



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 4

April 2017



Editorial

ALL CHANGE THIS MONTH, READERS! First of all, a Big Welcome to Stephen and Michele at the Red Lion (p. 6). If you've not been in yet, then give it a try, everything just feels so relaxed and happy, what a lovely start. And they are very generously sponsoring our brilliant Crossword Prize (a meal for two at the Lion) so get entering this month. But be warned, it's tricky!

And a big change for the Crier this month too. Sad Goodbyes to Ruth Stinton who is now retiring after being with the Crier since its inception (p. 7). We'd like to thank her for 40 years (20 of them with the current editors) of service to this magazine, during which time she has been an absolute bed-rock and especially to us, the editors A big welcome to Pam Waters, who has very bravely agreed to step into Ruth's shoes.

Observant readers may have spotted that the Newspaper Shed which has so long stood rather forlorn and abandoned by the children's playground since the plastic re-cycling bins marched into the village and gobbled all the newspapers has undergone a transformation and you can read all about that in this month's edition as well (p. 11).

There are some delightful articles in this month's edition. If you thought Dad's Army was hilarious but then they made it all up, just read Henry Brown's WW2 memoirs starting this month (p. 18) on the subject of what really happened to the young men who fought in the air-force: they're dynamite.

And we have 3 poets this month, with a late entry by that legendary Saga Writer, Bettydur Primeðason (p. 12) who for the last 13 months has fought a relentless battle against recalcitrant leaks with a tiny squad of only 30 men and one woman... an epic tale indeed!

Don't forget the Autumn Show — now is the time to start growing, and let's see who can correctly identify all the fake news in this April Edition. Which is it?

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: *Peace* by Sarah Burgess



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Spuds in Buckets

I am afraid your reporting is up to your usual standard. The last “Spuds in a Bucket” was won by my dear wife, and here is the photo to prove it !!

As I recall, the Pumfreys came a dismal, distant second and third. We won’t enter this time to give everyone else a chance. It’s only fair.

Steve Kent-Phillips



Dear Editors,

Daffodils

We just wanted to thank everybody involved in the wonderful display of daffodils in the village. First of all thank you to the Parish Council for providing them, to Janet Willmott and Mandy Kingsmill for organising the distribution of them and to all those who have planted them. They really make the village look so welcoming and colourful. Long may they last!

Ruth and Robin Scovil



Dear Editors,

Easter Gardens

Just a note to say it should say School Friday Garden Club. The children have been busy last Friday lunch time making the mossy gardens and are planning to carry them up to the church as they go to their end of term Easter Service. Sue Giles as organized for them to be on display there over Easter.

Sue Wade



Viv Elston and Peter Rand erecting the newly refurbished Village Sign. While they were there, they were hailed by a passing motorist who said he was a Guardian reader looking for the famous Mark Levinski of Swaffham Prior, whose letters are always appearing in their pages. Nobody of that name here.....

Dear Editors,

Arthur Rank Coffee Morning

A big thank you from Ruth and I, for all those that came to the coffee morning for the Arthur Rank Hospice. It raised over £330, which was really good. We shall be having another in 2019!

Thank you again

Ruth and Margaret.

Dear Editors

Those Toads

I've enjoyed the wildlife articles, but - just in case some young person is writing their homework on this - feel I should point out that toads breed in much the same way as frogs, go to great lengths to get to just the right pond in spring, mate and do indeed lay their long strings of eggs in pond water, not in soil.

I do recommend a book (still available) 'Frogs and Toads' by Trevor Beebee - sympathetically written and great fun.

In our own garden we have virtually no frogs (the grass snakes ate them all), but lots of newts. Rumour has it frogs and newts do not get on, so you have either one of the other!

Angela Nisbet

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

All was quiet until item 7 Correspondence. From SCDC had come a note about a "Future Planning Application in Waterbeach." It seems there are plans to build 6,500 dwellings on the old Waterbeach Barracks. Alan Alderson said the latest news is that it is likely to be 9,000. Together with the 3,000 in North Ely there are some "concerns about the A10". This started everyone off. "Why don't they sort out the infrastructure before they build any houses." "Won't this also bung up the A14?" "What about the increased pollution from the traffic?" "Don't people ever think?" and so it went on.



Steve eventually suggested that that was enough "gripping", and moved on to the next letter, which was from Dave Jackson, who lives next to the Village Hall. Dave complained that the trees in the VH driveway had not been cropped enough. He thought they should have been "significantly shortened" and not just pollarded. Paul proposed that as the work had already been completed, and was acceptable, that the matter should be raised when the trees next needed attention which would be in three or four year's time. There then followed a long discussion whether the work Dave wanted should be done now, the exact wording of the first request, had the tree officer understood what was wanted, which tree officer was it as the two vary quite a lot in their opinions, etc. Paul twice more suggested it should be left until the trees needed cropping again, especially as the time for pruning trees had passed. And this was eventually agreed. Being a spectator I thought it had gone on for a bit, but it did show how much the PC takes notice of people's views and reasonable complaints. Next time they will also ask what other people in the village think about the trees.

Steve Kent-Phillips then gave an update on the various CIL and Open Space projects – those that had been completed, the dates of further action, and the various payments that can now be paid. As there is some money left there will be an announcement in the *Crier* asking for further suggestions.

The Speedwatch Survey is considered a success though an evening count on the top road has still to be done. The morning rush hour survey counted 1,000 vehicles passing through in just under an hour. Meantime a decision has been taken to purchase portable traffic lights which will keep a record of speeds, and which can be moved around the village. It has been purchased with some of the money donated years ago for traffic improvements on the top road. Another village had already heard about the lights and has asked if it can "borrow" them. "Borrow them!!!" was the indignant outcry. "They will have to pay us". Large stickers saying "30 mph please" are to be supplied to every household to put on their rubbish bins. For one day a week there will be a huge 30mph reminder.

There is still no news on the installation of the bollards at the top of Station Road. Copies of all Paul the Clerk's emails and correspondence have been passed to David Brown who will be taking the matter up with a higher level at CCC. In the good old days, twenty or thirty years ago, one would have known that one possible explanation was it being a Masonic stitch up. But now, in this age of greater

transparency and accountability, the truth becomes more obscure. Everyone has become such a good Sir Humphrey.

Paul liked the daffodils so much he wondered why we couldn't also have snowdrops, tulips and blue bells. And Mark wanted more trees. Paul the Clerk said that a group called Will Meadows wanted an informal discussion about a possible planning proposal. They are to be told to book a formal presentation at a PC meeting and with early notice of the planning location so that interested people could attend. A Lady complained about dog poo; the PC did not know what to do with it. The village sign is about to be completed by Peter Rand and there are hopes it will be erected within the next few weeks.

Alastair Everitt

PS. I thank all the kind people who congratulated me for offering to serve on the new Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier. Since then an account has been published listing the enormous problems and uncertainties of the project. By the time they are resolved – if they ever are – I shall be too old to serve. Therefore, with some regret and sadness, my application has been withdrawn.

Post Meeting Note: Unfortunately, this year's spectacular display of daffodils will not be repeated next year following complaints to the PC from migraine sufferers due to the increased levels of pollen. Bulbs will be removed in the autumn.

Defibrillator replacement

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that the Defibrillator in the red phone box by the playground supplied to the village at a discount price last year by BT was an end of line product and is now discontinued. In the light of this, representations have been made to BT. They have agreed to replace the Defibrillator at no additional cost with the new model, the Refibrillator (Standard model).

The Refibrillator is considerably more efficient and has a wider range of use, not only for human usage but also for wildlife. It has been fully tested on a range of small mammals and lizards. It is guaranteed to restore full circulation when applied. However only the Deluxe version may be applied to birds, whose circulatory system is considerably lighter. (It is believed that since the positive publicity for Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck may be planning to install a Deluxe version).

It is so effective that it may be applied to mammals, lizards and amphibians to a weight of 2.5kg up to two to three weeks after circulation has ceased. Application to larger animals where circulation has stopped for more than 24 hours is not guaranteed. Please note however that it may not be similarly used on any person whose demise has been medically certified as these certificates cannot in any circumstances be revoked. The implications for HMRC and the Benefits Office make this unfeasible. Government legislation is proposed, although this is currently delayed by the legislative processes around the impending demise of the UK's place in the EU. The UK office of Registration of Births, Deaths and marriages has issued a statement which can be found online:

<https://www.gov.uk/RefibrillatorApril1/general-register-office/ubinhad>

Mark Lewinski

News from the Red Lion

In October last year we heard that Batemans were looking for tenants for The Red Lion and instantly started to re-plan our future.

Since leaving the Five Bells in Burwell, back in May 2015, we had tried to re-kindle our previous occupations without too much success, jobs were available and we took a few, but they didn't give us much satisfaction or excitement. We missed the community and friends we had made in Cambridgeshire and also the hands-on employment of running a pub.

Our ambition for The Red Lion is to make it a centre for the community available to everybody.

In the kitchen where possible, we plan to use local ingredients and to prepare traditional home cooked meals 'with a twist'! There will be a set menu of around 10 choices supplemented by continually changing specials. A keenly priced senior lunch-time menu will be available during the week and 2 for 1 deals for main course items on Wednesdays. We aim to start a 'take away service' for fish, sausage or burger with chips. Curries will also be available. Our standard menu will be enhanced by 'Special Menu events', such as sausage weekend, pie weekend, curry night and for those who wish to count their syns!! a monthly 'Slimming World night'. Serving time for Sunday Lunch will be extended until 4:00pm.

Michele is a vegetarian and will be introducing some new enticing options to the menu, the days when you could only get a risotto or Linda McCartney sausages will be a fading memory.

A new website is on its way and we will also be starting a loyalty scheme linked to a new "Red Lion app" both the app and the web site will offer online booking facilities.

During the summer months we want to run events in the garden, at Burwell we had music, theatre and cinema in the barn, but we never achieved one of our main ambitions to host 'Shakespeare in the Park', probably not this year but why not next? Music, BBQs, Gin and Beer festivals are also on the agenda. The last Sunday of the month quiz will return on the 30th April with proceeds going to a local good cause. If you have any other ideas for events please drop in and offer your suggestions.

We look forward to meeting you all soon

Stephen & Michele King

Village Broadband Success

The many volunteers that helped establish our Village Broadband (then called RASP, now run by local provider Air Broadband) will be delighted to learn that it will become part of Rupert Murdoch's News International if the planned merger with Sky is confirmed.

Farewell to Ruth Stinton

Ruth Stinton has finally decided to take a very well-earned retirement this month. She has been a pivotal member of the Crier team since its formation in 1977 when she helped type it out on Canon John Byrom's typewriter (it had a long enough carriage to accommodate the old Gestetner skins) . By the time the current editors came along, she was organising collating and .distribution, becoming our Distribution Manager in 2000. This is Ruth writing in 2003:

“After the Editors have done their bit, it still takes a team of seven (from a volunteer list of seventeen, who normally do it about once every three months) to collate the magazine and another team of sixteen who make the deliveries regularly each month. We are always looking for more volunteers, especially for the collating which takes about 1 - 1¼ hrs on the last Thursday of each month”.

Although collation is done automatically now (a pity in some ways, it was great fun!) the organisation effort involved in distributing the *Crier*, to the many far-flung outposts of Swaffham Prior (not to mention Skye and other foreign places) is no small task.

Her legendary organisational skills, resourcefulness, efficiency, comprehensive local knowledge and wry sense of humour are just some of the things that have contributed so greatly to the production of the Crier during these years. Her grandfather was Bartholomew Badcock, who lived at Corona Dairy and apparently, when she was a young girl, she used to lead the cows from the Dairy down the path past Home Farm twice a day. Perhaps that's why she has always been so good at chivvying editors in the right direction when things went wrong!

Ruth also served as Clerk to the Parish Council for 25 years, winning the WI's Good Neighbour Award in 2002. Below, she is accepting another award on 2003 when the Crier most unexpectedly won the Mid-Anglia Small Magazine Competition. Goodbye Ruth, you will be severely missed.

Caroline Matheson



SWAFFHAM PRIOR ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 17th MAY 2017

IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

AGENDA

Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 18th May 2016

**County Council Report
District Council Report**

Parish Council Report

Additional Village Reports including:

The School & School Governors

Youth Club

Beaver, Cub & Scout Groups

Burwell Tigers Football Club

CIL Monies

The Community Land Trust

Village Hall Management Committee

Parochial Charities

Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme

Update by Hill Residential on Development in Rogers Road

Open Question Time

THE GAYBULLEID AWARD

Now the Gay Bullied Award has been safely re-established it only requires a short reminder about this. Every village and community is dependent on those people who are active and make a contribution, in some small or large way, to maintain the good heart of the community. There are only two rules – the person must live in the village, and it cannot be awarded twice to the same person within five years.

It is a kind of local Oscar, a small local acknowledgement. So, discuss it with your friends and neighbours. Think who has made some kind of contribution to the Village, whether from the Scouts, the Church, the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council, the Youth Club – one could go on and on. The person who receives the greatest number of votes receives the award. As simple as that.

All names, with a short reason, must be submitted in writing to Sandra Gynn by 30 April. Her address is 30 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

The award winner will receive on loan for one year, an original painting of the windmill, by Ophir Catling, our resident poet, who happens to live on the Isle of Skye. **It will be presented at the Annual Village Assembly to be held in May.**

A List of previous winners is to be found on the Village Notice Board. For those wishing to know more about the history of this award they should see page 8 of the April 2015 issue on the Crier website.

Alastair Everitt



Spuds in Buckets - Returning by popular demand!

Beat your neighbours in the great village competition 😊

Just £5 will buy you a bucket and a spud!

It is then up to you to grow the heaviest yield of potatoes in your bucket to be weighed at the Harvest Show and Dog Show on Saturday 9th September

Call 07833 960678 or contact admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk to sign up
In aid of St. Mary's Church

The Rules:

1. Spuds and buckets will be available for collection up to 14th April
2. Spuds to be grown in the buckets in whatever manner the grower chooses
3. Spuds and buckets should be delivered to the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th September for the grand weigh-in
4. The adult and child (under 16 at that date) with the heaviest yield of potatoes from their undisturbed bucket will be declared the winners of 2017's competition
5. The judge's decision will be final
6. The winners will be announced at the Harvest Show and in the Swaffham Crier



On the Allotment

April is a busy month both indoors and out.

Indoors; sow courgettes, sweetcorn, squash, cucumbers and gherkins in modules. Runner beans can be sown in pots for planting outdoors when the risk of frost has past.

Outdoors continue to sow salad cobs and beetroot in short rows throughout spring and summer for a continuous supply. Make a seedbed by sifting soil and mixing with compost and sow brassicas (broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, kale, winter cabbage and savoy cabbage) for subsequent planting out.

Early carrots, e.g. Amsterdam Forcing and Early Nantes can be sown in short rows in fortnight intervals until July, whereas maincrop, e.g. Sugarsnax (very sweet as the name implies) Autumn King and Danvers Half Long (a traditional variety) and Purple Haze (one of my favourites),

should be sown from April to June. Thin carrots to a spacing of 2.5 cm and if this can be done on a cloudy day it will help to avoid attracting carrot fly – the main enemy. Most methods of protection are designed to foil the little pests by blocking the scent which is how they locate the crop. Onions or garlic can be planted between rows or marigolds to add colour. Failing that, grass cuttings or cut herbs can be spread between rows.

Dwarf beans can be sown outdoors under cloches to protect from frost – otherwise sow in pots indoors.

If you have not finished planting early potatoes do so now and start planting maincrop, remembering to earth-up immediately the shoots show.

Having discussed soil types last month and identified that Swaffham Prior has the poorest, the next step might be how to improve the situation. On the assumption that moving house is not a practical solution, the joys of composting is an alternative. The cheapest – and after animal manure – certainly the best soil conditioner is garden compost – nature's recycling system which we should emulate. The problem is getting enough material as it is unlikely that your household and garden waste will be sufficient. However, proceed with hope and start by making two compost bins (pallets are useful for this purpose) one that can be filled and left to rot down whilst the other is being filled. Most vegetable waste can be used but avoid potatoes as these can contribute to disease. Composting should reduce the contents of your green bins considerably

Animal manures are the best soil conditioner and in this area probably the easiest to obtain is horse manure. The bedding provides the bulk which will eventually rot down to form humus, while the waste provides the fuel for the rotting process but contains many plant nutrients. Animal manure can be combined with garden waste.

A constant activity throughout the coming months is weeding – the more frequently the better...and do not believe that a weed is just a plant in the wrong place – **it is the enemy and must be shown no mercy.**



Mike Malster

A new lease of life- Welcome to the Hog Paper Shack!



So, got some exciting news (well it is for me anyway). After talking with Alastair Everitt, we have agreed that the newspaper shed down by the village playground will not close after all but instead will have a change of role. Rather than collecting papers for the horses, all newspaper deposited there from now on will be collected by me every so often and taken straight to the hedgehog hospital where it will be put to good use, making cosy beds for our many poorly and injured hoggies. For any of you who were leaving newspapers beforehand, I hope you will please continue to do so. Your charity is greatly appreciated by us at the hospital, as we simply can't look after so many hogs without a regular supply of newspaper throughout the year. Even if it's just a handful of papers, stick them in the shed and it will all add up. Just a few things:

- We can only use newsprint as bedding for the hogs so no glossy fashion magazines or tissue paper please.
- Please remove any plastic bags (shed was awash with these!)
- Please neatly pile the newspaper up in the corners where there are already stacks. If they get trampled on the floor, they become damp and dirty, and then they're no good to us.



The Saga of Betty's Leak

Oh dear, oh dear exclaimed Louise, you have a damp patch on the wall.
It looks as though you have a leak. Better give Simon King a call.
Simon came with brush in hand to decorate the hall,
But then the leak came back again, better give Simon another call.
Andrew was next on the scene, call the Insurance was his advice,
So Anglia Water then sent George, he was here within a trice.
You need a man with a machine was all that he could say,
So Dave arrived with machine in hand, hoping to save the day.
He went away and then came who? I forgot to ask his name.
He didn't know why he'd come so he went away again.
The House Insurance man called James was next to visit me.
He spent some time having a look round and said he'd Email me.
He soon came back with Ian in a search for some asbestos
Thank goodness there was none to see for I was worried about the cost.
James No.2 was next to visit, he came in a great big van
To search the house for any more leaks, accompanied by Jan.
Next came Nigel and his son Craig, they re-routed all the pipes
And put new radiators in - they really look rather nice.
Back came James (2) with assistant Leigh, they dug up all the floors
And then came Sean to spray some stuff— mustn't walk on it for hours!
'Excuse me' I politely said, 'what if I need the loo?'
'Oh that's a point' considered Sean, 'now what are we to do?'
I visited my dear friend Shirley who lives across the way.
She was so very helpful - 'you can stay here all day'.
Back home I feel more cheerful, the skies are turning blue
But no - it's not right yet, there's a leak in the downstairs loo!
Along came Luke to turn things off, I move myself upstairs again
Till Steve and Dan repair the loo - is it there I must remain?
A knock at the door and there stands Diana - note! This time not a man!
She plugs in two noisy machines - to dry me out is the plan.
Jamie is next to visit me, he dismantles my bathroom cupboards
Then Dave takes plaster off the walls - more damp there I suppose.
He puts in two more big machines - it's like living with a London bus
They are so noisy but I suppose I mustn't make a fuss.
A week goes by and back comes Luke with young apprentice Dan
They took the loo out 'where'll we put this? In the garage if you can.

Basin, cupboards, plaster next removed by a tall young man called Rob
 To squeeze into my bathroom he really had quite a job.
 Leigh came back to check the damp then James followed him.
 He removed one of the big machines which lessened some of the din.
 Dave came next, another week as far as he could see
 Before the damp had all dried out, then of noise I would be free.
 Hooray! Daniel took the machines away and Darren put back the loo
 But the water keeps on running in, now what are we to do?
 Jennifer came to stay with me and it kept her awake at night.
 She took the lid off the downstairs cistern and wiggled something white.
 It did the trick and all is quiet, please nothing else go wrong.
 Will 2017 be a better year? It's been going on so long.
 Ian's been and taken notes, it's not quite over yet
 And John has called about the floors with samples I could vet.
 Amanda phoned - please choose the paint and your bathroom needs re-tiling
 I make my choice of paint and tiles but now there is more waiting
 Not for long for next comes Tom to do replastering
 And then it's Jamie with new skirting for some of it needs replacing
 I've now had Tom, Sam, John and Brenden to do the decorating
 And Dave(3) will be here on Monday to lay some of the flooring.
 Oh dear, poor Rob, he's hurt his leg and cannot do my bathroom.
 I wonder who will come instead to sort out my last problem?
 Kevin came, took off the tiles and replaced them all with more
 Joined by Jamie and plumber Graham -he hasn't been before.
 The tiles are up, the painting's done, the loo is back in place.
 There's just the floor and one small cupboard then I'll have no more to face.
 Two weeks have passed without a man but hark, the phone is ringing
 To say Dave and Jamie will finish the job, so now my heart is singing!

 The floor is done, the cupboard built, my home is normal once again.
 I'm so relieved, it's been so long, but what will I do without my men!!



(11th Feb. 2016— 24th March 2017 with 30 men and 1 lady)

Betty Prime
 March 24th, 2017

Get Growing for the Autumn Show

Frosty mornings seem to have been replaced by warmer, windier weather, and it is time to start planting and sowing. The keen and well-organised amongst us will already have dug and raked, put up nice warm clothes, and can feel justifiably smug.

Hopefully there will be a little more sun this year, and we can look forward to bumper crops of fruit, giant vegetables and masses of flowers.

The **Swaffham Prior Autumn Show** will be held this year on:

Saturday
9th September



Use this opportunity to meet other Swaffham Priorites and keep our village life vibrant by taking an active part in community events. Compete - in a friendly and non-confrontational way - with your neighbours, to grow and show the best flowers and vegetables, bake the tastiest bread and cakes, or capture the most interesting photographic images.

Look at the wide range of categories below, and try your hand at something new.

CHILDREN'S CATEGORIES

Miniature garden, fruit or vegetable animal, cupcakes, model of "Things that Fly"

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The themes for this year's photo entries are:

Up to 16 years

Over 16 years

Trees

Technology

BAKING and PRESERVES

Victoria sponge, fruit cake, decorated cake, scones and hand-made or machine-made bread

Jam or jelly, pickle or chutney, marmalade, honey, homemade wine or other alcoholic beverage

FLOWERS

Sunflowers, roses, dahlias, plus other single or mixed flower collections and arrangements. Also, show off your amazing indoor pot plants

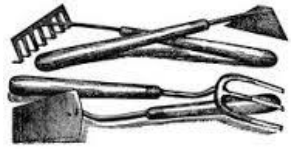
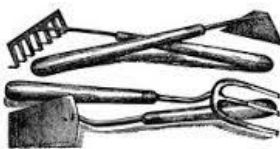
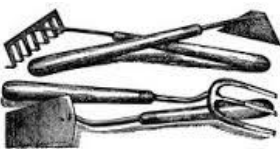
VEGETABLES

French and runner beans, beetroot, onions and shallots, carrots, potatoes, various tomatoes, courgettes, squash and cucumber - or another vegetable that you want to grow - herb collection

Plus the reinstated Trug of mixed fruit and vegetables.

FRUIT

Dessert and cooking apples, pears, plums, soft fruit - or anything else you've grown



Full details and rules for all of the categories will be published in The Crier.

Entry forms and photography competition rules, will be circulated and also made available from the Village Hall website:

www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk

Out On The Wildside

The Wood Pigeon- A ‘Thriving’ Issue

Cuuu! Cuuu! ‘Yawn, not again!’.....the unmistakable sound of the wood pigeon, as it vigorously beats its wings frolicking on our roofs. I’ve always found the wood pigeon to be an awkwardly endearing creature, a bird of humble means but full of character. I could have featured a rarer bird, as so many are susceptible to becoming endangered — highlighting alarming issues of species depletion — but thought it



would be of equal value by featuring one of our most numerous birds, the ‘Wood Pigeon’- flagging up equally concerning issues of ‘species abundance’.

Some say the pigeon lacks intellect ‘oh tell me what a car window is’? Some say they are the ‘rats of the skies’. But there’s clearly a fondness for them, noted by the variety of colloquial names for Wood Pigeons, which include; Culvers, Cushats, Ringdove/s, Ringdow, Cushie-doo/s, Cushy-do, Quist

or my personal favourite, the ‘Woody’ — anyone seen Buzz Light-year??? With so many names to its notoriety, this particular bird has clearly ruffled a few feathers in it’s time.

Now, for the fun Wood Pigeon facts and figures:

The ‘woody’ is predominately a sedentary bird. Throughout their lifespan the average individual will not move more than 10 miles away from where they hatched. I call that loving your local patch. They are highly affectionate birds, displayed by their courtship and bonding behaviours. They enjoy perching in trees and searching for food in our gardens, public greens, parks, or fields. Woodies are gregarious and flock in their thousands! Their flight is swift and direct with a hesitant approach on landing. The record age for a ‘ringed’ wild bird is over 16! Woodies breed all year round, August being peak month for fledgling. A female woody never lays more than two eggs in a clutch, but she may lay as many as six repeat clutches in a year -if she loses her eggs. Young Woodies-called ‘Squabs’ take 16 weeks to acquire their distinctive white neck ring.

They are adaptable at building nests-made simply of twigs, normally up in the tree canopy or hedge borders -but have been seen constructing them on ground level. They are almost exclusively vegetarian, mostly feeding on grains; fleshy leaves, fruits, berries, seeds, acorns, root crops, winter buds of trees and bushes and the occasional invertebrate (larvae, ants and small worms).

Because they particularly like young shoots and seedlings, they’re considered to be agricultural pests, often persecuted as such. Woodies are one of the few birds that excel in our intensively farmed countryside, so despite year round shooting of

them- they still inflict £3 million worth of damage to crops annually nationwide. Woodies are thriving, increasing their numbers with 5.4 million breeding pairs across the U.K.

Just like the expansion of Jellyfish in the oceans, this new trend is not necessarily 'scientifically welcome', certainly not in terms of 'biodiversity'. Considering they are consistently in the top most regular flying visitors to our gardens nationwide, perhaps it's time we take a greater interest in their lives, particularly how they are adapting to and engaging in a world in which (we humans) are the 'shepherds of the "flock of life"'.

Chaucer's Prologue to the President's Tale

A presydent there was ycleped Trump
That lerned clerkes demed a proper chump.
A merchaunt hadde he been in tyme of yore
And many a bagge of gold hadde he in store.
His nekke and eke his braynes both were thikke
His hayre lyk flosse of candy on a stikke
Grew forwards from the back syde of his hedde.
For choler were his face and tie bothe redde.
His eyen glared as round as doth an owle
But of his speche he koude be ryght foul
Concerning wenches that he wolde clutch -
The yonge maydens trusted him nat much.
Al scribes of media held he in despit,
In twitteryng was set al his delit
For trouthe and falsehood were to him alyke
Whilom he stode and spake into a myke.
This presydent hadde wed a comely wyf -
The second that he hadde in his lyf
That was yboren in a Balkan land -
And both were blond and eche of hem was tanned
And yong and fayr to see as is the day -

He semed Januarie to hir May.
All other thingis foreign caused hym woe -
Especially what cam from Mexico
Or land where Moor or Saracen doth dwell -
Swich folk he wolde feresomlye repel,
Save one grete compeer of far Muscovy
Ycleped Vladimir of Kay Gee Bee.
But scathe it is, the state methinketh rottene
With Trumpes fynger on the nuclear buttone.

Wulsin



**Starting this month: extracts from Swaffham Prior's
oldest living resident's autobiography:
Henry Brown's WW2**

It was 1940 and the Battle of Britain was raging. I was 17 ½ and could register for service at this age, so I went to a recruitment centre and signed up to be a RAF pilot. I turned 18 in October and was called up for assessment. They gave me a thorough physical examination and aptitude tests. A panel interviewed me and decided I could progress to training as a pilot. I was told the courses were full and it would be about 6 months before I would be called up. In the meantime I went to work for my Uncle Harry sorting out the large backlog of food coupons in his shop!

In spring 1941 the call came to Initial Training Wing, Scarborough, where many hotels had been taken over. I was taught navigation, Morse Code, engineering, etc. The Germans knew the RAF was in town and dropped small bombs on Scarborough at regular intervals. On one evening H. Brown was posted for guard duty, and as there was also a Harry Brown in the unit we tossed for it. I won. Harry was killed that night by a bomb splinter. I, and many of my fellow trainees, was knocked out of bed by the blast moving my bedroom wall.

On completing the 3 months' course my unit of about 50 men was dispatched to Liverpool. We were to be conveyed on HMS Chitral, an armed merchant cruiser in a convoy escort on a 10-day sea journey to Halifax, Nova Scotia. We stood extra watches and made ourselves useful. Depth charges were dropped and guns fired. From Halifax we were sent to Toronto. Here we were told that we were to be trained in America, not Canada. As America was 'neutral' we could not wear our uniforms so we were kitted out with light grey flannel suits. We were billeted in the Toronto Bull Ring, which had become a transit camp; the food was excellent! Then off we went by the Chatta Nooga Chu Chu to the Alabama Institute of Aeronautics at Tuscaloosa where an RAF liaison officer briefed us.

We were the second intake of RAF cadets on a fighter pilot course in Stearsman bi-planes, with civilian instructors. Mine was an ex-crop duster, old enough to be my father, but could he fly!! The Steersman had to be flown by the 'seat of the pants, no flight instruments, just an engine rev counter. As an 18 year old, this was heaven. I learnt acrobatics, formation flying, and low, low flying. We had lessons in aviation engineering and mathematics. A local farmer gave us a taste of southern hospitality, arriving several evenings a week with a pick-up truck filled with ripe water melons – free!

There was considerable danger in flying without instruments because unless you could get the feel of an aircraft about to stall you were in trouble. My pal Bill Natrass stalled from 50 feet and hit the ground. He broke his harness traps, went through the windscreen and hit the tarmac. I stayed with him in the sick bay until the



ambulance came. The medics reckoned he was lucky to be alive, as he had broken shoulders and a fractured skull. Apart from 3-4 pupils who gave up and went back to Canada to become navigators, we all finished with top marks – USA-style simple exams.

We all caught the world's most virulent strains of foot fungus from the wooden duckboards in the showers. Alabama is very hot in summer and we had 2 showers a day. The RAF medical officers in Whitehall could have got off their backsides to check on any medical problems and even arranged for new boards, thus saving the future NHS vast sums of money; we brought it home with us. I still have my Athlete's Foot after 72 years and need to dose it regularly.

Then came a bolt from the blue. All those under 21 and over 30 years of age were to be eliminated because the next training course was run by the USAF and they only trained men between 21 and 30! What a bloomer for RAF Whitehall, who hadn't known. My instructor said I was a good as anyone on the course and not to worry. But we were sent back to Toronto. The Bull Ring was crowded so we were sent to Trenton, Ontario, whilst the military sorted things out. No, we could NOT have further training in Canada because this would annoy the USA. So we were sent to a transit camp outside Halifax to be shipped back to the UK. There were 300 of us by this time and morale was not good.

The return journey was on a horrific troopship in mid-December. We were three decks down in hammocks. The escort was American and there was a German battleship around. The convoy went north, off Greenland into mountainous seas. The liner 'France' rolled so far over its lifeboats were swept away. our Christmas meal was soup and porridge. After 3 weeks we had run out of food, but just made it to Liverpool and were sent to Hastings where we were accommodated in hotels and found a scratch band of NCOs had been gathered to control us.

In Hastings an individual followed me around for several days. I ran up the steps from the beach, which floored him. He then introduced himself as MI5 and would I show him where I kept my messenger pigeons. I had no pigeons! I only learned 3 years later the reason for the security check, when my brother Walter, against orders, admitted taking secret radar papers to his billet to study.

We were marched pointlessly up and down Hastings promenade for several days. I suggested a small mutiny to the chaps, to hasten a decision by the Air Ministry. The Flight Sergeant said "right turn, quick march", and the right marker did not move. Flight said "it was serious", I said we *were* serious and would he report us to the Ministry? He did and within 2-3 days we were billeted in Whitehall and given individual interviews. We were then sent to RAF Desford where our flying abilities were tested on Tiger Moths. I soloed quickly, proving the quality of the US instructors. The Ministry was anxious not to upset the US so we were sent out of sight to South Africa to complete our training.

¹ *Although what about Clifton Fletcher of Tothill Rd? Can readers tell us who is the older? Eds*

Henry Brown
Edited by Mark Lewinski
(To Be Continued)

Swaffham Prior Feast



Saturday 20th May

Please support our village community by bringing the whole family to the Feast to enjoy all the fun and games.



What's planned:

Treasure hunt, Children's colouring competition, Bird quiz, Score-a-goal, Flying bears, Fancy dress competition, Bowling, Beer tent, Barbecue, as well as many other stalls and games

PLUS: the annual Gurning and Egg-throwing competitions

This year's Feast at the **Village Hall** and **School** will be bigger and more fun than ever - and we would love to have your support to make sure that the day is a total success.

BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY FIVE

"I want the whole of Europe to have one currency;
it will make trading much easier."

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)

It would be great if you could help us by:

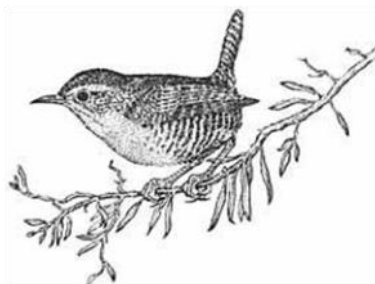
- Sorting out books and other items for the Book and Bric-a-brac stalls (Ring Jenny Brand, see below)
- Providing a bottle, can or carton for the Bottle stall
- Manning a stall for part of the afternoon
- Potting up some seedlings for the Plant stall
- Baking a cake for the Cake stall
- Giving us ideas for new attractions
- Providing prizes for the afternoon's events
- Suggesting local craft or food businesses which might like to run a stall to sell their wares

If you can help in these, or in any other ways, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

The organising committee are:

April Cook, Caroline Matheson, Jenny Brand, Mike Carrington

(01638 741659 or mcarrington@me.com) and **Peter Rand** (01638 741960 or perand@btinternet.com)



You can contact us at the phone numbers and email addresses above, or by contacting April at Swaffham Prior Primary School.

FLYING THE FLAG

Flag Flying Days this Month from the Tower of St Cyriac:

16th April	Easter Sunday
21st April	Queen's Birthday
23rd April	St George's Day

Janet Willmott

Please note, following a recent Government directive (Designated days for flying the flag in 2017) national flags are to be raised on all churches and public buildings when heads of state visit the UK. The first of these will be the stars and stripes for the state visit of President Trump, date to be confirmed. This directive does not include visits by heads of state of the EU.

Community District Heating System

On the Tuesday evening of the 21st March, at 18.10pm, I was walking along the High Street and noticed a black SUV parked in what I thought to be a suspicious manner. I stared, and as I stared, the window was slowly wound down, and a husky voice said “Hallo, Alastair”. Being a great fan of old black and white B-movies, with their pretty basic straightforward drama and clear diction, my hopes rose. I approached and saw a ravishing blonde. My hopes and excitement reached new heights. A little closer I went, and it then became clear that it was Emma Fletcher, with her son Leo sitting next to her, waiting for daughter Scarlet to finish her piano lesson. Quick as a flash I turned on a sixpence, dismissed the film scenario, and said, “Hallo Emma, you are just the person I want to see.” I then asked her about the progress that she and Mike Barker were making with the report, which they had discussed with the PC at its October meeting. With triumph shining out her eyes she told me that almost exactly an hour ago they had just sent off the application for government funding. (How is that for a good bit of *Crier* sleuthing!!) I said I thought it had to be in by the end of December. True, but there had been an extension until the end of March because there were so few applications, the forms were fiendishly complicated, and three specialised quotes were needed. It seems that the CCC, and the Danish Government, have given them a great deal of help and encouragement. This may well result in a momentous report emanating from Swaffham Prior. It could be of major significance for all the new developments in the county, and possibly the whole country. So, to use that hackneyed phrase, “watch this space”.

Alastair Everitt

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients’ Group

Easter Closing: The surgery will be closed for the Easter Holiday from 14th – 17th April inclusive. For urgent medical help over this period please ring the Out of Hours Service on 111.

Out of Hours Service: The Clinical Commissioning Group has been holding a public consultation over their proposal to move this service from the base at Chesterton to one at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. Your chairman and secretary attended one of these meetings and the message from the public there was that they feel that the Chesterton base should be retained. We await the final decision. For more information on this the website is <http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk>.

Annual General Meeting: This will be held at the surgery on Thursday 27th April at 7pm, during which one of our doctors will be giving a talk. Anyone who is a patient of the Practice is invited to attend. Further details will be put on the surgery notice board.

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. We would welcome help with running the group.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 7th and 19th April and 5th and 17th May 2017. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Patients' Group will meet on 25 May 2017 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Bottisham Patients' Group

PS. We've just been informed the road closure affecting the access to the surgery is to be extended to 14th April. Vehicle access is only via Swaffham Bulbeck.



MITCHELL LODGE BOWLS CLUB

With the approach of the new season we would like to welcome all old and new members to our pre-season meeting to be held on the 10th April 2017 at the Club Pavilion in Quarry Lane at 7.00pm. (Swaffham Bulbeck)

Mitchell Lodge enters teams in the Ely & District League (afternoon league), Cambridge & District League, and Cambridge & District Business House League.

All new members are welcome, why not join us for a friendly "roll up"

For more information ring: Reg Webb (Chairman) 01223 813401



VILLAGE GARDENERS

STEPHEN POISER, a Cambridge beekeeper, who's kept bees for 35 years, gave us a fascinating talk, entitled 'Beekeeping and the gardener'.

The two don't really go together and there's not a lot we can do to help them, was more or less his opening sentence- but, he then told us an incredible amount about bees, about who's survival he's clearly very optimistic and the rather small contribution we can make to their welfare and survival.



There are now only 23 species of Bumble bees left, 2000 species of wasps, 1 honey bee and no wild bees left in Cambridgeshire. Please look after bumble bees, as no one keeps them as a hobby. They hibernate over winter and need early flowering plants in the spring - for pollen and nectar- bees protein and carbohydrate. Grow lots of snowdrops, aconites, grape hyacinths and if you see them on a plant- plant more of those! He suggested that we could help them over winter, by making little nests for them: a 9" terracotta flower pot, filled with moss or broken up fibre glass and inverted underneath a hedge or bush. (no guide from B&Q really needed there.)

Honey bees as everyone knows, live in extraordinary co-operative communities, making honey to keep them going over winter. There are up to 80,000 in a hive, one queen, male drones, doing not very much at all - apart from the thing that all males are good at and sterile, exceedingly hard working workers, doing just about everything. Cleaning and sterilising cells, feeding larvae, air conditioning - keeping the hive at exactly 34degrees centigrade, comb making and doing guard duty. They fly for the last three weeks of their six week lives, collecting pollen and nectar, until their wings just fray away. (I wonder if there is an entomological award for dedication to duty?) Stephen referred to them often as 'Pollen robbers', flying only a mile and a half from their hives to collect 200lbs of nectar for each jar of honey, which means a collective flight of 50,000 miles. (do, they get bee miles?) In a good year a hive will produce 80lbs of honey. The wide variation in it's colour of honey is explained by the different colours of pollen in plants on which the bees feed and bees in towns produce more honey, because there is a better, continuous supply of flowering plants.

So what can we do to help them? Plant lots of bee friendly plants- especially early flowering ones and get a copy of the RHS - Perfect for Pollinators Plants.

Contact the Cambridgeshire Beekeepers Association for any information on bees or become a beekeeper- they run courses every year and best of all- buy lots of local honey.

Next month, our speaker is Rodney Tibbs, talking about ' Gardening - Then and Now' .

Tuesday 18th April - 8pm in the village hall. Everyone welcome.

Margaret Joyce.

The Swaffhams WI News

It was a busy evening at our March meeting as we had the yearly reports and election of President as well as normal business. Once that was all dealt with we were able to sit back and enjoy our speaker, Ellee Seymour whose talk 'The Shop Girls' was a potted history of G A Heyworth & Co, an elegant department store which opened in Cambridge in 1914, first in Burleigh St and then after 14 years moved to the more prestigious site in Sydney St.

Ellee was able to trace four of the girls who worked in the store and after extensive interviews she has written a book detailing each of their stories, and these were outlined during her talk, together with a lot of background about the Heyworth family and their life in Cambridge. We were reminded very much of the 'Mr Selfridge' TV series and thoroughly enjoyed our evening. A number of member remember the shop which finally closed in 1965 and one lady had bought her going away outfit there when she was married, so a nice trip down memory lane. For anyone interested in reading the book it is called 'The Shop Girls' and I am sure will make fascinating reading.

April's meeting will be at 7.30 on Easter Monday! Well they will keep moving it about and we did book it last year without realising it. Our speaker will be James Middleton taking about Gemstones.

New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings so do come along and be part of our friendly group.

Pat Cook – President

Tel: 01638 742224

Email: patcook6@btinternet.com

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union



On 16th February Michael Snodgrass from Red2Green came to tell us more about Crafty Sew and Sows, community engagement project 2017. A project which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. During the year it aims to work with members of the community to share different projects. There will be five community days to share experiencing skills such as bread-making, growing your own, knitting, natural fire building, playing without technology among others. The aim of the project is for Red2Green clients to learn about lost or dying skills.

As a result of our end of year accounts the branch will be donating £100 to 'Away from it all Holidays' for those who would not otherwise have a holiday; £52 to the Overseas Fund (there is a large Mothers' Union membership in Sudan who are helping to distribute aid); and £50 to the Literacy and Numeracy Fund.

Some members went to a Deanery coffee morning in Burwell. Alice Leadbeter is running in the London Marathon in aid of the Mothers' Union. She ran 16 miles to Burwell and spoke to members at the coffee morning about the reason for her run

and her training. We will be sponsoring Alice and our March Meeting will revolve round the topic of the London Marathon. If anyone would like to sponsor Alice, leaflets are in all the Benefice churches.

At our next meeting on April 20th April Sarah Lowther will be speaking to us about Guide Dogs for the Blind. Our meetings are usually held at the chapel in Lode at 2.30 and all are welcome.

Jill Jenyns



**Join POP
(Proud of Prior)**

for a Spring Clean

**COMMUNITY LITTER PICK
POP NEEDS YOU!!**

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

**Saturday 29th April, 2017
10.00am**

**Accompanied Children Welcome
Hi Vis Jackets provided
You participate at your own risk
Your Safety is YOUR responsibility**

**Please bring your own gloves
All other equipment provided**

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

**Look forward to seeing
the results!**



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

The Primula Parade

Few plants raise a gardener's spirit more than the sight of early spring flowering primroses (*Primula vulgaris*). Thriving in the dappled shade of woodlands throughout most of Europe, they mark the end of cold, bleak winter months and herald the beginning of the explosion of growth in the woodland.

Primroses are one of around 600 Primulas found largely throughout the northern hemisphere. They come in a bewildering array of sizes and flower forms, and fill widely differing ecological niches. In the Alpine House at the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, starting in February through March is the amazing *Primula allionii*. In SE France and Italy these flowers cling to life in crevices in limestone cliffs until the spring when these surprisingly small plants pack a huge floral punch, covering



Primula Vulgaris



Primula Denticulata

themselves in an array of pink to white flowers. Next to flower in the Alpine House is *Primula auricula* with elaborate flowers straight out of a catalogue of beautiful buttons. Later in the spring and summer by the stream side and Bog Garden and also this year in our Alpine House Himalayan display, we will have a range of some of the Asiatic moisture loving Primulas. These start with the purple drum sticks of *Primula denticulata* followed by a host of others until their floral peak in the summer with the tiered magenta *Primula japonica* and nodding yellow bells of *P.sikkimensis*.

Primulas all have in common a crafty way of ensuring they are cross pollinated. They have two flower forms – either ‘pin’ or ‘thrum’. ‘Pin’ plants have their stigma (receptive tip of the female part of the flower) sticking out of the petal tube and their stamens (male pollen bearing parts) held deep inside. With ‘thrum’ plants it is the other way round. This helps to make sure that pollen transferred by an insect onto the receptive stigma must come from a primula flower of the opposite form. Only the pollen from a ‘pin’ flower will reach down far enough into the petal tube for a ‘thrum’ flower and only the pollen from the raised up ‘thrum’ stamens will reach the similarly raised ‘pin’ stigma.

What floral delights we and the bees have to look forward to these next few months!



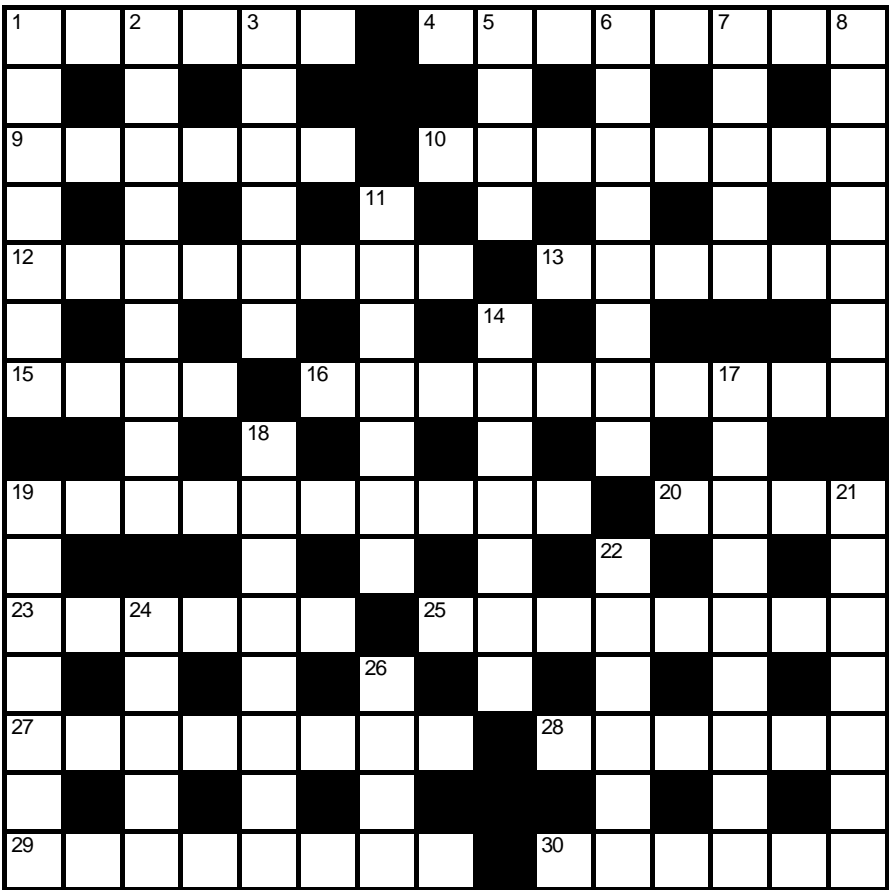
Primula Allionii “Chivalry”

Crossword Number 141

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by
Bywell

*Clues contain no definition; all bar one refer to those sharing a fair appearance. Send your answers to the editors by 18 April 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—see the manager for full details.



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

Across

- 1 Ruth , after being at university, becomes arrogant (6)
- 4 Legislator swam back evenly in actual retreat (8)
- 9 *Rat's tail eaten by one running up curtains possibly (6)
- 10 Doctor ogles Mrs Dymm in the audition (8)
- 12/13 *Fish eats black slave as a starter (5,3,6)
- 15 Knock down shed (4)
- 16 *Hassle street trader endlessly (5,5)
- 19 *British vessel held to account (4,6)
- 20 Number 13 or 15 has squalidest accommodation (4)
- 23 Subjects run away from equatorial region (6)
- 25 Small crisis at end of day can be squashed (8)
- 27 Teaching you French with Rialto broadcast (8)
- 28 Louse skin and hair backcombed into a shining coat (6)
- 29 Veronica's view from on high (5-3)
- 30 Chemical solvent made from tail-ends of waxy bile and bone (6)

Down

- 1 Shaky like this after one in Paris and in Berlin (7)
- 2 Early forms of Porsche designed with central cooler (9)
- 3 Retweet about missing tungsten rock (6)
- 5 Rav owner keeps promise (4)

- 6 Dumbo's ancestors married twice amidst Thomas's misgivings (8)
- 7 Man is heard to submit (5)
- 8 Design again, else try again. (7)
- 11 Repeated bet on lady coming in to property (7)
- 14 Desperate situation for old city characters immersed in hydrogen cyanide (7)
- 17 *Weird characters oddly become confused (9)
- 18 Pupils left to smoke small clouds (8)
- 19 Cleaning aid that worked in half a bubble (7)
- 21 Be sulky about tint (3-4)
- 22 See 24
- 24/22 *Look round the first trolley (5,6)
- 24/26 *Could become very adept (5,4)

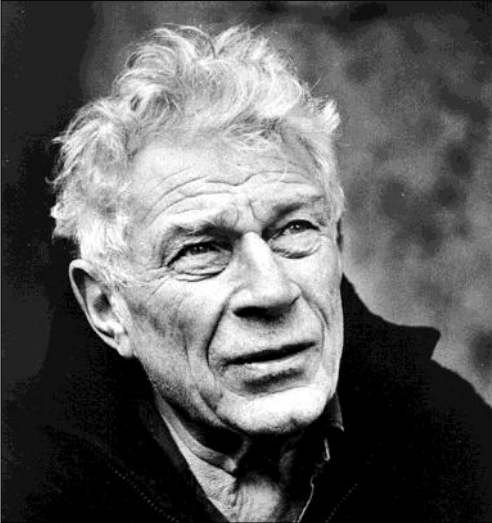
Solution to crossword no. 140

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

We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate. Honourable mentions go to S Richards, Julie Nunn and Robert Nunn.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

The Truth About Photography
Saturday April 22nd, 2 - 5 p.m.
Swaffham Prior V.H.



This will be partly a tribute to John Berger who died on January 2nd this year.

A man of many talents, including art and writing novels, he rose to international acclaim, winning the Booker prize in 1972 with *Ways of Seeing* - a groundbreaking book that has since become an unofficial bible for art history students in particular.

In no other form of society in history has there been such a concentration of images, such a density of visual messages

He set about alerting us to the omnipresence of images in our culture and the manipulative role played by photo reproductions in shaping our understanding via our publicity led culture. He challenges above all the criteria we all still use today to judge the veracity of images, namely the photo as the recorder of truth, *but what is truth?* Surely the photographer can construct, airbrush and lead the viewer as much as the painter?

Deborah Monteiro

Email to enrol: deborah.monteiro@btinternet.com

Caddenhams Drove

Dog walkers will be required to walk through specially treated straw stacks at the bottom of Caddenhams Drove this summer to avoid spreading contamination during seed trials in the neighbouring fields. More details to follow.

DN



April 2017

LAST MONTH I attended the Commercial Services Committees of which I am a member.

We dealt with things such as Grants to Voluntary Organisations. These included-

Citizens Advice Newmarket, where the most frequent issues raised continue to be debt and welfare benefits. Various local charities in Newmarket and the surrounding area have recently lost funding from other external sources and there is anxiety that additional demand for services will be placed on Citizens Advice Newmarket.



Citizens Advice Rural Cambs has seen an increased demand for all its advice services for debt. Pay day loans are being utilised more and more as some people are not able to manage their money more efficiently in difficult times.

Voluntary & Community Action East Cambs (VCAEC) From October 2016 ceased receiving funding from Cambridgeshire County Council for Community and Voluntary Sector infrastructure support (£15,000) and from the Cambridgeshire Commissioning Group for promoting the health sector (£5000.00) Our grants to these three organisations help them to undertake their very important work.

We also dealt with some items under the heading of Tourism and Town Centres Services.

These included:

- a) To extend Angel Drove (Ely) Car Park to provide 120 extra parking spaces to meet the needs of commuters. It already has 214 spaces that are full every day.
- b) To expand the programme of events and tours available at Oliver Cromwell's House in order to increase income levels by £2500.00

I also attended a seminar to discuss the possible restructuring of ECDCs committees.

Locally, I have been involved in two planning issues and one problem between Sanctuary Housing and one of its tenants.

March 2017

FULL COUNCIL met on 28th March for the final Council meeting prior to the County Council elections on 4th May. The closeness of the meeting to the election was apparent with national policies dominating debate. Council also approved the publication of the annual pay statement for officers and confirmed arrangements for the Local Government Pension scheme.

General Purposes Committee met to discuss a number of issues. As well as the usual finance and performance reports the Committee agreed to: fund two transformation projects relating to adult social care; proceed with a capital project to create a new arts establishment together with the Arts Council and others; and approved a Corporate Energy Strategy and a Community Resilience strategy.

Children and Young People's Committee also met in March. Committee agreed a number of items including: future governance arrangements for Cambridgeshire Culture; the future make up for educational provision in Gamlingay; and arrangements for the extension of child care provision from 15 hours to 30 hours in line with national provisions.

I chaired a meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board and attended a meeting of the Children's Change Programme Board. I also spent 2 days interviewing candidates to sit on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

David Brown

I've never been as old as this before.

I used to know a happy crowd - -

 We used to meet and laugh out loud

Now I just have few dear friends -- --

 But before this lamentation ends,

I know I'm near the end of my tour,

 And I don't I laugh, not any more.

Life's become a tedious trial,

 I think I'm only here awhile.

A morning hug cannot last long

 If urgent work is to be done;

Rather like the mourning hug,

 If you'll excuse the poignant pun.

But evening hugs, if you recall,

 Could last a little longer,

But then, of course, we were both young,

 And, a wee bit stronger.

Ophir



**Young
Hedgehogs
eating at
Shepreth
Hedgehog
Hospital**

Notes from Parish Council February Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and no 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: None.

Reports

CCC Matters: Cllr David Brown reported to the meeting including that the road gritting plan was reinstated on January 12. John Covill asked about contacts in CCC; was Neil Banders in Highways being replaced? David Brown stated that he had not left but will find out what the situation is. Emma Murden is in charge of Highways. Paul Latchford asked about Adult Social care funding. David Brown explained the CCC planned change-over of funding source would be complete by 2019/20. John Covill pointed out that help may be needed as more beds were required, David Brown pointed out that more children increased the budget. He also said that currently CCC had 59 unaccompanied immigrant minors in the system. Steve Kent-Phillips asked about the Station road bollards. It was agreed that The Clerk would email Graham Hughes.

ECDC Matters: Cllr Allen Alderson's report was read by The Clerk. John Covill commented on some problems with ECDC getting refuse removed from the fen area and that around 45 tyres had been dumped, some with wheels attached. Apparently Veolia had trouble finding the site and a member of staff had been disciplined.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Paul Latchford had investigated ownership of the bank near the village sign and it was not UK Power Networks. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested that if so, then it is

Highways and therefore the PC's responsibility to keep it tidy and get the grass cut. The Clerk confirmed that Karen Champion had identified it as CCC land. The contribution form CCC regarding the Highways areas that the PC now cut was discussed and agreed is now less than the actual cost. It was agreed to get CGM to attend to it as a one off job as soon as they can and discuss including it on their schedule.

Correspondence for Circulation / Consideration

Mark Lewinski noted a retracted complaint made by a resident regarding dogs. The situation was discussed generally and it was hoped that the specific situation was resolved.

Consideration of Planning Applications Received: None

CIL & Open Space Money Projects

Steve Kent-Phillips reported the status of all projects. The Swimming Pool Changing Rooms were discussed, especially the frosted or clear windows. Paul Latchford pointed out they should be frosted as they are changing rooms and that they are for the entire community to use.

Street Lights: Paul Latchford reported that the problem with the remaining 2 lights was down to what Electrical Testing were allowed / licensed to work on. The solutions and costs were discussed and it was agreed to have the new light installed and report the old light to UK Power as a dangerous fault. It was also agreed to pay ET for the outstanding invoice for the 7 lights completed.

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the church gate had been completed. Paul Latchford asked about the new play area gates and if the catch was missing. Steve Kent-Phillips said that it should auto-close. It had been noticed that it had been open.

Steve Kent-Phillips had had a meeting with Jon Taw regarding the Village Hall windows and doors that evening and there were some rotten wooded parts but generally they were in good condition. It was agreed to get Jon Taw to do immediate work for which he would quote, Andy Martin would be asked to look at remaining work required in the summer and Elston Decorators to quote for the other repair and painting. The Village Hall committee had already left the decision with the PC.

Crier Reports

The new print facilities were discussed and it was agreed to make use of one of them in this report. The dynamic text rendering, based on Burwell Print's Justified Oratory Kerning Engine allows a report to be expanded dynamically on the page. The "Apparent Page Relative Insert Loader" can be activated by pressing (clicking) the page. This "Full Offset Opacity Layout" system then allows you to see the rest of this exciting report just <click here>.

Allotments – review tenant agreement

It was agreed to leave this item for the next meeting, especially as Michael Malster was not present.

Traffic Survey / Speed Watch

Steve Kent-Phillips reported on the results of the surveys. There were many graphs and statistics available. The 3 areas of concern were: The top road (Mill Hill), Rogers Road and traffic around the school in Station Road / High Street. The parking in Station road is not their concern. Martin Mead had commissioned the survey and his results were all good and none of his drivers were found to fail any of his

criteria. The conclusion was that this survey did not show any speeding problems in any of the 3 areas but the top road had surprisingly high levels of traffic in the morning and evening “rush-hour” data. The other notable recorded items were: 3 near misses relating to turning into Heath Road and at least one car waiting a long time (more than 7 minutes) to get out of the top of Cage Hill. Out of the possible measures that could be taken, the sight lines and other measurements were taken and pinch points and speed bumps were ruled out. The possible suggestions were to move the 40mph signs on the top road to include the junction and use speed warning/reminder posters in relevant places saying “40 Please...” and “30 Please...”. Steve had examples of the self-adhesive posters that go very well on wheelie bins. The cost for these was £100 for 50 posters. It was agreed to purchase posters and make a further donation of £60 for a further survey.

The further suggestion was a speed indicator sign or S.I.D. The device suggested was portable, could be installed on existing street furniture with secure fixings and was battery powered. This would provide the PC with the ability to continue doing surveys in identified “problem” areas. The potential to rent the device to other PCs was also discussed. Peter Hart asked if it was possible for SPPC to rent the device, which it seems it is not as they are very new. Steve Kent-Phillips added that the data from the device would be anonymous (cars could not be identified) but the data could easily be published on the PC Website. John Covill pointed out that the device not only reminds drivers of their speed but also shows pedestrians the real speed of traffic. Steve Kent-Phillips reported some test cases and one near Pidley that had reported reduction in speeding incidents by 50% by installing the device. The posters, donation and spending up to £3 000 on a SID was agreed. There was some discussion regarding this coming from the traffic calming budget provided by the water tower development.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed.

Clerk’s Report

It was agreed that the Annual Village Assembly would be 17th May 2017 at 20:00.

Parish Councillors’ Reports

Paul Latchford asked if a letter could be sent to the relevant residents regarding another overgrown footpath. It was also agreed to send letters regarding the path from Cage Hill to Coopers Green.

Open Question Time

No questions.

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

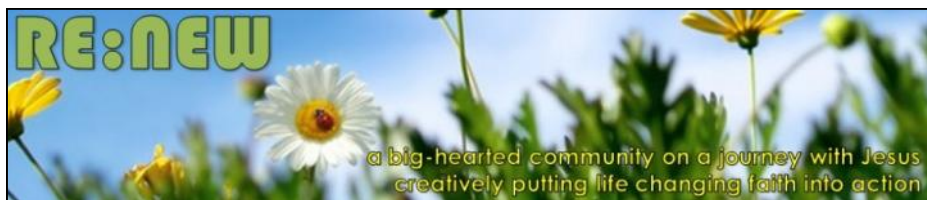
Future meeting dates: April 13th, May 11th, June 8th 2017. All are welcome to attend and the **Annual Village Assembly May 17th**.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Paul Catling

Tel: 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only).

Email: clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk

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



‘New normal ...!’

We have now completed the Alpha course at RENEW and are looking forward to what our Sunday gatherings will look like ongoing as we build on the depth of relationship with one another that has developed as well as our deeper understanding of God and the good news of the Christian faith.

We have enjoyed eating together each week and having the opportunity to discuss and reflect on the messages presented through the Alpha film series. Eating and reflecting together will continue as part of our RENEW worship services. Each Sunday from 10.10am we will have tea, coffee, juice, croissants and pastries available and time to catch up on the events of the week with each other before the service starts at 10.30am.

Our services include times of singing, praying, sharing good news, preaching, reflecting on and applying the message to our own lives.

This month would be a great month to join us for worship as we discover our ‘new normal’ as a worshipping community; it will be ‘new’ and ‘fresh’ for us all!. Why not come to celebrate Easter Sunday with us on the 16th? Consider this your personal invitation!

“I pass on to you the message I have received and believe to be of first importance: Jesus died for our sins, he was buried, was raised on the third day, and appeared to hundreds of people before ascending to heaven - just like the scriptures say.” 1 Corinthians 15.3-8

Your response to the question, ‘Who is Jesus?’, is the most important response of your life. May I humbly urge you to explore the life and claims of Jesus, to consider the evidence.

Also this month, after Easter Sunday, we are likely to have a service of believer’s baptism. Several people are considering being baptised as believers in Jesus Christ, having received His love and forgiveness and committing their lives to following Him. This would be a great service to be part of - check our website or contact me for confirmation of the date.

Rev. Alan Brand

RENEW Church Services in April 2017.

*We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services. A crèche is available if required. All are welcome. **Please note the change of timings for our Morning Worship. We will meet from 10.10 for refreshments and chat, before beginning our service at 10.30.***

Sunday 2nd April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 9th April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 9th April. Evening Worship. 6.20pm . (at Lode Chapel)

*Sunday 16th April. **Celebrate Easter!** 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)*

Sunday 23rd April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 23rd April. Evening Worship. 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)

Sunday 30th April. Morning Worship. 10.30am. (Bottisham Primary School)

For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact: Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alanbrand77@icloud.com Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

FREecycle



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362), 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

- Gents bike (good condition). Jill Brown 01223 813810
 - IKEA babies high chair (almost new); large quantity of bamboo canes. Mike 01223 811606.
 - Large single glazed caravan window; slimline plastic water butt; mattress topper (long double) barely used; bouncy red cow; double trike; toddler garden chair; toddler red wheelbarrow; plastic/wood child's spade. Clare/Steve 811693
 - Plastic plant pots, various sizes; Desktop computer without hard drive, 64-bit, 4GB memory, processor Intel Core 2 Quad CPU @ 2.4 GHz; will boot from external drive, e.g. USB. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592
- A couple of children's cycle helmets (used but not crashed in!) - differing sizes.
Jun/Andy 01223 813362

Wanted

- Clean, empty egg boxes; Wicker shopping trolley basket. Janet 07833 960678
- Wire hanging baskets. Fibre (not plastic!) wall plugs (rawlplugs), sizes no. 8 or no. 10. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592
- Stepladder of any kind. Rosie 07814 095612
- 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.
- Any solid wood doors (internal or external); Unwanted pillow cases (preferably plain). Jun/Andy 01223 813362



A MESSAGE FROM MARA

Dear Anglesey friends

It is hard to find words to thank you for your support for our Diocese. Whenever we pray to God to help us out in some crisis, Anglesey seems to pop up with just what we need!

Thanks to the science equipment you bought, the girls at the Secondary School really enjoy their studies now they can do practical work for the first time as well as theory. I am sure they will be successful in internal and national exams. You have planted an unforgettable seed in these young lives. The whole School family greet you and will welcome you on a visit.

Thank you also for your purchaser of bags of maize at this time of famine. You have brought health to many people and brought many back to their church fellowship - and new ones even asking for baptism.

Ms Deninsia Jerome, Head of Bunda Girls



Church Services in April

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 2 April, fifth Sunday in Lent

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)
Followed by Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday 9 April, Palm Sunday

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1),
Swaffham Bulbeck, with Archdeacon Alex

Thursday 13 April, Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 14 April, Good Friday

10am Easter Workshop and All Age Service, Swaffham Bulbeck
7pm Reflection, Bottisham

Sunday 16 April, Easter Sunday

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 23 April, first Sunday after Easter

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Benefice All Age Service, Lode

Sunday 30 April, second Sunday after Easter

6pm Evensong

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice?
Please be in touch and we will do our best to arrange a free lift: 07553 151585

DAILY MAIL BEST NEWSPAPER

“The *Daily Mail* has been elected ‘2016 Newspaper of the Year’ at the Society of Editors annual Press Awards. It has won this award more times than any other newspaper.”

Dates for Your Diary April 2017

Mon	10	Bowls Club Premeeting, Swaffham Bulbeck Club Pavillion, 7pm
Fri	14	Good Friday
Sun	16	EASTER SUNDAY
Mon	17	WI, VH, 7.30pm
Tue	18	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm
Wed	19	
Thu	20	Crier Copy Deadline Mothers' Union, Lode Chapel, 2.30pm
Fri	21	
Sat	22	Seeing is Believing, VH, 38
Sun	23	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
MAY	20	Village Feast
Wed		

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	