



WINTER 2015



Happy Christmas everyone,

I'm feeling in the festive mood - so I hope you are too. Christmas means different things to each of us. For some it will probably be a re-run of what we did last year, for others it may be a different celebration with different people in a different place. Wherever you are and whoever you are with, I hope you have a good time.

As Christmas moves on to the New Year it is traditional to make New Year resolutions. I haven't decided on mine yet, but I think riding my bike more often will be one of them. I do think it's a good idea to make a resolution; when deciding what to do I think it's best not to set the bar too high. If it's something that is clearly achievable then you are more likely to make it stick long term.

It remains to be seen how hard a winter we will have over January, February and March. They do say that a good Autumn crop of sloes means that a bad winter is ahead. Well I have seen the sloe bushes overloaded in the last few weeks which seems ominous. Having said that, the price of heating oil has come down a lot over the last couple of years, so if we do need to keep nice and warm it's going to be more affordable than it has been over the last few years.

Seasons greetings,
Nigel

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT JACKDAW CHATTER
IS MONDAY 29th FEBRUARY**

Bills Bit Christmas 2015

Well here we are again at another Christmas, about five minutes since the last one I reckon, but eint we had a lovely autumn. A good lot of rain, but apart from them two frosts a week or two back, that's been nearly shirt sleeve weather. (Mind you by the time you read this there might be a foot of snow.) The grass is still growing tidy. All the cattle are still out in the Park and Quy Fen now at the beginning of December, when they are normally in the yards about the end of October. I talked about a wet harvest last time, but all the farmers got their corn in easy, and a lot of the fields are now growing next year's barley and wheat, and don't them crops look good. Many of the other fields are all nicely ploughed over. They lay there all shiny brown and clean just waiting till the old farmers have had their Christmas pud when they'll drill the rest of next year's crops. As well as that when they're ploughed that keeps the thieves, vagabonds and coarsers off them. I should reckon when them sheds and garages were burgled down Herrings Close they come in across the stubble fields at the back. Paul Clarke has just ploughed Stow field and that does look a treat, especially with the background of all the trees in the Loop across by the Mill showing off their autumn colours. How about all them this year? They reckon 'cos that was wet in late summertime and then mild thro October all them trees were showing off their winter colours so much more this year. Look at all them trees across the Park. I know the old sycamore is a bit of a weed tree, but don't that come into its own in the autumn. Still plenty of sugar beet still in the ground though I don't know what that's about, they used to like to get most of them out by Christmas, still now a days they lift about 10 acres (4 hectares to you uninitiated) in about 10 minutes. Although the Country Fair was a bit of a washout Malcolm Hall was still pretty generous with the programme money for programmes what we didn't sell! Johnny Chapman was able to spread a fair bit of dosh to most of the village organisations.

You might have noticed my fields have been a bit light on horses this summer and I even had to cut some of the Park 'cos the grass was getting too long. Since Paula, Jane and Linda moved onto them fields up by the church, I haven't replaced them, but I reckon that's looks quite cosy up there now them fields are down to grass. I have often seen Peter Debenham going up that way to give them a few titbits from his pockets. Anyway I've got a new tenant now and as well as that there are two polo ponies spending the winter in the Orchard. They are real calm and collected animals. You can walk up to them and give them a pat, not like some of the scatty ones the other girls have. Mind you there used to be several horses up here that would run a mile when they see me coming, that was mainly 'cos I had often been holding their head while a vet poked about and did nasty things at their other end. I reckon most of them horses used to put the blame on me 'cos I was all they could see at the time they were being molested.

The Shooting season's going well this year. Never seen so many partridges as Paul Currington has got over Wilbraham way, and don't they fly well, low and fast. The other week there was a tidy wind and they were going like rockets, I'll bet them guns had a wonderful day. We've done Chris's field down by Anglesey a few times and when that's good all the birds fly well there. A lot of them pheasants get up high and curl back over the back guns just right. They've had a bit of fox trouble down there though, although I see one or two of them have bit the dust. Paul tells me he had a lovely white pheasant down there for over three years, but he see the old fox take that away. I think they have sorted out quite a few more foxes in other parts of the estate, but they keep coming in from other areas around what ein't keptered now. We had a new beater for a couple of days this year. Nigel Brown, now he's a tidy experienced beater and been beating over Six Mile Bottom for many years, but over there he now just carries the guvnor's seat, cartridges, guns etc. And don't get in the thick of the cover crops. Most of the cover crops are maize and canary grass, and

this year the maize is all at least 6ft high. Well the first week was fairly dry so no problems, but the second week was damp for a start, and Nigel had forgot to bring his leggings. In the morning he got tidy wet, but managed to keep up fairly well. Anyway that chucked it down, and we did the Charities over Wilbraham just after. Well the maize there is thick and more like 8ft high. Nigel got a bit lost in it, wet through and when he came out the other end, five minutes after everyone else there was water running off him everywhere. You could wring his trousers out. I reckon he didn't enjoy that day much. I still enjoy going brushing. Most Saturdays, me and Jasper set off but he can keep up with the line now a lot easier than I can, 'cos he's getting stronger and I'm getting weaker. That will get better after Christmas when we get in the woods. I do enjoy brushing thro Crickles and the Norrisses, and all round Quy Hall is lovely. You'll have to come back mid Jan Nigel when all the maize has tumbled over, that's if we ever get any frosts. Out away from the woods that's so good to see the flocks of Plovers just come in for the winter. A great flock of Golden Plovers came over us last week over Wilbraham way. Paul tells me the Fieldfares and Redwings are in early this year. They don't usually come in till nearly Christmas. Certainly there was about a hundred fieldfare jinking and dancing about down near the Pink house last week. As they turn in the air the sun shines off their white underneath feathers looks like little flashes of gold glinting away and then vanishing. A marvellous sight. I also saw a woodcock for the first time this year over by the Top Norris.

Have you seen that little pink footed goose down by the horse pond? That's been there for several weeks. No one knows where he came from but he seems to think them other three geese are now his family. He wont leave them alone, even though they are twice as big as he is. They keep shoing him off and pecking him but he still comes back for more. Piercey (no I know that ein't how you spell your name) done well rearing his guinea fowl. He got 14 hatched off and four of them were pure white. Most of them are now happily residing in Crickles,

and they are now too big for the buzzards to take. As well as that Paul found a nest with 30 eggs in it, but a day or two later the old fox came and had the mother guinea chick, then came back for the eggs over a couple of days, but Paul couldn't catch it. A big new sighting he tells me is otter prints along two or three ditches over Horningsea way. Paul is quite excited about that and looking forward to a sighting of it or them, 'cos he reckons there might be two different tracks. There's a nice lot of Roe deer and Muntjac about; we see them more often now when we are brushing.

Just this morning I went down Alicky about 9.00am and there were three grazing on Chris's barley just before the station and then three more on Paul's barley field between the station and his house. Linda has got her pet Muntjac what comes past her garden every day, and me and Richard saw about five of them in the middle of Stow field on two evenings just as that was getting dusk. Some of them were grazing and some just laying. The noisy A14 was less than 100 yards away and they didn't worry at all. A lot of these greenies reckon motorways disturb all the wild life around. I reckon they might for a while when they are building, but after the road is established wild life just accepts it. They're probably more tolerant than humans.

Apparently there are some nasty Hare Coursers about this year, who carry iron bars and are quite happy to threaten with them. Not in Qu glad to say, but fairly close. Paul ein't had any trouble with coursers so far this year, and now most of the stubbles are ploughed, but some one is poaching the Roe Deer. He found one had been took over Wilbraham, leaving only the guts and odd bits. Then more worrying he found one down rabbit hall, where they had only took one haunch, the antlers and left the rest. He don't reckon this is Dids 'cos that all seems to be done too careful. Both these cases have been on Saturday nights when locals will know that the keepers and guns will be "resting" in the Swan after a hard day in the field!! Paul has some ideas who and expects to get results soon.

Last time I said fallow deer had been seen but only once. Well Shirley Thorby asked me what sort of deer had a sort of creamy front and was a bit bigger than the Roe deer. Sure enough Paul tells me that would seem to be a fallow deer. Well Shirley saw two of these down near the Pink house. She was pretty close and watched them grazing in a field for several minutes so she is sure of her facts. Looks like we have Fallow deer around as well as Roe. Shirley does get around with her old dog, she must walk miles all round the village and fields. I'll bet Brian don't always accompany her!

Linda also tells me she regularly has a pheasant stay in her garden. She has a photo of it she is going to show me next time we meet. Yesterday Jean see a cock pheasant perched on our garden gate not five yards from the kitchen window. I tried to take a photo but he saw me coming and done a bunk, hollering away like they do as he flew off, and low and behold two more had been sitting behind the gate and they flew off hollering too.

Twice in the last few weeks I have gone down to feed my cattle (yes both of them, I'm a real large scale farmer) and a big old bird has gone winging out of my barn. I reckon that's a barn owl, that's so silent with a wide wing span. Hope so, be good to help Johny Chapman out.

Now a tale about Chick our village leaflet deliverer. The other week he was delivering slips about the Jackdaw party, and Colin Barker's gate was shut so this intrepid postman waded right thro the ditch. Beyond the call of duty Maureen reckoned, but he still works to the motto that the mail must get through. Now I reckon D.J. must have a better postman, or perhaps server 'cos two people in the village received Emails supposedly from her only last week. I expect that was a scam, but this here internet is so complicated to me I could easily believe they have links to the other side.

Many of you will know that Jean had a little operation on her foot, and she will be hobbling around on crutches with a big air boot on one foot for a few weeks, but she is getting on very well. The other night

when we got her into bed the wound was a bit red and sore, so she asked me to rub in some Savlon. "Where is it?" says I. "Blue tube on the bathroom window sill," she says. So I fetched this blue tube and liberally rubbed in the cream. Next morning when I went to clean my teeth I could not find the toothpaste. "Where's the toothpaste?" says I "Blue tube on the bathroom window sill," she says. You've guessed it I had rubbed toothpaste into her wound the night before! Nearly as bad as a few weeks earlier when I had taken an aerosol out of the cupboard to squirt under my arms, and sprayed shaving gel all under my arms, up the walls and onto the ceiling. I shall have to wear my glasses more often.

A sheep story! Last year one of my ewes had a bad time lambing and I decided I would get rid of her in the Autumn. In September I gathered all the ladies into a pen and wormed them, trimmed their feet, powdered their bums, and trimmed their eyelashes so as to make them all attractive to the ram. They all received the beauty treatment except the one I was to get rid of, who I will now call Rainbow! After treatment, I let all the ladies out of the pen except Rainbow and went to put her in my truck to bring her home, but she jumped clean over the hurdle of the pen and escaped to join the others. Oh well, I thought you deserve another year. We then introduced the tup (ram) to the ladies. Now when you do this you fix a yellow crayon to his chest so that when he covers a ewe he leaves it with a yellow tail. Ewes come into season for about 2 days each 20 days in the autumn, and will only stand for the tup during these two days. As soon as they are in lamb they will not come into season again. However while they feel in the mood they expect to be served six or seven times. It is not unusual, mid season, to see five or six ewes pestering the tup for his attentions all at the same time. He rarely refuses. After a week or two there will be only several yellow bums, as some of the ladies take a while to think about it. The crayon is then changed to green, and two weeks later to red then blue. Quite often a ewe will not get in lamb the first time it is served so it is not unusual to see two colours on

their bum, but by the end of November their bums will hopefully all be coloured. Now to Rainbow, her bum has all four different colours on it, which means she is probably not in lamb. It seems that she has had a very happy Autumn though, and when I put her in the freezer after Christmas I will probably have a job to wipe the smile off her face. Now a little sum gentlemen for you to ponder. There is one tup to 30 ewes (one to 40 in commercial flocks), and it his job to attend to all the ladies not once but at least six times during the two months or so he is working. I reckon that's more than the 72 virgins these here suicide bombers are promised when they get to the other side, but it sounds pretty daunting to me!

I went on the QVA moonlight walk this year. That was quite good fun "seeing" all the quy places in the dark, but that did make me puff a bit. There was a good turnout, but I think I shall leave it to the younger ones another year.

How about the quiz then? Orchard Street so nearly won it again. A tie after the last round, but then we weren't nowhere near guessing the height of the Eiffel tower. We reckoned 167metres, (sort of 500ft,) but blast me that was over twice that height. That seems an awful long way up to me. Never mind Albert Rd we'll beat you next year. That is a good evening and most streets get about a dozen in their team.

I was reckoning up and I think I've been writing this old rubbish for nigh on forty years. That started with Harry Tuckey's PTA magazines when we had a school. Then Derek Platt started a one page Jackdaw Chatter about four times a year. Peg probably took over from him and edited it for lots of years. Then I think Grace Harper took over for a few years, and now we've got Nigel. I've normally writ what I thought you'd like to read, although Peg did used to censor some bits and Jean is a bit firmer censor. Anyway for years I used to ring my roving reporters and they'd be busting with village news and titbits of gossip, but now when I ring they all say, "Sorry I ein't got nothing for you this time nothing ein't happened in the village." I reckon they are all getting

too old and so am I. I've enjoyed doing it all these years but now that's a chore, so praps that's time I laid down my pen on a regular basis. That don't mean I shan't bore you with articles now and again though.

Anyway to the Christmas Carol service. I do hope we shall see the church full again like it was last year. That's a lovely service with mostly Carols we all know and a few readings in between by villagers, so do come along. If nothing else there is Lynn, Shirley and Dianne's cakes to look forward to afterwards. Why not help decorate the Christmas trees for this service. There will likely be one for your street, and someone will be looking for help to decorate it.

Now just before I finish...We've had a bit of a change in the heart of the village this week. Gerry Skews has left the Swan and someone called Matt has took it over. I think they reckoned Gerry had gone to Lowestoft. Anyway Matt seems like a nice bloke, even though I didn't like any of the beers he had on the pumps. No matter, he says he will try to please all us locals, and he wants to keep the Swan going the same as it is now. He has kept on the same chef, and food will be as before. He has kept most of the staff, so he can't do much better than that. That's a lovely old pub and normally such a good village atmosphere. I'm glad we ein't got some high faluting publican what wants to make it into a posh restaurant. As well as that they reckon he is going to start up a mini brewery in one of the old stables. Sounds good, might see you in there one night.

Happy Christmas to all of you and a bonny new Year.

Cheers Bill Watts

QVA Report

During the Autumn The QVA has been involved in several events. The horse racing evening was very well supported and both adults and children had a great time. We assisted in the Village Show which was a new venture and well received, a full report has been written by Bill. Richard led a moonlight walk through Alicky and Quy Fen. Around 25 people took part and although it was a nice evening the moon was hidden by a lot of cloud. The walk finished at the Swan where chips and drinks were had.

The Carol singers will be around on 21st and 22nd of December, again raising money for Charity. The first event in the New Year will be our ever popular Ceilidh on 20th February, a bar and Ploughman's supper will be available and Wide Glide will provide the music. This is always a real fun night and you do not have to be a great dancer to attend. Although there is a caller, in Strictly terms scores would be near zero, but full marks for entertainment, so if you have never been give it a try.

There will be a Beetle and Bingo evening on 18th March and the Bunny hunt is scheduled for 26th March. All these events will be well advertised nearer to the time. They are put on for the entertainment of the villagers and we hope you will be able to attend some of them.

Without village support events are not viable and the Bowls Club is an example of this. The club has been going on in the Village Hall for over 25 years on a Thursday evening, but is very short on numbers and may fold unless a few more people come and support it. I hope a few of you will come along and keep it going.

Ray Jakes

Parish Council Update

First off, you may have noticed that the PC update was missing from last season's JDC. Unfortunately a full double page was missed by the printers and the PC update was one of the casualties. So this will be an extra long update.

Since the last update the PC has welcomed a new co-opted councillor, David Kearney, from Vicarage Meadow, who replaces Helen who left in February. Sadly, we've also said goodbye to Gill Butler, who tendered her resignation over the summer break; we advertised the vacancy and are have now co-opted, Ray Jakes as her successor.

There were no objections received in the consultation period for the new speed limit, so we're just waiting for when Highways are next in the area doing work for the 30mph signs to go up.

There's a new dog poo bin gone in along Station Road, so hopefully that will reduce the incidence of dog fouling along there. Please do be considerate and make use of it to tidy up after your dogs!

We've recently (this summer) had contact with several concerned residents about the King Street Housing managed properties on Minter Close. The recent government announcements about right to buy being extending to housing association tenants will not at present affect those properties on Minter Close. This has taken quite a few letters and e-mails back and forth between the PC, KSH and SCDC, but the status of the land as a rural exception site, and the covenant between KSH and SCDC in the S106 agreement, which forms part of the planning consent on that land, at the moment, protects it from that upcoming legislation. The land was sold to KSH by the Francis estate, to ensure the availability of affordable rented accommodation for those with a connection to the Village. It is the hope of the PC that this remains the case.

Next year is a Parish Council election year, and all of the councillor positions will be up for election. If you're interested in standing then watch out for the posters going up in the PC notice boards by the village sign and at the corner of Station Road.

The PC would also like to thank the Neighbourhood watch coordinators for all of their hard work sending out information to Quy residents.

One final note, we're still looking for Speedwatch volunteers. I noticed the other day that Wilbraham seem to have it up and running; they were out in force every day for a week and from what I could see it was very effective.

Matt

Jackdaw Club

Seasonal Lunch

This year's lunch was a little later in the year than normal and took on more of an autumn feel than the summer. The menu also reflected the change in season as a warm buffet. Jacket Potatoes were served with Sticky Chicken, Saucy Sausages and a selection of salads followed by Apple and Blackberry Crumble with Custard.

The entertainment was provided by 'A Walk down Memory Lane'; Mike soon had feet tapping and shoulders swaying.

The quiz took on a royal flavour with all questions having a regal connection, this was followed by the raffle and Emily was kept busy handing round the prizes.

Thanks to Karen, Emily and Linda for their help throughout the morning and afternoon, also to those who kindly donated prizes for the raffle.

Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held on October 3rd was again well attended with all of the stalls doing a great trade.

Due to our ever changing weather this year the plant stall was a little short of bedding and garden plants but despite this Pam and Mick still had a lovely display. Linda's raffle kept her busy folding tickets and as ever had a good assortment of donated gifts. Karen was kept busy on the homemade cake stall and even took some order enquires for the Christmas Bazaar. Shirley and Brian did such a good trade that the bottle stall was soon sold out with many tables weighted down with prizes. Helen and Kath were kept just as busy serving teas and coffees and even had to get more cups out of the cupboard so that nobody was thirsty. Auntie Mal and Joan were busy bartering over on the Bric A Brac stall and had enough books on sale to start a library. Tonie and Marion had both been busy making homemade cards and gift boxes but I think their hard work paid off as the stall had a continuous queue of customers.

Thanks once again to all the helpers, those that donated items for the stalls and to everyone that attended.

Every one of all ages is always welcome to drop in for a browse, tea, cake and a chat.

Invites for the annual dinner in January have now been sent so if you are over 60 and live in the village and would like to attend but haven't yet received an invite please let me know and I will happily add you to my list.

Anne Moore



A date for your diary



St Mary's Players Swaffham Bulbeck present
Not Now Darling - a comedy by Ray Cooney
In the school hall at 7:30pm

Thu 18th, Fri 19th February £10. Sat 20th £12

Price includes a glass of wine

Tickets from: John Roebuck 811722 or Geoffrey Datson 812395



News from the Neighbourhood watch

The only crime to report in the Quay area since the last edition of the Jackdaw Chatter was the theft of fishing tackle from garages in Herrings Close in November. This crime was committed under the cover of darkness, but fraudsters operate day and night. With Christmas approaching many of you will be shopping via the internet so the tips below might help people avoid becoming victims of fraud.

Safe Internet Shopping

Ensure that any online retailer unfamiliar to you is reputable by researching them. Establish a physical address and telephone contact details. Remember that the best way to find a reputable retailer is via recommendation from a trusted source.

Remember that paying by credit card offers greater protection than with other methods in terms of fraud, guarantees and non-delivery. Double check all details of your purchase before confirming payment. Do not reply to unsolicited emails from companies you don't recognise.

Before entering payment card details on a website, ensure that the link is secure, in three ways:

There should be a padlock symbol in the browser window frame, which appears when you attempt to log in or register. Be sure that the padlock is not on the page itself ... this will probably indicate a fraudulent site.

The web address should begin with 'https://'. The 's' stands for 'secure'.

Some websites will redirect you to a third-party payment service (such as WorldPay). Ensure that these sites are secure before you make your payment.

Do not pay for goods when using an unsecured Wi-Fi connection. When making a payment to an individual, never transfer the money directly into their bank account but use a secure payment site such as PayPal, where money is transferred between two electronic accounts. Check sellers' privacy policy and returns policy.

Always log out of sites into which you have logged in or registered details. Simply closing your browser is not enough to ensure privacy. Keep receipts.

Check credit card and bank statements carefully after shopping to ensure that the correct amount has been debited, and also that no fraud has taken place as a result of the transaction.

Ensure you have effective and updated antivirus/antispyware software and firewall running before you go online.

Viv Fleet

The Village Flower and Produce Show

This was held in Quy church on Sat Sept 26th. The entries were many and varied and Glenis Clarke with Viv Fleet's help had a job to keep up with the regular flow of entrants all morning.

At 12.0 clock the church was closed so that the judges, Sandra Clark, Richard Ayres, and Roy and Christine Chilcot had a clear space for judging. All classes had been entered and the quality of all that on

display was very high. The judges' first job was to sample all the cakes, buns, jams and chutneys and they were rather full by the time they got to the flowers, veg and handicrafts. However they soldiered on and had just completed judging when it was time to let in the spectators.

Certificates were given for the best three entries in each class plus a highly commended where it was thought appropriate.

First prizes in the large cakes went to Kate



Watts for her "Conker cake", while her daughter Scarlet won the children's bun class. Helen Heckford had baked the best buns in the adult section. The best pot of Jam was entered by Jean Watts, and the best Chutney by Darwin nurseries. The photography and Art classes were well subscribed to where Bill Watts won the prize for the best Harvest photo and Ray Jakes won the prize for any other photo. Tennie Videler's shark picture won the adult art prize and Jonah Ralph the best child's. In the colouring-in section Robyn Cole came first in the under 7's and Thomas Chambers in the over 7's.

In the "Things I have made" class there were examples of sewing, woodworking, metal working and others which made it very difficult for the judges, but they finally decided that Glenis Clarke's embroidery item had shown the greatest skill, while Sophia Raikes model won the children's certificate.

Lily Cole was judged the best child writer of a poem and Bill Watts won the adult class, while in the handwriting class Karen Winder had the neatest hand with Scarlet Watts winning the children's section.

In the "bird or animal from recycled items," Bill Watts came first with a peacock made from an old hay turner wheel, a watering can and some chain links. More effective was the winner of the children's entry where Robyn and Lily Cole had made a dog entirely from old vegetables.

The judges remarked on the quality of the fruit and vegetable classes which came next. The miniature garden was won by Viv Fleet, and the posy by David Kerney. Glenis Clarke had produced the best single bloom, while Terry Blanchard won the "Show stopper" award. In the unusual container class Sandra Duke came first with a Union Jack



Wellington. Joan Froment had presented the best three flowers alike and Jane Keighley the three best veg. In the three different fruit or Veg Claire Cole took the certificate. Rev Sue Giles produced the longest runner bean and Michelle Fava the heaviest vegetable with a giant pumpkin.

At 2.00pm the public were permitted to join in the celebrations and to see who had won. A tent had been erected outside the South door, where Ray Jakes, ran the bar and Graham Beckett was cooking hotdogs and burgers. In the kitchen Lynn Hatley with her team of helpers were busy selling teas and cakes. There was a treasure hunt around the graveyard which was enjoyed by many, a raffle was also run.

As well as the entries a few people had set up exhibitions to show off their hobbies. Mike Hatley displayed his collection of North American Indian memorabilia with a fierce looking chief in full regalia. Colin Lowe showed off many posters and photographs of his beloved Austin sevens. Margaret Jakes had a very varied display of calculators down thro the years, and Glenis's Fuscias were varied and beautiful. The afternoon closed around four thirty, when the cakes and buns were auctioned, and the raffle prizes were drawn. All the exhibits were left out so that the congregation at the Harvest Festival next day could see them.

It had been a very enjoyable afternoon and it will be repeated next year. A total of over £200 was made for the church.

Next year's show will be on Saturday Sept 18th and the whole of the church will be used for exhibits. There will be classes for vegetables, flowers , photos, cookery and handicrafts and many others. You might wish to start thinking about what you will enter next year, and plant your garden appropriately. Is there any class you would like to see included, if so tell Bill or Ray. We will get the actual schedule out in time for the March issue of Jackdaw Chatter.

Thanks to Karen Winder for the photos

Inter-street Quiz

The Inter-street quiz was, as ever, a great success. We usually hold this event on the evening of Children in Need but this year the Village Hall had already been booked for that night so it was held a week later. Nonetheless, nearly 70 people turned up and with entry fees and raffle profits we raised £251.50 for the charity.

Traditionally questions are set by members of the QVA but this year we roped in Jean Bonavia to set some questions on Art and History and Prad Zala to set some on sport.

There is no organised bar so people bring their own drinks and nibbles. After finishing my duties on the door I moved to my place on the Orchard Street table and wondered whether I had come to a quiz or some sort of gourmet extravaganza. Would the surfeit of calories on our table help us or hinder us? Time would tell. Viv Fleet had organised a round of Dingbats for our starter - always good fun. Then we got stuck into the main course: a further nine rounds of questions on a wide variety of subjects.

By half time there was a general feeling that the standard of questions was quite mild with plenty of teams scoring at least eight points in each round. My round, based on the colours of the rainbow, was clearly far too easy as nearly every team got nine points. It fell to Matt Eaton to sort the weaker from the even weaker with a tortuous set of questions on current affairs. The final round was the one set by Prad. It was multiple choice and heavily skewed towards football (sorry, I meant cricket). Whatever. It left the result on a knife edge. Of the seven teams three were in the running: Vicarage Meadow, Orchard Street and Albert Road. Feverish excitement coursed through the Hall as the final scores were checked and double checked. The result? A tie between Albert Road and Orchard Street.

We do have a contingency. The tie-break question was 'What is the height of the Eiffel Tower?'

Orchard Street went low and Albert Road went high. The winner was Albert Road. The Eiffel Tower is higher than you might think, well higher than we thought, anyway.

Special commendation must go to Stow Road who came fourth but with a team of just four people.

The final scores were:

Albert Road 94

Orchard Street 94

Vicarage Meadow 91

Stow Road 83.5

Hermin 79

Station Road 77.5

Church Road 77

Nigel

www.whiteswanquy.com
info@whiteswanquy.co.uk

The White Swan

Freehouse & Restaurant

- Lunch & Evening Food Deliveries
- Outside Bars and Event Catering
- Tripadvisor Certificate of Excellence

Main Street
Stow cum Quay
Cambridge CB5 8EG
01223 811821

Lunch - Dinner - Bars - Events

*The White Swan
at Quay*

