



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XXXIX Number 3

March 2015



Editorial

ALWAYS, ALWAYS IN THIS VILLAGE, events are never a patch on what they used to be. But now finally comes our chance to reverse this back-sliding as regards our Village Feast. This year, it will be the Summer Solstice Celebration, and YOU are needed! If you remember what used to be done that might be done again, who has possession of essential items of equipment, have plans for new ventures, or are just simply good at organising/would like to lend a hand, then ring Mike (see page 9) and book your place on the Committee, which with any luck will have to convene a great many times in the Red Lion, a great hardship, of course.....

Now, from another lynch-pin of our community: St Mary's. Although, when it comes to the Church of England, there are some people (not a million miles from here...) who still mutter darkly about *Ann Boleyn*, most of us have forgotten all about that and would be very sorry to see St Mary's under-used. So, if you are a church-goer, perhaps think about going a bit more often? Irrespective of religious views we would all be completely *sunk* without it (just look at our events pages), and anyone who's met our vicar Sue Giles (brilliant, quite possibly our best vicar ever) will realise they will be well-rewarded.

Happy endings for Natalie and Tom Comins, who would like to thank everybody who searched for their lost cat, and which eventually showed up in a barn in Wilbraham! How did it do that? Well possibly, it accidentally got itself transported to Fulbourn by dozing off in a trailer, and was then just on its way back by paw....



That dozy cat, dozing

Lastly, the Crier would like to pay tribute to Francis Reeks,

who sadly passed away this month after many years delivering for us, among a great many other activities. He too was a lynch-pin of our community. He will be sorely missed.

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Roman Girl in a Bikini* (see page 12)



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Mill Hill Roundabout

The February *Crier* Parish Council reporter says they were rebuffed by someone on the PC during question time at the last meeting for raising the issue of a roundabout on Mill Hill, being told that the rationale for a roundabout “wasn’t all about Mill Hill residents.” First of all, if it isn’t, at the very least it should mostly be about them - they are the ones who live there.

Second: if, as the reporter was told, the “rationale for the roundabout are (sic) concerns over safety and speeding vehicles” then it IS mostly about the residents of Mill Hill, for precisely the same reason: they live there. The PC should prioritise the interests of those residents in considering what impact any change intended to be an ‘improvement’ might make on the site.

Third: there is no price or trade-off to be put upon polluting people’s homes. I entirely support Dee Noyes’ letter in a recent *Crier*. Vehicle emissions are a particularly nasty and insidious type of pollution; when unleaded petrol was introduced well over 20 years ago an expert in petrochemicals who worked with fuel blending for engine testing told me there was nothing ‘green’ about the new fuel, that the colour change of pump handles to green was an utter travesty – all they’d done was remove one of the major pollutants while all the rest continued to be pumped out at the same rate. Vehicle emission pollutants build up in the body causing long term chronic illnesses and cancer, and of course contribute to asthma and other breathing conditions. Increase air pollution, you get polluted more. No argument.

So nothing billed as a traffic ‘improvement’ in a small village should include an increase in pollution to some homes because others believe a different traffic flow is ‘better’. You can’t trade a factor **known** to cause illness for something you **think** changes a risk level. Health and Safety law does not permit such tradeoffs in the workplace; so should it be where people live.

And I’ll add that I do not believe a single member of the Parish Council would vote for any change to the village roads that would increase traffic pollution in their own street and reduce air quality in their own home, nor do I believe those on the PC would vote for more traffic noise outside their homes, inevitable when vehicles are made to change speed going through a roundabout. If they would not vote through that to themselves, the PC cannot in all conscience vote through anything that would do it to others.

If you want vehicles to slow more **on approach** to the village, rumble strips are proven to be effective and far less expensive and obstructive than a roundabout; the obvious solution.

Last, the risk: the site is not an accident black spot of note, and it’s not that difficult to get out onto the main road at busy times – I know, I do it. There IS a nasty stretch - between here and Burwell, near the Dyke. From here, a downhill stretch with a hidden dip (no warning sign); drivers putting their foot down leaving Burwell from one end of a one-mile stretch and those flooring it from SP at the other don’t

see each other until near the middle, may pass with a combined speed of up to 150mph. Accidents in recent times tell you it's **there** the road really needs to be looked at. High-speed, very close near misses are common, usually on overtaking; especially those speeding up after slowing – yes, they *do* slow! - through Swaffham Prior. One I saw a year or two back was a resident of Burwell, having driven 180-odd miles from York and close to home; having slowed though Swaffham Prior, overtook a car by the top of Rogers Road, accelerating so fast he spun his car a full circle on an icy road surface and ended up in the field; mercifully for him, the right way up. Get straight, PC members. If you aren't acting for the village residents, who are you trying to push a roundabout for?

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

Our Flag

We are delighted that the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) has granted permission, after a gap of several years, for the flag to be flown again from the tower of St Cyriac's Church. We are indebted to Paul Latchford for taking up the onerous task of climbing the spiral staircase of the tower to raise and lower the flag on these occasions and whose idea it was to reinstate this.

We have drawn up a list of several notable dates that the flag will fly this year, but would be delighted if anyone wishes to suggest any other dates for inclusion (see contact details below).

This month you will see the flag flying on 9th March, which is Commonwealth Day. This year's theme is "A Young Commonwealth" Announcing the theme, Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma said: "People aged 29 or under account for the majority of the Commonwealth's population, and play a vital role at the heart of the sustainable development and democracy. 'A Young Commonwealth' recognises the capacity, contribution and potential of young people, particularly in 2015 when the world will define a new global development framework. The commonwealth is also a family of dynamic countries at the forefront of innovation, growth and contributing global value. As a diverse and increasingly connected global network, we bring fresh perspectives and new ideas. We will always remain a contemporary and young Commonwealth."

I hope that you will enjoy seeing the flag fly once again from St Cyriac's. Further dates will be published each month in the Crier with the day that the flag is commemorating.

Janet Willmott

janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk

07833 960678

Dear Editors,

War Through Our Windows

Swaffham Prior School is working with Gordon Phillips and Nicky Stockman on a Heritage Lottery funded project entitled "War Through Our Windows." The work continues for the rest of the academic year and entails researching the lives of those from Swaffham Prior and Reach who died in the war.

Files for each soldier have already been developed giving the basic details of their lives and military careers. Local residents will not be surprised to learn that virtually all of those who fought had previously worked on farms, many as "horsemen."

Moving stories have already been uncovered; for example Percy Millard and Alfred Whitmore have consecutive military numbers, so they joined up together, right at the beginning of the war, in the "Cambridge" battalion of the Suffolk regiment, the 11th Suffolks. This "Pals" battalion had its first main battle on July 1st, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme; the battalion was virtually destroyed, Alfred dying on the day and his friend some ten days later of his wounds.

Three soldiers died in the very last week of the war, including Percy Benstead, whose photograph is on the poster the school has produced, asking local residents for any information they might have about these gallant people. They would also welcome any information about any of those who served.

There is a facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/War-Through-Our-Windows/911157775575393?ref=hl or the school phone number is 01638 741529

The pupils will be writing and producing a drama based on their findings. This will be performed in the summer, more details to come.

Gordon Phillips

Dear Editors,

Refugees from Bottisham Swimming Pool

We have, in addition to the facilities at Impington Village College, also sampled both Abbey Pool <http://www.better.org.uk/leisure/abbeyleisurecomplex/> and Newmarket Leisure Centre <http://www.angcomleisure.com/>. Abbey is managed on behalf of Cambridge City Council and is not linked to a particular school. The pool is open to the public Monday - Friday 6.30am - 9.45 pm and 8am - 8pm at weekends. During school hours it is sometimes shared with local schools. The session we went to had one lane in the main pool dedicated to school use for part of the time while the public used the remainder. Getting into and out of the main pool is by upright ladders. We joined for a one off £5 payment giving access at a reduced rate to Abbey, Parkside, and (although thankfully not at this time of year) Jesus Green open air pool for a twelve month period. Abbey is accessible by public transport and is on City route 3. We found the water temperature a little on the cool side and someone we met elsewhere also mentioned this to us. Newmarket Leisure is linked to Newmarket Academy and managed on their behalf. There is no joining fee and there are

daily monthly or annual rates with concessions for the over 60's. It is open to the public from 6am - 10 pm Mondays to Fridays, 6 - 5.30pm on Saturdays and 8 - 4.30pm on Sundays. During school days it has certain dedicated times for school swimming and has some sessions for particular groups (e.g. ladies only, adults only). There are easy access steps into the pool (ask if they are not in position) and a hoist for those with disabilities as well as upright ladders. We have now been there about 4 times and the water temperature has always been comfortable. The three hairdryers have all been working each time we have been there. The Sports Centre's Montage café/bar provides a good range of lunches at a reasonable price so, thankfully, you can undo all the good you've done after your swim unless you choose one of their healthier options. It is on the route of the number 10 bus if you don't mind a slow trip through the villages and is also conveniently opposite the hospital.

Both facilities have communal changing areas but there are separate private shower cubicles. Lockers take returnable £1 coins. They also have a separate teaching/training pool. Staff and technology at the entrance ensure entry is controlled and payment is made.

Our experiences of the above facilities and of Impington demonstrate that it should be entirely possible for schools which have the benefit of community sports facilities to make those facilities accessible to the public during school hours and we hope BVC will make a positive effort to restore public daytime swimming to the community.

***Rich Braun/Ione Evans, 9 Swaffham Road, Lode
CB25 9EZ***

Easter Lilies

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

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

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



Ruth Scovil

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Politically this is going to be an awe inspiring year. Will democracy prevail in Swaffham Prior with the first Parish Council Election for about fifteen years or so? What will happen in the General Election? Will there be a hung parliament with UKIP and/or SNP holding the balance? If UKIP is involved we'll be able to smoke in pubs and restaurants again. If SNP is involved they may demand the Scottish language features in official reports. The time may come when the PC report will appear as the following.



Och, ane gey dreich nicht in yon clachan Ah had taken off my baffies and, snell as it was, daunerred in a bit of a dwam toward oor PC convene. A clarty bampot coorred down and clishmaclavered until Ah became crabbit. "Dinna fash yersel" he said, and gaed, with the occasional rift, for another barley-bree. Ah was then cleiked by a fykie comatee member who girmed and yammered until we comed tae the coonsel convene – a wee bit late. The blate heid bummer looked at the knock and was fair cankert. Ah quickly put my bumbaleerie on a sait afore getting a sherrakin.

That's what life under the SNP may be, so I'll give the remainder of this report in English. Let us enjoy whilst we may.

After a rapid despatch of the preliminaries David Brown gave his usual succinct report. This included the unfortunate news that CCC was successful with only two of its 41 requests for government funding for educational projects and Swaffham Prior School was not one. This was balanced by the announcement that David is to receive an award for his work for "children services" for which he has made such a major contribution over the years.

Allen Alderson followed with the amazing news that ECDC has made a £800,000 saving for 2014-15, that the Council is much leaner (but not meaner), and that there will no rate rise for two years. He went on to say that if you have any spare asbestos you need to phone Helen who will give you up to nine special bags and instructions where to take them. "Helen who?" was asked. Allen didn't know; it seems she is always referred to as "Helen". He was asked whether she advises how to remove the asbestos safely and whether it included blue, brown and white asbestos. Allen didn't know but said Helen would oblige. While on waste our Chairman raised his own recent concern with syringes. He needs to dispose of some and, as with obsolete medicine, he took them to Burwell Surgery. "O, you don't bring them here. You fill in this form and send it to ECDC, who will send someone out to collect them." John phoned ECDC who didn't know much about it. (Maybe he should have asked for Helen.) Allen will explore by calling first at Burwell Surgery.

Work is proceeding apace with our new lampposts. But there are about 14 in the village for which the PC (that's us) is responsible and a survey is to be made to see whether any need replacing. The concrete posts are of particular concern. This may turn out to be an expensive adventure. Meanwhile all the chat is about the Heritage Lamppost which is outside Peter and Pat Cook's house and at the top of

Michael Cazenove's driveway. People now stand and stare. Why is it there? Is it a mistake? Has someone used some influence and money (possibly £845) to have it in this position? If neither of the above households is responsible then the reason is inexplicable. Suggestions? Work is also proceeding apace in Lower End with the new housing development and the two names for the entrance roads have now been decided – Foster Lane and Allix Grove. They both have a nice ring to them. A new dog waste bin is being purchased for Coopers Green. Andrew Camps reported that the raising of the flag on the top of St Cyriac's has now been resolved, and soon we shall have a list of the dates when the flag will be raised so that we know when to look up.

Beechdale Energy has written suggesting that several buildings, especially the Village Hall, would benefit from solar panels. Great doubts were expressed – “they look terrible”, etc – but I'm not sure by how many; and no-one stood up and banged the drum for the solar panels, though Geoffrey did mutter that he wouldn't oppose them.

Also in Correspondence was a letter from Amanda Davies (who is ‘*Communications Officer, ASC Personalisation Practice and Safeguarding Team, Adult Social Care*’ which is within ‘*Children, Families and Adults Services*’ in CCC in Shire Hall.) asking for people “to become a meet and greet volunteer for marriage and civil partnership ceremonies.” There is now a notice on the Village notice board asking just that, without any explanation of what is required. After discussing it with others it is supposed that it probably means they are asking for volunteer ushers rather than advice about the good and bad sides of marriage. But one can't be sure.

We still need a replacement for Karen, our Clerk. Several enquiries have been made but no applications had been received by the closing date. It will now be advertised more widely, though it seems it is now very difficult to find Clerks. Few people want the job. Paul wondered whether the job specification is too overwhelming and putting people off. There followed a discussion on the old question whether you don't give the whole specification in the hope that people grow into the job, with the risk that they cannot cope and leave. Or whether you end up finding no one.

In Open Question Time it was suggested that the PC becomes responsible for the award of the Gaye Bullied Award to which the WI has no objection. See next months *Crier* for the history of the award and details how to give your opinion. It was also suggested, because the Mill Hill Traffic Calming is such a hot topic, that this should be the opening subject at the Annual Village Assembly, which is to be held on 25th May, which also happens to be Lady Day. Our very own knowledgeable Traffic Warden will need to attend together with, we hope, a CCC traffic expert to answer all the questions which are sure to be raised. These two suggestions were not instantly rejected; though the proposal for a few bottles of fine wine to oil proceedings appeared to get the thumbs down.

Alastair Everitt

Betty Prime would like to invite you to a

COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon



**Wednesday
18th March 2015**



**1 Adams Road
Swaffham Prior**

Includes a raffle and a free chat !!

*All proceeds to
ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH*



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

PS. Still time to order your Simnel Cake for Easter Sunday, call Janet on 07833 960678. £12.50 each, last orders 27th March. Proceeds to St. Mary's Church.

Summer Solstice Celebration

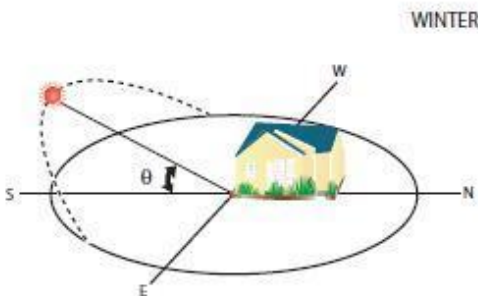
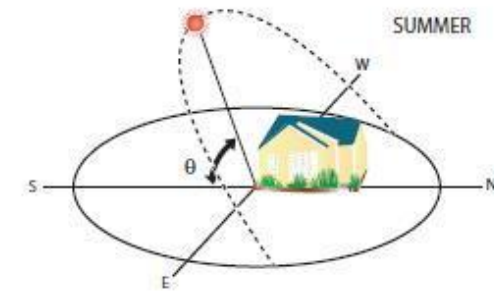
This year's Village Feast will be held on Saturday 20th June.

The solstice marks the first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, and that means shorts, ice cream and barbecues. In southern England, thousands will flock to

Stonehenge to see the sun rise from the vantage point of that 4,000-year-old solar monument. In Swaffham Prior, dozens will make the annual pilgrimage to the Village Hall to knock over bottles for prizes, bowl for glory and fire teddy bears into the summer sky.

The summer solstice is a time of celebration for Christians and Pagans alike. In Christianity, the festival of St. John the Baptist marks the first day of summer, and in Paganism, followers celebrate "midsummer" with feasts.

This year's Feast will herald the start of our fundraising efforts to make significant improvements to the fabric of the Village Hall: our proposed changes will be on display in the Hall. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions.



We expect to have a huge range of activities for all ages, and would be most grateful for assistance with cake-baking, plant-growing, stall-manning, and the myriad of other things that go into making the Feast a wonderful and memorable event.

If you can spare an hour or two of your time, or if you have ideas for exciting new events, please contact us by email at mcarrington@me.com, or by phone on 01638 741659.

For science aficionados, the summer solstice occurs when the Earth's axial tilt is inclined toward the sun at 23° 26'; its most extreme. In June, in the Northern Hemisphere, we are tilted toward the sun, giving us longer and hotter days. The winter solstice is in December, and then the Northern Hemisphere tilts away from the sun.

The summer solstice consequently has the greatest number of hours of daylight in the Northern Hemisphere. At this time of the year, the sun rises slightly north of east and sets north of west (see the diagram). This means the sun is in the sky for a longer period of time, yielding more daylight.

The word solstice is derived from the Latin words *sol* (sun) and *stitium* (to stop), because the sun stops getting higher in the sky at midday at the solstice, thereafter



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

POLITICS IN BULBECK

Swaffham Bulbeck has achieved another first. It has beaten the BBC by bringing together for a political debate the local parliamentary candidates from five political parties, including the Greens and UKIP. I was impressed and thought it worthy of a report. But no report of such a meeting can be entirely without bias, though the following is as fair as possible.

Having heard all the 5-minute presentations by the candidates and the ensuing question time I am now convinced that David Cameron is right to insist that the Greens and UKIP must be part of any televised debate. These two parties represent and say what so many in the population think and say, and we must bring it out into the open

I have rated the 5-minute presentations from 0 to 5, with 5 being the highest. This scoring is not only for the manner, style and clarity but also for the coherent content. Conservatives 5, Greens 0, Labour 2, Liberal Democrats 5, and UKIP 0 (the candidate read from a prepared script). The Cs and LDs possibly fared better because they are part of government and adopted what appeared to be a reasoned sensible approach, one being a Cambridge educated barrister and the other an experienced candidate and councillor. They appeared to focus on real issues and appreciated there is often no easy answer.

The Gs and Us were less experienced and tended to shoot from the hip with a scattergun blast of options, complaints, and ideological opinions. We may know where they are coming from, but not where they are going – at present. Labour on the other hand presented quite well but reflected the current confused leadership/policy of his party. It will be most interesting to see whether the distinction I make will be reflected in the national television debates.

I was fortunate to be sitting between two very eminent gentlemen, one a resident from Bulbeck and the other from Soham. They were interesting. When the long meeting became slow or boring, the one went back to his crossword. While the other, often twitching, could not resist the occasional barracking. I was also sitting behind a pew, which looked as if rats (or maybe the devil) had been chewing great chunks out of that particular piece of wood. Most eerie and disturbing.

The chairman was the Chairman of Bulbeck Parish Council and he obviously enjoyed the role and “pushing” the candidates to answer the question when they strayed. Below I report on a selection of the questions being asked, with my comments in brackets. Because this copied the television format no questions or comments were allowed from the audience. All candidates generally performed well, and were polite to each other

The first question was A) Views on same sex marriage. All thought individuals have the right to form their own relationships, but all to a large extent sympathised with the reluctance of the Church to agree (are we not all the children of God?). B) Should we sell arms to Saudi Arabia. All thought this reprehensible (no one dared to mention the possible resulting unemployment). C) Views on assisted dying. All wanted to avoid the possibility of someone being coerced to agree to die. (This was

probably wise as most of the audience were quite elderly). D) NHS funding. All promised to keep the NHS as it is and to provide extra money in five different ways. (No one dared to say that our NHS is unsustainable, and that at least we should explore the European style of funding as in Holland and Germany, with the possibility of introducing it).

It was a very good meeting in the rather lovely Bulbeck Church. My final comment is that, whether it is private or public funding, something must be done to improve the sound system, which rasped, spluttered and choked during the whole proceedings.

The five candidates are Lucy Frazer (Conservative) ; Clive Semmens (Green) ; Huw Jones (Labour) ; Jonathon Chatfield ; (Liberal Democrats) and Deborah Renzie (UKIP).

In the Chair was Ian Woodroffe.

AE

PS. The Editor of the Ely Standard had also attended the meeting together with his photographer and also his tape recorder. Visit the Ely Standard of the 12th February on line for many pictures and several pages of report.

Roman Girl in a Bikini (see cover)

It is not quite a 'Page Three' girl, but it is a pretty good stab at it. This is one of the 10 young women exercising on the walls of a room in the Villa Romana del Casale, Sicily. It dates from the 4th century AD.

Before that the Greeks and the Romans had, with their plethora of nude statues, of both sexes, outstripped any of the current 'Page Three' offerings. Phew!

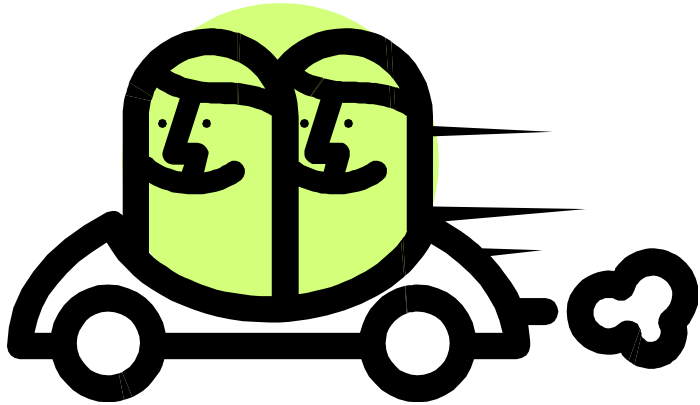
R.M

BON MOT NUMBER FIFTY TWO

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme (SPCCS)



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

If you would like to use this service or **volunteer as a driver** please contact Janet Willmott
07900 351742

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

Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham
Sarah's
“Special Birthday”
Concert

Saturday March 28th 2015
at 7.30 pm

Sarah Maxwell – Soprano
Rosie Mowatt – Guitar
Sally Landymore - Flute
Chris Jones – Piano

*Music by Gilbert & Sullivan, Andrew Lloyd Webber,
Cole Porter, Noel Coward, Cuban & Brazilian com-
posers ... and lots more!*

Tickets: £10 to include refreshments.
All proceeds go to Holy Trinity church.

Not Many People Know

**THAT 52 per cent of those who go to A & E are sent
away without treatment, or given only guidance
and advice. Among the heaviest users are
people in their twenties.**

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.

The programme will include:

- Antonio Lotti – *Crucifixus* à 8
- Thomas Tallis – *Lamentations of Jeremiah*
- Orlando Gibbons – *Drop, drop, slow tears*
- Spiritual, arr. Bob Chilcott – *Were you there?*
- Charles Villiers Stanford – *Beati quorum via*
- Maurice Duruflé – *Quatre Motets sur des themes Grégoriens*, Op. 10

Adrian Batten - *O Sing Joyfully*

Daniel Spreadbury (director)

Refreshments available.

Tickets £10. Children free.

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

www.cantilenasingers.org

A 'Place' in Politics?

or IF

If you can credibly fake '*Sincerity*',
Your future is assured;
If you can listen to '*The question*'
Without showing that you're bored;

If you can respond with some assurance
Leaving '*The question*', effectively ignored;
Whilst passing to much safer ground
Without showing you are '*floored*';
Yet leaving the questioner
Believing that you, - '*Care*'.
Then there's a 'Safe Seat' for you;
And it is out there somewhere - -

And, with practice, it will come - -
You only have to find it - -
You already have the knack
That'll help you '*blind it*'.

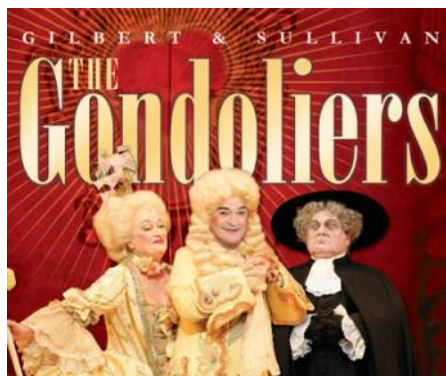
Ophir.

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

is proud to present Gilbert & Sullivan's 'The Gondoliers' in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW, on:

- Wednesday 10 June 2015 at 7.30pm - £9
 - Thursday 11 June 2015 at 7.30pm - £9
 - Friday 12 June 2015 at 7.30pm - £10
- Saturday 13 June 2015 at 2.30pm (matinée) - £6 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets and further information are available via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by contacting Ruth Dennis on 01638 508171.



Forgotten Folk Ballads

SHOALS OF HERRING: THE SEQUEL

Oh it was a drear and unpleasant day
And on salty kippers we were choking,
In a frowsty caff, down by Yarmouth harbour,
For the fishes lacked a proper smoking.

Oh the fish was tough and its smell was strong,
And our breakfast sure it took some bearing,
There was little ketchup, though the chips were many,
As we listened to the owner's swearing.

By the raging seas, in the living gale,
To the next-door pub we were repairing,
For the Adnam's ale, and the bacon sarnies
As we turned our backs on kippered herring.

Wulsin

News from Bottisham Patients' Group

The Red Bucket appeal

We have been raising money to buy a 24-hour blood pressure monitor (ABPM) for use in the Practice since Christmas. So far we've collected £627.01 in the red bucket. However, a very generous patient living in Bottisham has pledged to pay for the monitor outright, for which we and the doctors and nurses are extremely grateful. A particular ABPM has been identified after consulting Addenbrooke's Hospital and we hope it will soon be in use at the surgery. We are left with a considerable sum which can be used to purchase other equipment for the Practice. Whilst the Practice already has the necessary basic equipment to provide good medical care, additional medical equipment like the 24hr Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitor can assist the doctors, nurses and patients with diagnostic tests which otherwise require attendance at Addenbrooke's Hospital. The Practice is currently researching appropriate medical equipment which will further benefit patients. Watch this space and our notice-board at the surgery for more details of how your money will be spent.

Heart Start Session

Seventeen patients attended this session run by the British Heart Foundation on Saturday 7th February at Bottisham surgery. Admittance was free including refreshments, and everyone learned a great deal about how to deal with a life threatening situation should it occur to one of their family or friends. There was plenty of opportunity to practice the techniques as they were explained, as the photo below shows. There are more photos online at www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk/ppg.aspx





Chef taking a well-earned rest on Burn's Night at the Red Lion. Music, Poetry, Haggis, and a great time much enjoyed by all!



WI Notes

The speaker at our February meeting was Peter Norman, a local historian and keen photographer. Peter took us on a photographic walk through Newmarket with both old and present day slides as illustration of how things have changed. It was a fascinating exploration both for those who knew and remembered the area from the older slides to others who were hearing about it for the first time. The slides of the old swimming pools and the chilled looks of the swimmers makes us grateful to have the lovely heated pool at the Leisure centre. Of course no historical talk would be complete without looking at the racecourse and seeing how the crowds have always enjoyed the races and how the facilities have changed over the years. We also saw the damage caused by a wartime bomb and flooding causing chaos in the area. We will all be taking a closer look at our surroundings next time we are heading in that direction.

The next meeting is on 16th March in Swaffham Prior Village Hall. This is our annual meeting when the committee is elected for the forthcoming year. After the business our speaker will be Maureen James talking about the history of Fenland Witches.

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

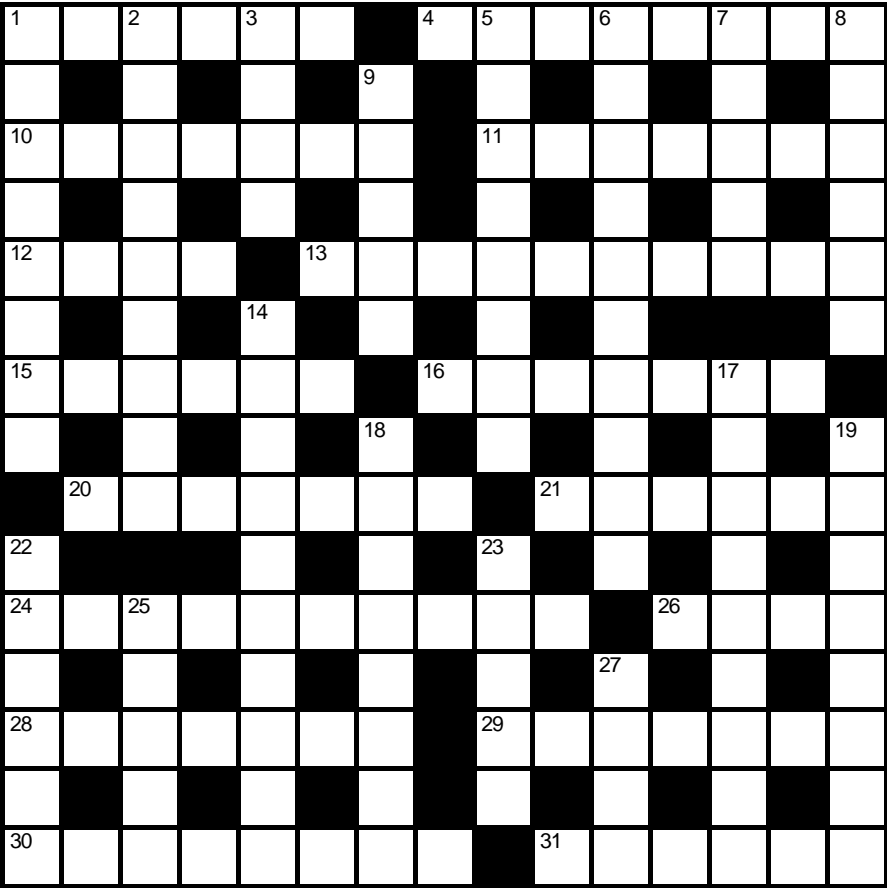
Tel: 01638 742224

Crossword Number 118

Compiled by
NIBOR

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 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 Expire, although once healthy (6)
- 4 Zone improvement plan: rules for finding addresses (3,5)
- 10 Executioner is game (7)
- 11 Course for troubled marines (7)
- 12 Require maiden name before first of December (4)
- 13 Teatime for Australian bird (4,6)
- 15 Simply as one in cathedral city (6)
- 16 At first every big boy tucks into delicious eclairs but then finds water flowing out (7)
- 20 Underwriter will be in for certain before the end of March (7)
- 21 Australian flower used in American cocktail (6)
- 24 Angling to see insect catching its lunch (3-7)
- 26 Start your own low key food store (4)
- 28 Alfresco opera in a mess (4-3)
- 29 My wife finds a moth (3,4)
- 30 Old bloke is missing from disordered riot (8)
- 31 He met drunken date and became angry (6)

Down

- 1 Adjusted and hence improved (8)
- 2 Suspend the queen and her heir and their attendants (7-2)
- 3 Member from Muslim background (4)
- 5 Impress trendy writer (8)
- 6 Benny Hill and Bob Hope on tour get Peanuts perhaps (5,5)
- 7 Wild dog doing wrong (5)

- 8 Butcherbird brings quiet end to war with old US General (6)
- 9 Messenger admits drunken voyages (5)
- 14 Clear up and decorate (10)
- 17 Scent is too darned strange (9)
- 18 Reinvigorating but oddly researching without sin (8)
- 19 Mohican died although he was keen sighted (4-4)
- 22 Have enough for a loud car (6)
- 23 Pungent vegetable found on charged particle (5)
- 25 Give up income (5)

27 Solution to crossword no. 117

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

Line found inside ledger (4)

We congratulate Trish Whitehead & Joan Lunn, the winners of last month's competition, who should collect their prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Christine Carrington, Andrew Houston and Robert & Julie Nunn.

John Norris remembers the Church in 1959

My first impressions of St Mary's Church, was that it was dull, cold and poorly lit. I must admit that it would have been in mid October when we first attended as a family. Rev Francis Hicks was the vicar, and did his best to jolly us along, and keep up attendances. In those days it was expected that the "offices" were said every morning and evening, and that there would have been two services every Sunday.

It amazes me that all the church pews were accommodated in the building as St Cyriacs was almost roofless and contained nothing of value. There were certainly two extra rows in front of the present set up, and perhaps another row at the back. The officiant sat inside the rood screen, even as late as the Rev Mark Howarth's incumbency. This made so much more room at the front.

The choir stalls had wooden chairs with rush seats. Most of these were riddled with woodworm, and burned shortly after my arrival, and replaced by two black pews on each side. The Altar Table was placed against the Rood Screen, so that the celebrant had to face east. This made that area more spacious, and in my opinion the best option. We all knew what was going on at the Altar, and the present way of watching it all does take away some of the mystery of the ritual.

Of course the curtains there today were not necessary, and the pokerwork panels, although rather dull, did complement the rest of the building. The candlesticks had been nickel plated as this had been considered to require less cleaning. But no they looked awful after several years, and I had them re-brassed, and even today, fifty years later they still look splendid, as does the Altar Cross.

The lighting in the east of the church was by three twelve inch glass bowls, and a 150 watt lamp in the middle of each. These gave reasonable light but required the Electricity Board Engineers to replace the bulbs, which did not last all that long. How the chancel was lit before the electric came I do not know, and is one of the many things not recorded, but which are interesting.

Under the window opposite the organ was a sword, and nearby the "Sam Brown" from which it hung. Many did not like these items from a recent war, and one day they disappeared. The hooks on which they hung are still there.

The rood screen was refurbished in the nineteen sixties, as it was very dirty and lacking in polish. It took four weeks to complete the work, but made a huge improvement. One reason for the renovation was that the dust from the nave floor sanding went everywhere, even with many dustsheets. On the top of this screen was the place where the electric organ speakers were placed behind a black cloth screen. Cohn Wastell had built and given this high technological organ for his fun, and our benefit. The sound and quality was superb, totally different to play and listen to from the simple second-hand pipe organ that was there. As with many things, it lost the interest of many, and the black cloth did not endear it to the ladies, so it went.

The pews received our attention next. The black paint was removed by soaking with caustic soda, and elbow grease to remove it. One at a time they went to Anglesey house, where the treatment was performed, and any repairs made. The pulpit had to be cleaned in the church, as that too was black. Several years later

we had to put a wider base on it, as it fell over with a schoolmaster inside!

Heating such a large space as the church is not easy. The old system had a coke furnace in the cellar under the vestry with hot air pipes under the floor of the nave. This hypocaust was quite clever in that the draft moving the air was regulated by shutters in the outside walls, one on the south side, and one near the boiler- room. The chute for the coke is still there, but everything else has been removed. There was a similar system in St Cyriacs, and I retrieved four of the tunnel bricks when a new floor was put in that church recently.

To make this work again I used an old hot air blower from the farm to push warm air up through the gratings. Very successful, but very underpowered. So three years later a larger new one was put into place. This needed a huge hole to be dug in the path by the vestry door, as it was too big to go down the steps to the cellar; it is going well today. (2011). The new supply of heat replaced the three paraffin heaters, which stood in the aisle. These had glass bottles for the fuel with a valve on the top. The bottle was turned upside-down on the pipe to the burner, over which was a wire dome which glowed red hot when working. This provided radiant heat for those near it, and hot air for the bats in the roof. These bottles used to gurgle when air was sucked in to replace the paraffin.

These heating attempts highlighted another problem; that of cold air coming down from the tower. John Byrom, the vicar, found a very heavy curtain, which we fixed over the tower arch to keep out this coldair. It was awful, but circumstances occurred so that a new glass screen was placed there, and that cured the problem, and served other purposes too. But the heating problem still has one more stage. We need three slow moving silent fans near the roof to blow the hot air back down to surround the congregation. These would complete our comfort zone, and we do have funds to pay for it. Keeping a fat investment account may be prudent, but I think our comfort is equally important.

The lighting in the nave was by these huge glass bowls so high as to be ineffective. So in 1964 John Macdonald and myself put in the present six lamps. We had quite a problem to drill a three-foot hole through the clunch and arrive at the proper place for the fitting. The angles were critical, and an ingenious device was made by John to get all the angles right. By today's standards they do look a little dated, but they have given good service for many years.

Many of these alterations were done by local folk, without the help of experts, and were very cost effective. One final thing. The lighting in the summer was still not good as the stained glass windows look interesting, but do keep out the light. It was the cloudiness of the clerestory windows that was the trouble. The acid rain from the many coal fires had etched the soft glass so as to keep out the light. A good harvest provided the wherewithal to replace these with hard Russian horticultural glass. And they are as bright today as when they were first put in. I kept a panel in my workshop to remind those interested how easily glass can deteriorate

I think I have covered most things done in my time in the village to the church, and I trust that interest will continue, and that the communal spirit will preserve the building and what goes on inside it- it is much more than weddings and funerals.



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our February meeting we welcomed Philip Whaites, head Gardener at Wimpole Hall, who first told us a little of his background. Originally from Giggleswick in Yorkshire, his father wanted him to be a mechanic in order to look after his new car! So after training as his father wished, he absconded to Lancashire to follow his first love of gardening, soon becoming Assistant Gardener at Wimpole Hall in days when he was not at all sure where Cambridgeshire was! In 1986 Philip became Head Gardener there.

With the aid of many stunning images of the gardens, particularly beautiful in the winter snow and autumnal sunlight, we learnt so much that was new to us. For instance, between the outer wall of the estate, built in the 1850s, and the inner wall built in 1790, there are orchards. The old wall would originally have had a firebox built into it to, provide warmth for the peaches originally grown on its south-facing side but which now bears apricots. The gardens actually hold the National Collection of fifty species of walnut trees - the hordes of happy squirrels are an ever-present problem! The glasshouses produce thirty varieties of tomato as well as huge displays of squash and pumpkins and the walled garden last year produced 2,600kg of vegetables for the restaurant and shop, as well as cut flowers for the house. There are seven miles of hedge-face to cut which takes three weeks once a year - this is done with electric cutters run by a solar-powered batter contained in a backpack. Each autumn 15,000 species tulips are planted - these used to be supplied by Unwins who sent two articulated lorries full of left-over bulbs - this was £76,000 worth for free, much to Philip's delight! Sadly, this no longer happens.

Unbelievably this entire gardening enterprise is run by only three full-time staff, but crucially, they are helped by a team of ninety volunteers, seventy of whom are female and whom, Philip admitted, he has a little trouble in controlling!

Peppered throughout Philip's entertaining talk were gentle 'digs' at the way things are done at Anglesey Abbey - there is a certain friendly rivalry there!

Our next meeting will be at 8pm on 17 March when Geoff Hales will talk to us on 'Gardener's Joy'.

Mary Hart



Mothers' Union

In January Elizabeth Caswell kindly took our Service of Holy Communion as Sue Giles was taking a funeral. On March 19th Kay Coe will be speaking to us on 'Lead Kindly Light (Hymns & Hymn Writers)'. Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of each month starting at 2.30 in Lode Chapel, you are most welcome to come along and join us.

Jill Jenyns 01223811204

Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

Tuesday 14 April sees our last major guest speaker for the year. John Hooton of Southern Ireland will be giving a print talk entitled 'Landscapes & Seascapes'. The year ends with our final competition on Tuesday 21 April, The Hanson Trophy Projected Digital Image Competition.

In February 2014 the club entered the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF) Projected Digital Image Club Championship annual competition. A total of 34 clubs entered from around the region and Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club were placed ninth. The winning clubs were first: Beyond Group, from Ipswich, Norfolk Photographic Group came second with Ipswich & District Photographic Society coming third.

Date for your diary:

'Welcome Back' First meeting of the 2015/2016 year will be held on Tuesday 8 September 2015, when members are asked to bring photographs (prints or images), which have been taken over the summer break. Members' winning prints from last year will also be on display. New members would be very welcome and can bring any pictures that they have taken during the summer.

The club welcomes guests and new members to any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel **CB25 9EW** from 7:30 – 9:30pm. Fee of £3.00 including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00, refreshments 50p.

For further details contact: **Mrs Daphne Hanson** DPAGB APAGB , 01638 741106

Website: www.bottburpc.org

The Newmarket Cycling & Triathlon Club

Following the success of the sessions held in February, Dave Peck is organising another

Indoor **ROLLER CYCLING SYSTEM** session for boys and girls (16 years and under)

on **Saturday 7 March, 10am 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.



East Cambridgeshire District Council

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

District Councils Budget

During this last year the controlling conservative group have examined and overhauled all the councils departments.

This has resulted in the following-

£800,000 of additional savings in 2014/15

A balanced budget for 2015/16 and 2016/17

NO COUNCIL TAX INCREASE for the next two years

A leaner, more can-do council.

Asbestos

If any residents have asbestos waste that they need to dispose of, the district council can help. In the first instance contact Helen at the councils customer services department.

A maximum of nine 8ft by 4ft bags can be supplied, but 48 hours notice is required before collection at the offices in Ely. You will need to give your address and have proof of identity.

The filled bags can be taken to Amy Cespa's base at Landbeach. This is a free service.

Swaffham Prior School

The school is in desperate need of funding for the following. Firstly a new roof, which is well passed its sell-by date and often leaks. On one occasion the leak was near the fuse board and could have resulted in the school being closed for safety reasons. The funding for this has to come from the County Council, who have applied to the Department of Education for funding of £80,000. Our County Councillor, David Brown, has been working hard in the hope of achieving this funding.

Secondly the school roll is now full with 119 pupils. The area is growing with new housing at Swaffham Prior and Burwell. The present mobile classroom needs moving and a new permanent classroom being built.

The District Council has a Community Infrastructure Levy which is to be used for infrastructure needs caused by developments within the district. It has a Major Projects Fund which is aimed at projects of between £100,000 to



£4m.

I have asked for the new school classroom to be included within this list. The consultation on this list closes on March 6th. So if all three Parish Councils have all applied before this date to have the schools' new classroom included it could help strengthen my case.

The contact at ECDC is Emma Grima, Corporate Unit Manager.

Allen Alderson



Cambridgeshire
County Council

From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

General Purposes Committee met twice in January. The first meeting included the usual range of financial monitoring reports. The meeting also agreed the process for procuring security services for county council buildings, jointly with Northamptonshire County Council, and agreed to declare surplus to requirements some land at the Soham Northern Gateway. The second meeting concentrated on the budget and business plan to be recommended to full Council in February.

The Children and Young People's Committee also met in January with a full agenda. Items for consideration included agreeing a policy for personal budgets for those with special educational needs, the future of learning bases in Cambridge and Wisbech, the future management of Oasis day nursery in Wisbech and educational performance across the County. I also had a number of briefings with relevant directors as vice-Chairman of the committee.

I chaired a meeting of: the Corporate Parenting Board and also attended a Constitution and Ethics Committee workshop reviewing progress with the Committee System adopted last year.

David Brown



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

MARCH MAGNOLIAS

At this time of the year, frost can really spoil the party. While some plants, like snowdrops, have built-in anti-freeze proteins, others, like magnolias have gone for the less flexible option of insulation. All through the winter, the Magnolia collection at the Botanic Garden has been sporting soft suede, silvery covered buds,

irresistible to the touch; these thick lobes have been protecting the satiny petals of the flowerbud that formed last summer. A few days of warmth will trigger the irreversible release mechanism and the magnolia will bloom, opening itself up to the perils of springtime weather. A dramatic cold snap at this point will allow ice crystals to form within the petal cells which expand to destroy the cell walls, the damaged plant tissue turning brown and spoiling the flower.

First to brave the unpredictable March weather with us is the graceful lily tree, *Magnolia denudata*, with its white goblet-shaped flowers perched upright along the branches as though a flock of doves has just taken up residence. It is closely followed by *Magnolia loebneri* 'Leonard Messel', a compact tree that becomes covered in tattered, white star flowers with the faintest pink blush. Then the richer, deeper pinks join in: the large purple-pink flowers of *Magnolia sprengeri* 'Diva' have a rich vanilla scent while the deep burgundy pink, many-petalled huge flowers of the brazen cultivar 'Vulcan' are very showy, emerging from large brown, very furry felted sheaths. Magnolias generally prefer an acidic soil, but the Garden is on free draining river gravels and chalk, so we have developed a reference collection that can tolerate these more alkaline conditions.



Looking inside a beautiful magnolia flower, it is easy to see why this ancient genus is of particular interest to plant scientists. Unlike most angiosperms (flowering plants that produce enclosed seeds) magnolias hold their stamens and pistils in conical, woody spirals, an arrangement seen in some fossil plants which is thought to have accelerated the divergence of the angiosperms from the gymnosperms (plants that produce unenclosed or 'naked' seeds, like conifers). This is particularly evident in the autumn, when strange fleshy seedcases develop irregularly on the remnant of the central conical structure. Another clue as to the magnolia's ancient lineage is the way that petals and sepals are not easily

distinguishable, unlike in later flowering plants.

Flowering plants diversified enormously during the Lower Cretaceous period 150-100 million years ago as plants and animals co-evolved complex and interdependent pollination, food and seed distribution mechanisms. The angiosperms diversified so successfully that they came to replace conifers as the dominant trees around 60–100 million years ago: magnolias are key chapter in the story of plant evolution.

The Botanic Garden is open March 10–5, April – September 10–6. Admission charges to the Botanic Garden 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.

Notes from Parish Council Meeting – 12th February 2015

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

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

Public Participation:

No items raised.

Reports:

CCC – Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting.

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting. The problem of further fly-tipping was raised with Cllr Alderson.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Street lighting: Work had started to upgrade the street lighting. Keeley Russell of Balfour Beatty confirmed that all the requests from the January PC meeting were in hand but she asked if there were any problems to please let her know.

The current work being carried out on the CCC street lighting columns highlighted the need for assessment of the Parish owned columns to check on their condition and it was agreed that Paul Latchford would obtain a quotation for this assessment. There was also discussion on the financial implications of any possible column repairs or replacements either now or as part of a rolling programme.

CIL – Regulation 123 Projects List: The Clerk confirmed that she had

submitted two 'Expression of Interest' forms; one for the School and one for traffic calming on Mill Hill but noted that the close date for receipt of submissions had been extended by ECDC to the 6th March.

BVC – Swimming Pool: A letter was received from Mr Philip Hodgson-Chairman of the Governors in reply to concerns raised by the Parish Council about community use of the swimming pool.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

CCC - Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2015/16 Panel Results (East Cambridgeshire) - *letter received confirming that the Parish Council's bid was unsuccessful but was included under the reserve list category.*

CCC – Commissioners Drain 1 – Structure Replacement. *Work delayed – new start date of the 23rd February.*

ECDC – Community Payback Service – *it was suggested that one of the Community Payback teams carry out work to tidy the boundary hedges, etc., at the cemetery. The Clerk said she was waiting to hear back from the Team Leader to arrange a date.*

ECDC – Parish Conference 2015 – *noted.*

ECDC –Neighbourhood Planning in East Cambridgeshire – Guidance Note – *noted.*

ECDC – Election Packs – *circulated to Parish Councils. Note: Parish nominations can be accepted at ECDC's offices from Monday 30th March 2015 through to the close of nominations at 4pm on Thursday 9th April 2015. All nomination papers must be hand delivered to the council offices and an interview room will be made available for people to be seen without making an appointment.*

Parish Council Vacancy for Clerk:

No applications received.

Replacement/Refurbishment of Noticeboard outside Village Hall – quotes received:

3 quotes were obtained by the Clerk. These were considered as quite high. Following discussion it was agreed to look for a local craftsman to make and install a new sign. Steve Kent-Phillips was to look at this further and report back to next meeting.

Purchase of Dog Waste Bin for Coopers Green:

This was agreed. Clerk to place order.

Accounts for Payment:

These were agreed.

Clerk's Reports:

Dates for PC Meetings and Annual Village Assembly: Dates were confirmed. The Annual Village Assembly will be on Wednesday, 27th May 2015, starting at 7.30pm

Community Land Trust – development at Rogers Road: The AGM of the CLT was held on the 3rd February. The following timetable was agreed for housing applications:

Deadline for applications	26 th June 2015
CLT meeting to discuss applications	10 th July 2015
Verification of applications by Hundred Houses	July/August
CLT meeting to agreed allocations	4 th September 2015
Notification to new tenants by...	11 th September 2015

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Paul Latchford reported that having undergone the necessary risk assessments, etc., he was now able to carry out the task of climbing the stairs to the Church tower to fly the flag.

Open Question Time:

Alastair Everitt suggested the Parish Council take over the administering of the Gay Bulleid Award.

Alastair Everitt suggested the issue of possible traffic calming measures on Mill Hill be added as an agenda item for discussion at the Annual Village Assembly.

Michael Limb reminded the meeting of the need to check with ECDC's Conservation Officer about replacement of the noticeboard as this is within the Conservation Area.

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 March 2015 starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Future meeting dates:

9th April, 14th May, 11th June, 9th July 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/



A Book to die for!

I have on my bookshelves about a dozen different translations and paraphrases of the Bible! Most of them are the result of a desire to read the word of God in contemporary English. To make it intelligible and accessible to anyone who may choose to read it. My dozen or so English versions are only a fraction of the hundreds which have been produced down the ages. There is also a huge demand for Bibles in practically every other language, and people are working tirelessly to meet that demand. The whole Bible has been translated into about 350 languages, and portions of it into 2123 languages! It is still a worldwide best-seller – mainly because so many people actually want to read it!

Many of these versions are the result of groups of scholars painstakingly translating from the earliest known Greek and Hebrew texts. Modern scholarship and recently discovered texts have resulted in increasingly accurate translations from the original. It was not always so! In 1408, it was declared an offence punishable by death to translate anything from the Latin Bible into English. Why? Because both Church and State were afraid of what might happen if ordinary people were able to read all of God's word for themselves in their own language, rather than simply hearing in Latin the interpretations the Church wanted them to hear.

Recently I watched a TV programme about the life of William Tyndale. At the same time I was watching 'Wolf Hall', a drama set in the court of Henry VIII, just when Tyndale was translating the Bible into English; living in exile, in hiding and in fear of his life. These were the days when religion was literally a matter of life or death. England was an authoritarian state, ruled by King and Church. Spies and informers were everywhere, and those who didn't toe the official Church line could be branded as heretics, tortured and burned at the stake! Non-conformism was not for the faint hearted!

It was in this atmosphere that William Tyndale determined that the common people of England should have a Bible in their own tongue. He vowed that the common ploughboy would know more of the Bible than the pompous clerics of the Church. In 1524 he was forced to flee from England, but devoted the rest of his life, first to translating and publishing the New Testament. Later he began work on the Old Testament, which he never completed. Copies of his work were smuggled into the country in various ingenious ways, and to be found in possession of one could result in torture and death. The same situation can still be found in some countries today! On one occasion, the Bishop of London burned 6,000 copies of Tyndale's New Testament on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral. William Tyndale was himself burned at the stake in 1536 in Belgium. He was only 42, but he had changed the course of

English history and profoundly influenced English language and culture. How easy it is for me to take my Bible for granted. Yet people like Tyndale gave their lives, suffered and died, so that I could read, study, understand and be transformed by the word of God. For me, as one who tries to follow Jesus and his teaching, the Bible is a priceless treasure. At RE:NEW the Bible is essential to us as we seek, week by week, to understand its message and apply it to our lives. Have you got a Bible on your bookshelf? Why not dust it down, open it at the New Testament, and see why Tyndale and many others thought it was a book to die for?

Peter Wells

RE:NEW Services in March 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 March. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (Bottisham Primary School)

With Holy Communion

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

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

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

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

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

29 March. 10.30am – RE:NEW The Bigger Picture (at the School)

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

2 Danish Country Fowl cockerels, and some Ixworth cross cockerels, all are from 2014. 07771 512 765 (Simone) or 07771 625 169 (Anthony)

Camping Stove (2 burners, grill). Marian, c812020

High-backed swivel/tilt office chair, leather-faced with arms, can deliver, Peter/Susan C.811584

Wanted

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,

Life can change for good or ill in just a moment. Last week four people who were getting on with their lives were suddenly struck and killed by a tipper lorry that had sped out of control down a hill in Bath. They were tragically in the wrong place at the wrong time and that is what makes life seem so random and unfair. By the same token it is also possible for amazing things to happen as the result of a moments encounter. When two people's paths cross in an unexpected and unplanned meeting, that can be the beginning of a life long relationship or a creative working partnership. Many amazing scientific and engineering breakthroughs have come as a result of a moment when someone noticed something unusual and stopped to wonder.



In Christian spirituality there is a practice called the practice of the present moment, which tries to help people live and appreciate the moment they are in. In Buddhism it might be called mindfulness. In our modern world we are conditioned and required to plan ahead and to think about the future. It is part and parcel of living in community because living alongside others means that we need a certain amount of information about what others are planning. Businesses need to plan for changing markets and new trends. People need to book holidays (and save for them) so that others know cover is required. We are urged to make plans for retirement so that we can remain fit and active and will not be a financial drain on others. In every facet of life there is the need to make plans. The trouble is that sometimes we can get so engrossed in planning the future that we don't fully recognise what is happening now and we don't fully appreciate the people who are part of our lives at this very moment.

Lent is a time for reflection and a time for developing our spiritual muscles. It might be that, religious or not, Lent could be a very good time for all of us to practice living in the moment. Alongside all our planning and preparations this could be a season for taking each day and giving thanks for the experiences and people that have been part of our today. It may be that in doing that and resting in the blessing of each day as it unfolds we may come to see something or someone that we have never noticed or valued before.

Sue Giles

Swaffham Prior is part of the Anglesey Group of Parishes and a range of groups and activities are on offer throughout the benefice to which everyone is welcome:

Special Events during Lent:

Every Wednesday – Compline in Lode, 7pm

Every Friday – Lent Lunch, Vicarage, Bottisham, 12.15 01223 812726; email: suethetic@btinternet.com

Regular Events in the Benefice

Bible Study and Prayer Groups: Check arrangements during Lent as Lent Groups will be running

Monday Evening, **Weekly Men's Group**, Bottisham – C 812388

Tuesday Evening, **Weekly Ladies' Group** - 01638 743992

Second Wednesday afternoon, **Monthly Bible Study**, Swaffham Bulbeck - 813963 – not in March

2nd/4th weeks Wednesday Evening, **Bible Study**, Swaffham Bulbeck - 811726

Wednesday Evening, **Fortnightly Ladies' Group**, Lode - 811897

Each Thursday, **Morning Prayer**, Holy Trinity, Bottisham, 8.30am, *followed by breakfast at Vicarage*

Contemplative Services:

Compline by Candlelight - first Wednesday of every month, Holy Trinity, Bottisham, 8-9pm

Especially for Families/Children/Young People:

Family @ Five, First Sundays in the month, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School, 5pm

Toddler Praise and Play, Fridays in term time, St James', Lode, 9.30am

Gospel Choir, Tuesdays, Swaffham Bulbeck School, 3.30-4.15pm; for children from Year 2 and parents/carers - enjoy singing in the fun style of Gospel Choirs!

St Mary's Services in March

Sunday 1 March, Second Sunday of Lent

11am

Matins

5pm

Families@Five, Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School

Sunday 8 March, Third Sunday of Lent

10am

Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1T), Swaffham Prior

Sunday 15 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent

11am

Mothering Sunday Family Service – flowers for all ladies!

Sunday 22 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent

10am

Benefice Service – Holy Communion (CW1), Bottisham

Sunday 29 March, Palm Sunday

8am

Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion

6pm

Evensong

*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 March 2015

Fri	6	Lent Lunch, (and every Friday in Lent) Bottisham Vicarage
Sat	7	Roller Cycling, 10am, Fassage Hall, Lode
Thu	12	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Mon	16	WI, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm VG, VH, 8pm
Wed	18	Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon, 1 Adams Rd Crier Copy Deadline
Thu	19	Mothers Union, 2.30pm, Lode Chapel
Fri	20	
Sat	21	Moveable Feast, 7pm
Sat	28	Cantilena Singers, 7.30, St Cyriac's Sarah's Birthday Concert, 7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham

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	