



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XL Number 2

February 2016



Editorial

MY FIRST HOUSE after I left home was right next to Maine Road, Man City's ground. And this meant that on match days, you couldn't get in or out, or indeed anywhere at all. Did anyone moan? Of course not, although had Maine Rd been situated in *Prestbury*, well.... But this is the point, if you go to live in an anonymous suburban sprawl (I never liked Prestbury) you gets what you paid for — the happy thrum of the Sunday morning 6am lawn mowers, the tuneful twitter of next-door's alimony discussions and etc. On the other hand, if you choose to live in a fully functioning East Anglian village with a very popular school, then expect a fair bit of chaos at 8.45am and 3pm every school day as our hard-pressed Mums and Dads try to deliver their children. Read *Our*

Reporter for the latest, and meanwhile, is it really worth complaining about? It's not so bad surely?

Many congratulations team, finally we won the hockey! Alas we missed it, but an excellent game by all accounts. And congratulations also to the Red Lion, whose Burn's Night (see our centre spread) was yet another resounding success. See you coffeeing...

Caroline Matheson



Burn's Night at the Lion

Cover Picture: *Barn Owl* by Clive Riggs

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to all who came, supported and contributed to the annual coffee morning. I hope everyone enjoyed this get together with plenty of chat. We raised £226 for St Mary's church.

Many thanks again,

Jutte

Dear Editors

Parish Council

Reading comments in the January Crier about me: the number of parish council meetings I attended last year is incorrect and I have not 'failed to attend'; I gave notice that I would not be able to attend meetings.

Regarding village hall committee meetings: I haven't not attended, I have never been informed about such meetings. I only heard that I had any connection to the committee when someone told me in the pub last summer that I was put on it in my absence by the parish council at the first meeting after elections in May (when I was away undertaking public examinations booked many months before). The existing PC members decided their new member not present and who had never been to a meeting should do an extra role without asking if that person was willing to take it on and without giving them any information, then or since. Make of that what you will.

It should also be clear from the letter in the last Crier, a more detailed version of which I had asked to be published months ago, that there were rather more substantial issues regarding the Parish Council than general disagreement.

Mark Lewinski

COFFEE MORNING for ELIZABETH COTEMAN FUND.

(PANCREATIC CANCER)



FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY 10.30-1pm.



COFFEE, CAKES, POTTERY and RAFFLE

41. CAGE HILL, SWAFFHAM PRIOR.

01638 744390

EVERYONE WELCOME.



**Join
POP**
(Proud of Prior)

for another

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK!

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

**Thursday 18th February, 2016
10.00am – 12 noon**

**It's Half Term, Accompanied Children
Welcome, Hi Vis Jackets provided
You participate at your own risk
Your Safety is YOUR responsibility**

**Please bring your own gloves if you
wish
All other equipment provided**



**Come and join friends and
Neighbours on this tidy up**

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The meeting opened with apologies from Sandra Gynn and Mark Lewinski. The minutes were signed and approved after a couple of minor corrections such as – “work on Charlotte Cane land” was changed to “work on CCC land.”

Then came David Brown’s report, and he was on top form. At a CCC Committee Meeting it was discussed whether Family Courts should continue to operate in secret. There are interesting mixed opinions on this. Meanwhile the CCC needs to make a further £11 million saving. Then came up the now mysterious “Ben Jakes” who has to produce the piece of paper that will enable a contractor to work on the Fairview Grove lamppost. David had been asked to track down Ben as our Clerk had failed in spite of his best efforts. With a great deal of difficulty David did eventually manage to track him down, and after a great deal of chasing, Ben eventually replied with the news that he did not have the authority to sign the piece of paper. David asked “who does?”, and is still waiting to hear the answer. But he will continue to chase Ben, and the PC members encouraged him with a sort of ‘Tallyho’.



Next, the equally mysterious James Rigney came up for discussion. PC members asked whether he really existed because they could not find the CCC Directory of Officers, and have never been able to find any mention of Mr Rigney anywhere. James Rigney is the CCC traffic authority who, so the PC has unofficially been told, will be submitting a proposal which on the surface appears to be a plan to prevent any parking near the two houses in Station Road, apart from the occasional school bus. The PC has not been involved in any of the discussions with Mr Rigney, and it does not know whether the report will be sent directly to them or via the two residents or via the school. David will go on the chase again and try to ensure it does go to the PC.

Allen Alderson was unable to attend but he had provided a report which was read out by the Clerk. On January 7th a full Council meeting discussed the East Cambs Preliminary Draft Local Plan. Steve wondered about the validity of the last Master Plan. When this was circulated some years ago for comments by parish councils, Swaffham Prior decided not to spend any time on it. And how right it was. Burwell PC however did spend an enormous amount of time, discussing, researching and commenting – only to have all their work ignored. David confirmed this.

Amongst the correspondence was a letter from Tom Wood, a parent governor of the School, asking whether the PC could help in putting solar panels onto the new school roof. David wondered if the School was aware of European money that may provide help in the installation costs. He said he would find out the details and pass them on. The PC thought it should not get involved. ECDC are arranging a Parish Conference on the Local Plan on 18th February. David Greenfield wishes to attend as there is one particular issue on which he has particularly strong views. The PC members applauded his enthusiasm, and said they will expect a full power point report. David perhaps could ask whether, on the agenda, will be any concern about the increased number of cars after all the forthcoming housing developments. Is

there a plan?

CIL MONIES. A subcommittee, comprising the Clerk, Paul, David Almond, Sandra and Steve, has done an excellent job in analysing every aspect of the suggestions in a remarkably thorough 6-page report. I was given a look at this. Steve presented the report to the meeting and it was decided that, firstly, the whole of the PC must make its comments, and secondly, that it will be discussed by the whole village at the end of the Annual Village Assembly on May 18th. Steve and Paul, who produced the excellent CIL monies questionnaire, will be responsible for all the publicity and details.

Meantime some suggestions were rejected because they are already in hand or will be completed using existing funds from the Annual Maintenance Budget which needs to be spent by 1st April. This meant that the WI daffodils will be replaced, the vegetation on the cemetery spoil heap is currently being removed, the Village Sign is being refurbished, the replacement of the Play Area gates is in hand, and the Play Area Cargo Net has already been replaced.

The replacement of this Cargo Net is a very good example of how resourceful, responsive, responsible, and hardworking our PC can be. Steve had examined the Net and discovered small ends of broken steel wire sticking up through the covering, an awful hazard. Wicksteed and other suppliers of equipment would only provide a rope model, which would wear away fairly quickly; apart from this the new nets were in a measurement which would not match the frame we had. Steve did some searching and discovered a company at Manor Farm in Norfolk which would match the existing Net, if it was delivered to them, at a cost of £240 plus VAT. They also volunteered to come and take it down for an extra £120. To avoid this charge the Clerk and Steve took it down at 11.30 Saturday 2nd January, just before the *Red Lion* opened for lunch, and replaced it at 11.30 Saturday 9th January, just before the *Red Lion* opened for lunch. It had been posted to Norfolk for a mere £23.14. It is to be hoped the Mums and Kids appreciate their effort. Money was also saved by ignoring the Wicksteed £4000 quote for replacing the Play Area gates, and discovering a firm that would do the same, if not better, for £1850. The proposed closing mechanism is to be confirmed as acceptable by Rospa before the quote is accepted.

The PC is still chasing a new cheque book and the Clerk gave the good news that Barclays had been “rushing” it through; it has yet to arrive. Meantime, to save cheques, the PC is being dragged into the 21st century by paying by BAC. The one exception is that Inland Revenue has to be paid by cheque.

The Clerk then read out a letter from Martin Meade. This updated the report in last month’s *Crier* that the CCC has no objection to the removal of the contentious Quy traffic calming providing Quy village pay for it. I shall now quote the remaining part of Martin’s letter in full.

“I attended a Quy parish council meeting last year along with a director from Marshalls as we had agreed to fund the removal and with Marshalls agreeing to fund an alternative viable scheme. When

this was taken to the next stage the alternative scheme required was speed cushions every 100m with street lights at each of these points. As the length of road in question is 1200m long this required 26 speed cushions and either 13 or 26 street lights (we did not get as far as discussing 1 per cushion pr 1 per pair). Whichever way this was totally unacceptable and too costly (over 100k) so the idea was dropped.

“In conclusion Quy PC are desperate to get them removed but CCC are being unreasonable and will not accept just reducing the speed limit to 30mph which would seem sensible.”

Martin’s concluding paragraph does appear to be a model of restraint!

Alastair Everitt

Swaffham Prior Events On-Line

There’s an up-to-date on-line listing of events at

<http://www.swaffham-prior.org.uk/news.html>

Or go to

<http://www.swaffham-prior.org.uk/>

and click “News and Events”.

Details there on how to get an event added.

BOTTISHAM MEDICAL PRACTICE CLEANER / HOUSE- KEEPER VACANCY

Due to retirement, Bottisham Medical Practice are looking for a conscientious, reliable cleaner/housekeeper to work 4 days per week – Monday to Thursday (16hrs per week, early mornings prior to surgery).

Duties include cleaning of staff areas, monitoring, replenishing and ordering of stock and organising refreshments for meetings.

For further details and/or an application form, please contact Rowena Pilsworth on 01223 810033.

BON MOT NUMBER SIXTY TWO

“The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable.”

J.K. Galbraith (1908-2006)

Save the Date

Saturday, 11 June 2016
3-6pm

A right Royal
Swaffham Prior Garden
Party.



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 your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Cakes to be collected from Adventurers Farm in time for Mothering Sunday (6th March) or Easter Sunday (27th March).



Janet Willmott

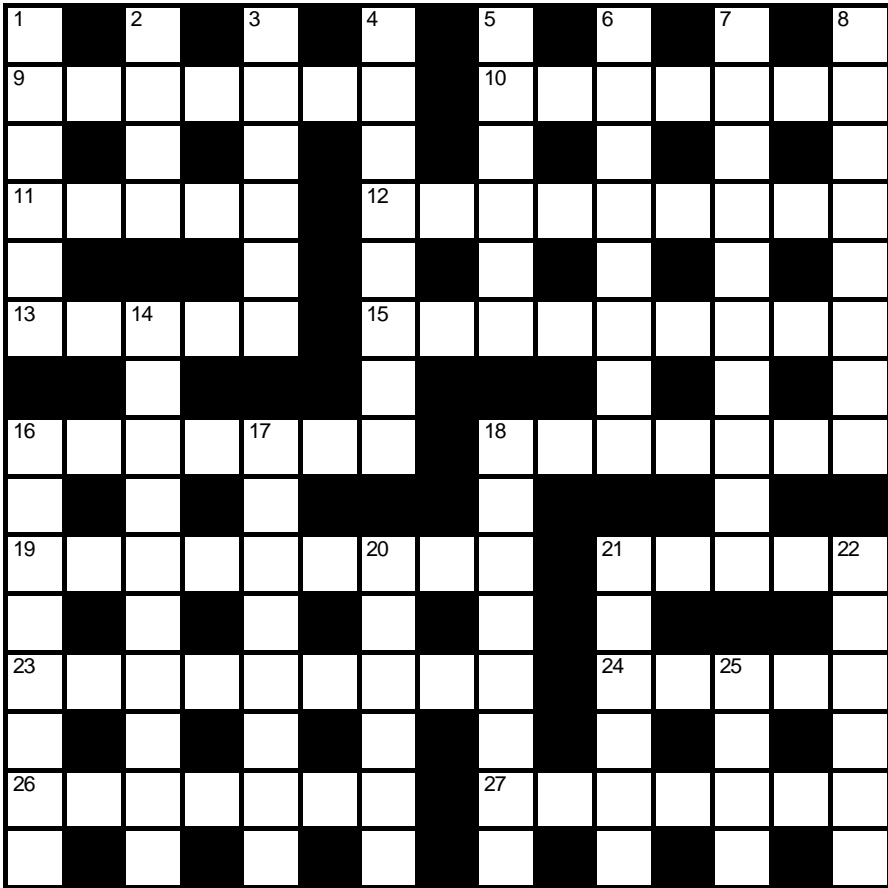
Crossword Number 128

Compiled by

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

OUNCE

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 February 2016. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—See the Manager at the pub for full details.



Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 9 Broken toenail - what joy! (7)
- 10 Results obtained without cooking the books? (3,4)
- 11 Fraction produced when 9 enter street with Planck's constant (5)
- 12 Seven eels cooked for snack meal (9)
- 13 Evil spirit hidden by facade? Mon Dieu! (5)
- 15 Players she paints haphazardly (9)
- 16 Girl swallowing bird's home, is exempt from punishment (7)
- 18 Listen to perceive the sound of man (7)
- 19 Mail South African province after birth (9)
- 21 Works in telescope range (5)
- 23 Almost null butter is disruptive? Yes (9)
- 24 Square haystack as seasonal alternative to treat? (5)
- 26 Fallen Pope limited in short design (7)
- 27 Watermelon mush ignoring the French word for reclamation (7)
- 7 Sheep hut the French find deplorable (10)
- 8 Hands over quiet donkey to English offspring (6,2)
- 14 Rum cat nips botched literary work (10)
- 16 Primate catches small French craving (8)
- 17 In an evil manner, but unselfishly, she left production (8)
- 18 French thermal arranged for school break (4-4)
- 20 Fashionable aim in essay (6)
- 21 Trip when you French go in (6)
- 22 Lackadaisical, lunatic cicada's desert base (6)
- 25 Island of West Australia first state? (4)

Down

- 1 Inverse direction well acquainted with (6)
- 2 Ancient Gaelic or new cross under Mother? (4)
- 3 Sadly greeting Castor for example, not outside (6)
- 4 Pedigree from crystalline mixture taken ill (8)
- 5 It's easy bringing rhinos, elephants, eland, zebras, etc., together at first (6)
- 6 Blossom, we are surrounded by opponents, then penny is dropped into drink (8)

Solution to crossword no. 127

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

We congratulate Mackie Goddard, the winner of last month's competition, who should collect her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Andrew Houston and Robert Nunn

St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Lent Frugal Lunches

in support of

PUMPKINS AGAINST POVERTY

Wednesday 17th February (half term) – 12 noon
Lord's Acre, hosted by Jess Shakeshaft

Wednesday 2nd March – 12 noon
The Barn, Lower End, hosted by Ruth Scovil

Saturday 12th March – 12 noon
1 Adams Road, hosted by Betty Prime

Supporting **Practical Action** with its campaign in Northwest Bangladesh, helping embankment dwellers to survive, using barren land left behind by flood waters to grow food – Pumpkins

No charge for lunch just a donation please: Soup and a roll
to reserve your place call 743983 or email catherine.child@virgin.net

To find out more visit www.practicalaction.org/fundraise



10.01.16

The stars look very different today,
As Major Tom takes on his finest rôle,
To leave the capsule in a stylish way
And slip the surly bonds of ground control.

The Starman, always waiting in the sky
Where Ziggy and the Spiders play guitar,
Has found an achingly cool way to die
And conjured in the heavens a Blackstar.

The man who sold the world the milky way
Has penned, at last, an unambiguous verse
That's quite indifferently straight or gay:
The Lazarus stunt pulled off in reverse.

From ashes unto ashes bound from birth,
The soundtrack of our seventies college bars
Is silenced by a man who fell to earth
And left us unsure if there's life on Mars.

We Pretty Things foresaw no Changes when
Our youthful muse was your Aladdin Sane,
Whose music made us heroes for a day;
Whose like we shall not look upon again.

Alzheimer Story. 1

Aljos Alzheimer,
Not himself an old-timer,
Became renowned
By naming a disease that he found.

Wulsin

People with it become mentally
lame;
And to it he gave his second name.
Though many suffer it and are thus
disabled
It can't be cured - - -
But at least it's been labelled !!!.

Ophir

Ophir notes: It's just over two years since Edna (Ophir's wife) left us, after suffering from Alzheimers for five years, and it may be time to share some thoughts that came from my experience. They may help someone else, albeit slightly.

TABLE TOP



Cake Stall - Tombola

(cake donations welcome)

Sat 5th March 2016

10am to 1pm

at Swaffham Bulbeck Primary School

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

to book your table
contact:

Angela Roebuck tel: 811722 email: aroebuck73@gmail.com
Lucinda Collison tel: 813670 email: lucinda@housemail.com

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

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH at 7.30 pm

St. Mary's Church, Church Lane, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 0HP

The Cantilena Singers

Lux aeterna: Renaissance and Romantics

An evening of unaccompanied choral music, sacred and secular, on the theme of eternal light, from the Renaissance to the Romantics, and beyond.

Proceeds to the Church

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Tickets £10 (free admission for under 18s)

Available from Janet Ramsay-Helie Phone: 01638 603489

Email: ramsayhelie@ntlworld.com. or on the door

www.cantilenasingers.org

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

- Red leather reclining chair (good condition, hardly used but hasn't got a fire regulation sticker). Peter n741196

Wanted

- Any unwanted remote controlled vehicles with the remote control units (for a Scout Family Camp activity). Jun/Andy c813362
- Wanted any old (or new, lol) computers or laptops or monitors to build a computer for my son. Anything at all even an old laser printer or Atari or even an Amiga and Sinclair spectrum. Also old software of ANY sort. Joseph, 07341971330
- Old tools, garage items and anything classic car related. Ray c813117.
- Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895 064727.

New Cago Net in the Play Area



Before



**A
f
t
e
r**



Boxing Day Hockey 2015



Many of our regular players were away this year so the new recruits to Swaffham Prior Hockey Team were very welcome indeed. With just the required 11 in our team, there could be no substitutions and it was going to be a long, tough match. After 2 years without a victory, hopes were high that this was the year Prior would be the winning side.

The match started evenly with Swaffham Prior showing some great hockey skills but not quite reaching the goal area. All the players were battling hard to retain possession but the large crowd had to wait until the third quarter before Heather finished off a great series of passes with a fine shot at goal: 1-0 to Prior! Despite some determined attacking from Swaffham Bulbeck, that turned out to be the final score – Congratulations to all the players for a well-deserved win.

Thank you to all those who turned out to support and cheer on the teams; the touch-line donations raised £130.00 for MAGPAS, a record total. Thank you also to Jo Jones and James Lankfer for their skilled umpiring and to David Turner and his Bulbeck team – see you all next year!

Mandy Kingsmill

Burn's Night Supper at the Red Lion



The piper played.....
And the chef chef'd.....

And a very good time was had by all!

Thanks to:

The Red Lion for hosting it;
The Piper John McCafferty;
Poem Reader and all round Entertainer
Tony McNally (Head Chef at The
King's School Ely);
Irvines Butchers in Blairgowrie Scot-
land for The Haggis;
Janet Willmott for the pictures;
And everyone who took part for mak-
ing it a such a delightful memorable
evening.



Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

After the Christmas break members attended the first meeting of the New Year on the 5 January 2016. Our weekly programme runs until our year ends in May 2016.

I have written previously that **Daphne Hanson** DPAGB APAGB who is the Honorary Secretary of the club, has been elected as President of the EAF. Daphne has been a member of the EAF Executive Committee for a number of years and had been the President Elect for the last two. Her term of office runs for the next two years. Daphne was previously the President from 1996-98.

The Club would like to congratulate Daphne on her appointment and wish her every success in her new position within the EAF. We hope that with her many years of experience of photography she will be able to facilitate the further development of the organisation in the future.

The EAF - East Anglia Federation of Photographic Societies, is an important organisation in the world of photography and was founded in 1910. It is a constituent founder Member of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). The PAGB is the umbrella organisation for camera clubs and photographic societies throughout the UK and there are 15 geographical Federations.

There are about 120 member clubs and societies within the EAF and in excess of 4500 individual members. The EAF is now the largest federation in the PAGB covering the areas of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and part of Hertfordshire.

Seeking to promote the advancement of photography, the EAF facilitates contacts and exchange of opinions between members of one society and another. It also promotes exhibitions and competitions, maintaining a list of photographic judges and lecturers. Additionally it organises courses, workshops and events which may be of help to member societies including their individual members.

Future Club Events:

Tuesday 9 February 2016

‘How to Sell Your Photographs’ Members are asked to donate photographs for sale at the Burwell Print Centre, to raise funds for this worthy local charity.

Tuesday 16 February 2016

‘Foto-Fusion’ by Jim Hartje ARPS DPAGB APAGB EFIAP, Peterborough Photographic Society. A miscellany of digital imagery, tips & ideas. Sponsored by The Photodex Corporation.

Tuesday 23 February 2016

‘Practical Portrait Photography’ Demonstration of lighting techniques for modern portraiture, by Richard Clarke ABIPP.

Tuesday 8 March 2016

'An Evening with Leigh Preston FRPS MPAGB EFIAP' Digital presentation. A selection

of A2 prints will also be displayed.

Tuesday 15 March 2016

'Some of our Best Bits' by Liz & Barry Hatten. Mainly retrospective but with helpful hints & tips along the way.

Tuesday 23 & 29 March 2016 - Break for Easter Holidays.

Further details of our programme can be viewed on our website, see below.

The club welcomes guests to any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel, CB25 9EW on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9:30pm. Fee £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:

Hon. Secretary. **Mrs Daphne Hanson** DPAGB APAGB T: 01638 741106

www.bottburpc.org

Barry Coles
Publicity Officer

Groundwork?

I like to think that when I go
Across to the 'Other Side'
There'll be no screaming siren
To proclaim a damaged pride.

Instead; I'll have a blanket 'round my knees,
For I'll be sitting in my favourite chair;
Without my grieving family,
Nor group of friends to stare.

I'll go because the body
I inhabit is too old.
I'll leave my mug of cocoa,
Not tasted; getting cold.



And soon my Vital Energy
Will arrive in a different place;
Mayhap not on this planet
But one in far-flung space.

Envoi.

But if I meet someone I knew
Who has gone ahead,
Whom I didn't recognise;
I'll maybe cut them, dead.

Ophir

FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS



10.30 – 12.00 Noon



Fridays
5th & 19th Febraury
4th & 18th March

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

£1 per session
*includes coffee, biscuits
and chat*



*Sponsored by
Pop-up Tea Shop*



For the first meeting of the new year we were very pleased to welcome Chrissie Fordham who came to talk to us about Yoga. We learned something of the background of this ancient form of exercise that focuses on strength, flexibility and breathing to boost physical and mental wellbeing. We then did some very gentle exercises, first sitting and then standing and ended with a period of relaxation which we all enjoyed. Chrissie is a very experienced tutor and a number of our members have now joined her weekly group in Burwell.

On February 15th we have Sue Elliot coming to talk to us about care of the elderly with dementia and on March 21st we have our annual meeting when our speaker is Geoff Hales's one man company, travelling theatre, on a year in Tonga.

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

Pat Cook

President

Tel: 01638 742224

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Telephone Calls to the Practice: For the dispensary please call after 2pm and select the dispensary option. For blood test results allow 7 days for the results to be returned and then call after 2pm. This avoids blocking early morning calls which need to be kept free for urgent medical needs and appointments.

Repeat Prescriptions: Please note that 48 hours notice is required for repeat prescriptions and that these can not be ordered over the telephone.

Defibrillators: There are now 2 in Bottisham, one at the surgery and one at the British Legion, Downing Close, Bottisham..

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

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

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 17 March 2016 6.30pm at the surgery. Come along to learn more about the Patient Group or if you would like to join us. The AGM will take place on 28 April 2016.

Bottisham Patients' Group



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our first speaker of 2016, was Steve Elstob, Head Gardener at Clare College- which turned out to be a very good taster for our planned July trip, when the garden will be in its full summer glory.

Clearly the historical aspects of the gardens, are of the utmost importance, for the six strong team that look after them. Clare- the second oldest Cambridge college, founded in 1326, has plans of how the gardens and courts were in the 17th century and these form the blueprint for changes, maintenance and planning for the future.

I don't think many of us knew that Clare is on three sites. The college behind Kings, one the other side of the Cam and Queens Road, opposite the University Library and one towards Castle Hill. The site opposite the UL has recently undergone changes- a new layout for the courtyard and changed planting.

The great range of gardens on the other side of the river, divided by Clare bridge, have the good fortune to have a watering system of drip pipes, because the college has a long standing licence to withdraw water from the Cam. There are the lovely Fellows' and Master's gardens that go down to the river: long vistas, colourful herbaceous and mixed herb borders, superb trees - very few of which can be pruned, because this is a conservation area: a sunken pond garden good for studying, as it's so quiet):a sub tropical area planted with banana palms (the fruit only grows about 5cms long) and where the palms have to be lifted every winter, put in dustbins and carted off to unheated greenhouses. That did seem a lot of work to me, for trees that produced inedible fruit! The latest is a newly developed wild garden for the Fellows, planted with Fritillaries, primulas and Orchids.

Steve obviously very much liked the front court, with it's interesting archaeological finds- discovered when renewing paths, but clearly mourned the loss of the trees, that had been previously planted in the four corners. These, he said sadly could not be replaced because of student celebrations- namely May Balls which are held every year at Clare.

Carpets, carpets and more carpets, were the answer to saving the lawns, which every June are covered with helter-skelter's, swing boats, dodgems, beer and thousand of footprints, all of which have to be removed and the lawns returned to tip top condition, for Graduation ceremonies, a few weeks later. Miracles obviously happen at Clare.

Our speaker next month -16th February - is Hilary Thomas, whose topic is: "Designing a garden for low maintenance".

All welcome.

Margaret Joyce

The Orchid Hunters



The names of many plant hunters will be familiar, from Joseph Banks, Francis Masson and David Douglas to Joseph Hooker, Robert Fortune and the Lobb brothers. We are surrounded by plants named by and for them and their swashbuckling tales of their adventures across the globe have long been of interest. More than a few brave souls came to a sticky end - David Douglas fell into a trap meant for wild boar, Francis Masson froze to death, Thomas Lobb lost a leg, and many others risked malaria, cholera, drowning, injury from earthquakes and attacks by wild animals, pirates and cannibals.

Orchids became a full-scale public obsession (known as Orchidelirium) from 1830s-1920s and there are reports of individual plants selling for well over £100,000 in today's money. Orchid hunters were commissioned by plant nurseries to search the jungles of the tropics, often suffering

deeply inhospitable conditions and risking life and limb in pursuit of novel and exotic orchids. The Orchid Hunters display in the Glasshouse Range this year (13 February – 13 March) will focus on the [mis]adventures of a group of plant hunters commissioned by the indomitable nurseryman Frederick Sander, who became known as the 'Orchid King'. One of Sander's most loyal orchid hunters was Wilhelm Micholitz, who worked for him for over 30 years despite the seemingly fractious relationship seen through their correspondence. In his letters, Micholitz writes of the hardships associated with tracking down particular orchids including escaping burning boats, near starvation and witnessing horrific mutilation in wars between tribes on the islands of Indonesia; in one letter he states flatly that he has 'no desire to find [his] last resting place in the stomach of a tiger'. After his long and arduous travels for Sander, Micholitz died in poverty; his few savings, invested in German government funds, had become worthless after the war. His legacy, of course, is the many orchids he brought back, many of which were new to science and carry Sander's name.



As well as introducing some of the discoveries made by Sander's men, including *Cattleya* from the western tropics and *Paphiopedilum* (slipper orchids) from the Asian tropics, The Orchid Hunters will also examine the high environmental cost, with packing crates, Wardian cases and rattan plant collection baskets shown overflowing with species orchids. Such was the demand for exotic orchids that millions of specimens were stripped from their native habitat direct for market. Enormous numbers were collected to allow for the huge proportion that were lost in transit; often less than 1% of specimens collected survived to sale, which perversely only fuelled the market's love of rarity. The story will be brought up to date by examining modern micro-propagation methods and hybridisation programmes which have made the orchid an everyday commodity, and will look at how international legislation can protect plants in the wild from modern-day plant piracy.

Juliet Day



From our Local County Councillor
David Brown

County Council Report

January 2016

Further consideration of the proposed business plan for 2016/17 through the Committees has dominated work at the County Council in January. The proposals will be debated at Full Council on 16th February with a view to setting a balanced budget. Some of the original proposals have been modified, including re-instating funding for school crossing patrols and leaving street lights on until 2.00am (rather than turning them off at midnight as originally proposed). The Children and Young People Committee agreed to re-instate funding to help the most-disadvantaged pupils with post-16 home to school transport, keep 2 assistant managers in localities, and not reduce the budget for self-directed funding for disabled children. General Purposes Committee voted to not levy an additional 2% on Council Tax for adult social care, so the current proposed budget includes a rise in Council tax of 2% rather than the maximum of 4% prior to triggering a referendum.

The Children and Young People Committee also considered the proposed sponsorship of Netherhall School by the Bottisham Multi Academy Trust. BMAT has been assisting Netherhall for the past 18 months and has made considerable progress. A projected deficit has been identified for the 2016/17 year owing to low pupil numbers. The Committee voted unanimously to underwrite the proposed deficit (up to a maximum of £150,000).

An announcement is expected shortly that the police will be taking up some office space in Burwell Library. More details will follow once known.

David Brown



**EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

On January 5th I attended the funeral of ex County & District Councillor Philip Read at St Marys Church, Sutton. Philip was elected to the District Council in 197, serving up to about 2 years ago when he retired due to ill health. He served on the housing and the environmental health committees and finally Chairman of the planning committee.



On January 7th I attended the full Council meeting. Amongst other things we discussed the East Cambs Preliminary Draft Local Plan. We need to ensure that the Local Plan does the following:

- Address the current lack of a 'five year leans supply'
- Ensure the Local Plan meets/supports the latest corporate priorities
- To ensure that the Plan is as user-friendly to the reader/decision make as possible
- To support the continued sustainable growth of the district, both in the near term and the long term

We also discussed the Council's response to the Boundary Commissions draft recommendations on electoral review of East Cambridgeshire.

On Saturday 9th January I attended a meeting of Councillors, the Chief Executive, and senior officers where we discussed:

- Implementing our Corporate Plan
- Community Land Trusts. Our current ambition is that they could produce 250 affordable homes in 5 years

We were also given a 'Budget Briefing' by Andy Radford, our Chief Financial Officer

- The 16/17 Budget is balanced
- The 17/18 Budget will be balanced
- And the 18/19 Budget is close to being balanced
- We are the only Council in Cambridgeshire able to say this

Allen Alderson

Notes from Parish Council Meeting

10th December 2015

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 8 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:

There was a good deal of discussion regarding the Station Road parking restrictions including: Charlotte Cane representing the school governors reported on progress and said that they had had Cllr David Brown's correspondence. Andrew Grant represented a number of options and pointed out that a possible issue may be an Office for Standards in Education inspection and that the PC had discussed the problem before (and presented a copy of the meeting notes for the Crier September 2006) where CCC Highways had agreed to a paved edge, extending yellow lines and re-painting white lines. Tom Wood (Chair of Premises Committee Swaffham Prior school) presented the results of their various meetings and a diagram of a proposal for parking spaces and yellow lines. Other options were discussed including different ways into the school, using the Village Hall car park, double yellow lines, weight restrictions and no waiting periods. Martin Mead presented his costings for widening the Village Hall entrance to make the car park a more viable option. He pointed out that the Village Hall car park can take 32 cars. Peter Hart pointed out that to discuss the options we needed the proposal from CCC Highways. David Greenfield proposed thanks to Martin Mead for his work on the costings. It was noted that the PC were still waiting for Mr Rigney's report. Andrew Grant said that James Rigney will present a planning proposal from CCC for the PC to discuss.

Reports:

CCC Matters: Cllr David Brown was unable to attend the meeting.

ECDC Matters: Cllr Allen Alderson reported to the meeting including how well ECDC were doing on recycling. For 2014/15 ECDC had achieved the 3rd largest increase in performance; up 11.2% to 56.6% making the council 26th out of 320 councils. In 2012/13 ECDC was 257th. He is keen to see us reach 60%.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Grass cutting; it was asked if there were there any more cuts to go? The Clerk agreed to askThe contractors: **CGM**. David Almond suggested Cage Hill required a final winter cut. Peter Hart reported that the path into Cage Hill was now clear. David Greenfield asked about the waste sacks around the Village Sign. It was noted that they were due for collection and were the fine work of PoP.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration

CCC: Community transport provision in East Cambridgeshire

ECDC: Local Boundary Commission – draft recommendations – request for comment by 11 Jan.

ECDC: Community Facilities Audit.

ECDC: Litter and Dog bins audit.

General: CAS Confirmation of insurance cover.

General: Turner Ltd – Gary Warren – email regarding parking in Station road.

General: Resident's email regarding Station Road parking.

All noted.

Consideration of planning applications

There were no applications for consideration.

Station Road – consider parking restrictions

Most of this was discussed as part of “Public Participation” and it was decided to wait for the report and planning proposal from James Rigney.

Ring Fence CIL Monies

Steve Kent-Phillips suggested the money that had been paid in should be moved into the community savings account. This was agreed.

Street Lighting

Steve Kent-Phillips noted that we had the quote from Balfour Beatty and we could use Electrical Testing but they needed a certificate from CCC to work on CCC land. The Clerk agreed to chase David Brown and Ben Jakes for certificate and update. It was agreed to use ET in any case

Consider action regarding development in Newmarket Road Burwell.

Andrew Camps pointed out this may mean more than 350 extra cars, John Covill mentioned the safety impact in Mill Hill. David Almond asked if the focus was on traffic. John Covill suggested it was. Steve Kent-Phillips asked if they had an environmental impact survey. David Greenfield suggested it would not change existing planning but we could expect their attention regarding Mill Hill. Peter Hart suggested asking what plans they had to mitigate the impact of extra traffic. The Clerk agreed to contact ECDC Highways.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident regarding the overgrown hedge on Mill Hill near the windmill. The cheque for PoP would be presented to Janet Willmott with thanks for the work that PoP were doing.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Peter Hart reported the new posts down on Mill Hill. Steve Kent-Phillips said he got the email whilst he was in the USA and that replacement posts were now going to be the springy kind not the oak type that were there (or not) now. He also reported that the new notice board would be looked at by the **Cambridge Pine & Oak** as it had become difficult to open. Andrew Camps said that ETS had made a start but have more to do in the cemetery. We may have to put up notices to ask people to remove their plastic bottles from the cemetery as well as glass, which they should take home. Steve Kent-Phillips proposed turning off the cemetery water tap for winter which was agreed.

Open Question Time

Peter Rand reported on progress with the village sign. Steve Kent-Phillips pointed out that Elston Decorators had been commissioned to remove, replace and refurbish the post and could also provide materials, if required. Peter agreed to keep

records of his expenses but did not expect materials to be more than £200. Alastair Everitt noted that Mr Rigney may be the correct contact regarding the Burwell traffic concerns.

If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

Future meeting dates:

11 February 2016, 10 March 2016, 14 April 2016. All are welcome to attend.

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

Tel: 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only).

Email: clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk

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



**RE:NEW
Church Family**

Relay Baton



I've just arrived home from a very good leader's meeting at Lode chapel; the RE:NEW church family is in the middle of a phase of praying, planning and preparing for the year ahead. I had placed on each table a relay baton, I didn't even refer to it on this occasion, such was the nature of the meeting with constant discussion and contributions from those gathered; however I still think that the baton

served a purpose. The relay baton reminds me (I often carry one in my work bag, hold one when I'm praying, sometimes even when I'm preaching) that I am part of a team: God's team, and that involves running with others with the same goal, dream and vision for the race ahead. We may be different personalities, have different running styles and techniques, but we are all part of the same team. A relay team needs to know each other really well, needs to train together, needs to know who is most gifted at running which part of the race. What teams are you part of? What part do you play? What parts do others play? Do you have a shared vision, goal, hopes, dreams, aspirations? Do you genuinely love and care for one another? You cannot run a relay race alone.

People working together ultimately succeed or fail based on their commitment to one another and their shared goal.

The relay baton reminds me that when someone chooses to follow Jesus, they are entering a race, a relay, a journey of life that has a purpose, that requires us to "Go",

“Reach”, “Share the Good News”, “Tell of what God has done in Jesus Christ”. On Sunday morning 7th February we have a Believer’s Baptism service (10.30am at Bottisham Primary School). Two of our young people will be baptised and will share something of their story of life, including how they came to follow Jesus and the difference He makes in their lives. I would love you to join with us. Come and hear the Good News of the Christian faith, come and see for yourself. Will you come?

Please do contact me if you would like to know more about any aspect of RE:NEW.
Alan Brand

RE:NEW Services in February 2016.

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

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

7th February. 10.30am – RE:NEW. *Believers’ Baptism Service*
(at Bottisham Primary School)

14th February. 10.30am – RE:NEW Café style (at the School)

14th February. 6.20pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

21st February. 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)

28th February. 10.30am – RE:NEW (at the School)

28th February. 6.20 pm – Traditional service. (Lode Chapel)

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

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

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

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



FRUITFULNESS IN LENT.

‘Lent!’, I hear you say, ‘already?’. Yes, Lent will come early in 2016 – it begins on Feb 10, culminating in a very early Easter.

Every Lent the parish churches in the Anglesey group of villages (Quy, Bottisham, Bulbeck, Prior and Lode) and RE:NEW with Lode Chapel join together to run a series of studies on some aspect of the Christian life. This year we’ll be following a course called ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontline’ - developing ideas about how Christians can make a positive difference in their communities, schools, workplaces, wherever life takes them. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyMMfyy3FDE>

We meet in small groups – about 10 people each- over a six week period from the second week in February to the fourth in March - with a choice of days, times and locations to suit almost everyone.

Details will, of course be available in the churches, but the reason for this more public announcement is to invite all Christians in our villages – even those who don’t normally worship at our particular churches – to join us for these highly inclusive Lent groups. Interested?

Please contact Coral Hatley 01223 811457 coralhatley@gmail.com for more information or to register your interest.

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent arrives early this year and so does Easter. In the Benefice we will be preparing for our Lenten Fast with a pancake service in Quy village hall on Sunday 14th February at 11 am and you would be very welcome to join us. Lent is not the most popular season for many people. It is often viewed as a rather gloomy penitential season associated with discipline and giving things up neither of which inspire people to get involved. There is, however, another way of looking at Lent. It can also be a time for celebrating God's love and his patience with us even when we get things wrong. Lent helps us to deepen our love for God and a Lenten discipline can create a structure to help us become more open to God and his action in the world. Lent is a time to count our blessings.



Christian Aid have produced some excellent resources for Lent which help both children and adults to recognise the blessings of their lives and to give thanks to the Giver. Each day in Lent we are invited to do simple things such as looking in the fridge, counting the variety of vegetables that are there and thanking God for the food we enjoy. There is also an option to put a small amount of money into a jar as a practical thanksgiving that Christian Aid can use to help other families around the world. Part of helping to build God's kingdom is to ensure that everyone can enjoy God's blessings as we do.

Small practical steps that help us recognise God's blessings encourage us to appreciate the ordinary things we so often take for granted. Lent this year could be a time to give thanks to God as we seek to develop an attitude of gratitude.

I wish you a happy and joyful Lent.

Sue Giles

Spring Jumble Sale in Lode Saturday 19th March 2-4 at the Fassage Hall

The spring Jumble sale will take place on Saturday 19th March at the Fassage Hall. We do hope you will turn out your cupboards, and sheds and bring us stuff that we can sell. We think we will use it to put towards something for the village say some outdoor equipment, which is very popular in the other villages. It is surprising how much money has been raised from these twice yearly events and the importance of recycling in our very wasteful society, so please come and join us and enjoy buying a good book, a useful bowl, good quality clothes, pictures, you name it, and we will no doubt have it! At the end, anything that is left is sorted and redistributed or recycled. Very little is thrown away. Thank you

Fran Platten

Church Services in February

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 7 February, Sunday next before Lent

11am Matins

Wednesday 10 February, Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Benefice Service at Swaffham Bulbeck

Sunday 14 February, first Sunday of Lent

9.30am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1), Swaffham Bulbeck

11am Benefice All Age Pancake Service, Quy (Village Hall)

Sunday 21 February, second Sunday of Lent

11am Family Service

Sunday 28 February, third Sunday of Lent

9.30am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1)

11am Benefice All Age Service, Bottisham

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

RAISING THE ROOF

Jesus Lane Friends Meeting Appeal

A series of Saturday Supper Concerts at Friends Meeting House, 12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB5 8BA for improvements to the Meeting House

Dates for Spring 2016:

Saturday 5th March, 6.00 – 7.00 pm

Music for Recorder – solo and consort

FREE ENTRY TO CONCERTS WITH RETIRING COLLECTION

followed by a hot supper (7.00 – 8.30 pm) for which we ask a donation in the region of £10 - £25

Please book your supper ticket with Rich Braun/Ione Evans 01223 812115 evans.braun@btinternet.com

Further dates to be announced.

Dates for Your Diary February 2016

Fri	5	Coffee Morning, 10.30—12 noon, VH
Thu	11	PC Meeting, VH
Mon	15	WI, 7.30 VH
Tue	16	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners,
Wed	17	Lent Frugal Lunch, 12 noon, Lord's Acre
Thu	18	Crier Copy Deadline POP Community Litter Pick, 10am-12 noon
Fri	19	Coffee Morning, 10.30—12 noon, VH
Fri	26	Coffee Morning, 10.30am 1pm, 41 Cage Hill
Sat	5	Tabletop Sale, 10am—1pm

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Weds (term)	Activity dependent	School Hall
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent House
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	