



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVII Number 11

November 2013



## Editorial

Congratulations Sylvie Short, who after five long years of labour has finally finished her definitive text on Swaffham Prior: *Two Churches Together: A History of Swaffham Prior*. There was standing room only at the Book Launch in the

Village Hall, but not to worry if you missed it, because Sylvie plans to be coming to St Cyriac's in December (see her letter). For her research, Sylvie not only interviewed countless village residents but also ploughed through 400 Criers (kindly supplied by Ruth Stinton, who's kept the lot) — this woman needs a medal!

Of course, the very last thing anyone would think of doing after purchasing this book would be to scan through all the pages with a fine tooth comb looking for anything to do with *them*, ahem, so naturally this is the very last thing we did, before we went to bed on the night of the launch, and we can say that editors past and present will be relieved to find that any embarrassing intemperate remarks that originated from this page are all down to Cliff Curtiss, Historic Editor of

the Swaffham Crier: it's all his fault, and long may this situation last!

Meanwhile, life marches on in our little village, and the dreaded Wheelie Bins have arrived — but they're quite fun! When you get the hang of it... The Village Website has a copy of the collection rota if you forget

No Halloweeners for us *again* this year — where were you all? Well, one consequence of this is that the Book Club, happening as it does on the first Wednesday in November, gets to sample all the gummy sweets again. Delicious....

The Harvest Supper was brilliant, congratulations to all involved, we loved the bunting! Don't forget, Advent by Candlelight mince pies — see you there!

*Caroline Matheson*

Cover Picture: *The Nook* by Hannah Webb

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **THE SWAFFHAM PRIOR BOOK**

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the launch and to be able to have a chat - albeit a brief one - with friends old and new - thank you so much for coming. I have been told that several people would still like to buy a copy and have been asked if I will come back to the village before Christmas to sell some more - which I will. I need to arrange this, so details will be available in the December magazine. If, however you would like your copy before that, the price of the book is 18.00 plus 3.00 post and package - (21.00).

Cheques are payable to Mrs. S.A. Short and my address is 'Coach House', 49, Town Street, Upwell, Nr. Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9DA.

Tel:01945 774443. Alternatively, email me at [sylvietoat@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sylvietoat@tiscali.co.uk)

*Sylvie Short*

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Dear Editors,

### **Village Hall Bookings**

My brother passed away last week. Having lived in Swaffham Prior for 50 years my sister in law enquired about hiring the village hall for a little 'do' after his funeral. She telephoned to find out if the hall was available.

The response was very abrupt and she was told the hall was not available. Obviously that is acceptable but the attitude on the telephone was not. It was very curt, abrupt and generally very fierce and to speak to someone in a very unkind manner who has just lost her husband it not nice.

I hate to complain but my sister in law was very upset and hurt. It's a wonder they get any bookings with that kind of attitude on the phone.

*Sandra Butcher*

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Dear Editors,

### **The Woollards and the Witts**

In an otherwise excellent report of the Parish Council's September meeting, Alastair Everitt has, quite understandably, got the names of some of my Swaffham Prior relatives somewhat muddled.

My family is honoured that anyone should think it appropriate that one of the new roads into the planned new development off Rogers Road might be named 'Woollard Way' (or 'Woollard Walk?'). My great uncle, Charles Yorke Woollard (1877 - 1932), owned The Manor House and Farm (including the relevant field). This was after he lived at Anglesey House (as a predecessor of Mr Everitt himself). I have no desire for any road to be named after me, but my great uncle, who was a Parish and Rural District Councillor as well as a member of the Newmarket Board of Guardians, does appear appropriate to be commemorated.

A much earlier resident of The Manor House who also farmed the relevant field and much more was Matthew Witt (1765 - 1824) who was married to Sarah Woollard (1766 - 1851), my gggg aunt. So far as I am aware, this couple were respectable and respected. They had a family of eight sons and one daughter. Their fifth son was George Witt (1804 - 1869). This gentleman, who was my first cousin four times removed, went into medicine and was educated at St. Bart's Hospital in London and the University of Leyden. He practised as a physician and surgeon at Bedford Hospital. It was at Bedford that he became an alderman, the town's mayor and a magistrate. He also became a Fellow of the Royal Society. Dr. George Witt went out to New South Wales for a few years. He was there involved with the old Bank of New South Wales and became very wealthy. Dr. Witt returned to London and lived in some style at Princes' Terrace, Hyde Park, but, when he died, he came 'home' and is buried in the family tomb in our churchyard.

It is Dr. George Witt whose name often comes up nowadays as he formed a collection of phallic symbols and other items, which collection he presented to the British Museum. The collection and Dr. Witt have been in the news again recently and it is only necessary to enter the words 'Dr. George Witt' in Google to find out why.

It was in order to commemorate the respectable and respected Matthew Witt (and not his son, Dr. George Witt) that I proposed that one of the new roads into the planned new development off Rogers Road might be named 'Witt Way' (or 'Witt Walk'?).

And, yes, the September meeting of Swaffham Prior Parish Council was a good one.

*Geoffrey Woollard.*

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Dear Editors,

### **And More.....**

On the subject of the Dencora field development and the new road names, I'm surprised no one suggested 'Witt's End'.

*Ophir Catling*  
Skye

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Dear Editors,

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

An enormous thank you to everybody who came, sent donations and made cakes as we made the amazing sum of **£575!** The cake stall, run by Margaræt Joyce, and the Raffle, run by Robin, certainly helped to raise more funds and I am very grateful to them both. We didn't have quite as many people as in previous years but those that came spent generously and had more time for chat. Several people commented on the lovely atmosphere. All in all it was a very enjoyable morning and we raised lots of money for such a worthy cause.

Thank you very much to everybody and I look forward to seeing you again at next year's coffee morning.

*Ruth Scovil*

Dear Editors,

## **SWAFFHAM PRIOR PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

I would ask that you reply as soon as possible.

The majority of applicants come from our pensioners in particular those who have to manage on the state pension.

If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

*Mrs Pam Waters Clerk to the Trustees*

31 Tothill Road Swaffham Prior Cambridge CB25 0JX Tel 0163 8 74103 5

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## **From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting**

The Parish Council Committee was in an extraordinary good mood and rattled through the business in a way that would be a model for any other committee. And for once the minutes of the previous meeting were approved without any quibble.

David Brown gave his usual efficient presentation and there were no questions until he mentioned the proposed A14 development, costing £15 billion, might need to have a contribution from local funds. Then all the doubts were expressed about the toll road, the demolition of the Huntingdon Viaduct, and so on. David was dealing with this and then Allen Alderson intervened. He claimed that not everyone was opposed to the toll at £1 or £1.50 per car, with £2.50 for lorries (if they remained at this level), and that the viaduct had passed its sell by date already. His main point was that it is very easy to oppose, but that something has to be done as the A14 is currently at crisis point, that the project will not begin until 2016 and will take a few years to complete, by which time the A14 could be intolerable. Stop dithering and get it done he pleaded. Just as the last Labour Government should have stopped dithering over nuclear power, something that will shortly land us in a frightful energy crisis, which no amount of windmills and solar panels will resolve.



Allen's concern about the increased traffic on the A14 was matched by the PC's concern to have additional parking spaces on the already spacious proposed Dencora development. The good news is that Allen has spoken to a knowledgeable ECDC official and it seems possible that some of the open space may be used for car parking. Later in the meeting it was suggested that if people do not park cars in garages then the garages should not be built and this would release a lot of extra parking space.

Allen continued his report and produced a real showstopper. He mentioned

“Neighbourhood Panels” (NPs) and I have rarely seen the PC so speechless. Mouths opened and all stared at Allen in disbelief. It seems a Review Group has been looking at NPs and probably when they next meet in November they will recommend they cease. A great cheer went up, but this was short lived. There is a proposal that NPs should be replaced with six-monthly forums, supplemented by “cluster” groups. The general view appeared to be “You can’t be serious”. But Allen was serious and still supported NPs by saying that when they were introduced they were considered to be the “Best thing since sliced bread”. A great shout of “NO” filled the room. A questionnaire will be circulated to all PC members everywhere asking for suggestions and the decision on any replacement will be made in January. The result should be interesting.

He was then quizzed about the wheelie bins which had been delivered the day before with such enormously noisy hustle and bustle that it brought everyone to their windows. The complaints were no longer about the virtues of the bins but the fact that they had been delivered to people who had opted not to receive them and to take all their recyclables to the tip. Inevitably Paul, having opted out, had had bins delivered. In what he admitted was not the best mood he phoned ECDC and spoke to what he acknowledged to be the very professional and pleasant Stephanie. “Yes, we knew we should not have delivered to you, and apologise.” “Yes, we will certainly collect them.” “No, we can’t do it today, but we will collect in two weeks time.” “No, you can’t move them. Leave them exactly where they are on the pavement.” It was a very unhappy Paul. But he was not the only one. Tricia Harrison also had two bins blocking her driveway in spite of opting out. She had no option but to move them. But the ECDC does have some of its priorities right. Our one and only lord of the realm had four bins left in recognition of his position in public life. Meanwhile, within six hours, at least two people found that the green wheelie bins “are rather good”. Let’s see what the majority of people think in six weeks time.

Karen King then dropped a bombshell. She has resigned as Clerk to the Bulbeck Parish Council but will remain our clerk, which is a great relief. She also said that she has a problem with the storage of planning applications. Having been Clerk for 15 years – goodness, how time flies –she has no more room in her house. And if the PC wishes to keep planning applications they can find somewhere else – but not in her house which has boxes of documents filling one room, down one corridor and even in her bedroom.

Steve came up with a solution and, together with other members of the PC, produced a formula with six criteria that will reduce the number of planning applications by possibly up to two thirds. This was our PC at its best.

Very little else happened. The Land Girl memorial appears to be progressing well with most of the money in. Geoffrey took a very long time reading out what he had said at the last Wicken Fen Forum, and was astonished and aggrieved that none of it had been included in their report/minutes. He said how very fortunate it was that he had made a record of everything he had said. I am only reporting this because I do not want Geoffrey to complain he had not been reported; or to risk

having it brought up at the next Wicken Fen Forum. Finally, and on David Greenfield's behalf, David's muttered question to me during a health and safety issue, was put to the PC – "Where have all the woggles gone?" The answer from the only scout present was hesitant, if not to say inadequate.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## Village Harvest Supper 2013

On Saturday 5 October, the annual harvest supper was held in St Cyriacs. This was a lovely village event attended by young, old and those inbetween (and four generations of one family!). The church was beautifully decorated in harvest tones and tables were laid out in a very sociable square. Guests were treated to a wonderful spread of cold meats and salads, followed by an impressive and delicious selection of home-made puddings. The evening was rounded off perfectly by the haunting voice and music of visiting harpist Lucy Bunce.

As always, village events like these are only successful as a result of a huge amount of effort from a hard-working team; very many thanks to Janet Willmott and Pam Mead for organizing such a fantastic meal and to Fleur Routley whose artistic touches created just the right atmosphere in the church. Thanks also to everyone who contributed their favourite puddings. We look forward to next year's event!

PS. The leftover food was taken to Jimmy's night shelter in Cambridge where it was received with very heartfelt thanks.

*Mandy Kingsmill*

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## MINCE PIES ADVENT BY CANDLE LIGHT ON 1ST DECEMBER

Traditionally we shall be serving mulled wine and warm mince pies at the conclusion of this event. Once again kind villagers are asked to provide the mince pies [home-made or bought, 2 for the price of one is a good idea !!]. We usually serve in the region of 100. It would be really helpful if you would kindly let me know by Friday 29th November how many you will be providing.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity which is so much appreciated.

*Kate Child 743983*

## **Wanted – Trainee Miller – part time paid work, flexible hours!**

Due to increasing levels of flour sales both retail and trade, we are looking for a new team member here at Fosters Mill. You will get involved in all aspects of our business, learning how to mill and dress flour, bagging up flour, serving customers and cleaning the mill. The successful candidate needs to be physically fit as the job involves lifting 25kg sacks of grain and flour and ideally have a driving licence. The job would suit someone who has recently retired. Hours are by arrangement, but will include working the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday afternoon of each month when we open to the public.

We have had a successful year both in terms of flour sales and in terms of developments here at the mill. Our Mill Interpretation Centre is now completed giving us more space to display items of interest, bag up flour and sell flour through our shop. We have completed a range of maintenance tasks over the summer including sail painting, re-surfacing the mill cap (the white top) and repairing the brickwork of the mill which was badly damaged in the frosts of last winter. Inside, we are about to commission an additional set of millstones to ensure we can mill flour at all times, even when the wind doesn't blow!

Our organic flours are now sold to three commercial bakeries, to a range of shops across the region, to online stores and by mail order from the mill. This year we will be milling much of our wheat from Cambridgeshire farms, so we can truly boast our low food miles credentials. We also hope to offer some bread making workshops in 2014.

If you are interested in the position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Jonathan Cook***

Fosters Mill

01638 741009

[www.fostersmill.co.uk](http://www.fostersmill.co.uk)



## **BON MOT NUMBER THIRTY SEVEN**

**“Water taken in moderation cannot hurt anybody.”**

*Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)*

## WEST GALLERY MUSIC

How better to celebrate the fortieth year since the Churches Conservation Trust took over St Cyriac's Church than to have an evening of West Gallery Music. This was provided by Ian de Massini and a section of Cambridge Voices. I gather these have had a long association with this church, which has a very fine example of a West gallery. Following Oliver Cromwell's destruction of church organs from 1644, galleries were built to accommodate a band of local singers and musicians. The effect was to last from about 1660 until 1860, with the occasional barrel organ being allowed.

But it was "uniquely unsophisticated" music and we were given a sample of some of the best and the worst. This appeared to leave some of the audience interested but puzzled. Is this really what was sung? For good measure *Home, Sweet Home*, published in 1821, was thrown in.



*Our recent German visitors sitting down to lunch in the graceful surroundings of our elegantly restored St Cyriac's.*



Need to clear some space or make some  
cash before Christmas?

# Table-Top Sale

**Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
Saturday 30 November**

**Doors open: 1.00-4.00pm**  
Entrance 50p, children free

**Tea, cakes and refreshments available**

To book a table, contact Clare Freeman at  
[clare@luttrell.co.uk](mailto:clare@luttrell.co.uk) or 741316. £6.00 per table if booked  
in advance, £8.00 on the day.

## Just a thought

Politicians' platitudes  
Reflect their various attitudes.  
When voiced; it's time for lamentation;  
The substance doesn't bear examination.

*Ophir*

*Prompted by Swaffham Crier 'Bon Mot' 2013. October.p 16*

*(Mrs Thatcher said, "It may be the cock that crows, but it's the hen that lays the eggs"). Chambers': Platitude = 'An empty remark, made as if it were important'.*

## **News from Bottisham Patients' Group**

We had a productive committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September when we welcomed new Practice Business Manager Sam Clark to the group, and Dr Jonathan Higham who gives us invaluable clinical advice, ensuring that we can take a well informed approach to current health matters.

### **'FLU VACCINATION: 15 reasons why you should have one!**

The 'flu jab is free to those aged 65 and over, as well as those in high-risk groups.

'Flu is particularly dangerous to people with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart, chest or kidney complaints, lowered immunity, and to those aged 65 and over.

The 'flu jab is your best protection against 'flu.

It only takes a minute to get the 'flu jab, but this will protect you for 12 months.

'Flu is serious and can lead to hospitalisation and even death.

The 'flu jab contains no live virus; it cannot give you 'flu but can keep you healthy.

Having the jab means you can't give 'flu to family and friends.

A bout of 'flu can leave you bed ridden and could ruin your Christmas.

'Flu is an unpleasant experience, resulting in fevers, chills, headaches, aching muscles, sore throats, running noses and extreme fatigue.

'Flu is highly infectious: 100,000 'flu particles can be projected into the air with one sneeze.

One sneeze, which can carry the virus, travels at 80 miles per hour and can reach distances of up to 30 feet.

Having the vaccination can help prevent an epidemic. In years when 'flu reaches epidemic proportions, 20,000 people can die, compared to 3,000–4,000 attributable to complications of 'flu in average years.

Around 10–15% of the population develop 'flu each year.

The virus changes every year – just because you haven't had it before doesn't mean you'll be OK this time.

The World Health Organisation maps 'flu viruses and the vaccine is altered every year to ensure that it gives the best protection against the latest strains.

Book an appointment for a 'flu jab by phoning the surgery on 01223 810030. There is a Saturday 'flu clinic on 2<sup>nd</sup> November when the Patient Group will be present with information about how to stay well this winter. Further dates for clinics will be announced soon.

### **Older People's Care Programme**

This service is planned to begin in 2014 and will cover all services for people aged 65+ throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It will integrate unplanned hospital care; primary care; social care and housing; community health services; ambulance services; mental health; and the voluntary sector. The improvements in current provision which it aims to make are:

A better experience for patients

Fewer elderly patients going to hospital as an emergency (1 in 5 admissions of 65+s to hospital are unnecessary)

More older people cared for 'out of hospital'

Improved older people's community and out-of-hospital services

Better partnership working by the agencies involved

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group promises to engage patients and representative groups in the design and delivery of the service. You can find out more at [www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk](http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk). Or you can phone the engagement team on 01223 725304. Your views will be needed when consultation starts later this year. With the preponderance of older patients at Bottisham Medical Practice, we really need this service to work well. Let us hope that this will happen by this time next year, and there will be no comments about deckchairs and the Titanic!

### **More plans for patient involvement in their health care**

In September the NHS launched 'revolutionary measures designed to ensure the voices of patients, their carers and the public are at the centre of healthcare services'. The *Transforming Participation in Health and Care* package aims to improve:

Individual participation, e.g. by ensuring everyone with a long-term condition or disability has a digital personalised care plan supporting them to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their own health.

Public Participation and decision making, e.g. by establishing a 'Citizens' Assembly' that will give patients a voice in decision making and hold the board of NHS England to account.

Patients' insight and feedback, e.g. gathering information from patients that gives the NHS a genuine insight into the outcomes that matter most to them across a range of specialised conditions, helping to shape services of the future.

Your Patients' Group will be exploring what this will mean for individuals so watch this space for more information.

### **Online access to your medical practice**

The NHS expects that by March 2015 everyone will be able to book or cancel GP appointments and order repeat prescriptions online. The latter is already available on Bottisham Medical Practice's website ([www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk)) so if you don't already use the service and would like to, phone 01223 810030 or ask at the surgery reception. Online access for making appointments will be available soon.

**The walking group will meet on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 11.00 am at the Surgery**

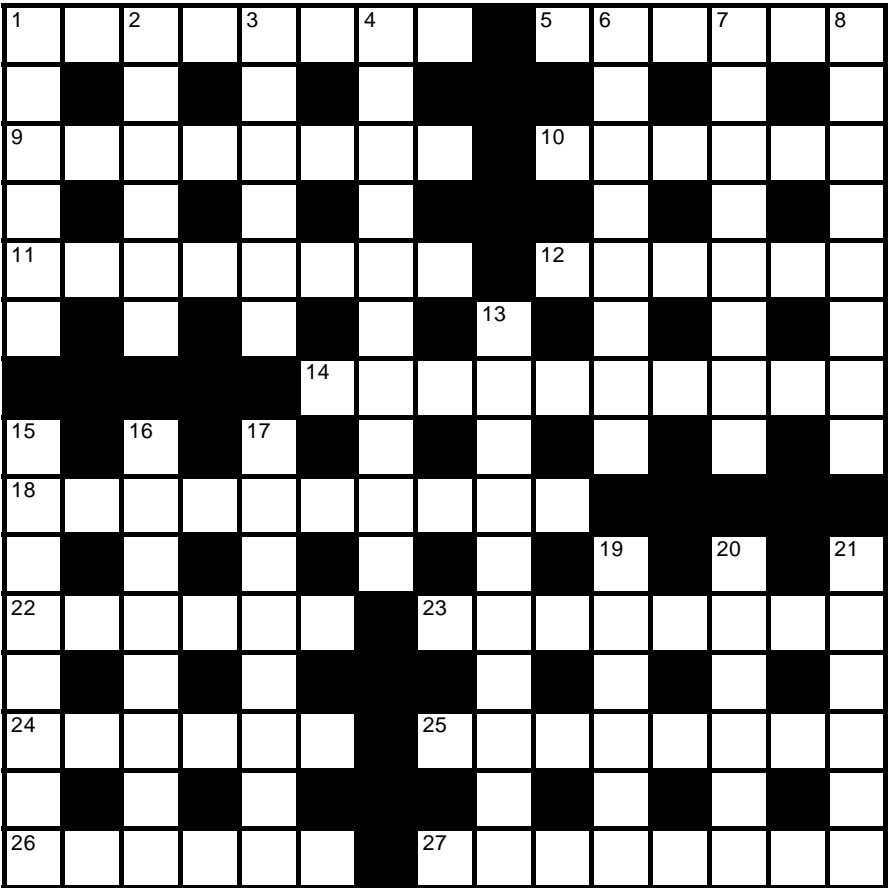
*Bottisham Patients' Group Committee*

# Crossword Number 105

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by  
**BYWELL**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 November 2013. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....		
Address:.....		
.....		Tel:.....

## Across

- 1 Intimation from Odin's discomfort about retreat of German count (8)
- 5 Strip of assorted wheats (6)
- 9 Dictator absorbed by golf-playing bird (8)
- 10 Take a sample of last fly eaten by fish (3,3)
- 11 One who chooses those who choose back to front (8)
- 12 Ringo loses heart interrupting minister's dance (6)
- 14 Chocolates lack fudge with Big Mac (5,5)
- 18 Create lace embroidery to go faster (10)
- 22 Lithesome lady boxes very softly with beginner (6)
- 23 Doubly keen to be dressing up dog with tweed (3-5)
- 24 One caught in mesh by ponytail refinement (6)
- 25 Manic bee upset the atmosphere (8)
- 26 Calming and gently moving (6)
- 27 Different than nail medication (8)

## Down

- 1 Feints deceptively, as parasites do (6)
- 2 Elegantly setting out late in the city (6)
- 3 Clearly show the ruins of Venice (6)
- 4 Old medal in the money circulation round ministers (3-7)
- 6 Raising crop on frozen dew is forbidden by military regulations (3,5)
- 7 Out-and-out call for halt in watering vessel (8)
- 8 Strengthen character right inside fish (8)

- 13 Bonnie lassies dancing in Motown cess (10)
- 15 Swiss city states have new leader in the street (8)
- 16 To lessen swells encountered in polar seas (3-5)
- 17 'It'll do' - an ill-made expression written long ago (3,5)
- 19 Light detector set back into granite roof tile (6)
- 20 African land union leader said to share sauce (6)
- 21 Commercial outlet coming up to Christmas (6)

## Solution to crossword no. 104

L	E	O	M	I	N	S	T	E	R		A	R	C	T	I	C
O	X	U	N		T	X	B				R				H	
O	X	T	E	D		E	C	C	L	E	S		S	A	L	E
E		L		I	E		I	R		W		C			R	
	S	I	D	C	U	P		T	O	W	C	E	S	T	E	R
B		E		T		L	E		I		L		O		Y	
A		R	I	S	L	E	Y		I	C	K	W	O	R	T	H
S		S				B				K		Y		S		I
S			B	A	C	U	P		B	U	N	N	Y			N
I		S		N		M			P				E			T
N	A	K	E	D	A	P	E		J	O	I	N	E	D		O
G		I		E		S		P		N		E		E		N
B	O	S	C	A	S	T	L	E		T	H	W	I	N	G	
O		L		N		E		E		W		P		V		R
U	P	O	N		M	A	R	P	L	E		O	M	A	G	H
R		P				D		B		E		R		L		U
N	E	E	D	L	E			C	O	L	D	S	T	R	E	A

There was no winner of last month's crossword. Honourable mentions go to Keith Richards and Shirley Wilkins.

## **The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House Santa Dash 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

100's of Santa's will be seen dashing around King's Lynn's 'The Walks' on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December as they take part in The Norfolk Hospice's annual Santa Dash. It is hoped that this year's event will grow on the previous year's success and raise thousands pounds for the charity.

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House delivers specialist palliative care services to patients, and their families, with long term medical conditions, as well as those patients nearing the end of their lives.

The Norfolk Hospice helps each patient to live life to the full, every day, no matter how many days a person may have left. The services are available through Day Therapy at the Hospice or through the use of the Hospice at Home service, or through a limited number of in-patient beds.

Support is available to patients from 18 years of age, and the clinical relationship which the Norfolk Hospice has developed with children's hospice services means its staff is able to assist young people suffering from life threatening illnesses as they make the transition through their teenage years to adulthood.

This is the hospice's third Santa Dash, which last year attracted lots of Santa's and elves who dashed (and strolled) around the King's Lynn park and raised over £2500 for the Snettisham based charity. It is hoped that this year's event will grow on the previous year's success and raise thousands pounds for the charity.

The dash is open to anyone of any age and ability – a 1.5km dash can be undertaken by anyone who feels that 5km is a bit too far to be dashing and dashing is not essential – a slow gentle walk may prefer.



Registration for the dash can be completed in the following ways

Online – [www.norfolkhospice.org.uk](http://www.norfolkhospice.org.uk)

By picking up a registration form from any of the Hospice shops

By calling 01485 542891

Registration costs £10 per adult and £5 for under 16's. Children under 5's are FREE! Under 16's are invited to dress in festive costume.

The Santa Dash will start at 11am with Santa's needing to sign in from 10.15.

Statistics state that 80 -100 in-patient beds are needed per one million of the population. With around 300,000 people living in North and West Norfolk, this equates to a need for 30 beds. A big step forward in reaching this target will be achieved when the Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House completes the construction of its new purpose designed and built facility at Hillington, near Kings Lynn in Spring 2014.



Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA

## **Bonfire & Firework Party**

**Friday 8th November**

**Gate opens 6pm Display starts 6.45pm**

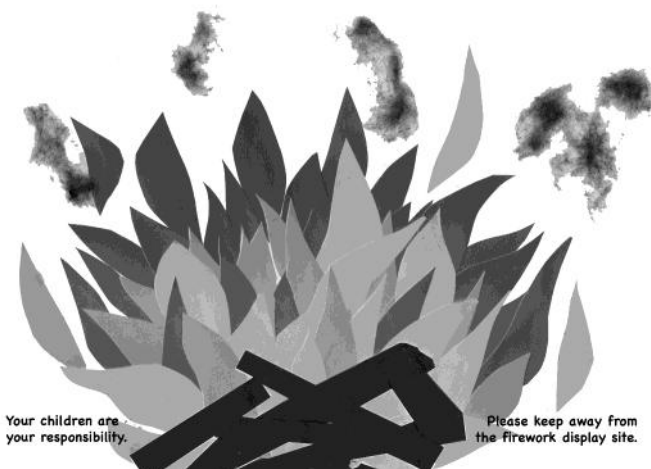
Vicarage Field (behind St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck)

**Adults: £3.50 Children: £2.50**

**Group (1 Adult & 3 Children or 2 Adults & 2 Children): £10**

**Hot Dogs & Mulled Wine for sale from 6pm**

**NO SPARKLERS PLEASE – Glow bling for sale**



Your children are  
your responsibility.

Please keep away from  
the firework display site.



## THAT GERMAN VISIT

An incredible good time we had. 12 children were with Britta and me from 19th to 23rd of September on "expedition" to discover English life and friendship in Swaffham Prior, Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck. And it was more than worth coming. It was the third time Dee Noyes and I organised a visit of the Joldelunder confirmation class to Swaffham Prior and the villages around. Joldelund in Germany where we come from is a small rural village in the North of Germany only 30 miles away from the Danish border. To go by plane to a foreign country has been a huge jump for the children in many ways.

Four nights the candidates age 13-15 were hosted in pairs by families. The hosts gave "bed and breakfast" and during the day we explored schools in Swaffham Prior and Bottisham, went to Cambridge and took

part in the benefice service in Lode. Beside the touristic part the emphasis of the journey is the personal meeting between English people and Germans. That is why we had a garden party at Bottisham Vicarage and two joint meals in St. Cyriacs, always with the hosts, their children and friends. It seems that this mixture of touristic activities and personal encounter turns the journey into a unique experience for the children.

As we went home, I asked the children what was best. Here are the answers:

Lara: I loved to be in the families and in Cambridge.

Lena: The visit of Cambridge and the punting was great.

Peer Lew: It was very nice in the families and I had fun on (and in) the water when we went canoeing and punting.

Malte H.: Very interesting and delicious

Levke: Living in the families with excellent food and I had a lot of fun on the Canoe tour on Sunday afternoon.





Malte P.: Best of all was the food, bell-ringing and the huge Ely Cathedral.

Lars: Everything was great but best was the Canoeing.

Anna Lena : Everything was very good. Particularly Bottisham Village College.

Sina: Cambridge was great and I loved punting.

Saskia: Best of all was to be in the families.

Lisa: I really enjoyed living in the families and the impressive buildings of Cambridge

Britta: Impressively many Churches and old buildings. I liked the church of Bottisham.

Merle: Best was the visit of the schools and the experience of a different culture in the families

The comments of the children show very clearly that the carrying element of the whole journey is the hospitality of the hosting families. This is something we can't value too high. The children have had the experience of hospitality and friendship from people that have been strangers to them. You have given them an example of Christianity they will hopefully never forget.

Thank you to all the hosts and supporters for the work they have done to us. Particular thank to Dee for her excellent management and keeping an eye on everything and everybody. In two years' time I might ask you, whether I can come again. In many ways it was too good for not trying it again.

Thanks to all of you!



*Pastor Jan Petersen*



## News from Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen

It's been an exciting month for the Domestic Wing Project as we received the final creative concept proposal from the interpretation consultants. The domestic wing will be presented in a style that is historically correct whilst setting the scene for visitors. The spaces will bring the voices of Lord Fairhaven's staff to the fore-front, making use of our extensive oral archive, so that visitors understand the spaces through the people that worked in them. The domestic wing will juxtapose the rapidly changing world outside Anglesey Abbey (the swinging sixties) to Lord Fairhaven's gentlemanly lifestyle which he had maintained at Anglesey for 40 years.

We will be holding a 60s event at Bottisham Royal British Legion club on Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> from 6.30 – 9.30pm. There will be information about how the domestic rooms will look and feel, 60s music, a few nibbles and quizzes. It should be a 'groovy' night (60s dress optional). If you would like more information about the evening please contact Rachael Morley at [rachael.morley@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:rachael.morley@nationaltrust.org.uk)

The House has now closed to Visitors for its annual deep clean. This year you can discover how we look after the house by joining a special behind the scenes **Conservation Tour**. Discover the tools of the trade and watch our conservators at work cleaning paintings, books and furniture and discover how we deal with wood-worm damage to the legs of the sixteenth century dining table. Conservation Tours run from Tuesday– Friday from 12 November – 31 December at 12noon & 1.30pm. Tickets (£3.50 / NT Members Free) are available on the day from Visitor Reception.

Up the road at Wicken we are holding several craft workshops to help you prepare for Christmas – there's a **Decorations Workshop** on Saturday 16 November, 10.30am or 2pm & Friday 29 at 10.30am; **Wreath Making Workshop** on Friday 29 at 2pm & Saturday 30 at 10.30 or 2pm. Tickets for each workshop cost £18 and are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895 – advance booking essential.

Finally - a quick reminder that our **Winter Lights Festival** at Anglesey Abbey runs over three weekends from Friday 29 November – Sunday 15 December. Tickets (£10.50 adults, £7.50 child or £32 family ticket) are available on 0844 249 1895 or online by following the links from the Events page of our website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey)



## School News

Last month saw the resurfacing of the area under the Trim Trail in the front playground. The surface is composed of recycled rubber and will now allow the children to go on the Trim Trail in all weathers which is fantastic! Many thanks to FoSPS who organised the fundraising and raised the money required for the work to be done and Marshalls who donated a large sum towards the project. Thanks also to Mr Martin Mead, who provided machinery, and the volunteers who helped to dig out the old bark chips.

We had our Harvest Celebration in St Mary's earlier this month and Reverend Sue led the service for us. The theme this year was 'Water' and each class presented an item, including facts and poems about the importance of water from Saturn Class and a variety of songs and some prayers from the other classes. Reverend Sue told us about a recent trip she had taken to Karukekere Village in Tanzania, with Mr Andrew Camps and Ms Brenda Wilson. We found out about the well digging process and she showed us using a piece of rope the depth the well went to. There was a sale of the produce following the service and just over £100 was raised. The money is to be sent to help fund another well in Karukekere.

Cathedral Day took place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October and the Year 5s and 6s participated in a day of activities at Ely Cathedral. The focus was 'The World's Church' and the children attended workshops such as 'Sing Swahili' where they learnt some new songs and played drums, found out about the role of the Mother's Union in Uganda and learnt about support work in Nicaragua. In the afternoon they joined with children from schools all over the Diocese in collective worship.



*Harvest Celebrations with Rev Sue Giles*



On the same day, the Year 4 children went to Bottisham Village College for a morning of football. They played a series of games against children from other local schools and worked well together in their teams.

Coming up is a Pumpkin Parade and our Grounds Day. Then after the half term break, we have an Anti-Bullying week and following soon after, Christmas!

***Hannah Curtis***

## WI Notes

At the October meeting we welcomed Barbara Redman who had come along to show us all how to make a Christmas bauble for our trees. Barbara had brought along examples of her excellent craft work including samples of the bauble design we would be following and promised us that we would all leave the meeting with a beautiful finished item. While we all had great admiration for her work we were somewhat doubtful about our own abilities, but we were guided through the process and were delighted with the results.

In November the speaker at the Swaffhams WI monthly meeting will be Ute Towriss who will talk to us about the Mark Towriss Bursary Fund. As this may well be of interest to many local people this will be an open meeting to which all are welcome, male and female. The meeting is on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in Swaffham Prior Village Hall and the cost to non-members is £3.

In December we will be having our Christmas Party for members on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. This will follow the same format as last year with members bringing food for the buffet supper and wine and entertainment being provided by the committee.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome at our regular meetings which are on the third Monday of the month in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7:30 so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group or telephone if you would like more information.

***Pat Cook - President***

Tel: 01638 742224



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

We had our AGM this month-reasonably well attended and said farewell and a big thankyou to Roger Connan as our Chairman-I think he has held this post for about a decade! He happily is continuing as a member.

We then had fun with wine , nibbles and a very searching qiizz-requiring detailed geographical and horticultural knowledge. It was won by Team A!

Our speaker on November 19th, is Robb Brett-a member of the scientific staff at the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge. His topic is -Changing the world through plants.

Every one is very welcome.

Next year's programme is nearly complete and will be published in the Crier.

***Margaret Joyce***



## Mothers' Union

At our last meeting our vicar, Sue Giles, gave us a most interesting account of her visit earlier in the year to Mara in Tanzania.

She told us that the capital of the Mara region is Musoma and this is where the Cathedral is situated. It is indeed a large building which can seat 2,000 people and it serves as a hub for the numerous projects being undertaken in the Diocese of Mara. These include a training college where secretarial and computer studies are offered; there is also a training centre for subsistence farmers to give them guidance in the task of supporting their families. This centre is also home to the 'goat project' through which female goats are lent to poor families. They then benefit from the milk produced and also they are allowed to keep any kids the goat produces before they return it to the herd. There is also a very sustainable fish farming scheme in operation. Other projects include a support service for those with HIV/Aids, as well as a malaria prevention scheme. As part of this, school children are supplied with anti-malaria tablets and they are also given free lunches.

Amongst all these various projects the Mothers' Union in Mara is very active and is a flourishing organisation.

Sue told us that Tanzania is a peaceful country but there will continue to be a major contribution for the Church and the Mothers' Union to make into the future.

*Anne Phoenix*



## Count Down To Christmas Art Workshop



St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013

From 10 am - 12 noon and 2pm – 4 pm

Please put this date in your diaries. This is a real fun family day, bringing together Church, School and Community. We'll be:

Building a life sized crib, making Christmas decorations, creating festive bunting, knitting, crocheting, sewing, painting, printing and lots more.....

There'll be real coffee, selection of teas and home baking all for free!

It will be a great day ....so come and have some creative fun!





## **Clocks go back - burglary prevention**

POLICE across the county are reminding residents to take security precautions as the clocks go back and the evenings draw in.

A few simple steps can help keep homes and the possessions they contain more secure.

This advice is part of the force's award-winning 'Get Closer' campaign which aims to reduce victims of crime.

Next month the campaign is focusing on burglary.

Crime prevention officer Sue Loaker said: "With the clocks going back this weekend, burglary is a crime which tends to increase.

"Burglary is mostly an opportunist offence so people can remove temptation by keeping possessions out of sight and making their home look like someone's in.

"Security alarms and lights can be a worthwhile investment to deter offenders and could save you a lot of time and inconvenience in the long run."

Police are offering the following advice:

- \*Invest in a security light and alarm to deter burglars. Burglar alarms are shown to be the number one deterrent.

- \*Use a timer switch for lights when you are not in, so your home looks occupied.

- \*Make sure you lock your front and back doors and secure all windows, including upstairs, before leaving.

- \*Beware of bogus callers. If somebody knocks at your door, be wary. Most utility companies do not cold call. Ask to see photo ID and call the company for confirmation. Genuine callers do not mind calling back another time or for you to make an arranged appointment with the company.

For more information about security contact your local community safety team on 101 or visit the force website at <http://www.cambs.police.uk/>

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## **BOTTISHAM CRAFT FAYRE**

After having held another successful craft fayre with the 'Hub' we are pleased to announce the we raised a fantastic amount of £125 for Myeloma Cancer Charity. Each craft fayre is held in aid of local charities to help raise much needed funds to help them continue provide fantastic services. We have a variety of crafters at each fayre with a few regulars, we have a raffle each month with some really lovely prizes. As the craft fayre is a community event we have lucky dip bags available for the younger member's of the community and some months there will be hands on activites for them. We have refreshments available for you to enjoy with your friends or family. The craft fayre has a warm friendly atmosphere and is very much there for the community to enjoy so if you need gift idea's why not pop along and see what we have to offer.

The date's for the next craft fayre's are:

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 9-12.30 ○ 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 9-14.30 ○ 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 9-12.30 ○ 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 9-12.30

## **Cambridgeshire County Council needs you to help change the lives of local children and young people.**

Foster Carers provide a stable family support network for local children and young people when they are unable to live with their own family. Every year we have over 425 children and young people looked after by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The shortage of Foster Carers means that children and young people are placed with (independent foster carers or residential units some outside of Cambridgeshire) they may also be looked after within the county children's homes. We need to recruit more Foster Carers in order to give them the best possible future.

Foster Carers come from all different kinds of backgrounds. It may be that you have your own children or you may have worked with children before. You may have no experience of children or possibly considering a career change?

Every child is different so we need different Foster Carers, if you can offer stability, security and the positive experience of a loving family then we want to hear from you.

You might be:

- Married, in a civil partnership, single or living with a partner
- From an ethnic background
- In a same sex relationship
- In work, unemployed or retired

Recruiting local people will mean that children and young people can live in their own community, continue to attend the same school and maintain contact with their family and friends. We offer generous allowances including a start up package, 24 hr support and full training. Call our freephone number on **0800 052 0078** or email [fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fanda@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **Sing today none but joys**

*An evening of seasonal choral music for Advent and Christmas.*

**Saturday 30 November, 7.30pm**

**Holy Trinity Church, High Street Bottisham  
Cambridgeshire CB25 9BA**

Programme to include carols, anthems and spirituals in Latin and English, including works by Benjamin Britten in his centenary year, and favourite arrangements by David Willcocks, John Rutter, Ralph Vaughan Williams and others.

Daniel Spreadbury (director)  
Jonathan Giles (organ)

Refreshments available  
Tickets on the door

Full Council in October debated a number of motions. Council agreed to undertake an assessment of a European Social Fund project aimed at helping the long-term unemployed back into work by helping with interview techniques, CV writing etc. This assessment will make a recommendation to Cabinet as to whether the County Council should consider an extension to the project using libraries to host the training. Other motions included one regarding the development of an extra care housing facility in St Ives and one regarding tolling on new roads. I asked the Chairman of the Fire Authority for an update on the new Fire Station in Burwell and was informed that building is expected to commence in January 2014 with a completion date of August 2014.

I sat on an assessment panel for potential providers to operate a new Primary School in Ely. Six organizations applied to run the school and after 2 days of interviews it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet Barnfield Schole Academy Trust as the preferred provider with the Active Learning Trust as second choice. The Secretary of State will make the final decision. Other items considered by Cabinet included proposals to introduce a 20mph speed limit in North Cambridge, the County Council response to the A14 route option consultation, and the terms of reference for an independent review into lessons learned from the Guided Busway contract.

The Constitution and Ethics Committee met to further consider moves to a Committee system of governance. A further meeting will be held in early November with a view to making detailed recommendations to Council in December.

Two business planning meetings were held with senior officers and group leaders as work progresses on the next 5-year plan.

The second peer review of children's safeguarding required by the Ofsted improvement notice took place in October. Feedback shows that considerable improvement in practice and consistency is evident. I also had a meeting of the Improvement Board to consider the peer review and other issues. There is a significant increase in demand in Social Care and steps are being taken to address this with some extra, temporary, resource.

Other meetings attended included: the North Ely Growth Area Delivery Group; Schools Forum; a presentation to social workers; and the exhibition regarding proposals to build 70 dwellings on the former D S Smith site in Burwell.

*David Brown*



## SNAP, CRACKLE AND POP: IT'S TIME TO SOW WHAT YOU REAP!

Even late in the year, a little sunny warmth on a late autumn day can induce a syncopated rhythm to the garden as the last of the year's seedcases crack, split, shake and explode to release their last seeds into the soil.

Take advantage of this and gather up this mostly annual bounty and scatter so as to introduce an element of surprise to the garden next spring. Good candidates for overwintering are the curved, caterpillar like seeds of calendula, the oval, mid brown seeds dangling at the end of each frond on the quill-like purple tansy flowerheads, the shuttle-shaped seeds of cosmos, the matt black seeds of love-in-the-mist held in seamed and horned pepperpots, the flattened seeds of members of the mallow family, which includes the hollyhocks, tightly



packed into carousels, like Bendicks mints, the shiny black nutlets held in packs of four which need prising out of the papery hoods of borage, or the tiny round seeds filling the lipped goblets of white and red campion to the brim. Collect up a mixed handful and perhaps mix with a bit of sharp sand to aid an even distribution.

The great Edwardian plantswoman, Miss Ellen Willmott of Warley Place, so the story goes, made this approach into a whole PR campaign for her beloved giant eryngo, and would keep pinches of the seed in her pocket for broadcasting in gardens she deemed lacking in the silver structure and bristly blue flowers that this statuesque plant provides. She was so prolific with the seed, that the plant is commonly known as Miss Willmott's Ghost, and it indeed must still haunt gardens where she walked.

All these seeds will happily sit in the soil through the winter, ready to make early growth and flower next year. Some perennial species actually need to be exposed to a period of intense cold in order to break dormancy and improve germination, a phenomenon known as stratification. This was why we could be seen sowing seed into January snow at the beginning of the year for our new perennial, drought-tolerant meadow – the resulting magical mayhem is still looking fabulous, with spectacular first year flowering on the big-fruit evening primrose, Berkheya and Indian paintbrush.

The Botanic Garden is open in November & December 10am-4pm. Admission is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks from the Head of Horticulture, please visit the website at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk)

## Notes from the Parish Council October Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public in attendance.

**Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation:** Noted.

**Public Participation:**

There was discussion about the new contract for grass cutting services.

**Reports:**

**CCC** – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

There followed discussion on the upgrading of the A14 including the possibility of tolling.

**ECDC** – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

There followed discussion on wheelie bins and Cllr Alderson replied to questions.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

*Cutting back of Village Hall driveway and front boundary:* Clerk confirmed that the Community Probation Team would be carrying out the work shortly.

**Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:**

CCC – Parish Paths & Rights of Way Matters - *Noted*

ECDC – Notification relating to the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan – *Noted*

ECDC – Updated DCLG Guidance – Openness and transparency on personal interests – *Noted*.

**Review of Grass Cutting Contract:**

The detail of the specification was reviewed and the Clerk was asked to obtain 3 quotations for consideration at the November meeting.

**Admin item – archiving and storage of planning applications:**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the storage of over 17 years of planning applications was becoming a problem and suggested an archiving policy as a guide. Steve Kent-Phillips said he would look at this and put together a draft policy for agreement at the November meeting.

**Accounts for payment:**

These were agreed.

**Clerk's Reports:**

*Ash Tree at School:* Waiting on reply from ECDC's Tree Officer to see what can be done to cut the tree back from the gate between the School and the Village Hall.

*Memorial of Land Army Girls:* Andy Prince was to ask Hibbles Stonemasons to go ahead with the creating of the plaque to be placed on a brick plinth located on the grass triangle at the bottom of Cage Hill. It was confirmed that donations would cover the full cost of the memorial.

*Trees at Play Area:* The SPCC had confirmed that estimates to cut back the lower growth on the trees were to be obtained.

## **Parish Councillors' Reports:**

*New surfacing on Church path:* Andrew Camps told the meeting that a layer of fine gravel was being laid and also the light for the path had been installed.

*Wicken Fen Community Liaison Forum:* Geoffrey Woollard reported on last meeting of the Forum.

## **Open Question Time:**

Discussion on items of the agenda.

**If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

**Future meeting dates:**

**12<sup>th</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014, 13<sup>th</sup> February.**

**All are welcome to attend.**

**Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel: 742358. NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: [karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk)**

## **Vacancy for Parish Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer**

Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic person to fulfil this important role.

The Clerk is the principal executive and advisor to the Council on current procedures and the legal aspects of local government and is also responsible for the administration of its financial affairs.

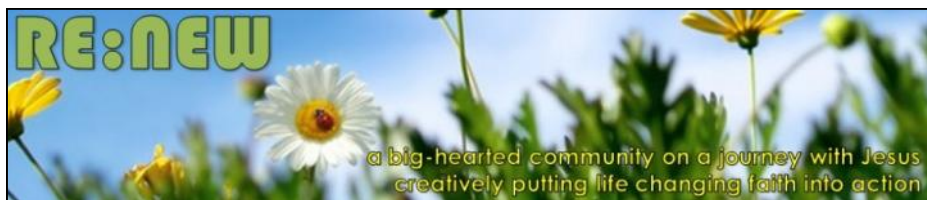
Swaffham Bulbeck is a lovely village and the Parish Council has to deal with lots of interesting aspects of village life: the recreation ground and play equipment; the pavilion; the Denny wood; footpaths; the lode; the cemetery; grass cutting; trees; planning applications; etc. Attending meetings, taking minutes and dealing with correspondence are important aspects of the job.

The Clerk for Swaffham Bulbeck works from home and needs to commit an average of approximately 28 hours a month to the job. The salary is in accordance with the current NJC rates and is dependent on skills and experience.

The preferred candidate will have some experience of local council procedure having perhaps worked or currently be working as a Parish Clerk. However a candidate who can provide evidence of a strong administrative background will be considered. Training courses are available.

For more information speak to any of the Councillors – contact details are at the front of the Beacon and on the village website – [www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk](http://www.swaffhambulbeckpc.org.uk).

Application is via CV with accompanying letter to be sent to the Chairman, Mrs Margaret Chadwick – [appletrees@postmaster.co.uk](mailto:appletrees@postmaster.co.uk) – by 30th November



## REMEMBERING and RE-MEMBERING

November is a month for remembering – we recall with bonfires the events of 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605 and at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month we observe an act of remembrance for those who have fallen in conflict and war. It's good to look back – but I want to suggest that by briefly thinking about the word 'remember', we might find even more significance in these events.

The root of the word is Latin and it simply means 'to be mindful of something again' – but I read something recently that suggested the word 'remember' could be understood as the opposite of 'dismember'. Both of the events that we recall this month point to times in our history when our nation and our world has been dismembered and divided. More contemporary events, such as September 11<sup>th</sup> and the recent conflicts in the Middle East, and newspaper headlines about 'Broken Britain', indicate that the task of putting humanity back together is far from complete. But it's not just nations which are lacking unity and wholeness; communities and families are damaged and divided, and the complexity of modern life leaves many of us, as individuals, feeling shattered and fragmented.

If we are to truly engage in the act of re-membling we need more than a minute of silence – we need to be active in our pursuit of reconciliation and peace and in working for the healing of the broken and fragile relationships that exist all around us. This, I believe, is at the heart of the Christian faith, and is integral to our call to be followers of the 'Prince of Peace'. This is the hope that we profess in church each time we break bread and drink wine in the name of Jesus, the one whose own body, was transformed from brokenness into resurrection life.

***Simon Goddard***

*"Remembering is a past, present and future tense experience. When we re-member:*

*broken, damaged and dismembered aspects of our past lives are put together again;*

*mind and body and soul in the present tense enjoy wholeness;*

*and helplessness in the face of the unknown future gives way to resurrection hope."*

**6.30pm, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at Lode Chapel**

Join us to prayerfully *remember* the people of Syria, especially the persecuted Christian minority.

A creative hour of prayer activity using resources provided by Open Doors.

### Other Services in November

Sun 3rd Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW (Bottisham Primary School)

Sun 10th Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW Café Style (at the School)

Sun 10th Nov, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Lode Chapel)

Sun 17th Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)

Sun 24th Nov, 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)

Sun 24th Nov, 6.20pm – Traditional Service (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

**For more information please contact:** Rev. Simon Goddard.

**Tel:** (01223) 812881

**Email:** [simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk](mailto:simon.goddard@re-new.me.uk)

**Web:** [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)

**Twitter:** @renewchurch

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## **FREECYCLE**



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month **only by e-mail please**

([jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk)). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues.

Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

### **Wanted**

- Small fridge, not required to work. Andy 01638 741376
- Old-fashioned cider/beer bottles with internal coarse screw thread, and jam jars with non-screw tops. John c812120
- Any sort of garden gate. Julie c812036
- Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895064727.
- Any photographic/darkroom equipment. From cameras to chemicals. Beginner wanting to learn about film photography and development. Also looking for a working flatbed scanner. Mark c813919

**PASTORAL LETTER, November 2013**  
**Bottisham Vicarage**

Dear Friends,

We have been praying for the people of Syria for a long while; still the people are suffering and children are growing up surrounded by violence and death. It seems that atrocities have been committed by fighters on both sides of the conflict making it difficult to support either side. Thousands of people have been injured, killed, traumatised or displaced by the fighting and a whole generation of Syria's children are growing up without proper schooling, without the fun and play and carefree times of childhood. It might seem that our prayers are going unheeded, and for the people of Syria, it must feel as if there will never be an end to the terror and hardship they are enduring. Many of them feel the world has forgotten them.



Yet in the midst of all those terrible events there are some amazing people at work. People that we hear very little about but they shine as lights in the darkness and as small glimmers of hope and goodness in the midst of all the suffering. Two of those special people were featured in the Panorama programme "Syria's Children " shown in September. Two doctors from Britain have been working in Syria using their medical expertise to bring help to people caught up in the conflict. The women seemed very vulnerable and unprotected as they travelled further into the battle zone and they had to work amidst the threat of shelling and the noise of explosions. They had very few medical resources to use but still they were able to bring hope to desperate people. While the team were filming a bomb was dropped on a nearby school and scores of badly burned pupils were rushed to the very small medical centre where they were working. It was shortly after the chemical weapons attack and it looked as if chemicals had been involved in this attack too. It was humbling to watch them struggling with the terrible injuries and the overwhelming number of casualties that were brought in. They had to use all their skills to find ways of treating the injured with no resources and by the end of the day they were clearly drained and upset. Yet their presence was vital to the injured and their compassion and care told those families that they were not forgotten and that someone cared. Two unarmed, vulnerable women; their care and compassion made them two very powerful women whose lives spoke of goodness and brought light into the darkness. God has indeed raised up saints for there are others like them at work there. He has led some very brave and amazing people to offer themselves, their expertise and care for the sake of others. They have risked their own lives to bring light and life to others and that's why we must keep praying. Praying for their work and for their safety, and we must do all that we can to support practically their humanitarian work.

*Sue Giles*

# Church Services in November

## **Sunday 3 November - All Saints**

11am - Holy Communion (CW1T)

## **Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday**

10.50am - Remembrance Service

with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

## **Sunday 17 November - Second Sunday before Advent**

11am - Matins

## **Sunday 24 November - Christ the King**

10am - Benefice Service Holy Communion

St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck



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## **Christmas Tree Festival**

Fakenham Parish Church holds its 13th Christmas Tree Festival from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 5th December 2013 between 10am and 8pm daily.

This ever popular occasion attracted 25,000 people last year and raised almost £22,000 for charities - mostly in small coins!

**This year 76 charities will be taking part and there will be 90 trees!**

Entrance to the Festival is free but please bring a bag of coins to place at the charity trees of your choice.

Inside there will be a Christmas Bazaar selling a wide range of Christmas goods; also refreshments, a Tombola and a Grand Draw. Prayers will be said on the hour for the charities and there will be six Prayer Trees where you can write a prayer of your own.

## Dates for Your Diary: November 2013

Wed	6	Bookclub, Kent House, High St, 8pm
Fri	8	Bulbeck Fireworks, Vicarage Field, Bulbeck, 6pm
Mon	18	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> <b>WI, VH, 7.30pm</b>
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
	28	Fakenham Christmas Tree Festival, Fakenham Church, 10am—8pm (to Dec 5)
	29	
Sat	30	Table-top Sale, VH, 1-4pm Christmas Art Workshop, St Mary's, Bulbeck, 10am-12 noon, 2-4pm Seasonal Choral Music, Holy Trinity, Bottisham, 7.30pm
Sun	1	Advent by Candlelight, St Mary's and St Cyriac's

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Baby & Toddlers	Kelly Mead	741069	Fri	9:30-11:30am	Village Hall
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	