



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our readers & advertisers,  
From everyone at the Sawtry Eye

Thank you for your support throughout 2009

### LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

Local people making food with local ingredients  
who sell their produce directly to you

**THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
8 am - 2 pm

**OLD SCHOOL HALL, Green End Rd, SAWTRY**

For more information please call Diane or Sally  
at the Parish Council Office on 01487 831771

Vocal Academy and Friends

### Christmas Show

Saturday 5 December

7.30pm

Sawtry Community College

Tickets £6,  
Concessions £5,  
U11's Free

For more information  
see advert on page 9

*You can read the Sawtry Eye on the internet at [www.caresco.org.uk](http://www.caresco.org.uk)*

### VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

At Sawtry Community College

**SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2009 - 3pm**

Everyone is invited to this special village event.

The service will reflect on the contribution of so many to the life of our  
village in 'Thanks-giving'.

Musical contributions by Sawtry Community College, Sawtry Junior  
School and Sawtry Chorale.

A chance to sing some of your favourite carols and share refreshments.

*An offering will be taken for CARESCO and  
The Disasters Emergency Committee*

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

At the Greystones

**MONDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2009 - 6.30 pm**

Your Parish Council warmly welcome you, your family and friends to  
come and join in this annual village event. Come along to sing and we  
will be pleased to offer a glass of mulled wine, or squash and a mince  
pie, served by The Greystones on our behalf.

Let's make this a great start to the festive week, with thanks to The  
Greystones for their hospitality.

Any questions, please contact the Parish Council Office

**Everyone welcome**

### UPTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 5th December**

11.00am until 12.15pm  
In Upton Village Hall

A selection of stalls including  
cards, jewellery,  
Hand made bags, wood turning  
products, cake and  
Homemade preserves plus the  
favourite tombola  
And numerous raffles.

Coffee and tea will be served  
through the morning.  
Lunch will be served at 12.30.  
(soup and rolls price £3.00)

For more information please call  
01480 890843

If you are moving house, please can you leave a recent copy of Sawtry Eye for the new occupiers - Thank you



### Next Issue Deadline

Please note that due to staff holidays, the news deadline for the next issue (Feb-March '10) has been moved forward to noon on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January**.

The deadline for advertising will be at noon on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January as usual.

Apologies for any inconvenience, *The Editors*



### COFFEE SHOP

#### Every Friday

Closed 25 December 2009 & 1 January 2010  
9 - 11.30am (Term Time)

**9.45am - 11.30am (During school holidays)**  
at the CARESCO Centre

*A warm welcome for coffee and a chat.*

It's the place to be  
**Everyone Welcome**



### HOME COLLECTING BOXES

We are looking for homes for our **NEW larger** collecting boxes

#### Will you have one?

Please take one home & fill with small (or big) change then return it to us for emptying.

Ask at the office or call 01487 832105

**All proceeds to go towards the work of CARESCO**

**For issue No: 84**  
**Feb - Mar 2010**

Advertisements by  
12 Noon on 13 Jan 2010  
News Items by  
12 Noon on 15 Jan 2010

**Full Page: Portrait**  
(17.5cm x 26cm)  
1 Issue - £95  
6 issues - £475

**Half Page: Landscape**  
(13cm x 17.5cm)  
1 Issue - £54  
6 Issues - £270

**Quarter Page: Portrait**  
(13cm x 8.5cm)  
1 Issue - £30  
6 Issues - £150

**Eighth Page: Landscape**  
(6.5cm x 8.5cm)  
1 Issue - £17  
6 Issues - £85

For more information call in or  
phone 9.00am - 12 Noon  
Monday - Friday

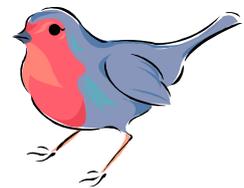
**01487 832105**

caresco@sawtry.net

## Christmas Cards



Available for sale  
from the  
**CARESCO Centre**



Prices £2.50/£3.00 per pack

All proceeds will go towards the work of  
**CARESCO**





Sawtry Eye Magazine is Published by:

**CARESCO (Sawtry & District Care & Resource Organisation)**

CARESCO  
CARESCO Centre  
Green End Road  
Sawtry  
Huntingdon  
Cambs PE28 5UX

Telephone: 01487 832105

**caresco@sawtry.net**

Articles & Letters can be emailed to CARESCO. Please put as subject "For Sawtry Eye" and enclose full name and postal address — Email: caresco@sawtry.net

**www.caresco.org.uk**

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Design / Artwork - This Issue

Printed By:  
**CARESCO PrintShop**

#### EDITORIAL POLICY SUMMARY

· All items are included entirely at the discretion of the editors who reserve the right to edit or refuse to print any item submitted.

· Views expressed in the Sawtry Eye are not necessarily those of the editors or CARESCO, they are included in the interests of free speech.

· Anonymous items will only be considered where the author has submitted their full name & contact details to the editors with their contribution and have requested, with reason, that these are withheld.

· Before printing a critical item the editors reserve the right to approach the criticised persons/group and offer an opportunity to comment, where possible, in the same issue. At their discretion the editors may delay the critical item to the following issue or publish without a reply.

· The editors cannot accept any liability for omissions, errors or mistakes which occur in production.

· The copies of Sawtry Eye delivered to the parish of Sawtry are accompanied by the Sawtry Parish Council Newsletter which is published by and the responsibility of Sawtry Parish Council.

The full Editorial Policy is available from the CARESCO office during office hours.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF SAWTRY EYE:

If you know of anybody who does not receive a copy or would like to help deliver Sawtry Eye, telephone: 01487 832105 between 9am—12 noon Monday-Friday

**Sawtry**  
**Twinned with**  
**Weimar**

# Welcome

A huge thank you to all our contributors throughout 2009. You all make putting the magazine together such fun and your enthusiasm is infectious. This is a bumper issue with loads of articles, letters and event adverts and not forgetting the commercial adverts at the back which make the Sawtry Eye possible. We hope you enjoy it.

Don't forget to let us know of all your plans for community events for 2010. The Eye goes through every door in Sawtry, Upton, Glatton & Conington which means your group can reach a wide audience and there isn't a charge for submitting a news item or letter. Think of all that free advertising!

Please note that the deadline for the Feb – March 10 issue has been changed to noon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January due to staff holidays, the adverts deadline remains on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Liz Coates - Co-Editor



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**SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR  
SAWTRY SCHOOLS**

**Autumn Term 2009**

**End of Term - 18 December**

**Spring Term 2010**

**Start of Term - 5 January**  
**Half Term - 15 to 19 February**  
**End of Term - 1 April**

**Summer Term 2010**

**Start of Term - 19 April**  
**May Day 3 May**  
**Half Term - 31 May - 4 June**  
**End of Term - 22 July**

**Autumn Term 2009**

**Start of Term - 2 September**  
**Half Term - 25 to 29 October**  
**End of Term - 17 December**

Schools have a number of training days available to take at their discretion. Please contact your local school for details. Or check the Cambridgeshire County Council website at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education>



Don't forget - The collection days over the Christmas period will be different due to the Bank Holidays, look out for the usual notifications from HDC



**HDC REFUSE COLLECTION**

Sawtry, Conington, Glatton & Upton have the same calendar for refuse collection, however the week day may vary.

To find out the exact dates for your property visit <http://applications.huntsdc.gov.uk/applications/refusecollection/> and enter your house number & postcode or call 01480 388388

**GREY (LANDFILL WASTE)**  
(Week Beginning)

31<sup>st</sup> Nov, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December  
 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January

**COMPOST (GARDEN WASTE)  
& DRY RECYCLING**  
(Week Beginning)

7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December  
 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January

For more information visit the Hunts District Council website at <http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk> and look for the **Refuse & Recycling** link on the left hand side of the page.



**Sawtry WI**

Sawtry WI meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the WI Hall, Gidding Road (Wheelchair Access)

**3<sup>rd</sup> December**

An Audience with Queen Victoria - Jackie Tevlin

**7<sup>th</sup> January**

The Way We Were in the 40's - Rita Smith

**4<sup>th</sup> February**

The Air Ambulance - Christopher Donaldson

Visitors & New Members Welcome

Regular features include: Bring & Buy stall, raffle and refreshments

Secretary 01487 832925  
**Registered Charity No. 229016**



**CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
 2 - 6pm

Sawtry Youth & Community Centre

Tickets on sale now!

Visit with Santa, present, meal & magic show,  
 £2.00 per child.

(Younger babies who don't need food or presents are welcome to come along for free)

For Tickets please contact Louise on 07921 094983 or Tiffany 07834 984830 or drop into the centre.

**Sawtry WI  
In Aid of the WI Hall**

**BINGO**

11<sup>th</sup> December  
 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January  
 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February

Eyes down 7.30

**CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
 2pm - 4pm  
 Ticket £2.50 on the door  
 Raffle, Bring & Buy, &  
 Books/Jigsaws

**COFFEE MORNINGS**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February



Contact for events  
 01487 832925

2009	Group	Details	Contact No	Page No
3 December	Sawtry Parish Council	Local Produce Market	01487 831771	Front Page
5 December	Upton Village Hall Committee	Christmas Fair	01480 890843	Front Page
5 December	Sawtry Infant School	Christmas Fayre	01487 830678	6
5 December	All Saints, Sawtry	Cheese & Wine	01487 832949	-
5 December	Vocal Academy	Christmas Show	01733 844474	Front Page
10 December	Sawtry WI	Christmas Afternoon Tea	01487 832925	4
10 December	Sawtry Infant School	Flower Arranging Evening	01487 830678	7
11 December	Sawtry Cricket Club	Quiz Night	01487 834699	6
12 December	Sawtry British Legion	Tea & Scones	01487 830806	6
12 December	All Saints, Sawtry	Sawtry Chorale Concert	01487 832949	18
13 December	Sawtry Parish Council	Village Carol Service	01487 831771	Front Page
19 December	Playstop	Christmas Party	07921 094983 / 07834 984830	4
21 December	Sawtry Parish Council	Village Carols	01487 831771	Front Page
<b>2010</b>				
3 January	St Nicholas, Glatton	New Year Lunch	01487 831651	19
22 January	Carnival Committee	Carnival Extravaganza	01487 832410	13
23 January	All Saints, Sawtry	Quiz Night	01487 832949	18
30 January	Sawtry Methodist Church	More Tea Vicar	01487 834375	6
20 February	Sawtry Methodist Church	Jumble Sale	01487 831249	7
12 June	Carnival Committee	Sawtry Carnival	01487 832410	13
2 – 8 August	Sawtry Light Factory	Holiday Club	01487 830345	-
11 September	Sawtry Show Committee	Sawtry Show	01487 831332	7

**DON'T FORGET: To get your date in the next issue of Sawtry Eye, February - March 2010. Please submit your entry to the CARESCO office by Midday on 15 January 2010. Thank you.**

If you would like to have a date considered for inclusion please email the details along with a contact number to [caresco@sawtry.net](mailto:caresco@sawtry.net) with the subject 'Make a Date'. We cannot include regular meetings/classes as space will not allow, but we would love to know about the special events.

When your organisation fixes dates, do not forget to let us know. Don't wait for the next deadline. If you don't have access to email, then put it in writing and drop it into the CARESCO Centre or phone us on 01487 832105 (answer phone outside office hours). We reserve the right to decide which items to include.

CARESCO is not responsible for the accuracy of the above information. Please check with the individual group concerned.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR READERS**



## Farmers' Markets

Truly local food sold by the people who produce it.

### HUNTINGDON

Alternate Fridays from 8am to 2pm  
in Huntingdon Market Square

11 & 18 December\*\*  
15 & 29 Jan

(\*\*note – consecutive weeks)  
5th Saturday Special - 30 Jan

Organised by Huntingdonshire District Council with the support of Huntingdon Town Centre Partnership.  
For more information call 01480 388640 or email HuntsFarmersMkt@aol.com

### PETERBOROUGH

2nd & 4th Thursdays from 9am to 4pm  
in Long Causeway

Organised by Peterborough City Council.  
For more information call 01733 452217 or visit [www.peterborough.gov.uk](http://www.peterborough.gov.uk)

### RAMSEY

Every 4th Saturday from 8.30am—2pm  
Great Whyte

For further information please contact  
The Ramsey Town Centre Partnership:  
Tel: 01487 813612 email: [rampart@btinternet.com](mailto:rampart@btinternet.com)

### OUNDLE

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 9am to 2pm  
Market Street

For further information please contact  
Oundle Town Council  
Tel: 01832 272055, email: [otc@lineone.net](mailto:otc@lineone.net)

Farmers' markets are different because the food sold there must be from the local area and sold by the people who grow or produce it. Bought-in produce is not allowed. Buy fresh, high quality produce from the people who can tell you how it was grown or made.

## Tea & Scones

Saturday the 12th December  
10am and 2pm

At the Old School Hall, on Green End Road, Sawtry  
Initiated by members of the Royal British Legion Riders (i.e. Motorcyclists) and joined by members of the Sawtry and District Branch  
Including a book and toy stall, Tombolla, Raffle and Recruiting stand.

**For more information please contact  
Allan Fowler PAO RBL 01487 830806**

## Christmas Bingo

In aid of Sawtry Day Centre

18 December 2009

Starts 7.30pm

In the CARESCO Centre,  
Green End Road, Sawtry

**Contact Kath Allport on  
01487 831123**



## Sawtry Infant School Christmas Fayre

11.00 to 1.30pm  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Tombola ~ Secret Shopping ~  
Mulled Wine ~ Cake Stall ~ Raffle  
~ Toy Stall ~ Turkey Rolls ~  
Santa's Grotto

Plus many other stalls  
and prizes

For more information  
please call 01487 830678



## More Tea Vicar?

Variety Show

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Doors open 7pm, show starts at 7.30pm

Sawtry Methodist Church

Refreshments

Tickets available from  
John Steeden on 01487 834375  
Or during the Coffee Morning every  
Saturday held at the Church, Green  
End Road, Sawtry



## SAWTRY CRICKET CLUB

c.c. **QUIZ NIGHT**

11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
AT THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB  
7.30pm

£10 per team (up to 6 people),  
or £2 a head.

Includes refreshments & raffle

**Call 01487 834699  
for more information**

## SAWTRY SHOW

Advance notice:-

The date of the 2010 Show is  
**SATURDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**  
 at Sawtry Community College .

A new Committee is now preparing this Show.  
 If you have any ideas or requests for classes/  
 competitions, please contact the Chairman,  
 Mrs.Babs Sullivan (01487 831332)  
 or telephone the Parish Council Office  
 (01487 831771).



## Sawtry Infant School Flower Arranging Evening

7.00pm Thursday 10 December  
 Tickets £6.50 obtained from School Office

Come along and enjoy a mince pie and glass of  
 mulled wine!

Take home your own arrangement.  
 Chance to buy ready made arrangements plus a  
 Raffle to win a large floral arrangement.

**For more information please call 01487 830678**

W e l c o m e t o t h e

## SAWTRY CAMERA CLUB

We are a like minded group of photographers who like to try  
 and improve our hobby.

We use film, digital and video formats.

All are welcome, young, old, male or female, novice or expert  
 (We hope to learn from the experts)

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month  
 At the Methodist Church Hall in Green End Road Between  
 7.00pm and 9.30pm

A free cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit will welcome you.

For more information phone 01487 830186, 830550 or 832251

## Jumble Sale

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
 At Sawtry Methodist Church  
 Doors open 9.30am

**30p Admission**

In aid of Sawtry Methodist  
 Church Building Fund

**For more information  
 please call Freda on  
 01487 831249**

## Letters ...

### THANK YOU FROM...

On Sunday 8th November the British Legion put  
 on a lovely sing along and buffet tea. This was a  
 great success and I am sure all who came had a  
 wonderful time. I would like to thank all of those  
 who took part in arranging and making this such  
 a memorable occasion for us all.

It is a lot of work and was much appreciated.  
 Thank you all.

**Ann and Tony Martin**

### GRATEFUL THANKS FROM THE WI

On behalf of all the ladies of Sawtry WI, I would  
 like to thank everyone who has supported our  
 fundraising efforts during the past seven years.  
 The second phase of the Hall Refurbishment has  
 now been completed with the opening of our  
 new frontage.

We are absolutely delighted with the result and  
 wish to thank you all for your loyalty and gener-  
 osity, which has enabled us to complete our lat-  
 est project.

**Roz Rowland, Sawtry WI**

### RACE NIGHT - 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

Thank you again to everyone involved in mak-  
 ing the Sawtry Golf Club Race Night held at the  
 Sawtry Club such a success. The final total do-  
 nated to CARESCO was a fantastic £1,008.50.  
 A huge thanks to Jacqui & John for putting the  
 evening together.

### PICK UP A PENNY – SAWTRY CO-OP

Thank you to all the customers and staff at  
 Sawtry Co-op who took part in the till receipt  
 collection over the summer. An amazing £470  
 was donated to CARESCO, now that's a lot of  
 pennies!

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to say a Very Big thank you to all  
 who helped with the World's Biggest Coffee  
 Morning appeal this year. Special Thanks to  
 The Methodist Church who kindly gave the use  
 of their Hall to enable us to hold the event and  
 for this we are most appreciative.

Both Mellors Court and Crown Gardens held  
 coffee mornings and sent their donations, so a  
 big Thank you to them.

Cont'd.../...

Write to Sawtry Eye: 'Letters', CARESCO, Green End Road, Sawtry, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 5UX



Or email [caresco@sawtry.net](mailto:caresco@sawtry.net) with subject 'Letter for Sawtry Eye'

PLEASE SEE STATEMENT FOR SUBMITTING LETTERS ON PAGE 3

Cont'd.../...

My thanks also to members of the Women's Institute who gave of their time to help on the day and make cakes etc. Many kind people gave donations of money, raffle prizes and items for the Bring and Buy stall, my thanks to you also.

To all who helped in any way I am most grateful. And last but not least a very big 'Thank You' to all who came to the coffee morning and supported this effort. This is such a worthwhile cause and as you will all know Macmillan are such a wonderful help to thousands of people, and without your help this work could not continue. You all helped to raise a Grand Total of £278 for this good cause.

Thank You.

**Ann Martin**

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The Scott Family would like to thank the many friends, neighbours, College staff and pupils for their help and support following Tom's road accident on his way to school on September 16<sup>th</sup>. We were quite overwhelmed with good wishes, prayers, care and offers of help at a difficult time not to mention the many cards and gifts! Thanks particularly to Tom and Sarah's friends who showed remarkable maturity at just 14 in coping with it all; to all our friends at All Saints Church who gave us such support and comfort as well as practical help; to the College staff for supporting Tom so well on his return to school.

Tom is recovering well and fortunately there will be no lasting damage from the accident – just a reminder that we are very blessed to live in such a kind and caring community. Many, many thanks.

**Ali, Pete, Sarah and Tom Scott**

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### SAWTRY FIREWORK DISPLAY

Sawtry Sports and Leisure Association would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make this year's firework display successful. Particular thanks must go to the staff at Paul Cox, Best Friends Vets, Coopers Garage and the Parish Council office for their help with ticket sales, Mr Racy for the work on the bonfire, Printing Matters for printing tickets and posters, also to the Sawtry Firemen and members of St John Ambulance Service for their attendance on the night.

The members of Sawtry Colts Football Club, Sawtry Cricket Club, Sawtry Football Club, Sawtry Angling Society and the committee and friends of Sawtry Sports and Leisure Association who helped set up during the day and worked during the evening deserve a special thank you.

Last but not least, thank you to the 1000 members of the public who came to Greenfield to enjoy the event.

### TINY TOTS SING-SONG FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Thanks to all the mums, dads, nannas and children at 'Tiny Tots Group' who took part in Tilly's Sponsored Sing-Song on 17th Nov. You raised £23.75 for BBC Children in Need by singing your favourite nursery rhymes for pennies and making cakes.

The Tiny Tots Committee would like to thank everyone who comes throughout the year and keeps this vital group going in the village.

Tiny Tots Group is in the Methodist Church Hall, Green End Road, Sawtry every Tuesday morning (term-time only) 9.30-11am.

It is run by volunteers where adults can bring their babies and children to play, have a sing-song and meet new friends. £1 per family. (First visit free) refreshments included, supervise own children please. Babies and Children under school age welcome.

1st Session after Christmas Hols is Tues 5th Jan 2010 when schools go back. Don't be shy! Come and have a cup of tea and make new friends with other villagers with similar aged babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

For more information please contact Gill on 01487 832410 or Hannah on 01487 831120

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### PLEASE CLEAN UP

I write with regard to the repeat offender/s who consistently let their dog foul on Hatfield Road and Deer Park Road paths. It might have escaped their notice but it is actually against the law now to not pick up dog mess.

My morning walk to school with my sons (and pram) has now become a perilous journey of dodge the crap, and the amount of mess seems to be increasing. My four year old son has come home with it on his shoes 3 times this term and I've had it on my pram wheels twice (a lovely job to try and clean off before taking it in my home!!). Please think of other people and if you can't be bothered to clean up your dogs mess, then you really shouldn't be put in the responsible position of owning a dog.

Many thanks,

**Tara Gargiulo - Hatfield Road, Sawtry**

**DON'T FORGET:** If you want your letter published in the next issue of Sawtry Eye, please send them to the CARESCO office by Midday, Friday 15 January 2010

**www.caresco.org.uk**

**\*\* Over 1000 hits \*\***

To find out more about the work of CARESCO, please visit our website where you can learn about the history of the charity, what we do and how it all works. You can download our annual reports since 2004/05 and our current leaflets, read details of our activities and find out ways to support us financially.

Since its launch the website has had over 1000 hits, many looking for the Sawtry Eye online. Don't forget the news section of each issue is available as a download with back issues from October 2008.

Our grateful thanks to Webshepherd for his continuing support and maintenance of the site.



**NEW TO YOU AT NEARLY NEW**

We wanted to say many thanks to all our regular customers and to all those new customers we've had over the last few months. It's been a very busy time and the rails are full of good quality clothes so come in and grab yourself a bargain.

With Christmas fast approaching we also have toys and dressing up items for sale and we have a large selection of school uniform if you require replacement or spare items.

We accept 6 items per visit (Women's, Children's and Toys) and 60% of the sale price will be returned to you.

We're currently in need of some extra adult-sized coat hangers, particularly ones for skirts/trousers, if you have any to spare.

We are closed during the school holiday & will reopen on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. From all of us at Nearly New, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy 2010.

***Nicole, Margaret, Clair and Gill.***

PS - Don't forget to come back to collect any money and any returned items.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
VOCAL ACADEMY AND FRIENDS TO  
ENTERTAIN SAWTRY AGAIN**

Vocal Academy will be holding their Christmas Show again this year - after last year's enthusiastic reception and calls for a repeat performance, how could we refuse?!

From Sawtry Eye, March 09 "The packed house was treated to an impressive evening of quality entertainment usually only seen in professional theatre."

It will be on Saturday 5 December at 7.30pm in the main hall at Sawtry Community College and we'll be introducing you to more of our friends - a different ladies quartet and a ukulele orchestra are among those who have said they'd like to be there and entertain you. Tickets will be £6 (price held from last year) Concessions will be £5 and under 11s will be free - to keep numbers straight, they **will** need a ticket.

For tickets call 01733 844474 or email

info@vacad.co.uk

See [www.vocal-academy.org.uk](http://www.vocal-academy.org.uk) for more details.

***Chris Wall,  
Vocal Academy***



**VOCAL ACADEMY AT  
HARMONY FEST '09**

Your local men's barbershop chorus, Vocal Academy recently helped organise and performed as part of Harmony Fest '09 in the centre of Peterborough. Along with 4 other choruses, on 19 September they performed on the steps of the Town Hall, in the Rivergate Centre and the Queensgate. The event, in support of Barbershop Awareness Week, was a great success and may well be repeated in 2010.

We are always looking to grow our numbers, particularly from people that live in and around Sawtry. If you fancy having a go at singing with us, we rehearse on Wednesdays in the Junior School Hall from 8pm - 10pm followed by liquid replenishment (singing is thirsty work!) at the Working Men's Club.

Anyone interesting in joining can call 07754 094052 or email [recruitment@vacad.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@vacad.co.uk) or visit the website for other contacts.

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM.....**

Over the past few weeks the team have been out in Sawtry and surrounding villages targeting Anti social behaviour, whilst conducting plain clothes and high visibility patrols in St Judith's Field a vehicle was routinely stopped and persons searched; 2 males were found to be in possession of cannabis and dealt with accordingly.

We have also been involved in 'Not in our Neighbourhood week' we have engaged with a number of agencies; such as Licensing, encouraging public houses to sign up to the 'Pub Watch' scheme. We have also been out with the truancy team and Huntingdonshire District Council.

We have seen a reduction in calls for service regarding anti social behaviour in Sawtry. We have seen an increase in burglaries within our area, some that have occurred in Spaldwick, Ellington, Yaxley and Farcet.

To reduce the risk of becoming the victim of a distraction burglar or a burglary, always remember:

**LOCK** - Is your back door locked? If not, lock it before you answer the front door as distraction burglars often work in pairs - one distracts, while the other steals.

**STOP** - Are you expecting anybody?

**CHAIN** - Put this on before you open the door. If you have not got one, it is a worthwhile investment. It will give you that extra 'safe space' and barrier between you and the caller and then,

**CHECK** - Ask for their identification card, take it and look at it carefully. Close the door and check the number in the phone book - not the number on the card. If they are genuine they will not mind waiting or coming back another day.

Always keep your doors locked even if you are in your home, ensure garages/sheds are locked at all times and remove items of value out of sight if they are being left in your vehicle. If you feel that someone is acting in a suspicious manner try to gain as much information as you can without putting yourself in any danger and report to the police on 0345 456 456 4 (non emergency) or alternatively in an emergency 999.

**Going Green**

Our three ex-battery hens are doing well, thank you to everyone who's been asking after them. They've got us well trained, are very confident and expect titbits every time someone goes out of the back door. They complain if they're let out late in the morning & grumble like teenagers if they're woken up too early, they squabble endlessly over everything & are always convinced that the other hens have something better than they do. As they finish their seasonal moult, they are looking a lot healthier than when they first arrived and we get three eggs most days.

And now we have duck as well!

We bought two call ducks from Scally Waggs (St Judith's Lane, Sawtry) at the end of the summer. Following advice, we have a male and a female in order to keep the noise level down. The name 'call ducks' is used for a reason. The females have an impressive voice which they use in response to what's going on around them. So if they're upset, frightened or excited about something, they call, loudly. Females respond to each other so the noise can be continuous, however the males have a relatively small voice (no comparisons with humans please).

Our ducks quickly settled into their converted rabbit hutch using the same run as the hens. The two groups mostly ignore each other, though the hens are in charge of the whole show while the ducks get their own back by filling the drinker with a fine silt at every opportunity. The dry autumn was enjoyed by the hens but the ducks are loving all the recent rain, paddling around in the mud & making a lovely mess!

The original plan was to use an old bathroom sink placed on top of a gravel-filled hole in the run as a small pond, and to begin with the ducks loved it. They would spend much of the time both in the sink together having a great playtime. However we're now having to have a rethink as they've out grown the sink, or at least can't both fit in at once, but are refusing to consider the garden pond as an alternative at the moment.

There haven't been any duck eggs as yet, but the female should be coming into lay soon. She'll never lay as frequently as the hens who have been bred specifically to produce as many eggs as possible, but we should get a regular supply. Can't wait!

**Eco Apprentice**

## NEWS FROM SAWTRY JUNIOR SCHOOL

As I write this article for the Sawtry Eye, the autumn term is beginning to draw to a close here at Sawtry Junior School. We have a lot to look forward too, especially the Lower School Christmas Production. We would love to see you at our performances on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, just contact the office for further details.

It seems a long time ago since the summer, but over the holidays there were some changes to the building – the playground was resurfaced, some classrooms repainted, the outside of school was repainted and improvements have been made to the disabled toilet. Then during October Half Term the hall was repainted, the hall windows refurbished and the Fiction Library painted. Hopefully all this building work has improved the school environment. There have also been changes of staff. New teachers joined us in September. We have welcomed Mrs Cathy Bailey as our new Deputy Headteacher, Miss Katrina White to Year 3 and Miss Louise Hainsworth to Year 4. We also have welcomed Mr Gary Catt, Mrs Sarah Newson, Mrs Kim Smith and Mrs Jenny Crabb as new teaching assistants.

The children have enjoyed the many clubs on offer this term. They are also particularly enjoying some coaching from a Peterborough United coach during lunch times.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November was not an unlucky day for us! We had our 'Go For It!' Healthy Living day. This was a real treat with fitness coaching, a majorette workshop and a fast and furious cupstacking activity being some of the activities on offer. The whole school made healthy sandwiches and then enjoyed eating them for lunch!

Perhaps you might also be able to help me with one other thing. We now have several vacancies on the Governing Body. We have two vacancies for Community Governors and also one vacancy for a Local Authority representative. It would be really good if these vacancies could be filled. If you think you might be able to join our Governing Body then please get in touch with me, we'd love to hear from you. There is quite a big time commitment of roughly 20 hours a term attending meetings, reading papers, visiting school, attending training courses and writing reports. However, I think you would find it really rewarding and we would love more people from the Sawtry community to be involved in the work of the Junior School.

I realise that I am nearing the end of my first year here at Sawtry Junior School. I cannot believe how fast the time has flown. At the end of a year I have really got to know many of you and feel that it has been exciting to work in such a friendly community as Sawtry. Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful and happy 2010.

If you want to get in contact with us then we'd love to hear from you. Contact either [office@sawtry-jun.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@sawtry-jun.cambs.sch.uk) or 01487 830204.

**Steve West, Headteacher**

## **FAIRTRADE IN ACTION**

Back in September I was privileged to be able to attend a conference in London organised by the Fairtrade Foundation, the organisation who oversee the Fairtrade Mark. Here are some of the highlights of the day:

1. **Fairtrade makes a real difference to real people.** One of the speakers at the conference was Renwick Rose, from Windward Islands Farmers' Association who spoke about the benefits to his community that Fairtrade brings. Not only do the farmers get a fair price for their bananas, they also get a premium which must be spent on something for the whole community & agreed by the community.
2. **The Fairtrade Mark really means something.** Having heard just how hard it is to get a product certified by the Fairtrade Foundation and how carefully producers are monitored afterwards has given me even greater faith in the Mark.
3. **Not all Fairtrade is equal.** For example the farmers who supply Divine with cocoa not only receive a fair price and the premium but the company is also 45% owned by them. This makes buying Divine chocolate even better than buying most other certified Fairtrade chocolate.

There are over 3000 products currently carrying the Fairtrade Mark, look out for them in the shops and if you can't find them, ask!

**Liz Coates**

**For more information visit the Fairtrade Foundation website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) or call them on 020 7405 5942**

### UPTON GARDENING CLUB

The November was given a talk by Clive Simms on the subject of Edible Landscapes. It turned out to be on the subject of exotic fruit and plants that can be grown in this country. He specialised on plants that produce edible fruits and also added to the colours in the garden through the year. An interesting subject which kept members very quiet for nearly 90 minutes - they obviously enjoyed it and we look forward to seeing Clive in the future. Next month is the club AGM which will be followed by a small competition. The first speaker in the new year will be Geoff Hodge, always a popular speaker, who will be talking about lawns!

We meet at Upton Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month, at 7.30pm - if further details required contact Ian Plum on 01832 293599.

### TREE WARDEN REPORT

This winter's work continues to focus on the schools, with willow, fruit trees and a small copse. Due to the late planting and dry Easter we lost a lot of the willow in the Infant School's fence, so plan to replace these. HDC will provide more fruit trees for the schools and Day Nursery. For anyone interested in creating their own mini orchard, take a look at the East of England Apples and Orchards Project who stock interesting, historic local varieties. Sainsburys 'Active Kids' and the Woodland Trust provided Learning Bears and Sawtry Pre School Playgroup with a pack of young trees which they will help me to plant somewhere at the Juniors/Infants, as they do not have the space themselves.

HDC will be planting trees on a few of their pieces of land around the village. Another large elm has died off All Saint's Way and will have to be felled. HDC are planting a new avenue of oaks to replace these elms.

The Parish Council are looking into planting a new tree on the Green with a seat around it, a 'meeting tree'.

National Tree Week runs from 26 Nov to 7 Dec, although I expect to be planting later on in December, or January for the willow. Look out for any events publicised on notice boards around the village, or phone me if interested in helping.

**Janet Spencer, 830527**

### ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Not much to report this time only that a few of the plots have new tenants who we are happy to welcome, we hope they will find their new venture enjoyable despite the hard work. Think only of the lovely fresh vegetables you and your family will eventually enjoy.

Those of you who have winter crops I hope will harvest and enjoy them, and the rest of us can look forward to the spring and setting the new year's crops.

If you are struggling with a large garden and would like to team up with someone on the allotment waiting list, please contact me. This is to provide a vegetable plot, not a free gardening service!

If you have any queries please contact me on 01487 833076.

Wishing everyone a happy festive season.

**Dick Bacon**

### **SAWTRY HISTORY SOCIETY & THE DIGITAL COMMUNITY ARCHIVE**

**Calling all local football fans!** Will you help us identify past Sawtry football teams? Find "Sawtry" on the Community Archive ([www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk)), search "Football", identify the players and their trophies and then email us on [sawtryarchive@yahoo.com](mailto:sawtryarchive@yahoo.com) (There's also an old "Posh" team photo - what's their connection with Sawtry?) - thank you!

**And for non-football fans a little quiz?** Can you identify this local village -

- It has a "Gibbet Lane"; a "Gains Lane" (named after a Lord of one of its former three Manors at the time of the Domesday Book); a "Bullock Road" (after the old Drovers Road taking cattle to London) and nearby a "Moonshine Gap" where a Romany girl was supposed to have been hanged!
- In 1861 most of the timber framed thatched houses were destroyed by the "Great Fire"
- Of it's three pubs only one now remains, originally called the Bull & Bear, but later re-named to reflect the interest of a later Lord of the Manor in a particular country sport.

Cont'd.../...

David Shephard mentioned all of these facts in a recent talk – but **what village was he talking about?**

Our October meeting focused on Family History and proved to be a real draw – our largest attendance for quite a while. Christine Morris, who has been researching for 34 years, had lots of interesting facts about her own family, and much valuable information and several useful tips to help everyone start, or to continue with, their own genealogy. For instance even in these highly technical days of IT the old fashioned “card index” can often be the best way to keep research notes on individuals and searching old newspapers for obituaries is always valuable since they contained far more family details than modern ones. Christine left with us recommendations for family history web sites, including those that allow free access, and the dates for all of the national censuses since 1801.

Since there is no meeting in December we are now looking forward to our next meeting on Thursday **21st. January 2010** when Richard Jones will be talking about “**The Romans on Ermine Street**”

And another groan to finish - What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They both have “the” as their middle names!

**Allan Bamford**

### " A CARNIVAL EVENING EXTRAVAGANZA "

A slide show of photos taken at the Feast Week Festivities back in June, includes the Sawtry Carnival, Feast Parade and Feast Supper, Courtesy of Sawtry Camera Club

The Sawtry Carnival committee and Sawtry Camera Club invite you to come along & re-live all the fun of the Sawtry Carnival 2009 on

**Friday 22nd January 2010,**  
7.30-9pm at the Old School Hall, Sawtry

*Free glass of wine and nibbles*

*ALL WELCOME (including well-behaved children)*

If you were at the carnival, spot your group in the parade, or dancing in the Arena!

A DVD of the photos will be available to buy on the night at £6 each. Photographs can also be ordered through the Camera Club on the night. Did you get your photo taken with Darth Vader?!!

Come and meet the carnival committee and have a chat/give us your ideas for carnival 2010.

#### **MORE CARNIVAL NEWS...**

The 2010 theme is '**Transport**', and we hope your group or club can really get into the spirit this year and get involved.

Booking forms for stalls etc, will be sent out in the New Year.

**CARNIVAL DAY IS Sat 12th June 2010, 12 noon-4pm**

As well as the fancy dress parade, there will also be a Carnival Prince and Princess crowned, more details to follow in the Sawtry Eye.

A big thank you to Melissa Foster who worked very hard with Sam Bottomley organising the Grand Draw & Sponsorship for 2009 Carnival. Sadly she is stepping down from the role this year. After working hard at the 2009 carnival, we are pleased to announce Tony Porter and Doug Bailey have joined the committee and we thank them for getting involved.

Did **you** enjoy the carnival back in June and would like to get involved this year?? If so, don't be shy; come along to our carnival meetings which are on the third Tuesday of every month, usually at the Old School Hall. Our next informal meeting is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm at the Old School Hall. (N.B. NO MEETING IN DECEMBER)

**Telephone Gill Tanner (secretary) 01487 832410**  
**email: gill.tanner@hotmail.co.uk**  
**or Eileen Shearer (chairperson) 01487 832814 for more info.**

## WELLSIDE SURGERY NEWS

Swine Flu Pandemic :

By the time this newsletter is published an initial clinic to deliver the swine flu vaccination to priority patients should have taken place. Patients in the following risk groups were invited to attend the clinic:

- Children and adults aged 6 months to 65 years with a long term health condition including:
  - Chronic lung disease
  - Chronic heart disease
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Chronic liver disease
  - Chronic neurological disease
  - Diabetes
- Any patient who is pregnant
- Any patient who is immuno-compromised due to either disease or a treatment they are receiving.

If you fall into one of the above categories but did not receive a letter inviting you to attend for a vaccination, please contact us.

The vaccination will be made available to additional patients in due course. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this newsletter we have no further information regarding when this will be, but we will ensure that, when the time comes, the appropriate information reaches those patients concerned.

Pre-bookable Appointments: I would like to remind patients that we have a number of GP appointments available each day which can be pre-booked in advance; these include the appointments we provide on alternate Monday and Tuesday evenings. Unfortunately, we do have to limit the number of appointments which can be pre-booked as the majority of our patients still prefer to call to make an appointment on the day they wish to be seen but we will always try to offer you a pre-bookable appointment with one of our GP team when requested.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours:

Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as usual
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as usual
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Open as usual
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Open as usual
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Closed
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Closed
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Closed
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Open as usual

Please remember to request your repeat prescriptions for the holiday period in plenty of time remembering that you need to allow two full working days between ordering and collecting your prescription.

On behalf of all of the team here at Wellside Surgery I would like to wish all of our patients and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With Best Regards,

**Mrs Claire Wright, Practice Manager**  
**Wellside Surgery, Sawtry, Tel: 01487 830340**



**Every Wednesday 9am - 11am (school terms only)**  
**At the Youth & Community Centre, Green End Road, Sawtry**  
**Everyone welcome from bump to school age**  
**Come and play in a safe and friendly environment**  
**We are a friendly group, with lots to do for everyone- crafts, activities and song time. First visit is free, £1 per family Enjoy a cuppa, meet new friends, and play - Contact Louise 01487 832 257**  
**See Page 4 for Christmas Party details**

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL SAWTRY LIBRARY

Have you visited the new Huntingdon Library yet? It opened in June and is proving really successful, and if you do visit, it will become clear why this is. Spacious and filled with light and really good books, DVDs, CDs and books on tape/CD; computers to use; Wi-Fi to enable use of personal laptops; a superb 'History Floor' which houses the Huntingdonshire Archive (formerly the Record Office); a 'Library Cafe' on site; loos for public use; longer opening hours with late night on Wednesdays (till 7.00pm); open on Sundays 12-4.00pm: author events and local history talks; Storytimes and Rhymetimes for the youngest library users and 'Engage Events' for those of advanced years. Do look on the library website, or pick up a leaflet at Sawtry Library for details.

An innovation at this new library is a really advanced self-service system, which, after a brief introduction you will find easy to use. There are Staff whose job is to help you through all these new set-ups, so do pay a visit.

The Children's area is very popular, and the careful designing has produced an area children find exciting to use. Nearby schools have been making Class Visits and children who also come into Sawtry Library seem really taken with the new building.

Sunday opening is also proving popular as parking is much easier that day. You will need to rely on all the surrounding car parks as the library only offers two bays for disabled users.

Don't forget that if you pay a visit and borrow anything, items can all be returned via Sawtry Library and 'our' books can be returned there, too.

While encouraging everyone to visit Huntingdon Library, we do hope you will continue to use Sawtry! We do rely on the library being well-used, so if you are reading this and don't use your local library, please think of all the benefits to yourself, and to us, for doing so! Do check out the Library Website to see all that's on offer, and do remember that, since June, all items available for loan on the library catalogue can be reserved for you and sent to Sawtry for you to collect FREE of charge.

As I write, we are looking forward to Christmas and by the time you read this, the library will be decorated in readiness and, especially for the children, look out for all the Christmas books that we get out only at this time of year. We hope these will prove as popular as the books borrowed in the summer when over 70 children read all their 6 books in the Summer Reading Challenge! There will also be some on-going Christmas Crafts for making cards, calendars etc.

As Christmas falls near a weekend this year, it does mean the hours we are open over the Christmas/New Year period are limited. If you need more books because of this, do please speak to the Staff and we can make special arrangements for you with extra books etc.

### *Christmas Opening Hours:*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Friday 25<sup>th</sup>: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>: Monday 28<sup>th</sup>: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> the library will be CLOSED.

OPEN: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> 2.00-5.00pm

Thursday 31 December: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January the library will be CLOSED

OPEN: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2010 9.00-12 noon.

So, after a busy and successful year at the library, we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you all in 2010!

Sue Simmons (Supervisor) Manju; Liza; Debbie; Janet and Sue

Library Opening Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4.00-7.00pm

Wednesday & Friday 2.00-5.00pm

Saturday.9.00am-12noon

Tel :0345 045 5225 (*Please note new number 0345.....Call Centre- call any time 8.00am-8.00pm Mon to Sat for renewals and enquiries; 24 hour automated renewals*)

Library Website: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library)

### **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY – 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010**

The Fairtrade Status Group are inviting all groups and organisations within Sawtry to promote Fairtrade at their meetings during Fairtrade Fortnight. For some it could be just serving Fairtrade refreshments for others it may be talking about it at your meeting.

We will be publishing details of all those taking part in the Feb/Mar Eye and look forward to adding your group's name to our list. If you would like any help or advice please contact the Parish Council Office or Liz Coates on 830345.

**SAWTRY AND DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

May I start by apologising to the residents of those parts of the Deerpark Estate that were approached twice, during Remembrancetide, at their homes by my collectors. This was due to the combination of having changed some of the rounds and having gained some new collectors, which brought about a slight breakdown in communication. I wasn't trying to have two bites at the Cherry.

The counting of the donations made for the 2009 Poppy Appeal took place on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November, by a number of Branch Committee members and I am very pleased to report that from House to House collections, we received £2569-75 and from the commercial premises we received £1377-06 and plus another £207-11 in Gift Aid. These figures exceed the House to House and Commercial donations of 2008, by, in total £705-49 and in Gift Aid by £83-87, and even 2007 which was in itself a bumper year, therefore, I don't think that we have ever had a better year.

The turnout for the Parade was excellent and consequently at the Church Service at All Saints Church. I am told that there were some 20 people who couldn't get in, therefore, stood outside the church entrance. The subsequent collection of donations at the church amounted to £398-73, which is £49-99 more than 2008 and again more than 2007.

May I take this opportunity to send our thanks to every one who made donations to this year's Poppy Appeal and to all of the collectors who gave their time to go out in the dark and cold to collect the donations. New and old collectors, you have done a great job. Additional thanks to all who sold Poppy Lapel Pins and other items, you also did a great job.

Our thanks also go to Reverend Malcolm Griffith for taking the service, WO Steve Poulton, our Parade Marshall, Aden Heron our Bugler and Gary Kernaghan our Piper who extended his services by playing the Parade back to the Muster point. It all made an excellent day.

With regard to Donations that were made using the Gift Aid envelopes provided, unfortunately, out of all of the envelopes that had been returned to the collectors only a small percentage of donors had completed the declaration form, therefore the donations placed in the envelopes that hadn't been completed, had to be returned to the appropriate collecting pot and used as a normal donation.

**Once again very many thanks to all.**

It has been made known to me that there are some Armed Services, serving, ex-service and civilians who are, apparently, not aware of our Branch of the Royal British Legion and have not been approached by any existing members to be recruited, also, that some people are not aware of what the Legion does with the money that is donated. May I correct that situation here and inform any one interested in joining us and you would be very welcome, that we meet in the Sawtry Ex-Service and Working Men's Club at 8pm on the first Monday of every month with the exception of August. The Royal British Legion needs new members for numerous reasons, not just financially but that is a very important part. All service personnel, serving and/or ex-service, providing that they have served and received pay for at least seven days service are entitled to all of the financial and other benefits that the Legion can offer, all subject to interview, whether they be members of the Legion or not. Civilians do not have the financial benefits but there a number of the other benefits, i.e., the MOD Discount Store, etc. I cannot list every thing here that can be derived from membership, or indeed what the Legion does with the funds, as there is far too much information but if you are interested then I would suggest that you visit [www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/join-us](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership/join-us), which should answer any questions you have, if not, please contact me and I will obtain the answer.

There is a lot of other information that I would have liked to have included here, i.e., 'Return to Civy Street and its effects' but I do not have the space, therefore, it will have to wait for the next edition

**Allan Fowler PAO RBL 01487 830806**

**SAWTRY CHORALE CHRISTMAS CONCERTS**

This Christmas, Sawtry Chorale will only be performing three times, so if you think you might like to hear them singing a number of seasonal songs, to get you in the mood for the festive period, you will need to be quick to get your tickets!

**Woodgreen Animal Shelter - Thursday, 10th December 2009 - 7.00 pm**

This will be an opportunity to hear a small selection from the Sawtry Chorale Christmas 2009 Concert, together with a number of other events and activities at the Shelter.

Tickets - available from the Shelter in advance, or on the door.

Cont'd.../...

## Shhh ! It's a Secret!

When a baby king was born in the town of Bethlehem around 2000 years ago, it wasn't headline news. There was no fanfare, no preparation of a fine room in the palace. It was all done in secret, in rather a hurry, in the midst of a census, at the end of a long journey, with not even a room booked for the night. Few were aware of the arrival on earth of God's own son, even if they wondered at the significance of the remarkable star, the only sign of his coming. Later, some wise men would puzzle it out but at the time only a few shepherds came to see, and recognised, lying secretly in the straw, the greatest gift of all time.

What's the secret of making a happy Christmas? Perhaps it is to cut out the fuss and the stress and quietly prepare a few simple gifts for those you love and for those in need too: a way of saying 'thank you' for all the good things we have. A small surprise can be much more fun than an expensive item from a greedy 'wanted' list. What a lot of joy many of us have each year covering a shoe-box with pretty paper and choosing with care the simplest of daily necessities, warm hats and gloves, crayons and paper, some sweets and a toy or two which we know will light up the eyes of a child in a part of the world where normally there would be no gift at all! In giving, we receive, and then the secret joy of the Christ-child is at the heart of our Christmas celebrations.

Christians Together in Sawtry wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and a good new year. We hope to see you all at the village carol service at 3p.m. at the college on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December... and that's no secret!

**Rev Pam Siddall**

## REMEMBRANCE

The Sawtry and District Branch of the Royal British Legion remember the fallen throughout the year. In December and January we particularly remember:

### DECEMBER

Private Albert Edwin GINNS	15 December 1916	Sawtry
Private Ernest Sam ALLEN	20 December 1916	Wood Walton
Lance Corporal Alfred PAYNE M.M.	1 December 1917	Sawtry
Private Harry James BUTT	30 December 1917	Glatton
Private Walter HODSON	30 December 1917	Sawtry

### JANUARY

Private Frederick ROSE	7 January 1916	Winwick
Private Charles JARVIS	21 January 1917	Hamerton
Bombardier Thomas Eric DRING	25 January 1942	Sawtry

### THOSE FROM WORLD WAR 1 WHOSE DATE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN

Private B. BURROWS	Holme
Private C. BURTON	Holme
L. HOWE	Hamerton
James JARVIS	Old Weston
A. SMITH	Winwick
Harry TURNER	Old Weston

### THOSE FROM WORLD WAR 2 WHOSE DATE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN

Sergeant Edward CHAMBERS	Old Weston
John Thomas COLBERT	Sawtry

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

### Sawtry Chorale Christmas Concerts cont'd.../...

#### Sawtry, All Saints Church - Saturday, 12th December 2009 - 7.30 pm

Full concert composed of carols and festive songs, with many familiar tunes, some with a slightly different twist to them!

Tickets - available from Gary on 01487 832949 or 07868 195697 - £7.00 full price, £5.00 concessions (unwaged, OAPs and children).

#### Leighton Bromswold, St Mary's Church - Friday, 18th December 2009 - 8.00 pm

Full concert composed of carols and festive songs, with many familiar tunes, some with a slightly different twist to them!

Tickets - available from Penny on 01480 890992 or penny@dougandpenny.co.uk - all tickets £5.00 (including mince pies and mulled wine!).

## Sawtry Methodist Church

Green End Road, Sawtry, Tel 01480 819228

### Sunday Services

Morning Worship at 10.30am  
 Sunday School at 10.30am  
 Evening Communion at 6.00pm  
 (first Sunday of the month)

### SPECIAL SERVICES

#### All Age Worship

20 December - 10.30am  
 Led by the Mid-week Fellowship Group

#### Carols by Candlelight

20 December - 6pm  
 Led by Rev Pam Siddall

#### Christmas Day

10.30am  
 United family service at All Saints Church

#### Covenant Service

10 January - 10.30am  
 Led by Rev Pam Siddall

#### All Age Worship

17 January - 10.30am  
 Led by Rosemary Marchant

#### United Service

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
 31 January - 4pm  
 Followed by shared tea

*Come and join us*

### Saturday Coffee Morning

9.30 – 11 am  
 with Cakes, Traidcraft goods & bric-a-brac on sale  
*All proceeds towards the building fund*

## All Saints' Parish Church

Church Causeway, Sawtry

### FUNDRAISING AND SOCIAL EVENTS

#### Saturday December 12th at 7.30 pm Sawtry Chorale in Concert

Do come to hear the brilliant music of our local choir. Tickets £7, Concessions £5.00, Under 16s Free. Tickets and information, contact Gary Crack 01487 832949

#### Saturday January 23rd at 7.30 All Saints Quiz Night

In the Old School Hall. Tickets £6.50 to include supper. Please bring your own drinks. Tickets and information, contact Gary Crack 01487 832949

## All Saints' Parish Church

Church Causeway, Sawtry

### SUNDAY SERVICES

December 2009

6<sup>th</sup> 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 am Christingle Service for all the family  
 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Holy Communion  
 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Family Nativity Service  
 6.00 pm Service of 9 Lessons and Carols including mulled wine and mince pies  
 24<sup>th</sup> 11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion  
 25<sup>th</sup> 9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 am Christmas United Family Worship  
 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Carols for All - sing your favourite carol

January 2010

3<sup>rd</sup> 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 10.30 am Family Worship  
 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Holy Communion  
 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Morning Prayer  
 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am Holy Communion  
 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30 am "Thank you Sunday" & Songs of Praise

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Do join us for any of the services over the Christmas period. Specially our Family Nativity and Service of 9 Lessons and Carols on 20<sup>th</sup> and Midnight Communion and United Service on Christmas Eve and Day. Come as you are and you will be so welcome!

### SAS SUNDAY CLUB

For all children aged 4 - 10 meet on December 13 and January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 10.15 am at the Rectory.

### SEEKERS CLUB

For Young People aged 11 plus, meet on December 4 in Church.

### BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUPS

Meet on Wednesdays at 7.45 pm on January 6 & 20 and Thursdays at 10.15 am on January 7 & 21. We do not meet in December.

### SATURDAY OPENING

The Church is open every Saturday from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Do come along and see your Church and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat - a warm welcome awaits you.

#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS

**RING THE RECTOR: Canon Malcolm Griffith  
 830215**

Website: [www.sawtryallsaintschurch.co.uk](http://www.sawtryallsaintschurch.co.uk)

*There is always a warm  
 welcome at All Saints'.*

# St Nicholas Parish Church

Church Road, Glatton  
SUNDAY SERVICES

## DECEMBER 2009

6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Family Carols and Nativity
24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 pm	Midnight Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Carols for All - sing your favourite carol

## JANUARY 2010

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.00 am	Morning Prayer (BCP)
10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)

### St Nicholas New Year's Lunch 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Do come and join our lunch in the Village Hall. Tickets £10 from Roger and Shirley Dewar at The Lawns 831651. All profits will go to the repair fund.

### Carol Singing around the Village 20<sup>th</sup> December

Meet at St Georges Glatton Hall at 7.00 pm. All money raised to the "Our Father's House" Project for street children in Brazil.

### Glatton Adventurers for 4 - 11s

Children are welcome to join this group which meets on December 6 and January 3 in Glatton Village Hall at 10.30 am. More details from Shirley Dewar - 831651.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING THE RECTOR: Canon Malcolm Griffith  
Tel: 01487 830215 Email: rev.griffith@tiscali.co.uk

## Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Luke's

serving the Parish Church of Saint Luke's, Peterborough  
26 Benyon Grove, Orton Malborne, Peterborough. PE2 5XS

St. Benedict's Community, Sawtry (Women's Institute Hall, Gidding Rd, Sawtry)  
St Bartholomew's Community, Yaxley and the Hampton's

Parish Priest: Fr. John Warrington, 14 Sellers Grange, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5XX  
☎01733 370877; email: saintlukesparish@yahoo.co.uk; Website: www.saintlukesparish.org.uk

### SERVICES AND EVENTS

Each Saturday: First Mass of Sunday 6pm at St Luke's Church

#### Each Sunday: Sunday Masses

9.15am at the Women's Institute Hall, Gidding Rd, Sawtry  
& 11am at St Luke's Church (inc special liturgy for Children)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: Morning Prayer at 9.40am at St Luke's Church

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: Mass at 10am at St Luke's Church

Saturday: Mass at 9am at St Luke's Church

For further information please take a look at our Website at [www.saintlukesparish.org.uk](http://www.saintlukesparish.org.uk) and click on Parish News

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

First Mass of Sunday - 6pm at St Luke's Church

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December - Sunday Masses

9.15am at the Women's Institute Hall, Gidding Rd, Sawtry &

11am at St Luke's Church (inc special liturgy for Children)

Christmas Eve - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Children's Christmas Mass - 6pm at St Luke's Church

Service of Carols & Readings

11.30pm at St Luke's Church

Christmas Day - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Midnight Mass at St Luke's Church

Masses for Christmas Morning

9.15am at the Women's Institute Hall, Gidding Rd, Sawtry & 11am at St Luke's Church

*Wishing you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year*



## Grafham Watch Group

[www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk)

Grafham Watch Group meets on the second Sunday of every month from 10.30 – 12.30 in the Wildlife Trust Classroom, Grafham Water Nature Reserve, The Lodge, West Perry, Cambridgeshire, PE28 0BX,

The Watch Group is part of the Wildlife Trust and is aimed at children aged between 8 and 13. We try to provide fun ways of learning about wildlife. This includes things such as: pond dipping and identification of pond life; trees and woodland habitats; bird food – observing what birds eat and making bird food; and using arts, crafts and games to illustrate what we learn.

All sessions are supervised by Watch leaders registered with the Wildlife Trust and involve some outside and inside activities.

If you would like to receive more information, please contact: Debbie McKenzie at Grafham Wildlife Classroom on 01480 811075.

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

Registered Charity No: 1000412



## Wildlife Trust - Huntingdonshire Local Group

[www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk)

### Spitsbergen – Birds, Polar Bears and Arctic Dreams - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Our speaker, Ian Rowlands, worked for the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts before moving to Scotland in 1989, where, he co-founded the tour company Speyside Wildlife. Ian is currently based in southern England, where he is a co-owner of the company Planet Whale and is a committee member of the whale and dolphin charity ORCA.

### Coral Reef or Carol Grief - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2010

This will be given by Frances Dipper, who is an independent marine consultant, photographer and author. Frances has written numerous books and articles on marine biology and the ocean environment for both adults and children. She has extensive first hand experience of studying marine life in the UK, the Middle East and the Far East. In addition, Frances is a qualified diving instructor, expedition leader, lecturer and research associate with the Natural History Museum.

### All meetings start at 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton.

Anyone interested in wildlife is most welcome to attend. Admission: £2.00 members; £2.50 non-members. Please visit the web site for more information [www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/](http://www.wildlifetrust-huntsareagroup.org.uk/) or contact George on 01480 450809.

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

Registered Charity No: 1000412



**CAT FOOD NEEDED URGENTLY** - For the first time in our 8 year history, we ran out of food in September and had to delay the food drop for the 140 outdoor, stray and feral cats. We had to resort to emergency funding to purchase more which takes funds away from our vitally important free neutering campaign.

We urgently need to replenish our supplies of donated cat food. We have many local drop off points, please email for your nearest or you can drop food into our charity shop in Cross Keys Mall, St Neots.

**OUTDOOR/GARDEN/FERAL HOMES NEEDED** - Our cat pens are at present full and several pens are taken up with cats and youngsters who will never make suitable house pets. They have never been socialised or are extremely nervous. Some may come close and be stroked and others will let you get only so close. These cats make excellent mousers and provide a beautiful natural pest control service.

We urgently need homes with land, small holdings, farms, stables or depots to re-locate these cats. All that is needed is a dry shelter and regular food. They will need to be secured for 2 weeks to ensure they remain where we place them (we can assist with this if necessary).

**FREE NEUTERING SCHEME** - We still have funds available to offer free neutering, please put the word around. If you know of any unneutered cats, please get their owners to contact us. We cover the full cost of neutering and transport in some cases.

Please do not hesitate to contact Lesley Horlock or Dawn Cooke at anytime by email to [dawn.cowtan@ntlworld.com](mailto:dawn.cowtan@ntlworld.com) or phone 01480 476696 or visit our website at <http://stneots.cats.org.uk/>

## PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO HELP SHAPE HINCHINGBROOKE HOSPITAL'S FUTURE

The first edition of 'Next Steps News' was launched in November to encourage the public to get involved in shaping the future of Hinchingbrooke hospital. NHS East of England, NHS Cambridgeshire and Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust are working together to find a franchise partner to manage the hospital, and want members of the public to comment on proposals and feed their own ideas into the process.

This unique process proposes that the clinical and non-clinical services at Hinchingbrooke hospital - other than where identified below - will be provided via an operating franchise agreement with an experienced healthcare provider from the NHS, independent or third sectors. This proposal will ensure that a full range of high quality acute hospital services - including accident and emergency and maternity services - will continue to be provided for local people at Hinchingbrooke, as agreed at the end of the public consultation process on Hinchingbrooke in 2007.

The first edition of 'Next Steps News' gives a thorough background on why changes are needed at the hospital and answers some frequently asked questions, confirming, for example, that staff and assets will remain within the NHS. The newsletter also poses a number of specific questions which the public are encouraged to feed back on. These include: "What innovations to healthcare services would you like to see at Hinchingbrooke hospital?" and "What would good performance or innovation by the franchisee look like for patients?"

David Monks is Chief Executive of Huntingdonshire District Council and Chairman of the Hinchingbrooke Next Steps stakeholder panel. He said: "The role of the public in helping shape Hinchingbrooke hospital's future cannot be under-estimated and I am openly and genuinely inviting people to get in touch and feed in their ideas and suggestions."

The 12 page newsletter is available to download online at [www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects](http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects) , or by calling freephone number 0800 923 3001.

## HUNTINGDON MALE VOICE CHOIR

Take 60 men from every walk of life, a talented lady accompanist, a dedicated focussed musical director, put them together each week in the historic surroundings of Hinchingbrooke House for two hours or intensive choral singing, and you have the ingredients for what is the highly acclaimed Huntingdon Male Voice Choir.

Since its formation in the 1960's the choir has performed in concert venues large and small, Cathedrals, Churches, Village Halls, and Concert Halls, Competitions and Festivals. Musical director Peter Davies, supported by "The only lady in the choir" accompanist Colet Patmore Hill ensure that the choir achieves its target of "Singing to the highest possible standard"

Peter Davies who is in his fifteenth year as Musical Director has seen the choir go from strength to strength in recent years as has his own profile in the world of choral development, Peter is a member of "The Association Of British Choral Directors" Director of "The Cornwall International Choral Festival" and is in demand to adjudicate at festivals and competitions, across the UK and most recently in Russia.

Peter combines his musical work with the running of his own computer based business. Colet Patmore Hill joined the choir as accompanist in 2008 and is a gifted pianist and instrumentalist who combine's the teaching of music with a busy family life. Colet has quickly established a wonderful rapport with the members of the choir and she has become an essential part of the HMVC success story.

Should you wish to see the choir in performance then these are the dates for your diary,

**"Rotary Christmas Function"**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December - Commemoration Hall Huntingdon

**"Carols at Huntingdon Station"**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December - 6.00pm - All Proceeds to "Spring of Hope Charity"

**Concert at Saint Mary the Virgin Church Godmanchester**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January - 7.30pm - In aid of "Help the Heroes" and "The New Life Appeal" for the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Special Care Baby Unit. Supporting The Mayor of Godmanchester's fundraising

With further monthly concerts throughout 2010 culminating with HMVC appearing at The Royal Albert Hall in October as part of "The London Welsh Male Voice Festival" featuring massed choirs from across the country, the coming year will be an exciting time to be part of Huntingdon Male Voice Choir. Joining is easy, if you're male, twenties upward, enjoy singing and are free on Thursday nights, you can be part of this vibrant choir. Contact Chairman Sam Bratby 01487 830689 or Paul Dyer 01480 891189 or visit our website [www.hmvc.org.uk](http://www.hmvc.org.uk) for further details.

**Tony Slingsby HMVC 01480 218331**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

All information has been taken from the Citizens Advice Bureaux website at <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk>.

**Changes to the vehicle scrappage scheme**

The government has expanded the vehicle scrappage scheme. The vehicle scrappage scheme is a voluntary scheme for motor dealers. If a dealer is part of the scheme they'll give you £2,000 off a new vehicle if you let them scrap your old one.

A car registered on or before 29 February 2000 now qualifies for the scheme. That's a car with a V registration or older.

The scheme for vans has also been extended. A van registered on or before 28 February 2002 now qualifies for the scheme. That means that vans eight years or older now qualify for the scheme.

The scrappage scheme will finish in February 2010, or when its budget runs out, whichever happens sooner.

You can find more information about the vehicle scrappage scheme on the Directgov website at: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk).

**Help make welfare benefits fairer**

- **Benefit claimants**

We want to hear from you if you're out of work and getting benefits. We'd like to hear about your experiences of back-to-work interviews at the Jobcentre Plus, so we can tell the government what they're getting wrong and how to make changes for the better.

To find out more and take our survey, go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

- **Tax credit customers**

Have you got an outstanding tax credit overpayment debt from 2003/04 or 2004/05?

We're asking people with tax credit debts from these tax years to consider challenging recovery of their overpayments. This could lead to your debt being written off. And, if enough people challenge old tax credit overpayments, it could persuade the government to write these debts off altogether.

To find out more, go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk).

**Benefit changes will mean many claimants are better off**

The following benefit changes have come into force:

- the amount of savings ignored will increase from £6,000 to £10,000 for calculating Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for most people aged 60 or over
- Child Benefit income will be ignored for calculating Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit for most working age people

If you get Pension Credit, you could be up to £8 a week better off. The change will also mean that some people who previously did not qualify for Pension Credit will now get some help.

It is estimated that 200,000 families will be better off as a result of Child Benefit not being used for calculating Housing Benefit. The change will also mean that some people who previously did not qualify for Housing Benefit will now get some help.

If you want to check whether you're entitled to benefits, you can use the Directgov Benefits adviser at: [www.directgov.uk](http://www.directgov.uk). If you think you may now qualify for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, you should make a claim to your local authority.

If you think you may now qualify for Pension Credit, you can contact the national telephone helpline for Pension Credit which is 0800 99 1234 (textphone 0800 169 0133).

**For more information please contact Huntingdon Citizens' Advice Bureaux on 01480 388900**

**OVER STATE PENSION AGE?**

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE NOT MISSING OUT ON BENEFIT ENTITLEMENT.**

**From 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 the amount of capital that is disregarded for the purpose of establishing entitlement to Pension Credit is rising from £6,000 to £10,000.**

Some of you may have previously decided not to claim Pension Credit because you thought your savings were too high but as you see circumstances can change and you may now have entitlement to Pension Credit or other benefits.

The Local Pension Service (LPS), part of the Government's Department for Work and Pensions, can offer people over 60 years of age a full confidential benefit entitlement check in their own home.

We think it is always worth someone checking to make sure they are not missing out on some or all of the following benefits:

**Council Tax Benefit / Attendance Allowance / Pension Credit / Disability Living Allowance  
Carers Allowance / Other related benefits**

**If you would like to arrange a visit please give us a call on 01223 545374**

## INDIVIDUALS GIVEN CHOICE AND CONTROL OVER THEIR SOCIAL CARE



Cambridgeshire  
County Council

A surprisingly large number of adults need some form of help in their day-to-day life. More than 1.5 million people in England use social care services. In Cambridgeshire there are over 16,000 adults who receive social care. This could be due to learning or physical disabilities, poor mental health, or other age-related conditions. Until recently, accessing social care has typically meant receiving one of a small number of pre-commissioned services. Now that is changing.

Self-Directed Support is a new way of providing social care to adults living in Cambridgeshire and eligible for support. It involves identifying a Personal Budget, an upfront allocation of funding. This is designed to help people take control over their lives, identify their own needs and the things they want to do and, if they wish, to manage their own support – with help if they need it.

In Cambridgeshire, Self-Directed Support is being introduced slowly over a two-year period. It began with a launch and introduction for adults with a learning disability in April 2009, followed by a roll-out to individuals with a physical disability at the end of June.

For adults over 65, because of the numbers involved, a phased introduction of Self-Directed Support for older people and older people with mental health need is being implemented. It began in Fenland in September and will continue for older people and older people with mental health need in Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire from November, and those living in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City from early 2010. Self-Directed Support will be introduced for adults under 65 with mental health need from early 2010.

Those eligible for support for the first time will go through the system as it changes, whilst those already receiving services will be able to discuss the new approach at their next review. There will be various ways to take a Personal Budget for those who do not want to receive the money directly as a Direct Payment. In some cases individuals may also be expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their social care.

Claire Bruin is Director of Adult Support Services at Cambridgeshire County Council, she says: *“Self-Directed Support enables individuals to identify their own needs. It allows them to say what they want to do and what they want to achieve. The challenge for us (County Council and NHS Partners<sup>1</sup>) is to support innovation in the ways that people meet their needs. A Personal Budget will enable them to do this.”*

If you think you are eligible for social care support you should call Cambridgeshire Direct on 0345 045 5202 and ask for an assessment.

More information about Self-Directed Support is available on the County Council's website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social/selfdirectedsupport/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social/selfdirectedsupport/) by emailing [in.controltotal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:in.controltotal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or by calling 01223 699650.

<sup>1</sup> NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Community Services, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

## COPE Forum (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise)

COPE speaks up on issues affecting the over 50's, such as free bus travel, post offices and pensions. It is a self-help group and registered Charity, run by its members. COPE currently has a registered individual membership of nearly 2,500 living in Cambridgeshire. Membership is free. COPE informs members with regular free Newsletters, and meetings with keynote speakers and a "Question Time" session. COPE **aims** to alleviate loneliness, promote active ageing and encourage isolated members to attend our social events.

Our Research team have produced easy to read leaflets with local information on Benefits, Bereavement, Elder Abuse, Homecare, Housing, Medication, Pensions, Personal Safety, Public Transport, and Useful Local Telephone Numbers.

Reasons why people join COPE:

- To meet like minded people with similar interests
- To go on organised trips to theatre, shows and other places of interest for educational or just fun. Scrabble, quiz, pub lunch and walks run by members for members.
- Monthly Newsletters full of information and interesting articles, in simple language and no jargon – a good easy read – with recipes, jokes – a very informative 'Did you know' corner and interaction with membership through the snippets page

If you would like a COPE member to come to talk to your Over 50's club or group please phone the COPE Secretary on 01223 364303 or Gerald Collins on 01480 370808. To learn more please take a look at our website [www.cambridgecope50.org](http://www.cambridgecope50.org) or email [cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk)

## **ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE - A Thought for Christmas**

With the all the understandable attention that is being given to the tragic death of Baby P, and the awful failings of the child protection system, it is easy to think that this is the only area where abuse has continued without robust intervention. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Every day adults are also experiencing horrendous abuses - a Government sponsored report last year conservatively suggested that as many as 342,000 older people each year suffer such abuse, including physical and sexual assault, fraud and theft, psychological abuse and neglect. And sadly, in some cases, they die horrible deaths. Most people would be unaware that the law, under which those responsible for the death of Baby P were charged, was drafted as a consequence of the abuse of 78 year old Margaret Panting. She died covered in bruises, with cuts that the coroner said could only have been made with something like a razor blade.

When people think about the abuse of older people, they often assume that it only happens in residential homes. But the vast majority of abuse (67%) actually happens in people's own homes, perpetrated by family, friends and neighbours. There is a 'silent scream' within our communities, from older people too frightened or isolated or powerless to speak out. We want to believe older people are safe and secure - and we are usually right. But sometimes we ignore the obvious abuse next door because we cannot believe it is happening.

But sadly our Government does not rush to the defence of adults in such situations. No Government Minister demands urgent reviews or reports. And no new laws are dramatically brought in as a consequence. When 39 year Steven Hoskin, a young man with significant Learning Disabilities, was forced to his death from a railway viaduct by supposed friends, it caused not a single political ruffle. The torture and abuse that he suffered in the hours leading up to his death did not trigger Government intervention, despite a catalogue of failures by the protective systems.

For the rest of the UK, while we have legislation to protect children, to intervene in domestic violence situations, and even to protect animals, we have no equivalent to protect our old people and other adults in need of such support.

The death of a child is an awful thing. But so is the unlawful killing of a vulnerable adult. And you feel pain just as much at 78 years as you do at 8 years. So let us be as righteously angry over Margaret Panting and Steven Hoskin as we are about Victoria Climbié or Baby P. And let us expect an equality of action from our Government.

And, when you get your cards this Christmas, dwell a moment on the fact that Rudolph is protected in law from abuse. While Santa is not!

Further information can be found on our website at [www.elderabuse.org.uk](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk) or call the helpline on 08088088141 (open Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm).

## **Huntingdonshire Citizens Advice Bureau**

Whilst many people have experienced our service (over 7,000 people have used the Citizens Advice Bureau in Huntingdonshire during the past year), others may wonder what kind of advice we give. The subjects we give advice on include, debt, benefits, employment, housing, and consumer issues, with the first three of these accounting for more than half. If you are having any difficulty with these sorts of issues, it's a good idea to get along to the Citizens Advice Bureau sooner rather than later. We are a problem-solving organisation, giving advice independently, impartially and confidentially.

The Citizens Advice Bureau also gives excellent opportunities for volunteering. If you volunteer to be an adviser, you will get full training before you are asked to advise people directly and you will get further training throughout. However, there are many other ways you can help – as an administrator, or receptionist; helping with our IT, or building maintenance. We particularly need a few people with management/financial experience to join our Trustee Board (also volunteers) who take ultimate responsibility for running the Huntingdonshire Bureau.

We are a registered charity and our main source of funding is from Huntingdonshire District Council, with grants also coming from the County Council and a number of Town and Parish Councils. Although there are grant-awarding bodies like the Lottery Fund, these give short-term funding for special projects. We need to grow to meet the need for advice we know exists and we would like to receive more funding from local individuals, organisations and companies.

If you can help as a volunteer, or financially, please contact Charles Looker ([charles.looker@virgin.net](mailto:charles.looker@virgin.net), or 01480 453270).

Your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau services are:

6 All Saints Passage, HUNTINGDON PE29 3LE	Drop-in	Mon – Thurs 9.30am – 12.30pm
	Appointments	Mon – Thurs 12.30pm – 15.30pm
Community Information Centre Unit 7, Malting Square, Broadway Shopping Centre, YAXLEY PE7 3JJ	Specialist Advice	Mon – Thurs by appointment
	Tel: 388900	Mon – Thurs 11.00pm – 3.30pm
		Wed 2.00pm – 4.00pm

## 'TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS'

Below Trading Standards offers a few snippets of advice to ensure nothing takes the shine off this special time of year.

**Twelve Dodgy Dealers:** Always look to buy from a reputable trader that you know you will be able to get in touch with again if you have problems with anything you have bought. Be wary of street traders selling gold jewellery, DVDs and other novelty items. For internet purchases check out the location and history of the trader and consider payment by PayPal or another secure payment system.

**Eleven Stocking Fillers:** You are not entitled to receive a refund on unwanted gifts and are reliant on the trader's goodwill for refunds. It is therefore advisable to check their returns policy before buying an item which will be given as a gift.

**Ten Lights are Melting:** Make sure fairy lights are CE marked. This shows that they have been tested to ensure they meet safety standards. If you are getting old lights down from the loft, consider getting them tested by an electrician.

**Nine Faulty Presents:** Always examine presents as soon as you can and take any defective goods back immediately. The sooner you take them back, the more rights you have.

**Eight Shops a Shutting:** At Christmas time, empty shops are often temporarily let to traders offering cheap goods. They may be of poor quality and the trader will usually have closed down after Christmas. If the goods are faulty, you may have difficulty finding the trader later.

**Seven Cards a Swiping:** Use a credit card to pay for goods costing more than £100. You may have extra protection if things go wrong.

**Six Festive Bargains:** Don't be too hasty to grab a bargain. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**Five Doorbells Ringing:** Beware of doorstep sellers. Once you let them in, you can find yourself subjected to a 'hard sell'. Furthermore, many unscrupulous traders trade in this way, failing to provide the necessary cancellation rights, failing to supply what you have paid for or being untraceable in the case of problems. Always shop around before making the decision to buy and try to buy from traders you know you can trust.

**Four Vouchers Dated:** Check the expiry dates if you are buying gift vouchers as a present. Many will have an expiry date and may be worthless if not used in time.

**Three Guarantees:** Your rights under the law provide you with a remedy if you are sold faulty or mis-described goods, and you do not need a guarantee or warranty to make such a claim against the seller. However, some guarantees and warranties add to the protection that you receive in law, so read them carefully before making your choice.

**Two Turkey Dinners:** Check use by and best before dates on all perishable food you buy over the festive period. If you are in any doubt about the safety of any food product do not eat it.

**One mountain of receipts:** Keep all the receipts for the presents you buy. It will be difficult to make a claim for faulty or mis-described goods, or even arrange a return within the shops policies, if you do not have proof of purchase.

If you have any consumer problems then our partner organisation, Consumer Direct, can provide you with comprehensive advice. You can contact Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

## **SAWTRY GIRLS CHOSEN FOR FA SESSION**

All the hard work over the past 2 years developing girls' football at Sawtry Colts Football Club was rewarded by Huntingdonshire Football Association when the club was offered the opportunity to attend a training session to be run by Tessa Payne, the FA's Regional Coaches Development Manager (5-11 year olds).

Steve Purnell (Manager U8 & U11 Girls) welcomed the idea with open arms and on 19<sup>th</sup> October 15 girls from the Sawtry Colts U10, U11 & U12 girls' teams were lucky enough to participate in this Huntingdonshire FA Coaches Association In-Service Training Event.

The girls were treated to a one and a half hour training session focusing on 'Setting Up Attacks To Score' run by Tessa Payne.

After a short warm up the girls worked on their 1v1 attacking technique before moving into a 3v1 skill session. This was followed by a zonal attacking drill which created 3v2 into 2v1 situations.

If you would like further details about opportunities for girls to play football at Sawtry Colts FC you can contact the clubs Football Development Officer, Steve Purnell, on 07964 496259 or [steve.purnell@sawtrycolts.org](mailto:steve.purnell@sawtrycolts.org) or you can find more details at [www.sawtrycolts.co.uk](http://www.sawtrycolts.co.uk)

## **S A W T R Y C R I C K E T C L U B**

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Club, the following officers were elected:

**Chairman: Dick Tuplin (01487 830095) / Vice-Chairman: Andy Fowler (07736543336)**  
**Secretary: Mrs. Diane Burcham (01487 834699) / Treasurer: Richard Spencer (01487 830837)**

Membership fees for playing members next season:-

**Seniors = £35 + £6 match fee/tea / 16-18yr. olds = £20 + £4 match fee/tea**

A combined membership/training fee package is available for Juniors, details from the Secretary.



## SAWTRY LADIES HOCKEY CLUB

After a fantastic Season in 2008/09 Sawtry Ladies were promoted to the Premiership Division of Cambridgeshire Ladies Hockey League. We started with a little trepidation as to what the season of 2009/10 would have in store for us, yet we soon started to rise to the challenge.

The season began with some tough games against Market Deeping, resulting in two loses. The first win of the year came against our main competitors from last year, Saffron Walden, finishing with a final score of 2-1. The following week we travelled to St Ives, to play their 2<sup>nds</sup> team. They were positioned at the top of the table with no loses to their name as of yet. We went out onto the pitch extremely determined and played some great hockey scoring four goals. Unfortunately due to an injury of one of our main defence and the speed of the opposition, St Ives managed to score three more goals, resulting in a 4-4 draw.

The following three matches after that consisted of a win, a loss and a draw. In the most recent match that was played, on writing this article, we played Newmarket 1<sup>sts</sup>. A notoriously tough opposition for us and with no reserves the atmosphere in the changing room was slightly nervous. However once the whistle went we stepped up to the mark and put the new skills we had learnt on Thursday evening training to practice. Working in three's in a triangle formation we worked our way up the pitch resulting in four goals being scored. The goal scorers were Annika Welman (2), Sophie Rookes and Natasha Darrington. Newmarket still managed to put the pressure in the defence, however due to some great saves (including a penalty flick) from goalie Karen Whatley, they only managed to score one goal. This result means that we are positioned well in the League for the approach to the halfway point of Christmas.

We are all thoroughly enjoying our debut in the Premiership Division. As a team we are always happy to welcome new players. We train on Thursday evenings from 8-9pm, on the astro turf at Bushfields Sports Centre in Orton, Peterborough, and then play matches on Saturdays. If you are interested in joining us call Karen on 07834 776815.

## SAWTRY & DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB

So we come to the end of another bowling year: this is the time when the club is handed over to the new committee and officers, and we all look forward to next season, when we that each new year will be more successful than the previous one!

Development of the clubhouse continues apace, with the installation of the new double glazed windows and door throughout the clubhouse and changing rooms. The changing rooms will be decorated and some heating put in during the close season.

The club had another successful season on the green. Both men and ladies had considerable success in the county competitions with several winners who represented the club at the National EBF Championships at Skegness and three ladies played at the National EBWA Championships at Leamington Spa. The League teams had varied success, with the Over 60's Teams coming out best - the 'B Team' winning their division and the 'A Team' losing top spot by a single point. The juniors had a good season, and the club was complimented on their conduct and presentation at county competitions and games - well done lads and lasses! It all bodes well for the future of the club.

The club championships were well organised, thanks once again to Kevin; new members and juniors were very prominent and gave a good account of themselves; I can attest to that having struggled to a single point win over a junior, and I was very lucky to get that! The subsequent dinner/dance gave several new members the opportunity to come up and collect their trophies. It is always good to see new faces step forward - as usual Kevin kept things rolling along with much wit and good deal of humour - it makes for a very lively evening! The evening was well attended by club members and friends from other clubs in the area - it's good to meet them in more social circumstances, rather than in the competitive atmosphere of the green.

Don't forget the social side of the club continues through the winter, and Geoff says that he will be fit for the Christmas Lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, followed by another 'Burns Night' in January.

Geoff Osborne took over as Club President at the AGM, together with the new committee, and we wish them well for the new year.

As this is the last missive before the new year, I would like to wish you all a 'Happy and Prosperous New Year'

**KIP**

For more information please call Mick Rayson on 01487 830720