



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVIII Number 12

December 2014

Editorial



A Very Bumper Crier this Christmas, where you can read all about that wonderful War Windows Lecture which our new Photographer Andrew Noyes has captured so beautifully on our centre pages. This stunning event was organised by Dee Noyes who seemingly to have at her command half the troops the village: not surprisingly, it was a quite unforgettable do, and many congratulations are due to all.

Meanwhile, the Crier, having been slow off the mark in the matter of the Mill Hill roundabout (or not, as the case may be) is now fully up to speed — Mill Hillers not keen, in fact, MILL HILL RESIDENTS ARE REVOLTING was the suggested headline of Our Reporter! What's wrong with a 30mph sign? This is what has always puzzled us...

Thanks to Alastair and Elisabeth Everitt, the Church Yard Holly will again be on sale this year, but now from Lower End, and whatever-else you might miss in this month's edition, don't let it be Hilary Sage's primer to Swaffham Prior's very own Adult Adventure Course (see page 10), yes you may have to tackle it yourself in the not too distant future.....

Don't forget, next month's copy date 14 December! Thus us because in order to get printed in time, the New Year Crier has to go out BEFORE Christmas.

Wishing all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From all at the Crier Team,

***Caroline & James Matheson, Pat & Peter Cook
and Ruth Stinton and Pam Waters***

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Cover Picture: "Here's looking at you, kid" by Tina Jost



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Mini-roundabout on the Bypass

I was concerned to read about the suggestion by the Parish Council that a mini-roundabout might be located on the B1102 at the Cage Hill and Heath Road cross-roads, in an attempt to slow down traffic through the whole of the house-lined section of the bypass.

This seems an odd idea. I do not see that it would have the effect of slowing down traffic at all along that whole stretch of road, but only on the immediate approach to the junction. Certainly, at busy times when there is a lot of traffic it would back up at the roundabout so would slow down through the village – but this is the case anyway on this piece of road at rush-hour. If there was little traffic I think the temptation would be to rush up to the roundabout to try to get across before traffic crossing from Cage Hill or Heath Road; it would therefore have the opposite effect and vehicles would speed up at that point to jump the roundabout.

It would have an impact on those living at the top of Cage Hill and near the Mill Hill junction as cars slowed down and then accelerated away from the roundabout. Noise and pollution levels would increase. In addition, as vehicles backed up along the B1102 it would be difficult to turn off the road into driveways or drive onto the road from driveways, especially against the flow of traffic. This can be tricky now, but would be more hazardous and frustrating with a roundabout in place.

The existing traffic calming measures are generally quite effective, and there are now crossing places for the houses on the far side of the road. Occasionally there are speeding cars, but additional infrastructure seems unnecessary and expensive – the current speed limit could be enforced by police, or even village, patrols.

To my knowledge, no one in the affected area has been consulted by the Parish Council.

To summarise: the existing traffic calming measures have helped, but could be improved with enforcement; further infrastructure would seem unnecessary, expensive and ineffective as a means of slowing the traffic; a mini roundabout would not slow the traffic through the whole area under discussion and would cause problems for those living at the top of Cage Hill and Mill Hill junction.

This seems an odd suggestion therefore if slowing the traffic is the motivation. However, there is some logic to the proposal if the intention is to make it easier for vehicles wishing to join the bypass from Cage Hill or Heath Road by improving the flow of traffic. But this is a different debate.

Dee Noyes
1 Mill Hill
Swaffham Prior

Dear Editors,

Shoebox Appeal

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to or helped in this year's Anglesey Benefice Samaritan's Shoebox Appeal. The pack took place, as in previous years, in St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior, on 18th October, and a magnificent total of 164 boxes were put together ready for shipping to Kyrgyzstan. We were joined this year by the children of Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School who collected items and contributed 18 boxes to this total. Well done! Despite vigorous fundraising to cover the £3 per box that is required as a donation towards shipping costs we were substantially short of our target, until that is an anonymous and very generous donation arrived from a resident of Quay, to whom we are hugely grateful. As I write the packing warehouse for our area is in full swing and by the time that you read this our boxes should be on their way to some very happy recipients. Wishing you all Seasons Greetings and thank you again for supporting this extremely worthwhile cause.

Janet Willmott

Dear Editors,

Sunday 9th November

Sunday 9th November - full church and very moving service as it should be. For me it was also a celebration to see so many young people there. I believe there were about 45 young Scouts all proudly wearing their uniform. Congratulations to the dedicated team who are doing such a good job.

Betty Prime.

Dear Editors,

Overgrown Gardens

In response to November's Crier letter I write to offer GL support for his/her overgrown garden, in principle at least. GL and the location of this garden are not known to me.

No criticism intended here of carefully manicured gardens. I'm no expert gardener – the most I can claim is a mention on Radio 4 Gardener's Question Time about three years ago, but that was my contribution to a debate on how to cut onions in which I bet £5 that doing it my way won't make you cry. I still have my fiver. But those authoritative voices of GQT have regularly reminded occasional gardeners and experts alike: an untended area left permanently to its own devices is A Good Thing for nature generally. I have heard them acknowledge also (a bit guiltily, I reckon) that carefully cultivated land is largely a barren zone for most wildlife, in truth. And we don't like buggy things but pesticides of any kind destroy food chains from the bottom up.

An overgrown garden area is a real haven for small wildlife: furry, feathery and six- and eight-legged; amphibians will reside in dark and cool undisturbed spaces even where there is no water close at hand. I have a resident toad who I've only ever

seen three times (even had under my foot once but realised in time) although there's no pond close by. I try not to disturb his chosen corner too much. As GQT says from on high, everyone who has enough space should set aside at least a wild corner or section to offer them a home. I recall an urban wildlife survey in the East of England some years ago found the highest per square metre site of established wildlife, including insects, just as vital to the ecosystem as furry/feathery things, was on an abandoned industrial site in Essex - Canvey Island, if I remember aright, untouched for many years.

My mother's 90ft by 25ft back garden in Bedfordshire has the end half largely untended. There aren't many jungles on the clay base of the Chilterns, but I claim this as a small one. It may not look great but I know that the descendants of frogs and newts I once collected still live there, occasionally seen. Some of my earliest attempts at gardening still stand out: a couple of horse chestnut trees that shouldn't be there, transplanted as saplings from Barton Hills; and as I decided when I was about 14 that it would look nicer than the blank side of a six-foot fence, I planted some ivy to grow up it. Forty years on, the ivy IS the fence on both sides, and nothing visible remains of the fencing beneath. The neighbours don't seem to mind, and in any case they seem to keep it trimmed on their side. I do regret planting it now and had I been living there in the last four decades I'd've done it some regular violence to keep it more in check.

I don't know GL's neighbours / complaiants and intend no disagreement with them. No doubt they know that they are entitled to cut back anything that overhangs their garden. My mother's chestnut trees have been seen to from time to time – they would be blocking the light rather otherwise. But there is a villain lurking, as in all dark jungles. My mother didn't like the sight provided by her end neighbour (a truly manic gardener, dawn to dusk) of the cement mixer he kept by her chain link fence. So she planted a leylandii. A few years on the neighbour is gone, doubtless tending his runner beans in the sky, cement mixer departed too, but the leylandii is prominent. Left to their own devices they grow antisocially tall for a garden setting, and although one of my sisters has said she will take a ladder and lop it I suspect the task will ultimately fall to me (hopefully not with emphasis on 'fall') and sooner rather than later, methinks. A kind of gardening penance for the things I shouldn't have planted, I suppose.

Some things do have to be done. The Planning Enforcement Officer does have some say where the 'visual impact' may be detrimental to a locality, especially in a conservation area. As GL acknowledges, that applies to what is most apparent from the street. Otherwise your garden's up to you, unless what you have is a public risk – decaying stuff attracting vermin, nuclear waste, that sort of thing. Elsewhere I once had a neighbour who kept a wrecked car on the street outside his house (pre-SORN days) and unsurprisingly my For Sale board stayed up. I probably should have appealed to the local council but didn't know I could. But as far as vegetation goes, one person's unkempt garden is another's thriving ecosystem. Happy coexistence to GL, his/her neighbours and the wildlife that inhabits all their gardens.

Mark Lewinski

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Increasingly the PC Meeting is being recognised as a place of entertainment and high hilarity. Five members of the public arrived early for a good place in the stalls, leaving four latecomers sitting in the gallery.

Before the meeting was formally opened, John Covill gave the floor to Roz Chalmers, Chair of the School Governors, who was supported by Charlotte Cane, Vice chair of the Governors. You may remember Charlotte who a few years back was our ECDC representative until she took a job in London and resigned. She certainly fought the Prior corner well, and you may see her in the lead up to the May elections. What exciting times we live in!



Roz Chalmers set out the rather dire physical condition of the school. For the last few years or so the school's needs have been right at the top of the list of the deserving, only to have its hopes dashed each year. David Brown thought the decision this year will be before Christmas – but no one held out much hope. A lot needs to be done, and roughly, £84,000 is needed for a new roof, and £170,000 to replace the temporary mobile classroom. “Only two projects?” asked Steve. “Well, a completely new school is what is ideally required” said Roz. Steve asked if there was a plan B with a budget just to make the absolutely essential repairs, and Roz will look into this. Meanwhile the school has been asked to take children from an even wider area, as all primary schools are getting very full.

The angst of the school has been increased by Ely proposing to take the lion share of CIL and S106 monies from the Dencora development, leaving Prior with only about 15%, with the rest going to Ely's pet projects. Ooh, this does make some people cross, and is being strongly disputed.

David Brown gave his usual informative report and pointed out that CCC still has a £5.5 million shortfall in its budget, and has only until February to solve the problem. Allen Alderson was away and did not send in a report which spared the PC from hearing more about Ely. Geoffrey later filled this gap by going on about some of the problems of Soham.

Now on to the major event of the evening. If the *Crier*, instead of being a responsible organ of the community, was an unscrupulous reader-seeking tabloid, the headline would be “MILL HILL RESIDENTS ARE REVOLTING.” And so they are, and with cause, and their revolt has also uncovered another great issue worthy of debate.

Two residents in Mill Hill, one Jonathan Cook the Merry Miller, and the other Paul Abbott the Painter, wrote to the PC councillors after reading that the PC had voted unanimously to have a roundabout at the top of Cage Hill and that the PC had made an official application for this. They wondered why the residents of Mill Hill had not been consulted about something which would have a serious effect of their lives, and would not solve the traffic problem.

I cannot give you any idea of the rowdiness of the discussion and the huge variety of opinion which ranged from the PC saying they were only exploring the

possibility, that discussions would follow, that the discussion had already happened, how appreciative the PC was that anyone took an interest in what they do, that they would be damned if they did nothing and that they are damned if they do. And they all went through in some detail the various options for Mill Hill, and the traffic problems throughout East Cambs.

Jonathan Cook said he used the *Crier* for his information and he was told this is the last thing he should do, as it is so often make believe. And with some triumph one member read out the official minutes of the September meeting which “proposed pursuing the **feasibility** of a roundabout”. Unfortunately neither these minutes nor the October minutes appeared in the *Crier*.

Of course minutes are designed only to record decisions taken and rarely to illustrate what actually happened in the meeting. This is not to say they are inaccurate (in fact Karen’s are always brilliant) but they do not tell the whole story. So let’s look at the facts:-

In the *October Crier Report* on the September Meeting. “After a further detailed and thoughtful discussion it was agreed to apply for the roundabout”.

In the *November Crier Report* on the October Meeting. “Geoffrey spoke of his fear...of having to face defeat with the PC’s highway bid for a roundabout on Mill Hill...but **encouraged by the rest of the PC, Geoffrey will continue to try for it.**”

Also in the *November Crier* (a *Crier* reporter was not available for an ‘extraordinary meeting’) Geoffrey Woollard wrote “The Parish Council debated at its September meeting and resolved, unanimously, to support the roundabout idea...the application form was sent... Mr Pickering [a key CCC traffic official] remarked in an email that the application look good.”

Jonathan and others are quite right to believe what they read in the *Crier*.

The precept will remain the same, the accounts and budget were spot on almost to the penny, and Steve, now in his ninth year with the accounts, saw no reason to amend the budget for the forthcoming year.

In Open Question Time Michael Limb observed that the rumbustious discussion about Mill Hill showed that there was no consensus that anything would really work. The problem is not new. About twenty years ago when on the PC, Martin Meade said that the then trouble could be partly solved if the name Cambridge was removed from the sign post in Fordham which pointed the way to Burwell and the Swaffhams. Times have moved on since then and the problem has worsened, and will become more so when the 3,000 homes or so in the Ely area, and Soham, and Burwell are built. About fifteen years ago, at an Annual Village Assembly, it was suggested that a car should be parked on the road, which would slow down the traffic. Here could be an instant chicane at no cost, and which could be moved to either side of the road. How some Mill Hill residents at the meeting shouted this down and became quite vexed. But, why, one must wonder? It would be worth doing this just for a few days to discover whether this would solve the problem, or create others. Rather than speculating, the PC and the village would have some hard

evidence. So let's hope Jonathan Cook takes this up, and tries it even if just for one day. He could put out a red triangle to stop drivers becoming angry. I am sure the village traffic warden would attend, as would also a lot of villagers if they knew the date and time.

Meanwhile, we can look forward to even more stirring times if CCC does approve the roundabout, and is willing to fund the work.

Alastair Everitt

Get in the Christmas spirit with the

Village Carols

**Wednesday 17 December
Swaffham Prior Village Hall**

**Doors open 6.30pm, singing lots of old favourites from 6.45pm-7.30pm
(approx)**



**Singing ability not required – just bring your enthusiasm!
Free mulled wine and mince pies**

Everyone welcome

Swaffham Prior
VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

on
SUNDAY DECEMBER 21st at 4.30pm
in
St Mary's Church



ALL WELCOME

Hear the Christmas story
Sing the traditional Carols



Boxing Day Hockey Match
SWAFFHAM PRIOR
VS
SWAFFHAM BULBECK

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck
Friday 10.45 am (10.30 am players)

COME AND SUPPORT
SWAFFHAM PRIOR!!



Refreshments will be served —
All proceeds to MAGPAS

Contact Mandy Kingsmill if you
need further information or if you
would like to play in the winning
team!

01638 742482

Join the

WINTER WALK

From St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior
a circular walk to Reach of
approximately 6 miles
to be held on

MONDAY 29th DECEMBER

Starting at 10am

Followed by Soup and a Ploughman's lunch

Book your place by no later
than 24th December
Tickets cost £10.00 each

Enquiries: 01638 742974 / 01638 743693
or e-mail a.e.everitt@btinternet.com

Proceeds will go to the conservation and improvement
of St Cyriac and St Julitta's Church

Information

Meet at the Church of St Cyriac & St Julitta, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD. OSL map 154 GR 568639. Be ready to start at 10 am. Doors will open from 9.30 am.

The centre of the village of Swaffham Prior is off the B1102 Cambridge to Burwell road. From Cambridge, at first village sign, fork left to the High Street. From the east, at the crossroads after the water tower, turn right down Cage Hill and at the T-junction left into the High Street. St Cyriac's Church shares its churchyard with St Mary's, the Parish Church.

Wear stout shoes or walking boots and warm weather-proof clothes. We plan to stop at The Dykes End Public House mid morning.

Well behaved dogs are welcome.

For more details please contact:

Elisabeth Everitt 01638 742974 or Francis Reeks 01638 743693



A New Swaffham Prior Initiative

By

Hilary sage

As a visitor to, and sometime resident of this village, I was thrilled to come across the latest imaginative and challenging initiative undertaken by your PC and PCC. For those of you who have not yet had the good fortune to experience the Adult Adventure Course constructed behind St Cyriac's, I shall attempt to describe how it works.

The intrepid player will enter St Mary's and pay the registration fee - which must surely contain an element of insurance cover – and will then undergo what I took to be an unnecessarily long induction process. This involved a certain amount of singing – forget why. There will then be a stirrup cup ceremony, and then it's out into the cold night to get on with the business of survival.

This first leg of the course involves a gentle walk up to the starting point, which is marked by a symbolic (because it doesn't work) lamppost. Then there's an exciting stumble onto a gravel path, which fades into weed and sand and grassy tufts and thence into a misty darkness, which instantly stifles and confuses the senses. This the moment of choice: should the explorer plunge into total blackness or bear right into an area featuring several large white

obstacles which - fanciful as it might seem – look horrifyingly like a cemetery from the most appalling horror movie?

Even if the resourceful adventurer were armed with a small torch or mobile phone, he/she would soon realize the impossibility of following the overgrown path by the sustained adoption of a weird gorilla gait characterised by bent knees and with knuckles grazing the ground.

The next phase of the course takes one plunging into long, wet grass and then lurching from tombstone to tombstone over uneven and often muddy terrain. We all know that in space “no-one can hear you scream”. Well, it is now possible to add churchyards to this. The swirling mists confuse rather than enfold, and it is a tribute to the technical infrastructure of this project that the stifling and deadening effect could be produced and maintained effortlessly.

Be warned, this phase of the obstacle course takes about fifteen or twenty minutes, but you learn a lot about basic survival techniques, such as low-branch avoidance, shoe-from-mud retrieval and maintenance of adult cool under extreme pressure.

The final test comes with the discovery of a rough stone wall, which can be easily scaled when relief and desperation provide the spur. It is a tribute to the course builders that there is one last surprise; on the other side of this wall lies a stretch of really long, wet grass which enfolds the contestant, who has been panicked into landing on all fours. Once upright, you can stagger to an asphalt track and you are HOME. If you are really lucky, local friends may invite you to dry your clothes and shoes, and to celebrate your completion of the Swaffham Prior Adventure Course with a stiff drink!

Rumour has it that there are plans in the pipeline to make this course better surfaced and adequately lit. I hope that the undue community insistence on 21st Century illumination all over the place will not spoil the challenge which Swaffham Prior now offers its enterprising inhabitants, and visitors. I shall follow progress with interest.

Hilary Sage

HOLLY HOLLY HOLLY

After some sparse years there
will be some holly for sale this Christmas;
if the birds do not become over greedy
in the next few weeks.



The price will be £3.00 for a good bunch.
The proceeds will be shared between
the two churches.

Please order from Elisabeth Everitt
on 742974 by
Tuesday 9th December at the latest.
Collection will be at 5 Lower End on
Sunday December 14th from 12.15 to 1.15.
Other times to be mutually arranged.



Elisabeth Everitt

BON MOT NUMBER FORTY NINE

“The prestige you acquire by being able to tell
your friends that you know famous men
proves only that you yourself
are of small account.”

W Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)

November 11th 2014



Chris Verdonk, Leah Swift and Alice Trump setting out the School poppies in the Church on Remembrance Day (see page 30).

VISIT YOUR LOCAL ARTISTS AND FIND THE PERFECT GIFTS

cards 🎴 photography 📷 illustration 🎨 painting 🖌️ digital art 💻 prints 🖨️ etching 🗑️ glass
drawing 🖋️ sculpture 🗿 woodcuts 🖼️ ceramics 🏺 jewellery 💎 letter cutting ✂️ textiles 🧶



**Christmas
Open Studios**
Sat 6 & Sun 7 Dec

Ceramic Artist

Matthew Blakely
9 Abbey Lane, Lode
CB25 9EP
Tel: 01223 811 959
Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

Glass Blower

Stewart Hearn
112a High Street
Chatteris PE16 6NN
Tel: 01354 278 084
Sat 10am-5pm & Sun 11am-4pm

Glass & Light Artist

Chris Wood
12 Annesdale, Ely
CB7 4BN
Tel: 01353 650426
Sat & Sun 11am - 5pm

Painter & Jeweller

Bob & Carol Banks
37 Merlin Drive
Ely, CB6 3EE
Tel: 01353 611 166
Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

Painter

Bob Wells
9 Beech Lane
Ely CB7 4QZ
Tel: 01353 772 857
Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

Painter

Marina Yedigaroff
20 Newnham Street
Ely, CB7 4PE
Tel: 01353 656 916
Sat & Sun 11am-5pm

meet the artists in their working studios



**Tues 2nd - Sun 7th
December 2014**
10am - 4pm

The 21 participating
artists' names in the
Reindeer Gulligan are

Julie Baker
Debbie Bellaby
Corinne Blandin-Eagling
Ruth E Blundell
Claire Cockayne
Sarah Dodkin-Rush
Steve Faint
Caroline Forward
Ly2 Gardner
Melanie Goemans
Andrew Jones
Heidi Lichterman
Mack Mathod
Sukie Meldon
Janene Pike
Dorothy Pugh
James Ryder
Tom Sims
Valerie Sims
Cristina Stan
Chris Wood

present
Advent

the art exhibition before Christmas

at the

Babylongallery

Waterside, Ely, CB7 4AU - Tel: 01353 669 022

All participating artists are members
of the Cambridge Open Studios
WWW.CAMOPENSTUDIOS.CO.UK

Artists will donate a
percentage of sales
to **ELY FOODBANK & ADEC**



www.adec.org.uk

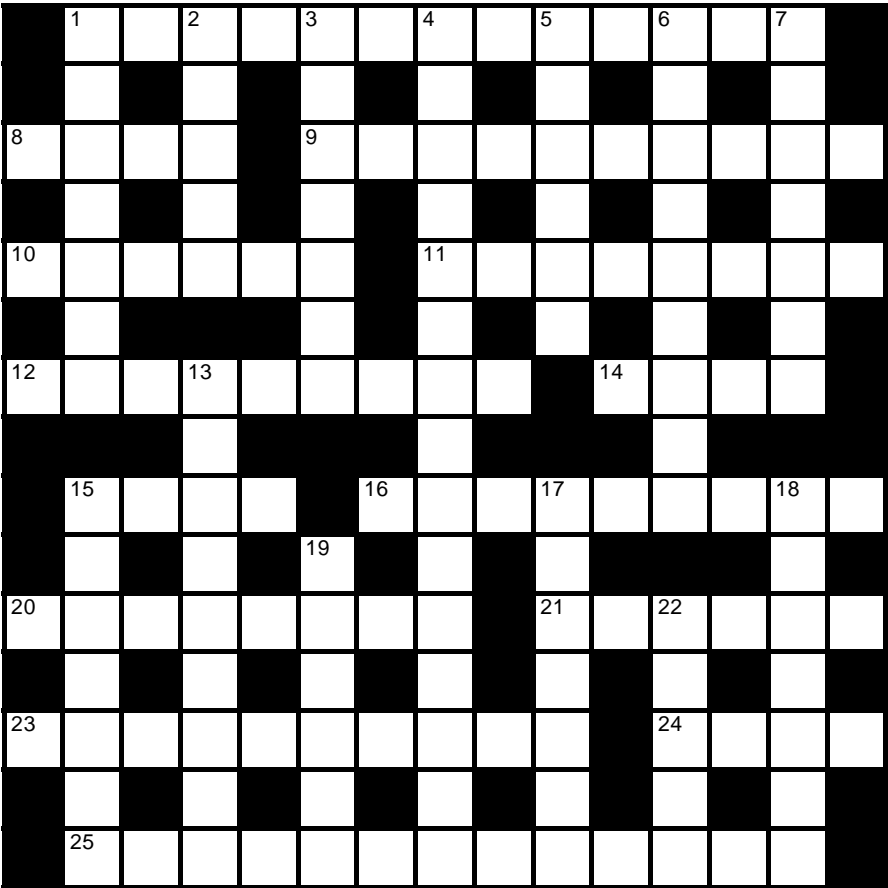
Crossword Number 115

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 December 2014. 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 Doctor, get into NHS for a single performance (3-5,5)
- 8 Patch inside radar nodes (4)
- 9 Access to a glove in Charleston perhaps (10)
- 10 What to wear for swimming in the Marshall Islands (6)
- 11 Mystical ice store is damaged (8)
- 12 Maybe lead to HQ on Mercury for example (4,5)
- 14 Give up grain we hear (4)
- 15 A long way off in an Alabama farmhouse (4)
- 16 Worship modern speech (9)
- 20 Brie cooked twice may cause disease (8)
- 21 Tax on sailor; one going to very loud musical (6)
- 23 Gentle p-radius gets new beginning (4-6)
- 24 Olive, khaki and yellow are initially acceptable (4)
- 25 Girl's in time to find sweetheart refreshed and unbiased (13)

Down

- 1 Oar I can convert into a wind instrument (7)
- 2 boredom included in drunken nuisance calls (5)
- 3 Pretend that I'm a gin sweetheart (7)
- 4 Banner to beat the French and poor within (6,3,6)
- 5 Deposit computer contents in The Office maybe (6)

- 6 Reduction in the stew Batman ate (9)
- 7 Refuse to go down (7)
- 13 I came east in disarray and it wastes away (9)
- 15 Nothing I'd get after a study of a gland (7)
- 17 Staff soldier can get centre court key (7)
- 18 Casual worker follows at a distance (7)
- 19 Dave, Ernie, Eric, Peter, Elliot, Norman all begin to dig (6)
- 22 Kangaroos take shelter and settle (5)

Solution to crossword no. 114

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

We congratulate Malcom Creese, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Robert

SP Crimewatch

Don't Advertise your Christmas Holiday!

Detectives are urging people going away this Christmas not to advertise their holiday on social media. Officers are concerned that burglars scan networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter to find out when homes will be unoccupied.

Last December, about one in six burglaries in the county were at properties where the residents had been away for two days or more.

The worst affected areas were Cambridge, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire, which all had around 60 burglaries in the month.

Police issued the same warning in July when a number of homes in the Werrington area of Peterborough were broken into while residents were on holiday.

Detective Inspector Fran Jones, force lead on burglary, said: "It's understandable that people will be excited about going away, even if it's just for the weekend, but our advice would be not to advertise it on social media.

"Unfortunately, as well as your genuine friends, criminals may also be looking and take the opportunity to break into an unoccupied home. My advice would be to only tell relatives and trusted friends and neighbours."

In addition, residents are advised to keep Christmas presents out of sight as much as possible.

DI Jones said: "Before presents are placed under the tree, they should be kept out of sight, such as in closed wardrobes or under beds. Ideally, they should not be put under the tree until Christmas morning, particularly if it's visible from outside.

"And don't forget that burglars can target homes where they see discarded packaging from expensive gifts. Cardboard boxes and packaging should be properly broken down so they fit into a bin."

Residents who want advice on protecting their home are urged to visit the force's new crime prevention tool. The interactive house allows users to visit key areas around a home where security could be improved.

http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/GetCloser/Burglary.asp?utm_source=Press%20release&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=Christmas%20burglary

The figures for burglaries in December 2013, and those where the occupants had been away for two days or more, are below:

Local Authority/District	'Away'	Grand Total
Cambridge City	12	63
City of Peterborough	7	60
East Cambridgeshire	2	22
Fenland	5	27
Huntingdonshire	12	60
South Cambridgeshire	8	58

Christmas around the world, Cantilena Singers

Sat, December 6, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Bassingbourn Parish Church, North End Bassingbourn SG8 5NW

Christmas around the world,

Cantilena Singers Music for Advent and Christmas with an international flavour
Programme to include carols and other celebratory music suitable for Adventide and
Christmas.

Daniel Spreadbury (director)

Refreshments available by donation £7, £5

Proceeds to the church

For tickets contact Sam Spreadbury - 07967 197337 sam.spreadbury@gmail.com
www.cantilenasingers.org

**Burwell Print Centre's
first ever
Christmas Fayre
at Mandeville Hall, Burwell
Saturday 6th December
10 to 4pm.**

- **Santa's grotto**
- **15+ craft stalls**
- **Mulled wine**
- **Cakes and refreshments**
- **School choir**
- **Local singing group**
- **Tombolas**
- **Face painting**
- **And more ...**

**Please come along to help us
celebrate the festive season
and support one of your local
Social Training Enterprises.**

- **Free admission**
- **Plenty of parking**

Those War Windows

A hundred or more villagers and their guests were privileged to attend a memorable illustrated talk given in St Mary's Church on the evening of 14 November by Jolyon Mitchell, Professor of Communications, Arts and Religion (to give him just one of his titles) at the University of Edinburgh.

Those climbing the steps to St. Mary's were immediately alerted to the powerful external illuminations to the three stained glass windows in the north aisle. As cadets kindly guided the audience by torch light into the church, everyone was encouraged to view the windows before settling into the pews, which had been thoughtfully rearranged in such a way to eliminate the normal aisle. A projection screen displayed a view of poppies and the (almost) palindromic date of 14.11.14 in readiness for the talk. In the background, members of the Ely Sinfonia played beautifully. The church, decorated with lovely flowers, looked splendid. For what was to follow, the atmosphere could not have been more appropriate.

Professor Mitchell proceeded to deliver an utterly compelling and captivating talk on the significance of the two extremely rare and unusual "war windows" and the single "peace window," in the context of the sentiment and atmosphere in the country during and after World War I, with specific reference to Swaffham Prior. Professor Mitchell has written and lectured widely on issues relating to communications, violence and peace building and could not have been better qualified to advance his theories on the (at times) subtlety of emotions at play in the aftermath of war ravaged Britain. While he chose not to conduct a forensic analysis of each individual window, his talk was nevertheless certainly erudite. No doubt harnessing skills learned as a former BBC World Service producer and journalist, he had produced a grippingly spectacular power point presentation to illustrate and amplify the points he made so eloquently. He highlighted many points, noting that the windows' images depicted both British and German combatants, Red Cross and munition factory workers of both sexes, as well as weaponry, including the terrifying Zeppelin. He also sought to explain and rationalise the general purpose of war memorials, which sometimes proved to be very controversial - as current viewers of Downton Abbey can confirm!

The talk was punctuated with occasional contemporary readings and concluded with the eminent but approachable Professor Mitchell fielding audience questions which included reference to the Allix family, whose patriarch was the major benefactor of the windows which were dedicated on 21 December 1919.

A short service of remembrance then took place, conducted by the recently retired Canon of Ely Cathedral, David Pritchard. As well as the customary refrains and



Master-organiser Dee Noes

a rousing rendition of the National Anthem (both verses!) a bugler, Nigel Bennett poignantly played The Last Post and Reveille from a lofty position in the Church.

The evening concluded with wine and delicious nibbles and enabled Swaffham Priorites and their guests to mingle and discuss the special event which we had all been fortunate to attend. This was certainly an evening to remember.

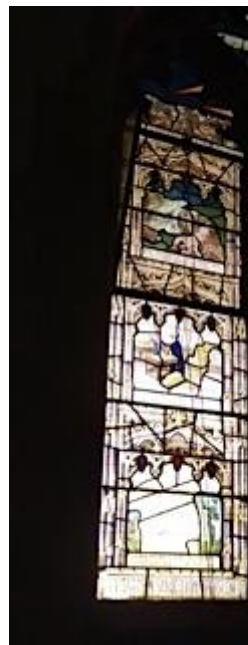
The idea for this lecture was conceived by Dee Noyes but made to happen by many others too numerous to mention here and in addition to them all, special thanks must go to the lecture sponsors, The Montgomery Trust and of course Professor Jolyon Mitchell.

Jan and Ian Pattinson





The music, the backlit window, the children's poppies, the art-work, the gloriously ethereal atmosphere of the event. .



ws the flowers, the chil-
— all contributing to a
re and an unforgettable



WI Notes

At our November meeting the speaker was Sarah Oliver who is a lady plumber. Sarah is a graduate in biology and after a number of interesting jobs she decided to become self employed to fit in with having children and retrained as a plumber. It was a very interesting evening for us as we were talked through the various areas of domestic plumbing starting from the mains stopcock. We were able to examine samples of thermostatic radiator valves and the flushing mechanisms involved in both the handle and button systems for flushing the loo. We all left with a better understanding of what goes on when we turn on the taps round the house and how we get hot water in the shower.

Our Christmas Party will be on 8th December at 7pm (not 2nd December as shown on the programme). Our next regular meeting will be on 19th January at 7.30 when one of our members will give us a talk about her recent visits to the WI training centre, Denman College in Oxford.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome 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

'Bulbs through the Seasons' was the topic at our November meeting and our speaker, Lucy Redman, gave us information on bulbs and much else besides. Lucy's obvious enthusiasm for her subject, and her great plantswoman's knowledge made for a most interesting and informative evening. Illustrated by pictures from her own garden in Rushbrooke [open to the public on Fridays in the Summer], Lucy showed how she plants snowdrops, hellebores and blue brunner together to form a succession of early colour. Species lilies are particularly pretty in a woodland area and she is especially fond of irises, from the small, early, yellow and cream juno irises to the later tall, bearded ones. The early small, bulbous iris reticulata looks good when planted with snowdrops and crocuses. Narcissi en masse are a good idea too, as are snake's head fritillary. Lucy also advocated bulbs that flower later in the summer such as the bell-like flowers of the galtonia candicans which also has attractive seed heads in the autumn. Speaking of which, Lucy brought along a collection of seed heads picked from her garden, all of which provide winter interest if left on the plants.

Our next meeting will be in the New Year on Tuesday 20 January as usual at 8pm in the Village Hall when Rob Brett, who works in the Sainsbury Building at the Botanic Gardens. This will be his third visit to us and this time his subject will be 'More Delights about Plants'. Everyone welcome.

Mary Hart



Mothers' Union

Beryl Waterson took us on a delightful journey, describing a tour that was led by the Revd. Stephen Earl to Sinai. The first night the Group stayed in a 5-star hotel overlooking the Pyramids in Cairo. They visited quite a number of monasteries including St.

Anthony's where there is a waiting list of 100 young men. In the old part of the Monastery they attended a Holy Communion Service. They met a Bedouin Tribe and rode camels all day. At St. Catherine's Monastery at the base of Mount Sinai they decided to join a group making the journey to the top at 2a.m. in the morning. They rode camels and to Beryl's amazement they were left on their own to make their way up; she was assured the camel knew its way! The party had never seen so many stars and a trainee Vicar from Manchester took Holy Communion on the Plateau. At the top there is a tiny chapel where there is a wonderful feeling of calm and peace. The following day the Bedouins took the Group further into the dessert, this time in four-wheel vehicles. Some of them asked to leave the camp on their own to experience the silence, this was very special. They ate with the Bedouins and then slept out under the stars. Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30 in Lode Chapel. On December 11th we will be holding our Christmas Lunch at 1pm in Lode Chapel. You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Jill Jenyns

01223811204

Give Blood Locally!

Give Blood this Christmas. Help us to ensure we have enough life-saving supplies.

Friday 19th December:

1.00-3.15pm & 4.30-7.00pm,

Burwell Community Sports Centre, Buntings Path

Friday 2nd January:

9.40-12.30 & 2.15—4.15,

King Edward Memorial Hall, Newmarket

*Appointments strongly recommended : 0300
1232323*



John Norris Remembers – First Impressions of Swaffham Prior in 1958

When the railway was first built the stream running through the park caused some very awkward areas to be created. These were removed by cutting a new dyke alongside the railway yard and filling in the old watercourse. This straight dyke in turn caused some spare land next to the sidings and it was here that Arthur Nash had an allotment. I suppose when it was originally laid out it was useful, but the beech trees have grown so large that very little grew there in the time I knew it. It is now part of the station garden.



Just one more thing! When we wanted to move one of the railway trucks, we developed a trick of using the trailer corner post and a length of joist to push the trucks along. The stationmaster had an iron bar which if used with skill and determination could persuade a wagon to move, but what a chore. The lever was placed over the track and under the wheel so that the movement moved the truck about one inch at a time.

The only reminder of the railway existing today is the marker for the gas pipeline, which runs alongside the old track and a slight rise where the embankment ran.

Going along the high street, starting at the thatch cottage on the corner of Cadendam Lane, we first come to Mutton Row. Here lived John Goddard who in my time did useful work on the estate. Much of his time was spent in cutting down ivy from the bigger trees, a very necessary job if the tree is valued at all. The next two cottages were much as they are today. Next to them were three cottages built close to the road being pulled down. On my first visit they were complete but empty. On the next, only the skeleton timbers were standing. Eventually Mr Sheldrick built the present house himself. When the cottages were removed, it was possible to see the end of Anglesey House for the first time for many years and the pargetted plaster was revealed.

On the other side of the road stood the chapel and next to it the thatched cottage of the Symonds family. I well remember later Mr Day pulling off the thatch into the drive of Mr Lowe's house. I was surprised how much there seemed to be – a huge pile!

The church and cottages opposite have not changed much. The shop was of course open and very busy. The Asbee sisters were very old and had delegated the running of the shop to the Sheldricks. Everything was sold there: coffee, lamp wicks, bacon, nails, buckets and spades! Even the smell of the place was interesting. It was only when the house was occupied by the Waters family that I got any idea of the size and interest of the garden. Next door again was the Sturgess butchers shop: again, hardly any alteration during the past fifty years according to the old photographs.

One place that has changed is the cottage opposite. In this dilapidated place lived David Godfrey. His one obsession was to make sure his roof was “tardid” (David’s spelling, not mine!) every year! The front of the house was untidy, the doors patched and daubed with paint and all the windows blocked up so that one could not see inside. The other half was occupied by Mrs Clarke and looked a little better. As David was the landlord of them both, repairs here were crying out to be done. One interest to the children was the steps, much as they are today. Providing a run up and down for exercise.

Cooper’s shop and house together with the corner house where Mrs Dowdeswell lived have not changed at all. All these properties had gates and fences where necessary as sheep were regularly driven along the road and if your barricades were not up to standard you could get many visitors!

The school grounds extended to the porch down Station Road and across to the Reading Room. The loos were against the gate and rather primitive affairs and the sight of much scholastic fools play. All the school activities were carried on in the “old” building. Behind the school was Mr Ambrose’s stack yard and here there were several very old ash and elm trees, huge specimens which had all been struck by lightning at some time. Indeed most of the trees in this area have a sizeable dead trunk in their middle with regrowth on either side, showing the effect of an electric storm.

The field surrounding the school and reading room was called Camping Close and had clunch walls down Station Road and along the High Street. The hard winter of 1963 crumbled these walls so that they were not cattle-proof any more. We then cleared away the clunch and put up a post and rail fence, some of which is there today.

The entrance to Camping Close opposite Byes Yard, or more recently Knights Manor, was the way in for the fair people. After Thurston’s had been to Reach Fair they came to Swaffham Prior and set up their stalls in Town Close after towing their living vans to Camping Close. Mrs Thurston always asked for permission and gave five pounds to the church funds.

Going across this field was the water supply to the Hall and the sewage works down Station Road. This plant served the septic tanks and soak-aways. This was not too bad as the village is on quite a hill and the water soon drained away. Indeed the septic tank at Anglesey House was not emptied in either my or the Kitchen’s time! To get on, the next house I saw was the new one built by Mr Day and just occupied before our first visit.

As so many repairs had to be done to Anglesey House, we called on Bert Day to see what he could do. Nana Day was most hospitable and welcomed Marion and I into her new house where we enjoyed a glass of her speciality – elderberry wine! The repairs were discussed and timetable arranged for the work. Mr Day’s staff consisted of two very reliable workmen and himself. Bill and Ben we called John Wartnaby and Mr Harry Bradford. They struggled with rotten stairs, floorboards and clunch walls, furred water pipes and a very leaky roof. These matters I shall deal with in another place.

Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

The club is now in its 41st year and continues to attract new members who are always welcome.

During October 2014 several members of the club attended a photography competition at Bishop's Stortford organized by the ICON group. Six clubs from the Eastern Region were invited to take part - Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club, Cambridge Camera Club, Chelmsford Camera Club, ICON, Upminster Camera Club and Ware & District Photographic Society. Each club submitted 8 prints which were judged by Paul Radden LRPS DPAGB AFIAP of Harlow Photographic Society. Paul is also the Judges Officer for the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF). The competition was won by Ware & District, second, Bottisham & Burwell, with Chelmsford in third place. Only one mark separated the first two places.

This was the last event organised by ICON which was formed in 1997 from members in a club who had issues regarding the introduction of digital cameras! They decided to form a separate group for about 5 years to see how the new cameras would perform. Now seventeen years later and all much older the group has decided to disband. The President of the EAF Bob Norris EFIAP APAGB stated that they will be greatly missed by the photographic community in the Eastern Region as their work was always of a consistently good quality.

In the coming weeks we have the following events taking place:

Tuesday 2 December

'The Art in Photography' A Workshop with audience participation led by Adrian Stone, of Peterborough.

The year ends on **Tuesday 9 December** 2014, with a 'Quiz Night' led the Chairman Gerry Metcalfe.

Tuesday 6 January 2015: PAGB Inter-Federation Print Exhibition Portfolio' Recorded DVD of prints exhibited throughout the United Kingdom in



Coming Down —The Tulip Staircase at the Greenwich Maritime Museum, taken by Martin Rushworth DPAGB APAGB.

2014 from the 15 Federations.

Tuesday 27 January 2014: 'Jpeg-vs-Raw'. Ian Wilson ARPS of Cambridge CC delves into the pros and cons of capturing images in both genres

In the following weeks there will be a varied programme of events that may, if wished, be attended by guests. Further details are available on our website see below.

Guests are welcome to attend any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW on Tuesday's from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a pro rata rate.

Lastly we would ask guests attending the club not to **double park** in the vicinity of Lode Chapel, as there is local concern regarding access for emergency vehicles.

Barry Coles
Publicity Officer

For further details contact:

Mrs Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB

T: 01638 741106

www.bottburpc.org

JENNY

Jenny kissed me, when we met;
As had Elsie, Lucy, Cora,
Sheila, Gwendolyn and Bet',
Alice, Abigail, and Flora.
Say, 'Of honour, I'm not blest';
Say, 'Misogyny has missed me':
And please say,
'I'd forgotten all the rest';
When Jenny kissed me!

Ophir.
(After James Leigh Hunt)

News from Bottisham Patients' Group

Fund raiser for the Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor (ABPM)

As explained last month, the Patients' Group (PG) has agreed to raise funds to pay for an ABPM for Bottisham Medical Practice so that patients can have the monitor fitted at the surgery and their GP can have quick access to the readings. The tombola at the 'flu clinics in October raised just short of £100, so we are off the mark towards our target of £1,500. Details of how you can donate are on the PG noticeboard in the waiting room where a collection box will be available on Reception. Your donations of whatever amount will be very welcome, in cash or cheque - the PG banks with Barclays Bank and cheques should be made out to 'Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group'. We don't have a deadline for reaching our target, as the sooner it's reached the sooner patients won't have to spend half a day, twice, going to Addenbrooke's to have their blood pressure monitored. If you have any good ideas about other ways in which we can raise this money please email our secretary on patientsgroup@outlook.com or leave a note for her at Reception.

Campaign for improvements to General Practice

Through the Royal College of General Practitioners' campaign, many of you signed its petition calling for general practice to be given the resources it needs to care for patients. Thanks to your support, the *Put patients first: Back general practice* campaign is having a positive impact across the UK – raising awareness about the need for more GPs to be able to spend more time with their patients. It was signed by over 300,000 people. Last month NHS England said in its landmark *Five Year Forward View* that it intends to implement a package of measures to boost primary care, including shifting more NHS resources into the community and recruiting more GPs, particularly in deprived areas. The RCGP is currently writing an Action Plan to give to our leaders, mapping out the actions they need to take to deliver this 'new deal'. You can follow the RCGP campaign at www.putpatientsfirst.rcgp.org.uk; on Twitter using [#putpatientsfirst](https://twitter.com/putpatientsfirst); and on [facebook.com/rcgp.org](https://www.facebook.com/rcgp.org).

'Flu jabs

If you are reading this, are eligible for a free 'flu jab but still haven't had it, phone the Practice on 01223 810030 to book an appointment.

Healthy Walking Group

There will be one PG walk in December, led by Steve Gilson, our accredited walk leader, on Friday 12th, starting from the surgery car park at 11.00 am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays from the Visitors' Centre starting at 10.00 am. All patients are welcome on all these walks.

Christmas and New Year

The PG committee and the Practice staff wish all of our patients a very happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year. The surgery will be closed from 25th to 28th December inclusive and on 1st January, so the Dispensary will be particularly busy. Please try to give more than 48 hours' notice if you need to collect repeat prescriptions over the holiday period. If you need urgent medical care overnight, at weekends or during bank holidays please phone Urgent Care Cambridgeshire on 111.

Bottisham Patients' Group Committee

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

POTTED PAGEANTRY

You don't need to go abroad to catch a bit of winter sun: in the darkest months, warm up inside with a bit of potted plant pageantry for the festive season! Our Glasshouse Range at the Botanic Garden is a great place for some inspiration.

The tropics provide Christmas cactus and poinsettia. The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is a forest canopy cactus from the coastal mountains of Brazil with arching spidery sprays of segmented, succulent and toothed leaves. As the days shorten, the plant is triggered to produce beautiful waxy flowers in bright pinks, purples, scarlets and oranges. The flowers are made up of very many tepals – as many as 40 – the outer ones reflexing and the inner ones lengthening to give the impression of a flower within a flower. Shortening days are also key to vivid colour in another great Christmas plant, the poinsettia, which is in fact a Central American member of the spurge family, *Euphorbiaceae*. The central knot of unprepossessing flowers is surrounded by the huge bracts which colour up in response to short winter day-length. To have them at their best for Christmas, try to restrict the plant's exposure to day or artificial light to a maximum of 12 hours a day from November onwards and keep the temperature constant at around 18°C.

The Mediterranean and Middle East provide wonderful winter-flowering bulbs including hyacinth and narcissus which bring not only their richly-scented flowers, but some Greek mythology into the house. Hyacinth was so named after a flower sprang from the blood of the young man, Hyacinth, struck down by a discus during a fight between jealous gods, Apollo and Zephyr; Narcissus was the boy so vain and in

love with his own reflection in a pool that he took root and became a flower, while the unnoticed nymph in love with him, Echo, faded away until just her voice was left. Heat treated hyacinth and narcissus bulbs will flower in time for Christmas and can be closely packed into a pot.

In fact, closely packing potted plants together not only creates a fantastic centrepiece but increases the ambient humidity which will improve display. It's also sensible to site somewhere with good but indirect light and avoid spots with great temperature fluctuations such as in a draught or above a radiator.



School News

The Autumn term has been a busy one and we have enjoyed a range of activities and events...

On Saturday 4th October, members of the KS2 choir performed at Reach Church as part of their Harvest festival. They sang extremely well and there were lots of very positive comments made about the beautiful music they made.



Our Harvest Celebration at St Mary's led by Reverend Sue. The KS2 choir performed again for us and each class prepared their own special contributions. Mercury Class confidently retold in song the story of The Enormous Turnip and Mars Class entertained us with an action song based on beans! Neptune Class and Saturn Class sang for us a Harvest song and Reverend Sue demonstrated the distribution of food around the world. Despite there being enough food for all there are still countries that do not have enough to feed their populations.

FoSPS Pumpkin Parade took place and yet again, the entrance to the school was a blaze of orange and there were some ingenious designs. They ranged from a Rubik's Cube, a Cinderella coach, a Dalek to cats, those with beautiful and intricate decoration and carving. Well done to all! There were some special prize winners. Congratulations to Wiley and Charlotte, Molly, Martin, Verity, Sam and Jayden, Eleanor and Brad.

A cafe also took place and children from the School Council were on hand to serve cakes and biscuits. It was a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. The event raised over £100 which is a fantastic achievement.

Ely Cathedral report by Eleanor C

On Tuesday 14th October years 5&6 went to Ely Cathedral. We got on the bus at 9:20am. We arrived at 10:00am. First we went to the station at which we soon discovered to have heating next to us. Once we had got there we began the autograph hunt, which is a competition where you have to go round and get autographs from other schools.

Once we had done that it was time to go to are our separate workshops. We were split in two groups. Groups A&B. Group A went to see the Nun who told us about gods and goddesses and then we went to the man who told us about king Edmund and the battle of Moulden. Group B went to the man who told them about king Edmund and the battle of Moulden and they did a role play. Next group B went to the Nun who told them about medicine and how to treat bad wounds.



Now it was time to get together, for a play about Etheldreda. After part one it was time for lunch and we could see our friends from other schools. Then we had some songs and then it was time for part two of Etheldreda. At 2:00 it was time to go and say good bye to our friends and get ready for a half an hour bus drive back to school.

Despite the forecast predicting heavy showers, the sun appeared and Grounds Day successfully took place on the last day of the half term. Children and adults worked together all day in all areas of the schools' grounds on jobs including, clearing leaves, putting down wood chips, weeding flower beds, cutting back shrubs, clearing and tidying the vegetable garden and Nature Area, fixing gates and putting up a bird box, planting bulbs. The grounds look fantastic!

On Tuesday 11th November, we took part in a special Remembrance Day Ceremony. Mrs Janet Wilmott asked the school to help her in putting together a Poppy Display in St Mary's as part of a special event taking place in the church. All the children and adults in the school made poppies and these were taken to the church and displayed just inside the front door. Our own 'Tower of London' field of poppies! Later that day we all went to the church and heard the choir sing, held two minutes silence and watched as members of the School Council added the final poppies.

The School Council successfully organised some events to celebrate and raise money for Children in Need. Children and staff arrived at school dressed as Super-Heroes and other heroes of their choice. Apart from the dressing-up, they arranged a 'Guess how many sweets in a jar' competition and a 'Design a Pair of Super Hero Pants'. The total raised was an incredible £225, which included £40.05 raised by Ben Q, who held a cake sale.

Now we are starting to think about Christmas and Mercury and Mars classes are already beginning to prepare for their Christmas Production. We have a lot to look forward to including a 'History off the Page' day, Decoration Day, a Christmas celebration at St Mary's, a trip to the panto (- oh yes we are!!) and Christmas lunch. PHEW!!

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher



Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 13th November 2014

John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 6 members of the public in attendance.

Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation: None.

Public Participation:

*Allocation of S106/CIL * Monies:* Roz Chalmers and Charlotte Cane addressed the meeting on behalf of the School. As requested by members of the Parish Council at their October meeting, Roz outlined costs for the replacement of the mobile classroom and reiterated the need for this. There followed discussion and it was concluded that a new mobile classroom for the school should be considered as a priority but it was recognised that any monies received would not cover the full cost.

** Community Infrastructure Levy- reference ECDC CIL guidance notes: CIL is a levy that is charged on most new development in the District. The money raised through this levy will be used to pay for strategic infrastructure required to support development in the District. The District Council will be required to pass to the relevant Town/Parish Council 15% of CIL receipts that arise from development in their parish area.*

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – No Report.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Parish Council Website (www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/): A new page to be created for the Community Land Trust.

Road Names-Rogers Road Development: Suggested names were submitted to ECDC and they advised the following:

Witt Walk – 'Walk' not an ideal suffix in this instance.

Sidney Foster Road – unable to use first and surnames in a street name, could be 'Foster' but not 'Sidney Foster'. Again, would avoid 'Road' as is not a good description.

There was further discussion and the Clerk was to ask ECDC to provide a copy of their criteria for street naming.

CIL/S106 payments: Clerk had confirmed to John Hill, Chief Executive of ECDC that the Parish Council did not wish to receive S106 monies direct but would liaise with ECDC at the time of allocation. Emma Grima of ECDC attended the October Parish Council extraordinary meeting to explain the allocation process for the S106 and CIL monies explaining that there would

be a consultation with Parishes on projects to be included on the CIL 1-2-3 list. Following the meeting Emma forwarded to the Clerk Guidance Notes for CIL as referred to above – *copy available on request.*

Overgrown hedges, Village Hall/School boundary: Paul Latchford was unable to attend the last VHMC meeting but said he would follow up and clarify responsibility for cutting back hedges, etc., on boundary.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

CCC – Street Lighting Energy 1/10/13 - 30/9/14. *CCC to continue to pay energy bills for street lighting in village and invoice the Parish Council on an annual basis.*

CCC – Cambridgeshire Electoral Review – *Details of consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of electoral divisions for Cambridgeshire. Consultation ends on the 19th January 2015 – further details can be found on www.lgbc.org.uk or poster on the village noticeboard. It was considered that this would not affect the Parish of Swaffham Prior.*

ECDC – Restructuring of Management and Departments of East Cambridgeshire District Council. *Details of restructure following review.*

ECDC – North Ely Park Consultation 6/11 – 28/11/14. *Noted.*

ECDC – Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 – *Briefing Pack for New Powers from 20th October 2014.*

Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 – Traffic Calming Measures for Mill Hill:

Letters were received expressing concern about the lack of consultation with Mill Hill residents on the Parish Council's proposals for traffic calming islands or a mini-roundabout at the top of Cage Hill as part of an application to CCC for funding. The meeting was adjourned and there followed extensive discussion with residents of Mill Hill about their concerns. Once the meeting reconvened, councillors suggested waiting until the outcome of their application was known but assured everyone of their commitment to consult with residents.

Replacement of Noticeboard Outside Village Hall:

This was carried forward to next meeting.

Consideration of Draft Budget/Precept for 2015-16:

Steve Kent-Phillips circulated budget summary confirming budget for 2014/15 was correct to a variance of £17.

A draft precept figure of £14,500 for 2015/16 was agreed for final approval at January 2015 meeting – *this is the 9th year the precept has remained at this figure with no increase.*

Accounts for Payment:

These were agreed.

Clerk's Reports:

Storage of planning applications: The Clerk told the meeting details of all planning applications since 1983 had been logged on a spreadsheet. The paper copies were taking up considerable storage space and having confirmed with ECDC Planning, the majority could now be destroyed. *Clerk was asked to circulate log for councillors to review. Clerk requested that alternative storage space be found for any historic applications retained.*

Reports:

Andrew Camps reported a complaint received about the speed at which the contractors were cutting the grass. *Clerk to follow up.*

John Covill confirmed the removal of fly-tipping in Prior Fen.

Geoffrey Woollard commented on the state of the road at Great Drove and was to follow-up with Cllr David Brown.

Open Question Time:

Further discussion on traffic calming measures, Mill Hill.

Alastair Everitt told the meeting that the 'High Street' sign outside the village was broken. *Steve Kent-Phillips said he would report this.*

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, 11th December 2014 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meeting dates:

8th January, 12th February, 12th March, 9th April 2015.

All are welcome to attend.

Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel: 742358. Email:

karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk

Website: www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/

News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey

At the beginning of November around 1000 revellers held an illegal rave on Burwell Fen. To access the fen, they cut fences and broke gates and bollards causing significant damage, both physical and financial. The party goers left a large amount of waste on site including 11 medical grade nitrogen oxide cylinders and human waste (as there were no toilet facilities on site) leaving a particularly unpleasant task for our Rangers and volunteers who spent several days clearing-up the mess. If you're out and about in the Vision area and suspect a rave maybe about to take place, please call the Wicken Fen Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 or Cambridge-shire Police on 101.

Essential maintenance work on the access ramps to Reach Lode Bridge is scheduled to take place in December. This will require the bridge to be closed for a period of five consecutive days between sometime between 4 -18 December - the exact date being very weather dependent. The dates will be posted on our website and Facebook pages when known, or please call the Visitor Centre for up to date information if you plan to use the bridge.

As Christmas approaches we have our popular **Father Christmas at the Fen** over three weekends from Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 December. Tickets (£6.95 per child) are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274 – advance booking essential.

Tickets for Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey are completely sold-out for all nine nights. Sorry if you missed out this year - please remember to book early when tickets for next year's event go on sale in the summer.

In the New Year we will be running a couple of volunteering open days at Anglesey Abbey on Saturday 10 and Tuesday 13 January, 10am -1pm. There are lots of ways you can get involved from welcoming visitors and sharing stories, to helping run Lode Mill or volunteering as a family. Please e-mail our volunteering team on angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk to find out more or to let us know you're coming.

Finally, if you fancy some fresh air and a walk over the Festive period, Wicken Fen is open every day, (except Christmas Day) from 10am – 5pm; whilst Anglesey Abbey is open from 10am – 4.30pm (closed 24 -26 Dec).

Have a great Christmas.





Christmas Blues

As I write this there are six more weeks until Christmas. Why does that thought give me a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach? Am I alone in that? What have we done to Christmas?

It all seems to have got out of control somehow. For many it has become the most stressful time of the year. Every year I seem to hear more and more people saying how much they dislike Christmas.

'Peace and goodwill' has a hollow ring to it.

And all those cheery, sentimental Christmas songs just make it seem worse.

The lonely feel even lonelier.

The depressed feel even more depressed.

The poor get poorer.

Those in debt get even further into debt.

Those who already have plenty want even more.

Many of us spend far more than we need on food and drink and frivolity.

We and our children are bombarded with advertising whose sole purpose is to make us feel dissatisfied with what we have and to want something bigger or better.

Whilst a majority of people agree that Christmas is about spending time with family and friends, and a smaller majority feel that it is a time when we should be generous to people less fortunate than ourselves, a survey taken before Christmas 2013 found that 18 million people were worried about how they would afford Christmas. Many people expected to start the New Year in debt and many were still paying for the previous Christmas in November. Surely this is not how it was meant to be?

The true meaning of Christmas is simple. We remember, and celebrate, that God came as a new-born child to live among the people he created. Yes, I find that mysterious and difficult to understand. But I believe it. One of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel. It means *'God is with us'*. He came to be with us in this world, to show us how to live a fully human life, and to give us a hope and a future. The real peace and joy of Christmas are to be found in this Jesus. He is still with us amid all the hype and superficiality of our modern Christmas. He is here to be found among the tinsel and the trimmings; the loneliness and depression; the poverty and extravagance.

Why not try to find a quiet space in the midst of it all to think about who Jesus really is and why he came, and whether it ought to mean something to you? Throughout Advent there are churches near you where people will be meeting to

reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Why not come and try it out for yourself?

We at RE:NEW do wish you all a truly happy and peaceful Christmas.

Peter Wells

RE:NEW Services in December 2014.

**7 December 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)
With Holy Communion**

14 December 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

14 December 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

21 December 10.30am – RE:NEW Carol Service (at the School)

25 December 10.30am – Christmas Day Service (at the School)

28 December 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

28 December 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

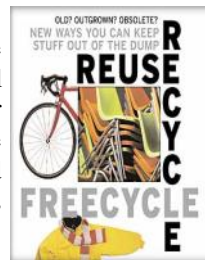
For more information about any of the activities of RE:NEW please contact

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

Email: pandawells@cheerful.com Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (c813362), e-mail (jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). 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 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.



Offered

Half-loaf bread-machine; Used 4-man Vango dome tent (not waterproof anymore, but would suit fair weather!); Andy/Jun c813362

Children's games in excellent condition. Pop to the shops, tell the time, Peter rabbit board game, spotty dog dominoes. Suitable for 4-9 yr olds. Fay c. 813663

Metal framed single high bed, with desk and futon underneath – no mattress; Small chromed metal fire guard; Petrol qualcast cylinder mower, for spares or repair. Chris c811512

Wanted

cake/biscuit tins for craft project - any condition is fine. Fay c. 813663

An African or Bongo Drum, Nicole 812363

Old-fashioned cider/beer bottles with internal coarse screw thread, and jam jars with non-screw tops. John c812120

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.

Dear Friends,

On an unusually mild October Saturday a little army of people gathered in St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior to pack shoe boxes. Many people across the benefice recognise that Christmas will be a happy time for them, filled with friends and family, gifts, good food and entertainment. We are blessed to live in a place where there is peace and where our children can grow up without fear. There are many places in the world where this is not so and villagers wanted to share a little of the good things of Christmas with those who will have very little joy.



Over the last few months people have been collecting gifts or making hats and gloves to put in the Christmas shoe boxes. In total 150 boxes were packed with gifts for boys or girls for particular age groups so that we could share a little of our Christmas joy with others living in difficult circumstances. Those boxes together with boxes from several of our local schools are now on their way to other parts of the world to spread a little happiness and encouragement. Each comes with a short greeting.

Christmas is a time for sharing love. It's what God did that very first Christmas when he came to be with us. In Jesus Christ he came to share our lives; to encourage human beings to live not just for themselves, but for God and for others. It is an amazing thought that the God who created us and gave us life came to live amongst us, sharing our humanity with all its limitations and challenges, its pain and its joy. God placed himself in the hands of those he created because he loved all that he had made. This Christmas as we give gifts to others or as we support the work of charities we have a particular connection with, we are placing a little of ourselves, our love and thoughts and concern into the lives and experiences of others. That is how the love of God is shared and passed on.

This Christmas we also remember the work of those who in a more immediate way share love with others. Those who give their time to serve Christmas dinner to rough sleepers or who offer their skills to work with Ebola patients in Sierra Leone. Those aid workers who will spend Christmas as hostages, the penalty for working for others in dangerous places. We pray that all who give of themselves for others will know the peace and the presence of the Prince of Peace this Christmas time.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Sue



Church Services in December

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated



Sunday 7 December, second Sunday of Advent

11am Christingle and Nativity Family Service

Sunday 14 December, third Sunday of Advent

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 21 December, fourth Sunday of Advent

4.30pm Village Candlelight Carol Service, with school choir

Christmas Eve

3pm Carols around the Crib

10pm First Communion of Christmas - Lode

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas – Bottisham, Swaffham

Bulbeck

Christmas Day

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – Quy

10am Benefice Family Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 28 December, First Sunday of Christmas

10am Benefice Communion (CW1) – Quy

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice? It makes sense to share cars and can be reassuring to go into church with someone else. Please be in touch and we will do our best to arrange a free lift: 07553 151585



Dates for Your Diary December 2014

Mon	8	WI Christmas Party, 7pm, VH
Thu	11	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch, 1pm, Lode Chapel
Sun	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	15	
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	17	Village Carols, 6.30pm, VH
Sun	21	Village Carol Service, 4.30pm, St Mary's
Wed	24	Carols round the crib, 3pm, St Mary'a
Thu	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Fri	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 10.45am, The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck
Mon	29	Winter Walk, 10am, Outside St Cyriacs
Tues	30	
Wed	31	

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st 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 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd 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	