



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIX Number 1

January 2015



## Editorial

Happy New Year Everybody, and what better way to start it than with a couple of village competitions? For some days now, the editors could not help but notice that, apart from a few tasteful *twirls* here and there, Swaffham Prior has been considerably outdone by neighbouring villages in that subtle matter of CHRISTMAS LIGHTS. Not so! Our photographer, Andrew Noyes, has been out and about and you can see the results on our centre spread. Can you find them? And which, in your opinion are the best? Answers to the editors by the 18<sup>th</sup>, but you've only got until 12<sup>th</sup> night!

Our next competition might go down well with Kate and Susan Richards (see their letter) but we suspect that not many people are going to crack it, bar they keep a secret stock of past Criers. This concerns Village Events 2014 (see page 10) and unless you were actually *at* them all, tricky! Collaboration required....

Now is the time of year when the editors like to say a big thank-you to everyone-else involved in this magazine, which if not quite half the village, is a considerable number. First, our loyal advertisers, who primarily finance the magazine under the expert management of Pat and Peter Cook, who have transformed our Advertising Department into the well-oiled machine it never was before! Nest, our distributors, who tramp out in all sorts of weather under the expert management of Ruth Stinton now with her new deputy Pam Waters, our brilliant new photographer, Andrew Noyes, devious Robin Scovil and his equally devious team of crossword setters and last, but by no means least, our Cover Manager, Alastair Everitt, better known of course, as Our Reporter at the Parish Council, and the most quoted reason (by readers far and wide) as to why they never miss reading the Crier!"

But lastly, sad good-byes to another contributor. Our brilliant Parish Council Clerk, Karen King, alas is now stepping down after 16 years in the job. She will be sorely missed and an extremely hard act to follow. Volunteers anybody?

*Caroline Matheson*

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**Cover Picture:** "Leaping in with the New Year" Somewhere in Swaffham Prior



# Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

## **BVC Swimming Pool School Hours Closure**

By the time this reaches you and gets into the January magazines our proposal (see below) to keep the pool open to the public for two morning/lunchtime sessions per week will have been considered and decided upon by the governors of Bot-tisham Village College and there either will or won't be public daytime swimming at the pool prior to 4pm. We have also sent a letter sent to our local representatives seeking their support to ensure that public daytime swimming continues and refer-ring to many of those most affected by the proposed closure.

If the decision is 'no' it will be up to the community to convince the College that public day time swimming is something that both the community and the College need and to bring forward proposals which will achieve this.

**Rich Braun/Ione Evans**

9 Swaffham Road

Lode

Cambs CB25 9EZ

### ***Our Proposal***

*"Proposed weekday public opening hours from January will comprise five 6 hour sessions (4-10 daily). Could we suggest that this be altered to provide three 6 hour sessions (4-10) and two 6 hour sessions (7am - 1pm) This would be cost neutral in staffing terms and might actually save on overheads as the facility would not be open on two weekday evenings, saving heating and lighting costs, and would be open on two daytime sessions when the heating and lighting costs would be incurred anyway as the facility is open for school use at other times during the day. This would give lunchtime swimmers some access and would provide potential additional access to early morning swimmers, which I am sure they would welcome. We acknowledge that part of the 7am-1pm sessions might need to be restricted to enable school use, but based on current timetabling there would be at least 4 hours of community use during that time. We would appreciate it if the above could be considered by Governors and by Nuffield and if the principle is accepted the detail of which days etc. could be worked out. This would also form a good basis to involve users in the community users group which notices at the pool indicate the College wishes to encourage."*

PS. We have now heard unofficially that governors rejected this. An official response is awaited. There will now be no swimming during school hours (which accords with the policy of Nuffield, the pool managers, that there should be no public access to school premises during such time). We will make you aware of the official response when it is received.

Dear Editors

### **Advent by Candlelight**

On behalf of The Cambridge Voices I am asked to thank everyone who supported the Advent by Candlelight Concert on Advent Sunday . Everyone means of course everyone who read , brought mince pies , made mulled wine and simply attended and enjoyed the event .

A donation of £162 has been sent to Emmaus .

*Francis Reeks*

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Dear Editors,

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

We would like to thank everyone who came to our quiz night. Although numbers were down, we hope people enjoyed it.

Congratulations to Densa, our winners. We would like to thank Linda, Mandy and Sheila for helping with the food and in the kitchen yet again, much appreciated. Thank you to April who did the raffle and to those people who donated prizes.

Another thank you goes to Andrew who was our quizmaster, another fine job, not too many jokes.

The money raised for St. Marys church was £200, so thank you all very much.

The date for the next quiz is the 28th February 2015 and the one after that is the 17th October 2015. We hope to see a lot more familiar faces next year. Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

*Lynne and Jenny*

*And many thanks due to Lynne and Jenny too for another great quiz, the only problem being they were not asking questions we knew the answers to. Eds*

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Dear Editors,

### **Thank-you, Events-Organisers!**

As 2014 draws to a close, we would like to say how much we have enjoyed events in the village.

The Harvest Supper and the Ceildih were both excellent, as was the War Windows Lecture. We especially enjoyed the “Pop-up Afternoon Teashops” which were held in the summer. What a treat after a long tiring walk with the dog to be able to drop into St Cyriac's for a refreshing drink and a delicious slice of cake! Thanks also for the book shop in St Cyriacs.

Congratulations for a job well done for all those who organised these events.

*Kate and Susan Richards*

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The last 12 months have been a good year for the PC. You'll get a summary of this at the Annual General Assembly in the Spring. But as far as I am aware no mention has ever been made of the major revision made on 5th August 2014 to the "Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014" which, passed in both Houses of Parliament, came into force the very next day. This enables members of the public to film, record, tweet and blog parish council meetings without fear of being stopped. Eric Pickles claims that this will help Britain to move away from a government system similar to Putin's Russia. Gosh!



I wonder how our own Parish Council will react to being filmed during their proceedings. No doubt some shy members may be put out while I can imagine some others will relish the limelight and will probably begin to address the camera. But, if you wish to see a real life scenario played out, google Beyton Village (just over the border in Suffolk) and on You Tube watch the events at their PC meeting on September 8th 2014. It only lasts about 5 minutes and is a treat to watch. Don't miss it. Will our Parish Council behave in this way?

Pre Christmas meetings are usually quite quiet and this was no exception though ECDC did pull a joker out of the hat which kept the meeting going for some time. The usual ground was covered in the customary way with a couple of changes being made to the minutes followed by our two Councillors' report. After David Brown had given his, Paul raised with him the fate of the Bottisham swimming pool because the opening hours are being limited as the College cannot afford to keep it open all the time. Paul remembered as a lad raising funds to provide the pool when the big thing during the seventies was "Sports for All". David explained that now that the College is an Academy the CCC has no say in its affairs and that the Governors make all the decisions. Allen Alderson pointed out that no swimming pool in the country makes a profit and that the whole of the Bottisham Sports Centre is scheduled not to open until 4.00pm. Geoffrey, also involved with the Pool in the past, has been chasing the Governors for a discussion, but no one has responded. Sandra maintained that no school can afford a swimming pool (Eton?) and that the College should never have been responsible for it. It seems initially it had been a separate entity, but at some point the Bottisham College Swimming Pool Association handed it over to the College.

Allen made his ECDC report, covering a large variety of ground, without once mentioning Ely. Is this like giving up smoking? Then Peter Hart (Acting Chairman for the evening) stunned the PC, and all members of the public. He read out a letter from Karen. She has resigned as Clerk and has given 3 months notice. There was a great deal of wailing and gnashing of teeth on hearing the news, as there will also be in the village.

Next year, during the first PC meeting, Balfour Beattie (if their plans cover the whole village by then) will make a presentation to the PC about the new street lighting.. This will be followed later with a public consultation which should result with a huge range of views. Some people will hate the new lights.

Then came the bombshell from ECDC. On the very day of the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December Karen had received the plans for building two fairly substantial houses off Cage Hill. Any comments of the PC had to be received by ECDC by 26<sup>th</sup> December. ECDC did not specify whether this could be after the Annual Boxing Day Hockey Match. Not this time of course, but in certain circumstances in the past, some may have thought this all a bit shady. Not exactly corruption but just “working the system”. But, I repeat, it is not in the case this time. The PC grappled as best it could with the details in the time available, and the overall consensus was that the scheme is too high for the existing street scene.

It was noted that a Toilet or a Tardis had suddenly appeared on the Dencora field. There it sits in its solitary glory. But not for long, as work is due to begin on January 4. David Almond raised his concern about the issue raised by Hilary Sages’ “humorous” letter about the unlit lamp outside St Cyriac’s and the dangers there from, and proposed a letter should be sent to the PCC concerning it.

On the same subject, at the end of the meeting, a member of the public explained that the problem was in the capable hands of Janet Willmott. It has since turned out that she had dealt with it very effectively and that the light was working again before the PC meeting took place. For the last ten years or so the light has never failed, so it is just bad luck it should go wrong on the evening of the Advent Concert. Also discussed was the condition of the paths, both the back path and the path leading down to St Cyriac’s. These cannot be solved so easily. The back path is becoming increasingly muddy, is becoming a problem, and the muddy mess has squelched down onto the churchyard path so that this also is becoming a muddy hazard. Because it is a regularly used right of way, it was tentatively suggested that the PCC should become involved in any solution. This was given a very frosty reception by some members. “The Churchyard nothing to do with us”. Happy Christmas to everyone.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **VACANCY FOR CLERK** **Approximately 25hrs/month.**

Due to the recent resignation of the Clerk, the Parish Council are inviting applications to fill this post.

If you are interested and would like to discuss in more detail, please contact the current Clerk or Chairman to the Parish Council - *contact numbers listed at front of Crier.*

# Advent By Candlelight with the Cambridge Voices

## St Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior, Sunday 30 November

Sainsbury's are not alone in seeing the possibilities for synergy between a commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and a celebration of Advent (or at any rate Christmas), but Ian de Massini went one better, enlisting the centenarian Dylan Thomas to the cause.

The evening was shaped, literally, with seating turned through 90°, and artistically by the unique and justly famous memorial windows - notwithstanding Pevsner's uncharacteristically myopic, dismissal of them as "queer". Their pictorial themes and Biblical texts were explored in music, prose and poetry, German, French and English, ranging from Bach's magisterial "Wachet Auf", by way of John Donne, Erich Marie Remarque, Ravel and Carol Ann Duffy, as well as some of the usual suspects: Siegfried Sassoon, Edward Thomas, Ivor Gurney and Laurence Binyon. Dylan Thomas we heard at his most opaque: *On the Marriage of a Virgin*; his most translucent: *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and his most sonorous, the great villanelle: *Do not Go Gentle Into that Good Night*, (currently being given a cinematic airing by Michael Caine in *Interstellar*).

Among the joys of village life in the cultural halo of one of the world's great universities is that humble village churches play host to world class musicians and be in no doubt that's what you missed if you weren't there.

The core of the first half of the musical programme was Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt*, in whose lyrics Director Ian de Massini discovered textual coincidences with the windows: notably "The Lord is a Man of War" and "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people". Thus, the stained glass image of the sinking Lusitania led directly into "The Depths Have Covered Them" in a haunting new arrangement by the Director for two unaccompanied choirs – the first of a number of world premieres that evening.

The audience/congregation, lifted, no doubt, and sustained by the superb polyphony they had just heard, responded with a powerful *For Those in Peril*, which would have done credit to many a cathedral congregation.

The readers, too, rose to the inclusive, ensemble nature of the occasion, the crepuscular nave echoing dramatically to voices emerging from the darkness.

A delicate and beautiful rendering of Vaughan Williams' arrangement of the traditional carol *This is the Truth Sent From Above* appeared to lighten the mood – until you focused on the lyric, which insisted on the direct correlation between original sin and human misery, only redeemable by the birth of Christ, to which the mighty Advent hymn *O come, O come Emmanuel!* Was the only possible and appropriate congregational response.

For the second half of the evening, singers and audience adjourned to the icy vault that is St Cyriac and St Julitta's for an empirical taste of winter on the Western Front, opening with *A Flanders Carol/We Will Remember Them*, De Massini's extraordinarily beautiful, powerfully moving composition, to the tune of a German marching song, fusing the 16<sup>th</sup> Century *Coventry Carol* with *Stille Nacht/Silent*

*Night* and extracts from John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields*. The effect of the juxtapositions was eerie: *Those Generals then in their raging/Ordered they, in this great fray/Those arms of might/In their own sight/All young soldiers to slay*, is a minimal adaptation of the words of the Coventry Carol, describing the first Slaughter of the Innocents, shining a 16<sup>th</sup> century laser on another at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

An excerpt from *A Child's Christmas in Wales* lifted spirits, followed by the paradoxically joyous spiritual *Soon-a will be done-a with the troubles of the world!* cheerily offering the consoling thought that we'll all be dead soon, after which the congregation sought its own consolation in a lustily soaring rendition of *Lo! He comes with clouds descending*, which is a fine advent hymn, and clears the lungs, even if it's about the Second Coming, not the First.

The concert closed with a virtuoso performance, by the Director, of *Toccata*, from *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, by Ravel, which led this reviewer to speculate as to whether Mr De Massini possesses rather more than the normal complement of fingers, following which, ration packs of mulled wine and mince pies having been brought up the line to the front, we retreated in good order to St Mary's.

If you missed it, you should be kicking yourself.

*Andrew Grant*

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## **Informed voting- is there such a thing? 'A morning of getting to know'**

Many people say that voting is a waste of time. The sentiment is that all politicians do their own thing, don't listen just argue amongst themselves.



Surely we should find out what our parliamentary candidates stand for in a General Election?

On Saturday 7th February there will be a opportunity to do just that.

The prospective candidates, Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, UKIP and the Green Party will present the party views and answer some questions.

**Venue: St Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck**

**Time: 1000-1130**

Questions to the candidates should be submitted to the Ian Woodroffe : [ian@goldtraining.co.uk](mailto:ian@goldtraining.co.uk) , 4 Station Road, by the 26th January 2015. There may be time for some questions on the day.

There will be an optional retiring collection for the Mosquito Project in Maratanzania.

Refreshments will be available.

**Time 1130-1230**

In the second half of the morning there will be Parish Council Poster presentations on the achievements of 2014 and the vision for 2015.

These presentations will be on finance, the denny, the pavilion redevelopment, transport and highways, the cemetery, footpaths, Gutter Bridge and Denny woods.

# *ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING*



*10.30 – 12.00 Noon*

**Thursday  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015**



***5 Lower End***  
*(the Everitt's)*

*Cake &  
Produce Stall*



*Bring & Buy  
Raffle & Free Chat*



*All proceeds to St. Mary's Church*



## IVC 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Exhibition 14-18 February, 2015

Impington Village College's 54<sup>th</sup> annual art exhibition will take place during the spring half-term from the **14-18 February, 2015**. As in previous years, it will contain around 400 works from nearly 100 local artists. All the exhibits will be for sale at prices from £30 to £950. This year we have over 15 local and national professional artists plus regular favourites from past years including Anthony Day, Helen Immogen Field, David Dowling, Natasha Day, Fred Betteridge, Dorothy Babcock, Donald Beards, Peter Currington, Barbara Harlow, Linda May Peckham, Malcolm Rimmer, Janice Wilson & Roy Wadley. The range is from classical, modern impressionist and abstract, which will appeal to a wider range of buyers with varied tastes, age and budgets.

To mark the event's 54<sup>th</sup> year, the main exhibition will include a separate theme representing CELEBRATION to commemorate the College's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will also be a display of student art, offering a flavour of what we might expect to see in years to come. This year student art would be available for sale.

**Private view is from 7.00 - 9.00 pm on Saturday 14 February** and visitors will be able to view the exhibits and meet some of the artists. Tickets costing £4.50 will be available at the door and will include a catalogue (normally costing £2.80) along with complimentary wine and snacks.

Entry to the exhibition is free during the rest of the week and the opening times are:

Sunday 15 February: 10.00 - 6.00 pm

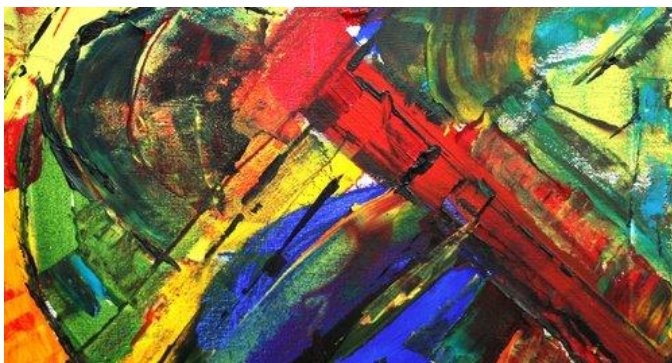
Monday 16 February: 12.00 - 8.00 pm

Tuesday 17 February: 12.00 – 8.00 pm

Wednesday 18 February: 12.00 to 2.00 pm

The event is organised by the IVC Parent, Staff and Friends Association, a local charity, which raises money for the college. Last year we crossed the £5,600 mark in sales and the commission on the sales together with advertising and door receipts were used to support the work of the college. A profit of £2,000 was realised last year.

For further information, please contact Mehboob Hamza at [ivcartexh2015@outlook.com](mailto:ivcartexh2015@outlook.com) or at 01223 237062.





1



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6



7

## Crier New Year News Quiz

Which events/  
occasions did these  
Crier pictures illustrate  
in 2014? Answers to  
the Editors by January  
18 for a special  
“Reader(s) of the Year”  
commendation!



9





## **John Norris Remembers – First Impressions of Swaffham Prior in 1958**

Opposite to the Days is the village blacksmith. At this time it was in going gear, Mr Bailey tending to the Ambrose string of horses and repairs to the old bits of machinery such as harrows and duck-foots. His business stopped as soon as the Ambrose enterprise stopped. Next door to the smithy was the Adams old house. At this time there were two front doors and no additions at the back. These were added by Miss Ozanne shortly after the Calor gas man had left. (I forget his name!).



Bondgate House on the other side of the road was now occupied by Mr Eric Day who had moved across the road from the old end-on cottage. This house was at one time the post office as well as being the headquarters of the carpenter's business. The old buildings in which were housed the band saw and mortising machine which were ancient, together with a new planner, had that old world atmosphere which has now disappeared.

Proceeding further down High Street we come to the almshouses. These were pulled down in the early sixties as being too far-gone to repair. They consisted of four dwellings of two rooms each, converted from an old large farmhouse. The bedrooms upstairs were in a different direction to the ground floor rooms so that part of the bedroom was over the next-door neighbour. As was common with so many houses of this period, the loos were in lodges across the drive to Hall Farm and are now used as a store for paper. The washhouse contained a copper boiler (made of iron) and a place for the inevitable mangle was further down the lane in the belt of trees. Part of the tile floor can still be seen near the swings and the gardens still bloom with alyssum.

Opposite to Town Close lived Susie Carter in all three cottages. These were in a sad state of repair thirty years ago and were getting worse until the Wright family arrived and injected much enthusiasm and hard work.

Proceeding further down the High Street, next to Carter's is Eric Day's cottage, one of the few remaining buildings that are end-on to the road. The long narrow garden stretches up to the back footpath, as do all these houses on High Street.

The next house was occupied by Clem Waddham, a threshing contractor who in his earlier times ran a steam threshing set. The yard next to the house contained several barns some of which were in use by Mr Ambrose as corn stores. These barns were later converted by Mr Webster into the dwellings there today. Opposite these barns is the village bakery run by the Lowe family. Hereto the shop has been converted into a house and the bakery is where the Lowe family

live now.

The public house on the corner, The Cock, was run by the Chaplins for its latter years. The entrance being where the bay window is now situated. Upstairs was a large clubroom where the drainage board held its meetings before moving to Ely. This house built between the wars was typical of that period. Very Spartan in facilities, poor damp course and walls of solid construction with no cavity. As there were three pubs in the village, it was no wonder that trade was poor and one or two would close; which is what happened.

The house over the road in present time was an allotment in those days, that ran along-side the drive to the Hall. On the other side of this drive we found the garden of Stocks Farm, the headquarters of the Ambrose empire. The farmhouse was divided into two cottages and an office where Mr Slack the manager and Mr Frost the foreman made their decisions. All the horses used on their farm were kept at Hall Farm and I do not remember any cattle there although I imagine they must have kept some there at one time. The house was getting run down at this time as were most of the buildings on the estate and required much effort to restore them. One characteristic of the estate buildings was the ochre lime wash. Most of the village was this awful colour! I did not like it and I'm colour blind. The wall against the road was at this time so high that it was difficult to see over it. It was only when the junction was improved by lifting up that area so that the road surface was level that the garden wall seemed lower and was at the present level. Across the road and the village green (no electric substation then) stood the old Rose and Crown. Mr Nethercott had recently taken over the premises where he sold green groceries and ran a café in the present shop. Here on our first day we purchased a Mars bar or two and had a rest! The post office at this time was in Fairview Grove: to my traditional thinking it did not seem right to enter a private house to buy stamps and national insurance stamps.

The area in front of this old pub is in my opinion part of the old village green, indeed it is shown as such on the parish award map but time will tell who is the rightful owner.

I cannot remember any houses on the land adjoining the road on Lower End near the Rose and Crown. I know John Clarke has an allotment there and the old maps show houses but when they were pulled down I cannot say. The street on the right going towards Reach has not altered much until you get to the Beeches. Some renovations have been done and a new house or two slipped in, but by and large it is much as it was. The Beeches consisted of six cottages in a terrace with low roofs containing dormer windows. Old folk lived there with very many cats! It was a pity they were pulled down, as a conversion into two or three would have preserved the traditional construction. All is not lost as the cottages at Black Friars at the end of the village were of similar design. Corona dairy and the yard nearby have lost their old world appearance. The new windows in the house and the concrete in the yard are reminiscent of the nineteen eighties rather than the nineteen thirties.

## News from the Fitzwilliam Museum

This spring we have two major free exhibitions, *Silent Partners* and *Treasured Possessions*.

Featuring over 180 paintings and drawings, books, films, photos and objects, *Silent Partners* tells the story of the artist's mannequin. It is open to 25 January.

*Treasured Possessions* shows incredibly beautiful hidden items from the Fitzwilliam. See silks, silver, jewels, porcelain, shoes, armour, embroideries, fans, pocket-watches and tiny keep-



sakes, most from the amazing rarely seen reserve collections in the Museum. It is open from 24 March to 6 September.

Alongside, we also have a show of stunning miniature gold and jewelled boxes from the Victoria & Albert Museum's Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Collection.

In 2016 the Museum will be celebrating its 200 year anniversary. This year we will be announcing a series of exhibitions and events to mark the occasion!

We hope you can visit us soon. The Museum's normal opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday and entry is free. Find out more at [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk).

***Fitzwilliam Museum News Team***





They are  
all life-savers.  
**Are you?**

**Sessions in Newmarket:**

**Friday 2 January**

9.45 – 12.30 & 14.15 – 16.15

King Edward Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket

**Monday 16 February**

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

Newmarket Leisure Centre, Ewing Road

**Monday 9 March**

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

King Edward Memorial Hall, High Street, Newmarket

**Sessions in Burrell:**

**Friday 13 February**

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

Burrell Community Sports Centre, Buntings Path

**Sessions in Cherry Hinton**

**Friday 27 February**

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

Cherry Hinton Village Centre, Colville Road

**Sessions in Cambridge City:**

**Tuesday 27 February &**

**Wednesday 4 March**

9.45 – 12.30 & 14.00 – 16.00

**Wednesday 11 February, Wednesday 18 March &**

**Tuesday 31 March**

13.00 – 15.15 & 16.30 – 19.00

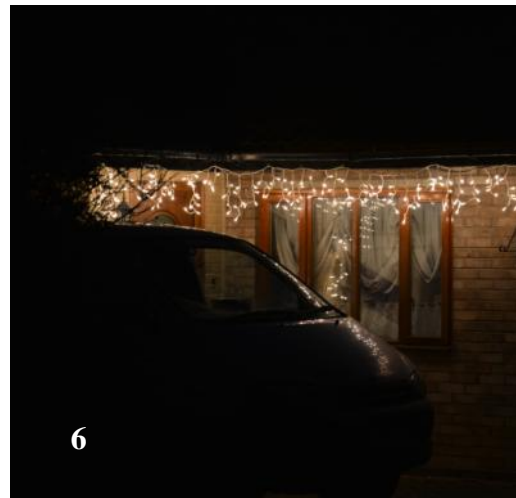
Wesley Methodist Church, Christ's Pieces

Appointments are strongly recommended. Please call or visit the website.

**Save a life – give blood**

Visit [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk) or call 0300 123 23 23









**Where can you find these Christmas lights? And what's your vote for the best? Answers top the Editors for January 18! (See also cover (no 1) and page 31.)**



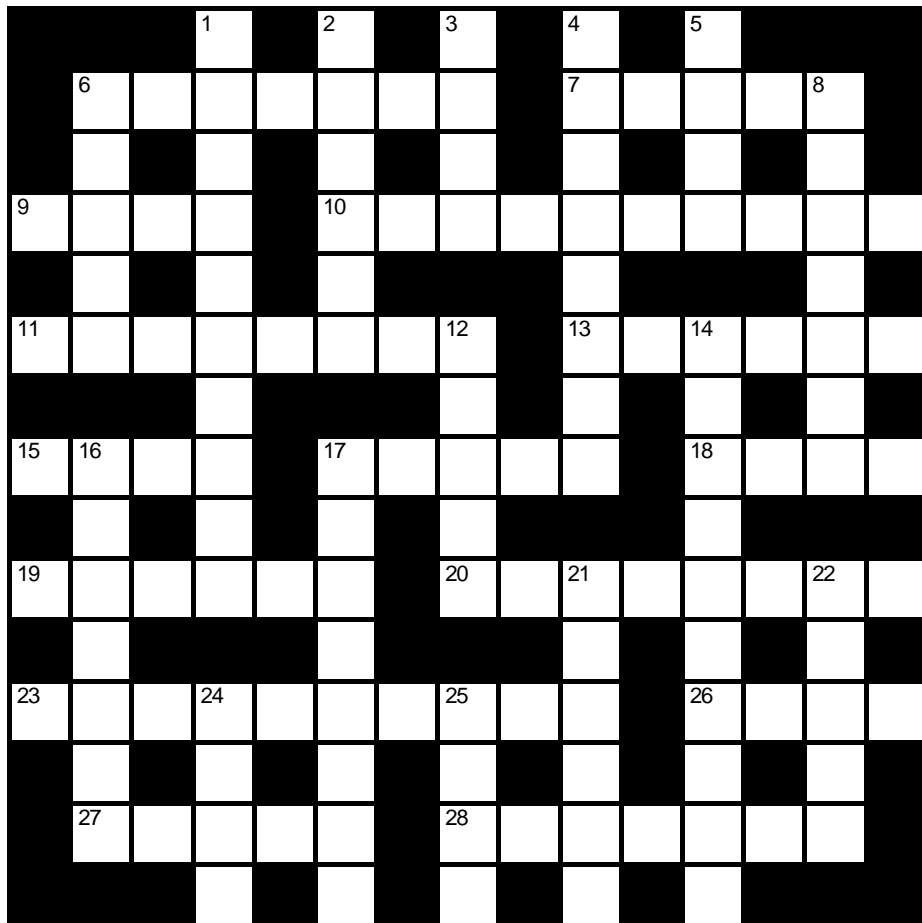
# Crossword Number 116

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

**OUNCE**

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

- 6 Element; thimblefuls fell out at sixes and sevens (7)
- 7 Spirit discovered in cricket hostelry (5)
- 9 Brew of black tea for second Greek (4)
- 10 Workman Ted designs for low income consumers (10)
- 11 Melodramatic Latin works lead to twitch (8)
- 13 Prove false that one left ruined feature (6)
- 15 Bouncer at formal dance? (4)
- 17 Merriment ensues when confused humorist loses sou (5)
- 18 Tight tangled locks (4)
- 19 Pitmen reportedly underage (6)
- 20 Asters picked from ill-made personal estate by impala for example (8)
- 23 Queen repeatedly whoops about engine unit (10)
- 26 Bread made from sodium (there and back) (4)
- 27 Incite or face mistake? (3,2)
- 28 Strangely I'm in Milan as little as possible (7)

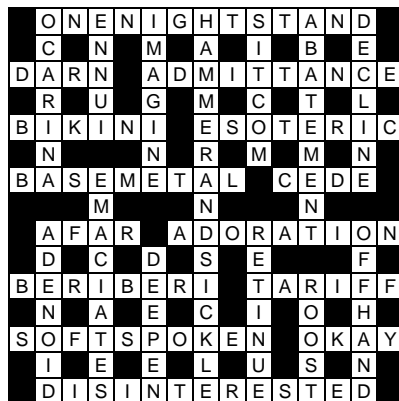
## Down

- 1 "French shoe?" Sal replied uncertainly (10)
- 2 Expert wordplay before 501 meet end of August (6)
- 3 Demonstrate that it must go on (4)
- 4 Smear distressed chambermaids bereft by Adam... (8)
- 5 ...Blacken cleaner (4)
- 6 Sound of expletive deleted in

unsuitable episode (5)

- 8 Add sugar to stew and stir in three directions (7)
- 12 About Charlotte; I really can't analyse in brief (5)
- 14 Male infamy destroys cognomen (6,4)
- 16 Found fat toad I posed on leaf (7)
- 17 Feel the absence of writing implement model wasted (8)
- 21 Wearying, it comes back to circle (6)
- 22 Quiet nobleman is shade of white (5)
- 24 Enid vanishes from San Diego for rum pudding (4)
- 25 Member follows Women's Institute - what a weakling! (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 115



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Robert Nunn and Sue Richards.



## Mothers' Union

Helen Banyard came to talk to us about 'Mothers' Union - Faith & Policy.' The Mothers' Union is grounded in prayer, worship and friendship. It was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a clergyman's wife and now has 93,000 UK members and 4 million members from 83 countries worldwide. The main aim is to advance Christian values in family life. We were shown a chart which showed that the roots of the Mothers' Union is in its Groups and Branches. Four people work in the Faith & Policy office and, among other things, magazines such as 'Labelled for life - managing the commercial world as a family' are produced to help families with advice. We are responsible for our own finances. In 2011 'Bye Bye Childhood' was started. The commercial world is eroding the natural course of childhood. The Prime Minister, David Cameron, asked the Mothers' Union to review the exploitation and sexualisation of children. We were given a circular '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.' We support local services i.e. womens' refuges that offer support to victims and survivors. Victims often hide signs of abuse and care and kindness are very important when helping them. The MU website is [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) if anyone would like to find out more information. Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30 in Lode Chapel. On 15th January 2015 the Rev. Sue Giles will be taking a Communion Service, you are most welcome to come along and join us. We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

*Jill Jenyns*  
01223811204



### 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: 10<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> February (black tie optional), 14<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May (black tie optional)

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

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

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

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



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE GARDENERS  
PROGRAMME FOR 2015

Tuesday 20 January	Rob Brett	'More Delights about Plants'
Tuesday 17 February	Philip Whaites	'Wimpole Garden Vision'
Tuesday 17 March	Geoff Hales	'Gardeners Joy'
Tuesday 21 April	Barry Gayton	'The Scented Garden and Glasshouse'
Tuesday 19 May	Herbal Haven	'Herbs in General' 'Herbs in Folk Law and Legend'
Tuesday 9 June	Evening visit to Upwater Lodge, Cambridge	
Sunday 28 June	Coach outing to Helmingham Hall Gardens	
Tuesday 14 July	Evening visit to Netherhall Manor, Soham	
Tuesday 20 October	AGM	
Tuesday 17 November	Andrew Sankey	'Pot Luck'

Indoor meetings at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of Summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership £15 per person.

New members and Visitors always welcome £3 per evening.

Chairman/Treasurer: Peter Hart 01638 741681

Joint Secretaries: Margaret Joyce and Mary Hart 01638 744390/741681

## BON MOT NUMBER FIFTY

"However often gardeners are told that digging  
is bad for the soil and bad for the back,  
people cannot give it up."

*Anne Wareham*

# News from Bottisham Patients' Group

## 24-hour Blood Pressure Monitor

Our fund raising is off to a good start towards the £1500 needed to pay for this machine, otherwise known as an Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor (ABPM), for Bottisham Medical Practice so that patients can have the monitor fitted at the surgery and their GP can have quick access to the readings. Monitoring blood pressure is a crucial factor in keeping people with long term medical conditions healthy. Details of how you can donate are on the PG noticeboard in the waiting room where the red collection bucket awaits your contributions. Your donations of whatever amount will be very welcome, in cash or cheque - cheques should be made out to 'Bottisham Patients' Group'. We don't have a deadline for reaching our target, but the sooner it's reached the sooner patients won't have to spend half a day, twice, going to Adenbrooke's to have their blood pressure monitored. Watch out for other opportunities to contribute to this fund.

## More money for General Practice

Here's proof that it's worth lobbying our politicians for improvements to the service we receive from our GPs. The Autumn Statement on December 3rd saw a major announcement about funding for patient care in general practice – with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, confirming that a £1bn fund has been established to invest in GP infrastructure over four years. The chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) said, *"Together we have put pressure on the government to take action. As well as money targeted at GP infrastructure, the Chancellor announced that an extra £1.5bn will be directed to front line health services. The Chancellor's announcement shows that the government has listened to our concerns and agrees that general practice provides excellent value for money – with RCGP research showing that for every £1 of additional investment made in general practice, £5 is saved in other parts of the NHS. We also need urgent action to tackle the workforce crisis facing general practice. Only by recruiting 8,000 more GPs – as well as other staff – over the next five years will we be able to cut waiting times and ensure that practices can provide more flexible opening hours. Due to the fact that our population is growing larger and older, we are already 3-4,000 short of the number of GPs we need. To help keep the pressure up, if you have not already done so please use our online tool to lobby your MP, which you can find at*

*<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/campaign-home/get-involved/write-to-your-local-politician.aspx>"*

## Getting involved in the Patients' Group

The Patients Group is your group and the committee members are patients of the practice like you. We meet 6 times a year on the fourth Thursday of every other month, at 6.30 - 8pm at Downing Court, Swaffham Bulbeck. Our next meeting is on 22nd January 2015. There are vacancies for committee members so if you might be interested in joining us and would like to know more, please contact our Secretary Jenny Langdon at [patientsgroup@outlook.com](mailto:patientsgroup@outlook.com) and arrange to come to one of our meetings.

## Health Walking Group

There will be two PG walks in January, led by Steve Gilson, our accredited walk leader, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting from the surgery car park at 11.00 am. Anglesey Abbey walks continue weekly on Thursdays from the Visitors' Centre starting at 10.00 am. All patients are welcome on all these walks.

## Wishing you a happy, healthy and peaceful 2015

There is a lot of information about keeping warm and staying healthy during the winter months, e.g. at <http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/winterhealth/pages/winterhealthhome.aspx>. If you still haven't had your 'flu jab phone the Practice on 01223 810030 to book an appointment. If you need urgent medical care overnight, at weekends or during bank holidays please phone Urgent Care Cambridgeshire on 111.

*Bottisham Patients' Group Committee*

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May I close  
the discus-  
sion on the  
garden with  
this contri-  
bution?

Ophir

## My Garden?

A garden is a love-some thing. Or not!

Plot of Veg.

Fringed pool.

Lots of hedge.

But as a rule,

There's always somewhere a snooping critic who'll

Contend it's not -

Not tidy enough? No garden tool

They claim, has recently been used in its proximity;

Though they decently take care; to guard well their anonymity

*Ophir*

With thanks to T.E.Brown

## **NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

- Public Notices & Parish Council documents
- Current Planning Applications
- Dencora Field housing project (CLT)
- Street light replacement project
- Parish Council meetings & finances
- Contacts & useful links

[www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc](http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc)

### **RASP Change-Over**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of RASP was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December in Reach Village Hall. It was a well attended meeting with some very positive discussion. The outcome was a unanimous vote in favour of the service being passed over to Air Broadband ('Air') to run, while RASP changes to become an organisation that simply represents the views of its members on broadband access issues.

As a Committee we fully believe that this is the very best way forward for our broadband service given the continuing uncertainties of the Connecting Cambridgeshire project which may in time provide pockets of quality coverage, but is extremely unlikely to provide any improvement to many of our members.

The changeover will be seamless and members will start receiving notifications so that payments can be made to Air directly, but in the interim we'll keep our accounts open and work with them to ensure the transition is as easy and simple as possible. Air has full-time technicians (rather than our service which was entirely reliant on volunteers) so users should see an improvement in response times to problems etc. New installations are all contracted out so no question of the 'who is available on Saturday' as hitherto with RASP. Increased resilience is also likely to result in due course, e.g. with a direct link from Air's fibre at the top of Ely Cathedral to our mast in Reach and/or the one on St Cyriac's, meaning that if someone digs up the fibre, we will still remain online.

The minutes of the meeting are on the RASP website (<http://www.raspnet.co.uk>). If you have any questions, please email the Committee ([committee@raspnet.co.uk](mailto:committee@raspnet.co.uk)). The existing support email addresses ([support@reach-village](mailto:support@reach-village) etc) will now go to Air Broadband (please see <http://www.airbroadband.co.uk/> for direct contact details) and will be responded to by them.

A welcome message, with all contact details has been sent to members in the last few days from Air Broadband.

May we take the opportunity to thank you for your support over the years.

Best Wishes,

***The RASP Committee***



## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

### BAMBOOS FOR BEAUTY AND BUILDING

The tallest member of the grass family, bamboos may now be ubiquitous thanks to the popularity of TV gardening makeover shows in the 1990s, but it is not so long ago that bamboos were considered too exotic for UK cultivation. It was Richard I Lynch, Curator of the Botanic Garden at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who established in 1884 what he claimed to be the first hardy ornamental bamboo garden in the country.

These mature clumps still thrive in their original spot as marshes either side of the way in to the Bog Garden and are particularly to be enjoyed in winter. The upright stems or culms provide strong vertical patterns, most often in lime or bottle green, but also available in ebony black or rich gold, and the clumps knock out a little percussion in winter breezes. The individual bamboo [culms](#) emerge from the ground at their full diameter and grow to their full height in a single [growing season](#). In the two or three years that follow the stems thicken, which heals the many penknife messages and declarations of love left on the culms by our visitors – a sort of bamboo billboard! Let's hope the actual sentiments outlast their bamboo engravings!



Due to the thick rhizome mat (you will note the thick rhizome barriers we have installed to try to keep the more expansionist species in their allotted space), bamboos are some of the fastest-growing plants in the world - some species of tropical bamboo can grow 70cm or more in a day. This quality, combined with a [tensile strength](#) that rivals steel, makes bamboo a versatile construction material throughout its Asian distribution range. We are now assisting University researchers in investigating ways to a greener and more sustainable future by cultivating a range of common and rarer bamboo species which will be subjected to structural tests. This will inform a study comparing the strength and environmental impact of different bamboo species in order to evaluate the potential of bamboo for reducing emissions in the construction sector, which accounts for almost 40% of carbon dioxide emissions globally.

The Botanic Garden is open from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 10–4, February and March 10–5. Admission charges to the Botanic Garden from the 1 January 2015 are as follows: - Adult: £5.00, adult Gift aid £5.50. Concession: £4.50, Gift aid concession £4.95.

Please visit the website for details at [www.botanic.cam.ac.uk](http://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk).

# **Notes from Parish Council Meeting**

## **11<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

Peter Hart chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 4 members of the public in attendance.

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

**Public Participation:**

None.

**Reports:**

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:**

*Damaged High Street sign:* Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed this had been reported for repair.

**Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:**

Balfour Beatty – street lighting: Notification of street lighting works in the New Year including copies of design maps. A representative from Balfour Beatty is to attend the January 2015 Parish Council meeting to outline and discuss plans.

ECDC – Planning approval received for:

Land off Rogers Road – proposed development of 20No buildings

7 Rogers Road – erection of single storey porch to front of property

ECDC – Tree works approval received for:

- The Old Vicarage, 72 High Street.

- SP C of E Community Primary School, Station Road.

General – notification from National Trust of closure to carry out repairs to Reach Lodge Bridge.

General – Peter Hart reported Karen King's resignation as Clerk to the Parish Council.

**Consideration of Planning Application for 15 Cage Hill – construction of 2 new dwellings and associated works. Ref: 14/01170/FUL:**

It was agreed to consider this application as an additional agenda item in order to meet ECDC's close date for comments. Following consideration, the Clerk was asked to reply to ECDC with the comment that it was the majority view that parts of the proposal were too high for existing street scene.

**Rogers Road Development – ECDC consultation on Road Names:**

A copy of ECDC's guidelines on street names was circulated prior to meeting.

Following discussion, two further names were suggested; Peter Allix Close and

William Ambrose Close. As explained by Geoffrey Woollard, both names have close historical links with the village. As these are again full names of people, it was suggested that to comply with ECDC's guidelines they could be shortened to Allix Close and Ambrose Close.

#### **Accounts for Payment:**

These were agreed.

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

*Mud on Headlake Drove:* Complaint received about the amount of mud left on the road following the harvest of maize and leeks. David Almond told the meeting that the mud would shortly be cleared but said the road surface was in a poor condition making it very difficult. There followed discussion on who was responsible for repairs to the road. Clerk to follow up with CCC.

#### **Reports:**

David Almond expressed concerns about the condition of the footpath and lack of lighting by St Cyriacs. Clerk was to write to PCC to see what could be done to improve things to ensure people's safety. Andrew Camps told the meeting that the lighting was already being looked at by the PCC. To follow on from this, there was discussion on the breaking up of the roadway from Green Head Road and the churning of the grass verges by vehicles.

#### **Open Question Time:**

Further discussion on footpaths.

**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, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

#### **Future meeting dates:**

12<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. *All are welcome to attend.*

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

**[karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:karen.king@swaffham-prior.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/](http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/)**



## Living in Hope

For the last five years one of my annual challenges to myself has been to see how many different species of British birds I can see in the year. This is good fun and gives me a focus for my birdwatching, which is one of my main interests. My target each year is to see two hundred different species. I've never managed it yet! To put that into some sort of perspective, the current record for the number of species in a year is 386. To do that you have to be prepared, at a moment's notice, to drop everything and travel anywhere from the Scillies to the Outer Hebrides to try and spot a rare migrant! Needless to say I have neither the time, the money or the inclination to do that! The best I have managed is 195, but that included a special guided birdwatching holiday in Scotland. This year so far I have 192, with three weeks to go before my time runs out and I have to start all over again on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Can I possibly see eight more different species in that time? I doubt it very much, but you never know, and I live in hope. And if not this year, perhaps next year?

Last evening, at our weekly get-together, a group of men from RE:NEW were discussing the nature of the hope we have as Christians. Hope is at the very heart of the Christian faith. Not just hope that there might actually be something beyond this life, but that there is something which can transform and renew our lives right now, bringing meaning and real hope into the present. In our discussion we wondered if hope was a strong enough word, and whether expectancy, or expectation, might better – more positively and dynamically – express what we mean by our Christian hope.

The New Testament includes a letter from Peter, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, in which he writes: *'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...'* [1 Peter. Chapter 1, verse 3] Through faith in Jesus the living hope we have is a living expectation. Another New Testament writer put it this way: *'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'* [Hebrews. Chapter 11, verse 1]

My hope of getting my 200 birds this year is practically zero! My expectancy of a future which is beyond anything I can imagine is 100%!

May 2015 be a year for you in which you find a living hope to sustain you through whatever the future may hold for you. We at RE:NEW wish you a very Happy New Year! We would love to welcome you at any of our meetings and we would love to share with you the reason for the hope we have. Why not let 2015 be the year when you come and see what we call 'The Bigger Picture'?

Peter Wells.

### RE:NEW Services in January 2015.

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

*4 January 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School) With Holy Communion*

*11 January 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)*

*11 January 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)*

*18 January 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)*

*25 January 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)*

*25 January 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](mailto:pandawells@cheerful.com)*

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

## **FREecycle**



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

### **Offered**

Half-loaf bread-machine (Hinari HB174) - unused; Used 4-man Vango dome tent (not waterproof anymore, but would suit fair weather!); Electric hedge-trimmer (Black& Decker – used once, but can't find the charger!). Andy/Jun c813362

Welsh dresser – pine, lower 3 cupboards; upper 2 cupboards with glass fronts, central with shelves. Dismantles into 2 for transport. Jacqui c811190

### **Wanted**

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.

An African or Bongo Drum, Nicole 812363

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

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

Dear Friends,

We all need opportunities to make changes and to try new things and what better time than the beginning of a new year. The changing date is a marker in the sand, which allows both individuals and organisations to begin new things. We might decide to adopt a new lifestyle or to change the way we do things and an



organisation might try new marketing strategies or develop a new focus. Change is an important feature of all living things and organisms that are unable to change and adapt to new circumstances are often the organisms that cease to exist.

The church, as the body of Christ, is a living thing. As such there are times when it is important for this family to change and to do things in a new way or with a new focus. It is sometimes a difficult balance to achieve. On the one hand there are the constant truths of God's love and holiness and the values of his kingdom, and on the other hand there is a need to present these truths afresh in each generation and to worship God in a way that honours him and inspires and engages modern communities. Through Advent our community pom pom art installation in Swaffham Bulbeck church captured people's imagination and allowed them to see in a tangible way the rich and diverse community that God has called us to be. In this coming year we are going to review the worship that is offered in the benefice to see how we can preserve what is good and of value whilst offering new things that might be of interest and help to those not immediately involved in the life of God's family.

One change is that for the first half of the year we will be holding a benefice service for all five churches in the group twice a month instead of the present once a month. Every second and forth Sunday we will meet together in each village in turn. The villages have their own arrangements to help people to travel to these services so please do not be put off for lack of transport. The church wardens can give you more information. It is a great way to meet Christians from the other villages and to recognise that we a part of something much bigger than our local church. Taking time to worship and study together will release energy and give us the opportunity to develop new worship. Families@5 is one of those opportunities. The worship is designed to be welcoming for families with children and gives them the opportunity to be involved in activities and to pray in ways that help them to talk with God. Families @5 is on the first Sunday of every month at 5pm in Swaffham Bulbeck School. Maybe this New Year you might like to come and find out more about the God who loves you; it would be the perfect moment to start something new.

*Sue Giles*

## **Church Services in January**

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior  
unless otherwise indicated

### **Sunday 4 January, Epiphany**

11am          Matins

### **Sunday 11 January, Baptism of Christ**

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

### **Sunday 18 January, second Sunday of Epiphany**

11am          Family Service with Baptism

### **Sunday 25 January, Conversion of Paul**

10am          Benefice Service – 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

**11**



## Dates for Your Diary January 2015

Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm. VH
Fri	9	
Sat	10	Let's Dance, 7.30-10.30pm, BVC
Sun	11	
Mon	12	
Tue	13	
Wed	14	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Vilolage Gardeners, VH, 8pm
Wed	21	
Thu	22	Coffee Morning, 5, Lower End, 10.30—12 noon Mothers' Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel

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