



# SUMMER 2011



Hello again,

Summer's really here now. So far it seems to have been pretty much sun and not much rain, which is the wrong way round at this time of year. Mind you, for all that, the crops really look in surprisingly good condition.

I've just come back from an early evening walk round the back of Orchard Street, a lovely stroll along in the sunshine. There was plenty of wildlife around but I don't think I've ever seen so many rabbits. They're absolutely everywhere.

I was standing at the corner of Stow Field and Gaynes when there was a huge commotion about six feet in front of me. Up leapt this young Roe buck, barked out loud and bounded away into the field. About 20 feet further on he stopped and looked back at me, still barking loudly. I turned my back on him and began walking away, in order to calm him down. Off he went into the depth of the field barking all the way.

There was a cuckoo calling out in Gaynes, plenty of pheasants and a family of ducks swimming along round the Loop; all very charming. I didn't see the Red Kite but there's a separate story inside about that.

There are several events coming up over the summer so do come along and join in. You'll be very welcome.

Don't miss the second part of Bill's walk around the village.  
All the best.

Nigel

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT JACKDAW CHATTER  
IS TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST 2011.**

## Bill's Bit

Morning then together and I reckon that's gonna be a scorcher. That's just gone six, and I sit here writing this old rubbish looking down the Orchard. There's one of them lovely morning mists hang all round the field. You can see the apple trees silhouetted, and just about see the outline of one of them big old conker trees. My great herd of cattle (all three of them) are grazing away on what ought to be grass if that ever rains again, looking happy as can be. Normally I can see that big old pine tree what sits in the middle of Browns park, but the old mist coming off the river's blotting it out for the time being. On one side of my garden there's a grut old rose bush covered in red roses, what grew from a tiny cutting Jean took off one of Peg's ramblers. On the other side of the garden I codged up a wooden rose arch when we got married 'cos someone gave us two tiny rose bushes. That's now a mass of white and yellow roses 8 foot high. There's flowers of a dozen different colours round the borders. Sitting here looking out I know why I always reckon May is the best month of the year, and how lucky I am with my lot.

I know last time I said there'd been a tidy lot of rain, well we couldn't half do with some of that now. I don't reckon that's really rained for six weeks or more, but I'll cut a bit of hay today, and there ein't nothing more likely to induce a week of heavy rain than for me to hook the old hay mower on the back of my tractor. There ein't gonna be no quantity of hay again and the corn fields look a bit poor. All the barley's now going on head on about 6 " of straw, so straw will fetch a tidy bit this year. I'm surprised how good all the sugar beet crops look though. They were set while the ground was still pretty wet and all germinated, so now they look as though they are hanging on well. There's more fields of linseed about this year than I've seen for several years and they don't half look a picture when they come out in flower. I reckon by the time

you read this you'll see a load of fields all with a light blue sheen across them. What with that and all the lovely yellow fields of rape we had a few weeks ago we get some rare colourful springs now a days.

How about the old Cookoo this year. I reckon Linda heard him first across the Park in the middle of April. She soon phoned me up to tell me, then a couple of weeks later I thought I heard one from across the Avenue, and looked that way. There he was coming up the field towards me, and he gave me a big "Cookoo" just as he flew over my head. I was well chuffed. Then I hadn't heard him again till last week, but he (or she)'s been hollering away all last week and this. There still ein't many Swallows and Martins about and I don't expect they'll come now. I think there's a couple of swallows nesting in the stables, but has any one got a Martins nest started on their eaves this year? Once again I ein't seen no Swifts, but I normally write that for this mag and then they all arrive.

Paul Currington tells me a lot is happening in the woods. There's been a Red Kite about here for five weeks. That's been about in Crickles, and the Norrises, but also been seen down Station road. There's seven Buzzards nesting down Crickles and up by Gaynes Then this year there's been three male Marsh Harriers circling about down Wilbraham Fen, so it's likely the females are sitting on eggs. I know that's lovely to see all these big old birds of prey but there's too many now. You can't shoot them 'cos they're protected, but they ought to be culled by about half for the good of all the small birds they kill. That's a shame some of these people who write conservation laws don't know a bit more about nature. No one wants to wipe Buzzards and Harriers out, but, how do these here politicians put it , "Their progress is unsustainable." Paul also reckons there's a tidy racket down Crickles now as all the young herons hatch out in the heronry. Yes I know they've

been and had a few fish out of our pond, so they ain't flavour of the month at the minute, but they do look lovely as they lazily fly across the sky without seeming to make any effort. Any time you go down Quy bridge now you'll see loads of ducks on the Horsepond. There's black ones, white ones and all colours, and I suppose many of them are nesting about there. Lots of people get no end of pleasure feeding them. Let's hope the mink don't get down there amongst them. I know there is still mink trouble further up the river, and the keepers still can't catch them.

Paul's geese, what are normally on the Park in front of Quy Hall, were laying well but the eggs kept disappearing. Probably foxes, so Paul took some home to put under broody hens along with some guinea chick eggs. He lives in Cambridge so thought they should be safe there, but blow me if he didn't get a visit from Mr Toby Fox there and lost the lot. Pauline was most upset.

There's been Kingfishers up by Gaynes and Barry has seen one by the Horsepond, but no one knows whether there is a nest yet. Barry also told me on about May 25th that the swan had brought off eight cygnets. That's a tidy good brood, but she is likely to lose a few in the first week or two to pike or mink, so I don't know how many she has now. There's a lot of hares about over the pink house way, which is lovely, but some rum looking coves have been about with dogs supposedly coursing. You can't course hares in growing crops, so what were they looking for? Probably deer and there's been about twenty of them running about all winter.

Well all the woods look good for another shooting season. There's a lot of black pheasants left which will hopefully give us a good stock of wild birds. There's a tidy few partridges running about on their own so hopefully the hens are sitting on eggs. All in all I reckon nature is set to give us another lovely year in Quy. That's a good job nature has been busy,'cos all my roving

reporters reckon nothing ein't happened in Quy since March. You all like to read about the Quy titbits and funnies, but I can't share them about unless you lot let me know about them. So if you get any little tale what you would like to share just let me know and I'll put it in the next issue. Nothing to upset other people, but we don't mind a bit of gentle teasing.

You know Maureen and Chick lost that cruise at Christmas, so now they are off on a cruise to Libya. They seem to be gluttons for punishment. Maureen, if a bloke with a funny hat and a moustache gets on the ship at Tripoli saying he wants to come to see his mates in England, just tell him to Gad aff.

Now if you see a squirrel running about up Minter Close wearing a tie, don't worry; David Benstead tells me that a squirrel has pinched one his old dad Peter's ties off the line and is running about with it.

Sheila nearly sold the shop and Post Office in April. It had all been agreed and flyers sent round. Sheila had moved out to a house in Somersham, when the new lady changed her mind about coming. I'm sorry that you have had all the hassle Sheila, but we're not sorry to hear that you will be staying with us.

We didn't do much in the village for the royal wedding. I know that Vicarage Meadow had a successful street party. Well done Victoria and the two Matts (plus all your helpers). Next year that's the Diamond Jubilee. Let's hope the village can celebrate that in style, like we did for the Coronation and both the other Jubilees. Remember them street processions with tractors, cars, horses, bikes, all decked out pretty parading up Station Road to the Rec, where all sorts of games and entertainment went on. You don't have to be in favour of the royal family to be proud of your country. Let's get together and enjoy being English, there's enough people trying to run us down and making daft rules and regulations to try to stop us celebrating our heritage. I think the

Parish Council are going to put up a bit of money to help with the celebrations and Matt Eaton is looking for a few volunteers to get together soon to organise what the village wants to do. I've volunteered, so come on a few more of you. Let's get together and organise a do what the village can be proud of. If you want to help just let me or Matt know (telephone numbers on back page) and we'll let you know when the first meeting will be.

This lambing time I've had a new helper with the sheep. Alistair, who lives next door to the Swan, is keen on sheep, so bought two ewes in September and run them in with my tup. He's been feeding all the animals mornings for me all winter so I can lay abed. That's working O.K., except that most of my ewes had single tup lambs, and his had a pair of ewe lambs and a single ewe lamb. Talk about beginners luck. Anyway a week or two ago he told me that his ducks were eating their own eggs, so I told him to blow one and fill it with mustard and put it in the run. He went home and did this but left it on the side to put out later. Then his mate wanted a fried egg, so he picked it up and broke it into the pan. He reckoned that looked funny so he didn't eat it! Sad to hear that Snowy Matthews has died. I think he lived in Quy all his life, and there ein't so many people can say that now as there was when I was a kid. He worked a long while on the farms in the village and was a very keen motor biker when I was young. The emergency church meeting went fairly well. Several people attended and agreed to help with the running of the building, so it looks like Quy church will still be there for regular worship, and for all the family weddings, funerals and christenings. That still needs money to keep it running, so you'll be badgered to put your hand in your pocket a few times, but I'm sure you will agree that's worth it to keep that lovely looking sentinel at the entrance to our village. They tell me there's a lovely oak framed door that needs to be removed (see advert). How about putting in a bid for it? You'll be helping the church as well as yourself.

Don't forget rounders this year July 1st at the Rec. I think Chick's away so Geoff Hall is in charge. He'll sort you all out. That's a good night, rounders for all the family, and a barbecue and drink after wards (or during ).

Then we've got the Fete on July 16th in the Orchard. A bit different this year, still the main bit all afternoon with stalls and competitions which starts at 2.0pm. Then at five o'clock the QVA is running some team games and some individual ones for all ages. With all this here health and safety rubbish we ain't been able to get any insurance for this for several years, but Ray Jakes has persuaded them to cover us this year. Mind you the games ain't likely to be as adventurous as them we used to have down Quy Hall, 'cos that sort of thing wouldn't be covered. All the games will be fun and safe, but you may well get wet through, so we hope a load of you will come along and join in. After that there will be a barbecue and a chat, perhaps rounders or similar for them what still have enough energy. The bar will run all day from 2.00pm, so will the barbecue. Hope to see you all there. It's normally a fun day for the whole family.

I hope we have sorted the Quy Website out a bit now. Nigel has put the latest Jackdaw on and expects to eventually have the current issue plus the three previous ones on there at any one time. It has been a lot of work for him, as it had got well behind. Helen Devereux has now volunteered to help him get it all up to date and then try to keep it going. We started a scheme of sending e-mails to ex Quy patriots all round the world, Wales, Yorkshire and even Aus, Germany, America and Canada. This had fell by the wayside a bit, but will now be renewed. If you have any friends any where in the world who would like to read Quy news, just give me or Nigel their e-mail address and they will get an e-mail to tell them when the latest issue of Jackdaw has been put onto the site.

I reckon that's my lot for now. Shan't see you at rounders 'cos I'll be in Italy, but hope to see you at the fete.

Cheers Bill Watts

## QUY W.I.

At our meeting in March our speaker was Entertainment Manager Peter Cresswell who gave us a background of his work from the time of leaving school to the present day. He was Entertainment Manager for a number of places and met various well known artists. He is still working but in a different guise - working for the council here in Cambridge.

Some of our members visited Cherry Hinton W.I. and there, still in entertainment mode, we listened to Mike Gee who was himself an entertainer. He sang 50s and 60s songs and tried hard to make us remember being 16 - very hard! During his comedy session he took on the guise of Max Wall which he did very well. His final turn was to do some artwork around the initials of W.I. (rather like Rolf Harris). A group also visited Wilbraham W.I. for a talk by Peter Carter, the eel man.

In April we celebrated the 92nd anniversary of the formation of the Quy W.I. with a sit down buffet provided by the committee. Whilst we sipped our mulled wine and Buck's Fizz we taxed our brains with quizzes provided by Joan Froment and Margaret Lowe.

In May we welcomed visitors from the village and Lode and Fulbourn W.I.s. Our speaker, Ian Waters, gave us a very knowledgeable insight into the Ffestiniog Railway. He has been a volunteer for 48 years and 11 members of his family are involved with this project. The railway was opened in 1832 by an act of Parliament to carry slate from the mountains to the sea by gravity with horses pulling the wagons back up. The line was converted to steam in the 1860s. It is now a major tourist attraction and provides work and financial reward to the area. After a break for refreshments Ian continued by showing slides of the trains and finished with a video of a helter skelter run down the mountain. Great fun!

We have a varied programme arranged for this year. If you would like to meet us please ring Jane Keighley on 811172 for more information.

## **The Bells of St Mary's**

A new guide book to the church of St Mary the Virgin, Stow-cum-Quy is being prepared. As part of this work, some investigations have been made into the history and present state of the bells. Most will have heard them being chimed for Sunday services but few may know anything about them. The following may therefore be of interest.

The tower contains five bells. They were cast by John Darbie of Ipswich in 1670. They are interesting as being the only complete ring by John Darbie in the county of Cambridge. Darbie was quite a successful founder of his period.

Because of the difficulty of transporting heavy items on the very poor roads of those days he, like many other founders, sometimes worked itinerantly. That is, he would come to the church and cast the bells on site. However, in our case they appear to have been made at his central foundry in Ipswich. How they were brought to Quy is not known. If by road the journey would have had to have been made in summer when the roads were dry. It is possible that they came by sea to King's Lynn and then up the river to Lode.

There are five bells: a treble, a second, third, fourth and tenor. In total they weigh over two tons. Bells 1-4 are inscribed 'John Darbie made me 1670'. The tenor is inscribed 'Praise the truth of God. I summon the people to gather together with the clergy.'

Although they are now only chimed, inspection shows that these bells were originally hung for full circle ringing. They are supported on timber headstocks carried on gudgeons

(bearings) on which they once turned. The iron clappers are present, but the rest of the fittings required for ringing, that is the wheels, stays, sliders and ropes etc are all missing. It is however possible to see where they were once fitted.

It is clear that the Quy bells have not been rung for a long time. They hang dead, that is mouth downward and are chimed by hammers striking the outside of their sound bows. These are worked by rods from a type of keyboard in the vestry.

In 1953 the Rev'd Minter approached two firms of bell founders, for advice and quotations for the work necessary to restore the bells to full ringing order. The total cost of the work would have been £870 which today seems a very small sum. Unfortunately, no action was taken, presumably for lack of funds.

Mr Minter also had other ideas for improving Quy bells. As five bells are rather limiting when used for change ringing he had the idea of having a sixth bell installed. This was in fact done at Bottisham some years ago when a redundant bell was obtained from another church and installed by the local ringers.

With two rings of six and one of eight available in the benefice, it is now very unlikely that any renovation will ever be carried out at Quy and that the bells will continue simply to be chimed.

Ian Waters

## **A Virtual Walk (part two)**

Righto then, the time has come to continue our virtual walk, now where were we? Ah I know - we'd turned off Station Road and were, half way up Primrose Walk. If we walk to the end of Primrose Walk we find a stile, right by that beautiful big old plane tree. (Don't look too closely at all them carved initials, most of the people who carved them as youngsters are dead now.) Until only about 10 years ago this stile was in the middle of the walk standing proudly in a lovely wrought iron fence, but a large tree fell into the fencing and broke it all down. When Paul Clarke cleared the tree and put up the fence he agreed that we could put the stile back in, but at the end of the fence. Several of us picked out the mangled remains of the stile, and took them over to Bush Farm where Chris Butler helped straighten it all out. He even put runs of weld on the old steps to aid grip, in these safety oriented days. Now there's a scheme for some of you youngsters! why not rebuild the stile in the middle of the fence? I reckon Paul Clarke would give you permission if you asked him. Or better still what about putting in a kissing gate? I happen to know that the Parish Council has a spare one laying about with nowhere to put it.

As we climb over the stile and continue alongside the river, just look across to the island. The Francis family set all that lot with daffodils and at the start of Spring that's a mass of yellow flowers, just the time of year when your old heart needs a bit of a lift. Let's sit awhile on this seat here, put in by Malcolm Hall as a thank you to the Francis family for the use of Quy Park for the Fenland Country Fair during a period of more than 25 years.

Rested? right then a few more steps and we can look across the Broadwaters at the splendour of Quy Hall. We used to hold the annual village fete in these splendid gardens. At the end of each fete we would hold silly water games in this stretch of water. Various teams from the village would compete against each other in events like building a raft and sailing across to rescue damsels

in distress tied to a stake on the bank where you stand. Of course no matter what the event was called it ended up with all teams flailing about in the water. Not too dangerous - the total depth is only about 5'. That is 2' of water and 3' of mud. Great fun was had by all the competitors and the spectators loved to watch all the filthy bedraggled bodies climb out of the water. I'm sure old Mr Alf N Safti wouldn't approve of this nowadays.

Further on we can see a very nice bridge over the river. This was put in in the late 19th C by either the Martin family or the Francis family at Quy Hall and was purchased from St John's college when they replaced one of their bridges. That's always been a lovely place to stand and look down at the water, mostly with a shoal of bream or roach lazing about in this fast flowing section. In the 1980s the bridge was getting very decrepit, especially the stonework down into the water. Major Francis, the then squire, had it taken out and refurbished to its present state and we hope it will now remain here for many years.

Villagers behaving themselves have always been welcome all over the Park and as far up stream as this bridge, but we know that we are not welcome on the other side of the bridge, or in fact any further up the river. This is all private land and we feel privileged to be allowed the freedom we have. Stand on this bridge and look up towards Church Rd. Up until 1940 you would have been looking at a long Carriage Drive, in an avenue of majestic elms: the main entrance to Quy Hall. What a lovely sight that must have been. Then in the war the Tank repair corps (I think) took over the Park and shifted lots of dirt, from where they were digging pits, and dumped it down at the end of the Avenue. I'm sure the old Colonel Francis was happy with this at the time, it would stop them from getting any closer to his lovely home.

That's the way we need to go, but we can't, so let's retrace our steps 50 yards and then go up the grass field alongside this metal fence. I'm told that before the war all these quaint old wrought iron fences on either side of the Avenue were kept in good repair.

At the top you will find two kissing gates. The public footpath from here goes due left, straight across the field to Bush farm, and through both gates back up the Avenue. Look across the Park and where you now see lone trees, once there were small copses of majestic elms, until that dreaded beetle came along in the 1960s. Imagine the devastation we all felt over the 10 years or so that it took to kill all the elms in these copses and all the way up both sides of the Avenue. We are getting used to the new trees that were planted, but we will never forget the rows of majestic elms with soft grass under them, instead of these acres of stinging nettles that started to grow when these trees were young and now won't go away. Mind you, in March there is mostly several lovely carpets of white and blue violets in many places under these trees, before the nettles come up.

At the end of the Avenue you will see the quaint stone gate house guarding the left hand gatepost. The concrete road was put in by the tank corps and one of their tanks accidentally knocked down the other gatepost. If you look closely at the brickwork by the cottage you will see many names and places carved into the bricks, from service men who were whiling away their time here in the 40s.

Let us imagine standing here before 1842. How different it would have been. The main road would have been Orchard Street. (Church Road didn't exist; it was constructed on the recommendation of the Quay Enclosure Award Act in 1842.) Look left at the big red house. That is the other Quay 17th C house and was the farm house owned by the Cole Ambrose family, who farmed a large area around. Directly across the road from the Avenue would have been their farmyard. The chalk wall you see kept going straight across Church Road as part of their Orchard. Let's turn right into Orchard St. That white cottage on the left, where Nigel now lives, was built in 1824 as two farm cottages as

part of the Ambrose farm. Until 1960 all along on your right was the front of an Orchard with a large Conker tree near the Avenue, two majestic elms and then a large Oak tree, where the concrete road is and Dickie Noble's small holding where now stands Nos 10, & 12.

I live at No 6. Fifty years ago, when I wanted to get married and my sister wanted a house for her and our mum and dad, we went down to see Colonel Francis to ask him if he would sell us a piece of land to build a semi-detached house on. (Many of Quy's youngsters did in those days, since they had lived in the village all their lives). "Yes," says the colonel. "Where would you like it?" From there, after much paperwork and planning permissions, we built our houses in Orchard St, where we have lived happily ever since. Can you imagine that happening now? We will carry on to the end of Orchard St and then go a bit further up this green roadway. Up until the 1700s you would have been on the main road to Cambridge. Stand at the end and look straight out over the A14. That's where the road went to meet the existing road at High Ditch Road corner. The main market town then was at Reach, and that's where the road headed from Roman times. It was only in 1700s when people wanted to go to the "Newmarket" that the turnpike road was built from High Ditch Road corner to meet the old A11 (Icknield Way) at the roundabout where the horse statue now stands. At that time the old road from the end of Orchard St was abandoned. So how did we then get to Cambridge, you ask? Well let's go back to this end of Orchard St. Look to your right at that narrow public footpath (the Celery Trench) which runs up to Church Road. That was then a road way which carried straight on to the Willbrahams and was used for the next 100 years to link Orchard St (and Quy, Lode Swaffhams etc.) to the new Newmarket road some 300 yards east of Quy church.

If we walk up this footpath to Church Road and turn left, you will see that all the old houses now accessing onto this road are not parallel to it. That's because they were built for access onto Orchard St, which they are parallel to.

So we arrive back at the end of the Avenue, and the end of our virtual walk. I don't know about you but I'm tired out after all this walking and talking. I'll leave you to go back down the village to your various houses, I'm going back home up Orchard St for a nice cup of tea.

Bye for now! Bill Watts

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## **Parish Council News**

A big thank you to all those that regularly litter pick either in front of their properties or indeed around the village in general. I think you will all agree that the village looks better litter free, so please continue to do your little bit and I would also encourage more to look after the roads, footpaths, and verges adjacent to their properties so that we can keep the village tidy.

With the Diamond Jubilee next year it is our vision to see the village come together to celebrate the occasion. With this in mind we would like to form a committee that would plan and oversee the celebration. Bill Watts has agreed to form a committee and I would like to invite as many of you as possible to contact Bill and lend your help/support however big or small. Bill's email address is [billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk](mailto:billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk).

We are currently looking to improve the village website and would welcome any suggestions for its content. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see included please email Bill Watts with your suggestions, [billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk](mailto:billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk).

Gregg Foster  
Vice Chairman

## **Hello from Darwin Nurseries**

Hello again and first thing I must do is apologise for the rather small article this time; as usual, time has flown by and we have been very busy.

Well as I said we have been busy it's been a credit to the team here as we have excelled ourselves with the summer bedding campaign, the greenhouse looks wonderful with all the different plants and colours but it has been so hot and dry it's been a full time job just watering. We have made several hundred hanging baskets and it is such a good feeling seeing them in bloom on some of the pubs as we are out and about (the Wheatsheaf looks spectacular). Please remember to water your baskets even if it rains and when it is hot, water them twice a day and feed weekly (miracle grow and the like) and remember to dead head daily and your baskets will reward you with a beautiful show hopefully till the first frost.

Our chickens are now laying so many eggs that we have to collect twice daily and as soon as they arrive in the shop they are sold. You can't get any fresher than that.

The co-workers are now busy planting vegetables in the plots and we will be planting in the large polytunnel when all the bedding plants have gone, we might try some watermelon in there this year; I'm looking forward to that. Last week I emptied our compost bin at home and the compost was really good; please try to remember to compost whenever you can as it pays dividends and saves money too.

Well this article is small and sweet but I hope it finds you well and happy. As always be happy in Horticulture. Till next time...

Mark Cornell

## The Village Hall

The village Hall continues to thrive thanks to continued regular bookings and several new ones. The Cambridge Table tennis club now meets there every Wednesday evening between Sept and April. Mel Wilson runs a successful aerobics evening there every week, and we are picking up several one off bookings from people viewing the facilities on the Quy web site. During the last year the floor has been deep cleaned, buffed and sealed. Recently new infra- red heaters were installed in the Hut along with a new meter exclusive to the Hut.

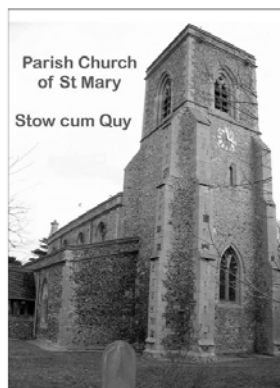
We are very grateful to Graham Beckett for finding a new sink unit for the Hut and for giving his time to fit it. We are expecting the Hut roof to be re-felted and insulated shortly, and it is hoped that we can then redecorate the Hut.

I will always be happy to help with your bookings, so please give me a call with your booking enquiries.

Jean Watts 811063

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### Quy Church Building & History

A Booklet which was originally written by John Sutherland & Peggy Day has just been revised.

Copies are available price

**£3.00**

From : Bill Watts 811063

Or Lynn Hatley 812652

Or [billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk](mailto:billwatts@stowcumquy.co.uk)

## Our own Red Kite

I was having a cuppa with Jon Chapman the other day. He was telling me about a Red Kite that he has seen recently round here. I said I'd never seen one so he told me how to recognise it. Then, would you believe it, a couple of days later I was returning from Cambridge and I saw it, circling round just up from the church. I thought it warrants a fuller article.

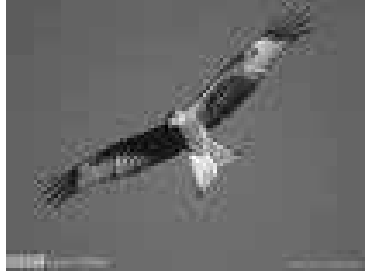
The Red Kite was driven to the verge of extinction in the British Isles in the last century due to changing habitats, persecution, pesticides and egg thieves. In 1986 the RSPB in association with English Nature decided to try to reintroduce the species. They obtained 11 birds from Sweden and released six in Scotland and five in Berkshire. The project was kept under wraps to keep egg thieves in the dark and regular checks were made to ensure that the birds were alive and well. In the intervening 25 years the population has increased at a surprising rate and it is estimated that there are now well over 600 breeding pairs in Britain: 350-400 pairs in Wales, just over 200 in England and 60 in Scotland. And we now have our own bird round here, giving everybody the chance to see a wild Red Kite, very probably for the first time in their lives. The bird is very easy to identify. Initially you might think that it is a buzzard as it has a similar flight pattern, circling overhead with its wings outstretched, gliding along on any thermals it can find. What sets it apart from the buzzard is the distinctive fork like tail shape (see silhouette image).



Of course, to a certain extent it is a matter of chance as to whether you



are in the right place at the right time to catch a glimpse but with long summer evenings there's more chance to get out.



Go and do the second part of Bill's walk. It's been seen in that area. You might just get lucky.



### **Latest rainfall figures**

*(February, March, April)*

Station Road

	2010	2011
February	68.25mm	29.50mm
March	23.75mm	4.25mm
April	10.50mm	1.50mm
<b>Total</b>	<b>102.50mm</b>	<b>35.25mm</b>



# Family Rounders

Quy Rec 6.30 Fri July 1st

ALL AGES WELCOME



BarbeCue  
& Drinks

Sat  
July  
16th

## QUY FETE

Bill's Orchard

**BAR**

*Stalls etc: 2pm—5pm*

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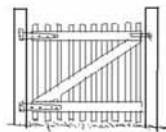
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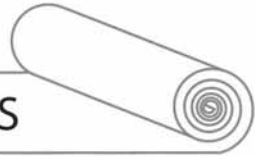
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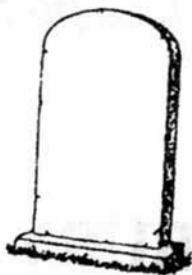
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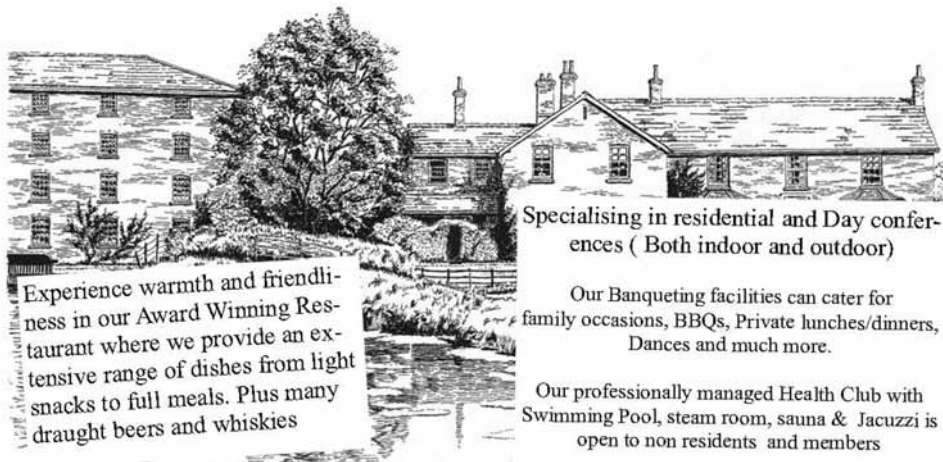
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## Seasonal Recipe Page

### White Chocolate and blueberry jelly creams

3 sheets of gelatine  
75 mls of mixed berry cordial  
150 g blueberries  
125 g white chocolate broken into pieces  
284 ml carton of double cream

1. Cover two of the leaf gelatine sheets with cold water and leave to soak for five minutes, until soft.
2. Mix the cordial with 300 mls of hot water from the kettle and then into this whisk the gelatine
3. Divide the mixture equally among the bases of 6 x120 ml, individual moulds or ramekins.
4. Divide the blueberries equally among the moulds, leave to cool and then chill for one hour until completely set.
5. Meanwhile soak the remaining leaf of gelatine in cold water as before.
6. Place the white chocolate and cream in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water and leave until melted.
7. Remove the bowl from the pan and stir until smooth. Add the leaf gelatine and whisk briskly.
8. Leave to cool completely before spooning the mixture into the moulds and chill for a further four hours or overnight until set.
9. To serve, dip the moulds into hot water to loosen and then turn out onto a serving plate.

(Courtesy of Viv Fleet)

## **News from the QVA**

Congratulations to Sandra Duke, Nathan Turner and Karen Winder who were the cash prize winners in the recent QVA Alternative Quiz held on Friday May 20th.

Between them they had an impressive range of general knowledge and were able to answer questions on topics ranging from board games to rabbits, fashion to film music and colour to all things British. However, even they found the current affairs questions set by Bill Watts devilishly difficult! The QVA would like to thank everyone who supported the quiz and hope to see lots of villagers at the next QVA event which is the Family Rounders, played at the Rec on Friday July 1st.

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### **Anthony Crisp**

The total amount in donations given in memory of Anthony for the Motor Neurone Disease Association was £2,379. The poem that Bill wrote raised £444.

I have had a thank you letter from the M.N.D.A. asking me to pass on their gratitude to everyone who contributed for their generosity and support; it is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Linda Crisp and family.

## News From Lode Chapel

At RE:NEW we call ourselves a family friendly church, and that is what we hope to be – but our definition of ‘family’ is a very broad one! Although we make provision on a Sunday morning for those with children (we have a crèche, a group for primary aged children, and a group for teenagers) we also welcome a number of people who are now enjoying retirement. This includes one of the members of our music team who bounces up and down to some of the livelier songs we sing more than those of us who are half his age! Indeed, the ministry of RE:NEW, at the school and with Queen’s Court, proudly reaches across the age spectrum. I like to describe life in four stages: the first phase (ages 0-19) is filled with energy, the second (20-39) is characterised by idealism, the third (40-59) are years defined by maturity, and the fourth (60+) is marked by the wisdom of those who have reached it. Our society often seems to value one stage above another (the majority of TV presenters, for example, fall in the second age bracket), but any community suffers if it misses the contribution of one or another of these groups. Where no children are present there is a lack of joy and energy, but equally, when we ignore the older people in our society, we are all the poorer for it. Each year I hold a special service at Queen’s Court to celebrate the role that older people play in our society, and this year’s event is being held at 3pm on Sunday 5th June. Based on the census theme it’s called ‘Count Me In’ and encourages us to recognise that the accumulation of years is no reason for the contribution of older people to be rejected or overlooked. There will be an offering for the work of MHA (the charity who run the home) and after the service there will be refreshments and an opportunity to find out more about volunteering at Queen’s Court. As someone who spends a number of hours at the care home week by week I know that it is not only the residents who benefits from the occasional visit!

Simon Goddard

## Jackdaw Club

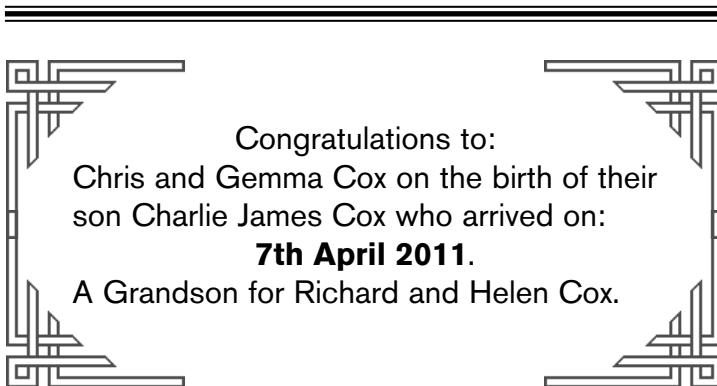
Saturday May 14th 2011 saw the holding of a coffee morning in The Village Hall for the purpose of raising funds for future events. The organisers Maureen and Graham Norden were assisted by Anne Moore, Mal Hatley, Kath Chapman, Helen Heckford, Joan and Linda Crisp.

Kathleen Bate made up a knitted toy which, when raffled, made £27.00. Further round the hall there was bric-a-brac, books, and a Mini Grand Draw, plus Pam Peck and Mick White sold home grown plants from their always very popular stall.

The raffle was drawn towards the end of the morning with Joan Crisp on a lucky streak. The good lady won so many prizes she felt compelled to put some back. Maureen sends grateful thanks to all who so generously donated prizes.

Attendance exceeded all previous coffee mornings and £220.00 went forward for future events. Well done all those who made the morning a success.

John Twinn  
(812394)



Dear Friends,

An artist was asked to put on canvas what he considered to be the picture best symbolizing a decaying and dying church. After several months, he returned and reported that he had finished the task. The hour finally arrived when the painting was to be unveiled.

Several people standing around the easel had already given their description of what they thought the church would look like. Some had said it would be a rundown building in great need of repair and paint. Weeds would be growing in the churchyard, and there would be some broken windows. Everyone in the group seemed to have the same picture in mind. However, when the cloth was removed, a hush fell over the group. Everyone was stunned. Before their eyes was an absolutely beautiful church building. The grounds were well kept and the exterior of the building was in excellent condition. After a few minutes, one person stepped forward and said to the artist, "I thought we asked you to paint a dying church?"

The artist smiled and invited everyone to step closer to the painting. He pointed through the windows to the empty pews and to the collection plate on the table. There was nothing in the plate but "cobwebs."

The church that has cobwebs in its collection plate is a church that is decaying and dying. Without the giver, there is no giving. Without the giving, the mission of the church cannot be carried out. If the mission of the church is not carried out, the church is purposeless and dead. Your generosity has helped keep St. Mary's very much alive.

I hope that you too can find God's peace in St. Mary's and that you will find it very much alive.

May God bless you all,  
David

## **News From St Mary's**

### **Emergency Meeting held in the Village Hall on March 15th**

The Rev'd David Lewis gave a Power Point presentation highlighting the problems in keeping the Church open with particular reference to the

Sunday Services. Extra help is needed to prepare for the services eg. opening the Church, handing out books, reading the lessons, taking the offering and preparing for Communion etc.



A total of 23 village people attended the meeting (this figure includes 7 members of the Parochial Church Council). At the end of the meeting 7 people (not including PCC members) said they would be willing to help with some church activities.

### **Easter Flowers**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed towards and helped with the decoration of the Church for Easter. Thanks also to all who donated for the purchase of lilies in remembrance of loved ones. The flower arrangements were beautiful.

### **Easter Gift Day**

The Gift Day rased £1,065.00 for Church funds. Many thanks to all those who gave so generously.

### **The Church Fete**

The Fete will take place in Bill's Orchard on Saturday July 16th from 2pm to 4pm.

## **Churchwarden**

We have a new Churchwarden. Bill Watts was elected to the post at the annual Church meeting held on April 13th. We are extremely grateful to him for accepting the role. Without a Churchwarden it was quite possible that the Church would have to close.

## **Church Heating**

We are hoping to make some improvement to the church heating. At present a draft specification has been prepared by the Ely Diocesan Heating/Environmental consultant. This has to be approved by Quy PCC, the Ely Diocesan Advisory Committee and English Heritage.

## **Mens Breakfast**

A mens breakfast is held in the Village Hall once every three months, usually the second Saturday, starting at 7.45am. After a good cooked breakfast, a guest speaker will give an interesting talk. Proceedings usually finish by 9.15am. For further details contact Rev'd David Lewis – 01223 812367.

## **Church Organist**

We still need someone to play the Church Organ at those morning services when Lynn Hatley is away. If you are learning to play the piano/organ this could provide good practice for you. Lynn would be pleased to give some tuition on the organ. If anyone is interested please contact Lynn on 01223 812362.

## **Coffee Mornings**

You are welcome to the Coffee Mornings held every Tuesday 10.30am to 12noon in the Village Hall Annex. Come and join us to meet up with friends, make new friends and enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee or tea with biscuits.

## **What the NHS reforms mean for you**

The Government has put the NHS reform bill on hold. How much it will change and in what ways is uncertain. The coming weeks will tell. But your newly-founded Bottisham Practice Patient Participation Group is now up and running. The Group's Committee held its first meeting in April - the minutes are on the Practice website. Bottisham resident Emma Jerman was chosen as Chair for the current year, with Steve Gilson from Swaffam Bulbeck as her Deputy. Jenny Langdon, also from Bottisham, agreed to act as Secretary with Jean Jones of Bottisham in support. If you have anything you would like the PPG to take up (issues for the Practice as a whole, please, not personal problems), e-mail the PPG Committee by clicking on the 'contact us' link at [www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.net](http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.net).

Members of the Bottisham PPG Committee will attend a meeting with representatives from other PPGs in the area on 16 June. At that meeting they will be briefed on how the consortiums of medical practices in Cambridgeshire plan to work, and the issues which they (and therefore we as patients) will face, as the NHS reforms get under way.

The aim thereafter is to hold a series of open meetings in the autumn to brief members of the public on the work of the consortiums of medical practices, and on how the NHS reforms will impact on the services we receive as patients. Your PPG Committee intends to make sure that one of these open meetings is held in our area. It will be important to attend to find out how all of us and our families will be affected. The Bottisham PPG will keep you informed.

## **Quy's modern day Benefactor**

Many of you will not know Anthony Hibbitt who lived in Quy for many years and died last July. He first lived in Station Rd, and then in a retirement bungalow in The Square after he became less firm on his pins. Although he was a villager for so many years he always kept himself to himself, and did not join in many village activities, but he did enjoy Maureen's Jackdaw lunches. In his will, he left the majority of his estate to Quy. After a few personal bequests to friends, he left £5000 to Quy Jackdaw Club & £2000 to Quy church. The remainder of his estate, which amounted to £26,000 he left to Quy Parish Council to be used for the benefit of the village and Quy church. I am sure we can rely on the Parish Council to spend this money wisely over the coming years.

Several years ago he asked me and Chick to be his executors, and we had the job of clearing out his bungalow. It was evident from the paperwork and books we found, that he had led a much more outgoing life in his former years. His library also consisted of many heavy tomes on outer space, the Solar system, ancient history and many more topics.

It is obvious that, although we did not intrude on his privacy over the years, he found some satisfaction in being amongst us.

Thank you Mr Hibbitt.

Bill Watts

SERVICES FOR St. MARY'S  
STOW-CUM-QUY

June – September 2011  
(Services at St./ Mary's unless otherwise stated)

Thursday 2nd June	8.00pm	Ascension Day. Holy Communion at St. Cyriac's Swaffham Prior
Sunday 5th June	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 12th June	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th June	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 26th June	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Swaffham Prior
Sunday 3rd July	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 10th July	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th July	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 24th July	10.00am	Benefice Communion
Sunday 31st July	No service	
Sunday 7th August	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 14th August	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st August	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 28th August	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Bottisham (David's farewell service)
Sunday 4th September	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11th September	3.00pm	Harvest Festival Songs of Praise
Sunday 18th September	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th September	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Lode