

The Messenger

**PRICKWILLOW'S
VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Issue 85 - Jun./ Jul. 2008

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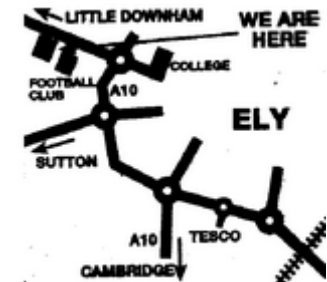
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Ely



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Verges - tidy, sterile and urban

In May, Prickwillow, like other villages, comes into bloom - the Cow parsley decorates the roadside verges, grasses sway in the wind, obscuring the rubbish. Butterflies and Moths begin to hatch in the remaining patches of grass.

Then a loud whining sound is heard and a gigantic tractor with arm extended tears at this unsightly Cow Parsley leaving in its wake a range of mangled crisp and sweet wrappers.

Do we really want or need this tidiness? Is wall to wall green carpeting what verges are really about? Aren't we in danger of making our villages not only look urban and smart but become sterile? With no insects, the bees butterflies and moths, there will be no birds. We all wonder at times why there are fewer birds than in our grandparents' time and we are all responsible. Our substitute garden bird feeders are not the answer - they do not provide the perfect food for young nestlings in particular.

I was pleased to find a sympathetic Roadman who suggested he might leave a section unmown for 'the wildlife', he said

Perhaps we could all try and think of Prickwillow as a rural village, responsible for insects and wildlife rather than a "Townie's" version of a rural village.

Sonia Lewis

Thanks Sonia! What do other people think about this? Are our verges the place to encourage wildlife or are our field margins and river banks sufficient? Let's have your comments for next time..... Ed

Evidence of Prickwillow's Past

I got to wondering if any of the readers of this magazine might be as interested in some of the history of this small part of the fens, as I am.

J Wentworth Day, author of many books about the fens, wrote of how the sea flowed in to cover the land, then receded for long enough for forests to become established, before repeating the pattern over and over again This is now thought to have happened at least seven times. The evidence for this is the

layers of 'bog oaks' to be found all through this area.

Men and animals were also following these patterns as fossils found here will show. In my little corner of Prickwillow, I have found evidence of at least two thousand years of human activity. I have unearthed a Flint Arrowhead, Roman Coins, Samian Ware pottery, Slag from Iron Workings, a Stone Age or early Bronze Age Pendant, various bits and pieces of pottery , pieces of centuries old glass, and a brass Walking Stick Handle in the shape of a Horse's Head, thought to be Victorian or Edwardian.

To top it off, is a peculiar stone, thought by a Cambridge Professor, to be a meteorite!

Eva Adams

Thanks for this, Eva. When I visited you and you showed me your box of 'finds', I was amazed that they all came from your small garden! It makes you wonder what else may be lurking beneath the surface waiting to be discovered. Has anyone else found anything interesting like this? If you have, let's hear about it.....Ed.

Pastures New

During the years that you have been kind enough to read my humble scribblings, I thought that my career on the boards was over, but I was mistaken. I was a well-known character in my day and it is indirectly as a result of this periodical that my career is enjoying a Renaissance!

You may recall in edition 65, it was reported that I enjoyed spectacular success playing the part of the Ironing Board in "Look Back In Anger". The truth is that I have been asked to reprise the role and take it on a world tour of the musical, "**SCOWL**" based on the play.

I know for a fact that the producer of the show, that well known impressario, Stow Bardolph, from Norfolk, called me as a direct result of reading the magazine.

Thank you Mr. Editor and best wishes to you all!

Billy Burton

Well done Billy! Its never too late to become a star. Joan Hickson was in her eighties when she started playing Miss Marple!.....Ed

Nice and close just for you

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PRICKWILLOW VILLAGE COUNCIL

Wendy Wilson

Summary of the important bits of the meeting held in the Village hall on Monday May 5th. at 8.pm.

The Chairman welcomed the council members - and one resident.

We discussed the village plan and three members are going to progress the Questionnaire.

Grass Cutting. At the time of the meeting the matter was unresolved but as you will have noticed, it has been done now. By way of compensation, it is going to be done every 2 weeks during the growing season.

The Dog Bin for Old Bank was erected just prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that City of Ely Council who provided this for us had ordered it and paid East Cambs for it on 29th. October last year. Various suggestions were made as to why it might have taken so long for it to be supplied and fitted!

War Memorial. It was decided to accept Marcus Pinions terms for finishing the job and he has been given the go - ahead to do it. We can afford to pay for it out of funds as we no longer have to cover the cost of Grass Cutting.

Footpaths. The survey is ongoing and when it is complete, a report will be made to the appropriate department at County Hall.

Jean reminded members of the date of the next panel meeting which is on 30th. July at St. Mary's School in Ely.

Bingo at Hiam's Club raised £200. The members who organised and helped on the night were thanked.

Affordable Housing. We have been informed that the rules on this have changed and that was the reason the proposed presentation did not take place.

The Funding and Village Plan Sub Committees will meet soon and report back at the next meeting.

The Date of the next meeting was set for Monday 7th. July at 8.00pm. in the Village Hall.

All residents of the village are welcome to attend, they may speak, in fact we welcome their input, however, only actual members are allowed to vote.

Agenda items are always welcome and for this meeting, should reach me no later than:

MONDAY JUNE 30TH.

Send them to:

wwilson@oneservice.co.uk

or write them down and put them through the letter box at The Toll House!

Please feel free to contact me regarding anything concerning the Village Council.

Remember, it was set up in order to represent the views and pass on requests from residents of the village to the Three local authorities who get a share of our Council Tax.

Make sure you get your money's worth!

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of the late "PEG" BUTCHER who died on 5th. April 2008

The family would like to thank all those who attended Peg's funeral and gave so generously towards the two nominated charities, namely the British Heart Foundation and N.A.I.D (the National Institute for the Deaf).

Total contributions raised amounted to £449.70p and this will be divided equally between them.

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BAPTIST CHURCH

Pat Del Grazia

JUNE

Sunday 1st.. 10.30.am. Nigel Holland
Sunday 8th. 10.30.am. Fellowship Sunday
Rev. Graham Licence

Saturday 14th. 7.00.pm. Gift day Service with
Ivan Cox

Sunday 15th. 10.30.am. Andrew Dalwood
Sunday 22nd. 10.30.am. Paul Searle
Sunday 29th. 10.30.am. United Service at
St. Peter's Church

JULY

Sunday 6.th. 10.30.am. Liz Herrington
Sunday 13th. 10.30.am. Paul Searle
Sunday 20th. 10.30.am. Andrew Dalwood
Sunday 27th. 10.30.am. United Service With
Nigel Holland

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UP THE GARDEN PATH

Daisy Grubber

Hello My Dears!

Who would have thought at the time of the last messenger going to press that we would have such a delightful start to May. I have been able to bask in the beautiful warm early summer sun and have enjoyed every minute of it until.....

RABBITS RABBITS RABBITS RABBITS RABBITS!



I went out to my fruit garden one morning to see how my new Strawberry plants were doing and all I could see was a disappearing white fluffy tail and empty containers.

I was not a happy Daisy I can tell you!

I collected my recliner from the potting shed and sat amongst my remaining soft fruit plantlets and kept very still, hoping to see where the little munchers were coming from. I didn't have long to wait, would you believe they were living under my house!

Without more ado I contacted my old friend Countryman. If he couldn't help nobody could. He came to see me as soon as he could and assured me he would be able to help. I didn't ask what method would employ, as I felt I didn't need too much information, but I took myself off to Ely to watch the Eel day parade and by the time I got back there were oven ready rabbits for my freezer.

I was then able to go back to Nettle -Watching which has been a fulltime job this spring. The weather has been so warm that everything is growing at speed and that means not only delicious fruit and vegetables but all kinds of plants that you don't want. They say that a weed is only a plant in the wrong place, well all I can say is that it is about time the weeds learnt that my garden is the wrong place.!

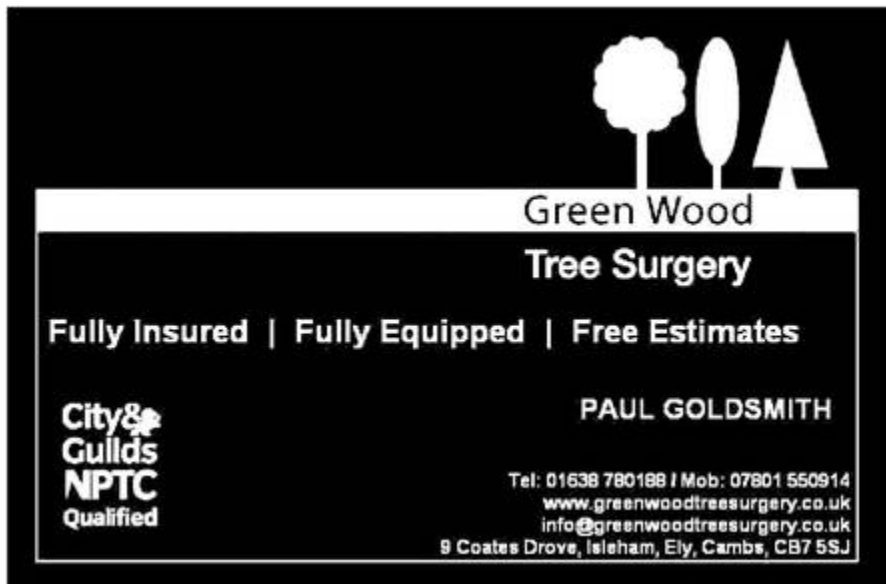
Jonquil came on a visit the other evening and in return for several glasses of Pimms did an admiral job of spraying all the plants that were in the wrong place and at the time of writing this article I think they are beginning to realize that that is the case.

My trusty lawn mower had to go away for a face lift the other day and so I'm afraid my green areas look a little sad at the moment. I don't know if I imagined it but I'm sure I saw a fluffy white tale in the under growth. I am going to suggest that Countryman comes round for a glass or two of Raspberry Cordial and if we are able to sit outside perhaps he will set my mind at rest or catch the happy hoppers if they are back.

In the hope that all will be well I am about to plant up my summer pots and troughs. I am going to plant Stocks and Nicotiana so that there is plenty of early evening scent by the house on warm summer evenings. There is nothing better than a seat in the sun on a sunny evening with a tincture in the hand and a scent on the breeze..... mmmmm...."

I am off to the potting shed now to get started but I shall keep my eyes peeled for anything white and fluffy.

Until next time My Lovelies



Do you have difficulty using conventional Public Transport?

Need to get to the Drs, Dentist, Clinic or Hospital for an appointment or visiting?
Or be taken to the supermarket or shops?

Then East Cambs Social Car Service can help.

Volunteer drivers use their own cars and are happy to assist.

Run from the Volunteer Centre in Ely it costs 28p per mile from the driver's home and back. (There is a minimum charge of £4)

To find out more or to book a journey please ring Jean on: 01353 666553

The Social Car Service and the Volunteer Centre are part of
Voluntary and Community Action East Cambridgeshire.



***St. Peter's Church
Prickwillow***

GARDEN FETE

Saturday June 21st. 2008

in the Village Hall

from 2pm



***Refreshments
Grand Raffle
Bric a brac
Plants
Games
Cakes
etc.***

Potato Salad with Roquefort

This potato salad has a wonderful flavour and is very popular at summer barbeques



Ingredients

2lb (900g) small new potatoes or salad potatoes

1oz (25g) Roquefort, crumbled

1 level dsp. salt

4 shallots, peeled and finely chopped

2 celery sticks, trimmed and chopped into ¼ inch (5mm) pieces

4 spring onions, trimmed and finely chopped

For the Dressing

1½oz (40g) Roquefort

1 clove garlic, peeled

1 level tsp salt

1 heaped tsp grain mustard

1 tbs lemon juice

2 tbs balsamic vinegar

2 tbs olive oil

5 fl oz (150ml) crème fraîche

2 level tbs mayonnaise

Freshly milled black pepper

Method

1 Place the potatoes in a steamer over boiling water and sprinkle them with the salt. Steam them for 20-25 minutes.

2 Place the garlic and salt into a mortar and crush to a creamy mass. Add the mustard and work it in. Add the lemon juice, vinegar and oil and whisk together thoroughly.

3 In a medium sized bowl combine the crème fraiche and mayonnaise, then gradually whisk in the dressing. When thoroughly blended add the cheese and season with the black pepper.

4 When the potatoes are cooked remove from the steamer and place a clean cloth over them for about 4 minutes to absorb the steam. Then place in a bowl, pour over the dressing along with the shallots and celery. Finally crumble over the rest of the Roquefort and spring onions.

Cooks tip. Keep this recipe to hand as it is a useful addition for a Christmas Buffet!



Your Village Needs You!

MAGPAS is looking for volunteers to help save lives in Prickwillow!

*The new Community First Responder group would be made up of local people who volunteer to be trained, equipped and organised by **MAGPAS** so they can attend medical emergencies in the village.*

The scheme will cut the time it takes to get medical help to patients in the villages as the ambulances are based quite a distance away.

*The volunteers receive lifesaving training to provide basic treatment to patients suffering from life threatening emergencies such as breathing problems, chest pains, diabetic emergencies, and cardiac arrest. **MAGPAS** has received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the work all their volunteers undertake, and also the Investors in Volunteers Award.*

MAGPAS provides all the training, so you don't even need to have a medical background! The defibrillator is automatic, you just attach it to the patient and it does the rest by itself!

The scheme can be the difference between life and death. In other areas there are patients who have benefited from the care of a Community First Responder and are now back home with their families.

*Can you make the difference? if you would like to find out more and support this lifesaving initiative, through either volunteering as a Community First Responder or as a Supporter and help the local group in administration or fundraising please call **MAGPAS** on: **01480 371060** for further details.*

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COUNTRYMAN

Greetings Folks!

You will recall the closing words from my last article were, "bring on Global Warming". I am now starting to think there is more to the Global Warming effect than I first believed.



We have lots of different types of birds that come to our shores for the summer to rear their offspring and then fly back to their wintering grounds. A friend of mine was lamenting the fact about a month ago that the House Martins had not returned to their nests in the eaves of his barn, he wondered if it were due to the numbers of trees that had been felled near to his property. However, exactly 4 weeks later, they have arrived.

I recently purchased a new digital camera so took this as an opportunity to try out its telescopic zoom function. You can see below the results. As you can see from the picture, the nest has been in use for quite some years now. It amazes me that these little birds have flown all the way from Africa to the same nest. Notice also the "Guano" on the wall around the nest, if you find such a nest on your property **DO NOT DESTROY IT!** If you do and the ladies and gentlemen of the RSPB, WWF, Wildlife Trust etc. discover, they will take legal action against you for every nest you destroy.

Fascinatingly, these birds clear out the rubbish from their old nest when they first arrive and then spend some time "re-pointing" the nest before the female then lays her eggs.



The other sign that the unusual weather we have had over the last few months has been different from the "norm", is that I am still waiting for my Springer Spaniel bitch to come into season!!

Until next time.....

DRAINAGE ENGINE MUSEUM Joan Stacey

The Museum is now open on Sunday - Monday - Tuesday
Friday - Saturday. 11.am. - 4.30.pm.

SUNDAY 25TH. MAY

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The Maltings.

You may have noticed that the Maltings has closed and work started on essential roof repairs costing around £100,000. The job is expected to be completed in six months time when the building will reopen under new management.

Residents concerned about perceived inactivity during the first couple of weeks of the shut down can be assured that the time has not been wasted and has been used to survey the security systems and related other works internally.

Nesting birds in the eaves have also restricted work starting before mid May. The finished contract includes the placing of Swift boxes along the eaves under the guidance of the Swift Trust.

Other problems regarding access to chairs for bandsmen and external electricity supply for events in Jubilee Gardens are being sorted out. Please let me know of any other concerns you may have.

New Sports Village

Already we have management companies interested in working in partnership with the Council to develop the new sport and leisure village on the A10 near Downham Road. It is, of course, for the use of the whole District, and is likely to be one of the first things to happen as part of the Ely Master Plan in the next three to four years. An eight-lane competition pool will be included, up to 100 health and fitness stations, as well as a five-a-side football pitch with other floodlit pitches

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for community use. There is plenty of space on this Council owned site for other sporting and leisure activities including, perhaps a cinema and a hotel.

Funding will come from a variety of sources including capital from the sale and/or development of existing land holdings, the Council's strategic infrastructure fund and commercial enabling development. Other funding possibilities are also on the cards.

It is likely that the Paradise site will be used for retail development, extending through The Cloisters shopping area, across Newnham St.

Neighbourhood Panels

The recent Neighbourhood Panels meeting was useful, but poorly attended. These really are wonderful opportunities for the public to talk direct to leading police officers, Councillors and Council Executives. John Hill, Chief Executive, of East Cambs attends the Ely meetings.

The last meeting was only the second we have had and the police had very encouraging reports about car vandalism prevention measures in Lynn Road and Cam Drive, for instance, both areas complained about by residents at the previous meeting.

Prickwillow Grass

On a more local topic, Prickwillow residents may have been disappointed that promised grass cutting had not commenced until very recently. This was due to key staff sickness and we are now on track to have our grass cut every two weeks including the war memorial and the village green by Corner Close.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH Lesley Ann Thompson

Sunday June 1st

9.15am - Holy Communion with Rev Chris Twycross

Sunday July 6th

9.15am - Holy Communion with Rev Chris Twycross

Sunday July 27th

10.30am - United Service at the Baptist Chapel

With apologies, we have been unable to organise a United Service at St Peter's at the end of June or August.

For any enquiries with regard to services, Baptisms, Weddings or other matters, please contact **Rev Pauline Scott on 01353 698410.**

News: *The Ely Team of churches, which includes Prickwillow, has appointed a new Team Rector, **Rev Alan Hulme**, who will be licensed on September 22nd 7.30pm at St. Mary's, Ely.*

HOMESPACE
by **ADMIRAL**



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CONTRIBUTIONS ON ALL SUBJECTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

(They must be via e-mail or in writing, *not dictated.*)