



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIX Number 12

December 2015

Editorial



Happy Christmas All Our Readers....

Many, many apologies to all about last month's extra specially hard *missing clues* crossword. Despite knowing all about the potential technical glitch we currently have in the crossword transfer department, the editors still managed to let those vital clues sneak off when no one was looking. SO here they are (see p. 16) where they can't escape, and we've extended the deadline until the 18 December., with 18 January for the Christmas puzzle.

We usually print the New Year Crier before Christmas, but this year it would mean a really early copy-date, barely a week after people receiving the December Crier. So instead, what we'll do is have it printed after Christmas, keeping the usual copy-date of the 18th.. We have occasionally done this before, but it means that it can't be printed until January 4, —apologies in advance for this.

Loads for Christmas events coming up, including Boxing Day Hockey (we hope there's punch, we do hope there's punch!) plus the Winter Walk. Francis Reeks always led this, and I'm sure he would have loved to know that it would keep going in his absence — do turn up, if you're around, it's great fun.

Have a lovely Christmas All!

From all at the Crier Team -

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

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Cover Picture: The Nativity by Claire Newbolt



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

A Year in Swaffham Prior

What a great year this has been in Swaffham Prior - Cream Teas, Midsummer Market, Village Feast, Dog Show, Autumn Show, Harvest Supper, Macmillan Coffee Morning, Pop-in Cafe and now the Saturday morning coffee and Advent Carols and all the Christmas services to look forward to. Lots of money raised for various organisations but I think the most important part of it all is getting people together, chatting to people you don't see very often.

This is a lovely place to live and I welcome the new residents and hope they will enjoy living in Swaffham Prior.

Betty Prime.

Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came and supported us at the village quiz last month, we raised £300 for St. Mary's Church.

Thank you to those who donated prizes for the raffle and April who organised it.

Thank you once again to Shirley, Linda, Jo and Sheila who helped in the kitchen and of course did a great job serving the food.

Andrew was our quiz master once again and we thank him very much.

Jenny and I couldn't run the quiz without all of our helpers, which included Jenny's granddaughter Ava this time.

Congratulations to our winners, Lucky Harry, who we believe was their first time in winning.

Here are the dates for your diaries for our quizzes next year, 9th April 2016 and 15th October 2016. We hope to see you there.

Lynne and Jenny

***The flag will fly from the tower of St Cyriac's on
25th December, Christmas Day***



Delivery of the Swaffham Crier

We are sure that our readers appreciate having the Crier delivered to their door each month and would like us to thank the volunteers who do this every month. Some use their own transport to deliver to far corners of the parish and beyond, and some feel it more difficult now but still like to help their community.

We have a regular band of 18 who deliver each month with 3 reserves who sometimes step in at very short notice. Recently we have said goodbye and thank you to one family who found it necessary to call it a day but thankfully someone has stepped in to replace them.

On your behalf, thank you and best wishes for Christmas and the new year to all our volunteers.

Ruth, Pam and the Crier team

Boxing Day Hockey Match

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VS SWAFFHAM BULBECK

The Denny, Swaffham Bulbeck

Saturday 10.45 am (10.30 am players)

COME AND SUPPORT SWAFFHAM PRIOR!!

All proceeds to MAGPAS



Contact **Mandy Kingsmill** if you would like to play in the winning team!

New players will be particularly welcome this year as some of our regulars are away

01638 742482 (kingsmills@btconnect.com)





From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Several members were missing from November's meeting but the public gallery was quite full and the meeting started with a concerned resident summarising access problems in Station Road caused by parked cars during school dropping off/picking up times. The Headmistress has tried many tactics to encourage considerate parking by parents but none have been effective so affected parties and Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department met to discuss the matter. The concerned resident reminded the Parish Council that they discussed this very issue in 2006 and kindly showed them a copy of the 2006 minutes just to jog their memory. Seems to have dropped off their radar. Suggestions for possible solutions included using Community Infrastructure Levy money to maybe widen the entrance to the village hall car-park and improve it for parents use (on the down side, this would necessitate tree removal and re-siting of the hall oil tank), possibly extending yellow lines with time restrictions in the High Street and Station Road (on the down side, this may just move the parking problem elsewhere) or even uncovering the footpath from the school down Station Road to allow parents to park in the football pitch car park. The down side to this option are too many to list.



Whilst awaiting a recommendation from CCC Highways Department, David Greenfield, one of the new kids on the Parish Council block, proposed that the Parish Council obtain budget proposals for widening the village hall car park to set the ball rolling. Yay – action.

On another issue which shouldn't take 10 years to sort out, Paul Latchford updated the meeting on the Parish Council owned street lights with a conundrum – pay more to get the work done sooner or wait for another contractor to get it completed at a cheaper price but risk problems with the perilous state of the damaged light in Fairview Grove. Decisions, decisions.

An amendment to a planning application on Cage Hill was discussed. Although the meeting was adjourned to allow the applicant to explain some details which members queried, the meeting was reconvened prematurely before the Council's formal response to the application was agreed. This left both a frustrated applicant unable to clarify further queries expressed by members and a frustrated neighbour unable to communicate his concerns. And to compound the issue, the original planning application and Council's response to it had not been brought to the meeting. Furthermore, with no details on the agenda regarding which planning applications are being considered each month, not only are Councillors unable to make the necessary pre-meeting research for each application but Joe Public isn't being given full information on forthcoming planning applications either. The new kid on the block was unhappy with the agenda point too so this at least will now be sorted. Yay!

The Parish Council showed their appreciation of *Proud of Prior* (POP), an initiative started this year by the energetic holder of the Gay Bulleid Award, Janet Willmott. Yay! It was also agreed to donate £265 to POP to allow the group to purchase their own litter pickers and bag hoops rather than borrow them from the District Council, although it was thought a more competitive price for said equipment could be made online from searches members had done themselves. But whatever the equipment costs, three cheers to these volunteers who generously give up their time for the benefit of the village. You'll be able to spot the wonderful wombles by their logo-ed fluorescent jackets recently purchased from profits from the Pop-Up Afternoon Tea Shops this summer.

L G

WINTER WALK

Tuesday 29th December

Put the colour in your cheeks and join us for our annual winter walk. We shall miss Francis Reeks who initiated this walk and led it for several years.

The five to six mile walk this year will kindly be led by Rod Clayton.

We'll aim to have a break along the way and there will be a shorter route for those not wanting such a long hike.



We'll start from St Cyriac's at 10am and aim to finish at the Red Lion around 12.30pm where you'll be able to buy a well-deserved drink, warming soup or hearty meal if you wish.

Please wear stout shoes or walking boots and warm weatherproof clothing. The event is free so just bring yourself, maybe a friend or two and your own flask and snack bar to help keep your energy levels up.

For further information please contact

Sharyn Robinson 01638 745247 or Elisabeth Everitt 01638 742974

Participants must accept responsibility for their own safety and that of children and dogs that accompany them.

Organised by The Fellowship of St Cyriac & St Julitta (SCF), formerly Swaffham Prior Festival





Get in the Christmas spirit with the

Village Carols

Wednesday 16 December

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

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



Singing ability not required – just bring your enthusiasm!

Free mulled wine and mince pies

Everyone welcome



Swaffham Prior VILLAGE CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

on

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

at

4.30pm

in

St Mary's Church



~ With the Primary School Choir

~ Hear the Christmas Story

~ Sing Traditional Carols

~ ALL WELCOME

St Mary's Events 2016

Some dates for your 2016 diary

January 15th	Annual Coffee Morning
February 17th	Frugal lunch
March 2nd ,12th	Frugal lunch
April 9th	Quiz Night
April 16th	Moveable Feast
June 11th	Queen's Birthday
September 10th	Autumn Show and Dog Show
September 17th	Harvest Supper
October 15th	Quiz night
November 27th	Advent by Candlelight

Posters for each event will be displayed throughout the village and in the Crier nearer the specific date. It is hoped there is something to interest all ages .

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

FAMILY SERVICE

CHRISTINGLE & NATIVITY

Sunday 6 December



at 11am

ALL WELCOME

This special service supports the work of the Children's Society. All children will make their own Christingle orange during the service.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SWAFFHAM PRIOR

welcomes you to our Christmas Services

Sunday 6 December, 11am - CHRISTINGLE AND NATIVITY

This special service supports the work of the Children's Society. All children will make their own Christingle orange during the service.



Sunday 20 December, 4.30pm - CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



A Service of Lessons and Carols with readers from throughout the village and featuring school and church choirs.

Thursday 24 December, 3pm - CAROLS AROUND THE CRIB



A short, simple celebration of Christmas around the Crib.
For all the Family.

Friday 25 December, 10am - CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

All are welcome to celebrate Jesus' birth.



A Breakfast Villanelle

A blazing longship on a Viking coast
Wood smoke ascends into a frozen sky
The whale-road takes a hero from his
host.

To find Valhalla is a hero's boast
A pyre speeds a spirit to the sky
And smoke enfolds a fallen warrior's
ghost.

The mourners on the shoreline notice
most
An odd aroma hanging in the sky:
A curious blend of saltiness and roast,

From prow through shrouds and rigging
to stern-post,
From grave-goods in the vessel left to lie,
An odour rises: fish combined with
toast,

And barrels full of herring, long brine-
dosed,
To fire's interrogation make reply:
"We have invented kippers!" is their
boast.

The ring-giver's last long account is
closed
"This'll be great for breakfast!" is the
cry.
A blazing longship on a Viking coast
The whale road takes a hero from his
host.

To the Over- Effusive Sales Assistant

Please don't call me, 'Love', my
dear,

I know that you don't mean it.
To use the term for everyone,
Is only to demean it.

And please don't call me 'Lamb',
dear heart;

Nor even yet say, 'Precious';
Nor 'Cherub'; 'Sweetie', nor yet
'Ducks'.

They all sound far too specious.

I'm not your, 'Pet', nor 'Angel' yet,
And too old to be your 'Treasure',
And poppet; do not call me,
'Honey', mate;
-- I think I've got your measure.

I may be 'Lovely', but I hate
These empty terms of endear-
ment;

So chuck it chick, or in a tick
You'll need a suit of cerement.

Ophir

Wulsin



Jutta Reeks would like to invite you to a
COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon

Friday
15th January 2016

44 High Street
Swaffham Prior

Cake & Produce Stalls & Raffle



Christmas Food & Gift Fair

Come and enjoy a festive glass of mulled wine....

...and choose from a selection of delicious Christmas foods, jams, chutneys, cakes, pastries and savouries Christmas gifts for all the family, Christmas wreaths, scented candles, plants, jewellery &, new this year, original art from local artists at affordable prices

Saturday 5th December
The Old Rectory
Swaffham Bulbeck
10.30am 'til 2.30pm

In aid of the Karukekere Water Project & St Mary's Church

St. Mary's Players - Swaffham Bulbeck

present an

Evening at the Theatre



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**A comedy by
Ray Cooney**

Not Now Darling

IN THE SCHOOL HALL

Thu.18th. Fri.19th. February - £10

Sat. 20th. February - £12 at 7.30 p.m.

all prices include a glass of wine

Book now to avoid disappointment

Tickets from: John Roebuck 73 High Street 811722

Geoffrey Datson 55 High Street 812395

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS



10.30 – 12.00 Noon



Swaffham Prior Village Hall

£1 per session

includes coffee, biscuits and chat



Sponsored by Pop-Up Tea Shop





**Join
POP
(Proud of Prior)**

for another

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK!



**Meet at the bottom of Cage
Hill
Under the Village Sign**

Saturday 5th December, 2015

10.00am – 12 noon

Refreshments back at Cage Hill Afterwards

Please bring your own gloves if you wish

All other equipment will be provided



News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Congratulations: Both Dr McGrath and Dr Thijskens have given birth to gorgeous baby girls, mums and daughters are doing well.

More on Flu Vaccinations: The Practice thanks patients for attending the flu clinics, to which there has been a good response. However there is still vaccine available so please contact reception if you wish to take advantage, before it all goes.

Tombola at Flu Clinics: Thanks to all those who kindly contributed to this. Over the two sessions £141 was raised with a further £10.60 from the Red Bucket Appeal to go towards purchasing a second Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor as requested by the Practice. Patients attending on 31 October seemed generally amused to find the surgery decorated and staff attired appropriately for Halloween.

Self Care for Life: NHS is promoting self care for life, with advice on how to look after your health, to keep well and to deal with chronic conditions. It is important to try and ease pressure on the NHS. See the surgery noticeboard or website www.nhs.uk/selfcare

Patients' Group: The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you – please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice's website for further information <http://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/ppg.aspx?p=D81055> and see what your Patients' Group has achieved.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 11th December and in 2016 8th and 27th January, 5th and 24th February, 11th and 30th March, 8th and 27th April. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 28 January 2016 venue to be determined. Come along to learn more about the Patient Group or if you would like to join us.

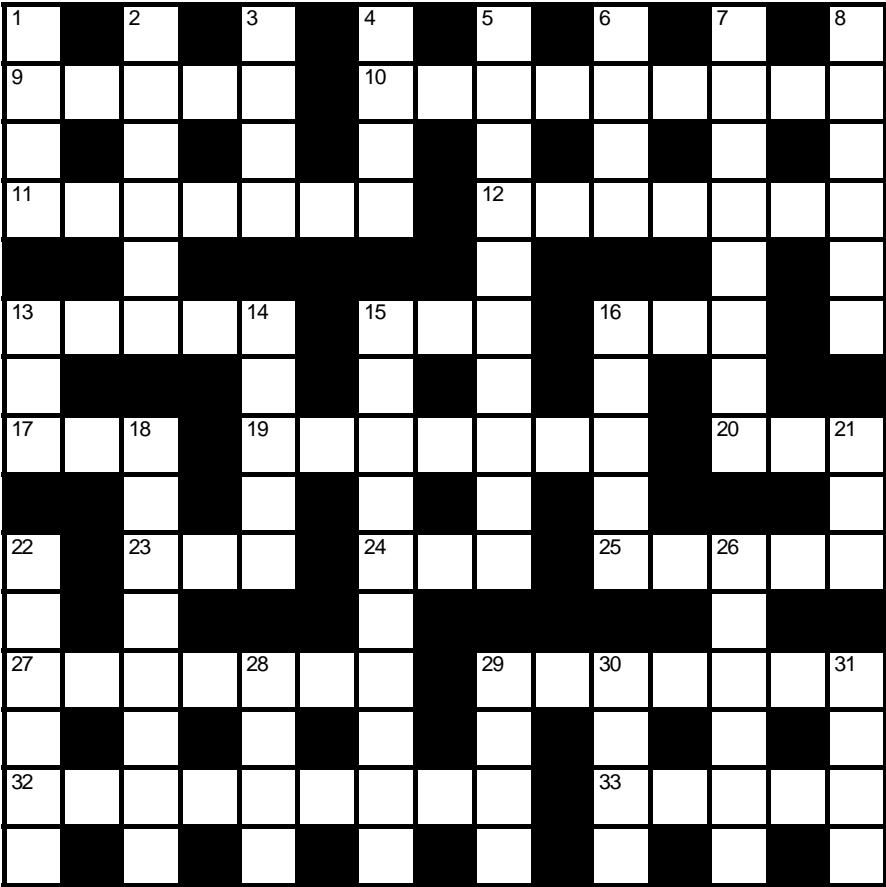
Bottisham Patients' Group

Crossword Number 126

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
Bywell

The crossword this month has a (slight) theme in which some elements of a daily ritual appear and their clues contain no secondary definition . Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 2016. 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

- 9 Doctor listened to that heart disorder (3-2)
- 10 For example soil returning to standard (9)
- 11/29D Blind smeared with garlic (7,4)
- 12 Kip's noisy great river flowing the wrong way (4,3)
- 13 Leading Dickensian meets the queen (5)
- 15 Pull out ugly innards (3)
- 16 Romanian unit derived from the French one (3)
- 17 On licence maybe to run free (3)
- 19 Resist grandmother perhaps (7)
- 20 See 26 Down
- 23 Raises head away from rams (3)
- 24 General shelter (3)
- 25 Frequently used as, say, heart replacement for weakling (5)
- 27 Show of surprise from Dawkins? (2,2,3)
- 29 Biographer's enhancement of personal aspect (7)
- 32 Transfer to next vehicle line completed (5,4)
- 33 Curved like lightning did (5)
- 5 Green Berets run away in confusion (5,5)
- 6 As desert is free after midday (4)
- 7 Point out faults in construction of Madison Hotel (8)
- 8 After bad start, flyer scrambled up high point in church (6)
- 13 Every third lip-reader is normal (3)
- 14 Birds' collars (5)
- 15 Swimmer went head first into the water (6,4)
- 16 Faster ways of getting to the Highlands? (5)
- 18 Drink to the setter in academic company (8)
- 21 Any form of denial once (3)
- 22 Highlander's show of surprise at small sibling's jewellery (6)
- 26/20 Central currencies with two heads found in the bog (6,3)
- 28 Portrayer of non-Jewish middle-class (4)
- 29 See 11 Across
- 30 Pale after a little start (4)
- 31 Boy with ponytail (4)

Down

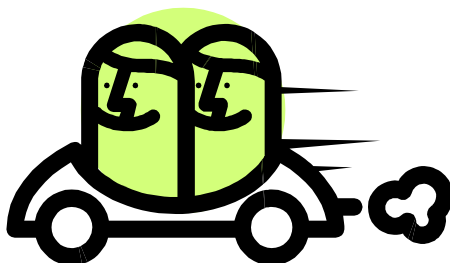
- 1 Stylish Italian who came first (4)
- 2 Smoke as preparation for magical mystery tour (4,2)
- 3 Sagacious people rummaging around (4)
- 4 Magistrate to say this could be a digital photo (4)

Missing clues from crossword 125: Down

- 35 Queen held between Greek character and soldier in state capital (6)
- 37 Reverse act under global organisation (4)
- 39 Flier used by plasterer? (4)

Many apologies for these omissions from ;last month. Please submit entries for Crossword 125 by 18 December. Eds

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, chiropody, or visits to Burwell or Bottisham Day Centres

If you would like to use this service or **volunteer as a driver** please contact Janet Willmott

07900 351742

preferably between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday

**Please note: there will be NO service
from Monday 14th December 2015 to
Friday 1st January 2016 inclusive**



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: 9th January, 13th February (Black Tie optional), 12th March, 23rd April and 14th May (Black and White Ball)

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

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



Bottisham Village College

Adult and Community Learning

**Start 2016 by learning something different and
meeting new friends**

NEW Evening Courses commencing in January include:

Felt Making for Beginners – 12 January
Improve your Drawing Skills – 12 January
Introduction to Counselling – 12 January
Assertiveness – 12 January (daytime)
Calligraphy – 13 January (daytime)
Flavours of India – 14 January
The Golden Age of European Art – 21 January

Counselling Skills Plus – 22 February

Saturday Workshops on 6 February include:

Computing: Learn the Basics
Indian Vegetarian Delights
Make an A-Line Skirt in a Day
Wedding Flowers
Willow Weaving – Make a Round Willow Basket
Cook with Your Kids (parent plus child)
Workshops run from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

To enrol, see our website:

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

or contact the Community Office Tel: 01223 811372

email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott

The Swaffhams WI News

At the November meeting we were pleased to welcome both members and visitors to listen to Alison Dickens talk about the archaeology of the Grand Arcade in Cambridge. Alison started by showing the earliest map recorded of the area from 1574. This showed the settlement at that time enclosed by the Kings ditch which is thought to have been a defence fortification with gates at each end, Barnwell Gate and Trumpington Gate, which would have been the only entrances to the town and for which there would probably have been a charge to enter in order to sell produce at the market. All the history of this area has been evaluated from artefacts discovered during extended archaeology work done before the development of the Grand Arcade was started. When previous developments were done on this site there was little regard for the history of the place and buildings and substructures were destroyed without the proper investigations taking place and therefore that history is now lost. Luckily now an important part of planning any new development is the archaeology and 35 researchers worked for a year to extract meaningful objects from which much can be learned about the life of our ancestors in this important part of Cambridge. Early next year a book is being published which will tell all of this story. For example, did you know that in 1881 there were 95 people working in Robert Sayles and here is the unusual bit, they all lived there too!

In December members will be having their Christmas party so the next regular meeting will be January 18th at 7.30 in the Village Hall when we will learn about Yoga from Chrissie Fordham. Perhaps just what we need after the Christmas festivities.

New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings so do come along and be part of this great organisation.

Pat Cook

President

Tel: 01638 742224



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Well, they say you learn something new every day and we certainly did at our meeting in November when Andrew Sankey from Cambridge talked us through a fascinating and very amusing 'pot luck' of old country sayings.

In Roman times evergreens were thought of as protective plants - as we still do, they often kept a bay tree on either side of the door to ward off evil, or 'keep it at bay'. In medieval times the most powerful plants were the ones with red berries, symbolising the life force. Holly was therefore especially revered and protective; when folk left their gardens they would take a twig of their holly with them in a pocket and would 'touch wood' when coming across the local witch! At that time too, cottagers were allowed to gather dead wood from anywhere in the parish

(apparently this law has never been rescinded!) for their winter fires. Much of this dead wood was still hanging from the branches and could only be reached 'by hook or by crook'!

In Saxon times a pig was needed to feed the family throughout the winter and many of these were bought at Michaelmas fairs. However, instead of selling the pigs on display, the smallholder would give the purchaser a 'pig in a poke' (sack) from under the table. On arrival home the buyer would open the bag and very often out would jump a cat - yes, you've got it!

And so the evening went - entertaining, amusing and informative from an excellent speaker.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19 January at 8pm in the Village Hall as usual, when Steve Elstub, head Gardener at Clare College, will talk to us about the college gardens which we plan to see on an evening visit next July.

Mary Hart

BON MOT NUMBER SIXTY

“If I'd only known that being nice to customers
was going to be so good for business
I would have done it years ago.”

Michael O'Leary of Ryanair

Consultation on advocacy services

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are consulting with anyone with an interest in the future of advocacy services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. They are seeking feedback on the draft specification for an integrated advocacy service in their areas. Both councils are fully committed to the principles and benefits of independent advocacy and want the new advocacy service to build on the success of current and previous advocacy services. There will be one contract for advocacy services in Cambridgeshire, and one contract for advocacy services in Peterborough.

A three month public consultation opened in November 2015. For more information and to take part visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and search for 'Consultations' to complete the online survey.

If you do not have internet access and require a paper copy of the consultation, or if you need it in an alternative format such as large print or Easy Read please contact: Carol Williams, tel: 01223 706130

email: carol.williams@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The consultation closes on 20th February 2016.



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Operation Hunter tackles burglary

RESIDENTS are being urged to check their home security to help prevent a rise in burglaries over the winter months. Dwindling hours of daylight and the Christmas period often combine to result in more break-ins at homes in the county.

The force is prioritising burglary as part of a new campaign called Operation Hunter and is using all tactics available to reduce the number of crimes through prevention work and catching and putting offenders before the courts. However, as part of the operation, detectives are also urging members of the public to do their bit by taking precautions and making their homes unattractive to burglars.

In the three months from August to October last year, there were 569 dwelling burglaries in the county, compared to 628 during the following three months (November-January), a rise of more than 10 per cent.

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Branston said: "Burglary is a top priority for the force because it leaves victims feeling vulnerable and can have a massive impact on their lives. A series of burglaries in a particular area can also leave communities feeling vulnerable so we are committed to tackling this type of crime from all angles. We are relentlessly targeting offenders but we also need the public's help to make it as hard for the crooks as possible. Taking security steps at home and remembering to always leave your windows and doors locked is a great start but we would also ask people to keep their eyes and ears open and report any suspicious activity to police. Information we receive from the public is crucial and people should never hesitate to report something that appears unusual or suspicious in their neighbourhood."

Residents are urged to:

- Always keep doors and windows closed and locked or in a ventilated but locked position, even when they are inside the house. Always check and lock doors with a key - never assume that just pushing up an internal handle will lock the door.



- Remove keys from window and door locks, but keep them in a familiar and safe place where all members of the family know where to find them in the event of an emergency.
- Never leave items such as keys, bags, presents and money on show through a window.
- Consider the position of key racks or shelves next to a door and ensure that they cannot be reached through the letter box.
- Use timer switches to turn on lights and radios when you are going to be away from your house at dusk.
- Consider the use of lights at the front and rear of your property that are activated when someone approaches.
- Consider the use of bolts and padlocks on side gates. Place the bolts at the top, middle and bottom of the gate, as just a top bolt might be easy to reach and open.
- A visible intruder alarm box can prove to be one of the biggest deterrents to an opportunist burglar, so consider installing a DIY or supplier installed system.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

Cruse Bereavement Care

When someone you love dies, it can feel as though a piece of you has died too. But you don't have to go through it alone.

Cruse Bereavement Care is here to support you through one of the most difficult experiences you will ever have to face.

Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care is your local branch of the voluntary national bereavement care organisation. Established in 1965 with the active support of the Mayor and City Council of Cambridge, Cambridge Cruse Bereavement Care now has over a hundred specially trained volunteers working in Cambridge, Fenland, South Cambs, East Cambs, Uttlesford, Ely, Newmarket, Saffron Walden and Haverhill.

Cambridge Cruse operates in your Parish.

Bereavement is a very personal and unique experience for each individual. Yet the intense feelings and emotions we experience at the time of substantial loss are normal.

Cruse provides well trained, understanding Bereavement Support volunteers to whom you can talk in complete confidence. Our volunteers are able to give support over a period of time appropriate to individual needs. There is no charge.

Get in touch: Cambridge Cruse Helpline: 01223 633536. Cambridge Cruse Office (admin only) 01223 302662.

Full Council met in October to consider a number of items. It was agreed to proceed with a 12-month trial to share a Chief Executive with Peterborough City Council. It was also agreed to offer the Freehold of the Cromwell Museum to Huntingdon Town Council, provided the building remains a public museum dedicated to the life of Oliver Cromwell. Council also received a report from Audit and Accounts Committee about the Cambridge Central Library. At the meeting if the General Purposes Committee, as well as the usual range of financial reports for consideration, it was agreed to proceed with the proposal to create a hub for County Archives in Ely to address the long-standing problem with the current accommodation.

I also attended: a business planning seminar for the Children and Young People Committee; sat on an appeals committee to hear 2 appeals regarding home to school transport; a meeting of the Staffing and Appeals Committee to consider a new pay structure for Council employees: a meeting of Voices Matter – the Council for children and young people in the care of the County Council; and a leaving party for Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive.

Proposals for savings in the order of £41 million in 2016/17 were published in October and have received widespread publicity. Further details and an opportunity to comment are available from the County Council website – www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The proposals will be discussed in Committees in November and December, with final proposals going to a meeting of full Council in February 2016.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

The urge/surge/splurge for spurge at Christmas!

A great number of us will be bringing the world's flora into our homes for the festive season. Not only our native holly, ivy and mistletoe but also spruce endemic to Norway, scented paperwhites, which have a natural distribution range from Greece to Portugal and into North Africa, and the baroque loveliness of the amaryllis, native to South Africa! But perhaps one of the most extraordinary floral additions to Christmas decoration is the poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, hailing originally from Mexico and Guatemala, where it is known as Flor de Noche Buena - the Christmas Eve flower. The plant's association with Christmas began in 16th-century, where legend tells of a Mexican girl, commonly called Pepita or Maria, who, being too poor to provide a gift, was inspired by an angel to gather roadside weeds for the church altar instead to



celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The dark green dentate leaves of this sub-tropical shrub are topped with ‘flowers’ of brightly coloured bracts, most typically in a flaming Christmassy red but can be orange, pale green, cream, pink, white, or even marbled. The intensity of colour in the bracts only develops when the plant is kept under darkness for 12 hours a day for at least five days in a row. British nurseries are getting better and better at mimicking these Central American conditions and it is now much easier to source UK-grown poinsettias at Christmas – just look for the Home Grown label.

The poinsettia is a member of the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae, which can be seen if you look into the heart of the showy bracts to find the unassuming ‘real’ flowers, which are part of complex yellowish saucer-shaped structures known botanically as cyathia. These same structures can be seen on our common garden spurges that will soon be bringing a welcome zing of lime green to the garden. But they can also be seen on some of the more unusual plants in the Glasshouse Range at the Botanic Garden, including the low-growing and spiny Christ’s thorn, *Euphorbia milii* var. *splendens*, from Madagascar. This grows outside our Arid Lands display, which also includes the remarkably big, candelabra-shaped desert African spurges, which are often mistaken for cacti. Their forms display the same solutions to a lack of water, such as a fluted stem that can swell to store water and leaves reduced to spines to conserve water and protect biomass from grazers. This phenomenon is known as convergent evolution.

So when you bring a poinsettia into the house (and find it a light, non-draughty spot), it is wonderfully festive way of celebrating the diversity of plants we can enjoy in our lives.

Wishing you a very happy and floral Christmas!

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am – 4pm during the deep winter months (but closed for the Christmas period from 24 December to 1 January 2016 inclusive). The Glasshouses and Café close 30 minutes before the Garden and the Botanic Garden Shop at Brookside closes 15 minutes before the Garden. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265 for details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and special events.

Notes from Parish Council Meeting 12th November 2015

John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 5 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

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

Public Participation: Tom Edwardes (Goodwin Manor) covered the recent meetings with James Rigney (CCC Highway faults) the Head Teacher of the school and Andrew Grant (Rose Cottage) regarding the parking and traffic problems in Station Road. It seems that the problem persists and various alternative plans were discussed.

Reports:

CCC: Cllr David Brown – reported to the meeting. Peter Hart asked about the development in Burwell, Newmarket Road and the views of Burwell PC. David Brown said that they had approved the development with various caveats relating to traffic. John Covill asked if SPPC would get a share of funds to manage the additional traffic and David Brown suggested SPPC make a representation to Burwell PC.

The agenda item regarding Station Road was discussed while David Brown was present: A number of options including double yellow lines, using the Village Hall car park, the football field and PCSO attendance were discussed. It was decided to wait for CCC's proposal from the meeting with James Rigney, obtain feasibility of using the Village Hall car park with outline costs and discuss at the next meeting.

ECDC: Cllr Allen Alderson was unable to attend the meeting. Peter Hart did have two items to report on Allen Alderson's behalf. The village High Street sign had been repaired and Allen Alderson had taken action regarding the Rogers Road development vans being parked badly.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

David Greenfield asked if CGM had been contacted about grass cutting, The Clerk said that they had responded well and would be getting their grounds manager to make sure all areas were attended to correctly. Peter Hart asked if Karen Champion had been in touch regarding the resident's hedge on the path from Cage Hill. The Clerk reported that she had resolved the ownership issue and agreed that the Probation Service could cut the hedges. It was agreed that it was still the resident's responsibility. Paul Latchford asked about black bin sacks and at what point the operator takes responsibility for the waste as someone had been spotted opening a sack and leaving it open. David Brown said that if the contents were rejected, the operator should leave the sack with a notice on it saying why it was rejected.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration

CCC: Traffic safety around the junction of High Street and Station Road – email from resident and CCC

CCC: Can you help? Flood action campaign 2015

CCC: Briefing regarding Cambridgeshire County Council budget proposal

ECDC: Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation

ECDC: request for precept estimate for 2016/17

ECDC: Remittance advice for CIL £8009.37

ECDC: Riparian Responsibilities for Flood Risk

ECDC: Electoral review of Cambridgeshire: Further limited Consultation for Cambridge

General: Letter from POP regarding Litter Picking Initiative – requesting funding assistance.

General: Letter from resident regarding street light in Adams Road.

Peter Hart asked if The Clerk had had any correspondence regarding Barston Drove. Nothing had been received.

Consideration of planning applications

Land adjacent 9 Cage Hill - Proposed dwelling – 15/00846/FUL: concerns were expressed regarding the modified plans and the visual splays.

Village Sign

Peter Rand (local resident) presented his plans to restore the sign. It was decided to accept the quote from Elston Decorators (local company), who had offered to take down the sign, assist Peter Rand with renovation of the sign, provide relevant materials and advice, oversee the work and finally, replace the renovated sign.

CIL and Open Space Money

Progress had been made with consolidating the response but the sub-committee had not met and only had one representative at the meeting.

Street Lighting

Two companies were being asked to tender for the various street light repairs and replacements. The Fairview Grove light is becoming urgent so may have to be replaced as a one-off. Better prices are available for multiple replacements but this process will take longer. It was decided to replace multiple lights if the timescale allowed.

Approve donation to Royal British Legion

An increase from the last few years was approved of £30 for the Remembrance wreath.

Approve funding assistance to POP Litter Picking Initiative.

It was agreed to provide £265 as assistance to the POP litter picking initiative.

Agree and propose representative for SPCLT

It was agreed that The Clerk should be proposed as a member of the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed.

Clerk's Report

There had been a request for an allotment from a resident and a report by a resident regarding a path still obstructed by overgrown hedge in Lower End. There was also a report of a street light in Adams Road that remained on during the day – a “day burner”.

Parish Councillors' Reports

David Greenfield pointed out the lack of notice about specific planning applications. Paul Latchford noted that the cemetery clearing job was better handled by ETS this time, as it was a large job but in future residents should be consulted and allowed to help before contracting the work out. John Covill noted that the bridge on Station Road repairs had been completed.

Open Question Time

There was a discussion about trees, in the past, improved the roads.

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, 10th December 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meeting dates:

14th January, 11th February. All are welcome to attend.

Paul Catling – **Clerk to the Parish Council:**

Tel: 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only)., **Email:** clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk

Website: <http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/>



Every day is a gift ...

At the time of writing there are precisely 42.5 shopping days left 'til Christmas, 15 days 'til my wife's birthday and 19 days 'til our Wedding Anniversary. We do a lot of 'counting down the days' in life. After celebrating our youngest child's 2nd birthday recently, our 5 year old wanted to know if it was his birthday next (thinking it would be the next day!). He was quite puzzled to hear that, yes, he is the next of our children to celebrate their birthday, but not for another 100 days!

It is not wrong to look forward to things, especially spending time with special people, going on holiday & family celebrations; however, if we focus too much on the countdown, we can neglect to appreciate that *every day is a gift (that's why it's called the present!)*.

We are now in Advent, and if we are not careful, it is easy to view this season as simply a countdown to Christmas Day (with the help of a daily piece of chocolate!), rather than the time of preparation for Jesus' coming - which it is.

My encouragement to you through Advent and Christmastime is, ***"Don't just count the days ... make the days count"*** Every day is an opportunity to make a positive difference to someone, somewhere.

This Advent, I will be encouraging our RE:NEW family to make every day count by doing something specific, enabling us to focus on important areas of life, things it is good to be aware of, ways we can make a difference. I am writing an Advent resource with some practical examples of how we can do this; email or call me if you would like a copy.

You are also, as ever, very welcome to join us at RE:NEW any time!

I pray you'll have a special Advent and a wonderful Christmastime.

Alan.

RE:NEW Services in December 2015.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services.

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

*6th December. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture
(Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion*

13th December. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

13th December. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

*20th December. **RE:NEW Family Carol Service.** 10.30am (at the School)*

*Friday 25th December. **Christmas Morning Service.** 10.30am (at the School)*

27th December. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

27th December. 6.20 pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

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

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com

or Peter Wells on C.812388. Email: pandawells@cheerful.com

Or visit our website at www.re-new.me.uk

FREECYCLE



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

Offered

4 volumes of Country Companions Magazines 1990s (full of nice pictures); Drop-front bureau with drawers (dark varnished wood), needs TLC on lock. Ruth n743094

Wanted

Any timber planks/old wooden furniture for upcycling. Andy c813362

Old tools, garage items and anything classic car related. Ray c813117.

Pedal bike, with stabilisers, suitable for just 3 year old grandson. Chris + Judith c812085

Dexion metal angle lengths, for garage racking; any condition. Tim c813815

2 or 3 wooden pallets. Jacqui c811190

Window Roller blind (any colour) – at least 48” (1.2m) wide, any height/length. Susan/Peter c 811584

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 07895 064727.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is one of the seasons of the year when the Christian Church has something very profound and important to offer the secular world. The birth of Jesus offers to people, even those who don't believe in him, an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends, a space to reflect on the blessings of their lives and time to consider those who do not share in those blessings. It is a season when people often give to a favourite charity as they give to family and friends. It is a season that creates opportunities for people to build bridges with those they may have fallen out with. They can contact those they have neglected or not been in touch with over the year. And all of this can take place with very little reference to the one whose birth lies at the heart of it all.



These good things gather around the celebration of the birth of an apparently ordinary baby in the unremarkable town of Bethlehem. However, for Christians, the birth of Jesus is a very powerful sign of God's presence in our midst. It's not that God was absent from the world before this but human beings had trouble recognising His presence apart from a material form. So God made the choice to become one of us, to place his love and peace and truth in a tangible form that we might see and know and come to understand. It was such a bold step, such a generous move, to lay aside all power and knowledge and unlimited presence to place himself into the hands of his creation. Later in his life we see the cost of that choice as Jesus hung on a cross, but at Christmas we recognise the amazing love and generosity of our God, who though he was rich for our sake became poor. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

I wish you all a happy Christmas and for our world a peaceful Christmas.

Sue



Church Services in December

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 6 December, second Sunday of Advent

11am Christingle and Nativity Family Service

Sunday 13 December, third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Benefice Holy Communion (CW1) – Lode

11am Benefice All Age Service - Quay

Sunday 20 December, fourth Sunday of Advent

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

4.30pm Village Candlelight Carol Service, with school choir

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service, for all the family

10pm First Communion of Christmas - Lode

11.30pm First Communion of Christmas – Bottisham, Swaffham
Bulbeck

Christmas Day

8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion – Quay

10am Benefice Family Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 27 December, First Sunday of Christmas

10am Benefice Holy Communion (CW1) – Lode

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

Dates for Your Diary December 2015

Sat	5	Christmas Fair, 10.30-2.30pm, The Old Rectory, Swaffham Bulbeck
Sun	6	Christingle Family Service, 11am, St Mary's POP Litter Pick, 10am-12 noon, Bottom of Cage Hill
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Mon	14	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	16	Village Hall Carols, 6.45—7.30pm
Sun	20	Candlelit Carol Service, St Mary's, 4.30pm
Thu	24	Carols round the Crib, 3pm, St Mary's
Fri	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
Sat	26	Boxing Day Hockey, 10.45am, Bulbeck Denny
Tues	29	Winter Walk, Meet at St Cyriac's, 10am

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