



GLENSIDE NEWS

Vote
FOR DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR
MAY 1ST.

Volume XXIVA Issue 1

May 2003

This was to be the month when we recognised the 25th. Anniversary of the birth of Glenside News. Although no one put forward any suggestions as to how the anniversary should be celebrated, we did obtain the loan of one of the first month's magazine. Unfortunately, that was for May 1979 and even my poor arithmetic tells me that was only 24 years ago.

So another error just avoided - must be my lucky month.

Last month both Harry Bakker and I wrote about the forthcoming District and Parish Council elections in an bid to encourage interest in standing for either, but particularly the Parish Council. In the event, in Castle Bytham, nine people were nominated for the nine seats, so no election would have been necessary. Unfortunately, due to a technicality, four of the nominations were invalid so there are now only five candidates for

the nine seats. Whether the smaller Parish Council will co-opt another four to fill the vacancies or have an election will probably be decided at the Parish Council meeting on 14th. May.

Little Bytham have only four nominations for the seven seats so they have three vacancies which need to be filled. It is a pity that not enough people are prepared to stand. After all, they may not have much power but they are handy to moan at when something goes wrong.

I have been told of difficulties in contacting our Community Policeman and lack of police reaction to local incidents. There was the suggestion that if you need the police, the best thing to do is plant something illegal in your garden! However, someone who was seriously concerned at the lack of police cover, suggested to me that if we are not careful people may form 'vigilante groups'. This, of course, apart from being illegal, is not the solution. What could help would be to strengthen Neighbourhood Watch in the villages. A good subject for the new Parish Council to start with?

**For the parishes of
Careby, with Aunby &
Holywell, Castle Bytham,
Creeton with Couthorpe
and Little Bytham.**

Editor - Peter Cox, 23 High Street, Castle Bytham. NG33 4RZ Tel 410457 (E-Mail: petercox29@tiscali.co.uk)

Representatives -
Careby (with Aunby & Holywell) - Maxine Ellington, Careby Garage, Stamford Rd., Careby Tel: 410703
Castle Bytham - Diana Hill, 6, Regal Gardens, Castle Bytham
Creeton (with Couthorpe) - Anne Garbutt, 2, Brownlow Farm Cottages, Creeton. Tel: 410563
Little Bytham:- Sheila Jones, Hill View, Station Road, Little Bytham Tel 410232

Hon. Treasurer - Morris Felton 10^A Cumberland Gardens, Castle Bytham. Tel: 411048

Distribution - Geoff Clappinson, 17 Cumberland Gardens, Castle Bytham Tel 411069

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Copy Deadlines

New advertisements or amendments by 13th day of the month.

COPY by 15th day of the month.

POLICE

Our community beat officer, Constable Ian Hender can be contacted through Stamford Police Station (01780 752222) and ask for voice mail 0847

**A local website
by local people
for local people**

... viewed by people
throughout the world



**Community Information
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Covering ... Castle Bytham,
Little Bytham, Careby,
William-on-the-Hill, Clapperton,
and Creeton

www.thebythams.org.uk

Dear Friends,

I have always been thankful, that in the twelve years I have had the pleasure of being Rector of our four villages, Eileen and I have received friendship and kindness in abundance. This doesn't mean everyone always agrees with me and that I'm never wrong of course. The villages may be beautiful but they don't embody the perfection of the Kingdom of God. This also applies to the four churches, whether many are present on some great occasion, or just a few of us gather together, people have been friendly and Church Officers helpful and efficient. God is surely in his heaven and all is well in his world, at least as far as we are concerned. Now that surely, is tempting fate!

Now you may well wonder where all this is leading, especially as in the last two magazines I've written about both Easter and Iraq, and you would be right to wonder because so do I! What I'm actually trying to do is lead into an incident I read about the other day, it amused me and made me give thanks for my parish and its people. The book I was reading was a short history of London churches, well less a history than odd stories. One account concerned the situation faced by a city Rector in 1749. It seems that Hayes Register for that year recorded the misfortune of a London Clerk, 'Clerk' being the 18th Century term for 'Rector', and the picture it painted was quite beyond my comprehension. The account went like this:

'March 18, 1749: The Clerk gave out the 100th Psalm, and the singers immediately opposed him, and sang the 15th and bred a disturbance'.

I wont give it to you verbatim because, as with most old books, it tends to be 'wordy', but the parish would seem to have been a parson's worst nightmare. The Register also records that on another occasion 'the ringers and other inhabitants disturbed the Service from the beginning of the prayers to the end of the sermon, by ringing the bells and going up into the gallery to spit below'. On yet another occasion we read that 'a fellow came into church with a pot of beer and a pipe, drinking and smoking in his pew throughout the sermon'. If, as many people try to tell us, it was the golden age when all the churches were full, it makes one wonder why they went?

So having 'waffled' my way through half my allotted page let me conclude with another amusing story. It concerns St Willibrord, a Yorkshire man if you can believe it with such a name, who lived in the 7th Century and became a Benedictine Monk. He actually travelled to Luxembourg, no mean feat in those days, where he founded the Abbey of Echternach which still houses his remains in a white sarcophagus. Every year on the Tuesday of Whitsun week, a unique procession takes place to honour the memory of the Yorkshire man who brought Christianity to the area. From 8am a crocodile of people wends its way around the town performing a traditional dance, they move five paces forward and three back until they finally arrive at the shrine where the saint's remains lie. The origins of this tradition are lost in the mists of time. Some local historians believe it to be a thanksgiving for preservation from the plague, or perhaps an invocation for God's help at such times. Another suggestion connects it with a man called Vitus who was unjustly accused of killing his wife. The story goes that, granted a last request on the scaffold, he asked to play his fiddle. When he started the people started to dance and were unable to stop until St Willibrord appeared and broke the spell. Whether the saint declared him innocent or he was hung we don't know, but the dance takes place each year in memory of something, so why not that?

Next month I'll try to think of something sensible to say, or perhaps not!

CHURCH INFORMATION

SERVICES IN MAY				
	CASTLE BYTHAM	LITTLE BYTHAM	CAREBY	CREETON
May 4th. Easter 2		9am Holy Communion (said)	NO FAMILY SERVICE	NO COMPLINE
May 11th Easter 3	9am Holy Communion			11am Morning Service
May 18th Easter 4		6pm Evensong	8.30am Holy Communion	
May 25th Easter 5	NO MORNING SERVICE			8.30am Holy Communion

PLEASE NOTE

The services of Holy Communion at Careby and Creeton in May are at 8.30am and not the usual 9am. Both services will be said services,, as will Little Bytham on 4th May because of Grimsthorpe ride.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Douglas James Daff (Aged 84) at Little Bytham Church on Monday 24th March followed by burial in the Churchyard.

BURIAL OF ASHES

Edward Wilson Kent, formerly of Castle Bytham, in family grave at Castle Bytham on Saturday 5th April.

HUNTER TRIALS

As you are probably aware, the Hunter Trials cannot take place this year. From the point of view of our four churches this is very sad, because the income generated by the Trials has for many years gone a long way towards keeping our churches in good condition and hence open for use. This does not of course just apply to those who choose to worship Sunday by Sunday, or even on the special occasions such as Christmas, but to all who might wish to Christen their children, see their offspring married, or say a final farewell to their loved ones. With the exception of the few genuine atheists this surely applies to most residents of our villages. Churches can and do close, and the reason is always lack of funds, and once closed they stay closed. Please come to Grimsthorpe on Sunday 4th May and support the Sponsored Ride and let us hope that next year the Hunter Trials will be on again.

Childrens Page!

Choose the odd one out on each line and write its initial in the box at the end of the line. When you have finished, these initials will give a word reading downwards.

Single	▶▶▶	Solo	▶▶▶	Alone	▶▶▶	Group	
Almond	▶▶▶	Pansy	▶▶▶	Tulip	▶▶▶	Daisy	
Spring	▶▶▶	Rain	▶▶▶	Winter	▶▶▶	Summer	
Light	▶▶▶	Gleam	▶▶▶	Dark	▶▶▶	Bright	
Start	▶▶▶	End	▶▶▶	Begin	▶▶▶	Commence	
Knife	▶▶▶	Nail	▶▶▶	Fork	▶▶▶	Spoon	

Five Disney Characters were having a party. They all grabbed a handful of sweets from a jar. Mickey Mouse had seven more sweets in his hand than Buzz Lightyear, and Buzz Lightyear had six sweets less than Cruella Deville. Mr Potato Head had three more sweets than Snow White and Cruella Deville had one more than Mr Potato Head. Buzz Lightyear and Mr Potato Head had nine sweets between them. How many sweets did the five Disney characters have in total?

What do you get if you cross a skunk with a bear?
Winnie The Pooh!

Why was the glow-worm unhappy?
Because her children were not very bright!

A wrinkle in time
A little girl got on her grandpa's lap and said, "Did God make me?" "Yes," the grandpa replied. "Did God make you too?" "Yes," the grandpa said. "Well," the little girl said, while running her fingers down his wrinkles and looking at his thinning hair, "He sure is doing a better job nowadays!"

2) 30 sweets, Mickey mouse had 9, Buzz Lightyear had 2, Cruella Deville had 8, Snow White had 4, Mr Potato Head had 1.

DIARY

(CBVH = CASTLE BYTHAM VILLAGE HALL) (LBVH = LITTLE BYTHAM VILLAGE HALL)

Women's Institute – *First* Wednesday in CBVH @ 7.30pm
Badminton – Monday evenings in CBVH– Details 410345
Guides Meeting – Every Monday 7 – 8.30pm LBVH
Chess Monday evenings in Fox & Hounds
Bowls – Every Tuesday in CBVH 7.30 pm)
Water Colour Classes Every Wednesday (during term time) in LBVH 10 am to 1pm.
Rainbow Guides – Every Wednesday 5 pm to 6 pm in LBVH followed by-
Brownies Every Wednesday from 6.15. to 7.45pm
Keep Fit Classes Every Wednesday (except first in month) in CBVH at 7 pm. Details from Vicky in Castle Bytham Stores
Coffee Morning – 1st. & 3rd Thursday every month in LBVH—10.30am to noon
Parent and Toddlers – Every Friday 10.30 am to noon in CBVH – ring Alison 410480
Youth Club – Every Friday in CBVH at 7.30pm
Bourne Waste Recycling Mays Road - Pinfold Industrial Estate Saturdays & Sundays 8.00 am to 4.00 pm (page 10)

WEATHER REPORT - MARCH

RAINFALL (T.R.R.)

	m.m.	inches
1st - 7th.	22.3	0.88
8th. - 14th.	0.5	0.02
15th. - 21st.	-	-
22nd. - 28th.	-	-
Total for Month	22.8	0.90
<i>Total for February '02</i>	<i>31.6</i>	<i>1.24</i>

TEMPERATURES (H.G.B.)

Night-time
 Lowest minimum: -7° on the 23rd.
 Highest minimum: 9° on the 5th.
Daytime
 Lowest maximum: 6° on the 13th.
 Highest maximum: 16° on the 30th.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA (*and cleaning rota)

	CAREBY*	CASTLE BYTHAM	CREETON	LITTLE BYTHAM
May 4th	Mrs K. Sanderson	Mrs E. Hopkins	Mrs M. King	Mrs S. Hill
May 11th	Mrs M. Wood	Mrs E. Hopkins	Mrs M. King	Mrs P. Greaves
May 18th	Mrs M. Wood	Mrs M. Walton	Mrs M. Combridge	Mrs P. Greaves
May 25th	Mrs M. Wood	Mrs M. Walton	Mrs M. Combridge	Mrs H. Lewthwaite



WELCOME:
 to Tracey & Tony Kemp who, with their children Matthew, Gaby and Christine (plus guinea pigs) have moved into Glenside, Castle Bytham.
 to Megan Rachael born 7th. February
 to Donna and Dan Edson, a sister for Victoria
 to Archie Stanley born 2nd March to Alison and Richard Pyne, a brother for Harriet and Isaac



MAY EVENTS

Sunday 4th. HUNTER TRIALS
 Sponsored Ride (see page 6)
 Saturday 10th Castle Bytham Rubbish Cart (see page 7)
 Saturday 10th. Midsummer Fair Quiz Night (see page 7)
 Wednesday 14th Castle Bytham Parish Meeting - village hall @ 7.30pm
 Thursday 15th Little Bytham Parish Meeting (see page 11)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June 15th. Little Bytham Fete (see page 11)
 June 22nd. Castle Bytham Midsummer Fair (see pages 6 & 10)
 July 11th. Careby Barbecue & Hog Roast (see page 7)

THE BYTHAMS WITH CAREBY & CREETON

SPONSORED RIDE

In aid of the four parishes and Home-Start (SW Lincolnshire)

SUNDAY 4th MAY 2003

at

Grimsthorpe Park, Lincolnshire

By kind permission of :The Grimsthorpe and Drummond Castle Trust Ltd.

**Approximately 15 miles with some optional hunter
trial jumps
(or shortened route)**

**Route entirely off public roads.
Well marshalled, mid-course rest stop, loos available.**

Minimum start fee / sponsorship £15.00 – Start times between 10am – 2pm.

Riders under 13 yrs must be accompanied by an adult. Rosettes for every rider on completion of the ride.
Prize for the highest amount of money raised by an adult and also rider 16yrs and under.

Postal entries close Tuesday 29th April 2003.

Secretary: Mrs R Player. 28 High Street, Little Bytham, Grantham, NG33 4QX
Tel: 01780 410251

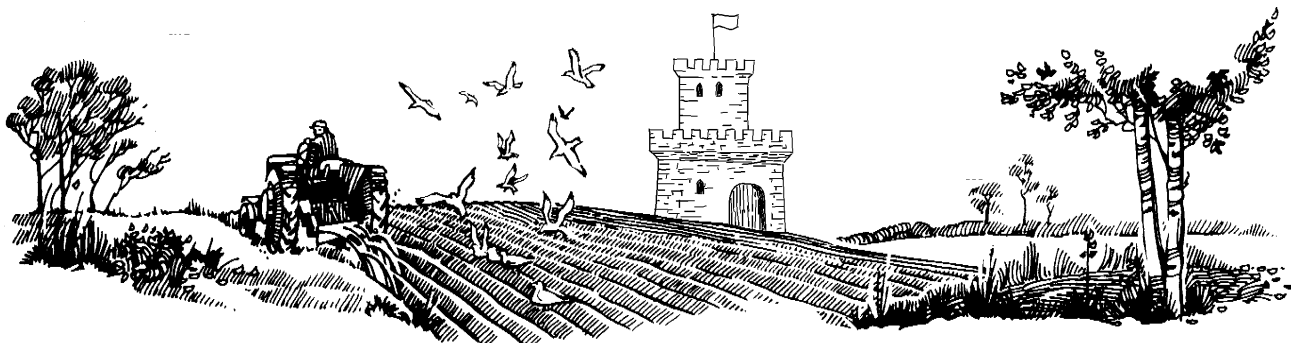
Entry / sponsorship forms available where this notice is displayed or as above.

THE GRAND RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AT 2pm.

First Prize – Weekend for two in Paris sponsored by Kirker Holidays / The Ultimate Travel Co.

**COME ALONG, ENJOY THE DAY
AND SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL CHARITIES**

Castle Bytham Midsummer Fair



FAIR NEWSLETTER

The trouble with time is when you are bored it seems to last forever and when you enjoy yourself there is never enough of it. The concept of "time flies by" has always intrigued me; the idea that if you stand still, time somehow goes whizzing past. The Fair Committee is definitely suffering from the idea that there is never enough time. Plans for this year's Fair are rapidly nearing completion. This year's Fair will feature a Medieval Re-enactment group who specialise in the 15th Century, a period when primitive handguns had started to compete with crossbows and the English longbow on the battlefield. Taking their lead from the Battle of Losecoat, fought near Pickworth in 1470, they will be camping in St Martins and seeking out Lancastrian rebels in the village throughout the day – that should sort out the Manchester United fans!

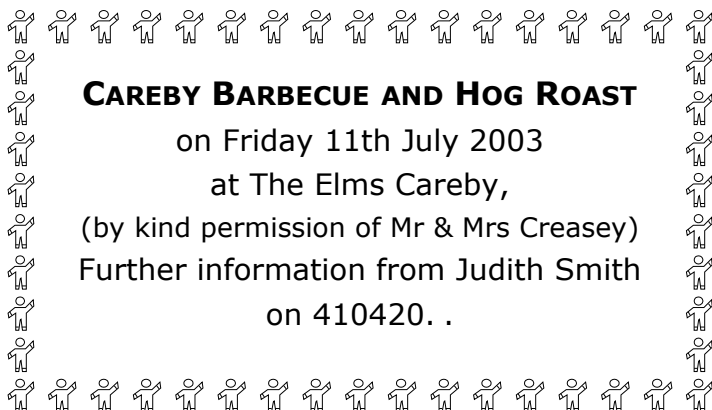
We will also feature a cadet band, Morris Dancers and an expanded Fairground on the Playing Field amongst other attractions. We will provide the fun but need you to provide the other essential ingredient – people! Last year we were flattered to find out that many of our regular stallholders and entertainment providers told us they actually look forward to coming to the fair, one reason being they find the people so welcoming. The day is more

fun the more people we have so why not make it a real day out and invite friends in to the village for the day.

Elsewhere in this Glenside you will see an appeal for volunteer help with the Fair. We need people to set up the village on the day before and to take down the decorations etc afterwards. We can always use help on the day and with selling raffle tickets before the day. One appeal we can never start too soon to make is about cars parked in the Village. We get legal permission to close off the centre of the village on the condition that we keep the other thoroughfares open. The problem is if there is one car left at the kerbside soon visitors will try and park there as well. We need to keep the roads free of parked cars from the Clipsham Road junction, along Station Road, High Street then Water Lane and along Glen Road toward Swayfield. We will be writing to all the residents affected nearer the date but please try and help us by moving your car for just this one day.

One last thing, our final fund raising event will be a Quiz Night in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th May. There will be a bar and an unusual twist to the evening when we play our version of "Who wants to be a Millionaire?" – no coughing allowed!

Peter Hinton



CAREBY BARBECUE AND HOG ROAST
on Friday 11th July 2003
at The Elms Careby,
(by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Creasey)
Further information from Judith Smith
on 410420. .

CASTLE BYTHAM
SATURDAY, MAY 10TH.
0900 to 1015 Water Lane, Lower
Green
1015 to 1130 Cross Roads



IT'S BEEN A PIG OF A DAY *By Michael Saunders*
(Everyday life in a Greek village)

When we waved goodbye to our family in Castle Bytham, for a tiny mountain village on the Greek island of Crete, little did we think our life would change so drastically.

I clambered the last few steps up to a strip of land overlooking the gorge. Above, at an impossible angle, towered huge boulders, hanging over the mish mash of assorted pallets arranged as cages. "Yassou," waved Alekos, a vision of sartorial elegance in lumberjack shirt, threadbare track suit bottoms and wellie boots.

I had foolishly mentioned I'd like some pork for the freezer. To me, pork was always displayed in cling-filmed polystyrene trays, but the meat here was breathing! Alekos let his animals out to eat and chortled, "Anna! You go home with Mike tonight!" She was a plump little thing, weighing 60 kilos. Anna was a nice name, unlike the impersonal, anonymous, 'Two Loin Chops', you find at Sainsbury.

Alekos crouched amongst the snuffling, black, hairy bodies, to tie a rope around the leg of a squealing Anna. Below me, I saw the Grim Reaper approaching, clutching a wicked looking knife. Yassou Niko! Without further ado, Alekos picked up his gun and aimed. I tensed and closed one eye, anticipating the bang. And then the bloody pig ran towards me. A tirade of Greek curses, English prayers and squealing pig wrought the air. In the cacophony I didn't know whether Alekos was barking instructions at me, or swearing at the pig. He stood twenty feet away, gun raised. The barrel wavered. I jumped aside. BANG! I turned. Anna had slumped to the ground, and immediately Nikos was upon her with his knife. Did I say her? I had only come for pork and met a pig, now it, was a she – and she had a name. We almost had a relationship!

Meanwhile Alekos was tying the leg of a large boar to a concrete post. It squealed in fury when Alekos reached for his gun and pandemonium ensued as Nikos and I ran hither and thither, to escape being caught in the crossfire. BANG! The boar fell, thrashing wildly. The Grim Reaper was on him instantly. He made a slit in the boar's nether region, deftly removing its testicles, so fast, it made my eyes water. Apparently, removing the testes makes the meat taste sweeter.

You don't learn of such things wandering down the meat aisle in Tesco.

The three of us strained to lift the animal onto a pallet, where it lay, still quivering, ready to be skinned and butchered. The sun had fallen below the mountain and dusk was quickly giving way to darkness, as Nikos finished butchering the boar and gutting my Anna.

With a cheerful wave he left Alekos and I to manhandle four portions of boar, weighing some twenty five kilos each, onto the roof rack of Alekos' battered Volkswagen. My nearly friend was placed reverently beneath the front bonnet. The old car groaned under the weight. We set off with one of Anna's legs poking from the bonnet, pointing the way and blood dripping down the windows from a hundred kilos of pig on the roof. The whole scene, with a bag of intestines on the back seat and the boar's head wedged between my legs, resembled 'Nightmare on Elm Street'. It began to rain and the wipers smeared red rivulets of blood, to and fro, as the chain saw massacre slowly drove down the mountain as speedily as a hearse.

It was pitch dark when we arrived at our house and it seemed as if Anna had put on some weight as we struggled up the path. My wife opened the door, and was horrified to receive one, large, roasting joint, complete with feet and head, instead of the more manageable cuts she had been expecting. Alekos insisted on bringing Anna inside, but my Pauline refused. After a lively debate, a clothes line was duly commandeered and deftly tied around Anna's back leg. Threading the slack over the main strut of our gazebo, by the front door, we managed to raise Anna leaving her dangling, four feet above the ground. Alekos bid us goodnight, and disappeared into the darkness, promising to return tomorrow.

We looked at each other, and then at Anna gently swaying in mid-air and thought – oh yeah – and pigs might fly!

Discover the real Crete on a luxury holiday. For details telephone Crete on our UK divert number 0871 900 2739 – calls cost 10p per minute or you can e-mail saundersnow@yahoo.com - or log onto our website – www.holidaystocrete.freeservers.com

We were pleased to welcome members from Dyke and Deeping St. James W.Is. to our April meeting. Our President and Secretary both being away, business was kept to a minimum. Members willing to make refreshment for the Hunter Trials Sponsored Ride gave their names to Lorna Green. There was no Pub Walk in April but there is the possibility of one on Wednesday May 14th with Judy Machin through her bluebell woods.

We then welcomed our speaker, Mr John Slater from Boston, to talk on his life as an actor. This was fascinating as we travelled with him through many amusing tales, music, mime and poems from childhood to the present day.

It was hard work but he always kept himself employed. Whilst working as a laboratory technician he organised amateur

theatrical groups and then, as he was interested in theatrical make-up, did a City & Guilds in Ladies Hairdressing. He set up his own companies, organised the Oxford Festival, had T.V. and theatre parts and has always worked through education. He now works with schools and various groups in Lincolnshire.

Mary Galloway thanked John for a most enjoyable and amusing evening and then we all tucked into a very good supper.

We would welcome new members, are friendly and enjoy our evenings. The next meeting is on May 7th at 7.30pm when we have some resolutions to discuss and then its on to Marian's hands-on evening of collage - please bring pencil, scissors, ribbon and little bits of material - should be a good evening.



Holiday in luxury – and discover the real Crete

**LUXURIOUS PRIVATE SUITE FOR TWO
MOUTH-WATERING FOOD**



Since writing **Ela - A Greek Affair**, many people have read the book and told us how they envy our life in the tiny village of Afrata, in Western Crete.

This set us thinking and we have created what we think is a welcome departure from the normal package. If comfort and luxury on holiday is important to you, then look no further. We have created an exclusive holiday for two, with a luxurious, private suite and roof top terrace – mouth-watering food - unlimited wine - car - and a host of special features which are

all-inclusive! Relax, be indulged and savour an idyllic lifestyle away from the madding crowd. Enjoy the real Crete. Afrata lies at the end of a mountain road, leading to nowhere, set in the Rotherpou Peninsular, surrounded by olive groves and a gorge, leading down to a tiny cove, few tourists ever find. Standing above Kolimbari in Western Crete, it is off the beaten track, yet only thirty minutes from Chania Airport.

**Spend your holiday in
luxury and discover the
real Crete**

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- Shaded comfortable lounge
- Dressing area and bedroom with brass double bed and air-conditioning
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- Your own private sun terrace with glorious mountain views
- A garden oasis with shady corners and a delightful courtyard spa

FOOD - UNLIMITED WINE - CAR

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Sheila Jones, Little Bytham

May I thank, through your pages, on behalf of myself and all the other ladies who attended group Holy Communion at Little Bytham on Mothering Sunday, Sheila Robinson for the beautiful posies that she made. They were a lovely and much appreciated surprise.

And from Sheila Robinson, Castle Bytham

I note with interest the comments re: flying the flag made by Mr Bakker and Mr Felton, and thank them for their concern.

The P.C.C. are aware of the general rules but have, as yet, had no volunteers to perform the "ceremonies". Perhaps we should consider the church as a ship always 'in action' and leave the flag flying no matter what the time and - as we have no intention of surrendering need not "strike our colours".

The flag has not been lowered as a consequence of the letters but because of another project in progress—*Watch This Space!!!*

CASTLE BYTHAM P.C.C.'100 CLUB'

April Draw Winners:-

No 64 Mrs Perry
No 13 Mrs Bennett
No 82 Mrs Wiggins
No 67 Mrs Huthwaite

Castle Bytham Children and Senior Citizens Christmas Parties.

The bingo held in Castle Bytham village hall on 29th March raised approx £490. We were then given a further donation on the evening to make £500. Many thanks go to everyone who donated prizes, helped in any way or supported us on the evening.

The outside raffle which was drawn on the evening was won by
1st) Wine Mrs J Cox
2nd) Plant Mrs D Page
3rd) Easter Egg No 12 Pinfold lane
4th) Wine Mrs W Sage

Our next fund raiser will be a stall at the street market with a couple more functions to follow later in the year. Watch the Glenside for more details.

Jumble Sale

Many thanks to those who donated jumble, those came and bought it and those who helped with all the hard work. We raised £333 for the Christmas Parties Fund and intend to repeat it in September. Start saving your jumble.

Castle Bytham Midsummer Fair

22nd June 2003

A million and one things need to be done

**YOUR VILLAGE
NEEDS YOU**

**Volunteers required!!
(In advance and on the day)**

**Make this year's fair another one to
remember**

Please contact a Committee member

RAY KEIFF: 20 Cumberland Gdns, 01780 410789, RKeiff@aol.com. PAT BEESE: 5 Pinfold Lane, 01780 410595, pat.beese@btconnect.com. PETER HINTON: 16 Cumberland Gdns, 01780 410968, peterhinton@tesco.net. GEOFF BOOTH, Mill House, Glen Road, 01780 410779, GeoffBooth@aol.com

Report of Little Bytham Parish Council Meeting on 13 March 2003 at 1930 Matters Arising from the minutes.

Powergen Bill. A revised final electricity bill for the Brownie Hut from Powergen for £22.64 had been received.

Brownie Hut. A working party was still needed to clean out the Brownie Hut. A response was still awaited from Mrs Sale to agree a date and efforts would be made to co-ordinate this with the Civic Amenity Freighter on 26 April 2003.

Planning Applications. Spires Developers - Residential Development, Old Station Yard application was still ongoing with SKDC. The meeting then discussed an application by Orange to erect a mast adjacent to Station Yard. After some deliberation, it was unanimously agreed to reject the application based on the above residential development still being under consideration, the number of existing masts in the local area and the benefit of the mast to the local residents compared with the inconvenience.

General Items.

Highways. The repair to the drains opposite Chestnut Farm had yet to be completed. In addition the section of Church Lane between the ford and Station Road was still very muddy and work had still to commence on the Footpath opposite the Willoughby Pub. The meeting then heard from the Clerk of problems with the verge from the old Mallard Pub to the railway line, and drainage problems on Glen Close. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the Highways Department to arrange an on-site meeting.

Correspondence. The following correspondence was discussed:

Dial a ride. Municipal Waste Management Strategy. Bus Timetable. Elected Regional assembly. Road Safety Plan. Play Leadership 2003.

Parish Council Elections. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that Parish Council Elections would be held on 1 May 2003, and nomination papers had to be received by the Returning Officer by noon 1 April 2003. The Clerk had copies available of the nomination papers and candidates guidelines.

AOB. The post box adjacent to the

Willoughby Pub had yet to be replaced. Although technically in Careby Parish, the Clerk was asked to contact the Post Office to find out what action was being taken.

(Full copies of the minutes can be seen by arrangement with the Parish Clerk)

LITTLE BYTHAM PARISH MEETINGS

on Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm in LB Village Hall.

Agenda will be

Parish Annual Meeting

Parish Council Report

County and District Reports

Parish Council AGM

Election of Chairman and Vice

Chairman

Presentation of Accounts

All welcome to attend.

Little Bytham Village Fete

To be held on Sunday

15th June

at

The Old Rectory,

(by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Martin Thompson)

Little Bytham

starting at 2.00pm

Please put this date in your diary so that you do not miss this very popular afternoon's entertainment

CASTLE BYTHAM CRICKET CLUB - MAY 2003 *by Pete Kiely*

As expected and, I suspect, as predicted, Australia came out on top and became World Champions in the One Day Cricket Cup. This must make them the most powerful team in the world at both sides of the game - both one-day and five day matches.

Do you think there is something significant in the fact that they do not play cricket 6 or 7 days a week as we do in this country? Is there a lesson for our money grabbing administrators? Do players get sick of the sight of a cricket pitch? I yearn for the good old days when we had one touring team in the summer and just one in the winter. Nowadays there are at least two in each season, as well as the 'pyjama' attired so-called games of cricket. No wonder our players look stale and jaded.

The basic needs of cricket are few - pitch, bat, ball and players mainly. A bat was first mentioned in 1611 in "A Dictionarie of the French and English Tongues" by Randle Cotgrave published by Adam Islip. The French word 'crosse' is defined as a "Cricket Staffe - or the crooked staffe wherewith 'boyes' play at cricket"

The term 'Cricket Bat' first occurred in the Easter Bills of Presentment of Boxgrove Sussex when, on 5th. May 1622, - "A little child had like to have her braynes beaton out with a cricket bat".

The first limitation on the width of a bat

came when it was imposed in 1771 as 4¼ inches. This was caused by a Thomas White who came to the wicket with a bat as wide as the stumps. How interesting that this rule still applies today.

Holding and using a bat in the early days was a sometimes jarring and uncomfortable experience. A Salisbury cutler, W. Beach, invented a spring handled bat in 1840 and it was regularly used by Somerton Club when it was found to be capable of driving a ball much further than the old rigid type with very little exertion. It was also found to be, rather pleasantly, free from the jarring effect. It was a 'steel bar' set into the handle. E & W Page of Kennington produced the first commercial spring handled bats in 1845, using a 'whale-bone' insert. The first rubber-sprung handles appeared around 1884.

Our season is just around the corner, starting on May 3rd with a home League match against Claypole. This year matches will all start at 2pm (30 minutes earlier than last year) and then after August 14th, at 1.30pm. This, I believe, will only apply to League games. Friendlies, I believe, will commence 2.30pm, as usual.

We still need new blood. A few names have been suggested as being interested but no real contact has yet been made.

Here's hoping for good weather, good luck and a good season.

HOME MATCHES MAY, 2003

May 3rd. Claypole League 2pm.
May 18th. Great Dalby League 2pm
May 31st Witham-on-the-Hill Friendly
2.30pm

Little Bytham Village Hall 100 Club

Winners of the 100 Club draw for April were:- Mr D Slater (£30) and Mr A Peace (£18). Congratulations to both of them. Also, thanks to Mr A Turner who has donated his previous win to the Village Hall Improvement Fund.

Little Bytham Fete White Elephant Stall

Are you thinking of having a spring clean and clear out now that the lighter and brighter days are with us? If so and you have any unwanted items, we would be more than happy to collect them to sell at the Little Bytham Village Fete (all proceeds to Village Organisations). Any item will be most welcomed, books, bric a brac, household equipment, textiles, tools, china, in fact anything that you don't want. Please call Isobel (410740) if you need more information, or you would like your contribution collected. Many Thanks!

NATURE NOTES *By Alf Cousins.*

It is so nice to start this month on a high note. I am talking about the project undertaken by the Harris family at Cabbage Hill Farm.

You may have read in the local press recently on how they applied to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme for funding to improve the natural beauty and diversity of their land. Funding of course really helps but all the hard work and time that is involved in helping wildlife is to be commended I am sure you will agree.

Richard Harris has told me how the ponds on the farm have been left, new ones dug and some of the land has not been drained. This has resulted in curlews breeding, rare for this area and lapwings are also increasing because of this.

The hedgerows have been allowed to grow and a margin left around the edges of the fields allowing weeds to grow, vital for insects, butterflies and birds. Along with this, special seed mixtures have been planted; one in particular is called triticallie a cross between wheat and barley. Richard says it looks like wheat but has ears like barley and seed eating birds love it. This is complemented with the planting of sunflowers and millet resulting in finches and yellowhammers nesting in greater numbers. Many of the seeds planted produce plants that do not produce seeds until later in the year thus giving the birds a fighting chance into winter.

Other seeds planted are a nectar and

pollen mixture for butterflies and bees which contains wild flowers including clover. A meadow mix is also planned for this year with native grasses and wild flowers.

Nest boxes for barn owls, little owls and kestrels have been sited on the farm and a bluebell wood fenced off to protect it from grazing mammals. I was really happy to learn that no chemicals are used so the wildlife on this farm really does have chance to thrive, all this on only 180 acres and a working farm! Surely some of our larger farms could spare a little space for wildlife as at Cabbage Hill? Just think of the positive impact this would make putting something back for wildlife for now and the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all at Cabbage Hill for all the hard work they are doing for *our* wildlife and environment. From time to time I would like to return to see how they are getting on and report on any new species that have been recorded.

Look out for primroses, soon the bluebells and wood anemone will be showing to delight. I have also noted that the yellow star of Bethlehem has had a poor display this year.

Life is breathing back into the woods now as the deer will soon be giving birth and I have seen the frogs spawning in the woodland pond. All this never fails to make me feel good and realise how lucky I am.

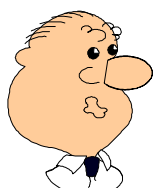
JOKES

Three boys are bragging about their dads - about how fast they are.

First boy says: "My dad shoots his boy and arrow, then runs ahead a hundred yards and gets there in time to catch the arrow".

Second boy says: "My dad can run faster than that; he fires his pistol, runs that hundred yards and catches the bullet".

Third boy says: "That's nothing, MY dad works for SKDC; he leaves the office at half past five and gets home at 3pm.



JOKES

Elderly gent in department store looking confused and uncertain. Assistant approaches and asks, "Can I help you, Sir?". The elderly gent answers, "I'm not sure, I've forgotten what I came in here for."

Assistant, "Any clues?"

Elderly gent, "It could be a casserole or a camisole."

Assistant, "That's easy Sir. Is your bird alive or dead?"

(Courtesy of Terry Wogan.)

