



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIX Number 2

February 2015



Editorial

And the winner was.....Janet Willmott! Actually, joint winner, Alastair Everitt also managed to complete the course and there were quite a few runners up, so we heard, with just one answer to go. The was the New Year Quiz, of course, and next year, there might be another and perhaps we'll even drum up a prize for it. Probably not as good as our crossword prize though (dinner at the Lion, yum), which this month, competitors will earn! Yes, it's quite hard, but well worth it, we have some excellent setters.

A new poet this month, welcome to Wulfin who is (we hope) going to join Ophir as a Crier Poet in Residence: we do extremely well on this magazine for artistic contributions generally, not to mention our Cover Artists, some of whom even win National Competitions....

This weeks cover is by Clive Riggs, Oily Hall Willows (yes, there is something about the artistic aspects of Fen naming schemes that you just won't find anywhere-else in the country) but they are extremely beautiful, and you will have to ask Clive exactly where they are, because I sort of think I know, but would not like to swear to it.

As can be seen from letters, read-guard action has been taken against the lunch-time closure of Bottisham Swimming Pool, there has been a strategic retreat to Impington Village College, from which some sniping is currently taking place — all power to their elbow!

Dio you think you could help run the village hall? They do a brilliant job but could do so with some assistance (see page 3). And don't forget Quiz Night! We will be walloped as usual, unless of course, we get in our secret weapon.....

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: *Oily Hall Willows* by **Clive Riggs**

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Ophir	5
?Did You Know?	11
CROSSWORD	12
Anglesey Abbey News	16
School News	18
CIlr Brown	20
CIlr Alderson	21
Bottisham Patients Group	20
John Norris Remembers	22
Bon Mot	23
Mothers' Union	24
Village Gardeners	24
WI Notes	25
Botanic Gardens	28
PC Report	29
Re:New	32
Freecycle	33
Sue Giles	34
Church Services	36
Diary & Clubs	36

News, Views & Reviews

Boxing Day Hockey 21014	6
Sonnet at the Kitchen Window	11
Reach Solar Farm Shares	14
Answers to New Year Quiz	26
The Big Thank-you	35

What's On

St Mary's 2015 Events	6
Quiz Night	8
Moveable Feast	9
Village Hustings	9
Twilight at the Museums	10
BVC Simple Cooking	11
Valentine's Day Concert	11
MacMillan Mammoth Quiz	15
Tabletop Sale	17
Come Hand bell Ringing	21
Cantilena Singers	27
Newmarket Triathlon	27
Lode Jumble Sale	26

Wanted

Village Hall Volunteers	3
Special Constables	14

For Sale

Simnel Cakes	6
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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

War Through Our Windows

Gordon Phillips and I are working with Swaffham Prior School on the Heritage Lottery Funded Project "War Through Our Windows" which is working towards writing and producing a play about Swaffham Prior, its residents and soldiers who died in WW1. We would like to involve the local community as much as possible, and will be publishing regular articles in the Crier.

I have started a Facebook Page which I hope will help in this respect too. Please could you encourage friends and neighbours who may use Facebook to Like the page so that we can share information with them?

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/War-Through-Our-Windows/91115775575393?ref=hl>

Thanks very much,

Nicky Stockman

Dear Editors,

Refugees from BVFC Swimming Pool

As a consequence of Bottisham Village College closing its doors to public swimming during school hours we paid our first visit to Impington Sports Centre for an over 50's session today (12th January).

<http://www.impington.cambs.sch.uk/impington-sports-centre.html>

The impression is of an extremely well run, technologically up-to-date and reasonably priced facility. Entry requires one off registration for a leisure card (including a no cost 'at the desk' digital photo), ensuring that all sessions are paid for and individual identity is recorded. The session we attended was 'heaving' but there seems to be a reasonable number of sessions available to make swimming possible and enjoyable. One downside is that the changing room/shower facilities are not ideal, but at least the shower area is warm and the water hot. While there we bumped into at least 3 other refugees from the group of former Bottisham daytime swimmers.

Perhaps BVC could learn some lessons by studying the Impington set up and we continue to believe that public swimming during school hours needs to be restored at Bottisham. We also understand that households in Bottisham recently received a full colour leaflet advertising the Sports Centre and its revised hours. If that approach had been adopted prior to making a decision to reduce the opening hours, the need for that reduction might have been avoided.

Rich Braun/Ione Evans

9 Swaffham Road, Lode, CB25 9EZ

Dear Editors,

Wolf Hall it was not

Coffee on January 22nd, with a goodly company, squeezed into a more humble abode in Lower End than Wolf Hall for the annual church coffee morning.

There seemed to be plenty to talk about and no-one needed to be inhibited by fear of displeasing King Henry, who did not, in the event, attend.

There was a (less than mighty) log fire in the 20th century hearth and the courtiers were captivated by the presence of not one but two six week old infants to cuddle: Stephanie brought her new twin daughters and there was no shortage of eager laps to hold them (your Editor's included).

The coffee and tea, the raffle, bric a brac and produce raised 190 twentieth century pounds sterling for St Mary's Church. Thank you to everybody who came. We hope you enjoyed it.

Ann Boleyn (not)

Village Hall and Village Feast

Swaffham Prior Village Hall is a lovely and very popular venue for classes, events and parties, serving residents of Swaffham Prior and the surrounding areas. The Village Hall is a registered charity and is kept running by a very small band of volunteers, all of whom have increasing work commitments and are starting to feel the strain. We are looking for some new, keen, people to join the committee and help keep this valuable village resource going. If you are new to the village, this is a great way to get involved; if you are a long standing resident, this is an opportunity to share the benefit of your experience!

We have five meetings per year, plus the occasional ad hoc meeting if required to plan specific events, etc. In addition there are regular ongoing tasks that are shared between the members of the committee.

If you would like to find out more, please come along to our next committee meeting on **Thursday 19 February**, in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall at 8.00pm, or contact the committee chairman, Nathan Wrench on 01638 742654 or Nathan.Wrench@CambridgeConsultants.com for more information.

We are also looking for volunteers to help organise this year's Village Feast. We know that many people were disappointed by the lack of a Feast last year, so once again we are asking for people to help make it happen. We will be making a decision about whether it is feasible for the Feast to go ahead at our February meeting, so if you would be willing to run a stall on the day, or help set up and clear away, or coordinate an activity, please get in touch before the meeting.

Clare Freeman

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Street lighting was the hot topic at the meeting this month and six residents attended with questions for Balfour Beatty's representative Keeley Russell. Keeley explained the background to the PFI contract, how the lights in residential areas will be dimmed between 10pm and 6am and gave an honest account of problems that had been encountered recently. One complication caused the schedule of works to be rearranged which meant that columns in our village had to be planted before any consultation with the parish. However Keeley reassured members that there may be some negotiation possible particularly with those columns due for removal. Up piped Graham, a resident representing the concerns of many, about the proposed light removal near Coopers Green. He gave a well reasoned and fair argument for keeping the light and it was a done deal once Steve Kent-Philips argued the case for its contribution towards the safe passage to and fro the pub and, of course, children coming home from school in the winter. Other points of discussion included whether residents could ask for a light to be removed - sorry no, not if it is on a traffic route - and whether anything can be done about a light shining into windows - yes, baffles can be installed on offending columns to significantly reduce the light pollution.



All in the room seemed happy with Keeley's shining explanations and her offers to look into the matters brought up by members of the public so she left glowing with a vote of thanks from Geoffrey and relief that she had been made so welcome, unlike her colleague who recently received an inexcusable verbal battering during a public consultation meeting in Reach. Apparently it was one particular representative in Reach that caused the most offence.

The meeting proper then got underway with the approval of last month's minutes. Geoffrey presented a case for a small expansion of the minute recorded by the Clerk regarding comments he made during discussions on Bottisham swimming pool. The Clerk's minute was accurate but Geoffrey felt it was important that more detail should be recorded. Members agreed so the said amendment was made.

Charlotte Cane, Community Governor at the school and Emma Fletcher, local Community Infrastructure Levy guru, asked for support in the school's bid to be allocated a chunk of the CIL monies. Although members were happy to endorse this, they would like to see traffic calming on Mill Hill benefit from this pot of money too. The meeting was then adjourned very briefly to allow Emma to explain about some Section 106 money that may be available for a crossing on Mill Hill. The meeting was reconvened for members to mull over this suggestion whilst Emma appeared justifiably frustrated as she was then unable to offer more advice on points being discussed. This was a shame. Anyway, it's been agreed to apply for a crossing. It will be interesting to see how this request fairs when the 'PV Squared' formula, a guidance tool for assessing pedestrian crossings, is applied to Mill Hill.

Talking of which, during Open Question Time, I asked something that has bothered me for some time - the rationale for a roundabout and the slowing down of the traffic on Mill Hill to below 40mph. Slowing traffic down decreases gaps in the

traffic flow thereby limiting opportunities to join the flow. Creating bottlenecks such as roundabouts increase local pollution and again limit opportunities to join the road. Mill Hillers can not make use of the easier B1102 joining sites at the southerly end of the High Street or at Rogers Road. However, I was informed the rationale for the roundabout are concerns over safety and speeding vehicles. And Steve told me it wasn't all about Mill Hill residents. 'Tis true but surely our views should be given serious consideration.

On finance, it was confirmed that next year's precept will remain unchanged from last year. This is good news but it will result in a slight increase in the Parish share of the council tax as the parish will receive less Council Tax Support Gant from ECDC this year. The PPC has asked the PC to donate towards the maintenance of the churchyard footpath between St Cyriac's and the back gate but unfortunately provided nothing in writing or any form of costings or information of the 'charity' which was also being approached for funds. So with no paperwork the request couldn't be considered and has been deferred.

District Councillor Allen Alderson reported on Tesco's latest news that their proposal to move to a new store in Ely has been scrapped which leaves ECDC's Station Gateway Vision with a bit of a dilemma. I can't say there was a lot of sympathy in the room and after all, as Steve pointed out, ECDC gave Tesco planning permission to build the present store by the station in the first place so its only got itself to blame.

And finally back to Coopers Green. The two litter bins there have had a hard time recently, what with an incident of industrial waste fly tipping, not being regularly emptied and being overloaded with dog poo. This is just one of the issues the Clerk and the Parish Councillors have to deal with. The parish elections are in May if you fancy a go and alas, Geoffrey will not be standing this year. His are big shoes to fill but someone has to take on the mantle.

LG

Terse Verse

It's supposed to be poetry;
I've read it three times
But I can't find any words that form rhymes.
And, although I've tried as hard as I can.
Try as I might, I can't make it scan.
And as for the meaning, I'm not at all sure
Its message is meant to be quite so obscure.
Is there somewhere, someone who knows?
It might called be poetry,
But I still read it as prose.

Ophir

Dates for 2015 of Village Events Arranged by St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

28 th February	Quiz Night
21 st March	Moveable Feast
9 th May	Film Evening
17 th May	Heritage Walk
13 th June	Family Fun Day
5 th July	Strawberry Teas
12 th September	Dog Show
26 th September	Harvest Supper
27 th October	Quiz Night
29 th November	Advent by Candlelight
Simmel Cakes — for Mothering Sunday and Easter Day (contact Janet Willmott on 01638 743472).	



Considerable thought has been given in arranging these events so that hopefully there is something to suit all ages and interests. Please make a note in your diary so that you can come and support what ever takes your fancy. Should you have any ideas they would be most welcome. Just let me know!

Further details of each event will be given prior to the date in the Creier and posters on telegraph poles throughout the village

Kate Child 743983



Simnel Cakes for Sale

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

Orders can be placed by contacting Janet,

01638 743472, 07833 960678
or janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk.

For just £12.50 (payment taken at time of order) your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Please feel free to provide your own serving plate for an extra personal touch. Cakes to be collected by you in time for Mothering Sunday (15th March) or Easter Sunday (5th April).

A royal icing topped version can be ordered as an alternative to marzipan.

Janet Willmott

Boxing Day Hockey 2014

It was a cold start to Boxing Day this year, but by 10.30 am the frost had gone and a youthful (mostly!) Swaffham Prior team gathered on the Denny to face Swaffham Bulbeck, hoping that last year's 1-0 defeat would not be repeated. Swaffham Prior started with some great passing play and dominated the first quarter but couldn't quite finish off their attacking moves. The second quarter was more even and when Bulbeck scored from a penalty it looked as though they would go into the lead. Luckily, recently introduced Rule 13.2f meant that the goal was disallowed by the umpire. After the half-time oranges, both teams started the second half with renewed vigour; it was clear that one goal would probably decide the match. Prior goalie Josh Willmott pulled off some fine saves but eventually, after a goal-mouth scramble, Bulbeck managed to score that one goal. Despite the very best efforts of the Swaffham Prior team, the final score remained at 1-0 to Swaffham Bulbeck. Congratulations must go to all the players though for a well-fought contest and for their 100% effort throughout.

As always, a large crowd turned out to watch the event. Thank you to all those who supported and to Janet Willmott for providing refreshments – these refreshments and touch-line donations raised £85 for MAGPAS, a great total. Thank you also to Jo Jones for her skilled umpiring again and to David Turner and his Bulbeck team – see you all next year!

Mandy Kingsmill





TEAM QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior
Village Hall

7.30 pm Sat 28 Feb

Tickets £6 each.

To book a table, contact

Jenny Brand (01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand (01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses

!!



Moveable Feast

THIS YEAR'S moveable feast is to be held on Saturday 21st March, 7.00pm start, and is as you know, for those of you who have been before, an event not to be missed....

Three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. Venues yet to be confirmed but will of course, as in previous years, be spectacular! If you haven't participated before make this year your first - there will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course. Numbers are of course restricted and so it is on a first come first served basis and newcomers to the village are especially welcome. It is a wonderful way of meeting other village folk in relaxed and convivial surroundings. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head?? Price held for the SIXTH year running!!

Waiting by the 'phone (07833 960678) for your call to reserve a place and for offers to host a course! Last bookings taken on 13th March - don't miss out.

Janet Willmott

Swaffham Bulbeck Village Hustings

February 7th sees the Political 'Hustings' in the Village.

The event will take place in St Mary's Church (by kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens)

Start time 1000hrs

Questions already submitted will be used for the panel to answer. The panel will not have seen the questions before the event.

Written questions can be handed in on the day but it is not guaranteed that time will be available for all questions.

Prospective Parliamentary Candidates from the Conservative party, the Green party, the Labour party, the Liberal Democratic party and the United Kingdom Party will be on the panel.

After the question session the candidates will be in the Church to answer individual questions.

There will be a poster display from Swaffham Bullbeck Parish Council on their work in 2014/2015

Refreshments will be served free of charge.

There will be retiring collection for the Mosquito project in Tanzania - a project supported by the Churches of the area.



Twilight at the Museums

Wednesday 18th February 2015

4.30 – 8.30pm

Twilight at the Museums is almost here and we are getting ready for destination exploration!

It's time to make the most of those long winter nights as museums and collections across the city open their doors for after dark fun. With thirteen venues offering an exciting range of drop-in and bookable events throughout the evening, there will be loads for families to see and explore. Why not take part in some torch-lit space exploration at the Whipple Museum; discover a world of deep sea darkness at The Polar Museum; or create some 'Creatures of Twilight' at the Museum of Cambridge?

The evening is all about fun and discovery and remember, the more places you visit, the more you will be able to see and do. Pick up a Twilight 'What's On' guide and passport from participating venues to help you plan and record your journey.

So wrap up warm, grab a torch and get ready for adventure!

www.cam.ac.uk/museums/twilight



Sonnet at the kitchen window

The kestrel, hanging over roadside grass,
Dreams eagle-dreams and wears an eagle's
face.

On blood, flesh, fur, in meadow or high
pass,

They dine at the same table, are one race.

Primeval laser-guided warheads stalk
Our city streets: the tabby, roaming free,
Conjures the wide savannah in his walk;

The rabbit, fossicking in shrubbery,
Knows all that the impala knows of fear;

The chicken run and tundra are alike

To brains in which a pullet or a deer

Triggers an automatic, lethal, strike.

Beware the owl when walking after dark:

The primal pulsing in the urban park.

Wulsin

Bottisham Village College

Adult and Community Learning

Cook Simple Meals with Gill

This is a course aimed at those who are 60+
who have little, or no cooking experience and
want to learn how to cook tasty meals



Wednesdays 4.00—6.00 pm
Commencing 25 February 2015
for 5 Weeks
Free to New Learners*

Tutor: Gill Taylor

?Did You Know?

**The number of injury-related
road accidents**

**in 20mph zones rose by 76% from
2009-2013.**

**There were 3,164 deaths and inju-
ries**

**compared with 1,795 during the
previous four years.**

**Accidents on all other roads in built
up areas**

**fell by 17%, from 153,965 to
127,438**

over the same period

St Valentine's Day Concert

**City of Cambridge
Symphony Orchestra**

Conductor:
Robert Hodge

West Road Concert Hall
Saturday
14 February 2015
7:30pm

Violin: Joo Yeon Sir
Mezzo-soprano: Sarah-Jane Lewis

Swan Lake suite - Scène: *Tchaikovsky*
The Lark Ascending: *Vaughan Williams*
Prelude and Liebestod: *Wagner*
Softly Awakes my Heart: *Saint - Saëns*
Carmen Fantasy: *Sarasate*
Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2: *Prokofiev*

in association with

British Red Cross

Admission: £18
Concession: £16
Student: £8
Under 14: £5

ADC Box Office: 01223 300085
www.adcticketing.com
www.ccsa-online.org.uk

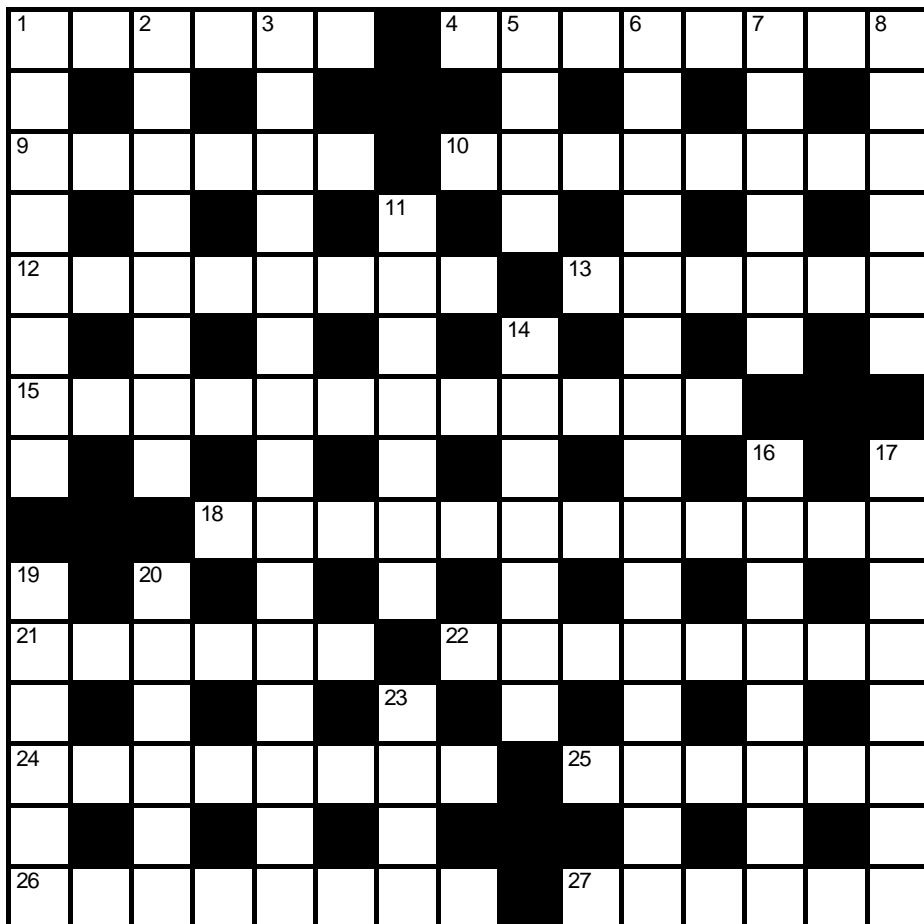
Crossword Number 117

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

BYWELL

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 February 2015. 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

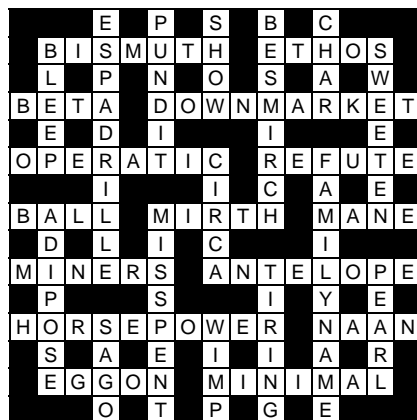
- 1 Snowman is back home for the start of Hogmanay (6)
- 4 Sacred MMI computer made a beastly noise (8)
- 9 Catherine's back in the middle of Fred's photograph again (6)
- 10 Hand me back stratagem to eliminate loose ends (8)
- 12 Knocks back tablet in bath, comes to a sticky end (8)
- 13 Hesitancy in rodent's control of the radio (6)
- 15 He finally gets in lettuce to dry by the fireside - these are very expensive (4,3,5)
- 18 Awkward moment in Noah's heavenly appearance (3,2,3,4)
- 21 Left with duck in so great a posture (6)
- 22 Bring to a stop parking on sea-front by last user in centre (8)
- 24 Embittered church to note support (8)
- 25 All at sea in some endless race (6)
- 26 About to follow trainee in what could be canine programme (8)
- 27 Rules for writing levy on second options (6)

Down

- 1 Golfer warning against rugby player's leading part in Hair (8)
- 2 Not in form to defeat in style (8)
- 3 Allow for fool to give explanation (4,4,7)
- 5 All I miss, oddly, is charity (4)
- 6 Herb made a hash of it with wild half-volley on the line. (4,2,3,6)
- 7 Means to leave Iowa Youth Centre (3,3)

- 8 Dredge up urine during retreat (6)
- 11 Exclusive group bed down by the lake (7)
- 14 Force to play every second humanly truthful (7)
- 16 Cosmopolitan golly tangled in weed (8)
- 17 Come together for a period in nothingness (8)
- 19 Liveliness of rebellious priest (6)
- 20 Left me with mucus rising in top of throat (6)
- 23 City hotel, city hotel (4)

Solution to crossword no. 116



We congratulate Andrew Houston, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Tansy Budd, Robert Nunn, Dainin O'Dowd and Trish Whitehead.



Special Constables – we need you!

Special Constables are volunteer police officers who play a vital role in Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

You will get the chance to work alongside regular police officers, using skills and experiences from your day job to give something back to the community.

It's demanding. After all, you'll have to give up at least 16 hours of your spare time each month. But helping to protect and support Cambridgeshire and the people who live, work and visit here is really satisfying too.

Being flexible is essential as we cover all of the cities, towns and villages. Specials wear the same uniform and carry the same powers and responsibilities as regular police officers.

They're involved in all aspects of policing Cambridgeshire, enjoying a variety of roles and duties such as:

- Foot and vehicle patrols

- Roads policing

- Assisting in the event of accidents, fights and fires

- Road safety initiatives

- Rural crime Initiatives

- House-to-house enquiries

- Plain clothes enquiries

- Public safeguarding

- Helping ensure public safety and security at both local and major events

- Presenting evidence in court

As a Special, you'll make a real difference and gain unique experiences, you simply can't get anywhere else.

If this sounds like something you could do then why not visit our website on: www.cambs.police.uk/recruitment/specials

Community Solar Farm

Share Offer Launch Announced

Reach Community Solar Farm Ltd will be launching a share offer on the 5th February. The share offer is to raise funds to build a small solar farm on the edge of Reach village.

The solar farm will be smaller than originally planned. Although planning permission was obtained last summer for a scheme with 500kW of solar panels, covering around 3 acres, unfortunately it was not possible to get permission to connect a scheme of this size to the electricity grid. UK Power Networks did however give permission in December for a smaller system to be connected, and the project is now

for around 1000 ground-mounted panels covering approximately 1.5 acres. It should produce enough electricity each year to power around 50 houses - roughly half the dwellings in Reach.

A Co-operatively run Community Benefit Society was set up last year to run the scheme. Around £350,000 needs to be raised in the share offer to pay for the installation of the solar panels and the grid connection.

Members of the Society may be able to benefit from tax reliefs if they make the investment before the end of this tax year. Once installed, running costs should be low and there should be steady income from feed-in tariff payments for the electricity generated. It is planned that members of the Society will receive an interest payment annually, and some money will also be donated to a community fund each year. As it is a Co-operative, the members will determine how the Society is run and how any funds are spent - but the intention is that funds will be used to benefit the local community as well as providing a return to the members.

Full details of the share offer will be available shortly before launch on the Reach Community Solar Farm website (reachsolarfarm.co.uk). You can also sign up on the website for an email newsletter.

Macmillan Mammoth Quiz

The Macmillan Mammoth Quiz is back, now in its 7th year with a brand new, brain-teasing quiz for 2015. The Mammoth Quiz organised by the Oundle Macmillan Committee is Macmillan's nationwide quiz. Simply put, it is the same quiz, being held on the same day, at the same time, throughout the country. The mammoth quiz even holds the Guinness World Record for the world's largest simultaneous quiz. We need you to help make the 2015 Macmillan Quiz the biggest and best yet and help us to reach our target of over £200,000.

Macmillan are looking for local groups and businesses across the UK to host a quiz on 27 February 2015 to raise vital funds for people affected by cancer. It's a really fun and easy way to raise money for Macmillan, and you can hold your quiz anywhere from the local pub or bowling club to the office or school. Previous participants have commented "It was a great Quiz and everyone enjoyed it tremendously" and that "the questions are so interesting and catch the imagination".

It costs £10 to sign up to host a Mammoth Quiz. You will then be sent a welcome pack with a 2015 quiz and fundraising materials. Brand new this year is the Macmillan Mammoth Quiz website (www.macmillanmammothquiz.co.uk). On here you will find tips for organising your quiz, posters and tickets, a bit of information about Macmillan and even some sneaky sample.

To register for your 2015 quiz pack, find out more about the Mammoth Quiz and start downloading sample questions and fundraising materials, please log on to www.macmillanmammothquiz.co.uk or email mammoth.quiz.uk@gmail.com

News from Anglesey Abbey & Wicken Fen

Snowdrops herald the arrival of spring at Anglesey Abbey as over 300 varieties of the delicate white flowers reach their peak in February. Enjoy the snowdrops as you wander round the gardens, or join our Gardener's for a tour of the collection at 2pm on weekdays. During the Snowdrop Festival, which runs to 1 March, we open an hour earlier at 9.30am. The property can get very busy at weekends but is generally quieter on weekdays if your diary is flexible.

Preparations have begun for the planting of the new Silver Birch Grove, which will be just beyond the existing grove in the Winter Garden. Trees have been felled and planting of the 112 new trees should take place in February. Visitors purchasing tickets to Winter Lights donated £600 towards the £2000 cost of the new trees.

World Wetlands Day falls on 2 February – it marks the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971, and helps raise awareness of the importance and value of wetlands like Wicken Fen. Our Ranger's will be leading a guided walk on Sunday 1 February to explore some of the new wetland habitat being created as part of the Wicken Fen Vision. Please meet at the Visitor Centre at 1pm if you fancy joining the walk. This year the organisers of World Wetlands Day are holding a Wetlands Youth Photo Contest. The competition is open to anyone aged 15 -24, with the prize of a free flight to a famous wetland of your choice anywhere in the world. So nip over to Wicken with your digital camera or phone between 2 Feb -2 March, and you could be heading off on a journey of a lifetime. For more info visit www.worldwetlandsday.org

If you're looking for something to do on Valentine's Day (Saturday 14 February) why not join us down at White Fen for a tree care and planting day. Residents of Lode & Longmeadow, NT staff and volunteers started planting the Lode with Longmeadow Community Woodland five years ago, in which time over 6,000 trees have been planted. The day will involve re-staking and replacing tree guards and infilling gaps by planting new trees. There will also be a Children's Trail to help keep the young ones amused. The plan is to start at 11am before heading over to our wild campsite for lunch around the campfire at 12.30. All ages are welcome, please bring wellies, lunch and hot drinks and we'll provide the marshmallows. If you plan to arrive by bike or foot, the Lodes Way (NCN11) goes right through White Fen. By car, follow the road out of Lode then turn right along White Fen Drove, follow it to the end then turn right. For more information please contact our Community Ranger, Lois Baker on 01353 720274.

Forthcoming events at Wicken include **Mucky Pups** (arts, crafts & adventure for under 5s) on 11 & 12 February, 10.15 -11.45am, tickets £4.50 on 01353 720274; for half-term we have **Wild Arts** on Tues 17 Feb and **Go Wild at Wicken** (geocaching challenge, shelter building and discover how animals survive the cold winter months) on Thurs 19 Feb. Tickets for half-term events, £5.25 per child, are available from the NT Box Office on 0844 249 1895.

Finally, there's a fair chance that New Year's resolutions to lose weight and take more exercise maybe waning – if so, why not join our weekly health walks. There's

a walk at Wicken every Wednesday and Anglesey Abbey every Thursday. Walks depart at 10am and cover a distance of 3-4 miles, lasting around



Refreshments - Tombola

(cake donations welcome)

Sat 7th March 2015

10am to 1pm

at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School

Tables: only £8 Entrance: only £1 kids free

to book your table
contact:

Anglela Roebuck tel: 811722
Lucinda Collison tel: 813670

email: aroebuck@gmail.com
email: lucinda@housemail.com

all proceeds to be shared between St Mary's Church & Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School PSA

School News

Since the last magazine, we have celebrated Christmas and entered a new year. The lead up to Christmas was very enjoyable...

'History off the Page' visited our school on Friday 28th November and the school was filled with Ancient Egyptians! The children carried out a range of activities including, writing hieroglyphs on papyrus, making oil from olives, mummifying clothes pegs and creating painted plaster artefacts. During the morning two of the Egyptians were accused of stealing and in the afternoon they were tried by the Pharaoh. Unfortunately, both were found guilty and thrown to the crocodiles! It was a wonderful day for all!

Decoration Day took place on Tuesday 2nd December and was followed by the FoSPS annual Christmas Fair on Friday 5th December. £540 was raised. We were joined once again by Father Christmas and there was a wide range of stalls and craft activities available. One of the stalls was set up by our School Council, who managed to raise over £50. Well done School Council! The cafe was once again, extremely popular and members of FoSPS worked flat out to provide many cups of tea and cake.

'Prickly Hay', the KS1 production, took place this week and the hall was filled with animals, cow girls and boys, angels, Wise Men, shepherds, an inn keeper, a star and Mary and Joseph. The children performed with confidence and sang beautifully a selection of jolly songs. It was fantastic!

In the last week of term, the whole school had a magical trip to the Bury St Edmunds theatre to watch their pantomime, 'Cinderella' (- oh yes we did!!). We finished the week with a Christmas celebration at St Mary's led by Reverend Sue and Christmas lunch.



Molly
Dancing
in St
Cyriac's



The spring term has begun and the learning journey is continuing on. In Neptune and Saturn classes, the children are thinking about World War 1. Saturn Class has started to look at the war memorial windows which are situated in St Mary's as part of the Heritage Lottery funded project they are part of. In Mars and Mercury Classes the children have discovered some footprints, scales and burnt marshmallows. What could have caused them? A mystery will have to be solved!

There was a repeat of the successful 'Plough Wednesday' celebration on Wednesday 15th January. Children from Neptune and Saturn classes dressed up and paraded to St Cyriac's where they performed three sets of Molly Dances which were enjoyed by the rest of the school and accompanying parents.

Among this highlights this term are class assemblies, a concert at West Road another 'History off the Page Day' for Mercury and Mars Classes and a residential trip to Burwell House.

Busy, busy, busy...

Hannah Curtis
Head teacher

Bags2School

Do you have any old clothes you need to get rid of? Have you heard of 'Bags2School'?

This is a scheme that the school participates in whereby old clothes and textiles can be donated and then collected by a company, who will give money depending on the weight. We are having another collection on **Wednesday 25th February**.

If you have any suitable items that you wish to get rid of, then please put them into a bin liner and bring them to the school. They do specify that they do not want bedding, towels or curtains. If you have problems with getting bags to school, please ring the office and collection can be arranged. The bags need to be at the school by **9.00am** on the morning of collection.

The
Parade



December 2014

Full Council in December debated and agreed 2 motions: the first in support of greater involvement in District Council local plans and the second to look again at how community transport can be improved, including dial-a-ride services. Council agreed governance arrangements for the City Deal and also agreed a motion of censure against a Councillor for failing to comply with the ruling of a hearings committee.

The Children and Young People Committee also met to consider a number of issues. Progress towards recommending a balanced budget in January was agreed, as was an Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. Proposals for a policy for financial contributions for Looked after Children were deferred for further information.

I met with the manager of the Bottisham, Burwell and Soham Locality Team to discuss proposals for the future of early help services as part of the savings requirements and had meetings with individual directors in Children, Families and Adults.

I had the pleasure of attending the Cambridgeshire Schools Carol Concert in Kings' College Chapel.

David Brown

News from Bottisham Patients' Group

Patients of Bottisham Surgery are urged to complete the forms to be found next to reception saying whether they would recommend the Practice to their friends and family. The form is also available on www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk by clicking on 'Friends & Family Test'. This survey by the Practice is an NHS requirement, so please complete.

HEART START

A hands-on first aid session from the British Heart Foundation

Saturday 7th February, 9.30-12 noon at Bottisham Surgery

Places are free but limited.

Book by email at: patientsgroup@outlook.com or phone: 01223 811770

Bottisham Surgery received a glowing Care Quality Commission Report and the inspectors were impressed with the involvement of the Patients' Group.

The Red Bucket fund raiser to pay for a 24-hour blood pressure monitor for the Practice is now just £1200 short of the target. When patients visit the surgery they are asked to remember to put their loose change into the bucket; or perhaps make a donation either in cash or by cheque to the 'Bottisham Patients' Group'.

There will be two Health Walking Group walks on Wednesday 11th and Friday 27th February starting from the Surgery car park at 11.00am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays starting at 10.00am.

Bottisham Patients' Group Committee



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

Salt Bins

With the onset of colder weather I have toured the salt bins in the ward, they are all mostly full.

The district council does not undertake scattering of the mixture from these bins.

I carry a shovel in my car, enabling me to undertake any mixture scattering as I see fit. Any residents are free to do like wise on behalf of our community.



Unauthorised Traveller Encampment, Swaffham

Bulbeck

This site was vacated a while ago. I visited this site on January 7th and also spoke with Ron Wedd of Red Tile Farm, which was the property most affected by the encampment. I have compiled a list of items that still need to be cleared and have sent the list to the district council, asking them to have a final clear up.

Ely's New Six Screen Cinema

Tunnstone Estates have now lodged plans for the £16 million complex at the new leisure village on land off the A10 at Downham Road.

If the plans are approved they would include the cinema, four restaurants and two drive thrus.

There would also be a new underpass under the A10 providing access for cyclists and pedestrians and improved road access for the existing sports clubs. The cinema and restaurants could be open by mid 2016.

Allen Alderson

Come and try Handbell ringing!

The Bottisham Handbell team is looking for some more players to join them ringing tunes on handbells. No experience is required but you do need to be able to read music.

We are a small friendly group who rehearse on a Wednesday evening and give occasional public performances.

If you would like to find out more please contact either Ian Cole ((812573) or Deborah Langford ((811580)

John Norris Remembers – First Impressions of Swaffham .

I have missed describing the scene on the left of the road. Behind Stocks Farm stood a very well-preserved thatched barn. Not used for much as it belonged to another generation but looking very picturesque. This too is now a house and very pretty except for the roof lights! The lane going alongside this barn was the way to the fields behind and now has been radically changed by recent development next to Coopers shop. Planning regulations are all well and good and perhaps necessary, but slavish adherence to doubtful principles is spoiling our village. Open spaces between houses helps to preserve the rural nature of the village: this principle of infilling has its drawbacks and is unnecessary as there is plenty of land available around the village.



Ivy Farm is the next establishment we come across. This old house is much as it was a hundred years ago. The low farm buildings, useless for today's activities are still there along with much vintage farm equipment. In the grounds of this farm near the police house is the remains of another old pub.

The field behind the Police House is called Gutteridge Close and contained an old "L" shaped moat or pond. Again, it is a pity that this ancient landmark was destroyed. All around this pond, which was quite large, were elm trees of huge sizes. They created an interesting view and provided shelter for the frogs and newts, which lived in the waters. Tree preservation orders had not been thought of in those days and indeed the Dutch Elm disease would have got them anyway.

Further along the street, and next to Gutteridge Close, is the Manor House or Queens Farm as it was called. It no doubt having belonged to Queens College at some time. The alterations going on there now will completely alter the appearance of the farmyard. I gather it is called a barn conversion but there will be little of the barn left when they are finished!

Across the road lived Mr Charley Smith, the garage proprietor. Here one could buy petrol and get your car serviced and sprayed. Indeed much of Charlie's time was spent in spraying the very large earth-moving equipment of the Mitcham enterprise. In the back corner of his yard and against Rogers Road, stood the other Chapel. Not used very much, but services were held there once a month. If the fen is taken into account there were three Chapels in Swaffham Prior, quite a rebellion against the established church. On the corner of Rogers Road stood two Alms houses, very low buildings consisting of a living room and a bedroom in each. I remember the recent addition of a bath with a board over it to serve as a table. These cottages with their tin roof and damp walls (the back

wall was two feet below the pavement) were pulled down in the early seventies, the land sold and the money invested with the other charity assets. This provides part of the income for the pensioners at Christmas.

We have almost come to the end of the village street. Only the Blackfriars cottages and Dog Kennel cottage with Mr Nobby Clark's house opposite, remain to be described. Dog Kennel was sold in the early sixties for the then large sum of five hundred pounds. In those days it was only one room thick and one storey high. There were no more houses at this time down this end of the village except the butchers shop between the Manor Farm and Blackfriars. Here Mr Munden plied his trade. This house has not been altered too much, the shop still being there.

Having got to the end of the village there are several large houses I have not mentioned. These are situated behind the front façade and are among the oldest in the village.

The largest of these is of course Swaffham Prior House, in its own park. At the time of my arrival here Mr Allix lived there with his trusty manservant, Mr Symonds. I visited him on several occasions to receive my instructions or his idea of what I should be doing. Before my arrival all the estate land was farmed by absentee tenants and it was essential that I should fill a need he thought existed in co-ordinating the village. This was a stimulating challenge to a young thirty-year old. I was keen to do my bit but the farm was challenge enough in itself and the first year passed with my being occupied with both farms, here and at Wisbech as my uncle had just won a seat in Parliament and was away all the week. I digress! Swaffham Prior House was and is a lovely place but at this time was sadly neglected. The paddocks around the house were part of my tenancy as well as the park so I spent much time in that part of the woods. The water gardens, now so beautifully restored, were a sad sight with so many self-set ash and sycamore trees growing in places where they did not belong. I only went into the squire's den, a panelled room, very dark with blinds half drawn over the windows and smelling of the past: just the setting to meet the village squire!

John Norris

BON MOT NUMBER FIFTY ONE

"If you're going to do a thing, you should do it thoroughly. If you're going to be a Christian, you may as well be a Catholic."

Muriel Spark (1918-2006)



Mothers' Union

On December 11th we all enjoyed our Christmas Lunch. Home-made food had been prepared and kind members arranged pretty table arrangements. Carols, mince pies and a quiz followed lunch and this year we held a raffle. The raffle made £47.00 and this is to be divided between Overseas Work and Holidays for disadvantaged families in Hunstanton. I am sure all the Members would like me to thank everyone who helped to make the Christmas Lunch such a happy event, and in particular Ann Langran, Julie Sale and members of the Committee for all their work over the year, running our Group. Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30 in Lode Chapel. On 19th February 2015 Arwen Folkes is talking to us about her 'Visit to The Holy Land.' This was at a dangerous time and we are glad that she has returned safely.

Jill Jenyns 01223 811204



VILLAGE GARDENERS

We met this month, to hear another talk "More delights about plants", by Rob Brett, who is currently head of the Plant Growth Facility, at the Sainsbury Plant Science Laboratory in Cambridge. After Easter he is taking up the post of Curator at RHS Hyde Hall. (That's another talk in the bag!) As always he had some brilliant slides, which he had divided into "Fire" "Water" and "Earth", to demonstrate how vital it is to conserve and manage, these vital ecosystems.

The bush fires, so important in ecological terms, that regenerate the growth of plants—for example—Banksias, the giant Sequoias and the Orchids that lie dormant under the earth, the tubers of which only triggered to flower by the ethylene in smoke.

The swamp mangroves that offer coastlines such vital protection, plants that literally hang on to their seeds until their downward growing roots hit the water. We were asked too, not to forget the humble Water Lily!

And last but not least, the old fossil land plants, found to be 400 million year old which had already formed symbiotic relationships with organisms under the ground.

He re-iterated what of course we all know, that research into plant science, is so important, for amongst other reasons, to help feed a rapidly growing world population and that genetic modification (thousands of plants have been silently modifying themselves over the millennia anyway), is not always a bad thing. Wasn't NIAB who created drought resistant wheat years ago?

Exactly how plants grow, is the challenge set to the 150 research staff (all post graduates) and the 30 support staff at the laboratory. The Plant Growth Facility had 4million pound funding and the centre has 300metres of glass houses. Seeds are grown in strictly controlled rooms for , humidity, light and Heat, to enable researchers to understand growth systems. Plants are able to manipulate their environments, remember, recreate chemicals, attract insects and change the ph of the

soil. Extraordinary. Genetic research is now done solely at molecular level though a lot of the staff are mathematicians and Computer modellers, who know nothing about plants!

Perhaps to further our understanding we'll ask a mathematician and a Computer modeller to a future mating. Good idea?

Our next meeting is on the 17th February, when the Head Gardener at Wimpole Hall , Phillip Whaites is coming to talk about his vision for the grounds there. All welcome.

Margaret Joyce



WI Notes

At our January meeting the speaker was one of our members telling us of her experience of Denman College and giving us some of its background history. The College was established in 1948 and named after Lady Gertrude Denman, The first Chairwoman of the National Federation of WIs. Gertrude was a feminist and campaigned for Women's Suffrage and was the first chairman of the Family Planning Association. Both Gertrude and her husband Lord Thomas Denman believed passionately in equality for women especially in their right to proper education which led to the establishment of Denman College where women could go and study in a safe environment away from the family demands. Today Denman continues the traditions but also embraces the 21st century by opening its doors to non-members (both male and female) as well.

Debbie then talked about her courses in more detail, her ambition to learn to sew was fulfilled on her first stay and she has made a variety of goods since attending which have been gifts for family and friends and also sold with the proceeds being donated to Magpas. Her second course broadened her knowledge of gardening by learning how to propagate cutting and have a free supply of plants. This is now being put to good use with the purchase of some cold frames in her garden. She is already signed up for a third course in the spring, which I hope we will hear about later. If you are interested do go on line and look at Denman College it has a beautiful setting and well worth a visit.

We were also reminded that newspapers are still being collected and supply a small income for the village. If anyone has lost a tea towel decorated with handprints of Swaffham Bulbeck Pre-school Playgroup 1993, it is in the drawer in the village hall kitchen.

The next meeting is on 16th February when the speaker will be Peter Norman talking about the History of Newmarket.

New members and occasional visitors are always welcome so come along and see if you would like to join our friendly group or telephone if you would like more information.

Pat Cook - President

Tel: 01638 742224

Answers to New Year Quiz

1. Sid Prince front cover of Red Lion Charity Calendar
2. Henry Kingsmill Prior v Bulbeck Boxing Day Hockey Match
3. Primary School Molly Dancing in St Cyriac's
4. A young Ron Prime (photo featured with write up on his life)
5. Michael Cazenove and Andrew Camps polishing the window plaques before the War Windows Lecture in St Mary's
6. Primary School Book Day, dressing up as favourite characters from books
7. Peter Jost showing his puppy how it should be done in the timed agility class at the Dog Show
8. Advertising artists for the Cambridge Open Studios
9. Village Heritage walk led by Elisabeth Everitt outside Marcia Miller's house
10. Alastair Everitt as auctioneer at the Autumn Show in the village hall
11. Lily laying service in St Cyriac's to commemorate 100 years of the start of WW1
12. Unveiling of the Land Girls' Memorial Plaque on Cage Hill

Janet Willmott

Huge Spring Jumble sale in Lode

Saturday 14th March from 2-4

Parking is in the High Street, and walk through Fassage Close, beside the post office. There are just amazing bargains to be had, and it promises to be a lively afternoon for both buyers and sellers!

The money raised always goes to a charitable cause, and local support with donating items and buying helps to make this a really worthwhile event. Look forward to seeing you.

Please bring jumble to the Fassage in the morning of the sale between 10.30 -12.

Entrance £1 for adults and children are free.

Fran 01223 813 016

The Cantilena Singers
Lamentations and Hope
Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm
Church of St Cyriac and St Julitta, Swaffham Prior,

Music for Lent and Easter in the beautiful surroundings and spectacular acoustics of this 13th century church building.

Programme including Duruflé's *Quatre motets sur des thèmes grégoriens* (Op. 10) and Tallis's *Lamentations of Jeremiah*

Daniel Spreadbury (director)

Refreshments available.

Tickets £10. Children free.

Contact David Holton email: dwh11@cam.ac.uk or phone 01638743947
www.cantilenasingers.org

The Newmarket Cycling & Triathlon Club

is aiming to form a **Junior section** and invite boys and girls (16 years and under) to come and try our

Indoor Roller Cycling System on

Saturday 15 February, 9am to 1pm at the Fassage Hall, Lode.

Please bring your own bikes and trikes.

Adults with their children will be very welcome.

This roller system is a good way to learn to ride a bike safely.

Junior membership is FREE but must have a parent consent form signed.

In the warmer months we will have a grass track circuit on the Fassage and also social rides on cycle ways and quiet fen roads.

David Peck

THE POLLINATORS ARE COMING....



Outside in the garden on sunny days, early-foraging bumbles and honeybees are tempted out by the lure of fragrant, nectar-rich winter-flowering shrubs such as wintersweet and winterbox, and protein-rich flowering bulbs like snowdrops and aconites. This co-dependency of plants and animals has evolved countless times the world over, and this month at the Botanic Garden, we are focusing on some of the most intriguing plant + pollinator stories at our Orchid Festival, which opens on 7 February 2015.

Orchids are considered amongst the most exotic and alluring of flowers, but their scent and beauty have not evolved to ensure they end up impulse purchases in the supermarket trolley! Petal shape, nectar reward, triggers, traps, scent and glowing colours are just a few of the tricks that orchids employ to attract a vast array of animal pollinators. This cast includes iridescent bees, wasps, moths with super-long tongues, flies and jewel-coloured hummingbirds, all of which will be paying the Garden's Orchid Festival a visit - in giant, cut-out form!

Orchids are found the world over, their diversity the result of co-evolved relationships between plant and pollinator. For example, in South America, huge, shiny male euglossine bees harvest scents from rainforest orchids, store them in large armoured pouches on their hind legs, and then release them to attract female bees. In collecting the scents, the bees dislodge special pollen packets which are then carried to the next orchid, effecting pollination. This is just one of six amazing pollinator stories featured.

We'll be creating a magnificent display of popular orchid species and hybrids including suspended globes of *Oncidium* and pedestals of slipper orchids, *Paphiopedilum*, floating over open water. Throughout the tropical rainforest displays the focus will be on wild orchid species, grouped to show particular floral adaptations from insect mimicry to the stink of rotting flesh, and we'll be using some new and fun ways to present the ingenious biology of orchids - watch out for the huge Judge Dredd style hummingbirds and giant thynnid wasps...!

The Orchid Festival at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden runs from Saturday 7 February – Sunday 22 March 2015. On Wednesday 18 February 2015 the Glasshouse Range stays open late until 8.30pm for Twilight at the Museums, a unique opportunity to explore the Orchid Festival by torchlight (who knows what might be revealed under ultra-violet...). A full programme of accompanying Orchid Festival events, opening times and admission charges is available on the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk

Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 8th January 2015

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 7 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at the earlier time of 7pm.

The evening started with a presentation from Keeley Russell of Balfour Beatty about the upgrading of street lighting in the village. All those present were given the opportunity to raise their concerns about the proposed removal and repositioning of current lights and installation of new lights. This was further discussed as meeting agenda item.

Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation: These were noted.

Public Participation:

Community Infrastructure Levy – Regulation 123 List: ECDC invited, as part of the consultation process, proposals for projects to be added to the listing. Roz Chalmers, Emma Fletcher and Charlotte Cane, on behalf of the School, had drafted an 'Expression of Interest' for the Regulation 123 List for an extension to the School to allow an extra classroom and asked if the Parish Council would give this their support. This was discussed further by councillors as agenda item.

Bins on Coopers Green: Concerns were raised about the filling of one of the bins with cement bags. This had been reported to ECDC and logged as fly-tipping.

World War II Commemoration Events: Emma Fletcher asked if anyone would be interested in organising an event. Some grant funding was available from CCC and it was agreed to submit an application. There followed discussion on possible ways to mark the event but if anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact the Clerk. To be discussed further at next meeting.

Works to Upgrade Street Lighting in Village (*following on from Balfour Beatty's Presentation*):

Keeley Russell responded to some of the concerns raised about, removal, repositioning and the standard of preparation work already taken place. Following discussion, the following requests were put to Keeley for her to follow up:

Green Head Road (CC2): Request to install a lantern that is 360 and not remove due to this being a vital light source for Coopers Green.

Tothill Road (CC1): Request to replace the existing column as a 6m and lose CC3 which was reported as having been positioned in the grass verge not the pathway.

The meeting was made aware of the mess left around the village by the contractors carrying out preparation works. Keeley agreed this was unacceptable and said she would take this up with Operations Manager.

Lower End (CC19): Request to fit a back shield.

Cage Hill (CC18): Request to fit a back shield.

High Street (CC9): Request to fit a front baffle and a back shield.

David Almond asked about the street lighting columns owned by the Parish Council and as these were outside the upgrading works, whether these were in need of attention. There followed discussion on the PC's legal responsibility, lifespan of the columns, etc. Paul Latchford agreed to research these points and report back to next meeting.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown provided a written report and this was read out by the Clerk. No questions were raised.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson was delayed but reported to the meeting on his arrival. Points raised with Cllr Alderson:

Fly-tipping: Slip-road into village from Swaffham Bulbeck end – old lawnmower and rubbish. Tyre near sewage works/football ground. Rogers Road – carpet, etc. *AA to follow up and report back to Clerk.*

Waste Bins: Bin outside school not shutting. Bins not emptied on Coopers Green. *AA to follow up and report back to Clerk.*

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

St Cyriacs – lighting/footpath: It was confirmed that the light was now working. With regard to work to improve the footpaths, this was brought to the attention of the PCC who were looking at improvements. The PCC asked if the PC might consider contributing to the costs involved. The Clerk was to ask the PCC for a formal written request for consideration at the next meeting but it was suggested that subject to detail and cost the PC would support, in principle, the work needed.

Bottisham V.C. – swimming pool: Geoffrey Woollard reported on his discussions with a School Governor on the possible closure or limited opening times of the pool to the community. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted for the Clerk to send to Mr P Hodgson – Chairman of Governors.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

CCC – Commissioners Drain 1: Structure replacement – advance works warning.

ECDC – information on nomination processes for May Elections.

ECDC – Ely Southern Bypass – details of planning permission granted and timeline of key events.

Parish Council Vacancy for Clerk:

The close date for applications was agreed as 31st January 2015.

Community Infrastructure Levy – Update and Consultation including Expression of Interest for Regulation 123 Projects List:

Following on from discussion under 'Public Participation', it was agreed to endorse the School's 'Expression of Interest' but following extensive discussion it was agreed to also submit a second 'Expression of Interest' for traffic calming measures on Mill Hill.

There followed an adjournment when the meeting was made aware of possible funding available for a pedestrian crossing on Mill Hill. On reconvening the meeting, the Clerk was asked to follow this up with ECDC.

Consideration of Planning Application for Goodwin Manor, 1 Station Road – single storey extension. Ref: 14/01388/LBC –

14/01349/FUL: Following consideration there were no objections or comments.

Consideration of Planning Application for Church View Cottage, 54 High Street – erection of a boundary wall and gate. Erection of close boarded fence. Ref: 14/01327/FUL: Following consideration there were no objections or comments.

Confirmation of Budget/Precept for 2015/16: This was agreed at £14,500.

Accounts for Payment:

These were agreed.

Clerk's Reports:

No additional items.

Reports:

No additional items.

Open Question Time:

PC asked "what is the point of a roundabout on Mill Hill". Discussion followed.

Request for dog waste bin on Coopers Green.

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, 12th February 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meeting dates:

12th March, 9th April 2015. ***All are welcome to attend.***

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

karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk

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



Belonging

Last Christmas was a full-on family time for us. For the whole of the Christmas holiday, with the exception of one clear day, the house was full of a constantly changing procession of family, ranging from 18 months to 88! A dozen or more round the dining table at a time; bedrooms full to overflowing; the hosts sleeping in the lounge. Cheerful chaos! So many different characters, likes and dislikes; so many different life-experiences, hopes and expectations. Yet every one belonging; connected. Family – united by love.

Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a family like that, but we all need to belong somewhere, to feel that we are not isolated. Ever since the beginning of the human story, when God said, *'It is not good for the man to be alone'*, and He created Eve to be his companion, we have been hardwired to belong; to be connected to others. We are social creatures, made for community, and for many of us loneliness is one of our deepest fears.

From the beginning Church has been about belonging. People being drawn together by a common faith; a shared purpose. Church too should be a family – united by love.

However, perhaps the most powerful image of the church in the Bible is not of family, but of the church as a body, with Jesus as the head. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: *'Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.'* He wrote of every part of the body being important. All the parts – hands, eyes, ears, feet – being needed for the body to function properly. *'There are many parts, but one body'*. They all belong together, and when every part is doing its job the whole body is strong and healthy.

Our churches need to be places where people can feel that they belong. Church is a place where every effort must be made to promote what is the best for one another. The Bible challenges us to love one another; accept one another; encourage one another; be kind and compassionate to one another; forgive one another; live at peace with one another. It tells us that it is by sharing one another's burdens that we fulfil the law of Christ. This is what it means to belong to God's family.

This is the kind of church we are striving to build at RE:NEW. We are all in it together. Like a family it can sometimes be hard work, sometimes frustrating, but also rewarding and fun! The door is open; all are welcome!

Peter Wells

RE:NEW Services in February 2015.

We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services, and a crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

1 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)
With Holy Communion

8 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

8 February. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

15 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

22 February. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

22 February. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Great Wilbraham Chapel)

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

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

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

FREECYCLE



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

Offered

Martin Acoustic Guitar Strings 80/20 Bronze – New. Nicole 812363

Wanted

Toy farm for grandsons aged 3 and 2. We have plenty of animals but nowhere to put them! Judith/Chris c812085

Any old electric or acoustic guitar and/or old amplifier, and an old drum kit too (wanting to start learning a musical instrument). Willing to pay money if necessary. Alice 07500956848.

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

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

Dear Friends,

Freedom is something that we all value, it is one of those positive words which describes a state that our culture holds dear. It is however one value among a raft of values which interact with each other. If we live in a society and are part of a community we can never have absolute freedom to do whatever we want, there is always the requirement to consider others and their freedom.



In western culture freedom of speech and freedom to write as we see fit is a fundamental value that we wish to preserve. It is important that journalists are able to criticise governments or organisations, it is important that people are able to express their thoughts and ideas, and that information which others might want to hide is shared for the public good. Freedom to debate, and to share ideas and information, contributes to the formation of the world and culture we inhabit. No-one should be gunned down or murdered for speaking the truth as they see it or for criticising another.

But with freedom comes also responsibility and the requirement to be aware of others, and sensitive to them. In our culture we do not expect people to use their freedom in a way that incites others to hate. It is not part of our culture that they should be free to bully and threaten others with words.

We know that on social media and in chat rooms, where freedom of speech is difficult to monitor, young people are sometimes harassed and bullied to the point of taking their own lives; rumours and untruths can be unleashed, causing untold damage to people. The saying “sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me” is not true. Many people are very badly hurt by others use of language and words can elicit actual physical harm.

We have freedom to speak and to express our thoughts and ideas, we don’t have to use that freedom to speak lies, to foster hatred or to incite violence. Should we use our freedom to deliberately insult others, or ridicule a belief which underpins their life? We can challenge or present counter arguments and views but should we be deliberately offensive? And that is where we must make a judgement. What one person sees as a joke is deeply offensive to someone else. What one person believes to be the truth, may be regarded as a misrepresentation or a complete lie by another.

As we reflect on the events in Paris and on the importance of freedom of speech we need as a society to keep talking and reflecting on how we use language and what we do with the important freedoms that we have.

Sue Giles

2015 – The Year of the Big Thank You

‘We pray to be the generous and visible people of Jesus Christ.’ This is the mission statement of the Ely diocese.

However, we recognise that we, in the church, are not the only ones who are trying to live generously for the benefit of others. A great army of carers, cleaners,

teachers, dinner ladies, lollipop men & women, nurses, social workers, people who run sports, afterschool or lunch clubs – and a host of others – are giving their time and skills to serve our communities. They are often invisible - people who do not seek to make the headlines. Yet because of them our communities are greatly enriched. Because of them many people flourish who would otherwise fail. Without them many would remain lonely, unloved, unnoticed.

So in 2015, in particular, we wish to recognise and say a big ‘**Thank you**’ to this army of unsung heroes.

For those who have made really outstanding contributions we are producing an ‘**Outstanding Service Medal**’ which will be known as **The Etheldreda Award**, designed by Jonathan Clarke and based on his ‘Way of Life’ sculpture in the cathedral. These will be presented by the Bishop to a small number of people who would not be recognized in other ways. Canon Matthew Bradbury (matthew.bradbury@ely.anglican.org) will lead a panel which will receive and consider nominations for these medals.

For more information on how to nominate a community hero, please see: <http://www.ely.anglican.org/mission/bigthankyou.html>

Church Services in February

at St Mary’s, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 1 February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple

11am Matins

Sunday 8 February, Second Sunday before Lent

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1), Quy

Sunday 15 February, Sunday next before Lent

11am Family Service

Wednesday 18 February, Ash Wednesday

7pm Benefice Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 22 February, First Sunday of Lent

10am Benefice Service – Holy Communion (CW1), Swaffham Bulbeck

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 February 2015

Sat	7	Village Hustings, St Mary's Church, SB, 10am Orchid Festival, CU Botanic Garfdens, (until 22 March)
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Mon	16	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	18	Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	19	Twilight at th4e Museums, Cambridge, 4.30-8.30pm Mothers' Union, 2.30, Lode Chapel
Tue	24	St Valentine's Day Concert, West Rd Concert Hall, 7.30pm
Wed	25	Bags2School, by 9am
Sat	28	Quiz Night, VH, 7.30pm

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	