

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 8/9 August/September 2017



Editorial

LIKE THE CRIER, lots of us are going on holiday at this time of year so it's unfortunate that the closing date for comments on the proposed development of new bungalows on Mill Hill is almost on us: 15 August. This has caused a lot of debate and there are strong feelings on both sides, so we "invited" contributions from both sides for this month's Crier. Well, to be exact, we rather demanded them, with under two hours notice! Thank you very much to Michael Mead, Jon Cook and David George for taking on the Crier's Crystal Maze Challenge (see pps 16-19) and now we can confidently say that there is one subject, possibly not unconnected with us, on which they will always be in hearty agreement....

There is also agreement that the future of our working windmill is of paramount importance but widely differing views as to how much it will be affected. The PC are opposed (not least because this site is not one of the number agreed by all for the last Village Plan), and while there was discussion at the Annual Village Assembly, we could have done with a presentation from the developers and an opportunity for public debate. For something of this scale, there needs be as much consensus as possible so that everyone feels content with the outcome as they did with the recent Rogers Road development.

The Dog Show are dropping "Retrieve"! Not to mention "Musical Sit" (see the new classes on p.6). Gnash, we'll have no chance this year. See you there in September at the Harvest Show and later in the month at the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Beware a doorstep seller claiming to be a foster child of a well-known High St family (he's not) and as mentioned above the Crier is off on its holidays so there's no separate September issue but we're back in October.

^{er.} Happy Holidays All!

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Caroline & James Matheson

Cover Picture: Foster's Mill with proposed development site in the foreground



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Cycling down the Fen

I recently read notes from your Parish Council Meeting Reporter referring to a comment by the Chairman about the arrogance of cyclists and whether they expect drivers to get off the road when driving down the fen.

I am sure that some cyclists are arrogant just as some drivers are. As a cyclist on the fen roads I often feel very vulnerable. The attraction of a fen road is the comparatively fume free air, but sharing the road with huge lorries, giant tractors and some aggressive cars is not ideal.

Whilst some drivers appear to grit their teeth determined not to back off a jot and give only a tiny space, others are so polite and friendly it makes you glad to be alive.

I think it comes down to trying to take into account the other person's predicament and act accordingly.

When driving I do give bikes plenty of space whilst passing them, and urge all other drivers to do the same.

Peter Whiteley

Dear Editors.

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Friday 29th September, 2017

Once again we are nearing the time for our part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning and I hope that many of you will be able to come. If you are new to the village then it's a great place to meet and get to know a few more people. If you would like to come with somebody who has been before then please let me know on 01638 743720 and I'll put you in touch with one of our regulars.

There will be a Raffle and also a Cake Stall of home-made goodies, sweet or savoury. I would really appreciate it if many of you could bring a home-made cake or savoury otherwise we'll have nothing to sell! It all helps to boost our final total.

Last year the national coffee morning raised over £27 million pounds which will provide a lot of support for people suffering from cancer.

I look forward to seeing many of you, very young or old, newcomers and regulars and don't forget to bring your money!

See you on Friday 29th September at our house (full details on the advert in the Crier).

Ruth Scovil

Open Gardens 17th/18th June 2017

Congratulations to all those people who made this celebration of our village gardens such a success. All who took part in it enjoyed the opportunities it gave and many took encouragement and inspiration too.

We owe especial thanks to those noble (and brave) people who opened their gardens and put time and effort into preparing them for visitors. Congratulations on your gardens and long may they continue to give you pleasure. We also must thank those who contributed to the event behind the scenes: to Betty Prime for persuading people to take part; to Emma Fletcher and those who served teas in the Hidden Garden (which I really regret not being able to visit); to Janet Willmott for her always delicious cakes; to Steve Kent-Phillips for printing and putting up the Road Boards; to Ruth Scovil and her co-workers for the flower arrangements in church; and finally to Kate Child for initiating it and pulling it all together. So far the event has made £650 with a little more still to come. Well done everybody.

Brenda Wilson



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Enthusiasm and Energy was hardly the order of the day at the July PC meeting. They were just like a basc of crocodiles basking in the midday sun by a pool, with

one eye open. Maybe they were influenced by the torpor of our present day Government with the following week being the last in Parliament before a seven-week break. Big decisions had been delayed, reports postponed, and little scheduled for debate. Or maybe our PC is consciously or subconsciously depressed as the probable unfortunate results of Brexit continue to be revealed; and doubts increase about the effectiveness of that derring-do pair, David Davies and Boris Johnson.



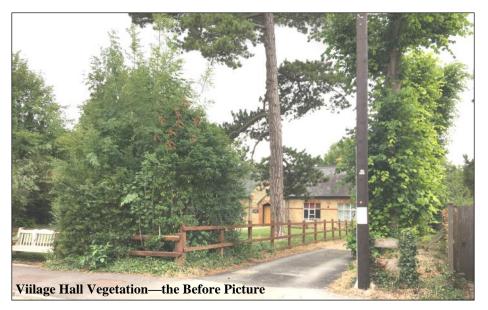
The truth about our PC is that they are top of everything at the moment. It all appears to be under control. Hence it was a short meeting with the emphasis being on VEGETATION.

The Tories on the ECDC are having an "away day" when the public can come long and discuss new ideas. Mark Lewinski, being a fervent socialist, questioned whether this was democratic with the other parties being left out. It was gently explained that most ECDC councillors are Tory, and that any new proposals would need to go before committee. Other parties could hold their own "away days".

ECDC are arranging a "Loves Park Weekend" and if we had a park they would sell a banner to us. You are also able to learn more about a Fertility Act, or was it a Facility Act? There was a fairly long discussion about the valuation of the Village Hall and whether it should be insured for the valuation or the rebuilding costs. After going round the question many times it was decided to ask the insurers.

Believe it or not, I have picked out the highlights of the meeting so far, and we had to wait into 'Parish Councillors' Reports' before something exciting turned up. This was Peter Hart's concern about the overgrown and overhanging vegetation along the back path running from Cage Hill to Coopers Green. This drenched walkers during the rainy season. He said it was not possible to know which house/houses were to blame, and the question was how to persuade people to either cut the overgrowth or to pay for it if the PC has the work done. Always trying not to offend anybody, or to target any individual, it was suggested a letter should be sent to all houses on the High Street asking them to check any overgrowth and whether they are happy to help in solving the problem. This placatory approach appeared over the top and the Chairman thought it should be more strongly expressed.

From the past I am very familiar with the problem after being drenched many times during the rainy season. I thought I should check it out before making any comment, and two days after the meeting I took a stroll along the path. One problem is that elder trees/bushes are growing on the path itself, with the only very large clump being at the end of the late Lord Soulsby's house. But these have nothing to do with the residents and perhaps they could be removed and charged to the general management fund. However a few houses up from Lord Soulsby is the one house, which appears to be the cause. To maintain the maximum discretion I shall not reveal the name of the miscreant, but will pass the name to Peter Hart to pass on to



the PC. There is also an easily dealt with bit of overhanging greenery from one house in Greenhead Road.

So there you have it. One letter will resolve the issue.

Peter Rand of the Village Hall Committee raised another VEGETATION worry in 'Open Question Time'. Peter wanted to remove/tidy up the huge clump of overgrown bushes, filled with adolescent ash trees, at the roadside entrance to the car park. Someone had raised the possibility that making the car park more visible would attract travellers. John assured the meeting that the travellers were aware of all possible sites already, so that was no danger. This became quite a complex debate, and Peter wanted to know what the PC thought. That varied and was inconclusive.

Now the most interesting part of the meeting occurred after it had closed. Most of the committee and public gallery gathered around the growth in question, and the comments went like this. "He thinks he's a bit of a gardener, but he's not really." "I like gardening." "Oh, there's a privet — we have to keep that." "What's so special about a privet?" "I'd take the lot out and start again with a decent bush." "We must save the rose." "What kind of rose is it?" "Dunno." "That's another bush we ought to keep." And so on.

It is only when you stop and examine the growth that you realise what a shambles it is. But this current VH committee does not hang around and I suspect will have removed most of it before this *Crier* is published. With luck there may be a photograph in this issue. Meantime, I would like to see members Gardening Club coming up with suggestions for an attractive bush, and giving the reason for the choice. Let's have some creative thinking on this opportunity, and maybe other interested villagers could join in.

One thing that the PC did not know is that FIBRE will be coming to this village

in about two months time from mid July. I got this from a man helping to put up the new telegraph poles outside 5 and 11 Lower End. Being asked about his accent and where he came from he said that he was from Darlington, and that he was certainly not a "Geordie or a Mackem"; in fact he was quite indignant if it should be thought he had any connection with Newcastle or Sunderland. He assured me we would have had fibre that very day, the one before the PC meeting, if there had not been a shortage of cable. Do we trust any man from Darlington?

Alastair Everitt





SWAFFHAM PRIOR

Saturday 9th September 2017

Village Hall, 2pm, in conjunction with the

Village Harvest Show

Six Classes: Best trick, Fastest recall through food alley, Fastest agility run, Dog the judge would most like to take home, Dog with the waggiest tail, Dog and owner lookalike – both to dress up!!

Classes £1 each or £5 for all six classes
Entries on the day, enquires in advance to
Janet Willmott on 07833 960678

Prize and rosette for first place and a rosette for the runner up in each category

Generously supported by Alan's Ark at Soham



All proceeds to St Mary's Church

On the Allotment

The wet and warm weather in July has boosted growth, especially the self-sown indigenous crops aka weeds As long as the ground remains wet these are easily pulled up and composted. It is particularly important to control weeds now before the seeds are dispersed.

Obviously there is more harvesting and maintenance than planting at this time of the year – tomatoes, dwarf and runner beans need to be picked regularly to encourage new growth. However, lettuce can be sown for planting out in September ("Winter Density" and "All year Round" are two good varieties) and this will ensure

a supply in winter. Spring cabbage can also be sown and planted out in the same way. Salad (spring) onions such as "White Lisbon" can still be sown. Although we have had a fair amount of rain, runner beans in particular need a lot of moisture. If you are lucky enough to be able to grow celery, now is the time to blanch tit by earthing up the plants. Wrap newspaper around the stalks



and tie loosely to prevent soil getting to the hearts. This is a gradual process done in stages by drawing up a little soil at a time over the next six to eight weeks until only the tuft of leaves at the top of the plant is exposed. Brussels sprouts and other winter greens will benefit from a sprinkling of artificial manure.

Beware of blight – this is an airborne disease which attacks tomatoes and potatoes. If you do not wish to use chemicals (obtainable from garden centres) try a solution of sour milk and water. If blight has attacked potatoes. Cut the tops off immediately and harvest as soon as possible .In my experience there is nothing you can do about tomatoes other than destroy them, but do not add these to compost as you risk contaminating future crops.

Tomatoes (indoor and outdoor) and cucumbers need regular feeding. Cucumbers should be well watered

Strawberry runners should be planted in pots once they have rooted ready for transferring to the bed next year. If space is limited strawberries grow well in pots and hanging baskets but feeding and regular watering is crucial.

If you have vacant ground, it is worth considering growing green manure – both rape and mustard grow quickly and can be dug in in October.

If you have a crop of nettles, rather than composting these in the normal way, put the plants in a sack and leave in a water butt – the result will be a liquid plant food. Comfrey can be grown for this purpose but if you intend to do this, either put a lid on the butt or cover it with wire mesh to avoid cats falling in and being unable to climb out.

Please do leave out a dish/es of clean water for the birds during the hot spells.

Mike Malster 07785 958857

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER



at 6pm

Village Hall, Swaffham Prior

Supper with scrumptious puddings Bar serving wine and soft drinks Entertainment Raffle for Fair Trade hampers

In aid of St Mary's Church and Projects in Mara, Tanzania

Please remember your own plate, bowl and cutlery

Tickets – prices held from last year: Adult – £8; over 65/under 16 – £7; under 11 – £5

Please book in advance to aid catering Newcomers to the village especially welcome

From Janet Willmott - 07833 960678 Dee Noyes - 07585 807413

> Village Harvest Festival St Mary's Church 11am, Sunday 17th September

Sonnet on the 17.28 from Liverpool Street

With great respect, about your polyps, sir
This carriage now has heard more than enough,
And, frankly, if you'd left us to infer
In detail why and how you're feeling rough
I think we'd all agree that would suffice.
Now, we'd be grateful, if you'd be so good,
And that's a working mobile phone device
You've got clamped to your ear, it's understood
You needn't bridge the gap acoustically
Between you and who's on the other end
When you're in contact with the surgery,
And, though the last thing we would do's offend
Perhaps you'd turn your personal volume down
Until you leave the train at Harlow Town.

Wulsin



Out on the Wild Side

Just batting about!

Let's face it- Bats don't get portrayed as the friendliest or sweetest mammal out there. The film industry has always vilified them as vampires- small creatures that live in caves, hang upside down and suck you're blood until you look like a prune. If they wanted to transform into a human with long fangs, sporting a black cape and with abnormally white skin-I'm sure they could right?

No- once again as with so many of the animals we feature here- they are misunderstood and really truly special. First off, for any of you bat phobic people out there, just relax- they don't suck you're blood. In fact there is only one species of bat conveniently called "the vampire bat" which drinks blood and they live in the tropics of Mexico and America so you're quite safe here. So to the real facts—not many people think about bats when they think of English wildlife but they are very much a big part of it. Bats have been recorded living in England for as far back as Norman times hence why so many folk stories have been based on them. Unfortunately in the past, many nocturnal animals were considered to be on the side of the devil because they only came out under the cover of darkness but thankfully we know better.

In the United Kingdom we have a staggering 17 species of bat currently recorded. Around our area- the most common types of bat are the Pipistrelle bat and the Noctule bat. We often see these species during the summer months when they swoop and dive above our gardens at sunset, catching all the moths and winged bugs for their dinner. They love mild nights and it is likely that if you go for a wonder around the church yard, devils dike or coppers green, where there's plenty of tree's, that you will see one. Blink and you'll miss them, their extremely agile and are often mistaken for large moths or small birds. If you're lucky enough to have a mature wooded garden – you'll probably see them right above you're heads, though bats are very shy and reclusive and will never ever approach a human in flight.

How to tell the difference?- Well Pipistrelle bats have tiny bodies, short hind legs and yellowy brown bellies, where as Noctule bats have slightly bigger bodies and have a smooth chocolate brown coat. Both of these species have a similar habitat of typically living in small colonies high in tree's or in eaves of rocks, sometimes in barns and abandoned buildings as well-they only need a 13mm gap to access harbourage which is pretty impressive. Bats along with Door mice and Field mice are the smallest mammals we have in Britain- they hibernate during the winter months and feed during the summer months- normally mating during early spring. Bats on average will only produce one or two pups per pairing and feed the baby bats on their mother's milk. Their diets mainly consist of moths, flying beetles and small flies and a recent survey carried out by the bats protection group found that a Pipistrelle bat can consume around 3,000 insects in a single night.

Now I couldn't talk about bats and not mention the term- Echo-Location. Bats are small delicate mammals. They have paper thin translucent wings and their eye sight is extremely poor with some of them close to being blind which is not ideal when you hunt for food in the dark. But they do have a skill that only a hand full of



mammals worldwide have!- Echo location works together with the bats huge over sized ears that are shaped like cones and covered in fine hairs so that sound can travel straight to them. The bats make a low guttural vibration which to us with less sensitive hearing wouldn't even be audible. The sound waves they create bounce back to them, deflecting off any objects or flying objects such as moths. The bats can then create a detailed night vision plan of exactly where their prey is flying and by using this they can catch their prey swiftly and with precision. It's this skill that bats have that was studied by scientists and from that the ultrasound scanner was born which works in the same way- with the vibrations bouncing off organs and body tissue. So really we have a lot to thank our little bat friends for.

The only time you may see a bat up close is if they are injured- it's not uncommon to find a bat suffering with a head injury. If you do- handle them with care as they are very fragile and easily hurt- call your local wildlife rescue and they will be able to advice you about bringing the bat to them. If you want to see more bats in your garden- plant some trees. Bats love trees and anything that will give them shelter- You can also now buy bat boxes in good garden centres or online. You have to be patient with bat boxes as it can take years sometime for bats to move in but it is a good way of providing them with a home especially when like many of our British wildlife, they too are dealing with lose of habit as more woods are cut down and old barns are knocked down. Please make a home for Bats and if you were a bat phobic, I hope this article has now converted you. They really are so special and not mini vampires at all! Keep batting on.

Saffra Monteiro



COFFEE Morning

Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court
Lower End, Swaffham Prior
Friday: 10.30 am - 12.00 noon
29th September 2017

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Every cup will help improve the lives of people living with cancer.

Bottisham Village College Adult Learning

Are you interested in learning something new?

Our full range of courses for the Autumn is now available and you can enrol at any time by visiting our website www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

NEW courses include:

Maths and English GCSEs for Adults

Creating Glass Jewellery

Engaging in Contemporary Art

Felt Making

Garden Design – an Introduction

Gentle Keep Fit (daytime)

Italian Cuisine

Managing Life and Work Changes

Singing for Fun

Woodwork and DIY Skills for Beginners

Saturday Workshops include:
Effortless Make-up and Day to Evening Make-up
Glass Christmas Decorations
Illustration for Beginners
Introduction to Creative Writing
Mindfulness
Paediatric First Aid (2 days)
Willow and Rush Christmas Decorations

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearn-

ing@bottishamvc.org

Facebook: BottishamAdultCommunityLearning or Twitter: @CommunityEdBott



No more oil for Swaffham Prior??

Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust is delighted to confirm that we have been successful in our bid to WRAP for a grant via the RCEF programme* to conduct a community renewable energy project.

WRAP is a not for profit organisation whose vision is a world where resources are used sustainably. WRAP works with governments, businesses and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency.

We have received the maximum amount - a £20k grant - in order to investigate further how to take the village off oil and explore the possibility of a village district heating system.

The consultants have been appointed, have visited and walked around the village and are due to deliver their findings later in the year. They are very keen to present their findings to residents of Swaffham Prior once the report is complete.

During the next couple of months, we are hoping to conduct a number of residents' surveys and also engage more with the village to assist with the consultants work. This will be conducted by letter surveys through your door, posted on the village Facebook page and online (where? Give link) – we will get hold of you one way or another!

In the meantime if you would like further information please contact: Emma Fletcher – emmalindseyfletcher@gmail.com or Mike Barker - BarkerM@rpsgroup.com

*RCEF is a £15 million programme, delivered by WRAP and jointly funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. For more information on RCEF, visit www.wrap.org.uk/renewables







St. Mary's Church Swaffham Príor

Pop Up Afternoon Tea Shop Open 2pm to 5pm

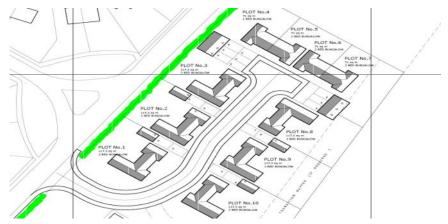
Saturdays 12th and 19th August 2nd and 16th September | Pop in for tea and cake



Mill Hill Development — from Mead Construction

It's been well-documented that our outline application for 10 bungalows on Mill Hill has been submitted. We hope that you have an opportunity to read the literature and form an open-minded opinion on it. The planning reference is 17/01208/OUM.

To those unfamiliar with the site the proposed plan is below. The scheme is for a mix of two and three-bedroom homes. The Government has highlighted a national shortage of bungalows. There are so few being constructed that we believe this site would account for approximately 1% of the privately-owned bungalows currently being built annually in the entire country.



The wind issue is something that we have taken very seriously. We too were concerned before we became involved with the site based on the information initially presented to the public. But as soon as we did some basic research it became clear that the effects would not be as extreme as implied.

We were keen to ensure the report we commissioned WSP Environmental to carry out was thorough. We chose full modelling over theoretical desk-top studies, using 10-year historical data tailored to the site, with the roughness and terrain considered and the most prominent vegetation included. WSP highlight that it has used worst case wind data. It demonstrates the effects on the wind at the Mill before and after the scheme and concludes that the development will cause the Mill to be inoperable by wind 0.4% of the time.

We cannot influence the availability of wind from other directions, but that does not alter the above conclusion. Great care has been taken to ensure the effects will be far less than on other local developments which required wind surveys. Both English Heritage and The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings have been happy to accept local schemes which were shown to cause more disruptive results than this.

We are aware that many people raised their eyebrows when it was highlighted that the current Custodians of the Mill had previously gained planning approval for a twostorey dwelling 10m away from the Mill. More surprising to us was the fact that no wind surveys or scientific data were included with that application. Instead just two lines were given to the topic, stating "every effort has been made to ensure the design does not affect the winding of the working windmill". By commissioning a report of any nature we have gone far beyond the level that the Mill Owners themselves deemed acceptable under similar circumstances.



The view of the site from the top of Fairview Grove:

The turbulence issue is being addressed, but from our analysis to date we again expect this to be lower than the results presented for other accepted developments.

Every new development has its objections. It's highly likely that the house you currently own was itself subject to its own criticisms about how wildly inappropriate and out of context it was going to be. The very people who argued against it at the time may now be your friends. Usually, most of these concerns are allayed when the properties have become established in their surroundings.

As a small developer, we are proud of every one of our previous builds, some of which have been in our village. As residents, we stand by this application, and would be fully supportive of it should anybody else be proposing it. We're not trying to hide anything. We've been happy to discuss it with you all at village events or in the pub, and are very grateful for the positive feedback it has received since the application was submitted. It's not a slap-dash back-of-a-napkin proposal. A lot of thought has gone into it and all the previous concerns noted and listened to. We became involved in this site at a time when elderly relatives of ours became ill and it really hit home how difficult the situation would have been if they did not live locally or were not in a property suited to their needs. The purchasers of the two bungalows we recently built in Willingham were so very grateful because they had been looking for a suitable property for so long and were becoming very concerned they couldn't find anything suitable. Buoyed by this feedback we will shortly be commencing work on another two bungalows in Over. We are concerned that the issue of building suitable housing to suit the ageing or disabled population is simply not being addressed. Our fear is that in ten years' time resident's will regret not looking at the issue seriously, and will be forced to move away or be confined to the ground floor of their houses whilst two-storey developments continue to be built around them.

All the details of the application, along with our brochure and the reports conducted can be found on our website www.millhillswaffhamprior.co.uk. If you would like a hard copy of the brochure please call 01638 742463 and we would be happy to bring you one.

We hope you join us in agreeing that this site would present a good opportunity for the village to grow in a logical manner with the appropriate type of housing. If you disagree then we still look forward to the friendly debate in the Lion!

Mill Hill Development—from the Mill Hill Action Group

As you will be aware from other articles in this edition of the Crier and information shared around the village over the last few months, the owner of land to the East of 38 Mill Hill wishes to sell the land for housing and has agreed an Option to Purchase with Mead Homes. Mead Homes have as a result proposed the land be considered as an 'Additional Site' under the East Cambs District Council Local Plan Consultation process and now, before that consultation process has concluded, submitted an Outline Planning Application for 10 bungalows on the site.

This article is submitted by the Mill Hill Action Group, a group of residents including the owners of Fosters Mill who have come together to oppose the development because we believe it is development in the wrong place in Swaffham Prior and will have a detrimental impact on the two listed windmills. Our detailed reasons are stated below. We are not opposed to housing development in Swaffham Prior, but believe that future development should be in line with what the Parish Council have already proposed to the District Council, not outside the Village Development Envelope.

Grounds for Objection:

The Mill Hill Action Group and owners of Fosters Mill have identified a number of key concerns regarding the proposed development and for these reasons, we are objecting to the proposed development:

The development is not plan-led, it is a speculative housing scheme, village sprawl outside the village development envelope with unattractive and inappropriate arbitrary boundary fences or walls which take no account of the intrinsic beauty of the countryside. The development involves building on just one part of a larger agricultural field, there is no landscape, or other, logic to the definition of the boundaries proposed. It benefits the land owner and the developer and not the local community which has already identified specific locations where locals are prepared to see development take place.

The development does not meet any of the 3 requirements for sustainable development – economic, social or environmental: The village has limited facilities (primary school and pub) meaning that all inhabitants of the proposed housing will need to travel by private car for most family needs (not sustainable), 10 bungalows will contribute little to building a strong economy (economic) and can hardly be claimed to support a strong, vibrant and healthy community (social) when they are the wrong side of a very busy road with 40mph speed limit.

The development leads straight onto the B1102 at a blind corner with vehicles travelling at over 40 mph. The traffic survey completed for the applicant and presented as part of the planning application was done in August when traffic volumes are considerably less than the rest of the year. On a typical morning during the rush hour, over 1000 cars pass the site per hour in just one direction (source Swaffham Prior Parish Council) – not the most appropriate place to have children

crossing to walk to school or vehicles attempting to join the road from the development.

The proposed development and associated trees and shrubs people will plant, will have a significant negative impact on the winding of Fosters Mill, a Grade 2* working tower mill because it reduces the available wind from the East North East – South East directions, reducing power and increasing turbulance. The mill needs free unfettered wind to operate properly and this direction is the only direction where the wind is uninterrupted by buildings or vegetation.

The owners of Fosters Mill have commissioned their own Wind Study and the conclusions are very different to those presented in the developer's promotional document. Whilst both studies broadly agree on the fact the wind comes from the direction of the proposed development site for between 7 - 10% of the time, the developer's wind study has failed to take into account the very significant impact of the wind obstructions (trees and buildings including a water tower) in all other points of the compass in their calculations. These obstructions reduce the number of available milling days (when the wind is strong enough to mill flour) by around 80%. So, when these obstructions are taken into account, the 7-10% of wind from this quarter becomes 20% of the available wind to the mill during the winter months and 50% during the summer months.

The proposed development will create wind turbulence from the East North East - South East direction when at present there is virtually none. This will harm the fabric of the mill, increase maintenance costs and negatively impact the quality of grinding as the mill jolts, speeds up and slows down more frequently. Given the curb construction at Fosters Mill, the mill is particularly susceptible to the impact of turbulent air which causes the cap to jolt from side to side causing significant additional strain to the cap and winding gear.

The impact of the proposed development will increase as trees and vegetation planted around the proposed bungalows matures meaning the full impact will not be felt for some 15+ years. Tree pollution on the site will further reduce the days on which the mill can work risking the mill's long term viability as a working mill, a factor which is not referenced in the developer's wind study as referenced in their promotional document.

The development will negatively impact the setting of the Grade 2 Smock Mill and Grade 2* Tower Mill, changing the skyline, changing the general character of the setting of the buildings which currently are set within a context of open fields from the East. The proposed bungalows and layout are entirely out of context with any other buildings in the area.

How to object

If you believe this development should not go ahead, you have until the 15th August 2017 to register your objection. You can email Richard Fitzjohn at planning Officer, East Cambs District Council, The Grange, Ely, CB7 4EE. If you email, you are invited to copy our local councillor Allen Alderson at allen.alderson@eastcambs.gov.uk



Join POP (Proud of Prior)

for another monthly

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

POP NEEDS YOU!!

Meet at the bottom of Cage Hill Under the Village Sign

Saturday 23rd September, 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!



The Language of Teenagers

The language of teenagers can change quite rapidly. This can leave the more aged quite bewildered.

Below is a selection of some words currently in vogue from one part of the country.

on fleck = spot on, but particularly for makeup strong = really good; did that well lit = on fire hench = muscly dench = dangerously hench rents - parents g-rents = grand parents low key = sort of

Are there any local ones?

Dr OED



Crossword Number 145

Compiled by NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 September 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.

1	2	3		4		5		6		7	8
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Name:	
Address:	
	Геl:

Across

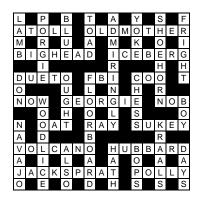
- 1 Obtain directly from H (9)
- **6** Craftsman produces mother and child (5)
- **9** Small mike on gown develops bug (7)
- **10** Rodents blustering about with missing nut (7)
- 11 Volley correction is fair (6)
- **12** Band attraction brings closure (4,4)
- **14** My instincts require everyone to start in the mud (4)
- **15** Disaster revealed by quartet of riders (10)
- **18** Class I once disturbed with new traditional designs (10)
- **20** Short eulogy and love piece (4)
- 23 G&T around when posh cocktail seen in present outlet (4,4)
- **24** Admirer hangs around old city to find piece of furniture (6)
- **26** Humanities develop when she leaves out a detail (7)
- 27 Miner, not military leader, gets thanks in advance initially, but shows lack of energy (7)
- **28** Egghead goes to fix and make improvements (5)
- **29** Pleased an exotic seashore walkway is found (9)

Down

- 1 Home-loving person corrected my fan mail (6,3)
- 2 Soldier and rebel leader surround bay and feel better (7)
- 3 Monsters hide in middle eastern rocks (6)
- **4** Declare result of rave review (4)

- **5** Follow brownie perhaps to find pet food (3,7)
- **6** Daisy we hear wed champion (8)
- 7 Do winter break activity but economise around the middle of June (3,4)
- **8** Nosey trainee joins space agency (5)
- **13** Copies tape about Bishop's office (10)
- **16** Broken down en route with no silver? Get train (9)
- 17 In a confined space near Mr Heath (8)
- **19** Is it a crime to love female dealer? (7)
- 21 Drink but object to drink (4,3)
- 22 I've found it! but I hear you stink before midday (6)
- **23** Give me informal Olympic Games arrangement but no calypso (5)
- **25** Sigmatism in Chablis pronunciation (4)

Solution to crossword no. 144



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors.

A Bargain? A Parody

My true love hath my car, and I have his; By just exchange one for another given. I hold his dear, and mine he cannot miss; There never was a better bargain driven. My true love hath my car, and I have his,

His car and me keeps him and me in one.

My car and me his thoughts and senses guides.

He loves my car, for once it was his own;

I cherish his because the way it rides,

My true love hath my car, and I have his,

I have my true love's car and he has mine; Tax and insurance have been fixed. This arrangement suits us really fine, Though friends' reactions have been mixed. I have my true love's car and he has mine.

Ophir After Sir Phillip Sydney (1554-1584)

COMBERTON: RAMBLERS CLUB

The Comberton Ramblers Club walk on alternative Sundays.

All walks start at 10.15 a.m.

Walks are from 4 - 7 miles, usually ending near a public house.

We are a friendly / informative group and enjoy exploring the varied countryside in this area.

New walkers are welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks, and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member.

For further details on how to join our sociable rambling group please contact Stella - The Secretary

Email: stella.ramblers@hotmail.com www.combertonramblers.org.uk

Tel: 01954 210049



Mothers' Union

In June, Steve Price from the Bobby's Scheme gave an excellent talk on how to improve the security of our homes. In 1999 the High Sheriff and the police wanted to improve older peoples' quality of life and in 2001 the scheme was launched. The scheme supports victims of crime aged 60 and over, domestic abuse

victims and people who feel at risk who are aged 65 and over or disabled residents. Steve told us we should all have chains on our doors and use them. It is a good idea to use the chain when you have the back door open to your garden; when people call and say they have called to check your meter etc. always ask for their identification; when you go out always close your windows. A bank will never ring and ask for a pin number or ask you to withdraw or transfer money to a safe account and they will not ask for your bank details over the telephone either – NEVER GIVE THEM OVER THE PHONE. Steve sold some inexpensive gadgets to help security. If anyone would like further details use www.actionfraud.police.uk and www.getsafeonline.org. You can also get advice on computer security.

On August 17th we are holding our summer tea- party at Scotsdales in Horningsea at 3pm. All are welcome. If anyone needs a lift please contact Jill Jenyns or Ann Langran.

Ann Langran



LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

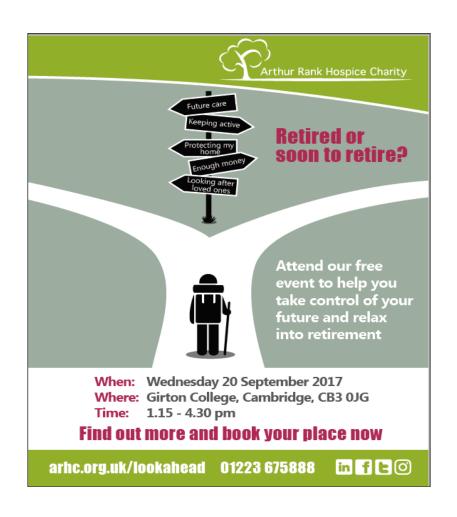
Dates: September 9th, October 14th, November 11th and December 9th (Black Tie optional).

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £12 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk

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



BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY NINE

"It is a curious thing that people only ask if you are enjoying yourself when you aren't."

Edith Nesbit (1858 - 1924)



From our District Councillor

July 2017

James Palmer, the District Councils group leader, won the election to be the Mayor of the new combined authority. This meant that he had to resign his council seat.

The new council group leader is Cllr Charles Roberts and the new council deputy leader is Cllr Anna Bailey.

There have also been changes to the council's civic leadership. The new Council Chairman is Cllr Peter Cresswell and the new Deputy Chairman is Cllr Liz Every.

I have had a full council meeting last month and two committee meetings, plus two group meetings. Also on July 1st I attended



an away day in Newmarket. This is where our controlling Conservative group has an all-day meeting with the Council's Chief Executive and our leading officers to discuss our Corporate Plan covering the period 2015-2019.

It sets out our objectives. These are:

Delivering a financially sound and well managed council

Genuinely affordable housing

A fantastic place to live

Improving local transport

New jobs and funding

We have two of these away days a year to update our Corporate Plan.

If anyone is travelling to Ely by the A142 please be aware that there can be traffic delays at Stuntney due to construction work on the new Ely by-pass.

Allen Alderson



PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service Sunday 1st October 3pm

Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior. Be early to guarantee a seat.

For more information contact Trish: 07979 868676

Village Clubs

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare	741316	2 nd Mon of	8pm	Village
	Freeman		Term		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	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
1 outil Club	Badcock	144228	Thurs	7-10:00pm	Hut Hut

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS Mediterranean plantings

Low rainfall and well-drained, shallow soils provide the ideal conditions for us here at Cambridge University Botanic Garden to grow plants from the Mediterranean. Our extensive Mediterranean collection can be seen in the centre of

the Garden, and includes the familiar, such as the sub-shrubby, fragrant lavenders, to the less so, including Greek horehound (*Ballota acetabulosa*).

Plants thriving in Mediterranean climes are diverse in habit, texture, and colour. When combined, these can deliver a diverse planting of contrasting shapes, textures, flowers and scent, while also minimising the need for supplementary irrigation. Shrubs such as the white-flowered



Cistus monspeliensis can provide an evergreen backdrop for the steely-blue perennial Eryngium creticum. Annual interest is provided by the hare's tail grass, Lagurus ovatus, and Galactites tomentosum, or milk thistle. Species from the Mediterranean show adaptations which enable them to survive hot and dry conditions. A look at the plants in our display will reveal small leaves with waxy



surfaces to reduce water loss, along with leaves covered in small hairs which reflect intense sunlight. Many, including lavenders and cotton lavenders, also contain volatiles within their leaves which release a distinct scent on hot, sunny days.

Given the vast array of Mediterranean species available, and their ease of cultivation in a warm, free draining site with low rainfall, it is easy to introduce floral colour and

texture to your own garden. Failing this, why not come and enjoy the sights and smells of the Mediterranean landscape on your own doorstep here at the Botanic Garden.

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am-6pm, July-September, 7 days a week. The Glasshouses and Café close 30 minutes before the Garden and the Botanic Garden Shop at Brookside closes 15 minutes before the Garden. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265 for details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and special events.

Notes from Parish Council June Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 8 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

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

Public Participation: None.

Reports

CCC Matters: Cllr r Joshua Schumann introduced himself to the PC.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

David Greenfield stated that the Local Plan documents were confirmed as delivered. Steve Kent-Phillips noted that the Annual Audit Return had been completed by Alex Kirby. The notification documents were in the notice board on the prescribed day: 04/06/2017. He also said that he SID was installed on the top road on Sunday. Michael Malster confirmed that the tap in the cemetery was now working

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

The letter form the Swaffham Prior Sports & Recreation Club was discussed. Attached to the same letter was the letter to them from Beverley O'Dowd Business Manager at the School and a quote to Beverley for work relating to the swimming pool from Mead Construction. The request to Swaffham Prior Sports & Recreation Club was for several items, including work required around the new changing rooms. It was agreed that as the hut was to be supplied to a site with the base prepared that the project was complete as agreed. The meeting was suspended at 19:51 for public comment on the recent correspondence from the village hall committee.

Peter Rand presented a report on the situation. The main issue being which parts were the responsibility of the PC or the village hall committee. The work required included: removing the spoil heap, in the car park, which has been added to with the removal of weeds from overgrown areas, removal of tree stumps and further pollarding of trees, especially one that is starting to damage the hall. The VHMC are willing to provide labour. It was agreed that the PC was responsible for the car park and that Peter Rand would get quotes. Cllr Joshua Schumann offered ECDC or CCC facilities to hire the required equipment, at better or no cost. The meeting was reconvened at 20:00

Consideration of Planning Applications Received:

17/00864/OUT Land adjacent 4 Rogers Road – Erection of detached dwelling and garage. It was mentioned that there were 2 public comments. The site is close to their boundary. It was noted that the site is very narrow, with no room for vehicles to turn round. Access and egress issues were agreed as comments and objections.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects

Steve Kent-Phillips reported the status of all projects. The village hall doors had been built, Pater Rand added that they were in fact installed. Viv Elston had inspected the windows. The invoice for the pound's wood was in the list for

payment. It was noted that this was £ 3478, which amounts to about 50%. Michael Malster enquired about the state of the budget, Steve Kent-Phillips said that the 1st payment had been spent so we had 12 months left to spend the remaining fund.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented a letter from Anglian Water regarding the "good news" for residents with private pumping stations on their property. AW were taking over these pumping stations and so saving the property owners the cost and effort. David Greenfield commented this was first mentioned over a year earlier and the only resident affected was aware.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Sandra Gynn reported that there is an on-going problem with dog mess in the village. It was decided to provide a larger notice in the Crier. Michael Malster suggested that anyone that allows it to happen will not take any notice. Mark Lewinski asked if the PC had any more leverage. Paul Latchford commented on the Champing and that over the next 2 months it was fully booked. This presented problems for the keyholders or churches. The result of changing who has keys means that St Cyriacs will be shut. He asked the question – is this a business? Sandra Gynn related a situation with 2 ladies who had booked champing. When they arrived the instructions did not help them complete their champing experience and the CCT offices were not available on the 'phone. Various local people were put out in the process of solving their problem. It was agreed to ask the CCT how this is intended to operate as it is not a PC issue but it does affect the village as a whole. There were questions about the recent street works on the top road and the high street as there had been no notifications. John Covill commented that the Black Drove visitors were back. Steve Kent-Phillips asked if the Gaye Bulleid award should have a plaque in the hall with all of the awardees. There was general agreement.

Open Question Time

Peter Rand asked about the land between the churches and the paddock as it was overgrown. The status of the path was discussed. It was decided there was a requirement for a good quality map. Alastair Everitt commented on the champing and asked where the keys were. Sandra Gynn said they were in a key safe. Andrew Grant has keys and many other champing comments were made. Michael Limb asked if ECDC knew there was a business being run in the church.

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

Future meeting dates: August 10th, September 14th 2017.

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/

Henry Brown's WWII

Henry Brown, the oldest living resident of Swaff-ham Prior, was a wartime pilot. Sent to North America then South Africa for pilot training, returning to England in the later part of the war and flying Lancasters in the later stages of the war, he was posted to the East when the war in Europe ended, as the war with Japan was in the final stages.

Flying the Maharajah of Baroda to Bombay

One day I was called into the Adjutant's office to be advised that I had been chosen to fly the Maharajah to Bombay. The Maharajah was a Muslim and had two wives. One lived in Baroda and the other in Bombay. It



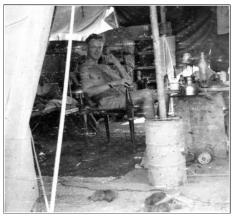
was probably part of the rental agreement of the aerodrome that periodically the RAF would fly the Maharajah to Bombay and no doubt pick him up and return him when ready.

The aircraft had been fitted with a posh wicker chair: the Maharajah duly arrived in his Rolls-Royce. I received him at the door and introduced myself as his pilot, as instructed by the Adjutant. I landed at Bombay and taxied to disembarkation where another Rolls-Royce was waiting for him. He thanked me for the smooth flight and apologised that I would not be getting the pilots' usual watch: he was out of them at that moment!

We were to form an Armada to take Malaya by air, something we were not looking forward to. Then the atom bombs were dropped, Japan capitulated and there was great jubilation all round the allies.

By this time I had picked up a navigator, Les Hadley. The Dakota had a crew of two, pilot plus navigator. Les was very experienced having done two tours with Bomber Command, but as he was in his early 20s the RAF considered him fit for further deployment, so we were sent to 194 Squadron based at Mingladon near Rangoon. To get there we entrained to Calcutta and were then flown in a routine flight to Mingladon. The squadron CO was the same one that had commanded when I was at Wymeswold years earlier, with Wellingtons. He had been promoted above his ability. The base had horrific toilets for officers and men, and no running water or electricity even though the war had been over for six months. We ate in our individual tents and the camp was surrounded by crashed aircraft that contained a lot of fuel; I used some of it for my petrol lantern! This had a mantle and was the only one on the base. The rest had oil lamps. The CO, W/Cdr Penman, would ask me to allow him to sit in my tent in the evening to write his weekly report. 194 had been a great support for the 14th Army during the war. It had then moved POWs to safety and hospital, but it was now without a mission, other than to exist and communicate with Bangkok and Saigon. The CO should have taken two empty Dakotas to Delhi and returned with civilised living aids. There were more aircrew than aircraft so we often doubled up just to break the boredom.

The Officers' Mess at Calcutta was something to record. It was the Grand Hotel Chowringee, a five-star hotel and a Victorian masterpiece. The steps to the hotel went up to the first floor. There were no windows at ground floor level as it was built like a fortress. The rooms were magnificent, with large bedrooms each with an ample bathroom and a sitting room. The food was good with an extensive menu. We would land at Dum Dum Airport, just outside Calcutta and be taken by RAF transport to the Grand where we had a suite each. What a contrast to Mingladon!



In this environment it was simple for Les and I to engage in some trading, taking anti-malarial quinine from Rangoon, which had several warehouses full of 5kg tins, to Calcutta, which had not seen pure quinine since the war started. In Calcutta we bought watches which we sold in Rangoon. There was no customs and it was great to be busy; we considered the RAF owed us the money we made.

During my time at Mingladon I helped the CO to overcome a problem he had with his Japanese POW workforce. He came to me and said that they had gone on strike and would not drag the rolls of roofing felt over the runway prior to refitting the steel mesh surface. These Japanese had been in Burma for 3 years and had fought the 14th (Forgotten) Army to the boundary of India and then run out of food and ammunition, the Americans having sunk all their supply ships. The RAF had attacked them continuously. If an airman crash landed he was not taken prisoner, they chopped his arms off! The 14th Army had fought them back to Rangoon where they had surrendered. I strapped my pistol on, put my wings and medal ribbons on and went with the RAF Regimental guards to meet the POWs. There were about 30 of them, all well fed and scowling. My appearance as a pilot with campaign ribbons worried them somewhat. The guard sergeant gave the order to work; the POWs did not move. The guards pointed their rifles at the POWs – no move. I gave the order, "Cock your rifles": they sprang into action!

A ton of DDT arrived out of the blue, a present from the British Government to the people of Burma. It would help to kill mosquitoes and other insects inhabiting the jungle and improve the life of the people – or so the letter said. How to spread the DDT? We had no equipment and the chemical was in paper sacks. So we improvised. We took it in turns to fly low over patches of jungle with the ends of bags projecting from the aircraft door. A small hole was made in the bag end and the air stream dragged the DDT out in a cloud. There was turbulence so the DDT also filled the aircraft. Nobody at that time had been advised about the toxicity. [Editor note: DDT is a very effective pesticide but stays in the insects it kills, eventually poisoning mammals and birds. Now globally banned, there is still use in the East].

Henry Brown Edited by Mark Lewinski

Church Services in August & September

in St Mary's, Swaffham Prior unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 6 August, Transfiguration of Our Lord

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 13 August, Ninth Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1) - Quy

Sunday 20 August, Tenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Matins

Sunday 27 August, Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Age Benefice Service – Quy

Sunday 3 September, Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

11am Matins

Sunday 10 September, Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1) – Swaffham

Bulbeck

Sunday 17 September, Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Harvest Festival Family Service

Sunday 24 September, Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Age Benefice Service – Lode

LINK WITH MARA, TANZANIA

BUNDA GIRLS' BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

A recent issue of the magazine carried photographs of the lab equipment supplied by donations from the people of the Anglesey parishes being used by students at the School.

The Head Teacher used the balance of our donations to pay the fees of two girls who have just been admitted to the School. Some donors specifically asked for their donations to be used in this way, so opposite are photographs of the two girls you are supporting. A girl's fees are £500 p.a. plus extras, so further donations are always welcome, to continue to support these two or to support others. Please contact the Revd Sue Giles if you wish to respond in this way.



My name is CAROLINE ATIENO AGUSTINO. I am 15 vears old. I am fourth born in a family of 8 children, 5 girls and 3 boys. My father is Rev. Can. Agustino Obiero of the Anglican church and my mother is a tailor. I completed my primary education at Chiringe Primary School on 8th September 2016. Now am studying at ACT-Bunda Girls' Secondary School in Form I. When I grow up I would like to be a doctor. My hobbies is touring various National parks. What I hate most is Gender Abuse/ Violation

I Am Tereza Emmanuel Deus. Am 15 years old, my birthday is on 3rd March. I have three sisters and three brothers. My father's name is Rev. Deus Majula and my mother's name is Prisca Deus Majula. I finished primary school education last year and got sponsored at ACT—Bunda Girls' Secondary school in January this year. When I grow up I would like to become either a doctor or a traffic officer. My hobbies are sports, reading and singing choir.



Dates for Your Diary August /September 2017

August

Wed	9	National South African Women's Day, 10.30-12 noon, St Mary's [9]
Thu	10	PC Meeting, 8pm, VH [31]
Sat	12	Pop-Up Tea Shop, St Mary's, 2-5pm [15]
Sun	13	Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Sat	19	Pop-Up Tea Shop, St Mary's, 2-5pm

September

Sat	2	Pop-Up Tea Shop, St Mary's, 2-5pm [15]
Sat	9	Harvest Show and Dog Show, 2pm. VH [3]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 8pm, VH [31]
Sat	16	Pop-Up Tea Shop, St Mary's, 2-5pm [15]
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	20	Crier Copy Deadline Retiring Event, 1.15pm—45.30pm, Girton College [26]
Sat	23	Pop Litter Pick [16]
Fri	29	Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, 10.30am—12 noon [12]
Oct	1	Prior Fen Chapel Harvest Festival, 3pm [30]