



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVIII Number 3

March 2014



## Editorial

....Sometimes there are just not enough hours in the day! This was unfortunately the case for our poor Editors in February. With James back in hospital, Caroline has been under a lot of pressure with other commitments and has just not had enough time to get the Crier sorted.....

...So with apologies for the delay and any omissions, we have put this edition together and hope that normal high standards can resume next month.

Meanwhile we are sure you would all want to join us in sending our best wishes to Caroline and James at this difficult time

It was very interesting to learn from Betty Prime's letter how all the daffodils came to be planted and the history of the kneelers. The ladies who worked so hard on the embroidery should be very proud that they have provided a wonderful exhibit in our church which will be there to be enjoyed for many years to come.

It is good that the mystery of 'The Box' has been revealed and hopefully someone will be making good use of the champagne

and claret glasses.

Easter is fast approaching as we see from the notices about the church lilies and the Simnel cakes which are delicious. Now we know that they are also eaten on Mothering Sunday there is no excuse to miss such a treat!

As usual there are a number of interesting events to enjoy in the village. The film night is the first and even if you have seen the film about the Windmill before, there are updates on recent renovations to the Mill and you might even find a photo of yourself at the Royal Wedding party. There is also the coffee morning in aid of pancreatic cancer and a quiz night for the boffins. Afraid you will have to wait for next months Crier for the results of Ophir's Dowsing - Sorry!

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**Cover Picture: March Hare by Tina Jost**



## Letters to the Editors



### DAFFODILS AND KNEELERS

When Shirley Wilkins was elected President of the W.I. in 1988 it was the custom for the President to have a project. After admiring the daffodils in Thriplow Shirley decided her project would be to plant daffodils in Swaffham Prior.

So with W.I. members and volunteers and a generous donation of bulbs from Lords Ground Farm planting began in the autumn. Since then the daffodils have been much admired and other villages have followed her example. The Swaffham Prior bulbs are looking a bit depleted now - perhaps some of the younger villagers would replenish them.



When I became President of the W.I. in 1991 there were just 12 embroidered kneelers in St. Mary's church. Nine of them were the same size as the later ones and three were smaller. In the vestry there were a number of kneeler pads waiting to be embroidered so Shirley suggested I made that my project. A fund was started to purchase the materials and 20 people - W.I. members and volunteers - worked on them, some meeting in one another's houses on a Monday morning.

Mr. Ophir Catling, the husband of a W.I. member and an artist, drew the designs on graph paper to be copied on to the canvas. The first two, a cross and a dove, were adapted from illustrations in a book, but after that he made up designs from the embroiderers' suggestions. These were all aspects of the Village, the two churches, the village sign, a windmill, the crown on St. Mary's spire and daffodils. Later Hilary Mengham, one time resident of Tothill Road, and a few other ladies carried on the good work and embroidered, among others, kneelers for the Millennium and some especially for weddings which are kept locked up in the vestry until required. In all there are now 115 embroidered kneelers in St. Mary's church. These were blessed by the Rev. Mark Howarth at a special service in 2000.

Although the kneelers are finished a small group of ladies still meet on Monday mornings in one another's houses to sew, this time for charity, for the Breast Cancer Unit in Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Special Care Unit at the Rosie Maternity Hospital.

Betty Prime

Dear Editors,

I am writing to inform you of the decision to dissolve the Burwell and District Medical Trust. The main aim of the Trust was to provide equipment to the Surgery for the benefit of the patients. Our funds were kept healthy by donations. However, these donations are now being made directly to the Surgery thereby leaving the Trust both lacking in funds and surplus to requirements. Since the Trust was established approximately £60,000 has been raised which has been used both for the purchase of equipment and towards the automatic doors.

The Trust was the idea of Dr Patrick Ridsdill Smith and formally existed from March 1996. Major Bob Ratcliffe was the Chairman with Mrs Sue Hancocks as Treasurer and Mrs Ruth Scovil as Secretary. When Bob Ratcliffe retired from the Chair, Patrick Ridsdill Smith, who had recently retired from the Surgery, took over. There have been several Trustees with various responsibilities but Sue and Ruth have remained Trustees with, and without, specific jobs.

A final cheque for just over £800 was handed to the Surgery at the beginning of December 2013 and they were very grateful and Dr Wills wrote, on behalf of the Surgery and patients, to say how very grateful they were for all that been donated over the past 17 years.

Thank you for your support; yours sincerely, Ruth Scovil (Mrs)

## Easter Lilies

**E**ach year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies cost £2.50 per stem last year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.

*Ruth Scovil*

Dear Editor,

Through your letters page I would like to once again thank everyone for their support and generosity in the 2013 and Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox appeal. As a Benefice, packing in the beautiful surroundings of St Cyriac's in Swaffham Prior last October, we completed 119 boxes, which I have just received notification from the Charity made their way to Belarus. Ours was part of a consignment of over 180,000 gift-filled boxes that were delivered to this destination. It is hard not to become emotional when reading the wonderful accounts from volunteers who were on the ground when the packages were received, they mean so much to the recipients, more than we could ever imagine. So, to everyone who gave items, came and helped pack, made a cake, knitted a hat, collected donations, thank you thank you thank you. Please put this year's date in your diary!! Saturday 18th October, St Cyriac's Church Swaffham Prior, 11am - 2pm, and if you are collecting bits and pieces as you see them in the supermarket, at car boot sales or reduced on the High Street and need to get them out of your way please do not hesitate to contact me and I will come and pick them up.

Janet Willmott / 07833 960678 / [janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk](mailto:janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk)

Dear Sir,

I have been asked to contact you by my mother Alice Day, 50 High Street Swaffham Prior. My mother would like to say that there was most certainly a path that went between Swaffham Prior and Commercial End. Having been sent to the County School in Cambridge she took the train each day from Station Road.

She remembers the walk very well and often walked it as a child and after she was married. It was on the left side of the railway track and was a rough path way with bushes and undergrowth to the right so you could not see the track. There was also a bridge. The path was used by many courting couples at the time. The path came out between the house in the meadow at Commercial End and the road. As there was not a station in Swaffham Bulbeck this path was used as a short cut from Bulbeck for those who wanted to catch the train. The path was called the Crawls and would have been on Squire Alexis land at the time. Since my mother, aged 99, has lived in the village all her life and still, very thankfully, has a wonderful memory for places and people I do not think that there is any doubt that this path did exist.

Sincerely, Jennie Brownsdon

# Simnel Cakes for Sale



Traditionally, Simnel Cake has been enjoyed on both Mothering and Easter Sunday. This year you can serve up a delicious homemade offering with no more effort other than parting with some cash and all for the benefit of St. Mary's Church.

Orders can be placed by contacting Janet, 01638 743472

or [janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk](mailto:janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk).

For just £12.00 your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Please feel free to provide your own serving plate for an extra personal touch. Cakes can be delivered to your home or collected by you in time for Mothering Sunday (30th March) or Easter Sunday (20th April).

A royal icing version (seen back left in plain state) can be ordered as an alternative to marzipan and then trimmed with appropriate decorations. Janet Willmott

## Stepping Stone

**A service to help people with disabilities to participate & succeed in sport.**

The project is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and Sport England's Places, People, Play legacy program and delivered by Action For Children (although it's not age restricted in any way).

The project offers free advice, support and funding to help get people involved in local opportunities as a participant, coach, official, administrator or volunteer.

More Information : <http://www.cambridgeshire.net/119222.aspx>

Chris Howard / Communities & Business Officer  
Supporting Businesses and Communities  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
PO Box CC1215, Cambridge City, CB3 0AP

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The February PC meeting was a “star”. So much was on the agenda or discussed that I need to be even more selective than usual. For the full official account see the minutes posted on the Village notice board. Andrew Camps was absent, being at the PCC meeting, where, so rumour has it, some momentous decisions were to be taken.

Item no 10 on the agenda concerned the “Proposed Solar Farm Development on Swaffham Prior Fen”. This would cover 250 acres, would require 130,000 panels, which would be 2.4 metres high, and the whole area would be surrounded by a 2.5 metre security fence, complete with video surveillance. It would be on three blocks of land, owned by three separate farmers, and the pre-planning application was submitted without the knowledge of the farmers or the local community. Reach has formed a small action group opposing the proposal, and two members came to address our PC asking for support. One was Hilary Fielding (on the Reach PC) and the other was Andrew Trump. They gave an excellent presentation, which was followed by a long discussion.



It seems the fields are a mix of grades one and two farmland, so there would be more land lost for food production. It was asserted that Solar Associates claimed they needed the 250 acres to make the project viable. Andrew expanded and said they were “very unprofessional” and vague about the finance. We were told that the person behind it is a Mr Chris Poulton who is a property developer in London and also a “small card specialist” – whatever that is. It was alleged that four companies dealing with it were set up late 2013, so someone has been doing some useful digging. Steve thought it sounded like a “speculative punt”, and David Almond suspected there was a “Mr Big” behind it, and it was agreed the last thing we wanted down here was a “Mr Big”. During the debate, Geoffrey (who always prepares well for a meeting) said he had been “gathering his thoughts”, “had put them down on paper”, and asked the Chairman “Is it alright if I read them out”. When the Chairman said “Yes”, there was an audible sharp intake of breath, or something like that, throughout the meeting. Copies of Geoffrey’s speech can be obtained if you email him. It was interesting that so many were shocked that a “Mr Big” should make this immense application just to make money. Shouldn’t everyone be grateful that this could be a major step in man’s attempt to control climate change? Reach village itself has just made its own application for a two and a half acre solar farm. Hilary Fielding revealed that within Reach there was opposition to the Reach scheme, including herself. Andrew Trump explained that they hoped the more modest Reach scheme would supply the village and that the “profit would go back to Reach village”. Ah! so, it is all a question of making money. One suspects that without the bribe of state funded profit neither of these schemes would have been put forward. And it is certainly doubtful that either were put forward to save the planet because the affect on the climate is negligible, especially with China and India still building four coal fired power stations a week, with Germany burning a greatly increased amount of coal following the Greens enforced cut back of the German

nuclear power, etc., etc.

Meanwhile the schemes in this country, and other European countries, are an economic disaster in the making, and are increasingly recognised as so. How much better it would be to use the money to “adapt” to climate change, rather than thinking man can control it when he cannot deal with the rather worrying increasing world population, the number of wars, the starvations levels, and so on. How dare we? How arrogant can we be?

But enough. A meeting is being held in Reach Village Centre on Wednesday 26 February at 7.30pm when “Me Big”, Chris Poulton, may appear.

David Brown gave his usual concise informative report in which he revealed that CCC is to receive “£30 million less than budgeted for education.” The reason. CCC had funded some temporary mobile classrooms only to find a change in government policy which now treats them as permanent extensions. Unless this can be renegotiated it will have serious negative effects on the county’s education, which is already under funded compared with other counties. Our schools still receive £600 less per pupil than the average, and the Cambridge News has organised a petition which all should sign.

Moving on. It will cost £395, plus VAT, just to find the water leak in the cemetery. Too much, and further thought is needed. Eight youngsters have asked for a skate ramp. This comes up every ten years or so. Steve had done some initial research and found that a full size ramp for 16-18 year olds would cost £30,000, requiring £3,000 maintenance per annum, with £1,500 insurance. Even though it would be much cheaper for 11-12 year olds it would still be financially this is out of the question. Social considerations were also raised and discussed, during which it was revealed that the skate park at Bar Hill has been ripped out because it had become the centre of undesirables from miles around. However it was acknowledged that the children do have a problem and David Almond and Steve will meet and discuss the matter with them. What a caring and responsive PC we have.

I end with an account of what was a noisy and almost farcical bidding row. This concerns the three quotes for refurbishing the ground around the Pound. The quotes were for £412, £550, and £760. What was to be chosen quote? Eric started the ball rolling by saying he thought it all a waste of money and that a watering can with a bit of weed killer would do the trick. Then Geoffrey entered the fray and thought the cheapest with a bit of maintenance would do. Others supported the highest figure saying it ought to be done to last and not to have to review it in a few years.

So the bidding started. First the £412 was proposed. There were 2 for and 3 against. Then £760 was put forward. 3 for and 3 against. The Chairman had to give the casting vote. Chairman John said he didn’t want to vote. Noisy protests from all round – as an individual he can abstain, as Chairman he has to vote. John agonised, Geoffrey sitting next to him offered advice into his ear, just like Hamlet’s uncle, and John voted against. The £412s jumped into action again saying they wanted a vote on £412 plus regular maintenance. Noisy objections, but the £412 supporters were equally vociferous, held their ground and another vote was taken. This resulted in 3 for and 4 against. This left the good old English compromise sum of £550. It went through with 3 for and 0 against.

*Alastair Everitt*

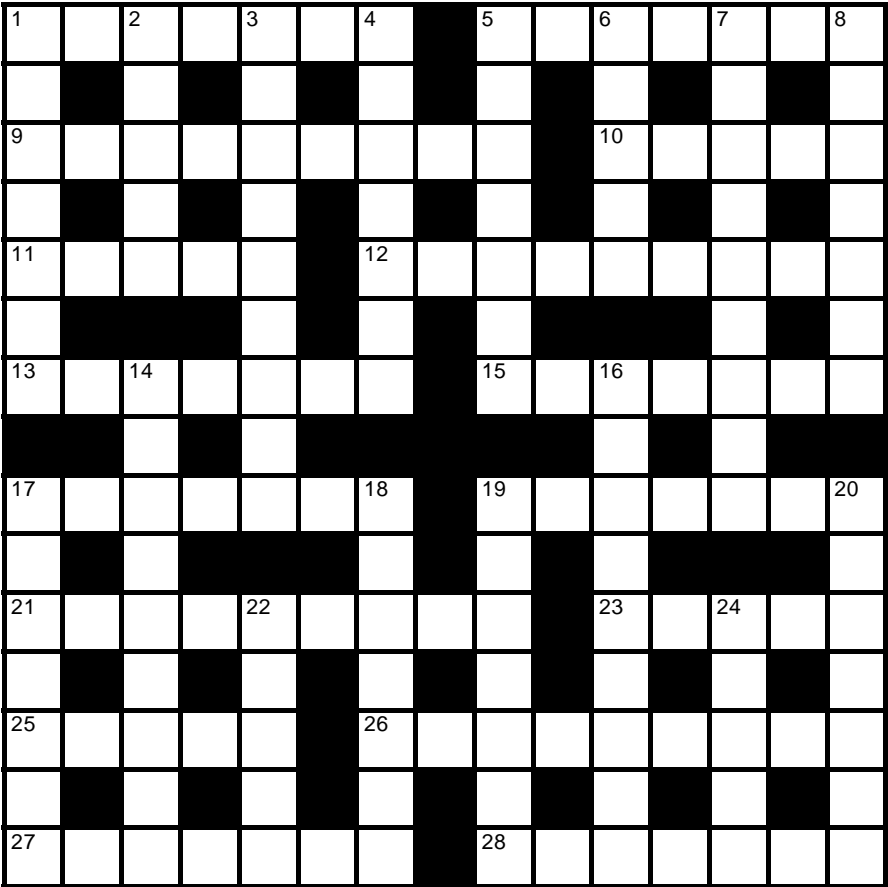
Crossword Number 109

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 March 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 Take regular gel yourself, internally mainly (7)
- 5 Cutting edge group was back (7)
- 9 Wading eel confused fisheye (4-5)
- 10 Some nasty little needles (5)
- 11 A new beginning to poem - it's terminal (5)
- 12 Reluctant to find a French testament in German capital (9)
- 13 Old jacket found in attic (7)
- 15 Unknown information or TV programme (1,6)
- 17 Abject request for cruel animal punishment (7)
- 19 Badly scarified? not if you have a classic cocktail (7)
- 21 Disreputable on tour, so I got drunk (9)
- 23 Some bacon ice creams are pointy shaped (5)
- 25 Start running under railway arches looking for a country character (5)
- 26 Airbrush pictures at dance (9)
- 27 Procrastinator relayed riot (7)
- 28 Hankies cause time problems (7)

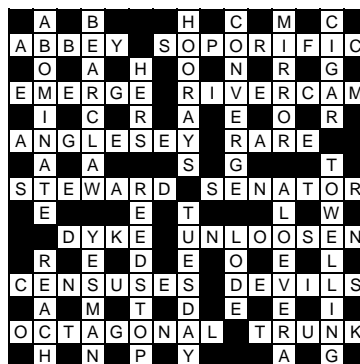
## Down

- 1 Flyer coming in to land - in the fens perhaps (7)
- 2 Initial pickings of radishes and dill indicate outside broadcast medium (5)
- 3 Hard surfaced lane led me all over the place (9)
- 4 For dairy product, curdled, try Hugo (7)
- 5 Polish workers get increase (7)
- 6 Nosey Labour leader goes to space

agency (5)

- 7 Dusty list I collected contains words of rhetoric (9)
- 8 Mangle rewardingly when crazy lady is missing (7)
- 14 A French bronze is returned to an Asian river (9)
- 16 Daring but corrupt USA duo: CIA? (9)
- 17 Number of barbarians with Dr Miliband (7)
- 18 Class monarch as sea bass (7)
- 19 Understand that Susan's got the point and left home (4,3)
- 20 Prepare ices per instructions (7)
- 22 Broadcast race (5)
- 24 Nobody except he ruled unhindered, initially in India (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 108



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors.

## Forthcoming Events

We are lucky to live in this historic and interesting village and St Mary's Church plans a series of events this year to celebrate our local heritage. This links in with work the primary school is doing on the local area – and we very much hope to welcome families to events.

We start with a FILM NIGHT on Saturday 15 March at 7pm in the Village Hall. The film, made by village resident Ron Prime, will be of the work to restore the windmill. Jonathan Cook from the mill will then show pictures of recent developments and tell us about this local business. Mill produce will be available to buy. We will then view photos taken by professional photographer and local resident Jon Mold at the Royal Wedding Street Party in 2012 – come along to see if you can spot yourself in photos of that memorable occasion! If you have photos of the street party you would like to share, or any old photos of Swaffham Prior people might like to see, please bring them along. We hope to make this a very relaxed and informal occasion – the ticket price includes a glass of wine and nibbles or juice and popcorn for children. Please book tickets on 01638 743864; £5/£2.50.

On Sunday 29 June there will be a HERITAGE WALK around Swaffham Prior visiting many hidden gems in this lovely village. Led by Elisabeth Everitt, a Cambridge Blue Badge guide and author of the guidebook to the two churches, there will be a limited number of places on this tour. Full booking details to follow.

Later in the year, probably around Remembrance Day, we hope to hold an event to focus on the world famous World War I windows in St Mary's. These unusual memorials are well worth a look anytime – the church is open throughout the day; we hope to link the windows to the wider commemorations of the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the Great War. More details in due course.

### **BON MOT NUMBER FORTY ONE**

“Education is the kindling of a flame,  
not the filling of a vessel.”

*Socrates (469-399BC)*

# **SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE FILM NIGHT**

**Saturday 15th March  
Swaffham Prior Village Hall  
At 7pm**

**Tickets: £5/adult & £2.50/child  
(to include wine and home-made  
nibbles  
or juice and popcorn?)**

*Join us to see vintage film of  
"The restoration of the Windmill"*

*The current owners will then show film of recent  
renovations to Fosters Mill and bring us up to date  
with this exciting local organic milling business*

*Take the opportunity to see historic photos of  
Swaffham Prior and John Mold's photos of the  
Royal Wedding Street Party from 2012*

**TICKETS: 01638 743864  
In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior**

### **News from Bottisham Players**

"Hiya gang" - any readers who came to our production of Pinocchio will know what great fun was had by the cast and back stage crew as well as the audience, we were lucky to have a few new faces in our cast these included Meleena Walsh playing the comical part of Jiminy and making his first appearance in a principal role was Benjamin Shackleton, Benjamin took on the part of Pinocchio several weeks into rehearsals when the original Pinocchio had to pull out due to other commitments, we also had a new chorus member join us, Jonathan Smith enjoyed his first Pantomime and a fantastic time was had by all especially that pesky pair Trick and Tease with their water pistols

We also have some forthcoming events that you may wish to take part in, Tuesday 11th March there will be a play reading in the drama studio at Bottisham Village College 7.30.

We are thinking of putting on a Bottishams got talent evening for anybody wanting to perform and we would like to know if anybody would be interested in this. And don't forget we are always looking for new members those who like to perform on stage and those who would rather not be in the lights but behind them.

Any enquiries email [april.cook@btinternet.com](mailto:april.cook@btinternet.com).

## **Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre**

**Our 2014 performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Patience'** will be staged at our wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck on:

- **Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 7.30pm - £9**
- **Thursday 12 June 2014 at 7.30pm - £9**
- **Friday 13 June 2014 at 7.30pm - £10**
- **Saturday 14 June 2014 at 2.30pm (matinee) - £6  
and 7.30pm - £10.**

Our tickets will continue to be available to purchase [online from Ticket Source](#) from 1 April 2014 and ticket prices remain unchanged as previous years.

Visit <http://www.sbsummertheatre.com/> or call Business Manager, Ruth Dennis, for more details on 01638 508171.

## THE HISTORY OF THE BOX

Some months ago, in the *Crier*, was a description of a box containing glasses, which had been donated to last year's Midsummer Fair. The box had not been opened since 1954, and the question was; "Where had it been?" We are fortunate in having the answer below from the son of the 1954 recipient.

The 7 champagne and 4 claret glasses which my mother Irene Bullwinkle wrapped up so carefully on January 5 1954 had been inherited by her, following the death of her mother in 1948, when she and her sister divided up a considerable amount of family glassware left by their mother, Mrs Kate Thompson, who in her turn had inherited it from her parents and grandparents living in Boston, Lincolnshire during the period 1830 to 1935. Those very prosperous Boston ancestors were James Thorns, 1808-1875, draper who became Mayor of Boston in the 1870s and his son James William, 1843-1935, who was a Cigar Manufacturer. Both lived in considerable style in a fine house in Spilsby Road that still exists. So there was a good reason for my mother to take good care of these early Victorian glasses. Turning to the life of the box in which the glasses were wrapped up in 1954, its first move from Brook Green was to my parents retirement home in Bexhill-on-Sea in 1956. There, it was put up in the loft and lay for eighteen years until following the deaths of my parents it came to our home in 1973 in Great Shelford and was put in the large Victorian loft. Twenty Five years later in 1988 we moved it to Stapleford and the box was for a third time, still unopened, put in the loft where it remained until the loft had to be cleared in 2012 to allow for additional lagging to be laid. It was finally opened in 2013, but alas, because no member of our family wanted early Victorian champagne or claret glasses, they were, I am glad to say, offered for sale at the 2013 Midsummer Fair in aid of St Cyriac's Church.

***Alan Bullwinkle***

Organising an event and don't have enough seats? We can solve the problem!

### **For Hire:**

Grey hard plastic stacking chairs, black metal legs, can be used indoors and out, hirer collects and returns, deposit required, 50p per chair per hire

**Contact Janet 07833 960678.**

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior.

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

### **Annual Patients' Satisfaction Survey**

If you went to Bottisham Surgery in mid-January you may have completed a questionnaire to show your level of satisfaction with the care and services which the Medical Practice provides. This was the GPAQ (General Practice Annual Questionnaire) survey, commonly used by practices in England so that comparisons and general trends can be identified and used to plan provision for the coming year. This year the survey not only showed that the level of satisfaction with the care patients receive from the doctors and nurses at Bottisham is extremely high, it is even higher than last year. Scores of 98 or 99% were frequent for different aspects of care. Yet again, we're reminded how lucky we are to live in an area where the standard of both primary and secondary health care is so high. A summary of the survey's findings and the action plan arising from it will be published in the April village magazines and on the Practice's website.

### **Parking at the Surgery**

At this time of year the car park at the Surgery is often full. If there isn't a space, please park outside at the roadside and not in the entrance road, which can hinder ambulance access when responding to emergencies at the Surgery. There is a drop-off space in front of the entrance door for patients with poor mobility.

### **Making – and missing - appointments**

You can now book or cancel an appointment with a doctor online at [www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk). At the top of the home page, click on the 'Appointments' tab, then on 'Access the online appointment system'. You need a user name and password to use the service. If you already order repeat prescriptions online you have these already; if not, ask at Reception for them. In the last three months of 2013, 305 appointments at the Surgery were missed where patients did not phone, or visit, to apologise or rearrange them. The NHS does not pay the Practice for these missed appointments so precious consultation time is wasted and funding is lost.

### **Heart Start**

'Heart Start' is a programme run by the British Heart Foundation to provide free training in first aid for life threatening situations like cardiac arrest, choking and serious bleeding. 22 patients spent the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at the Surgery taking part in a hands-on training session expertly led by two experienced Community First Responders. It was an entertaining and instructive session with clear explanations of why certain processes must be followed in different scenarios. There were also important changes to some practices to note for those who had learned first aid some years ago.

Cont.

Because the session is practical, numbers had to be limited and we were sorry to turn away a number of patients who tried to book places late in the previous week. We will be offering another 'Heart Start' session later in the year, so watch this space and the Surgery notice board.

### **NHS Choices website**

We're all aware of the pressures on doctors' and nurses' time and there may be things we can do to treat our family's ailments without needing to consult them. The 'NHS Choices' website is recommended by the Practice as a source of easily accessible information and advice on all aspects of personal health. Particularly useful are the 'Health A-Z' pages which you'll find at [www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pages/hub.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Pages/hub.aspx)

### **Futures dates**

1. The Walking Group will meet on Wednesday 5th and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March.
2. The Patients' Group AGM is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.00 pm at Bottisham Village College when we plan to have another talk on an important health topic. There will be more details in the April magazines and on the Surgery notice board. Meanwhile if you have any comments or queries about the Patients' Group you can email our Secretary:  
[patientsgroup@outlook.com](mailto:patientsgroup@outlook.com)

*Bottisham Patients' Group Committee*

## **Accessing adult social care services**

Social Care is personal and practical support to help people live their lives by supporting them to maintain their independence and dignity and ensuring they have choice and control over the support they receive. Many people don't think about social care until they or someone they know need support, and then find they are unsure about where to find information or how to access the services they need.

Adult social care customer services are the initial point of contact for all social care enquiries. The trained staff knows about the services available and can offer advice on who else may be able to help. Call them on 0345 045 5202. You can also find out more about adult social care in Cambridgeshire on the website Your Life, Your Choice [www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk](http://www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk)

If you think you may need help with mental health issues you should contact your GP in the first instance.

## News from Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen

The Anglesey Abbey Snowdrop Festival runs to Sunday 9 March – although the damp relatively cool weather of recent weeks could extend the flowering season. During the festival the gardens open at 9.30am. You can enjoy a tour of the snowdrop collection with our gardeners at 2pm on weekdays – a number of places can be pre-booked by calling Visitor Reception on 01223 810086, with the remainder of tickets available on the day.

We will be launching a regular Heart Beat Health Walk at Anglesey Abbey from 17 April. Walks will depart from the car-park every Thursday at 1.30pm and last around an hour, covering 3-4 miles. In the meantime we are looking to recruit and train walk leaders – if you're interested please contact Lois Baker on 01353 720274 or e-mail [lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lois.baker@nationaltrust.org.uk) Don't forget we also run Health Walks from Wicken Fen every Wednesday at 10am.

Up at Wicken, repairs are set to start to our historic windpump which was severely damaged in the gales of Boxing Day. The work is expected to take around six weeks, so hopefully it will be back in working order in time for Easter.

From the beginning of March we will be opening our historic Fen Cottage 7 days a week. If you love history, enjoy meeting people and have some free time on your hands – how about becoming a Fen Cottage Guide. Please contact Isabel on 01353 720274 or [Isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Isabel.sedgwick@nationaltrust.org.uk) if you would like to find out more about volunteering.

Our spring talk series continues with a talk by our Grazing Ranger, Carol Laidlaw, on the 'Grazing animals at Wicken Fen' on Wednesday 5 March, at 11.30am in the Learning Centre. Future talks are the 'History of the National Trust' on 2 April, and the 'Gardens of Anglesey Abbey' on 7 May. Talks last around one hour and are free.

Forthcoming events include our pre-school **Mucky Pups – Springtime Adventure** on 12 & 13 March £4, You can learn how to make plant supports for your beans and sweet peas on **Willow Weaving for your Garden** on Saturday 15 March, £30 inc all materials – tickets for these events are available from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274.

Finally, there's a **Family Bird Watching Walk** on Saturday 15 March, 2-4pm £4.75 per child. The ticket price includes an accompanying adult and materials to build a bird nesting box at the end of the walk – tickets can be purchased from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895.

**Huge Spring Jumble Sale**  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
**From 2-4**  
**Lode Social Club**

Please bring any jumble to the club from 10.30-12 in the morning.

Entrance is £1 for adults and free for children.

Proceeds will go partly to the cycle path and partly to a charity to be decided. Last time we made £600 which was a record. To achieve this we need lots of jumble and lots of marvellous people helping to sort and sell the stuff, and finally lots of people coming to buy! See you there.

Fran Platten 01223 813 016



CAKES & COFFEE  
SATURDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH

10.30am - 1pm

for

**The Elizabeth Coteman Fund**

(Pancreatic Cancer)

at

41 Cage Hill, Swaffham Prior

Cake stall, pottery & raffle



## Buying a puppy ? - Advice from Trading Standards

At Trading Standards we have seen an increase in puppies being imported for the purposes of being sold online or via newspaper advertisements but which have not been properly vaccinated against Rabies. Aside from the potential risk of them bringing the disease into the UK, a rabid dog would pose a serious health risk to its owner, their family and anyone in close proximity at the time the symptoms became apparent.

In this article we offer advice on what to look for when buying a puppy from someone you don't know, helping you to ensure you get the healthy dog you want.

Always meet the puppy in its home environment with its mother and the rest of the litter, and try to arrange to visit the puppy more than once. We would always advise that you take someone with you.

Ask where the puppy was born. If it was born abroad, it should either have a pet passport (if it came from Europe) or a Veterinary Certificate (if it came from elsewhere in the world). Ask to see this. Check that the description in the passport or certificate matches the puppy, particularly its age, and check it has been vaccinated against rabies and treated for tapeworm. Usually a rabies vaccination will not work on a puppy that is younger than 3 months old, so check on the documents that the puppy was older than this at the time it was vaccinated. If you have any concerns at all, speak to a vet before buying it. If possible have the puppy's microchip scanned to check it matches its passport.

Advertisers will not always make it clear that a puppy has been imported but telltale signs are a low price, the language used in the advert (which may suggest the advertiser is not English eg describing the puppy as 'potty trained') and the way the puppy is photographed (often importers accessorise puppies in the photographs). Also be cautious if a puppy is described as having a passport, Europass etc as this indicates it has been imported. Points such as these should lead you to ask extra questions of the seller.

If they are advertised as a pedigree, ask to see their pedigree papers and ensure the breeder's name is on them. Make sure you are handed the papers at the time of purchase.

You could use an RSPCA and Animal Welfare Foundation's Puppy Contract ([www.puppycontract.org.uk](http://www.puppycontract.org.uk)). It requires the seller to record detailed information about the puppy and its parents eg parental screening and how the puppy has been prepared for re-homing, and all information provided in the contract is legally binding. In exchange, you commit to meeting the puppy's future health and welfare needs.

If you suspect the seller is operating an illegal puppy farm, please contact the local district council. If you suspect animal cruelty contact the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999. If you suspect a puppy has been imported without vaccination or a valid passport, report it to Trading Standards advice partner, Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, on 08454 040506.

And finally, remember that puppies should not leave their mothers until they are at least 8 weeks old.

For more detailed advice and guidance visit DEFRA's website [www.gov.uk/buying-a-cat-or-dog](http://www.gov.uk/buying-a-cat-or-dog).

# **Cantilena Singers Spring Concert**

**Saturday 26th April 7.30 pm**

The Parish and Priory Church of St. Andrew Swavesey  
Station Road Swavesey CB24 4QJ

## **Songs of Celebration**

A selection of unaccompanied songs celebrating childhood, nature, love, and the Queen's accession including. Director Daniel Spreadbury

- *The Owl and the Pussycat*, Matthew Mark Luke and John, *Sing a song of sixpence*, from *Five Childhood Lyrics* - John Rutter
- *El Grillo* (The Cricket), Josquin des Prez, *The Bluebird*, C.V. Stanford, *Ca' The Yowes* Vaughan Williams
- *I love my love*, Holst, *She moves through the fair*, traditional arr. Finn, *The turtle dove*, Vaughan Williams
- *The Hills*, John Ireland, *Spring at This Hour*, Lennox Berkeley, *Silence and Music*, Vaughan Williams, *Concord* from *Choral Dances from Gloriana*, Benjamin Britten

and

## **The Music of China**

A selection of Authentic Chinese Instrument Solos played by members of the Cambridge University Chinese Orchestra Society.

**Tickets £7 and £5 concessions from : [vicar@honeyhill.org](mailto:vicar@honeyhill.org) or on the door**

**Proceeds to the Church / Refreshments available**

Useful additional info:

website: [www.cantilenasingers.org](http://www.cantilenasingers.org)

Transport note - Cambridgeshire Guided Busway service B stops at Swavesey until late on Saturday evenings

<http://www.thebusway.info/uploads/camstiveshunjul13.pdf>

Rich Braun  
Cantilena publicity  
01223 812115

## WI Notes

In February our speaker was Sylvie Short who gave us a very interesting talk about the research that went into the publication of her book, *Two Churches Together*, a history of Swaffham Prior. It was four years from when Sylvie first had the idea to the published book and involved interviewing many residents and searching through mountains of notes and photographs. Sylvie came to live in Swaffham when she was nine years old and shared childhood memories with a number of members and visitors who had also lived in these parts as children. We are very lucky to now have such an important reference book within the village. Sylvie does not regard herself as a historian, but as a recognised author of a number of novels, she obviously had the skills and discipline to produce this delightful historical work.

Next month the meeting is on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Swaffham Prior Village Hall at 7.30 and will be our annual meeting. This will be followed by refreshments and some fun and games arranged by the committee.

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 hall - appeal for volunteers!

The village hall will be holding its Annual General Meeting on April 17th. Like all long standing groups, we would benefit from some new blood who have fresh ideas for events, thoughts on how we could improve in general, or who would like to help support this service to the community.

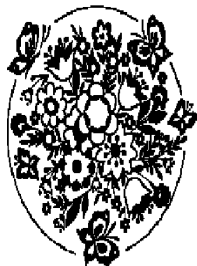
We would really like to encourage people to come along, find out more about what we do, and hopefully join the committee. (A contested office would spice up the meeting no end!)

We would also like to appeal for volunteers to help organise this years Village Feast. The Village Feast is provisionally scheduled for May 17th this year, and it is essential that we can get help with organising and running this year's event. If you would like to get involved please contact:

Nathan Wrench: 01638 742654

[Nathan.Wrench@CambridgeConsultants.com](mailto:Nathan.Wrench@CambridgeConsultants.com) or;

Gareth Maslen: 01638 744195 / [glmprior@gmail.com](mailto:glmprior@gmail.com) , or just come along to the AGM in the Village Hall, at 8pm on Thursday April 17th.



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our February meeting we journeyed through forty years in 'The Story of a Garden'. From an exceedingly dry, unproductive, sandy field in Breckland near Mildenhall we saw a transformation into a wonderfully colourful and original garden which, for several years, was included in the National Gardens Scheme 'Yellow Book' and received hundreds of visitors.

Yvonne Leonard and her husband were originally given the field on which to build a bungalow and make a garden. This was evidently quite a challenge! They first had to clear the land after goats and pigs. At a time of heavy flooding in the country, Yvonne almost felt guilty at emphasising how very dry the soil is. The lawn they sowed proved to be a disaster as it was much too dry, and was soon dug up! Yvonne considered which plants grew wild locally as they were obviously suited to the conditions, and took her planting cue from them as well as plants seen on travels with her husband to warmer climes such as southern Europe and Arizona.

Echiums, verbascums in a surprising array of shades, and helianthemums, or rock roses in glorious reds, pinks and yellows abound. Mallows, including an unusual orangey one from Arizona, are suited to the slightly neutral to acid soil, as are asphodels and helichrysums. There are fifty five varieties of cistus plants in the garden and many euphorbias. The latter contain an irritating sap in their stems which Pliny, almost two thousand years ago recommended as a cure for snakebites but he suggested that a hole should be cut in the top of the patient's head and this should be filled with the euphorbia sap!

All the plants were illustrated by colourful slides and we had inviting views of the garden with its meandering gravel paths around which plants are allowed to self-seed so that the garden is constantly evolving. Yvonne admitted that her husband looked after the garden at the front of the bungalow and she is in charge of the area behind! Unfortunately it is no longer open to the public as Yvonne found it was too time-consuming looking after the garden and baking so many cakes for the Open Days! Her final – and wise – message to us all was to make time to sit back, relax and enjoy our gardens.....Our next meeting will be on 18 March, as usual at 8pm in the Village Hall, when Peter Jackson, well known plantsman from Scotsdales, will talk on Houseplants. Everyone is welcome.

**Mary Hart**

## Anglesey Group Mothers' Union



We welcomed two V.I.P.s 'Very Important Puppies' Theo and Bailey to our February Meeting. Rita Lane, Pam and Geoff Harper are puppy socialisers for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and brought along their respective puppies to socialise with members and tell us more about their volunteer roles and the Charity.

Hearing dogs provide a life-changing level of independence, confidence and security to the very severe or profoundly deaf by alerting people to household sounds and danger signals, such as the alarm clock, doorbell and smoke alarm in the home, at work and in public buildings

The scheme was launched in February 1982 at Crufts dog show in London, and on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1982 the UK Hearing Dogs programme began operating full time providing dogs for all age ranges from five to elderly adults. The organisation has two training centres, The Grange, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire and The Beatrice Wright Centre, Cliffe, Yorkshire.

They breed their own puppies or source from reputable breeders. Typical breeds trained are English Cocker Spaniel, Labrador, Poodle, Golden Retriever and some crosses of these breeds. (Theo being a Spaniel and Bailey a Labrador, Retriever cross). Puppies live in the breeder's home for eight weeks then assessed and sent to volunteer socialisers who are vetted prior to becoming a volunteer. Puppies are named before they are placed with socialisers and stay in the socialisers' homes to provide puppies with the best upbringing and introduce them to everyday experiences.

When the puppies are around 12 months old they return to one of the training centres to begin 18 weeks of training to respond to a number of different household sounds as well as danger signals. During the later stages of training, a hearing dog is matched to a suitable potential recipient. Once the hearing dog in training has been appropriately matched to a potential recipient, training staff are then able to train the dog to the specific range of sounds and signals required by that individual.

The bond between recipient and hearing dog develops right from the start, and the transformation in their life can be instantaneous.

It takes a special dog to become a hearing dog and for some dogs it's not the right path for them. In some cases a different form of assistance work might suit them better such as police or search and rescue work.

Since 2003 Hearing Dogs for Deaf People have been training dogs with other Assistance Dogs UK organisations to meet the needs of people with additional needs.

This may be someone who is deafblind or someone who has a physical disability as well as hearing loss. It can take up to 12 months to train one of these very special dogs. Rita has promised to keep us informed of Theo and Bailey's future progress during the coming months Further information about the Charity is available on the website [www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk)

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel.

However due to Easter our April meeting will take place a week early on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> **April** when will be holding a social afternoon with Bring and Buy Stall

You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Ann Langran: 01223 812797



## TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

*Swaffham Prior School / 7.30 pm Sat 12 April*

*Tickets £6 each.*

*To book a table, contact*

Jenny Brand (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand (01638) 741960

*Jacket Potato Supper*

*Bring your own drinks and glasses !!*

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior



## **Spotlight on scams and miss-selling**

Recently the national press have covered the story of Sylvia Kneller, a pensioner who lost over £200,000 to scam letters over the past 56 years. Friends and family warned her that these were scams, but she didn't want to believe them, ever hopeful that a big windfall would soon be hers.

At Trading Standards we sadly come across residents in Cambridgeshire who have lost significant amounts of money, for some their life savings, to such scams. These scams are operated by career criminals who use sophisticated tactics to persuade you to part with your money. We hope the article below will help you to avoid many of the most common types of scam.

### ***Scam letters***

Commonly these claim you have won a prize and ask for a small payment in advance ... and then another, each time requesting a larger sum. No prize is ever forthcoming. We also frequently uncover letters from supposed 'clairvoyants' who claim they can bring you luck or protect you from harm in exchange for payments. These are all scams and once you send money to one, you will be inundated with more.

### ***Telephone scams***

Beware of callers who claim to be calling about the non payment of telephone bills and threatening to disconnect you unless immediate payment is made. Check the facts and contact your provider on the number provided in your paperwork. Ensure there is a dialling tone before calling them in case the fraudsters have remained on the line ready to pose as your service provider. If there is not a dialling tone, try again in 5 minutes.

You may experience a series of silent calls, followed by a call from a company offering to help prevent silent calls, for a fee. This call is made by the same fraudsters who were making the silent calls.

### ***Door-to-door callers***

With regards to house alarms, beware of telesales calls (often followed up by a house call) offering an alarm system at virtually no cost. The catch is the annual service charge which amounts to thousands of pounds.

Beware of any trader who knocks at the door offering to do home improvement or gardening work for you, no matter how friendly they seem or how cheap the job appears. This is the prime way rogue traders find customers.

Be cautious of door-to-door callers who claim to be ex-convicts who are trying to turn their lives around by selling domestic products such as dusters. Their story is untrue and once you buy from them they will call on you again and again.

For further information or to report a scam, visit Action Fraud's website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 1232040.

If you feel that you are trapped in a cycle of responding to scam letters/calls and are sending frequent payments, we can provide you with support to help you break the cycle. Please contact us via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, on 0845 4040506.

## Smarties for Mara !

Following the success in funding the set up of three wells to supply clean water in the community of Mara, now would seem the time to try to go further and raise money to help to fund an education programme to combat the disease malaria.

Last year several members of our benefice went to Tanzania to see for themselves the building of the wells, to meet the people of Mara and to find out more about their local living conditions. Having heard stories from those that had visited I was truly horrified to hear that malaria is so prevalent -that very many people are dying from the disease - the statistics being that half of every family is destined to die, that would mean within one family you would be losing two grandparents, one parent, and half of the brothers and sisters. Just imagine that.

We are told that the way to help is to educate families so that they learn how to live without succumbing to the disease - to drink clean water, to use mosquito nets and to recognize the early symptoms so that medication can begin.

This all costs money, a year's education programme would work out at nearly £9,000 which is a colossal amount.

### **To break down some of the costs:**

Cost of medication per child, per year £10.00

Cost of one treated mosquito net £5.00

Cost of health team training 25-35 villagers £300

It would be wonderful if you feel you could help to attain this. The plan is to fill a tube of Smarties with 20p coins. Having eaten the Smarties just pop odd 20p coins in to the empty tube. It is amazing how they add up!

A full tube holds about £12. Maybe a family could offer to fill one, or possibly have one for each member of the family? If you feel you would like to help please don't hesitate to ask for a tube, either phone on C 811946 or call round to 91 High Street, Swaffham Bulbeck.

This will be a three month project - the money will be counted and sent off at the end of April, just after Easter. Of course you could go one step further.....£1 coins fit the tubes beautifully!!

Diana Ridsdill Smith

## February 2014

Full Council met to debate and decide the business plan for the next 5 years including the budget for 2014-15. After a long debate the amended plan proposed by Cabinet was agreed. The headline figures, as widely reported, include over £32 million of savings in the coming year (with £149 million to be found over the 5 year period of the plan) and a Council Tax increase of just below 2% for 2014-15. The current financial situation and demographic changes in Cambridgeshire mean that we had little option but to recommend the business plan approved by Council and means that we should be able to deliver the services needed by the local population.

I reported last month on the decision by Cabinet for the County Council to undertake a business plan about becoming a property developer and landlord of rented housing on Council land, including Newmarket Road, Burwell. A politically inspired call-in has thrown that earlier decision into doubt.

I chaired a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board to oversee progress with the children and young people who are in the care of the County Council. As well as considering issues such as health and educational attainment the Board was delighted to learn that a group of Cambridgeshire Looked after Children had won the best documentary category in the 15-19 year old category at the British Film Institute Awards for their animation about life in care and leaving care. A fantastic result.

I also chaired a meeting of the Children's Trust and attended meetings of the North Ely Growth Group, the Together for Families initiative, the Cambridgeshire Social Work Improvement Board, and a training session regarding the impending move to a committee system.

**David Brown**

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

What role can a Botanic Garden have in conservation?

One thing we can do is use our horticultural skills and facilities to grow stocks of threatened plants for reintroduction into the wild. Here at the Garden, we are currently involved in two reintroduction attempts.

With many species of plant in Britain declining or under threat of extinction reintroduction may seem an attractive option, but it's not simple. All sorts of issues must be addressed before reintroducing a plant to its 'natural' site: do we know why the plant went extinct there and have things changed so that it won't just die out again? And is it *really* extinct, or have we not looked hard enough? Is what we have in cultivation the same thing that went extinct? This last, in particular, is where taxonomy – the science of classification – and the Botanic Garden comes in.

Interrupted brome, *Bromus interruptus*, is a weedy grass of farmland, endemic to Britain. Don't be put off by the 'weedy', it is actually rather attractive, especially in seed. It's a winter annual, germinating in the autumn and flowering the following summer. It is very much a Cambridgeshire plant, first recorded in 1849 at Odsey on the county border with Hertfordshire, and last seen in the wild in 1972 at Pampisford. We've been working with a farmer in Whittlesford and the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland to try to re-establish a population on a field margin. To this end we went out last autumn, watched the margin being ploughed then scattered about 5,000 seeds of interrupted brome in its wake. We went back later and were delighted to see lots of seedlings - we'll have to actually count them at some point but a rough guess would be a couple of thousand!!! Now we wait to see whether they'll grow and seed a new generation this autumn.

Our other species is the marsh pea, *Lathyrus palustris*, a delightful scrambling, perennial pea of reedy fens which is declining due to fen drainage and the loss of traditional management techniques. In the mid-1990s, the RSPB began to re-establish fen at Lakenheath, an old site for marsh pea. Now that the reeds are established and bitterns are again booming, the RSPB is looking at the rare plants which had been lost from the site. We have spent a couple of years growing marsh pea plants from seed saved from another reserve and we plan to plant them out this spring. While we have our fingers crossed for a successful reintroduction, you can come and look for the marsh pea in the Botanic Garden Fen Display.

Pete Michna, Experimental Section Supervisor and Juliet Day, Development Officer

The Botanic Garden is open 10am-5pm through in March and 10am – 6pm April - September. Admission is £4.50, Giftaid admission £4.95 or join the Friends, get free admission and help the Garden grow! For news and events, detailed information about the Garden or to discover this week's Plant Picks, please visit the website at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk)

# Notes from the Parish Council February Meeting

## Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2014

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 5 members of the public in attendance.

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

### **Public Participation:**

Reach residents asked to draw councillors and members of the public's attention to a pre-planning proposal to create a 250 acre solar park on the edge of Reach village (largely in Swaffham Prior Parish). They urged everyone to attend a public meeting at Reach Village Hall on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February where there would be the opportunity to ask the Developers questions and express any concerns.

There followed considerable discussion on the viability of such a scheme and the impact it would have on the Fen area.

### **Reports:**

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

There followed discussion on additional houses to be built in Burwell and the resulting impact of more traffic through the villages.

**ECDC** – The Clerk read out a report provided by Cllr Alderson.

### **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

*Cemetery water supply:* David Almond obtained an estimate of £395 + VAT to detect leak confirming that any maintenance work to repair leak would be an additional cost. It was decided to seek the advice of a local plumber before taking this any further.

*Passing place at Station Road:* Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed that he had attended the recent CCC panel meeting to present the detail of the application made to the Local Highways Improvement Scheme for a passing place on Station Road.

### **Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:**

**CCC** – Great War Commemoration – *for information.*

**ECDC** – *Consultation on the Draft Ely Station Gateway Supplementary Planning Document. Can be viewed on ECDC's website. Consultation dates 27/1 – 21/3/14.*

**ECDC-Planning** – *copy of Planning Permission for The Paddock, 43 Lower End.*

**ECDC – Buildings of Local Interest.** *Nominations to be received by no later than 4pm on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. To be discussed further at next meeting.*

**Request from Young People for Skate Ramp in the Village:**

A letter was received from a group of young people asking councillors to consider the possibility of having a skate ramp in the village. Following consideration David Almond and Steve Kent-Phillips offered to contact the writer of the letter and arrange to meet with the group to discuss further and then report back to the next meeting.

**Request from School to trim back trees on School Playground/ Village Hall Boundary (application to ECDC):** The Clerk told councillors that some months ago the school asked for the PC's help to cut back trees that were overhanging new areas of planting on the playground boundary. As this was in the Conservation Area, it was necessary to submit an application to ECDC for approval to carry out any tree works. Following discussion it was considered not necessary to cut back these trees and as such nothing further could be done. It was suggested that this was raised at the next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee.

**Proposed Solar Farm Development on Swaffham Prior Fen:**

This was discussed as part of the 'Public Participation' item. In conclusion it was agreed that the Clerk would write, firstly, drawing ECDC's attention to the fact the proposal relates to land largely in Swaffham Prior Parish and, secondly, confirming their opposition to the proposal in principle on the grounds that this was a misuse of high quality farmland and also the visual impact on the Fen landscape.

**Consideration of Quotes received for tidy-up of Pound Enclosure Area:**

There were mixed views on whether this work warranted the costs involved but following considerable discussion it was agreed to instruct Mead Construction to carry out the work.

**Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme – Request for Contribution towards Running Costs:**

Councillors agreed this was a very worthy scheme and congratulated Janet Willmott on her hard work as Scheme Co-ordinator. John Covill was to speak further with Janet about this and report back to next meeting.

**Accounts for payment:**

These were agreed.

### **Clerk's Reports:**

*Faulty streetlights:* 'Day-burning' lights on Mill Hill and the High Street were reported to CCC.

*Memorial to Land Army Women:* Andy Prince collected the memorial stone from P A Hibble Stonemasons and a photo was shown to councillors. Martin Mead was to advise on the siting of the brick plinth for the memorial and arrange for this to be built free of charge. The cost of the memorial stone was covered by donations from the Parish Council, the 'Royal Wedding Fund' and the Sports and Recreation Committee.

Completely separate from the plans to commemorate the Land Army Girls but very fortuitous, a very special collection was kindly donated by a Mr Len Hazell of Stroud, nephew of one of the Land Army Girls of Swaffham Prior from 1942-45. Mr Hazell felt it was a pity that such historical items should languish in his loft and that he wished to give these to Swaffham Prior Parish. *Below are some of the items included:*

A small photograph album with approximately twenty four photos.

Certificate and medal received in 1946.

An autograph book signed by many of Land Army Girls, against which many wrote a poem of one sort or another - no rude ones!

1991 photos of the WLA 50 year reunion at Swaffham Prior.

Certificate and medal received in July 2008.

*It was suggested that these items should be put on display for everyone to see - perhaps as part of the opening ceremony for the memorial. Everyone expressed their very grateful thanks for Mr Hazell's generous donation of these documents.*

### **Parish Councillors' Reports:**

Reports of fly-tipping and repairs to potholes on Fen Roads.

### **Open Question Time:**

Discussion on items of the agenda.

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

**The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

### **Future meeting dates:**

10<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**All are welcome to attend.**

**Karen King – Clerk to the Parish Council. Tel: 742358. Email: karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk**



## **Bottisham Village College**

### **Adult and Community Learning**

**Why not learn a new skill at one of our forthcoming weekend workshops?**

**Saturday 8 March:**

**Balti Banquet (Indian Cookery) Dinner Party**

**Dressmaking**

**Felt Making – Making a Felt Bag**

**Photoshop**

**Upholstery and Chair Caning**

**Woodturning**

**Saturday 15 March:**

**Silver Clay Jewellery**

**Sugarcraft – 2 Tier Cakes**

**Traditional Thai Cookery and Vegetable Carving**

**Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June:**

**Paediatric First Aid course (2 days)**

**To enrol, visit our website:**

**[www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning](http://www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning)**

**or contact the Community Office on 01223 811372**

**email: [adultlearning@bottishamvc.org](mailto:adultlearning@bottishamvc.org)**

**Facebook - Bottisham Adult & Community Learning**



**Jackdaws' Chatter !** I probably qualify as the oldest paper-boy in the area! My wife, Ann, and I inherited the round in Lode from our son when he became ill with chronic migraine. We share the round between us, and I really love it. Out in the morning, rain or shine, light or dark. I always take my binoculars with me and I've actually seen 62 different species of birds during those early morning walks (I guess I'm a bit of an 'anorak' when it comes to lists and things!) One of the things I've enjoyed over the last couple of months is the Jackdaw flight. At first light, before sunrise, there comes a sound of 'chak, chak, chak' and then a wave of several hundred Jackdaws flying in from their overnight roost out on the fens. As they reach Lode a group of them break off and circle down to their daytime patch around the chimneys and aeries of Mill Road. Others fly on, presumably dispersing to Quy, Bottisham and beyond. Jackdaws are very sociable, communicate well and pair for life. The first bird named in the Bible was the Raven which, like the Jackdaw, is a member of the crow family, sent out by Noah to look for dry land. (Genesis 8:7) and in Luke's gospel it is the Raven which Jesus says we should consider – *'They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them'*. (Luke 12:24) Jesus is teaching here that we should learn to put our faith in God and trust him to provide for our needs. During February and March at RE:NEW we shall be looking at what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount and learning more about how we can live our lives in ways that reflect and follow the teaching and example of Jesus.

Anyone will be warmly welcomed at Bottisham Primary School at 10.30 am on Sundays. We have crèche facilities and groups for children and young people. Why not come and check us out? Like the Jackdaws we are very sociable, we like to congregate together, and we enjoy a good chat!

**Peter Wells**

**Our RE:NEW Services in March 2014.**

- 2 March 10.30am – RE:NEW (Bottisham Primary School)
- 9 March 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)
- 9 March 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)
- 16 March 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)
- 23 March 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)
- 23 March 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)
- 30 March 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)

*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](mailto:pandawells@cheerful.com) Or visit our website at [www.re-new.me.uk](http://www.re-new.me.uk)*

# FREecycle



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me on [jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk), phone on 01223 813362, or drop a note through 23 Longmeadow. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return.

## Offers

set of 4 cartridges (as new) for an HP5515 ink-jet printer - black, yellow, blue, magenta. Ken Watson c812740.

Fish tank 76 x 30 x 38cm (30 x 12 x 15 inches) with Whisper 400 pump and Algarde gravel cleaner. Lid (with Light) stands 6cm above tank at the back. Contact Christine c812568

Integral tropical fish tank and fish approx 60cm by 20cm by 30cm tall, and accessories. John c812120

4 Folders; LIFESKILLS TEACHING PROGRAMME (1 -4) by Barry Hopson and Mike Scally; THE GAMESTERS HANDBOOK by Donna Brandes and Howard Phillips; 1 Slide Light Box; 1 Rexel HS-80 Shredder; 50 A6 lavender envelopes. Nicole 812363

Bang and Olufsen mid 1970 hifi with large separate speakers + few LPs; 3 handsfree phones; fax machine; old chest of draws, dark wood, 2 draws; storage cubes 35cm square, need painting; round occasional table, dark wood 3 legs. Catie n742545

## Wanted

Has anybody got a plan chest they no longer need? I am also looking for an old floor-standing kitchen unit. Chris or Lorraine, n742920 or email [izon.elliston@btinternet.com](mailto:izon.elliston@btinternet.com)

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

## Donations!

Many thanks to Sylvie Short and several ANONS for their very generous donations to the *Crier* this month. Although the magazine is primarily funded by advertising, donations such as these make all the difference between profit and loss.

Dear Friends,

Mysteries! Some people love a mystery; they enjoy the challenge of trying to resolve it. Others hate them, they dislike not knowing or not being in control, they may find surprises uncomfortable. But, like them or love them, mysteries are part of the fabric of the universe as we live in it today.



In the early 1990's it seemed certain that the universe was expanding and that gravity would eventually slow that expansion down. Then in 1998 information from the Hubble Telescope indicated that this basic premise was wrong and that the universe is expanding at a greater rate now than it had been nearer to its formation. Those trying to resolve this mystery, cosmologists and theoretical physicists, still don't know what the correct explanation is, but they have given the solution a name. It is called dark energy. Not surprisingly perhaps, more is unknown than is known about the universe we live in. We know how much dark energy there is because we know how it affects the Universe's expansion. Other than that, it is a complete mystery. But it is an important mystery. It turns out that roughly 68% of the Universe is dark energy. Dark matter makes up about 27%. The rest - everything on Earth, everything ever observed with all of our instruments, all other matter - adds up to less than 5% of the Universe.

Mysteries are also a feature of the life of faith. Just as we know very little about the physical world we live in and are always discovering more, so people of faith know that our human mind knows only a very small part of all that there is to discover about God and we are always learning more about his nature. Lent is fast approaching and at the end of Lent lie two of the great mysteries of the Christian story. One is that God should love the people he has made so much that he would give up a great deal of his own identity to come and share our lives and suffer death because he loves us and seeks a relationship with us. The second is that death is not the end of human existence and that in some form, sustained by the love of an eternal God, we continue to exist and to dwell with him. Just as with the universe we know only tantalizing fragments, so with these great Christian events we have some details, some information, but we may only understand the whole truth when we finally experience it for ourselves. As St Paul describes it "**For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.**"

Human knowledge is based on what we know at any point in time, it is never the whole story. What we know of Jesus is that he died and rose again and his friends met him and recognized him, though not always immediately. The whole story and its significance for each of us individually unfolds as we live with that initial information and allow it to shape our lives. **Sue Giles**

## **Church Services in March**

(at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior, unless otherwise indicated)

### **Sunday 2 March, Sunday next before Lent**

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

### **Wednesday 5 March, Ash Wednesday**

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Service, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck

### **Sunday 9 March, first Sunday of Lent**

11am Matins

### **Sunday 16 February, second Sunday of Lent**

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

6pm Evensong

### **Sunday 23 February, third Sunday of Lent**

10am Benefice Service – Holy Communion (CW1),  
St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck

### **Sunday 30 March, Mothering Sunday**

11am Family Service – with flowers for all ladies!

## **IF, Her**

If you can teeter with aplomb on 6 inch (or more) high heels  
And lose all that unsightly weight by cutting out essential meals;  
And if you pluck your eyebrows and replace  
With pencil, shapes you think 'enhance' your face;  
And if with piercings on your face you've meant  
With rings and baubles, your looks to supplement;  
If you can dress completely, yet leave one shoulder bare,  
So that you show to all around, straps of your under-  
wear;  
And if you can see sufficiently, with one eye of your  
pair  
Hidden behind a well-directed, fallen lock of hair;  
Yet if another lock of hair, should be a paler shade  
Than its darker neighbours; yet did not by nature fade;  
And if, though there never was a call  
To get yourself tattooed at all;  
You still get a part of you tattooed  
In a place hid, unless you're nude. Then you're a Modern Miss my girl, with a  
misguided passion Who's desperately playing 'catch-up', with the latest fashion.

*Ophir*

## Dates for Your Diary March 2014

Sat	15	Workshop Bottisham Village College SP Village Film Night, VH 7pm
Mon	17	WI, VH 7.30
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45 - 3.15 Chapel 3.20-4pm <b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Village Gardeners, VH 8pm
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 3:15-3:50pm Chapel 3:55-4:15
Thu	20	Mothers' Union, Lode Chapel
Sat	29	Coffee Morning, 41 Cage Hill 10.30 Jumble Sale Lode Social Club 10.30
Sun	30	Mothering Sunday

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