



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXVIII Number 10

October 2014



## Editorial

Welcome back everyone, after your summer hols, and of course, the first thing on the agenda for us was the Annual Dog Show. Together with the Autumn Show, this is a lovely do, but as dog and I gloomily trudged down to review the course, our spirits were not high.

*Retrieve* is our speciality, but then there is always some delectable *female* who queers our pitch (correct). Musical Sit? But in the absence of Dog's usual expert handler (Verity Routley) this did not seem a dead cert either (correct). Party Tricks? *What* party tricks? What to do? But then last minute inspiration, and YEAH! But come back Verity and next year we're going to have a serious go at Agility if we can get a practice in first....

It is always so sad when much loved long-term residents of this village pass on, and this summer, the **Crier** saw the death of a hugely respected former editor, Ron Prime (see page 8), and also a previous Nature Correspondent James

Chesterman, (I used to love his articles). They will be greatly missed.

You can read all about the events of the summer in this month's issue, although no thanks to the editors who practically managed to miss the lot but BIG CONGRATULATIONS to our brilliant reporters who've done a really fantastic job this month with photos and articles — keep them coming in! And remember, if you'd like to have your say, just email us.

Many thanks to Pat and Peter Cook who stepped into the breach and kept the show on the road in August and lastly, congratulations to Alice Day of Oak Cottage, who has just reached her **one hundredth** birthday. That's showing us!

CM

Waggiest  
Tail  
Competition  
in progress.



Cover Picture: *The Cellist* by Thomas Newbolt

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Harvest Supper

What a splendid Harvest celebratory weekend! It involved a lot of hard work from so many people and was enjoyed by all who were able to go.

Harvest Supper in St Cyriac's began with some Molly Dancing by children (and one teacher!) from Swaffham Prior School. They all performed so well and it was quite intricate and **very** energetic! The meal followed, including some delicious desserts, and we were all encouraged to buy raffle tickets. The prizes on offer were three hampers of Fair Trade produce and the proceeds will be going to Mara in Tanzania to help them build another well of safe drinking water. Fleur Routley had decorated St Cyriac's with bright berries and greenery, Pam Mead and Dee Noyes were in charge of the food and Dee also organised and sold the raffle tickets. Mark Lewinski was in charge of the bar and kept us well supplied. I have a sneaky feeling that Janet Willmott was involved in all the organisation too but she was unable to be there as she was on midwifery duty for one of their dogs!

At the end of the evening we awaited the raffle draw but then Dee informed us it wouldn't happen until Harvest Festival, the next day. St Mary's, like St Cyriac's, was beautifully decorated and cleaned. The service was led by Revd Sue Giles, with Dee organising the children's contributions. We sang a couple of good traditional Harvest hymns and at the end the raffle was drawn. We all enjoyed coffee and biscuits provided by the regular team of Kate Child, Betty Prime and Shirley Wilkins.

It's lovely to live in a village and to be able to celebrate the harvest's end. We are lucky enough to watch the changing seasons and all the different work it involves for farmers - even if it does mean getting stuck behind a tractor or combine harvester sometimes!

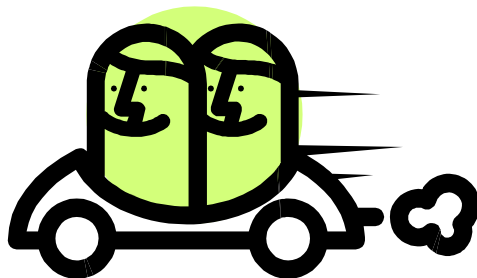
Thank you to everybody for all your hard work over the weekend and I'm really sorry if I've missed somebody out.

*Ruth Scovil*



Peter Jost and Sherlock take on the Agility Course at this year's Dog Show — see page 17 for full report.

## Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme (SPCCS)



A voluntary community car scheme for residents of Swaffham Prior providing door-to-door transport for those who do not have the use of a car and are unable to use conventional public transport to cover essential trips eg medical, dental, optician, chiropody, or Burwell and Bottisham Day Centres

If you would like to use this service please contact  
Janet Willmott

**07900 351742**

preferably between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday  
Supported and Subsidised by Swaffham Prior Parish Council

### **BON MOT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN**

“People say that life is the thing, but I prefer  
reading.”

*Logan Pearsall Smith, (1865-1946)*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

For technical reasons the report on the July PC meeting is only being published this month. Unfortunate though this may be, it does offer the rare opportunity to read one report and then to discover how the PC responded to some of the main points which were raised. I suggest to those few who do read these reports that they do so in the order in which they were written.



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

Like any public event the numbers attending rise and fall, and at the July meeting there were four people in the public gallery. David Brown and Allen Alderson, however, avoided the meeting though Allen did supply a hand written report which one PC member described as being “too much Ely”. In fact, on the surface, all ECDC effort and funding appears to be devoted to building up and prettifying Ely.

Work on the passing place in Station road is due to begin 14<sup>th</sup> July, and all members were impressed by the speed following the favourable decision. “Quite remarkable” and “pretty quick” were amongst the comments, and all paid tribute to Steve’s negotiating skills.

Then came what I believe Peter called “the big one”. This was an application by Paul for the “erection of a boundary wall and railings and erection of a side fence screen”. Paul left the room, but his partner Jane remained to give further details. In the official minutes it is recorded that the Chairman announced that the neighbours has raised an objection. I must have missed this, as also it appears did Geoffrey. Jane announced that it was the Conservation Officer who had objected and refused permission to change the character of the original picket fence frontage in a conservation area. This would be in accordance with what seems to be the general conservation policy, shaped by English Heritage, of keeping as found. Geoffrey asked if there were “any objections from anyone”. And that as the PC had “heard nothing from the neighbours”, he thought “it nothing to make a fuss about”, and recommended approval. This was approved and Paul returned to the room to hear the good news.

The next person to leave the room was Karen, as the PC completed its review of the quality of her work, her contract, etc. And what fun the PC had as it quibbled over some of the fine points being considered. It took a full twenty minutes, and Karen must have wondered what was going on and whether she should be looking for another job. But it all turned out well, and Karen still remains our excellent Clerk.

Later Karen reported on her success or otherwise in persuading people to cut their hedges, and in some cases footpaths. In response to footpaths Allen Gould had written a splendid letter which was read out to the meeting. It is worthy to be included in the *Crier*, though whether Mr Gould will agree to this is a matter for him. I shall not report further on the point just in case he does agree.

Two items came up during the meeting, which were further discussed at length in Open Question time. The first was the condition of the area outside the Pound after the PC had spent over £500 in March to keep it clear of weeds. In July it was rapidly becoming a jungle again. The PC had been bemused about it in the June meeting, and it appeared to be equally bemused and totally indecisive in this July meeting. They were asked from the Public Gallery “What are you going to do about it?” No answer was forthcoming. So the question was asked again, and again, until Geoffrey cracked, and asked, “Why are you looking at me?” As quick as a flash came the answer from the public gallery:- “Because you are the most impressive person here.” There was a short pause. Then Geoffrey spread out his hands, and modestly muttered, “That is not *entirely* true”. The other members were so stunned by this revelation that again no decision was made about the jungle around the Pound.

The other item that ran in to extra time was the traffic question on Mill Hill. Geoffrey wanted it raised, reminding the meeting that we had £10,000 earmarked for the improvement of Mill Hill. The roundabout suggestion came up again and Steve said this would cost half a million and that if Geoffrey could raise the extra £490,000 we could go ahead. Peter wanted the new CCC traffic expert to visit as he may “have new ideas”. Steve, who had carried out all the previous discussions, thought this a waste of time and went through it all again. Some played around with the idea of a flyover, though others thought an underpass a better option. No one suggested the control system in Quay which would be very effective, but against which certain members of our PC had been exceptionally voluble when it was introduced. And we also have the example of that wonderful traffic calming in Soham – what a joy that is. The discussion had begun because there is a real concern about the increased traffic expected following the new developments in Soham and Burwell. During the discussion it was admitted that nothing could be done about this, and one may wonder whether the increased traffic together with a slowing down of the traffic will achieve the result some people want. But Peter wanted further discussions, and Paul agreed, saying “You achieve everything with perseverance”. “Exactly” jumped in Geoffrey. Maybe it is this trio which should meet with the new CCC “expert” and report on all the “new ideas” which would solve the problem – that is, if Steve wouldn’t mind.

### ***From our Reporter at the SEPTEMBER PC meeting***

Moving quickly through the preliminaries, with a few minor changes to the minutes, we got to David Brown’s report. This revealed that the financial allocation per pupil has increased so that Cambridgeshire CC is no longer 151 out of 151 in the financial pecking order. It is now 134 out of the 151. That is the good news. The bad news is that the Government has allocated £34 million less for capital spending than had been expected. “Very frustrating” was David’s comment. I wonder what Alex Salmond would have said.

Allen Alderson had quite a lot to say especially about all the new committees on which he now sits, with the plum being that he is now the “Infrastructure

Champion.” “Crickey”, was squeaked the only response from one member. He also flagged up the increasing English Heritage opposition to the Ely Bypass. It seems the bypass is going to spoil the view. Allen was also chuffed that Ely now has two “Green Flags” for its open spaces. He thought this a real achievement, and stressed the importance so much that Steve asked, “What are they for, and what do they do?” Allen said he would find out and report next time.

The PC has now discussed the state of the Pound with Martin Meade. Martin agrees it is not satisfactory and will put it right at no charge – when he returns from Portugal.

It is extremely gratifying that senior members of the PC follow my advice in the July Report, without even reading it. I really appreciate this. Peter and Geoffrey (presumably Paul was at work) did arrange to meet the new CCC traffic officers – Mr Mathew Pickering and Mr Joshua Rutherford – on Mill Hill to discuss the traffic.

A whole new scenario has now emerged which Peter and Geoffrey, with understandable glee, detailed. It may be possible to reduce the speed limit to 30mph; it may be possible to install ‘narrow islands’ in the centre of the road at a cost of about £10,000; it may be possible to have a smaller roundabout at the top of Cage Hill at a cost of £30 – 40,000 (later revised to £60,000). All of this resulted in a lot of excited discussion until Peter, acting a Chairman for the night, brought it under control and said “Let’s first discuss which of the three options we want to aim for.”

After further detailed and thoughtful discussion it was agreed to apply for the roundabout. Karen reminded the meeting that the dead line date was the next day, and that with her full time job it would be impossible to make the application in time. David Brown, who had stayed on for this part of the meeting, suggested that Karen writes a letter of intent, explaining why we were late, and that the full application will be sent in very shortly. David asked for the letter to be copied to him so that he could have his own good words and support if required.

The PC members’ individual reports and accounts always offer interesting information and amusing moments. Steve asked how many had noticed that the “Springey Thingey” (better known as the “Daisy”) was missing from the children’s play area. No one had. It had not been nicked for scrap but, because the paint and metal had deteriorated so much, it had been taken away by Simon King to be blasted clean in his workshop. When painted it will be as new. Because no mention was made of them, no one also appears to have noticed the three new signs, which suddenly appeared two days before the meeting, pointing the way to “The Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta”. These I think are to direct people from all over the county to the now famous occasional Saturday afternoon teas run by Sharyn Robinson and Janet Willmott in St Cyriac’s Church.

Steve also reported that he had had his green wheelie bin taken away after the previous week’s collection. When reporting it to ECDC (charming girls it seems) he was advised to walk around the area to try to find it. Eventually he found it up someone’s drive, round the corner out of view. He wondered how the dustbin men could have been so stupid. .

*Alastair Everitt*

# The Laying of the Lily

Those of us who try to keep alive the “other” church in Swaffham Prior, dedicated to St Cyriac and St Julitta, were asked by its guardians (The Churches Conservation Trust) to mark the outbreak of World War I by placing a single lily on the altar at 11.00am on August 4<sup>th</sup> (the moment when war was declared). All of the Trust’s 341 churches were asked to do the same. Assuming that few people would be free to attend on a Monday morning in August, we had planned a simple ceremony around the reading of Rupert Brooke’s poem “The Soldier”.

However, we were delighted when Sue, our busy Vicar, said that she would like to come. When asked, she also kindly gave an introduction and laid the white lily (and others brought by members of a village family in honour of three relations). We finished with prayers for peace. Altogether there were about 40 people present.



*War Veteran Leonard Jackson attending the event. Leonard used to live in Swaffham Prior.*



We then moved to St Mary’s Church next door to have coffee and hear a recorded BBC broadcast on the subject of the War and Peace windows installed there in 1919 as part of the village memorial. The broadcast featured the voices and the colourful recollections of several villagers who remembered Swaffham Prior before and during the war.

The stained glass windows will feature at two other events this year. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, in St Mary’s Church, a visiting speaker from Scotland will throw new light on them; and again on November 30<sup>th</sup> Cambridge Voices will highlight them at the annual Advent Concert.

We intend to keep a lily in St Cyriac’s until November 2018. If you do not already know this elegant and graceful building, do visit it, especially on a sunny day.

***Elisabeth Everitt***



## Remembering Ron Prime

### 31<sup>st</sup> October 1920 – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014

Ron was born in Highbury North London, the youngest of three brothers. He became fascinated by movie making as a boy watching his father operate a magic lantern for the local Literacy Society and seeing Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton in silent films at the cinema. At senior school he excelled at music and drawing and in his teens sold his Hornby train set so he could buy his first movie camera. He was fascinated by the invention of television and watched the first transmitter being built at Alexander Palace in 1936. On leaving school Ron tried, unsuccessfully, for a job in the film or television industries, becoming instead an engineering designer draughtsman, working in electrical, radio and television engineering.



Ron became involved in his local Church where he met Betty and they later married in June 1945. Shortly after returning from honeymoon he was posted to North Wales where several members of his unit were professional or amateur actors and musicians. He joined a drama group on the camp and formed a film and music appreciation group. In preparation for being de-mobbed he did an acting course and was offered a job in a local repertory company but declined opting for the security as a draughtsman at the Electricity Board. He started a drama group at the church and sang in the choir, occasionally playing the organ for services.

In 1951 Ron helped set up an amateur film making club in Wood Green which ran for 36 years and enjoyed family home life with Betty and their three daughters. His ambition for a job in film or TV was finally realised with a move to High Definition Films, followed by Redifusion Television, Samuelsons and Ranks.



Ron's final job before retirement was at the government department The Central Office of Information where he was responsible for all the technical film making facilities and organised the Central Film Library. After his retirement he wrote articles on film making for several national magazines and helped make films for the Salvation Army, Leprosy Mission and Baptist Mission, travelling to America, Zaire, Australia and Hong Kong.

Ron and Betty moved to Swaffham Prior in 1987 where he was a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and edited the Crier for four and half years. He was a member of the Garden Club and Music Circle and was involved in numerous other organisations.



Ron continued film making with films about the restoration of St Cyriac's Church bells, the village windmills, summer playscheme, village festival, The Prospect Trust and rehearsals for a village production of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". His final film in 2000 was of the village's Millennium celebrations.

A life lived to the full, Ron will be greatly missed by family and friends.

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## **A Touch of Welsh Humour**

*If, travelling along the A470 in North Wales, you drop down into the attractive market town of Dolgellau, and visit the Church of St Mary, you will, for 20p, be able to pick up a copy of the Parish Magazine which covers the activities of five parishes. The Magazine has an unusual light touch, and also the following article:*

### **Church Ladies with Typewriters**

They're back. Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.

Please put your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5.00 PM – prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind.

They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

This evening at 7 PM there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support group will meet Thursday at 7 PM.

Please use the back door.



# Anglesey Benefice For Samaritan's Purse **Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Boxes**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2014**  
**At St Cyriac's Church, Swaffham Prior**  
**11am – 2pm**

We will be packing Christmas Shoe Boxes  
to send to needy children overseas

Bring along your donations, as many items as you like from the suggested list below, and we will do the rest, from filling boxes to arranging their despatch (completed boxes will also be gratefully received)

Enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake, the proceeds of which will go towards buying items to make up incomplete boxes and shipping costs

If you are able to spare an hour on the day then your help would be very much appreciated to sort the gifts and pack boxes  
*(please contact Janet Willmott, details below, if you are able to assist with these)*

## **Yes please to:**

Toys: bear, soft toy, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, trucks, cars, dolls, clip on earrings, tennis ball, etc

Educational supplies: felt pens, pens, pencils, colouring book, notepad, puzzle book, stickers etc

Hygiene items: toothbrush, hairbrush, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel etc

Other: sweets (sell by date to be at least March 2015) gloves, scarf, sunglasses, hat, bangles, etc

## **No thank you to:**

No food: especially chocolate

No medicine or vitamins of any kind

No war related items: toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind

No clothing other than hats gloves or scarves

No fragile items or liquids

No dangerous items, sharp objects, scissors or razors

No novels or anything of a political nature

No hand-knitted stuffed toys

Contributions are required to cover the suggested £3.00 “shipping” donation of each box, which can be gift aided making every £1 worth 25p more. Envelopes will be available at the Church or in advance by calling one of the numbers below.

Boxes are made up for either a boy or girl with the age categories being 2-4 years, 5-9 years and 10-14 years.

If you are unable to pop along to St Cyriac’s on 18<sup>th</sup> October but have a contribution, please do contact me, **Janet Willmott, on 01638 743472 or 07833 960678**, and I will arrange for the collection of your donated items – **Thank you so much!**





# FAMILY CEILIDH

Barselling  
wine and soft  
drinks; nibbles

~

Fundances  
taught by  
experienced  
caller

~

 The Cyriacs

In aid of St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Saturday 18 October

At 7pm

Tickets £6/£4

From 01638 743864;

[noyeshome@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:noyeshome@tiscali.co.uk)

## Jumble Sale in Lode

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 2-4pm**

New venue: The Passage pavilion in Lode, on the Recreation Ground.

Parking is in the High Street and walk through Passage Close, beside the post office. Entrance £1 and children free

We will put half the proceeds towards the Lode to Quay cycle path and the rest to a charity which we will decide later on. The event raises a lot of money and the one last October achieved £600. Money raised for the cycle path is in a designated account at Sustrans and has topped the £2000 mark, so the Jumble sale is an important fund raiser and a really good way to recycle anything! Please come and support us.

# Autumn Show Report

## In the Beginning:

Much to the delight of all involved in both the Dog Show and Autumn Show, weather forecasts were much more positive this year than last, and the day dawned dry and reasonably warm, .

Entries arrived from the minute of the 10am opening, right up to the final seconds before the 12 o'clock deadline, and these were electronically logged, tagged and verified, ready for the judges scrutiny.

In the early afternoon, on the front lawn, dogs were put through their paces, demonstrated impressive obedience, or wore fancy dress; my cat would have been highly amused by it all, if he'd been awake.



## Entering into the Spirit of Competition:

There was stiff competition in some of the vegetable classes - the runner beans entries were all worthy of a prize, and onions and tomatoes were also well represented. In addition, the 'any other' category was hotly contested, with chili peppers, cucamelons (cucumber-melon hybrids, in case you hadn't guessed) and other interesting varieties on display. Alex Kirby once again produced an amazing and beautifully presented selection of mixed vegetables. However, the total number of entries

in the vegetable classes was somewhat decreased due to the early season and to blight, which meant that no potatoes were exhibited this year.

It was, however, an excellent year for apples, pears and soft fruit, and this was reflected in the large number of entries, with late raspberries scoring highly in the 'any other' fruit section.

Flowers were well represented



this year, with all classes (except 'pot plant') having multiple entries.

Priorities have been very busy in their kitchens recently, judging by the plethora of jams, jellies, cakes and loaves of bread that were shown - all of a very high standard. The WI



Victoria sponge controversy rolls on: should it be raspberry or strawberry jam in the middle? This year, entrants got away with either filling. Next year, who knows ...

The children's classes contained some outstanding entries, with Henry Aspin's mini garden narrowly winning out over other strong entries. The human creators of vegetable animals showed amazing inventiveness, and to prevent any contention, the judges discovered a new class, and awarded a prize for a wonderful fruit-based owl.

As in 2013, there was a small, but impressive, entry in the photography competition. We were highly impressed that the Thacker family had planned their Summer holiday around this year's themes of Light and Weather, and Windows and Doors. Not surprisingly, they won both of these sections.



## The Class Acts:

The winner of each category was as follows:

Beans:	<b>Graham Preston</b>	Beet-root:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Carrots:	<b><i>Viv Elston</i></b>
Tomatoes:	<b>Peter Hart</b>	Onions:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Herbs:	<b>The Maslens</b>
Courgettes:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Marrow:	<b>Jacob Mold</b>	Vegetable display:	<b><i>Alex Kirby</i></b>
Other vegetable:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Dessert apples:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Cooking Apples:	<b>Sarah Thacker</b>
Pears:	<b>Viv Elston</b>	Other fruit:	<b>Linda Kirby</b>	Roses:	<b><i>Mary Hart</i></b>
Single flower:	<b>Alastair Everitt</b>	Mixed flowers:	<b>Elisabeth Everitt</b>	Jam:	<b><i>Linda Kirby</i></b>
Pickle:	<b>The Maslens</b>	Victoria sponge:	<b>Ruth Scovil</b>	Other cake:	<b>Julie Aspin</b>
Decorated cake:	<b>Catherine Wrench</b>	Eggs:	<b>Julie Aspin</b>	Mini garden:	<b>Henry Aspin</b>
Veg and fruit animals:	<b>Jacob Mold Emmett Thacker</b>	Decorated cupcake:	<b>Bethany-Louise Thacker</b>	Fantasy vehicle	<b>Isabella Picton-Duce</b>
Hand-made Bread:	<b>The Maslens</b>	Machine Bread:	<b>Roger Aspin</b>	Photo (10-16): Photo (16+):	<b>Sophie Thacker Sarah Thacker</b>



## Heroes:

Detailed computational and statistical analysis of the results, using an algorithm developed solely for this purpose with the help of NASA scientists, has allowed us to conclude that, as last year, the **2014 Overall Show Champion** is Viv Elston. Many congratulations to him! Other individuals who shone, included Sarah Thacker, Ruth Scovill, Julie Aspin and Mary and Peter Hart.



The children's categories were full of wonderful entries, and the awarding of prizes was extremely close. No overall winner could be chosen - well done to everyone who took part.

The Thacker family produced an amazing array of produce to win the **2014 Best Family in Show** award. The Aspin and Maslen families also scored highly.

## After the Final Judgement:

Cream teas, coffee, juice, rocky road and other delights were provided, with a smile, by Clare Freeman and Catherine Wrench.

The Auction of Produce was presided over, with aplomb, by a nattily behatted Alastair Everitt. His claims about some of the produce are currently under investigation by the EU, but we expect him to be acquitted of any serious wrongdoing.

Thanks go to everyone who helped out, and everyone who supported the event by coming along, entering produce and bidding in the auction.

## ... and Villains:

This year's Show seemed to go well, with relatively little controversy surrounding the selection of categories and the rulings of the judges.

Several helpful comments and suggestions were made about how the Show could be made even better. We will do our best to put as many of these as possible into practice in 2015.

If you have any suggestions or would like to help out at next year's Autumn Show, please let me know at [mcarrington@me.com](mailto:mcarrington@me.com)

**Mike Carrington**



## DING DONG!

Bottisham Players are in the last few weeks of rehearsals for their latest performance of DING DONG!, the cast are enjoying the laughter created by this crazy dinner party with a twist, director Grahame Radford is pleased with the show and as he is also in the cast, enjoying having all the ladies after him! Val Quy is playing the put on house maid who spends most of the evening tossing a coin to decide the menu, as well as making a pass at Grahame's character Bernard, Robert played by Trevor Kartupelis brings along a substitute wife played by Marion Hadley but has a terrible shock when he thinks his real wife Juliette, played by Sue Tennent arrives, so what started off with Jacqueline played by April Cook having an affair with Robert, who by the end of the play is having an affair with who? Come and find out! Shows start at 7.30 each evening, first night Thursday 16th October running for 3 evenings, tickets available from Bottisham Post office, Chris Clark hairdressing and Tina's of Burwell also available on the door. Looking forward to seeing you there.

### **The Olde 'Grand-Father' Clock**

It's a great piece of furniture,  
Worthy of your respect;  
With its back against the wall,  
Standing rigidly erect

Two centuries, and more, have  
passed  
Since the first day it was  
wound,  
And it has a history,  
Quite possibly, profound.

But events that it has witnessed  
Through many, many a  
ay;  
Will remain a mystery - -

They've been securely 'Tocked'

### **St Mary's Concert 2014**

Remember the victims of all wars in this centenary year of the start of the First World War. Come to this concert of orchestral and choral music by Cambridge-shire performers in St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck (CB25 0LX), on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014, at 7.30 pm. The main choral work is Joseph Haydn's mass 'In Time of War'. There will be a retiring collection for St Mary's Church and Help for Heroes.

# Swaffham Prior Dog Show 2014

As in previous years, the annual dog show was held in conjunction with the Autumn Show and by 2.00 pm a large number of dogs, of all shapes and sizes, had gathered in front of the village hall to show off their talents.

We were delighted to have 18 entries for the 6 classes and our brave judges Shaun and Debbie Cole would have the unenviable task of selecting the winners and reserves for each class. Tom Bourne was our master of ceremonies and did a great job of introducing the classes and dogs, and producing a smooth running event out of what could have been chaos!

The results are below but special mentions must go to: all the younger dog owners, it was great to see them handling their dogs so competently and enthusiastically; Peter Jost (see below) for entertaining us on the agility course by attempting the tunnel with Sherlock; Jasper the Labrador for the longest comfort break taken during his first retrieve.

Thank you to all the dog owners and their families who came along to support this very enjoyable event. The event was sponsored by Alan's Ark at Soham who generously provided prizes and £66 was raised for St Mary's Church. Thanks also to Shaun and Debbie Cole, and Tom Bourne for their hard work during the event; and to Janet Willmott for all the preparation beforehand.

## Waggiest tail

First – Molly Mercer and Norman

Reserve – Justeen Lankfer and Freddie

## Retrieve

First – Zelda Stuck and Tessa

Reserve – Alice Trump and Jasper

## Party trick

First – Caroline Matheson and Harry

Reserve – Jodie Halpin-MacDonald and Minnie

## Musical sit

First – Emma Lankfer and Magic

Reserve – Sue Clifton and Flynn

## Agility

First – Molly Mercer and Norman

Reserve – Alice Trump and Jasper

## Fancy dress

First – Heather and Charlie (aka Lester Piggott and Red Rum)

Reserve – Dee Noyes and Lily (the baby in a pushchair)

***Mandy Kingsmill***



Jodie Halpin-MacDonald and Minnie



Mabel Mercer and Ted



Master of Ceremonies Tom Bourne



Flynn in action



Molly Mercer and Double Winner Norman



Zelda Stuck and Tessa



Charlie walking to heel ...and in Fancy Dress



Tessa

# AT THE 2014 DOG HOW



The Judges



Peter Jost and Sherlock's combined effort



Alice Trump and Jasper



Emma Lankfer and Freddie



Sue Clifton and Flynne



Lily and Jasper in Fancy Dress



Caroline



# COMMUNITY OIL BUYING

**Now is the time to consider your heating oil requirements for the winter months. Traditionally heating oil prices in the summer and early autumn months tend to be cheaper and deliveries faster than in the colder weather.**

Cambridgeshire ACRE's community oil buying scheme is designed to help purchasers of central heating oil to make savings by buying in bulk. The scheme is open to anyone in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Community buildings such as churches and village halls as well as businesses which are reliant upon heating oil can join too. The annual membership fee for domestic users is £20 and covers as many oil orders as you need during the course of the year.

Through our partnership with AF Affinity Limited, a subsidiary of Anglia Farmers Limited, the leading agricultural purchasing co-operative in the United Kingdom, the scheme makes the most of collective purchasing power.

The average saving is usually 2 pence per litre against online prices. In July and August this year members who ordered oil in these months got it at less than 50 pence per litre (exclusive of VAT at 5%). The environment benefits too as every time a tanker comes out to make a delivery, it is using a lot of diesel – a full tanker can get as little as a horrifying 8 miles per gallon. If deliveries are organised so that one tanker delivers to several customers in a village, instead of making lots of individual deliveries, the fuel consumption is reduced and so is traffic in the village.

**There are five easy steps to cheaper heating oil:**

## **Step 1: Join the Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Oil Buying Scheme**

Complete a membership form or apply online and then set up a direct debit to pay for your future oil purchases.

## **Step 2: Receive a reminder to check your oil levels**

Each month, we'll remind you to check your tank and notify you of the deadline to place an order. The minimum order is 500 litres.

## **Step 3: Place your order online**

Use our online portal to let us know how much oil you want to buy. Your order increases our negotiating power, so once submitted we regard it as binding.

## **Step 4: Sit back whilst our negotiators get the best possible price**

AF Affinity Ltd negotiate the best price from a range of suppliers. We advise you who the supplier is, the price per litre (exclusive of VAT, currently at 5%) and the approximate date of delivery.

## **Step 5: Take delivery of the oil and pay the company**

The oil will be delivered as soon as possible and your bank account is debited with the amount you owe.

*To find out more about the Cambridgeshire ACRE Community Oil Buying Scheme go to our website [www.cambsacre.org.uk](http://www.cambsacre.org.uk) or contact Julie Weekes on 01353 860850 email [oil@cambsacre.org.uk](mailto:oil@cambsacre.org.uk)*

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

On September 9<sup>th</sup> Bottisham Medical Practice welcomed Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspectors to the surgery as part of a pilot project to inform the inspection of GPs' practice which will commence formally in England this month. During the day the inspectors spent with the doctors, nurses and Practice staff, the Inspection Team Manager interviewed the Patients' Group's Chair and Secretary. She questioned us in a friendly way for one and a half hours, listening attentively to our answers, noting our comments in detail, and encouraging us to share the PG's views about how patient participation can be enhanced to benefit patients more. The full report of the inspection will be published in three to six weeks' time and will be available at the surgery and on the Practice's website: [www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk](http://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk).

### **Heart Start session**

This session on 13th September, offered by the British Heart Foundation to help people learn how to cope with life-threatening situations, was postponed for lack of interest. We plan to offer it again after Christmas.

### **'Flu Clinics**

Yes, it's that time of year again! If you are over the age of 65 or are in the clinical 'at risk' groups, i.e. have a chronic health condition or are pregnant, you are recommended to have a 'flu jab every year. Bottisham surgery will be open to give you your jab on:

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm**

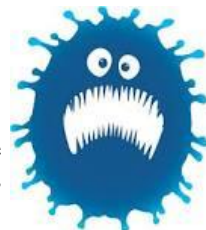
Make your appointment by phoning 01223 810030 or calling at the surgery. More 'flu clinics will be offered during normal surgery hours. 'Flu immunisation is offered to all children aged 2, 3 and 4 on the 01.09.2014 (but not aged under 2 or over 5). It is a one-dose nasal spray and parents/carers will be contacted by the Practice to invite their children to come and receive their vaccination. 'At risk' children need a second dose at least 4 weeks after the first. Children aged 2–17 years who are in the clinical 'at risk' groups, will also receive the nasal 'flu vaccine instead of the flu jab. 'At risk' children aged 6 months to 2 years will continue to receive the annual 'flu jab. More information is on <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/who-should-have-flu-vaccine.aspx>.

### **Healthy Walking Group**

The PG's October walks will be led by Steve Gilson, our accredited walk leader, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, starting from the surgery car park at 11.00 am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays from the Visitors' Centre starting at 10.00 am; not at 10.30 am as advertised here last month. We apologise for misleading walkers. All patients are welcome on all these walks.

***Bottisham Patients' Group Committee***

## **FLU IMMUNISATION**



Flu is not just a bad cold, you are likely to feel much worse and flu can develop into more serious illnesses, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, which could lead to a stay in hospital.

Flu is more dangerous for some people than others, causing serious or even life threatening complications. This is why the Department of Health recommends annual flu vaccination for all those who have diabetes, are pregnant or aged 65 and over. You are also recommended to get the vaccine if you have any long term conditions affecting your lungs, heart, kidneys, liver, brain or nervous system, immune system or spleen.

The Burwell Surgery would like to encourage any person fitting any the above criteria to attend one of our flu clinics to receive their free flu vaccine and protect themselves.

The childhood flu vaccination will also available through the Burwell Surgery. This year if your child is aged 2, 3 or 4 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, they are eligible to the flu vaccine, which is being administered through a nasal spray once again.

We are offering the following flu clinics this year:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 – Day Centre 09.00 to 11.30 (Must be booked)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – Burwell Surgery 18.30 to 19.30 (Must be booked)

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014 – Burwell Surgery 09.00 to 11.30 (No need to book)

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 – Burwell Surgery 14.30 to 17.00 (Must be booked)

If you are unable to attend any of the above clinics and would still like the vaccine, please do contact the surgery to see if further clinics have been added at a later date.

***Deborah Everitt***  
Practice Manager

## **Events for National Quaker Week 2014** **at Friends Meeting House 12 Jesus Lane Cambridge CB5 8BA** <http://www.cambridgeshire-quakers.org.uk/>

Thursday 9th October 7.30 -9.30 Talk discussion and display: "Quaker faith in action - questioning militarisation in Britain and exploring alternatives" - Marigold Bentley Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Tea/coffee provided.

Saturday 11th October 11am - 4 pm - "Open for Peace" - drop in at any time during the day for tea/coffee, quiet reflection, displays, poetry readings and add your hopes to the Tree of Hopes.



Swaffham Bulbeck School PSA

# Bonfire & Firework Party

**Friday 7th November**

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

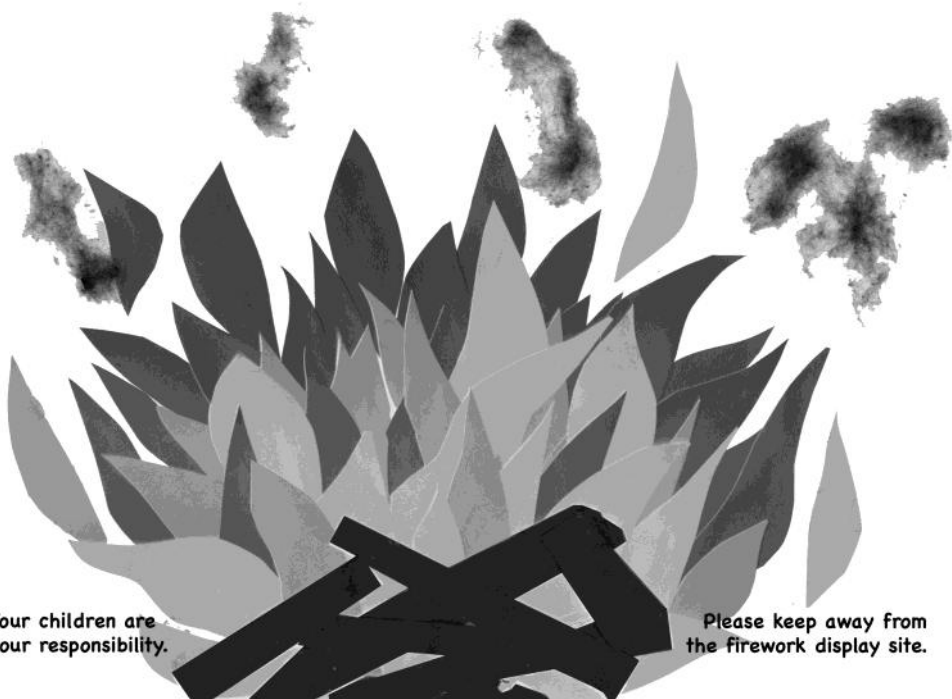
Vicarage Field (behind St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck)

**Adults: £3.50 Children: £2.50**

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

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

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



Your children are  
your responsibility.

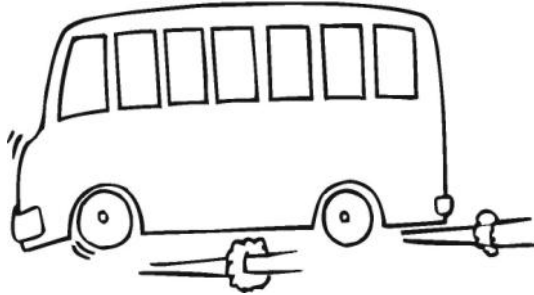
Please keep away from  
the firework display site.

## Dial a Ride

Do you find it difficult to use public transport?  
Perhaps we can help

We operate wheelchair accessible minibuses in the Newmarket area

We make regular visits to Newmarket,  
for shopping and local services



If you would like further information  
please call us on  
**01638 608022**



## LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: 13<sup>th</sup> September, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 8<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: [www.letsdanceclub.org.uk](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)

\*Let's Dance Club is a "not for profit" organisation established to provide dances for the community.

# Bee Fever

## After John Masefield

I must go down to the bees again, to see how they are, by and by.  
I'll go before it starts raining; I don't like the look of that sky.  
My dog is frightened of lightning, and I can see he's just started shaking;  
And I know for sure, he's usually right, he can sense a thunderstorm's breaking.

I must go down to the bees again, to check that they're all inside;  
Though I'm not too keen, if you know what I mean, that fact can't be denied;  
For the wind's getting up, I can see outside, even now the tree-leaves are flying,  
There are darkening clouds; and rumblings, that are but reluctantly dying.

I must go down to the bees again; it's a busy, but interesting life.  
One easy way out, though I do have a doubt; I could maybe teach the wife;  
Not that it'd be a 'fait-accompli', and I do have the fear moreover,  
She'd only do it grudgingly and tell everyone I drove her.

*Ophir*

---

## War Memorials: their History and Meaning

We hope to see you at our Annual Lecture which returns this October. We are delighted that Clive Aslet, who was nominated by previous audience members, has kindly agreed to present it for us.

This popular event includes the opportunity to meet with other supporters and volunteers of The Churches Conservation Trust, members of the Board and the staff team as well as to meet the speaker at our complimentary pre-lecture drink reception.

As part of our World War I commemorative events, Clive will be presenting his lecture on war memorials. Clive has is the author of '*War Memorial*', which is about the people who laid down their lives for us, and who will always be remembered. About Clive: Clive Aslet is an award-winning writer and journalist, acknowledged as a leading authority on Britain and its way of life. In 1977 he joined the magazine *Country Life*, was for 13 years its Editor and is now Editor at Large. He writes extensively for papers such as the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Spectator*, and often broadcasts on television and radio.

Clive's first novel *The Birdcage* has just been published.

Event Details: Thursday 16 October 2014

Charterhouse, Sutton's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6AN

Doors - 6.15pm for a 7pm start (pre-lecture drinks from 6.15pm)

Tickets £30 each £25 for CCT annual giving scheme members



Thanks to Corbel Conservation we have 10 free tickets available for art, history or conservation students. If you are interested in applying for one of these tickets please contact us on [bookings@thecct.org.uk](mailto:bookings@thecct.org.uk)



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
*on the Denny from 10am onwards*

*Bring your apples, & some clean empty wine bottles, to our apple press & for £1 we will press them into delicious apple juice...*

*...plus, Apple Trebuchet Competition*



*Build your own apple catapult to enter our competition. Prizes for the longest & most accurate throw,*

**only £2 Entrance Fee**

*no size restrictions*

*(queries to: [tonirogers115@gmail.com](mailto:tonirogers115@gmail.com))*

*In aid of Forest School at Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School*

## News from Wicken Fen and Anglesey Abbey

The re-introduction of the small but extremely rare Tansy beetle made the headlines at the beginning of September. The beetle with its metallic green appearance was last seen on the Fen over three decades ago. Its last stronghold in the country is a 30 km stretch of the Great Ouse, nr York. As the beetle had a good breeding year up North, the decision was made to relocate around 200 beetles to Wicken- hopefully by spreading the beetle geographically it will improve its long term survival prospects. It gets its unusual name because it mainly eats tansy, a perennial herb.



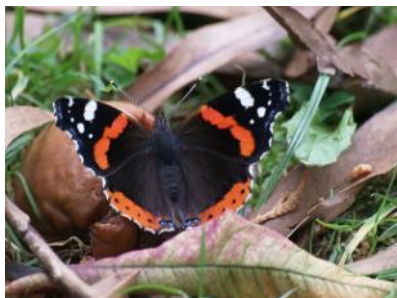
Walking is a great way to get out and enjoy the rich colours of autumn. This October we have a range of walks at Wicken Fen as part of the Trust's Great British Walking Festival. We start with

**Walk with a Ranger** – a short introductory walk around the fen every Wednesday from 1 – 22 October, 2.30 -3.30pm. **Walking in the Footsteps of Wicken's scientists** – (1 -24 October, 10am -3pm) is a self-guided trail looking at some of the scientists who have been associated with Wicken's fascinating history. If you fancy a longer walk we have **Walk the Fens** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - the day starts at 10.30am with a five mile walk returning to Wicken for lunch with a further five mile walk in the afternoon leaving at 1.30pm. You can join for either or both walks. Please note this is a social walk with a leader, rather than a guided walk. Finally you have the opportunity to lose the shoes and try our **Family Barefoot Walk** on Saturday 25 Oct, 10am -3pm. The trail will take around 30 minutes with activities and challenges en-route. Trails (£2 per child) will be available from the Visitor Centre.

Our popular Mucky Pups programme for under 5s continues with **Autumn Animals** on 8 & 9 Oct - sessions run from 10.15 -11.45, tickets £4 can be booked from the Visitor Centre on 01353 720274. For the half term holidays we have **Autumn Adventure**, a mix of games, craft and outdoor fun on 28 October and **Batty Halloween** on 31 October. Sessions run from 10.30 -12.30pm or 2-4pm, tickets £4.75 per child are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895 – advance booking essential.

Down at Anglesey Abbey, we have **Awesome Autumn** throughout October. This is a chance to enjoy the gardens amazing autumnal colours, create some wild art, play conkers and jump around in huge piles of leaves. You can also learn how to climb trees with professional instruction from the Big Tree Climbing Company. Sessions (minimum age 6+) are being held on 28 & 29 October and cost £16.54 for a one hour session. Tickets can be booked on-line by following the links from the Events page of the Anglesey Abbey website.

Finally, we will be illuminating the gardens for our **Winter Lights Festival** for three weekends starting on Friday 28 November. This year we have an extended route and new lighting and effects to enjoy. Tickets (Adults £11.50 Children £8 Family Ticket £35) are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895.



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC  
GARDENS

## SHARING AUTUMN'S BOUNTY

The word *harvest* in fact comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *haerfest* meaning autumn, but today the word has come to mean the gathering in of the farmer's crops and the final picking and storing of our allotment and orchard fruit, and even, occasionally, the offering of tins of baked beans or tomato soup to the school harvest collection!

But the real autumn harvest for the wildlife in our gardens is not restricted to the perfect specimens of the supermarket shelves but includes all shed seedheads, cones, nuts, flowerheads, berries, drupes, fruits, rotting wood and deciduous leaves raining down from the tree canopies. It is time for a pre-winter feast to stock up on reserves. Red admiral butterflies are starting to congregate in the south of the country after summer sojourns up north and love feasting on fallen rotting apples and pears – in fact gathering a tray of windfalls in a sunny spot is great for watching butterflies such as red admirals but also commas and second brood small tortoiseshells close up. Long-tailed tits become more active again in private gardens, picking off soft fruit and hedge berries. 2014 is predicted to be a 'mast year', a complex, little-understood natural phenomenon which sees some tree species produce very large crops of seeds - good news for small mammals and larger birds like jays. Many plant species like poppies play a numbers game, producing enormous amounts of seed knowing that the vast majority will not find the perfect growing conditions, but will become protein-rich nuggets for smaller birds and mammals. The carpet of autumn leaves is not only a pleasure to kick through but provides a permanently damp, dark and cool habitat for invertebrates such as slugs, snails, worms, millipedes, woodlice, spiders and other toad and frog delicacies which, together with fungi, are essential for breaking down this nutrient rich bounty so that it can re-invigorate the life cycle. Gathering up some leaf litter into a large glass jar and allowing it to settle is a great way to observe the invertebrate army at work.

Busy lives have led to many making their gardens as low maintenance as possible with large areas of paving, decking and planting restricted to exotics in pots. Our increasing reliance on cars for transport has increased the amount of land put down to sterile hard landscaping. As we see more intense development, our private gardens will have a more and more important role to play in helping to maintain the richness of wildlife in the ecosystem, so resist the urge to tidy the garden too manically this *haerfest*, and let the wildlife share in the harvest.

Celebrate this year's bumper harvest at the region's biggest Apple Day at Cambridge University Botanic Garden, 10am- 4pm on Sunday 26 October where the Main Lawn tent will house local apple juice and cider producers, bakers and cheesemakers together with the apple tasting stations, which will offer a wide range

of apples grown in the East of England to try before you buy.

Experts from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project (EEAOP) will offer a pruning advice service and will be bringing their comprehensive display of Cambridgeshire apple varieties, so bring in your unidentified apples from the garden or community orchard and see if the EEAOP experts can name them for you. Plus find out about the Cambridge Community Collection, an apple orchard installation for the city.

Normal Garden admission applies, plus £3 Apple Day ticket for everyone 17+, available in advance from the Garden ticket offices for fast track entry on the day



From our Local County Councillor  
David Brown

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## September 2014

General Purposes Committee met to consider the usual range of financial reports. It was agreed to move forward with the Mobilising Local Energy Investment scheme, which will utilize EU funding to help improve energy efficiency in public buildings over the next few years. Further details are being worked up and a service provider appointed to move the scheme forward. A paper from officers regarding current financial pressures was referred back to be considered as part of the overall business planning process. The GPC also agreed to support a bid from Fenland District Council to the Heritage Lottery Fund for moves to re-generate Wisbech High Street.

The Children and Young People's Committee also met in September. Decisions taken included the extension of contracts to third parties managing 5 of our children's centres for a further year prior to re-tendering and an agreement to support a new primary school in Wisbech on the site of the Thomas Clarkson Academy as a free school. The Committee also considered proposals for the CYP capital programme to be submitted as part of the business plan to Full Council in February 2015. The Committee agreed to support the allocation of a further £5million for the expansion of Burwell Village College.

I spent 2 days in Peterborough interviewing prospective organizations to run a new Secondary School in Hampton Gardens which is a joint project between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Following a closely-run contest it was agreed to recommend that Hampton Academy Trust should be the preferred organization to run the school.

I attended meetings of: the Cambridgeshire Improvement Board, the Constitution and Ethics Committee, the Cambridgeshire Coram Adoption Advisory Board and 2 business planning workshops. I also met with Nicky Morgan MP, Secretary of State for Education, and took the opportunity to raise funding for schools and safeguarding issues.

We also received the tremendous news that Eric Pickles MP, will not be calling in the planning permission for the Ely Southern By-Pass, meaning that planning permission is granted and we can now get on with tendering for the construction of it.



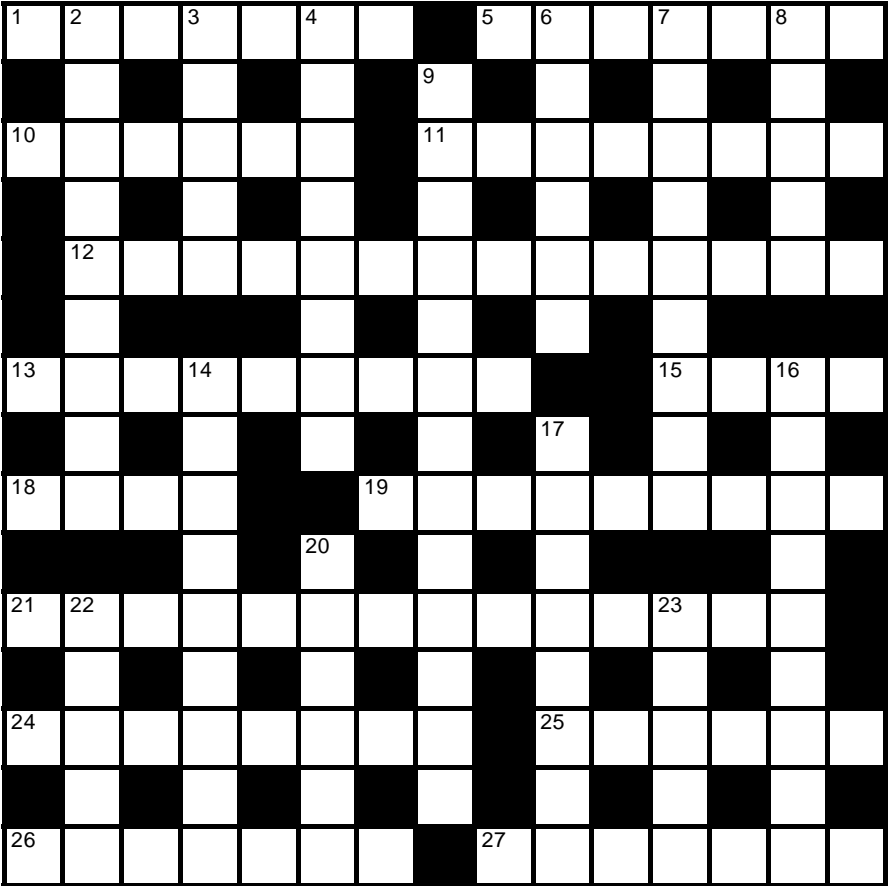
# Crossword Number 113

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 October 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 Fish from comic captain (7)
- 5 Introduction starts politely, referencing English fashion and Chinese elegance (7)
- 10 Corinthian leader swallowed by earthquake in Ancient Greece (6)
- 11 University world produces articles about assorted commercial mice (8)
- 12 A river worm? I err dreadfully using this for looking over my shoulder! (8,6)
- 13 Italian composer joins English king and is greenish-blue (9)
- 15 Novel shirt for salamander (4)
- 18 Knock out Saint, French one (4)
- 19 Mysteriously, I be let out of dungeon (9)
- 21 Broken heel bone set. Pox in street booths? (9, 5)
- 24 111 codes resolved for stupidities (8)
- 25 Carriage for actor Martin? (6)
- 26 Stopwatches used for dance, no cash! (3-4)
- 27 For example, Andre throws small bomb (7)

## Down

- 2 Detestable bad breath Ron (9)
- 3 Play Doctor with American Medical Association (5)
- 4 Splitting insert removed from absurd travel agencies (8)
- 6 Peer prepared short manuscript on lands (6)
- 7 Green fare? Scramble these eggs! (4-5)
- 8 Tragic air of mystery surrounding

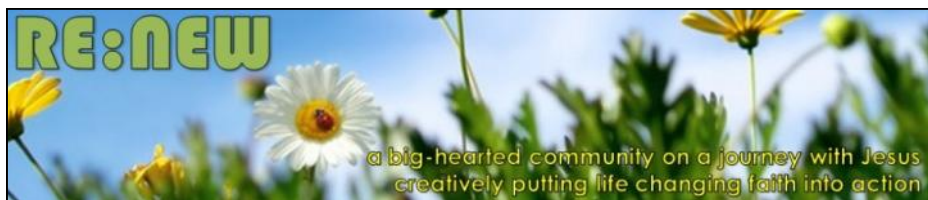
city (5)

- 9 Frivolousness as I confuse seats afresh (13)
- 14 Adore guns? Could be perilous! (9)
- 16 Hold out 500 Welsh tin hats in error (9)
- 17 Blur goal into shape of a ball (8)
- 20 Polish king inside place of worship (6)
- 22 Bequeath bridge opponents penny and pain, we hear (5)
- 23 Gas found in annexe, no noisome fumes (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 112

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

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



As I write this things are getting tense! It is less than a week to the referendum on Scottish independence. Whatever happens many people are going to be bitterly disappointed. We should be very grateful that this is taking place through a democratic process. All over the world fragmentation is taking place. Countries are divided. People are engaged in bloody struggles for separation; for independence. These divisions may be along racial, tribal, historical, political or religious lines: sometimes all of these things inextricably bound up together. And they result in bitterness, hatred and violence.

Surely it is a fundamental part of our humanity that we thrive best in community? Surely we are better together? Surely we should be breaking down barriers, not building them? Uniting, not dividing?

Part of our very humanness is sharing knowledge; sharing resources; sharing lives. We read that the first Christians *'were one in heart and mind. No-one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.'* [Acts 4:32] Yet, in spite of that, when we look into the early church, through the lens of the New Testament, we see groups of believers struggling with division and fragmentation – Jewish Christians against Gentile Christians; groups polarising around different leaders. Much of the New Testament, particularly in the letters to these infant churches, is a plea for unity – that we are better together.

St. Paul likens the church to a body with each part needing the other and no part being able to function alone. The New Testament appeals to us to love, honour, respect, encourage, serve, and forgive one another. To live in peace with one another.

Admittedly the church historically has not always lived up to these high ideals – and probably still doesn't – but the challenge remains with us today, especially to those of us who are seeking to follow Jesus. Our present society is marred in so many ways by division and fragmentation, often resulting in loneliness and isolation; in non-communication and disconnection. We need to work at creating communities where people can find support and friendship, honesty and compassion, openness and trust. The churches need to be at the heart of such communities working alongside each other, and alongside other individuals and organisations. We are better together!

At RE:NEW we are trying to build a community in which everyone can find togetherness and acceptance, and feel part of something much bigger than themselves. Why not come and join us?

Peter Wells

## **FREecycle**



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (c813362), e-mail ([jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk)) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

### **Offered**

Hardwood logs – all shapes and sizes, to be collected. David/Marilyn Butler c811888

Kodak Series 10, Black Ink cartridge - new, unused. Margaret or Peter Beckley n744327.

### **Wanted**

Any unwanted child-sized waterproofs and wellies for Swaffham Bulbeck Church of England Primary School. On behalf of Governors. Andy/Jun c813362.

Long cardboard tubes (e.g. kitchen roll/cling film/wrapping paper) for Beaver Scout activity. Jun c813362.

An African or Bongo Drum, Nicole 812363

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

Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895064727.

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## **THE CAMBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLECTION**

*In January 2014 the artist, Neville Gabie, was given final approval for a new commission, the Cambridge Community Collection, supported and funded by Cambridge City Council. Here, Neville explains his vision for the project.*

The commission is to develop and mark footpaths, cycle routes and other means of way-finding between the City centre, the new housing developments on the City's southern fringe and to a number of key nature reserves, stretching into the surrounding countryside.

The vision is to plant the routes using every single variety of UK apple tree to create a community orchard. The apple trees will be planted alphabetically in a series of concentric circles radiating out from the scion of Newton's apple tree grown on the Brookside Lawn at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden towards Trumpington, Grantchester, Harston and beyond. Designed to be planted over four years, the trees will be incorporated into the new country park, Trumpington village with its new village square, the Glebe Farm and Clay Farm developments, Trumpington Meadows, and the existing and new developments at Addenbrooke's Hospi-

tal. Given the range of locations, we plan to nurture the apple trees in different ways. In places they may be planted as small pockets or mini orchards. In more formal spaces, espalier training might be appropriate while in wilder locations, the trees will be established in mixed plantings among the natural trees and shrubs.

Why apple trees? Each cultivated variety requires grafting the specific apple variety onto a rootstock to provide vigour. On many levels this ancient horticultural practice provides a wonderful metaphor for the new developments on Cambridge's southern fringe as a new community of many thousands takes root amongst long-established settlements. Equally, the planting and nurturing of apple orchards is part of this County's heritage, while ultimately the resulting harvest is itself a great way to bring people together.

The first 200 varieties will be ready for planting this autumn and a further 400 varieties are due to be 'budded' and 'grafted' ready for planting in autumn 2015. However, for this project to flourish and make a worthwhile impact, community involvement will be essential. Our ambition is for this unique orchard to be planted, maintained, nurtured, adopted and enjoyed by community groups and local volunteers. With the first trees due to be planted this autumn, we are keen to hear from anyone (regardless of experience) who would like to be involved.

To find out more, visit [www.cambridgecommunitycollection.co.uk](http://www.cambridgecommunitycollection.co.uk) or email [neville@nevillegabie.com](mailto:neville@nevillegabie.com) or talk to the Cambridge Community Collection team at the Garden's Apple Day on 26 October.

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## PASTORAL LETTER, October 2014

## Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Holidays are an excellent way of taking a step back and having a thoughtful look at one's life and work. We were very fortunate to have a holiday in Assisi, where St Francis lived and worked. It would be true to say that even today, 800 years after his death, this humble and dynamic saint is still a challenging figure for the church and the world.

In the Basilica in Assisi, which is decorated with glorious frescoes there is a picture of one of the less known stories of St Francis' life. In 1219 Pope Honorius III called for the fifth crusade and St Francis, being a man of his time announced that he intended to travel to the Holy Land and to Jerusalem. The belief of the Christian world at this time was that everyone who did not profess faith in Christ had to be converted, whether Jew or Muslim. The difference was that Francis wanted to convert people by proclamation and example, not by force. After a long sea journey during which many of those travelling died of hunger or illness Francis and his companions arrived in Egypt.

Francis was horrified by the carnage, the conduct of the Christian forces and by the commander's refusal to accept very generous terms for peace made by Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil. He finally persuaded the commander Pelagio to allow him to go and talk to the Sultan. His primary aim, even though it was punishable by death was



to persuade the Sultan of the truth of Christianity and to try and bring an end to the bloodshed. The account of his stay with the Sultan is found not only in French and Italian records of the crusades but also in an Islamic chronicle.

This was a very risky enterprise but to the surprise of many on Francis' side, the Sultan welcomed him very warmly, and engaged vigorously in discussions about their respective beliefs. At the end of a week, during which the Sultan had fed him and entertained him royally, Francis had not convinced him. They parted on good terms, with the Sultan renewing an offer to cede Jerusalem in return for a cessation of hostilities.

Francis returned to his own side, having failed in his quest to convert the Sultan, only to receive a rejection of the offer he bore from him. Francis, thoroughly disillusioned, returned to Italy and left the Crusaders behind.

And so, as I look back on St Francis, I am struck that much of what he saw as failure in his life has become the mark of his success. He failed to convert the Sultan but what actually happened was that two adults with deep religious conviction respectfully agreed to differ. Francis' life was lived in solidarity with the poor, and while it certainly true that he did fail to turn the church away from its attachment to material wealth, he remains a powerful sign to a vastly different world nearly 800 years after his death; so much so that the new Pope deliberately chose to take his name.

So maybe some of the strange elements of our religious history do still resonate today!

*Sue*

## Church Services in October

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

unless otherwise indicated

**Sunday 5 October, sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

11am

## Matins

**Sunday 12 October, seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

11am

Holy Communion (CW1T)

**Sunday 19 October, eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

11am

## Family Service with Baptism

**Sunday 26 October, last Sunday after Trinity**

10am

## Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1)

Holy Trinity, Bottisham

## Dates for Your Diary October 2014

Sat	11	Lode Jumble Sale, Fassage Pavilion, Lode, 2-4pm
Thu	16	Ding Dong! BVC, 7.30pm. Until Saturday.
Fri	17	
Sat	18	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b> Family Ceilidh, 7pm, VH Operation Shoe Box, 11am-2pm, St Cyriac's SB Apple Day, The Denny, 10am onwards
Sun	19	
Mon	20	
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm 3rd Tues
Sat	25	St Mary's Concert, St Mary's, SB, 7.30pm
7	Nov	SB Bonfire Party, 6pm, behind St Mary's
	31	

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	