

AUTUMN 2014

Hello folks,

That was a rather enjoyable summer, wasn't it?

Last year I spent the hottest day of the summer getting roasted watching the test match Saturday at Trent Bridge. This summer I spent the hottest day of the year on a most uncomfortable tube journey to the O₂ arena to watch the Pythons. Good show but very uncomfortable getting there. Such events only go to emphasise how much more enjoyable it is living in a friendly, country village rather than an overcrowded city.

I had a good time at the Fenland Fair this year, although it was such a shame that the Monday was such a wash out. It's good to meet up with those people that I only seem to see once a year - in the Beer Tent at the fair or going round the clay shooting.

The Fair always stands as my marker to show that the shooting season is just around the corner which means that the summer is over and we can begin to look forward to the autumn, which is my favourite season of the year.

See you all at the Horse Racing evening and the Interstreet Quiz.

Oh, and by the way, it's worth trying Tennie's latest recipe. I've already made it and it is delicious. Mind you, I was horrified at the price of saffron. Turmeric is a decent substitute.

All the best.

Nigel

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT JACKDAW CHATTER
IS THE LAST MONDAY IN NOVEMBER**

Bill's Bit

Bill's Bit

Well ein't we had a lovely summer this year then together. That's been scorching hot a few days but plenty of rain to keep things green. I reckon I have had my old shorts out twice as often as last year.

Everywhere looks so healthy, except praps them old conker trees. I dunno what's gonna happen to them, they seem to get this here brown fungus on the leaves a bit more each year. They're such lovely big strong trees, I do hope they don't go the same way as all the elms did. Now they're talking about this Ash tree disease getting worse.

Talk about tree gloom and doom.

Still let's look a bit lower. I reckon there was summer flowers in verges and meadows this year no end more than other years. Probably 'cos they got an early start, and 'cos the grass started growing early this Spring all them wild flowers had to put up long stalks to get up to the top of the grass. They all looked lovely waving about in the breeze, instead of flowering close to the ground. Quy Fen looked a picture in June and July. There was all these yellow and purple flowers shining up through the long grass, and the background was all them light willows and darker Hawthorn trees round the Cut. Then the Cut was a blaze of yellow king cups (I think) all up through the water with the long rushes waving about behind them. This year the yellow flowers weren't that horrible ragwort. I reckon all that work Quy Fen Trust do to cut it every year is starting to pay off, and them lovely cosy gladeways they have cut through the bushes. They were all bare and sterile when they were cut, but they're now starting to take on a life of their own with lots of small pretty plants making a home for themselves.

The dragon and damsel flies we see down there this year were all glowing colours and as big as houses. They look so pretty as they hover then dart from reed to reed. The other good thing is that we seem to have got rid of all them creepy nudies what used to gather there. Our nearly copper, John Coppard, can take some credit for that,

he went down there several times over the last few years and read them the riot act, as well as him and the Trust making their sleazy websites uncomfortable for them.

We had a church history walk down there, and that was lovely to see a crowd of village youngsters turned out for it. I enjoyed passing on some of our village history, and they all seemed so interested. I did do a map of Quy showing footpaths, field and wood names and gave to everyone who walked. I suppose I could run a few more off if anyone wants a copy. That'll cost you a quid though to go to the church. How about harvest then! Nearly all the rape and winter Barleys were cut by the end of July, and harvest was nearly finished by the middle of August. That wheat crop on Stow field shone in the sun so much one day I reckon I could nearly have eat the wheat without making it into bread. I spoke to Paul Clarke, he reckons that's the best harvest he's ever had. He says he got 4 to 5 ton an acre on some of his Wheats and over 3 ton of good malting Barley. The rape fields were standing high and strong right up till they were cut, but Paul reckoned there was a lot of beetle damage on them this year, so the yields were only average. The sugar beet is all looking good and nearly ready to lift. Like everything else, a fortnight early this year. The old farmers must be happy, except that the prices have all gone down this year. Still they'll always find suthun to moan about.

What a year for fruit though! All the fruit trees are wholly loaded down I reckon that's the best greengage year I've known since I were a boy, and weren't they sweet. They reckon the trees down the old railway line were loaded, but we've got a tidy few trees up our posh end as well. I picked buckets full and had tummy ache several times, but that was worth it.

Maureen Norden has run a stall outside her house this year to sell fruit, vegetables and other stuff. In fact she's gone international this weekend, cos she found not only stirling, but euros and dollars in her offerings bucket. That's where I took most of those gages, and Brian

and Shirley Thorby picked a load to sell from them trees in the Village Hall car park. Jim Watts had a tree of Victoria plums in his garden, and he was pleased to give them to Maureen's stall, so Brian, Shirley and me took half a hundredweight of them down to sell. Then there's apples everywhere which she sells as well as hundreds of courgettes what everybody's been able to grow this year. With that and all the other veggies Maureen's sold she's made over £200 for the church so far. I reckon we all need to go to Harvest Festival this year to say Thank You. That's on Sept 28th at 3.00 with a barbecue afterwards . See you there!

Paul Currington was on about the Hobbie Falcons around this year. For the first time he's known one pair bred in the woods at the back of the Hall (no I shan't tell you exactly where), and brought off young. There's flipping Buzzards breeding everywhere. Another first was them Cranes I mentioned last time. Well they come back to Wilbraham Fen and bred a pair of chicks. Unfortunately something had the chicks. Might have been a fox, but more likely them Marsh Harriers what are getting to be a pest down there. Paul has put a load of Partridges down that end again, but he has to wait till the Harriers young have fledged, else the mothers pinch all his chicks.

He also tells me there are loads of English Partridges about the village here. He has a covey of 17 down by the Station and another biggish covey in the Park. I've seen a good few out on Stow field as well, so it could be a good Partridge shoot here this year. He's put all his pheasants down now and they are scuttling about finding their territory. Another load of black ones this year, but mainly the normal ones with just a few white ones dotted among them. There are also a whole lot of hares about again now the stubbles are cut. Paul has already caught one gang coursing. He told them where to go, but they were a bit aggressive, and told him they knew where he lived. I don't suppose that was just light conversation! There is also a lot of foxes about again, but Paul and Sean will no doubt soon thin them out.

That's a pity you can't thin out the coursers in the same way. Anyway we look fit for another lovely shooting season here. I shall have to get my old brushing stick shone up ready. I might even have to beg another pillow case off Jean to make a new flag. I do look forward to the shooting season. All them long walks about our lovely village and seeing all that nature can show us. Long may the old legs keep going. Sadly the big C finally caught up with D.J. She weren't amongst us for many years, but she certainly joined in most of the village activities. She even lent us her flag to fly on the church for the Jubilee. I was hoping I could persuade her to let us have that, but she went before I could ask her. I'm sure she would have liked to be remembered each time the flag flew on the church.

Most of you will know what Reeves pheasants are, they are lovely birds with a streaming long tail what whistles in the wind as the bird flies. Apparently a lot of these birds have migrated to Anglesey Abbey, where they are attacking the visitors. So much so that the National Trust have had to put out warning notices. I couldn't see many people being frit of a bird, but apparently they are, and that's putting people off going there.

Gilly Walker tells me she is having a problem with little owls round her swimming pool. The birds can see right through the glass windows and out the other side so they think it is open, and keep flying straight into the glass. She has also had a green woodpecker walking about in a daze where it had done the same. (Luckily it got over it).

At the Country Fair Shirley Thorby was rare chuffed, she told me she see four Roe deer out on the stubbles that morning and then watched a Kingfisher down by the river. Her and Johny were talking about its whistling call. Now I didn't know about that. I shall have to listen next time I see one (although I have gotta say I ein't seen one this year). Someone was talking about the "Pikel" (or it might be "Pightle"). That's a very old walnut tree what grew in Quy Park for 550 years. The older generation will remember that it stood in the middle near

where there was a pond, and is now a low hole with bushes round it. Apparently in 1930ish it was established to be the fourth oldest and seventh biggest tree in the country. That's what the picture is on the front cover and there's a bit about it later on in the mag.

The first two days of the Country Fair were good this year, although it all got washed out on the Monday. (If you know any one who wants to buy 300 soggy wheat straw bales let me know!) I think most people had a good time down there, but what a shame about all the robberies. Malcolm Hall lost the ropes from round the ring. The Cambridge Falconry club had their trailer pinched and it contained all the trophies and memorabilia what they had gathered over many years, mostly worthless but irreplaceable. Then the next night they come in and pinched another trailer and emptied all the clothing from Clarkes of Walsham stand, £15000 worth they reckon, and drove off out across the wheat stubble on Brown's Park and Stow field to come out by Quy Church. That's such a shame when our lovely friendly family show gets spoiled by a few thieves.

Well that's all I've got time for now, all my reporters have let me down with no titbits to pass on. We're all getting too old. They tell me you youngsters all talk to one another on facebook now, so I suppose I eint needed no more. That all sounds a bit complicated for me, but if you all get on with it that don't seem a bad form of passing on gossip. No one wants to talk to anyone else no more, so good luck to you all. I'd better shut up and take my redundancy.

Cheers Bill

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes

Saturday 18th October at St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior
11.00am - 2.00pm

We will be packing Christmas Shoe Boxes to send to needy children overseas. Please bring along your donations, as many items as you like from the list below and we will do the rest.

Enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake, the proceeds of which will go towards buying items to make up incomplete boxes.

We also need empty shoe boxes, Christmas wrapping paper and cellotape which I can collect from you.

Your help would also be much appreciated to wrap boxes and sort the gifts.

Contact Janet Williams 01638 743472 or 07833 960678

Yes please

Toys: soft toys, building blocks, cars dolls etc

Educational supplies:
pens, pencils, colouring books

Hygiene: toothbrush, bar of soap

Other: sweets (sell-by date March 2015)

No thanks

No food: esp. chocolate

No medicine

No war related items:

guns, toy soldiers

No clothing other than hat, glove, scarf

No fragile items or liquids

No dangerous items:

scissors, razors

QVA Report

Since our last AGM we have had a number of village events: the Ceilidh, the Bingo and Beetle Drive and the Bunny Hunt. During the summer we entered a team into the Knock-out games at Lode at which (just to be polite) we were joint winners with the hosts Lode. Many thanks to all those who turned out for the team.

A well-planned route was devised for the Cycle Treasure Hunt which was enjoyed by the few who took part. Maybe we can persuade a few more people to participate next year.

When it came to the Inter-village Rounders we were let down by one team but Quy were the eventual winners having seen off Bottisham in the final.

A good turn out for the Village Rounders ensured that players and spectators had a very enjoyable evening.

Our Summer program began with a nerve wracking wait to see if we were going to get good weather for the fête and the Knock-Out games that followed. Despite a forecast for torrential rain all the way up to the day of the fête, it all came good in the end and we had smashing sunshine. Brilliant! And the games that followed were excellent too with a new, and popular, addition of the jousting game – if you weren't there then that's tough and you'll have to come along next year to spectate or, better still, to take part to find out what was involved.

Between now and Christmas we we have three events planned, namely the Horse Racing evening on September 19th at 6:30pm and the Inter-street Quiz on November 14th at 7:00pm. Also our Carol Singing will be on December 15th and 17th - meet at Herrings Close for 6:30pm.

Finally, many thanks to all the committee members and others for all their help in making these events happen.

Geoff Hall
Matt Eaton

Jo's Allotment

So the summer is getting on and the allotments are now in full swing. Full of fruit and veg as well as full of the dreaded weeds! All the clearing and organising at the beginning of this year has certainly made it better in terms of weeds (thank you soooooo much for that everyone who helped out). They are not too established so if you more or less keep on top of them then it's all okay and, it has to be said, kind of satisfying when you pull one out and the whole root comes with it. Is it weird to find that satisfying?

The plots are looking good, apart from the tomatoes which are rather sad and have got, I think from googling pictures and actually getting out my book on plants, late blight. This is a very sad situation, especially as one of the tomato plants up there was busily producing tomatoes as big as Matt's clenched fist and we had great plans for stuffing and baking them. Still, to save the situation we picked everything that was there and made some pretty good chutney which we trialled at lunch today. I think it could be entered in the Quy jam and chutney competition if it runs again this year.

A number of people around the village seem to have seen the same profusion of courgettes and beans as we are currently "enjoying" (read "suffering" if you are Sanne and have been eating courgettes from Tennie's allotment for more meals in the last month than you really wanted in the whole year). The nicest thing about them now is the fact that we can give them away and it always seems to make people smile. The fact the beans have grown so well did cause a problem in our "tropical storm", returning from holiday we found them rather more flat on the ground than standing up nicely, but they seem to have survived.

As well as bean and courgettes we have been enjoying a wonderful variety of potatoes, I'm sure there's something to keeping notes about what exactly you put where, but it's much less fun than our, obviously purposefully, less organised manner. We had some help in the form

of a small visitor last weekend who pulled up golden beetroot which were "as big as my head" - one of them did 5 of us for dinner. For the first time this year we have actually managed to grow cucumbers and globe artichokes. The cucumbers are really tasty, and I think we're up to about 10 of them now, the globe artichokes are dinner tomorrow, so hopefully they'll be good (boiled and then the leaves and choke dipped in a really mustardy vinaigrette). We have shallots in the kitchen, annoyingly in the way right now - hint to Matt there when he proof reads this, awaiting peeling and salting in preparation for pickling, beautiful purple Kale which will become curry later this week, spinach (a great thing to grow if you're looking for quick results), onions - so sweet when baked in the the oven, if only we could raise the chickens to have with them, rhubarb, stewed and put in the freezer for winter, and squashes.

So it has been rewarding. Hopefully the same is true for any of the rest of you who have growing-for-eating things. In answer to my "what is eating my beans?" question of last edition, Nigel has suggested it might be slugs and snails and putting coffee grounds down should help, so that might be a useful tip for anyone else in a similar boat next year.

DJ Walton

It is sad to report that Dinah Jane Walton passed away during the summer. Her funeral, at St Mary's, was very well attended with many villagers turning out to pay their respects. Originally from the North East, DJ as she preferred to be known, moved to the village six years ago and quickly integrated herself into village life, becoming a valued member of both the QVA and the PCC. She was also a regular member of a team in the Pub Quizzes. She will be greatly missed by many.

Parish Council News.

There have been some changes to the parish council line-up since Gregg's retirement. I've become the new chair - that's what you get for missing the AGM! We've been through the process of recruiting a new councillor. As there was no call for an election, we have selected a new councillor through co-option and we're very pleased to welcome Donna Linsey as your new Parish Councillor.

As usual, Parish Council business has been quiet through the summer with us having no August meeting and with people being away.

Just before the summer break we received some encouraging correspondence regarding a change to the speed limit through the village to 30mph with the police informing us that they do not intend to object to a reduction in the speed limit. The next step is for us to contact highways to draft the notice of the proposed change and begin the objection period. So hopefully things will progress from here.

Matt Eaton
Chairman

Village Rounders

We were lucky again with the weather this year for the annual Rounders evening on July 25th.

A total of 28 adults and children took part with as many other people who just came along to watch. I don't think that too many of the players were that interested in the score although there was still a competitive element among some of them.

Ray and Margaret ran the bar with a good selection of beers, cider and Pimms while Graham, Diane, Brian and Shirley ran the bar-b-q. Everyone's refreshment needs were very well catered for. (Many thanks were expressed by various parents for the free hotdogs and burgers that were provided for the children.)

It was good to see family and friends catching up with each other's news as well as being able to welcome some of the more recent residents to the village.

I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Geoff Hall

Inter-village Rounders

On Sunday 22nd June the second inter-village rounders took place on a very sunny afternoon. At the start Geoff Hall presented a cup (which Cambridge United FC had kindly donated) to Kevin Crisp, the captain of last year's winning team, Bottisham. This year we only had three teams as Great Wilbraham were unable to field a team. Bottisham easily beat Lode in the first match and then beat Quy in the second match. However, at this point some of Quy's team had still not arrived. Lode then played Quy to see who should play Bottisham in the final. Quy now had a full team and showed some good batting and fielding which enabled them to beat Lode quite easily. During the interval the children had a game. Ray supplied drinks while Graham cooked burgers and hot dogs. With players suitably refreshed, the final began. Geoff made good use of the PA system to introduce each player and add a few comments to amuse the spectators. Bottisham batted first and found it much harder to score due to some excellent fielding from Quy which included some stunning catches and run-outs. With only three rounders needed to win, the Quy team batted well scoring six rounders.

The Quy team was captained by Prad Varla assisted by Tracey and Greg, Kat, Lisa, Marcus, Steve, Karen and Nathan. Geoff was thanked for organising a really fun afternoon and we all look forward to defending the title next year.

Ray Jakes

Quy Jackdaw Club

Summer Outing

On Tuesday 25th June, 52 members and friends of the Jackdaw Club boarded a coach at the village hall for a trip to Sheringham.

On arrival although there was a slight sea breeze and some cloud cover, it was still warm and everybody headed in to the little town to explore. Some headed straight for the beach; others took a gentle stroll along the high street shops. Lunch was taken in various locations and although everybody ate well there was still room for ice-creams and rock!!

At around 2.30 people began to gather on the station platform for the trip by steam train to Holt. The train arrived and shuffled the engine back to the front of the carriages and the station master led us to our carriage, labelled as 'Quy Jackdaw Club' for the trip. Finally the guard blew the whistle and we gently pulled away from the station. Views of the sea could be seen on the horizon to the left whilst Sheringham Park slid past on the right. We stopped at Weybourne to off-load some passengers and had a slight delay as 'a regulator had jammed' (or I think that's what the train guard came and told us), but we were soon on our way again to Holt.

Once we arrived at Holt station, there was just time to grab a quick cup of tea before the weather changed chilly and people were soon heading for the bus, and with everyone back on board we had a small raffle.

It was then time for us to head home and as time did not allow us to actually visit Holt itself the driver happily drove us through the town. It wasn't long before a few people took the chance to shut their eyes for a short nap and the clouds, now very black, opened. Thankfully the rain had arrived after we had enjoyed a great day out.

Thanks to everybody who came, I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did – let me know of any of your suggestions for next year. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Anne Moore

June Coffee Morning

We were all concerned that delaying the coffee morning by a couple of weeks would coincide with other local events going on in the area and although several regular attendees were on holiday we had a good turnout of visitors. Even the wet weather did not deter people. The homemade cake stall, now a firm favourite, was skilfully manned by Karen and Steve, and although we had some new varieties this time, Lemon Drizzle was soon sold out (I'll try to make more next time!!). Pam and Mick needed four tables for the plant stall, with many bedding and vegetable plants as well as houseplants and cut flowers on offer.

Linda was again juggling the raffle – thanks to everybody who donated prizes, whilst Shirley was in charge of 'Guess Albert's Birthday' with a hanging basket as the prize.

Joan and Auntie Mal were in charge of books and bric-a-brac and were heard bartering prices as if they were auditioning for Bargain Hunt.

Alice and Ella were in charge of the tombola stall, they were kept very busy handing out the prizes. Helen and Kath were kept even busier serving teas and coffees from the hatch and were worried that they were running out of cups and cake. Thankfully we just had enough to go round.

I would like to thank all those who helped make the event a success - either by helping to run a stall, donating items, baking cakes and of course to those who attended the morning.

In all we raised just over £312.

Neighbourhood Watch

Since my last report in the Jackdaw Chatter, there has been another burglary in Albert Road and an attempted burglary in Stow Road, as well as one or two opportunistic thefts from the exterior of properties. We all need to be careful if we value the things we own, so following on from my last article which was about indentifying property, here are a few suggestions about making your home secure.

1. Make sure your home looks like someone is living in it. Don't close your curtains in daytime - this makes the house look empty. Think about getting automatic time-switches to turn your lights on when it goes dark.
2. Fit mortice locks or bolts to all outside doors and locks to all downstairs or easily accessible windows.
3. Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries.
4. Cut the lawn before you go and trim back any plants that burglars could hide behind.
5. Get a friend or neighbour to look after your home. They can collect your mail, mow your lawn and so on. this gives the impression that someone is living in your home. If you leave keys with a neighbour don't label them with your address in case they are lost or mislaid.
6. Don't leave valuables, like your TV, laptops, i-pods etc. where people can see them through the windows.
7. also remember that you can register power tools, lawn mowers, laptops (in fact anything with a serial number on it) on the immobilise website: www.immobilise.com
8. Make sure that you have up-to-date contents insurance.

9. Do not put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination.

10. Lock the garage and shed with proper security locks after putting all your tools safely away so that they cannot be used to break into your house. If you have to leave a ladder out, put it on its side and lock it to a secure fixture with a 'close shackle' padlock or heavy-duty chain.

11. Lock all outside doors and windows. If you have a burglar alarm, make sure it is set and that you have told the police who has the key.

If you haven't already done so, then please consider signing up to the neighbourhood watch scheme so that the co-ordinators can send you any local crime updates. I will also try and put updates on the Stow-cum-Quy website.

Stay safe.

Viv Fleet

The Stow-cum-Quy village Facebook page has been an excellent, speedy way of informing people about recent crimes in Quy as well as about upcoming events. Currently there are only about 40 members and it would be good to have more people signing up to it. If you use Facebook, you can view the page by simply searching for Stow-cum-Quy. You can then ask to join.

Quy Fete

On Saturday July 19th on a glorious sunny afternoon in The Orchard at 2.00pm, Angela Robinson opened the gate, and Joan Crisp, our announcer, declared the church fete open. The assembled crowd then rushed for bargains on the Bric-a-Brac stall, where Karen Austwick and her family happily helped and fended off all takers. There were also used books for sale by Bet and Barry Cox, plants by Gilly Walker and toys by Julie Lipton and Mary and Piers Emson. All afternoon Lynn Hatley and her helpers, Shirley and Brian Thorby, served tea and cakes to so many villagers who sat to chat in the sun, while Chick Norden with his horse game and Colin and Margaret Lowe with their hidden treasure map walked among them to tempt them with the promise of prizes. A second treasure map of Quy in 1829 was also taken round by Jean Watts and Pauline Todd. In other parts of the field Bowls was manned by Greg Foster with Leo's help. Hoopla by Richard, Kate Jasper and Scarlet Watts. Vintage cars were shown by Eric Theobald and Colin Lowe. Bo and Nick Schenker had a new marbles game to try. Margo and Steve Holmes had brought along an active bee hive, plus many bee products to sell. Viv Fleet, with the help of Jane Keighley and Mary Petty, had an interesting tie game. Donna Linsey and Linda sold straws, while Julie White and her girls ran a bottle stall. Raffles were well supported, tickets being sold by Linda Crisp. Ray and Margaret Jakes did a roaring trade with beers and other drinks while also selling ice creams and lollies. Beside them, on a hot afternoon, Graham and Dianne Beckett found it more difficult to get rid of their barbecue fayre, but this was well sought after in the evening. Bill Watts, with the help of Terry Todd was giving tractor and trailer rides up and down the Avenue with Ivor, his 1949 grey Fergie, who really began to feel the heat by the end of the afternoon. At 5 'O'clock, with all the raffle prizes picked, the winners of highest scores of the afternoon were announced. Terry Todd had won the

bowls, Charlotte Daemon had won the Hoopla, Karen Wilder, and a girl who did not give her name had found the various hidden treasures.

Maureen Norden, the organiser, was pleased to thank so many helpers of the afternoon.

The crowd then moved over to the games field where a variety of obstacles including a large pool had been provided. Even before the games started this pool was being filled by loads of happy children while some mums and dads looked on enviously. It really was a hot day and their own chance for a dip would soon come!

The games started in the traditional way with egg and spoon races for children and adults. Jim Wallace won the under 10's with Milly Struthers runner up: the over 10's winner was Jess Struthers, runner up Charlie Wright. This year ladies and gents ran together in the adult race and Marcus Shadbolt just beat Richard Watts, as last year's winner, Matt Eaton, dropped his egg just before the line !

The ever popular egg throw and catch, which always ends in some one covered in egg was won by Rosie Wright and Tarlea Deal, while Jason Hall and Steven Struthers won the adults.

Tossing a sack of hay over an ever rising high bar was well supported with Milly winning the under 10, Jess the over 10, and Charlie Doughty the boys winner. The adult event was a fierce competition with 10 ladies competing. The winner was Toyah Carrier, whilst the men's took over twenty minutes with 12 contestants. Finally, using a very heavy wet sack, Jason Doughty won, beating Matt Eaton and Chris Mitchell. As usual Jason celebrated his win with a belly flop into the pool!

A new game was introduced this year , the horse and lance involving a relay team catching a ring and hooking it onto a high bar, before racing back on the highly coloured horses until a team had six rings up. It was fairly organised chaos with the children so no winners were really declared. The adults however had seen how to do it and were

raring to go. The adults then kept the same teams for this and the next three games to get overall placings.

In the horse and ring game some very inelegant riders careered round on their horses to complete.

The next game was a stilts relay, which was very difficult for some, but Jo Eaton showed great skill.

The armadillo race involved water carrying, and four of each team were under a large sack so that only 8 feet were visible while the fifth team member led his entourage over many obstacles, all carrying plastic containers of water. At the end of this race the team with the most water in their end receptacle were the winners.

In the final obstacle race team members, in turn, had to race through the pool picking up a jug of water in passing and then go round the course under beams, a tarpaulin, over a heap of bales, through a chicane and finally tip what water they had retained into their receptacle, before the next member of the team set off.

The children had five minutes to get as much water as possible and the adults 10 minutes. Everyone got very wet and tired. The children all received prizes mostly in the form of sweets.

The adults ended up with a draw between Richard Watts' team of Jo, Tennie, Matt, Nathan and Geoff. While Donna and Jason Hall's team of Chris, Steven, Vicki, and Bridgette took round an equal amount of water.

Another really fun evening that lasted three hours.

Ray and Margaret Jakes ran the games with assistance from many others, including Richard Watts and Matt Eaton.

Thanks also to Paul Clarke for supplying the many bales needed.

A grand total of £1,519.20 was raised for Church funds.

Maureen and Graham Norden

A Recipe from Tennie

Moroccan chicken with almonds, apricots and raisins

As announced in the Jackdaw chatter earlier this year, we returned to Morocco for our holiday. The savoury dishes with dried fruit were a major part of the enjoyment!



Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
4 chicken portions
1 chopped onion
2 crushed garlic cloves
1 teaspoon ground
cinnamon

large pinch of crushed
saffron threads
50 g whole blanched
almonds
125g dried apricots
25 g raisins
600 ml chicken stock

Heat the oil in a heavy casserole. Brown the chicken and transfer to a plate. Cook the onion and garlic in the oil until soft but not brown. Stir in the cinnamon for 1 minute. Add the saffron, almonds, apricots, raisins and stock. Heat until the stock is just simmering, then cover and cook gently for about 1 hour. Check the chicken juices run clear. Season to taste and serve with couscous or rice.

The Guided Village Walk

Dear Editor,

This is just to say thank you for the lovely walk and talk that Bill, Jean and the team organised last Sunday. Most of the walkers were local, but, as an outsider from Comberton, I couldn't have been made more welcome.

I had very little knowledge of Quy and this really was a very interesting walk; the local information and the talk was pitched just right and I am glad that it was advertised in the U3A newsletter.

It was interesting to hear about the area and talk to the locals; a lady who was born in Comberton, women who are opening a farm shop (I hope they are very successful) and certainly to Bill who has such a wide knowledge of country affairs. This knowledge so often is lost in the passages of time - let's hope that these stories and poems are passed on to the younger members of the community and the land is still looked after.

Thanks to the lovely couple from Quy Hall, Ellen and Henry, who let us tramp across their garden; what a mammoth task they have on their hands and what an amazing house to look after for future generations. I wish them well.

Please say thanks also to your helpers; it was an enjoyable Sunday morning with a lovely lunch. I hope the church finds the small amount of money raised helpful.

Best Wishes
Angela Donnelly

Sanne's Trending Page

There is only one thing on this page this time because I have been too busy experimenting with my loom bands...

Loom bands

These are little elastic bands that you "French knit" together in different designs, especially bracelets. Most easy is loose style, without using a loom, but all of them are fairly easy and explained on Youtube. The only hard thing is loom charms. You can get loom bands in all colours; neon, gold and silver, tie dye, black and white bands, just to name a few. You can get real and fake loom bands: be aware of this as the fakes aren't as good and snap more easily.

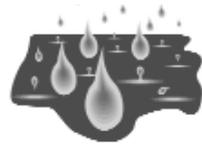


Latest rainfall figures

(May, June, July)

Station Road

	2013	2014
May	46.75mm	83.00mm
June	20.00mm	38.75mm
July	40.00mm	65.75mm
Totals	106.75mm	187.50mm



Colin Lowe

News from Darwin Nurseries

The end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn is a very busy period at the nurseries as we harvest the Summer crops and prepare to plant some Winter ones.

We've nearly finished making our new raised beds. They look really smart and because of the height they're much easier to work. We've grown plenty of french beans, carrots and parsnips which we are harvesting on a daily basis for the farm shop. We've also got plenty of tomatoes and cucumbers as well as sweet corn, sweet potatoes and yams.

Our orchard has been very productive this summer with plums, greengages and apples.

We also grow a lot of wallflowers, mainly for the Colleges, but there are always some left over. We pick them to order, so if anyone wants some, just pop into the shop.

Our latest project is our area of permaculture which is a very efficient way of keeping down the weeds. The whole area is covered with a variety of mulches including straw which acts both as a weed inhibitor and as a compost fertilizer. There's plenty to do at home, as well. As the lawn growing season comes to an end it's time to give it a good feed and repair any worn areas. Now's the time to be planting your bulbs for next spring and any new shrubs. In the vegetable plot you can put in Autumn onion sets and you can plant garlic from October onwards.

Whatever you're doing, make sure you enjoy it.

From everyone at Darwin Nurseries

The Pikel

Dear Editor,

I recently had the pleasure of visiting Quy a village that I lived in from 1945 till 1950 when I joined the RAF at the age of 15 years.



I spent the happiest years of my life in Quy and one of my greatest joys was to meet an old schoolfriend Roger Theobald and a delightful sprightly lady named Marylyn. We had great fun together going into the park and actually finding the concrete base of the prefab where

I used to live. I was so sad to be told that my favourite of all my memories, the old walnut tree had not survived.

The times I was castigated by the lady schoolteacher a Mrs Wilson for stealing walnuts cannot be numbered.

Robert Cracknell

Bill has unearthed this piece from the archives by an unknown author.

The Pikel (Pightle?)* was the very large walnut tree which stood in the middle of the Park. (In the picture you can see the thatched cottages in Station Road behind). Mr Francis sent a photograph of it to the South Kensington Museum, when it was reputed to be the fourth largest in the kingdom. In 1957 Sydney Waldham & Sons, timber and veneer merchants, judged it to be 540 years old. A photograph of it in a museum shows it as seventh oldest and fourth largest tree in Britain in 1930ish. It fell down in 1971.

*The origin of the word Pikel is uncertain, although I am sure it is not an alternative to Pightle which means a croft or smallholding. It appears to mean a pitchfork from pike and el (a suffix which means small). The tree may have got its name because people used its branches to make pikes. Nigel

We are Family!

Families are very precious and, if we have been fortunate, we will have happy memories of special family times together. The Bible has several different illustrations of what the church is like, and one of the most potent, and challenging, is that of a family. The church is like a family, with all the joys and sorrows, upsets, turmoils and triumphs of family life. The necessary ingredient for family life, and for church life, is love. Sadly, there are families, and churches, where love is lacking and neither family nor church are able to function in the way God intended.

The first Christians saw themselves as family; as brothers and sisters together, with God as their Father and Jesus as their brother. This idea of church as family was radical and counter-cultural, because it cut across social, ethnic, gender and religious barriers. In any small Christian meeting men and women, Jews and Gentiles, masters and slaves could all be found together and would all be considered equal. As one modern church leader has written about today's church: 'We need a radical change of attitude. We need to regard everyone in the church as a brother and a sister. And our attitude should be one of care and concern, one of warmth and love, because Jesus has united us as a family and these are the attributes God wants to see in his family.'

We have been blessed in RE:NEW with a church family from a variety of ages and backgrounds, but all sharing a real desire to be a community united with one another in love and offering a warm welcome to everyone who comes along. We will be having a special 'Big Welcome' morning on Sunday 21st September, why not come along and find out for yourself?

Peter Wells

For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact

Rev. Keith Morrison on C.813055 or Peter Wells on C.812388.

Email: pandawells@cheerful.com

Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk

Church News

The Easter Appeal went very well this year with a total of £1625 being donated by villagers and friends of Quy Church. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank all these people. You will know that all the money from this appeal goes to help run Quy church through the year. It is very encouraging to find that so many of you want to retain our village church. Even with all the volunteer helpers, who kindly do a lot of the jobs, income only just meets the expenses of approx. £200 per week.



Sun June 22nd Anglesey Benefice Churchathon.

On a glorious warm sunny Sunday morning the day started with Morning prayer at Swaffham Prior, followed by the first half of the Benefice communion at Swaffham Bulbeck. After this many walked on to Lode for the final part of the communion service, and a picnic in the churchyard, before going on to Quy for service, which included a Slide presentation by Sue in the afternoon. The final service was at Bottisham where Sue led a very enjoyable Songs of Praise service with the benefice choir, led by Janet Marsh.

Finally everyone met in Sue and Jonathan's garden for a barbecue.

Guided Historic walk around Quy Sunday July 13th

Viv Fleet had organised this four mile walk which started in the Avenue. Forty people turned up to walk on a day that looked like rain. Most of the group were from the village, but we were pleased to welcome some visitors who had seen the walk advertised in U3a literature. Bill led the party up the old Roman Road (Orchard Street) and then looked across at the church, which was built in 1340 on the site of an earlier church. The walk continued down the Avenue and over the iron bridge to Quy Hall, where Ellen and Henry greeted us with tea and biscuits on the terrace. Ellen and Bill answered many

questions about the history of Quy Hall before the walkers carried on to Allicky farm. Here they turned left on the old track to enter Quy Fen by black bridge end, and went over to see the Cut, an old coprolite digging. After visiting the stone which marked the spot where in 1873 William Ison was killed by lightning, the route continued down the old railway line to Lode boundary and back to Quy alongside the river, continuing to the Village Hall, where an excellent ploughman's lunch had been prepared by Kate, Jean, Linda and Julie with her three girls. Mal & Joan Crisp had laid out a very interesting display of old Quy Photos and documents in the VHall, and Bill and Don Fleet showed a slide presentation to help explain how Quy got here, and many facets of its long history.

The day was a great success and only a drop or two of rain fell on the intrepid walkers. A total of £393 profit was made on the day, all going to Quy church.

Sat July 19th Quy Fete.

On a morning which threatened heavy rains a large group of volunteers set up the tents and stalls for the fete. However we had glorious sunshine all afternoon, and the rest of the evening. The final count was a profit of £1519.

Benefice communion Sun July 27th

This service was well attended by church members from the other parishes. As Lynn was away Richard Ayres played the organ. The benefice choir, led by Janet Marsh, was very well received and sung beautifully. Thank you to Shirley Thorby, Jean Watts and Kath Chapman for providing teas and biscuits after the service, when many of the congregation stayed for a sociable chat.

Maureen's stall

Many items that had been left over from the fete, Maureen sold on a stall outside her house, from which she's made over £200 so far. This stall outside her house is proving very popular. A special favourite this year has been greengages which are abundant. Brian and Shirley picked a large quantity from around the Village Hall, and plums from Jim Watts' tree. Also courgettes and runner beans have sold well, any surplus vegetables you may have will be gratefully received by Maureen.

Harvest Festival 3.00pm Sun Sept 28th

The Harvest festival will be at 3.00pm followed by a barbecue. Why not come along and help sing all the rousing harvest hymns, and say a big thank you for the abundant harvest we have had this year in our fields and gardens. The allotments next to the church look particularly good. The service will be led by Sue, and will be a songs of praise. Please come along on Saturday morning Sept 27th 10.00am to help decorate the church. Margaret will be pleased to accept all offers of flowers, fruit and veg for this purpose. Gifts can be left in the porch from early Sat morning

Church Cleaning Rota

Although the flower rota for the church has plenty of volunteers, the cleaning rota could do with half a dozen more helpers. The ladies, and gentleman, are doing a grand job at the moment, but with a few more names we could reduce the number of times per team is asked from three times to twice a year. It is not too onerous. Two people are asked to clean the church just once in their appointed fortnight.

Please let Bill know (811063) if you would be prepared to be added to the list

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 with cake and biscuits.

Services in Autumn quarter. These are not yet finalised, but there will be a service in Quy church every Sunday, usually at 9.30am, except for the fourth Sunday when the benefice meets at each of the five churches in rotation for a 10.00am communion.

We hope to hold a Christingle and Crib service together on either Dec 7th or 14th. The Christmas Carol service is expected to be at 3.00pm on Sunday December 21st., when we hope to see the church full as usual. Please try to come along to help sing all the Carols you have loved since childhood.

QUY PROFILE

Name: Johnny Chapman

Age: 68

Where do you live? Station Road (posh end of Quy)

What do you do for a living?
Semi Retired

What is the best thing about living in Quy? The people are wonderful. The park and the walks, nothing has really changed in years.

What's your favourite food and drink? Red and White Wine. Beef Stroganoff made by my wife Mal.

Do you have any bad habits?
Have long have you got!!!

What's the best holiday you have ever had? My 60th birthday was a Safari in Africa then onto Mauritius with 6 friends. Second best trekking in Uganda to see the mountain gorillas in their natural habitat.

Do you have any hobbies? Birds, Bonsai, Bicycles and Barnets

What has been the best day of your life? Marrying my lovely wife Mal 44 years ago. (God knows how she puts up with me!!!!)

If you were an animal what would you be and why? A working springer spaniel

What words of wisdom (or any top tips) can you give the readers..... "Grab the day we never know what the future holds"

