

The Messenger

**PRICKWILLOW'S
VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Issue 87 - Oct./Nov. 2008

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR!

Greetings!

Only one more edition after this, from the present publisher!

The next edition which will be the last, will feature all your old friends, including some that you have not heard from for some time.

I believe that Daisy Grubber and Lucretia will be going 'head to head' with a very special advice page and that we shall catch up for one last time with Billy Burton, who you will remember, is currently on tour with "*GLARE*", the musical based on "Look back In Anger". Thelma, who used to dispense too, too personal advice on embarrassing ailments will be here for you one last time. This is your last chance to contact all these wise sages who will be only too pleased to share with you their encyclopaedic wisdom and try to answer any questions you might care to put to them or advise on any problems that may be troubling you.

After that you're on your own!

Ed.....

PRICKWILLOW VILLAGE COUNCIL

Wendy Wilson

Summary of the important bits of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday Sept. 7th. at 8.pm.

The Village Plan Steering Committee has made very good progress and presented a draft questionnaire for members to consider. They have discovered that there is a great deal of information on the web regarding this subject with many suggestions on what questions should be asked. It was decided that when this area has been fully researched a Village Meeting will be held to tell people exactly what is happening and why as it is very important that the the questionnaire we finally produce really does work for **us**. We learned that City Of Ely Council are very pleased that we are undertaking this project and are anxious to help us in any way they can.

Grass Cutting in the village was discussed and it was agreed that the results were rather like "The Curate's Egg"; Good In Parts! It was commented upon that the work had been hampered by the wet weather which is not helpful when mowing has to take place and also by a black van parked on the green opposite Corner Close.

I'd like to take this opportunity of politely asking the owner not to park it there as it makes that area difficult to mow and we are desperately trying to make the village look smarter and this has the opposite effect!

It was reported that the final stage of the renovation of the War Memorial will be completed by November 11th. We shall once again arrange a ceremony when a wreath will be laid. ***Details of this further on.***

The survey of Public Rights Of Way is drawing to a close and a report will be presented at the November meeting. The findings will then be reported to the appropriate authority with a request to remove any blockages or obstructions. However, it was noted that after this has been done,we shall still have to keep an eye on their condition so this project will be on-going.

Various members reported problems with re-cycling and Cllr. Jackie Petts asked that if anyone does experience any difficulty in this area they contact her as she is on the appropriate committee at ECDC. She also informed us that an improved

system with regard to the supply of receptacles for separating materials is under consideration - more information to follow.

There are still problems with speeding which have not been resolved. As this was raised at the last Neighbourhood panel meeting it was pointed out that it would be necessary to attend the next one to find out what progress had been made.

There are still problems with hard footpaths in the centre of the village. In places they are obstructed by overhanging foliage from the gardens that they border and in others encroaching verges.

Photographs of encroachment have been taken and will be presented to the appropriate authority with a request that the problem be rectified. Also.....

If you have greenery that grows over a footpath, please be considerate to pedestrians, especially the elderly and those with prams and pushchairs and cut it back!

We shall again be conducting a door-to-door Poppy Collection. Please make the person who knocks on your door welcome. We had a really good result last year, it would be great if we could do even better this time!

The Date of the next meeting was set for Monday 3rd. November at a venue to be announced, which will be combined with our Christmas 'jolly'!

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

MONDAY OCTOBER 27TH.

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!

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BAPTIST CHURCH

Pat Del Grazia

OCTOBER

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| Sunday | 5th. 10.30.am. | Liz Herrington |
| Sunday | 12th. 10.30.am. | Nigel Holland |
| Sunday | 19th. 10.30.am. | Paul Searl |
| Sunday | 26th. 10.30.am. | Lloyd Heffer |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| Sunday | 2nd.. 10.30.am. | Nigel Holland |
| Sunday | 9th. 10.30.am. | Liz Herrington |
| Sunday | 16th.. 10.30.am. | Paul Searl |
| Sunday | 23rd.. 10.30.am. | Andrew Dalwood |

SPECIAL EVENT!

"A Celebration of the Gift of Music"

Concert of Flute and Song

FRIDAY 21ST. NOVEMBER - 7.30.PM.

Voluntary collection for the SALVATION ARMY

ALL WELCOME!

Prickwillow Village Hall

Bookings Secretary Required

Julia needs to step down from the above role to fulfil family commitments and we are looking for a volunteer replacement.

Please contact her on 07749262615

Or Janet Reid on 01353 688472

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Harvest Festival & Harvest Supper

Sunday 5th October—5.00pm

Please join us at St.Peter's Church in Prickwillow
for a very special Harvest Festival Service.
Everyone welcome.

Tuesday 7th October—7.00pm

Harvest Supper & Auction in the Village Hall.
Tickets £3.50 to include supper & a glass of
cider. BYO knife & fork and wine.

Tickets & further information:

Joan Stacey 688230 or

Lesley Ann Thompson—688577

Hello My Dears!

Who would have thought at the time of the last “Messenger” going to press that there was still more rain to come? I like to keep my plants well irrigated but enough is enough! What will happen next? Will it get colder and the snows start to fall? I have visions of this happening and my friends not being able to get to the potting shed for some winter cheer. To make sure this does not happen I will encourage a family visit and erect a new potting shed near the garden entrance. Then if the weather gets even worse I can still at least send my friends on their way, merrily.



My autumn plantlets are in fine form and I shall be putting them in pots rather than in the ground, then at least they should be able to keep their feet dry. Talking of dry feet, mine very nearly got extremely wet the other day. I was trying to make the area around my pond, less like a wilderness and more like a wildlife garden. I was on my hands and knees tugging at bindweed which was trailing through my “Snow in Summer” (mmmmm) and into my pond when a little nose appeared from the undergrowth followed by its very wriggly body. It was a baby Grass Snake!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

DAISY DOES NOT LIKE SNAKES!!!!

I leapt up, tottered a little (it was shortly after I had had a visit from one of my tincture imbibing chums) and nearly landed in the pond. I felt that where a baby snake is a mother snake cannot be far behind. I shall leave my wildlife garden to be just that Bindweed and all!

On a much more positive note, my strawberry plants have been producing runners by the million. Basil and Jonquil have very kindly erected six benches for me and I now have all my plants in troughs. The benches have taken the place of the straw bales which were past their best and starting to subside. They are more robust and more importantly, keep the strawberry plants away from Rabbits. (mmmmmm)

I am down to two White Doves again in the garden, the others have probably migrated to Queen Adelaide like their predecessors. (The air must be better down there) Unfortunately the male, who has always stayed, possibly due to his age appears to 'fire blanks' and so sadly there are no baby doves. I think I shall have to stick to raising rabbits!

The two major projects that my family will be able to come and take part in this winter are the establishment of a Fen Garden, where many of the pond plants are going to be taken up and replanted in boggy ground near the chicken run and even more exciting, the setting up of a Rose Walkway from my front hedge to the front door. Needless to say my preferred Rose, Etoile de Holland will be very much in evidence and as the walkway will be nowhere near the chickens the plants should become established quite quickly.

In the garden there are always things to look forward to which helps you forget the failures and if that doesn't work, try a large Pimms!

Until next time.....(which will be the last time).....



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Another message from:

PRICKWILLOW VILLAGE COUNCIL

Don't forget that we will be collecting for the Poppy Appeal during the run-up to Remembrance Day:

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH.

On that day we will be placing a Wreath on the War Memorial at 11.am. and observing a two-minute silence. We would like as many people from the village to be there as possible.

Remember, if those young men had not made the ultimate sacrifice, we might not be here today to be in a position to commemorate that they did.

COOKING WITH LUCRETIA

Courgette and Ginger Cake

As courgettes have been in abundance this year I thought you might like to try this delicious indulgence



Ingredients

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 8 oz. (2000g) caster sugar | 8 fl.oz. sunflower oil |
| 6 oz. (150g) soft brown sugar | 1 tbs. vanilla essence |
| 12 oz. (300g) plain flour | 3 eggs |
| 2 tbs. bicarbonate of soda | 12 oz. (300g) grated courgette (with skin!) |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 7 oz. (175g) raisins |
| 1 tbs. ground cinnamon | 4 oz. (100g) crystallized ginger (diced) |
| 1 tsp. ground ginger | 3.5oz. (90g) chopped walnuts |
| half tsp. ground cloves | 1 tbs. orange marmalade or zest of 1 orange |
| 1 tsp. salt | |

Method

- 1 Heat oven to 180/350 gas mark 4 or fan 160
- 2 Grease 5 1lb loaf tins (or similar)
- 3 Sieve first column ingredients into a large mixing bowl. Mix well.
- 4 Into a separate bowl pour in oil, essence and eggs – beat well
- 5 Gradually add egg mixture to the dry ingredients
- 6 Add remaining ingredients and mix well
- 7 Pour the mixture into the prepared loaf tins and place in oven.

The cooking time can vary from 40 minutes to 1 hour 20 minutes so test from time to time with a skewer until it comes out clean

Cooks Tip

This cake freezes very well. So if you have as many courgettes as me, do take the opportunity to stock up your freezer!

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COUNTRYMAN

Hi there Folks!

My bitch produced her litter of pups exactly one week early! As I keep reminding you, Mother Nature has a wicked sense of humour! Fortunately, with the assistance of my Veterinary Surgeon's knowledge, the early arrival was not unexpected. About five days before she whelped she started producing milk. usually it is the act of giving birth that stimulates the bitch into letting down milk, so its arrival before the birth was a little worrying. One phone call to the Vet and I was forewarned! The first one appeared at 5.30.pm., so I was hopeful for an early finish as I was expecting five and she had produced her last litter of four in two and a half hours.....The last puppy arrived at 01:30 the following morning.



Some of you may have seen the documentary on the television a few weeks ago about the Kennel Club. I and many of my friends were deeply disturbed by the conditions that were shown. This organisation appears to be unconcerned that there are breeds of dog that are being mutilated by inbreeding and why is it not against Kennel Club rules to show a dog that has a major neurological condition? With this in mind, why am I pilloried for having my puppies' tails docked? The only reason for doing this is that a Spaniel with a full tail will damage it while hunting through Brambles. My pups were not stressed at having this operation performed, but the needle used to Microchip them, did cause them to cry briefly. Due to the Animal Welfare Bill 2007, only a Vet can dock tails and he has to be satisfied that the pups are going to be sold as working dogs and they have to be Microchipped at the time of being docked.

At five weeks old, they are growing well; this is in direct relation to the amount of puppy food and milk they are consuming!

There is still a lot of Wheat waiting to be combined; the poor farming folk are not being blessed with the right weather at the moment. With this in mind, remember that once the fields have been harvested, any Rodents that were living in them will be looking for somewhere warm to live. I personally use a powerful rat poison around the garden inside home-made "Bait Stations" so that unintended creatures do not pick it up in error.

Until next time.....

DRAINAGE ENGINE MUSEUM

Joan Stacey

During **OCTOBER**, the Museum will only be open at weekends ie. **SATURDAY** and **SUNDAY** from 11.00.am. until 4.00. pm.

A special **RUN-DAY** will be held on **SUNDAY 26TH. OCTOBER** which includes **VINTAGE PLOUGHING**. There will be classes for **HEAVY HORSES - TRACTORS - VINTAGE TRAILED & MOUNTED - FERGUSSON** and **CLASSICS** .

The event runs from 11.00. am. until 4.30. pm. **HOT & COLD LUNCHES** will be served and there will be lots to enjoy.

During **NOVEMBER** the museum will be closed.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS RUN-DAY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH. after which the museum will be closed for the winter.

VILLAGE HALL

Janet Reid

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

Tuesday 16th December 2008

7.30.pm.

All Welcome!

(Prize Donations Gratefully Received)

Paul
Braybrooke

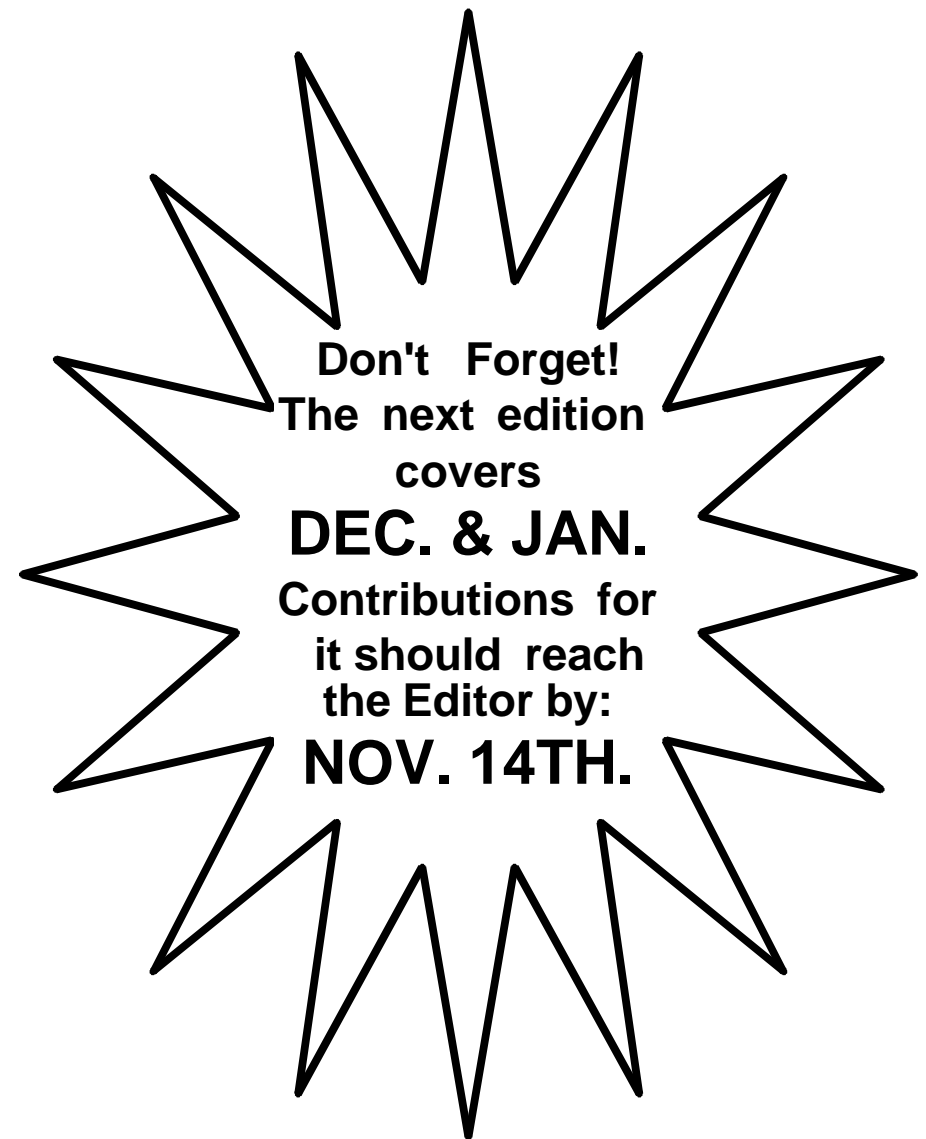
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TONY PEARSON

WITHYCOT ELY ROAD PRICKWILLOW CB7 4UJ

TEL: 01353 688275

tonypearson@waitrose.com

CONTRIBUTIONS ON ALL SUBJECTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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