



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

IF THE VILLAGE HAD AN HONOURS LIST, Steve O'Rourke of Burwell Tigers would definitely be on it, Order of the Swaffham Prior Garter and arise Sir Steve, no problems there What he has done for local children's football is quite exceptional (see December's reporter), and this speedy action in solving the occasional parking problems that have arisen near the ground most

impressive (see this one). Sounds like he might need some donations though — readers?

This is the time of year when our adverts change, so do take a look at our new advertising pages. Unlike some *other magazines*, the Crier receives no subsidy from anyone, but is instead financed entirely by our loyal advertisers, plus a very gratefully received top-up from reader's donations. Thank-you everybody, keep them coming in!

Welcome to a new music correspondent Malcolm Creese, (a musician of some stature himself) who has reviewed the Advent by Candlelight Concert for this issue. The concert was absolutely gorgeous but how would it fare

with our Simon Cowell? Read it and see!

Even in the candlelight, St Mary's audience might have noticed the beautiful kneelers while they were there: they were embroidered by a team of villagers (I think largely recruited from the WI, perhaps someone can tell us more about them?) But my favourite one is different: it's a family's dog, Suki! Find out who did it in this issue.

We need more regular correspondents readers, so beware if you see the editor approaching we're recruiting "volunteers".

What have they been up to at the Red Lion? Well, we can but see... it's all for charity! Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Chasing in the New Year* by Colin Hadley



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Open Churches

I would like to record my personal thanks to all those people who have supported me in keeping our two churches open during the day and making them accessible to all, villagers and visitors alike.

Jan Pattinson has very kindly agreed to take on the responsibility of organising the opening and closing rota going forward. Thank you Jan and my very real thanks to everyone on the rota.

Tricia Harrison

Open Letter to Rights of Way and Access Team,
Cambridgeshire County Council:

Dear Ms Champion,

Reopening of Public Footpath between Prior and Bulbeck

I understand that you have only recently been re-assigned to caring for the paths in the East Cambridgeshire Parishes.

Therefore you may not know that in the Spring of this year, there was correspondence in both The Bulbeck Beacon and The Swaffham Crier regarding the reopening of a path which was a short cut from Commercial End to the former Swaffham Prior Station.

We understand that the path was set up whilst the railway was running, as a short cut to the station, but fell out of common use in 1965, when the railway was a victim of the "Beeching" closures. It was felt locally that this path could still provide a pleasant walk from either Swaffham Prior or Swaffham Bulbeck, with minimum interference with land use, especially if a small diversion was made at the northern end to avoid the former station house property.

The Ramblers' Association Cambridge Group was asked to investigate if there was any interest locally in re-opening this path. Following a note in each of the local magazines, we received letters or e-mails from more than 20 people, over a period of some weeks.

I must apologise for the unfortunate delay in processing the responses, due to Roger Moreton suffering a serious stroke in May this year. However, I have now re-activated the file, and am addressing this open letter to Cambridgeshire County Council, in hopes that the matter can be looked into. I understand that although money for path projects is in very short supply, there are funds available for new projects which may benefit local communities.

Janet Moreton

Janet & Roger Moreton
Ramblers' Association, Cambridge Group

Dear Editors ,

Advent by Candlelight

Thanks to Ian de Massini, the Cambridge Voices and the many residents who came to the Advent by Candlelight concert on Advent Sunday this year a cheque for £353 has been sent to Emmaus Cambridge to support their work with those less fortunate than ourselves .

Emmaus very much appreciate our efforts on their behalf . A big thank you to all who contributed to this successful concert.

Francis Reeks

DATES FOR YOUR 2014 DIARY

Social and Fund Raising Events

21st January Annual Coffee Morning
(see notice in Crier)

8th March Film Evening

12th April Quiz Night

17th May Murder Mystery

13th July Strawberry Teas

13th September Dog Show

20th September Harvest Supper

18th October Ceilidh

15th November Quiz Night

**Any other ideas most welcome, ring Kate Child on 01638
743983**

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

What a wonderful Christmas Present the PC received at the meeting. Last month Mr Steve O'Rourke of Burwell Tigers was despatched with the instruction to provide an immediate solution to the possible parking problems in Station Road during the Saturday and Sunday football matches. At this meeting Mr O'Rourke did just that.



A new sign indicating the Car Park will be installed; both sides of the road will be coned off; every effort is being made to have matches at 10.00am and 2.00pm; they will need to find the money but in the summer a crane will be hired to move the porto cabin to create more parking; meantime, if no space is available in the car park, cars will be directed to the Village Hall car park, from which they can walk. As Mr O'Rourke spoke Clive Riggs kept nodding his head in approval, and the PC listened, a little open mouthed. The PC had already lodged an application for a lengthy passing place. As a matter of interest there are now 288,000 fewer people playing football compared to last year; there are about 140,000 who have taken up cycling as a sport; and 187 new breweries have been launched over the last twelve months. I'm not sure if there is any connection between the three.

David Brown attended this month and reported there were ongoing discussions about the use of bus lanes in Cambridge; the travellers' sites owned by CCC will be sold to the district councils which manage the sites; adoption procedures have been reduced from 53 weeks to 26 weeks; and, following the repeated lobbying by CCC and others, the government will not be making a toll road of the proposed A14 improvements. There was a resounding cheer at this news.

The supply and usage of water in the cemetery has long been a problem for the PC. The latest bill of £163 for 3 months was startling and has raised the problem to a new level. Steve reported he has spent so much time trying to find out what is wrong, without success. There are two taps and two meters. The problem may be with either, both, or a leak somewhere. As there is no obvious leakage, the question is - how do they find whether and where there is one?

David Greenfield, sitting in the public gallery and always willing to help, via his iPhone came up with the name of a national leak finder and repairer. Being unable to speak from the public gallery he passed his Iphone to David Almond to read out. Everyone was impressed with David A, and after discussions about cost etc, asked David A to contact the company and arrange for the area to be inspected and the leak located. In vain did David

A protest that he had only read what David G had passed to him and that he didn't even know where the taps and meters are. "Don't worry, we'll show you" he was assured, and, "thanks for taking it on". How often has it happened that you are quietly enjoying a meeting, making the occasional cogent and uncontroversial comment, when, out of nowhere, you are landed with a task about which you know nothing, and in which you have a very limited interest.

The Community Land Trust, which will care for the low cost housing on the Dencora site, is proceeding well with more news to be announced shortly. Geoffrey, now living in Soham, revealed that 600 houses are to be built in Soham with 90 being low cost. For these a Community Land Trust will need to be set up and he wondered if any lessons could be learned from Swaffham Prior. At the previous meeting Allen Alderson had proudly described the progress of a 3,000 housing estate being built north of Ely. All of this is admirable but, as one member pointed out, with the A10 being full to bursting point, the only way into Cambridge or the South is via Swaffham Prior and other villages.

A few tit bits. A member corrected the time on the Meeting Room clock, something needed since the clocks went back; the cleaner interrupted the meeting to say the lock on the kitchen door had broken and he couldn't get in; at one point Geoffrey said he believed what he read in the newspaper.

Alastair Everitt

Quiz 2014 News

Our next quiz is a month later than usual, it is on Saturday 12th April. The reason being I am away January and February and Jenny is away March/April. I hope there will be no problems for people to attend and we look forward to seeing everyone on the night.

Lynne and Jenny

Cleaner Wanted

Is there a lady in the village who would be willing to help me with my housework, say once a week?

If so, please ring Betty Prime on 741221.

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING



10.30 – 12.00 Noon



**Tuesday
21st January 2014**

5 Lower End
(the Everitt's)

*Cake &
Produce Stall*

Bring & Buy

Jewelry & Raffle



All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

The Lions of Swaffham Prior

Red Lion Calendar Raises Money for Addenbrookes' Critical Care

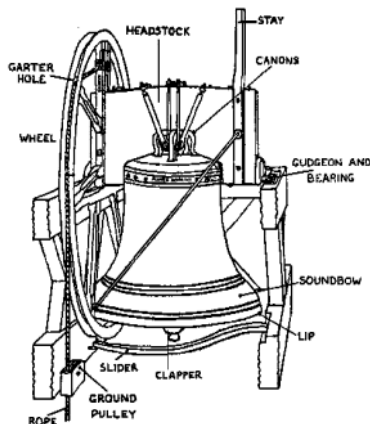
We've all heard about that WI Calendar, but Swaffham Prior's Red Lion has surely trumped that: *The Lions of Swaffham Prior*, the Red Lion's 2014 calendar, is a pictorial study of a number of their *male* regulars *dishabille*. Our Landlord, Barry Oakes, would like us to know that it's all in the best possible taste. Of course! Pick up your copy for £5.50 from the Red Lion. All proceeds go to Addenbrookes Critical Care Unit.



Alpha Male Lion Syd Prince as he appears on the cover

LET THE BELLS RING OUT

Following the WINTER WALK AND LUNCH on Monday 30th December, a QUARTER PEAL will be ring from 2.30 to 3.30 as a triumphant end to the year's events celebrating the 40th year since the Churches conservation Trust became responsible for St Cyriac's Church, thereby saving for the village a place from which the Bells can ring out, a place from which the Church Clock can shine and chime, and a place providing a fabulous location for music concerts and art exhibitions, as well as a loo and other facilities for special occasions.



AN ODE TO ANNO DOMINE

DAVID PALMER, DECEMBER 2010

You'd think that now I'm eighty-four,
Old age would be a crashing bore,
Puffing and panting up the stairs,
And struggling to get out of chairs.

Endless visits to the loo,
Then forgetting what to do,
Managing my tedious ills,
The daily dreary pile of pills.

My forgetful wandering brain,
Again deserts me - then again,
And sadly I am now dismayed,
My deafness needs a hearing aid.

Onward marching senility,
Shows in loss of agility.
So shooting, riding, tennis too
Are sports I can no longer do.

My stride once military and straight,
Has now become a shambling gait.
At least for now I'm spared the shame
Of lurching on a zimmer frame.

But cheer up -join me - Raise a glass
To toast the future and the past.

Time for trips down memory lane
Those special moments live again. T
There's time to watch - to meditate
Relax with friends and ruminate.
To see the young their lives pursue,
So sit well back - enjoy the view.

While others work we'll have the fun
The vintage years have just begun.



*Many thanks to Sir Michael Marshall
for submitting this delightful Ode:
David Palmer was the Chairman of the
company he worked for in the 1980s.*

Broadcasting from the Belfry

The tower of St Cyriac's church is set to be the site of a radio installation which will help to bring high speed broadband to villagers – something which has previously evaded them.

Reach and Swaffham Prior (RaSP) community broadband is a group set up to provide broadband access to members within the Reach, Swaffham Prior and latterly Upware Villages. The group is voluntary and strictly not for profit, but delivers a high quality broadband service where other providers cannot. All users are members of the RaSP group and are encouraged to learn more about the group and be part of the on-going maintenance and improvement.

Hugh de Lacy, one of RaSP's technical support personnel says:

'RaSP was set up to bring faster broadband to a rural area of Cambridgeshire with very poor service. Growing demand has led to severe peak-time congestion on RaSP's network: the radio point on St Cyriac's will be a key element in an ongoing upgrade programme to improve the service to our users'.

The RaSP network makes use of a privately leased fibre-optic cable that terminates in Reach to provide a high speed internet gateway. RaSP subscribers are linked in to the fibre gateway using a wide area outdoor wireless network. The radio units that make up the network are mostly located on various members' houses but this can create difficulties because of the relatively low height of many of the radio points. This problem is particularly acute between Reach and Swaffham Prior because of a ridge that lies between the two villages; this has hitherto required a two-stage 'dogleg' connection which has reduced speeds and aggravated network congestion. The tower of St Cyriac's (one of the highest points in Swaffham Prior) will provide a direct link back to Reach using recently developed higher speed radio equipment.

RaSP believes that they can give a number of benefits over and above other providers and the group says that it is technically superior to the standard offering that most telecoms companies provide due to its reliability, availability and higher speed.

(reprinted with many thanks from the Churches' Conservation Trust Website)



ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Cambridge Voices came to Swaffham Prior on December 1st for the village's traditional Advent Concert. It began at 4 o'clock in candlelit St. Mary's where a congregation of around a hundred gathered. We were all handed a huge programme containing copious notes, words for all the sung works, a music score, a detailed history of the two churches, and lots and lots of dates, all painstakingly put together by the extraordinary Ian de Massini.

We were reminded in the huge programme of the fact that Edwin Muir had lived opposite the two churches, and was buried in the graveyard. A fine poet he was too, so a reading of his *Annunciation* was a particularly poignant way to start proceedings. Benjamin Britten's gorgeous *Hymn to the Virgin* followed, nicely sung by the clearly on-form Cambridge Voices, and then a reading of some William Blake. Next came the first performance of a choral setting of a Buddhist poem by David Earl and then, after some more readings, everyone sang Bach's rousing *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*.

Next we heard an excerpt from W.H. Auden's revealing letter to Benjamin Britten, warning him off Peter Pears. (Jealous, perhaps?) A lovely rendition by the choir of Auden's and Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia* followed.

After a bit of Genesis chapter two, the choir sang *Dem Dry Bones*, arranged by De Massini. Perhaps this was a little far from the choir's comfort zone stylistically, but they sang it with spirit. A reading from Othello was followed by the Ave Maria from Verdi's opera of the same name - a first performance, no less, of a delightful arrangement for unaccompanied choir by De Massini. This service was turning out to be an international arts festival in one evening.

Comedy time! Here goes: Agnes receives a partridge in the post from John, so she writes a letter: "Dear John...thank you so much...all my love, Agnes". The next day a couple of turtle doves arrive, she writes again, and so on. Agnes's daily letters get increasingly angry though, as the house is overrun by leaping lords, pipers, fiddlers, etc. By Christmas Eve all 23 birds have been trampled to death by the cows (they came with the milkmaids, in case you wondered), and the place is awash with effluent. Finally on Christmas Day the house is utterly destroyed and a solicitor's letter arrives with a warrant for John's arrest. Like all the readings, this was extremely well-delivered and we were all in stitches.

More mirth: this time *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, De Massini style. The familiar carol, sung by the choir, was cleverly reworked with excerpts from *We Three Kings*, *The Coventry Carol*, Handel's *Messiah* and more. On the first day Jesus learns that he is to be born in a pub (inn), but the pub is full so the shed had to suffice. The shepherds bring gifts to Jesus, including a leg of lamb from New Zealand, sheep from the Eisteddford, mutton dressed as lamb and of course the obligatory partridge. Irreverent, definitely, but all in good taste.

We then heard a reading about St. Columba, and a song about St. Columba arranged by De Massini, and then we all sang a hymn called (wait for it) 'St.

Columba'. Clearly some serious research had gone into this concert.

Time for a walk. We braved the cold and marched up the recently resurfaced path to St. Cyriac's, lit by (you're not going to believe this) human lamp posts. Honestly, there really were tall people standing by the path, holding torches above their heads so that we could see where we were going!

It was cold in St. Cyriac's, the higher altitude making quite a difference. We had been warned in the huge programme, mind. It was dark too, and the choir had a job to see their music. The programme continued with another first performance: Saint Saëns' *O Columba* (gosh, him again), *Spes Scotorum*, arranged for pre-programmed electronic keyboard and choir by De Massini. The choir sounded more beautiful in St. Cyriac's, the congregation softening the usually brutal echo just enough.

Yet another first performance came next, this time *Arabesque upon the notes A.I.D.S.* by De Massini a special commission to mark *World AIDS Day*. It's an excellent piece, and we can all learn it now because every note is printed in the huge programme!

We carried on with readings of *Lullaby* by Dorothy Parker and *Only in Sleep* by Sara Teasdale, followed by an arrangement of *Dream Angus* by De Massini, and then St. Columba was back with the story of how he met the Loch Ness Monster - expressed first in a seventh century text by St. Adomnán, and then in a choral rendition of Elgar's *Where Monsters Lie*. Perfect programming yet again.

After more readings and songs we were treated to a beautiful choral piece entitled *We Three Kings* by English composer Jonathan Dove. We sang another hymn, Swaffham Prior's vicar blessed us, and we prepared to leave St Cyriac's to the glorious sound of Bach played by two pianists. We returned to the cozy environment of St. Mary's for delicious mulled wine and mince pies - served by, amongst others, the aforementioned human lamp posts.

This ambitious and culturally diverse service was a triumph on every level. The local organisers paid attention to every detail and did the village proud, the readers were all excellent, and the choir sang beautifully. Ian's dramatic use of the two contrasting spaces, placing singers far apart, even outside, will stay long in the memory. The Emmaus charity for the homeless benefits from all the profits.

Malcolm Creese

Are you familiar with Henry Morris and his ‘cradle to grave’ ethos that Village Colleges should be indivisible from their local community?

Bottisham Community Action Group would like to bring your attention to a meeting to be held at Bottisham Village College on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm. This meeting has been organised by Bottisham Village College in response to a local debate concerning the ‘community’ role the Village College has played since its foundation - as was the vision of Henry Morris, and should continue to play in the life of the community beyond just providing secondary education.

Many thanks, Bottisham Community Action Group.

Pinocchio

Bottisham Village college, Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th at 7.30pm January and Saturday 2.30pm (matinee) & 7.30pm .

Rehearsals are now in there final few weeks, and Wanda the Witch and Madam Stromboli are still trying to ruin the show, can the Pantomime Fairy Ms Powder Puff come to the rescue of young Pinocchio and his family, has Polly patchwork fallen in love with Jiminy yet, will Trick and Tease carry on with their idea of joining the circus as they are finding it difficult to work for Madam Stromboli, and the ultimate question, will Pinocchio ever become a real boy!

come and find out!

Tickets are selling well so don't wait it may be to late!

Tickets available from: Chris Clarke Hairdresser

Bottisham Post Office, Tina's of Burwell and our box office on 01223 811033.



A SURPRISE

You never know what is going to be donated to a bric-a-brac stall. For the Midsummer Market stall in June there was a real surprise. It started with a large cardboard box (18x13x4 inches), marked with those blue crayon lines (so familiar to the aged) indicating registered post. It had been sent by Dunn & Co Hat Makers, to the amazing name of MR BULLWINKLE, living at Brook Green in West London, and four George VI stamps amounting to 29p. *That was not the surprise.*

Inside were several glasses, including a rather fine set of Victorian/Edwardian champagne glasses. *That was not the surprise.*

The surprise was the newspaper used for the wrapping. On page 12 it said: -

“At home our financial policy has repaired the disastrous situation bequeathed to us by the late Socialist government”

Where have we heard that before?

Also reported was suspected sabotage in the aircraft carrier ‘Indefatigable’. The Admiralty reported it as only “*minor malicious damage*” because among the incidents were: -

- 1 – Wires and cables slashed interfering with the ships radar system
- 2 – Lighting equipment damaged
- 3 – The turning on of a locked tap, which released a large quantity of lubricating oil into an electrical control department
- 4 – The tearing of telephones from their wires
- 5 – A fire-fighting water supply unit turned on, causing flooding
- 6 – When the ship was in dry dock at Plymouth, a seacock was opened in the vessel, and part of the engine room was flooded to a depth of several feet.

Also reported was an exciting “The Third Man” type story. But this will have to wait for another time.

The newspaper was the *Evening Standard*, dated Thursday 31st December 1953. And on the box was written “Washed and wrapped January 5th 1954, 7 champagne glasses and 4 claret glasses.” That’s another story. Where and how far had these glasses travelled from 1953 until 2013, when they were unwrapped for the first time in sixty years.

So there we have it. A newspaper published in 1953; CCT took over St Cyriac’s in 1973; we celebrated the forty years in 2013.

How boring! Those with other interests may wish to know that the Hillman Imp was launched in 1963, the Austin Allegro (the car with the square steering wheel) in 1973, and UKIP in 1993. The first two were failures. We await the fate of the third.

BG

Some Memories of a Beloved Wife

Edna Catling, 1923 - 2013

‘Looking’ back, I first met Edna about 1943, when we travelled to work; by train from Loughborough to Syston (Leics). Then we had to walk from Syston to Thurmaston to our different offices. She was unhappy at her work place; we needed tracers and I arranged an interview at mine. So she joined us at Taylorcraft Aeroplanes as a tracer, later working as a draughtswoman.

The rest, as they say, is history. We married in 1950. It was a slow burn.. We lived at the ‘Prior’, 1964-68 and 1996-98 . Edna was, of course a member of the Swaffham Prior W.I. and joined the team to create needle-point decorated covers for ‘kneelers’; notable of hers being a portrait of ‘Suki’ our rescue dog and the ‘Hill of Crosses’ both of which I painted the canvasses for. She was also a member of several small choirs in the area.

Knowing someone for 70 years means there’s a void, although her gradual deterioration from 2008 due to Alzheimer’s was some sort of warning.

Not so much shock as prolonged tension

I kept a diary on the P.C. of changes in medication, mood swings, remarks she made, etc

Here is a selection. I’m amazed that as the Alzheimer’s developed, her sayings were less ‘funny’, more truthful.

2008 Sep 15: “*Shut the oven door, gas is escaping*” Oven is electric!

2009 Holding table spoon, “*Where’s the narrow one?*”

“*Ah! Here it is.*” Picks up scissors

‘Tidying’; moves brush and pan. “*Where do these go?*”

Ophir, “*Put them back*”

Edna: “*Don’t be difficult, where do they go?*”

2010 Feb 08. Doctor diagnoses ‘Alzheimer’s’

“*I know what I’m doing; I’ve lived longer than you!*”

“*When is Jon’s birthday?*” ‘September 26th’

“*Oh, It’s only Friday.*”

2011 “*I can’t hear you, you’re rubbing your eye*”

Watching Wimbledon on TV; audience close-up—

“*Can those people see us?*”

July 17th:19.15 (A Sunday) “*Is it still Sunday?*”

2012 “*I’m not going to lie down, I’m going to lie upright.*”

“*It’s a good thing I’m talking, otherwise I’d have nothing to say.*”

“*Bless us all. We need it.*”

"Eeny Meany Miny Mo, I don't know where I'm supposed to go"
Sep 17 (I knock foot against chair.) *"Your feet are bigger than you think!"*

Nov 02. 08.00 *"I want to die!"*

2013 Clarity moment: *"Everybody needs Somebody"*

Feb 01. Edna becomes resident at Home Farm, Nursing Home

Ophir

News from Bottisham Patients' Group

Annual Patients' Survey: The Practice, with the Patients' Group, must carry out a survey to find out the level of patients' satisfaction with the services it provides. If you have an appointment during the survey period (6th-17th January) you'll be asked to complete the Questionnaire. You can also complete the survey online at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk.

Treating minor illnesses at home: Minor illness is common, especially in children, and symptoms often begin when pharmacies are closed. There's useful advice on the Practice's website: the *When should I worry?* leaflet and the *Useful medicines to have at home* leaflet are available on the 'Clinics and Services' tab, under 'Family Health'. 'Treat Yourself Better Without Antibiotics' is a new website (www.treatyourselfbetter.co.uk).

GPs' Contract: Major changes to the GPs' contract from next April include cuts to Quality Outcomes Framework payments, new incentives for reducing emergency admissions, named GPs for the over 75s and removal of practice boundaries.

Out-of-hours medical care: if you need urgent medical care or advice between 6.00 pm and 8.30 am or at weekends phone the surgery number 01223 810030 and you will be immediately transferred to the NHS111. You should only phone 999 for life-threatening illness or injury.

The Walking Group now has a good number of walkers. Join them next on Friday 10th & Thursday 23rd January at 11.00 am at the Surgery.

Heart Start: What would you do if someone needed emergency life support? Learn what to do at **The British Heart Foundation's HEART START session** on Saturday 8th February 2014 from 9.30 to 12 noon at the Surgery. Book your place by emailing patientsgroup@outlook.com or phoning **01223 811770**.

We wish all the patients and staff at Bottisham Medical Practice health and happiness in 2014.

Bottisham Patients' Group Committee

THE BURWELL SURGERY NEEDS YOUR HELP TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MISSED APPOINTMENTS!

DNA (Did Not Attend) appointments have an enormous impact on the healthcare system in terms of cost and appointment availability for other patients. At The Burwell Surgery this year we have had an alarming average of 150 DNAs every single month. This equates to approximately 33 hours of the Doctor and Nurses time that could have used to see other patients. We would really like to try and improve these results and request your assistance to make it possible.

There are often genuine reasons for non attendance and we do appreciate that it is not always possible to keep your appointment. Common reasons include:

- Forgetting appointment date and time
- No longer need to attend
- Too unwell to attend
- Work commitments
- Childcare
- Travel difficult to organise
- Public transport difficult to access

What can The Burwell Surgery do to help?

- Be clear when booking appointments and re-confirm details
- Issue appointment cards where possible
- Ensure letters are easy to read and understand
- Send a reminder text message 2 days prior to your appointment

What can patients do to help?

Complete our text message consent form, so we can help you to remember the appointment made.

Notify us as soon as possible if you are unable to make your appointment. Even same day appointment cancellations are gratefully received by the Reception Team as they are taking many calls each day for patients who require a same day appointment and availability is limited.

If we could achieve a 50 per cent reduction in the number of patients who DNA currently, this could allow us to see 75 more patients each month.

Please help us to improve our service to you!

Debbie Everitt
Practice Manager

BON MOT NUMBER THIRTY NINE

**“Although it is better to hide our ignorance,
this is hard to do when we relax over wine.”**

Heraclitus (c. 535 – c. 475 BC)

Sign up to Twitter Alerts

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is urging people to sign up to a new social media scheme that allows it to release important information quickly in times of emergency.

Twitter Alerts make it easier for organisations to get critical information to the right people at the right time.

The force is joined by more than 50 organisations that have signed up to the scheme, including all the UK's other police forces, the London Fire Brigade and the Environment Agency.

It will allow the force to highlight critical information to its followers by marking Tweets as alerts with an orange bell for extra visibility.

Twitter users can also sign up for the alerts and receive a notification directly to their phone via SMS. Users of Twitter for iPhone or Android will receive a push notification direct to their mobile.

The alerts are intended for crisis, disaster and emergency communications.

Events that could require an alert include:

- Natural disasters or severe weather
- Chemical or biological incidents
- Terrorist incident or threat
- Criminal activity that places the public in life-threatening harm

Alerts could warn of imminent danger, give evacuation directions, issue preventative instructions or give urgent safety alerts.

To subscribe, Twitter users simply need to visit the force's account homepage and click on the link beside the orange bell symbol. Alternatively, visit <http://twitter.com/cambscops/alerts>

Peter Rham, head of force resilience, said: "In a major incident where people are at risk, one of our key objectives is to get fast and accurate information to the public, as it could save lives.

"Twitter alerts provide us with another way of communicating directly with people in an emergency. The alerts will stand out as being of exceptional importance and the notifications to people's mobile devices mean we can get messages to people as they go about their daily business.

"I would urge people to follow our Twitter account and sign up to the alerts as one day they could prove extremely valuable."

To receive Twitter Alerts as push notifications you must be using Twitter for iPhone version 5.10 or higher and Twitter for Android 4.1.6 or higher.

Neil Franklin

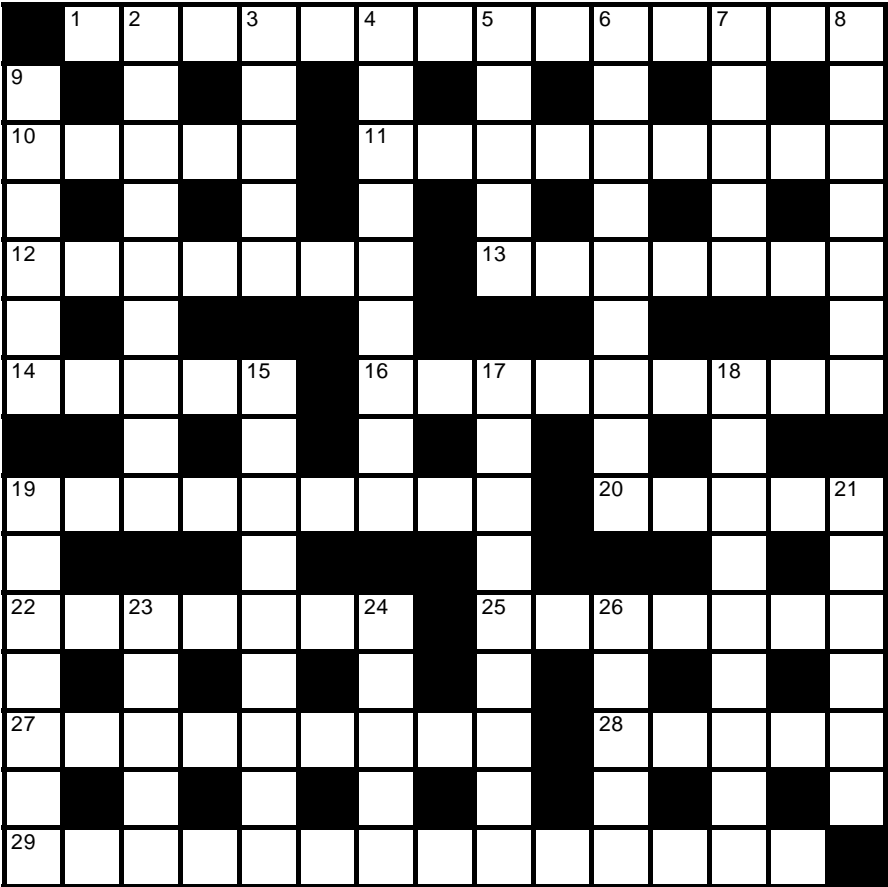
Crossword Number 107

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

OUNCE

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 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 Undeniable liquid banquet in Seoul (14)
- 10 Cyril minces words (5)
- 11 Stupid blockhead hired gun in capital city (9)
- 12 Office worker is French tornado, for example (7)
- 13 I tangle jelly (7)
- 14 Kin, amplest removed from cracked mantelpieces (5)
- 16 Music that 200 assail and 50 mess up (9)
- 19 Strongest motorway ghost loses ring but swallows tie (9)
- 20 Casseroles: first simmer the eggs with sorrel (5)
- 22 Oven-baked in bistro as Teddy sang (7)
- 25 Perceived edict on wreck (7)
- 27 Asia peninsula I name Little Doctor Hain-Wild (9)
- 28 Painter in modern style? Dada! (5)
- 29 Itinerant toper produces elucidation (14)

Down

- 2 Run back before glowing coal touches German capital? No, German city (9)
- 3 Relative hidden in sticky bun - clever clogs! (5)
- 4 Display accepts the Spanish agitator (9)
- 5 Cake decoration from old chemical company no good (5)
- 6 Atomises defective Nile buses (9)
- 7 Root crop encloses king wearing hat (5)
- 8 Hailstone is removed and crushed in

alcohol (7)

- 9 Protein discovered when instrument is embraced by George Newton (6)
- 15 Ecstasy, say, when motorists' aid organisation returns vehicle (6,3)
- 17 Ann tatted ensemble, for nurse, for example (9)
- 18 Short curved road about to finish with nothing but increasing volume (9)
- 19 Mini rat shaken, but not stirred (7)
- 21 Teased, tangled, tranquil (6)
- 23 Inspection, he hears, in Latin (5)
- 24 Less damp if the German embraces theology (5)
- 26 Short communication from birdbrain? (5)

Solution to crossword no. 106

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

We congratulate Mandy Kingsmill, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Eileen Creese, Robert Nunn, S Richards and Tricia Whitehead.

School News



Anti-bullying week took place in November and followed the theme of, 'Stay Safe and Connected'. We started the week with a visit from Swaffham Bulbeck and KS2 children from both schools made posters and badges with Anti-Bullying slogans. Throughout the week the children took various aspects of friendship and staying safe online and participated in activities such as, creating cartoon strips with anti-bullying messages, writing poetry, role playing scenarios in which children explored how to deal with incidences of bullying, and creating 'Helpful hands' (with 5 names of people you could talk to written on them). To finish off our week we came to school dressed in something blue to show awareness of the week.

On Tuesday 26th November, there was a sharing assembly during which each class showed the rest of the school what they had been doing during Anti-bullying week. We saw buckets of friendship from Mercury class and a bug and phrases you can use to stop behaviour you do not like, from Mars class. Neptune class showed us some role play and 'Helpful hands'. Venus class and Saturn class read some thought-provoking pieces about aspects of bullying which explored associated feelings and emotions.

On Wednesday 20th November, and despite the wet weather, the Trim Trail was officially opened by Sir Michael Marshall with the cutting of a ribbon. Thank you once again to FoSPS for their hard work in raising the money to carry the work out and Marshalls for a generous donation towards the fund.

We are also very grateful to Mr Martin Mead of Meads, for helping us with digging out the old surface.

A cake sale was held to raise some money in Aid of Disasters Emergency Committee Typhoon Haiyan Appeal on Friday 22nd November. Anis, Lucy, Molly, Molly, Nina and Cleo organised the sale and the grand sum of £105 was raised. Congratulations and thanks to the girls for their hard work in raising the money.

14 Year 6 children took part in a Cross Country attended by approximately 120 children from local schools. They had to run for 1500m and all completed the course. Congratulations to all the participants and a special done to Ruben who came 17th, George who came 18th, Molly P who came 27th and Jodie who came 29th.

FoSPS annual Christmas Fair took place at the end of November and raised over £500. We were joined once again by Father



Christmas and there was a wide range of stalls selling Beanie Babies, cards, beautifully stitched decorations and a toys and books stall set up by our School Council, amongst others. The cafe was extremely popular and members of FoSPS worked flat out to provide many cups of tea and cake. Many thanks to FoSPS for organising the fair and to those who helped and supported it.

Our Decoration Day followed



on the 5th December. There was much cutting, sticking and assembling throughout the day and many a tub of glitter was used up. The school is now decorated with a fantastic selection of Christmas creations!

We have enjoyed seeing children from Little Windmills this term when they visited Mercury class. They spent the morning playing with the children here and getting to know the school.

Following the village Christingle Service on Sunday 8th December, Dee Noyes came into school and led an assembly based on the service. Children performed the story of the Nativity and Dee explained the symbolism behind the Christingle orange.

Children in Mercury and Mars classes performed their Christmas production of, 'The Nativity' to the school, parents/carers, relatives and friends. The children are to be congratulated on their fantastic singing and acting. From the stars and the camels to the three Kings and Mary and Joseph, each child gave a fabulous performance! Thank you to the staff in Mercury and Mars classes for the preparation involved and to all who came and supported them.

Children from Years 5 and 6 and staff took part in a special tree planting event at Reach. Over 3000 trees have been planted over the past week to form Reach 24 wood, by volunteers from Reach village and The National Trust, amongst others.





Despite the cold, the children expertly planted, staked and fixed mulch covers in a specially designated area for Swaffham Prior School. It is wonderful to be part of history in the making! Many thanks to Lois and Ann from The National Trust and all those adults who joined us.

The Village Carol Service took place on Sunday 15th December and our KS1 and KS2 choirs performed. The church was full and beautifully lit by candles. Both choirs performed confidently and their voices enhanced the magical Christmas atmosphere.

Next term sees the beginning of a whole school project on the local area. We are being supported by The Museum of Cambridge (previously named The Folk Museum) and as part of the topic they are teaching the children about the local heritage and traditions of Swaffham Prior and the surrounding area. At present, Years 5 and 6 are learning the art of Molly dancing, which they will be performing for an event named 'Plough Wednesday' which will be held on Wednesday 15th January. The children will be processing with a plough from the school to St Cyriacs where they will be performing the Molly dances. We hope that people living in the village will join us in watching for the plough and coming to St Cyriacs to see the children dance.

The timings are as follows:

10.45: Procession of the plough

11.00: Performance of the Molly dances at St Cyriacs

In the meantime, we have a Happy Puzzle Company treat, Christmas lunch and Christmas parties to look forward to. We all wish you a very merry Christmas and happy new year!

Hannah Curtis, Head teacher

Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary School

Telephone: (01638) 741529

email: office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

www.swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Midday Supervisor: Term Time Position

Do you like working with children; do you want to work during term time only? We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor to care for our children during their lunchtime. For information regarding duties and pay, please contact the school. This post is ideal for those wanting to gain some work experience with primary aged children or for those wanting to work in a local community setting.

VILLAGE GARDENERS' PROGRAMME 2014



Tuesday 21 January Andrew Sankey 'Six of the Best'

Tuesday 18 February Yvonne Leonard 'The Story of a Garden'

Tuesday 18 March Peter Jackson 'Houseplants'

Tuesday 15 April Jeff Harrison 'Through the Year in a Nature Photographer's Garden'

Tuesday 20 May Barry Gayton 'Climbing Plants and Wall Shrubs'

Tuesday 10 June Evening visit to Pavilion House, Dullingham

Saturday 21 June Coach outing to Capel Manor Gardens

Tuesday 15 July Evening visit to Fullers Mill Garden, West Stow

Tuesday 21 October AGM

Tuesday 18 November Lucy Redman 'Bulbs Through the Seasons'



Mothers' Union

Our last talk of the year was given by Richard Todd, who is the head gardener at Anglesey Abbey. He told us that he has now worked there for 40 years and, before his talk, he showed us some beautiful pictures which had been taken in various parts of the grounds.

Richard's subject was about 'Autumn and Recycling Garden Waste'. This was an extremely enlightening talk and he said that these days about 95% of their waste is actually recycled. As Anglesey Abbey stands in approximately 120 acres, this clearly creates a huge amount of recycled vegetation and leaf mould which is then used for all their potting, as well as being a great soil improver.

Our programme for the New Year begins with a service of Holy Communion on Thursday, 16th January 2014 at 2.30p.m. in Lode Chapel. Our Mothers' Union meetings are held every third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m. in Lode Chapel, and should you wish to join us, you would be most welcome.

Anne Phoenix

Cycle Legacy - Small Grant Fund

One of the greatest sporting events on the planet will be racing along the roads of Cambridgeshire this summer.

On Monday 7 July, Cambridge will host the start of the third stage of 'Le Tour De France' 2014. The riders will set off by Parkers Piece, cycling through the historic city streets and then into the beautiful south Cambridgeshire countryside before heading down to London for the conclusion of the stage on The Mall.

In celebration of this exciting event, Cambridgeshire County Council announces the Cycle Legacy Small Grant Fund.

Small grants are now available and will be awarded to local groups and organisations to support activities or events linked to and inspired by cycling or the race. We would like you to design and deliver activities within your community that involve and motivate people to create a lasting and positive legacy to mark this historic occasion for Cambridgeshire.

Each grant will be up to a maximum of £500 and additional funding or support in kind will be expected.

The grants are being awarded in three rounds. The deadlines for applications for each round are 17 January, 7 March and 11 April.

For more details and how to apply for a Cycle Legacy Small Grant, please see the attached information.

For general information on Stage 3 of the Tour see www.letour.2014stage3.com<<http://www.letour.2014stage3.com/>> . For local information see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/letourstage3<<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/cycling/letourstage3.htm>> and www.cambridge.gov.uk/le-tour-cambridge<<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/le-tour-cambridge>>

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to any of your contacts who may be interested in applying for a grant. Apologies if you have already received this e-mail from other sources.

We look forward to hearing about your creative and inspiring ideas.

Gary Hughes

Lead Officer Growth, Tel: 01223 715479,

email: gary.hughes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
BOTANIC GARDENS
**ROSEMARY IS FOR
REMEMBRANCE**

‘There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance; pray, love,

Remember: and there is pansies,
that’s for thoughts’



So says Shakespeare’s Ophelia, gathering up a posy of flowers and deriving solace in her descent to madness from their personal significances. Sometimes, as horticulturalists and plant scientists, we forget that plants can provoke and reignite all sorts of memories, associations and meanings, making gardens a living landscape of ones life.

Throughout 2013, the Botanic Garden’s year-long oral history project,

Voicing the Garden, has been collecting up the stories of the people behind the plants – those who have made, grown up in or simply enjoyed the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The resulting archive of over sixty interviews is a rich mix of inside tracks, personal meanings, conflicting viewpoints, loves, loathes, life changing experiences, characters and recollections. You can now share in the project by visiting voicingthegarden.com, and listen to the stories of staff and visitors down the decades.

These are the unofficial, untold tales that would never make it into an authoritative guide book and yet give so much personal colour and texture to the Garden: the black market in duck eggs and eels; the daughters of a former director jumping their ponies over the winter garden hedges; EM Forster coming to tea and not being remotely interested in the plants; setting fire to the lakebed during the drought of ’76; the ‘slow bicycle race’ at staff parties; the 1950s Glee Club which all student gardeners had to attend; the schoolgirls who weeded the Garden during the war and then grew up to bring their own grandchildren; and, the parents who have both celebrated and grieved here.

The stories have also proved inspirational to others, creating new connections across the generations. Kings Hedges Primary School took as their inspiration memories of the man who could tame robins to create a beautiful, hand-drawn animation breathing new life into the legend. Nikki Driscoll, student at the Anglia Ruskin School of Art, illustrates the day the poodle pushed alpine supervisor, Harold Langford, too far in her award-winning animation *A Man and a Dog* (see above) All these filmshorts you can also enjoy on the Voicing website.

So if you can tear yourself away from the seed catalogues this January as you plan the plants of the future, why not explore the stories of the people behind the plants of the past at voicingthegarden.com. And if you have a story about you and the Garden to share on the website, please do get in touch via voicing@botanic.cam.ac.uk Happy New Year!

Juliet Day, Development Officer, Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Dear Friends,

Generosity is often thought of as a natural gift that some people have and others don't, rather in the way that some people are musical or artistic and some are not. It is true that some people are naturally very generous and will spontaneously respond to the needs of others. They may respond with financial support or with the gift of time or by using a talent that they have been given to help someone else.



Others have to work at being generous. They may be naturally more cautious, more anxious about how things will work out and what resources they will need for the future. Yet generosity is something that can be learnt, cultivated and practiced, and the more a person seeks to live generously the easier it becomes. I was very touched over the Christmas period to see how generous people in our villages have been and how they have wanted to support other local people. One couple felt that they had sufficient means to live comfortably so they donated their heating allowance to support other families who were experiencing real difficulties in making ends meet. Another person rang wanting to know if there was anyone who would be alone at Christmas who might like a Christmas dinner or a short visit and a mince pie on Christmas day. Finally there was a local raffle for a good cause. The person selling the tickets did a great job but didn't achieve their target of £500. Another resident on hearing this made up the total with a gift of £100. Some local examples of people living generously.

As I write this South Africa is celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela. He was generous in his attitude to those who had kept him in prison for so long; he did not hold on to bitterness. He was generous in the time he gave to people, and in the way he noticed and remembered them. He was generous in his sharing of power, and his recognition of the rights and hopes of all his rainbow people.

As we begin another year, this may be a time for us to consider how we can develop a generous spirit, and practice generosity in our thoughts and actions. Being a follower of Christ who gave up so much to be with us requires each of his followers to put their faith into action day by day: let us do as he did – live generously!

Sue Giles

Church Services in January

Sunday 5 January, Epiphany – White
11am Matins

Sunday 12 January, Baptism of Christ – White
11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 19 January, second Sunday of Epiphany – White
11am Family Service

Sunday 26 January, third Sunday of Epiphany – White
10am Benefice Service – Holy Communion (CW1), Lode

FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month **only by e-mail please** (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 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offers

variety of Rotring mapping pens, assorted nibs and accessories. Jacqui c811190, afternoon or evenings

Wanted

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

Dates for Your Diary January 2014

Thu	16	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel
Fri	17	
Sat	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	19	
Mon	20	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Coffee morning, 10.30—12 noon, 5 Lower End Village Gardeners "Six of the Best", 8pm VH
Wed	22	
Thu	23	Bottisham Panto, 7.30pm (to 25th, Saturday Matinee: 2.30pm)

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd 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 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	