR OUT THOSE CUPBOARDS**

**CONTACT TED SKETCHLEY ON  
01223-811582 IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ITEMS  
COLLECTED**

**OTHERWISE BRING *any saleable items*  
TO THE LEGION ON MORNING OF THE SALE  
PLEASE NO SHOES**

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## **Bottisham Village College—from Community to Foundation Trust School**

Trust partners are now bringing their expertise into Bottisham Village College to enrich the learning and widen the experiences of all its students.

The College changed its status in September from a community school to a Foundation Trust school with the key purpose of supporting the education of students and promoting community cohesion.

The College has teamed up with seven Partners – Cambridge Building Society, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Faculty of Education University of Cambridge, The Marshall Group of Companies, The National Stud, Red 2 Green and the John Lewis Partnership – to form the Bottisham Educational Trust.

Since then, there has been a series of meetings to decide how best the Partners

can actively participate in the life of the College. Staff have been asked their views and have come up with a range of ideas under such headings as enterprise, aspirations and future careers, health and well-being, managing money and ethics.

There are plans for Partners to take part in assemblies and PSHE Days as well as providing speakers, role play scenarios and work experience across a range of curriculum areas.

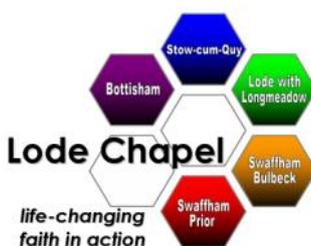
Earlier this month disability charity Red2Green, which has a base at BVC, was involved in Year 7's PSHE Day on diversity and difference and next term other Partners will be following suit.

"Many Trust partners will be involved in a careers carousel on Year 10's World of Work PSHE day on February 1 and will also be involved in mock job application and interview tasks on that day," confirmed Assistant Principal Helena Ceranic.

Examples of concrete curriculum projects included Marshalls providing a business mentor for a social enterprise group, Newmarket Stud running sessions on animal ethics for GCSE RS and genetic breeding for science and the Faculty of Education developing tours for Gifted and Talented students, she said.

Tabbi Smith, Training Director at The National Stud said: "We are delighted to be involved in the Bottisham Trust. It is an ideal opportunity to support local education and to help young people understand more about the industry."

***Mandy Turner***  
BVC



## ‘Happy’ New Year

As we start 2011 I want to wish you a very ‘happy’ new year. But in twelve months time, how will you know if it has been – happy that is? Towards the end of last year David Cameron announced a £2m plan to develop a measure of well-being, saying that Gross Domestic Product “is an incomplete way of measuring a country's progress”. He is not alone – Tony Blair floated the same idea, and long before either of them, the US Senator, Robert Kennedy, stated that the GDP measured everything "except that which makes life worthwhile".

The cynics amongst you might point out that when the economic situation is poor politicians will obviously start searching for any measure of progress that might put them in a good light – but let's not dismiss the idea just yet. We might, however, want to discuss what we actually mean by happiness. Is it the same thing as work/life balance or well-being? Is it dependent upon the circumstances we find ourselves in, or somehow deeper than that, an inner sense of positivity and joy?

The original Hebrew of the Old Testament has a word that I think sums it up well – Shalom! In our English versions we translate it as ‘peace’, but it's much more than that. The word ‘wholeness’ might be closer to the mark, a sense of ‘completeness’. This isn't about having everything we want, either materially or emotionally, but

rather entering a spiritual place where our connections with one another, with God, and with the world he has made, are being restored and deepened.

In February we'll be starting a new style of service at Lode Chapel called 'Healing Space' and it's this sort of 'happiness' that we will be inviting people to seek after and find. The word 'healing' comes from the same root as 'wholeness' and when Christians pray for healing we ask God to bring his Shalom into the midst of the 'dis-ease' of our bodies, minds, hearts and souls. It's true to say that God doesn't always bring physical healing, but most people generally feel a greater sense of 'Shalom' after they have been prayed for – and sometimes miracles do happen.

Look for further details in next month's article – but all those who feel they could do with a bit of Shalom in 2011 will be welcome to come along and receive confidential prayer support. There'll be no sermon, no singing, just plenty of 'Healing Space'.

### Sundays in January

Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (School)

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5.30pm – 'Sacred Space' Contemplative Service (Chapel)

Sun 9<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – RE:NEW Kids Club and Café (School)

Sun 30<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – RE:NEW The Big Welcome 'Invitation Service (School)

*Simon Goddard*

## Roman Catholic Church, Newmarket Parish

**Masses:** Newmarket: Sat 1830; Sun 1030;

Kirtling: Sun 0900;

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

## FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month: [jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk), or 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Should you be unsuccessful, please try your offers/wants on <http://freebiefreakz.org> or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cambridgefreecycle/>. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

### Offers

Oh no! the first time we've never had an offer! Come on everyone – you must have a load of things that you keep looking at and thinking "I must put that on freecycle". Make it a New Years' resolution.

### Wanted

Your old light fittings, brown bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895064727.

Cupboards suitable for storage in garage. Valerie c.813611.

Dear Friends,

Well, a new year is upon us, and once again it is time to take stock of what has happened in our lives over the past year, and to look forward to what the coming year may have in store for us.

How do you view the future? Are you anxious about what may be just around the corner, or are you looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities in this coming year?



For Pauline and myself, 2011 promises to be a year of great change, as we look forward to our retirement during the year. Inevitably, when we consider the coming year, we are filled with some trepidation about the enormity of the changes that will be taking place in our lives, as we leave the Vicarage and make a new life for ourselves somewhere else; but we are also filled with hope for fresh opportunities, and for more time in our lives to do the things we have always wanted to do.

<b>ST MARY'S Swaffham Prior January 2011</b>	
<b>Sun 2</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Matins
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>11:00am</b> Family Service
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Benefice Communion LODE
<b>Sun 30</b>	<b>8:00am</b> Holy Communion BCP <b>6:00pm</b> Evensong BCP

Whatever the coming year may have in store for both for us and for you, I think it is essential for all of us to be able to approach the challenges of future with some sense of assurance and trust. King George VI, in his Christmas address to the Nation in 1939, caught the mood of the nation in those dark times at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war with the words of M. Louise Haskins:- *'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown," and he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."*

Those words echo the words of the Bible: *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.'* (Proverbs 3:5/6).

The message for us is that we are never alone in our journey of life when we are in a relationship with God. This is the meaning of Christmas: that God loves us so much that He decided to come and live the world He had made for us, and share our human existence with us. Christians believe that, in Jesus Christ, God experienced the full meaning of human life, from babyhood to childhood, and through growing up in the teenage

years into manhood; and along the way He shared all our human pains and difficulties, joys and triumphs, including even the bitter pains of death.

Therefore, we believe that He knows and understands our cares and concerns, our hopes and fears for the future, and we can be enormously strengthened and assured if we can learn to trust in Him. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow sums this thought up perfectly in one of his poems:

*O holy trust! O endless sense of rest!*

*Like the beloved John*

*To lay his head upon the Savior's breast,*

*And thus to journey on!*

So, if you are thinking about making a new year's resolution, why not consider resolving to trust God more in your life. Because as Cliff Richard once wrote: *'The more we depend on God, the more dependable we find he is.'* Then maybe you will be able to echo the words of Norman Macleod in your life:

*Courage, brother! do not stumble,*

*Though thy path be dark as night;*

*There's a star to guide the humble,*

*Trust in God and do the right.*

I wish you all a happy and blessed new year.

*David*

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## ANGLESEY ABBEY

Christmas maybe behind us, but Winter is still sparkling in the house as the Glittering Prizes exhibition continues. If you value the wonderful craftsmanship of Georgian silver, you shouldn't miss this display of sporting trophies by some of the greatest silversmiths of that era. Robert Adam, Samuel Courtauld, and Garrard, as well as Paul Storr, are represented and it's probably the closest most of us will get to an Epsom Gold Cup!

### **Snowdrop time**

While most gardeners put their feet up at this time of year, Anglesey Abbey's team has its busiest season, as snowdrops start to appear in all their wonder. With 240 varieties to see, some originating at the gardens, this really is a signal that spring is on its way. This year, we have an enjoyable and informative film running at the Visitor Centre and you can also join tours with experts on weekdays at 2pm (booking advisable). Snowdrop season runs from 24 January to 27 February, but appearance of snowdrops subject to climate! 10.30am – 4.30pm daily.

### **Glittering Prizes – until 16 January**

Enjoy the spectacular Georgian-silver sporting trophies accumulated by Lord Fairhaven, in a special display at the house. Weds-Sun, 11-3.30pm. Included in normal garden-only admission charge.

## Dates for Your Diary January 2011

Sat	15	Bottisham Bowling Club Jumble Sale, 2pm
Mon	17	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm <b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Coffee Morning , The Old Allix Arms, 10.30-12.00 noon Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Thu	20	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel

### MOBILE LIBRARY

**Book Club Requests welcome. Online requests could be delivered to the mobile. Videos and Audio Books for hire. Cards and stamps for sale. Renewals/enquiries 0345 045 5225.**

**Email: [yow.library@canbridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:yow.library@canbridgeshire.gov.uk)**

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Jessica Shakeshaft	744266	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Jamsing	Jo Pumfrey	741376	Tues (term)	9.20-12	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	

**Village Clubs & Societies**