



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 2

February 2017



Editorial

VERY MANY CONGRATULATIONS to Graham Wiltshire, who during his 15 year stint as Quiz Master at the Red Lion has managed to raise not less than **£15,000** for good causes. Graham is now retiring (see centre) and the Crier would very much like to mark this occasion with an article telling readers more about all those Sunday Night occasions at the Lion, so if you were a regular (we're rubbish at quizzes, and have never dared turn up in such select company!) and might like the job, or just simply have anecdotes or images, do please get in touch.

At the same time, we'd like to say a Big Goodbye and Good Luck to Toni and Dave, who are also leaving this month and whose Good Food and Good Company have done so much to restore our pub to its proper place at the centre of Village Life. They will be a very hard act to follow.

Well, now we have *two* new columns! A big welcome to Saffra and Jorge Monteiro who together will be writing our new Wildlife column, and kick off this month with an amazing article about the many perils facing our endangered hedgehogs and what we can do to help. Unpristine gardens are a big plus — ah yes, the editors can be very smug, unlike everyone-else's theirs is always a *perfect* for the job. Although our new Allotment Columnist is now convincing us that somewhere among the general chaos — sorry, wildlife sanctuary — we really must allot some space for a vegetable patch. There are many hidden benefits, including chilli jam carefully marked as strawberry to be given to people you dislike.

Read about our list of CIL successes in this month's edition, POP is back, litter-pickers re-assemble this Saturday. And don't miss the Frugal Lunches, which were a big success last year. See you coffeering....

Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Pastoral by Clive Riggs

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Christmas Tree Lights

You may have wondered why the Village Hall tree lights were not working between Christmas and new year - well, the reason is that someone drove down the Hall drive and managed to tear down the power supply cable to the tree, wrecking the transformer as well in the process.

Another little repair job to do sometime this year!

Happy new year everyone!

Dave Jackson
34 High Street

Dear Editors,

Goodbye from Toni and Dave

David and I are leaving The Red Lion on March 5th, and will stop serving food on Sunday 12th February.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during our time here at The Lion. And wish everyone all the very best.

Toni & David Lucas

And the Very Best to Toni and Dave from All at the Crier as well, Eds

Dear Editors,

January Coffee Morning

A big thank you to everyone who came to the annual coffee morning in January. It was a lovely bright sunny day and lots of folk turned out to support the event, bought raffle tickets and produce and took the opportunity to catch up with everyone. A fantastic £125.60 was raised for St Mary's Church which is brilliant and a very warm thank you goes to Kim Quiggin who kindly opened the door to her beautiful home in Lower End to host the occasion.

Janet Willmott

Simnel Cakes for Sale

Traditionally, Simnel Cake has been enjoyed on both Mothering and Easter Sunday. This year you can serve up a delicious homemade offering with no more effort other than parting with some cash and all for the benefit of St. Mary's Church.

Orders can be placed by contacting Janet, 01638 743472, 07833 960678 or janet@adventurersfarm.co.uk For just £12.50 your teatime guests will be in for a treat! Cakes to be collected from Adventurers Farm in time for Mothering Sunday (26th March) or Easter Sunday (16th April).

Look forward to taking your orders!



Janet Willmott

St Mary's VILLAGE EVENTS FOR 2017 Dates for your Diary

15. February.	Frugal lunch
14 March	Frugal lunch
18. March	Quiz Night
21. May	Rogation Sunday
17/18 June	Festival of flowers
9 July	Strawberry Teas
9 September	Dog Show
7 October	Harvest Supper
21. October	Quiz Night
26. November	Advent Sunday

BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY THREE

The object of the union
"shall be to work for the suppression of the
capitalist system by a socialistic order of society."

*Rule Number One of the RMT
Rulebook*

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The first item of interest during the January meeting was the delight all the PC expressed about the reinstatement of Gritting by CCC. Under pressure from the Liberals the CCC had reversed an earlier decision to abandon gritting.

During “Matters arising” the jolly nature of the meeting was displayed by the very friendly quipping and joking which went on. It was all too rapid for me to note down – not quite as good as Ken Dodd, but not bad. Our man dealing with the ECDC Local Plan, David Greenwood, gave a brief summary of the latest update and he was well pleased. He said the village “had done well” and for the moment was protected from over development.



Steve could hardly contain his delight when recounting the progress with the CIL projects. The new gates to the play area are superb. They lift that whole part of the village, and give it a bit of class. Then onto the school swimming-pool changing-hut. This was less easy because at the beginning Steve was dealing with a large number of voluble groups – the School, the Governors, the Parents, FOSPs, and the CCC. In the end he sat down with the CCC and came up with a plan that received the approval of everyone after a few amendments. To take advantage of the ‘single market’ everyone voted for a German building even though this was more expensive and required a team of German workers to come over and erect it because British workmen would not be able to do it. I hope David Davies does not hear about this; and I hope no Brexiteer reads this. To protect any price rise from a further fall of the pound it was agreed to pay a deposit immediately. Paul asked whether Steve enjoyed completing the “health and safety report”. “Ah, I was lucky there. Martin Meade has two grandchildren at the school and he did it”. It should be good for 35 years and the community has use of the pool from April to September. A loo will be built later, as a separate project.

Paul has had less success with the streetlights as only five of the seven have been changed. There are problems with the other two and at present no one knows the answer. The one in Fairview Grove has “steel armoured cable” which cannot be touched until someone knows why it is there. Does anyone have views on why Fairview Grove should have its electricity cable protected with “steel armour”? The other lamp difficulty is less easy to understand and has something to do with “mains supply” and “direct supply”.

Next on the Agenda was the possible installation of a new standpipe in the allotments on the other side of the bypass. This took up quite a bit of the meeting as every clod of turf appeared to be turned over, and then another was lifted - just in case. A brief summary is that it would cost £2000 and there is only one tenant, Andy Martin. Andy told Paul that he was not entirely happy as the standpipe could attract “the wrong sort of person”. It was agreed that Mike Malster would put a letter in the Crier to discover how many people would welcome the opportunity to have an allotment. I think he is anticipating a large number. Meantime it was agreed that an allotment with water will cost £25 per annum, and one without water will cost £5.

During ‘Parish Councillors Reports’ Steve announced that he had been approached by a volunteer organisation called “Speedwatch” which has offered to complete six 30 minute “snapshots” of traffic at three locations. Steve suggested we give £10 to each “old age pensioner” for each watch, and he thought £60 was a bargain price. “What is the purpose of it”, asked someone and I think they were right to be suspicious. Steve said that transport firms were supporting it, including Martin Meade. “But what will it be used for “ was an unanswered question – “speed bumps”, “20mph areas”, or a “Quy solution”? And we may not be consulted. Look at the bollards. I had earlier missed the news that the County Highways had paid for the bollards without any reference to the PC. David Brown is still trying to obtain from Mr Wrigley answers to the three questions raised by our Clerk Paul. I have witnessed knuckles going white when this question comes up. Rarely has an issue raised such indignation.

After the meeting I went onto the “Speedwatch” website and it does appear to be a worthy organisation and works with the police about speeding. In fact it is just “Speedwatch”.

The meeting proudly displayed two Christmas Cards in the middle of the table. One from Lucy Frazer, MP. And the other from the Chairman of ECDC. What a very nice gesture.

**“ To take
advantage of the
‘single market’
everyone voted for
a German
building....”**

Alastair Everitt

A Trio of Haiku

My first, and only

Attempt to write a Haiku

Failed miserably.

A Haiku is like

A cryptic crossword puzzle.-

Disconnected words.

I'd give it up now –

If I thought it could become,

A silly habit.

Ophir

Margaret Joyce and Ruth Scovil's

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of The Arthur Rank Hospice

10:30 am – 12:00 noon
on

Friday

24th February

2017



at

Ruth Scovil's house
The Oaks, Manor Farm Court
Lower End, Swaffham Prior



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

making every moment count



Boxing Day Hockey 2016



With a week to go before the match Swaffham Prior had 15 players signed up (usually it is about 7 at that stage!) so hopes were high that we might repeat last year's 1-0 victory. Especially welcome were new players from the village, Mark and Eddie, but we also had extra regulars returning home for Christmas from far and wide. Swaffham Prior started well with some good team playing and were rewarded by a first-quarter goal, Paul Latchford's cross being expertly knocked in by Johnny Lankfer. In the second quarter Bulbeck levelled the score at 1-1 and the game was looking very even at this point until Paul scored to take Prior ahead once more. Building on some solid defending from Hannah, Mark and Josh, and some fantastic skills from Heather Dunand in the centre, two more goals followed from Max Dunand and Will King-smill to bring the final score to 4-1. This was a much celebrated victory, both in the Black Horse (at the kind invitation of the Bulbeck team) and at the Red Lion. Congratulations to all the players, a great team effort; really looking forward to next year already!

Thank you to all those who turned out to support and cheer on both teams; the touchline collection will be donated to MAGPAS. Thank you also to Jo Jones and James Lankfer for their brilliant umpiring again, and to David Turner and all his Bulbeck team.

Mandy Kingsmill



Starting this month — our new Wildlife Column, by Saffra and Jorge Montiero

Swaffham Prior's Nocturnal Residents

Swaffham Prior is fast becoming a stronghold for one of Britain's most quintessential and endearing mammals, the hedgehog. With their big eyes, long nose and spiky little body, it's not hard to see why we all love them so much, but hedgehog numbers are rapidly decreasing and they are now classed as an endangered species. We need to act now if we still want to see them pottering around our gardens in 20 years time. Currently, I am an active member of the team that cares for ill and injured hedgehogs at Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital. We usually have about 90 hedgehogs but at our peak time during the winter can be packed to the brim with over 180. When they are better, we either release them back into the wild or if they cannot be



Pippin. Rescued from our garden underweight and lungworm infested, recovering at the Hedgehog Hospital

set free due to long-term injury, into our special enclosed gardens where they can live out their lives happily. Additionally, most of us also have our own hedgehogs at home to care for and monitor.

Between Burwell and Swaffham Prior, we have a very healthy population of hedgehogs but sadly these animals are suffering. Firstly, there is global warming, the milder, wet climate confuses their instinct to hibernate and so while 10 years ago they would have hibernated in October, now it might not be until January or even February. This affects their weight and means a lot of them are under the 650gram mark which is

what they need to weigh in order to survive hibernation – hundreds of hedgehogs do not wake up again.

Then there's loss of habitation -- people paving over their lawns, cutting down trees and removing log piles means there are fewer places for the hogs to feed, sleep and make their nests. And while many meet their demise on roads and motorways, a recent huge killer of hedgehogs is lungworm, a condition which kills slowly and painfully and is by far the biggest cause of death in our hospitals. It is often contracted from slugs, particularly the Spanish slug, a recent invader which is more susceptible than our native British slug. 90% of our hedgehog population now has some form of the condition and while it can be treated effectively in hedgehog hospitals, it can be contracted again when rereleased in the wild.

So what can we do? Well there's plenty actually—firstly, mobility. Hedgehogs may walk many miles every night and fencing between gardens makes it hard for them to get about. So why not do what we've done in our garden and cut small

12cmx12cm holes at the bottom of every two or three fence panels so that they can find their way through? We are currently in the middle of a drive to encourage people to open up their borders like this to be more hedgehog friendly.

“If we make no home for nature, there will be no nature!”

Secondly, leave a shallow basin of water out in your gardens so they have somewhere to drink from (never give a hedgehog milk—contrary to common belief, they are lactose intolerant!). Encourage hedgehogs into your garden by leaving food out. They will eat meat based cat and dog foods (but only meat in jelly, not in gravy please), cat biscuits, meal worms, and such things as crushed peanuts and sunflower hearts are also fine. Buy a small plastic box and cut an entrance hole into it at roughly 12cmx12cm as this prevents cats from raiding. I also advice placing the hedgehog feeding station towards the back of the garden, away from lights and noise. Use only shallow saucers, nothing deep as they can’t get their noses in, and it’s also recommended that you mash any cat food up before putting it out--smaller hogs find it harder to eat big chunks of meat. Leaving food out is so important because it means they’re less likely to eat lungworm infested slugs.

And lastly, create an environment they will love. When you’re next doing some tree cutting, don’t throw away the logs and leaves. Instead build a pile at the back of the garden. Use logs to create little houses and corners where they can hide and dead leaves can be piled up to create mounds they can dig their way under. This is brilliant not just for hedgehogs but also other creatures including toads who love to hibernate under damp sticks and soil. Or if you’re really serious about helping hogs then you can buy specially designed hedgehog houses from Amazon or any good garden centre. Please be mindful of hedgehogs in the undergrowth when using garden tools like strimmers as we often have hogs brought in who have had a leg or nose cut off by these tools.

Let’s care for our hogs and set a good example for our other neighbouring villages- if anyone needs advice, wants to ask about volunteering, becoming a release garden or fund-raiser or simply wants to attract them into their garden, feel free to email me at saffra.monteiro@gmail.com. And don’t forget---with the sole exception of a mother and her young in summer, hedgehogs should not be out in the daytime, ever! If you see one out in the day, please take them inside into the warmth. Put them into a box with newspaper, water, some food and keep them warm. If you’re really worried about a hog you’ve found (it’s not eating or not rolling up into a ball), ring Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital on 07505651968 or bring it round to me at 32 Greenhead Road. In many circumstances I should be able to advise and you can continue to look after it in your own home.

Also any newspaper you have which you don’t want any more would be greatly appreciated as we get through a staggering amount of the stuff at the hospital and we rely totally on donations. Newspaper can be dropped off at my house as well.

Saffra Monteiro

On The Allotment

By the middle of February the days are becoming noticeably longer, nature is on the move and hope is returning.

Outdoors broad beans, parsnips, onions and garlic can be planted

Broad beans are a successional crop which can be sown until mid-June and spring offers the opportunity to grow alternative the varieties grown over winter. Green Windsor, Masterpiece Green have superior flavours and Stereo (a dwarf variety) is ideal for picking young and eating like a mangetout. It is worth supporting broad beans if they are in an exposed position – a stake at each end of the row and garden twine is ideal. Onions are cheap to buy but, like other vegetable, have a better flavour if home grown and red onion in a cheese sandwich is a delight – with a touch of brown sauce of course. Garlic cloves can be set but be quick because February is the latest time for planting – most are best planted in autumn or winter. There are two distinctive types of garlic – hardneck and softneck. Softneck is easier to grow, has more cloves than hardneck and stores well. Hardneck produces larger cloves with a thinner skin and although they do not keep as well as softneck, the flavour is considered to be superior.



Tender shoots of beans, onions and garlic can be attractive to mice and this may be an opportunity to use those unwanted Christmas presents of aftershave by spraying it on the rows a couple of weeks after planting. Alternatively, out of date spices (curry powder etc) can be used but please avoid chilli powder and red pepper as this can cause unnecessary suffering if transferred to eyes.

Parsnips can be sown in drills, six inches apart with three seeds per station.

Sow leeks in pots or seed trays for transplanting later in the year.

Greenhouse tomatoes can be sown indoors, initially in seed trays for transplanting into pots before finally into growbags or even larger pots. Outdoor tomatoes can be sown next month. The temperature must not fall below 10 degrees centigrade. Chillies and peppers can be sown indoors late February/early March – once again in seed trays.

I have just made a batch of chilli jam from surplus chillies, vinegar and brown sugar – simply boil and leave to cool, repeat and leave to set. It can be added to stews, casseroles etc, eaten with cheese or cold meat, or relabelled as strawberry and plum jam and given to someone you dislike.

Having read my last article, one person suggested I add a little horticultural humour. First old gent: “We went to a really nice pub last week”. Second old gent: “What was it called?” FOG: “Can’t remember – what’s the name of that nice smelling flower with lots of thorns?” SOG “A rose?” FOG: “That’s it” (shouting to wife in kitchen) “Rose, what was the name of that pub we went to?”

Mike Malster



Join POP (Proud of Prior)

for another

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK POP REALLY NEEDS YOU!!

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

**Saturday 11th February, 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 if you wish
All other equipment provided**

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

**Look forward to seeing
the results!**



St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Frugal Lunches

in support of

MAIZE FOR MARA

- Wednesday 15th February at 12 noon
73 High Street, hosted by Kate Child & Annette Goodfellow

- Tuesday 14th March at 12 noon
Carter's Cottage, High Street, hosted by Ann Mathieson

Soup and a roll; please book!

07833 960678 or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

No charge for lunch; donations please.

The rains have failed in our link diocese of

Mara in Tanzania and those without

farms are going hungry.

Sacks of maize cost £40;

please help us to help those in need. Thank you



QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 18 March

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Massive spring Jumble sale

The Fassage, Lode

Saturday 18th March from 2-4

Entrance adults £1 and children free

Please come along and support us as we attempt to recycle all your unwanted clothes, shoes, toys, books, bikes, small bits of furniture, pots, pans bric a brac, etc.

The autumn Jumble sale raised about £700 of which £200 went to 4 different charities and £500 to Lode Parish Council for play equipment and useful things in the village. It is amazing how much money it generates, and we are very grateful for the support people show us in giving Jumble and then coming along and buying it all back again! Just perfect. Put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you on the 18th. Please bring jumble from 10.30-12 in the morning of the sale. Thank you.

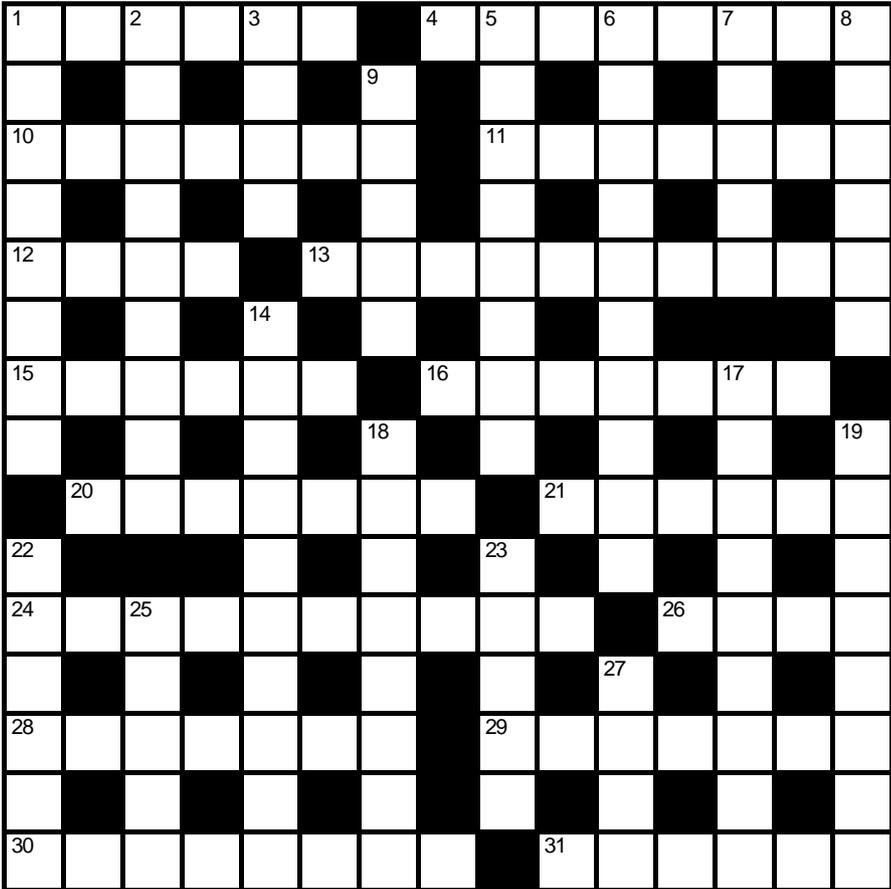
Fran Platten 01223 813 016 or fran.patten@googlemail.com

Please park in the High Street and then walk through Fassage Close beside the post office

Crossword Number 139

Compiled by NIBOR

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 February 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will receive The Winner's Certificate.



Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 Weep about the spanish bearing sticks (6)
- 4 Young Timothy starts breaking up kiwis, tangerines, uglis in remote place (8)
- 10 Londoner gets points in brash surroundings (7)
- 11 Couches in free states are assembled far away (7)
- 12 Beginner in reduced sect (4)
- 13 Bring in red design and file it in here (4-6)
- 15 Aristotle, a guest within an alliance (6)
- 16 Not the smallest broken egg bits (7)
- 20 Devil finds an ancient chip (3,4)
- 21 Rocky leaves backroom boy unsettled with cane (6)
- 24 I'd been in friendly surroundings with bully (10)
- 26 Bust up leads to strike (4)
- 28 Not many damaged? Just the opposite! (7)
- 29 Find space for old pots sweetheart (7)
- 30 Passage, passage, passage (8)
- 31 Freshens up sapper information (6)

Down

- 1 Muddled social democracy lacks semi-dry fizzy drink (4,4)
- 2 Ring from nearby may be "Time, Gentlemen please" (5,4)
- 3 Icy area for never ending fluid (4)
- 5 badge I sign in a different way (8)

- 6 Airline object? bonnet for swimming in (7,3)
- 7 Pummel, but first kick not easily administered directly (5)
- 8 A French point on Yorkshire river? Doubtful (6)
- 9 Pessimist hides decency? Nice (5)
- 14 My one mistake is dodgy currency (5,5)
- 17 Position after getting bus back to find material (9)
- 18 A rogue bearing object back to educational environment (8)
- 19 These drinks are rubbish! (8)
- 22 Voracious fish ran into eastern herb (6)
- 23 Mammal is over the top; um? (5)
- 25 those old tigers and lions start everything (5)
- 27 Peas cooked in church (4)

Solution to crossword no. 138

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

We congratulate Mike & Chris Carrington, the winners of last month's competition, who will receive their prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Bob Nunn.

A SUMMARY OF THE CIL GRANT PROJECTS

The Parish has been given a total of nearly £71,000; of which some £26,000 has been spent by Christmas. We have eighteen months to spend the rest or we have to give it back. The Parish has benefited by the following:

- A refurbished telephone box with a defibrillator in it
- A new see-saw and roundabout in the play area
- A new concrete apron for the play area front gate
- New metal play area gates to replace the wooden ones
- Some replacement LED street lights
- A replacement path to the rear of the church
- An outside concrete table tennis table for the Youth Club
- A new door and concrete apron for the cemetery shed
- Removal & landscaping of the cemetery spoil heap
- Mapping of the cemetery plots
- Repairing the cemetery fence all around

Fifteen thousand daffodil bulbs planted around the village

Future projects include

- Replacing the remaining street lights
- Repairing the cemetery central path
- A new wicket gate to the churchyard back path
- Surfacing the churchyard back path
- Installing a new school swimming pool changing hut
- A new small metal shed for the school swimming equipment storage
- New front doors to the Village Hall
- Replacement front windows (in wood) for the village Hall
- Repairing the Village Hall path (road end)

Repairing the Village Hall fence (path side)

All the above should be completed by August, when we will take stock and see what else we can do with however much money we have left.

Rejected projects included

- Replacing the path from the School to the Allix Arms (cost)

- Providing a tap in the Lower Allotments (insufficient benefit, so PC will finance separately)
 - Replacing the Youth Club hut (cost)
- Traffic calming on Rogers Road (insufficient benefit / need not demonstrated)

The current progress of all the various projects is displayed on the parish council website.

Steve Kent-Phillips
Treasurer, Swaffham Prior Parish Council
www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/PC



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

make a

WILL month

...throughout March 2017



**Have you got round to making
or updating your Will?**

Now's the time!

Local solicitors and Will writers are kindly donating their time to write or update a standard Will in return for a donation to Arthur Rank Hospice.

**Make a Will to make sure
those you care about most are provided for
- it's easier than you think.**

For more details,
visit www.arhc.org.uk/Makeawill.asp
or call **01223 675881** email lucy.day@arhc.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1133354

LAST QUIZ AT THE LION?

WE VERY MUCH HOPE NOT, but this month marked the very Last Quiz to be hosted at the Red Lion by Toni and David Lucas before they set off to pastures new. At the same time, Graham Wiltshire, who has been running this highly popular event for 15 years is finally hanging up his hat. During this time, Graham has raised nearly **£15,000** for good causes — his efforts have been highly appreciated and many congratulations go to him. £750 was raised this year for EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospice), and also pictured is Graham presenting a cheque to Michael from the East Anglian Air Ambulance for £1000, the amount raised last year.

Toni and Dave Lucas





Immediate left, Toni and Graham presenting Helen, from the East Anglian Children's Hospice, with a cheque for £750. Far left, last year's presentation to Michael from the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Below, this year's survivors from the Crier Staff Party.



School News



The Governors gave their Awards for the best handwriting at the end of last term. We were impressed with how well the younger children were forming their letters. We saw steady progress through capital letters and clear sentences, joined up writing and in the final year very neat clear writing. We have set all the pupils a further challenge – to improve their handwriting. In the summer term, we will compare their writing with that from last term to see who has improved the most.

Key Stage 1 children presented an excellent Nativity Play. There was lots of singing and dancing as well as good acting and narration. They even took a leaf out of pantomime and had audience participation as we all sang ‘Away in a Manager’. It was a lovely way to get into the Christmas spirit.

As you will have seen, the work continues on the wall around the playground. As often happens with repairs to old walls, the more they looked the more problems they found. We are sorry to be causing prolonged disruption, but are delighted that they are doing such a thorough job. We should be left with literally better foundations for a strong and long lasting boundary wall.

Could you be a Governor for the school? Governors appoint the head teacher and hold the main responsibility for finance. Governors work together to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school

- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives

- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives

- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

We have one Governor vacancy and are also looking for Associate Governors. There is a full range of training for Governors, so you don't need to know about education policy, school finances etc from the outset. You just need to want to play a part in ensuring that our children have an excellent primary school experience. We need a wide range of skills and experience on the board, but are particularly keen to recruit people with Accountancy, HR or Legal skills and experience. If you would like an informal chat about becoming a governor, please contact me on 01638 741064 or chair@swaffham-prior.cambs.sch.uk.

Charlotte Cane

Chair of Governors

chair@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Bottisham Airfield Museum Update



Bottisham Airfield museum needs your help both with our consultation regarding the future of the museum and we need volunteers to help out at the museum.

We are currently talking to the Heritage Lottery Fund regarding a substantial grant to restore the original WW2 buildings (the old smokery buildings). The buildings need a lot of money spending on them but it is vital that this last remaining part of our local history is preserved. We need to persuade the Heritage Lottery Fund that there is a need for such an undertaking. We are therefore conducting a consultation exercise where everyone can have their say on the future of the museum and the uses of the buildings.

The trustees are exploring a number of avenues including creating an education space that would benefit the teaching of WW2 and local history in schools, we are also looking at various other uses for the site in terms of heritage and community use such as making it a heritage hub where a number of heritage style activities can take place.

So please have your say and the survey can be found online at:-

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/bottishamairfieldmuseum>

If you can't get online then please contact me on 07791 971799 and I can get a written copy of the survey to you.

The museum also needs more volunteers. We will be opening on a regular basis to the public - initially on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month and will need volunteers to help man the museum and help with the conservation and presentation of artefacts, serve teas and coffees etc. So if you can spare a few hours then please get in touch on 07791 971799 or at jasonwebb@bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk

Following the success of the Christmas film event we will having regular film nights with fish chips at the museum. The first of these will be the film 'Memphis Belle' on Friday 17th February at 7pm. Cost to include fish and chips will be £7 - please email me at:-

jasonwebb@bottishamairfieldmuseum.org.uk to book a ticket or phone on 07791 971799.

Jason Webb
Chairman of the Trustees



SATURDAY 11th February 2017

7:30 pm

**St. Mary's Church, High Street
Swaffham Bulbeck Cambs
CB25 0LX**

The St. Mary's Singers and Players 21st Annual Concert

Directors

Toby Hessian and Leo Popplewell

Programme

Handel: Zadok the Priest

Schutz: Die mit Tränen Säen

**Haydn: Cello Concerto in C
(soloist: Leo Popplewell)**

Batten: O Sing Joyfully

Goss: O Saviour of the World

Stanford: The Blue Bird

Walton: A Litany

Vaughan Williams: Five Mystical Songs

Refreshments available.

**Free admission on the door with retiring collection
for the Church and charity**



HIGH PRIEST OF ISRAEL

WI Notes

Richard Ayers gave us a very interesting talk- beautifully illustrated with slides, about the Gibberd Garden- a seven acre site, near Harlow in Essex.

It was bought by the architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd, in the 1940s, whilst he was working for Harlow Development Corporation as the master planner of Harlow New Town. Ironically he was refused permission to demolish the bungalow on the site and build a house of his own design.

(He was of course more famous for designing Liverpool's catholic cathedral, the first terminals at Heathrow, the Mosque in Regents Park and redesigning Coutts Bank.)

The garden was developed over 30 years and is certainly different- strange in many ways- terraces, patios, long vistas and garden 'rooms' as settings for his extraordinary collection of 80 sculptures, many ceramic pots and architectural salvage, acquired during his work around the country- amongst them- vast columns from Coutts and several church fountains. He was president of the Concrete Society, so many of the sculptures are made of concrete: several being gifts from his second wife.

There is a natural stream running through the garden with a man made waterfall- originally made of old fridges and freezers, but now replaced with stone!

He also built a real fort, complete with moat and drawbridge, for his grandchildren, made of concrete, but now replaced with Dutch Elm. The garden is not a flower garden, apart from hosts of daffodils in the Spring and somewhere is buried one of his old Riley cars!

Sir Frederick died in 1984 and bequeathed the garden to Harlow Town Council.

However the family contested the will, Harlow turned down his generous offer and to cut a long story short the garden ended up being run by a charitable trust, which was founded in 1995.

It had become very neglected and Richard was one of the professional Gardeners asked to advise on its revival. It now looks like a garden very well worth visiting and exploring- slightly eccentric, but with an excellent tearoom and only an hour from here.

Our next meeting is on February 21st, when Liz Mann is coming to talk about the National Memorial Arboretum.

All welcome.



Margaret Joyce



John Norris Remembers Groceries 1960

Just before I went on holiday, I paid a visit to the carrot washer in the fen close to Upware. My purpose was to get a bag of washed vegetables to tide my family over until the over wintered ones in my garden had recovered sufficiently to be edible. However, as often happens, my attention was drawn to other things in the person of George.

I am sorry to say that I did not remember him, but he remembered the many, so he said cups of tea he drank in the kitchen of Anglesey House, after delivering the groceries. He was not the beginning though as he

worked for Liangs, the grocery store in Newmarket High Street, which took over from a Cambridge firm which closed after many years of business.

It was soon after I arrived in the village that the travelling representative from Matthews, the store in Trinity Street Cambridge, paid us a visit. He came to get an order which would be delivered a day or two later, and to suggest any special items or offers going at the time. We had not been used to this special treatment, but Marion found it very useful with two young children and a farm office to look manage. Indeed I took advantage of their wide range of merchandise, in that they supplied me with my weekly ounce of Gold Block tobacco, which the village store did not stock. It was only when they gave up business, and the easy supply stopped, that I too gave up smoking, too lazy to go elsewhere.

After the order had been gathered together at the shop, it would be delivered in splendid old van, all neatly packed in a large wicker basket, rather like the ones used by the bakers rounds man. The idea of using manufacturers boxes, as we use to-day had not been thought of, neither were any of the goods packed in plastic containers.

Metric measurements and weights were still a long way off, and like many other folk of my age, I wish they still were.

As with most well run affairs, we could not be entirely supplied by Matthews, and the daily topping up of necessities was met by the village store across the road. It is a pity that this shop opposite the church was not kept open, but perhaps the parking of to-days shoppers would deter many from coming there, as the no parking was much longer than at present in 2009. Anyhow in the days before the by-passes it was there, and served the community well, in spite of there being much more traffic through the village.

The smell of a mixture of goods would be the first thing to attract the attention of any shopper. The bacon, paraffin, Stockholm Tar, and especially the coffee, made a

lovely combination, and gave the shop a special place in my memory. It was not only food that was sold in the shop, mouse-traps, halters, nails mantles for table lamps , and the ever useful Tilly lamp. Even the beams in the ceiling were used to hang goods on, and a handy cane, with a hook on the end, was used to get them down. At this time the letter box was moved into the wall of the shop, providing a very handy place for my letters, as it was previously in the gate post of Swatham Prior House. Even this perk was to improve as the final resting place for this wandering letter box, was outside my gateway on the telegraph post.

As a complete non sequitur, I notice that the plum blossom is going to be a splendid show again this year, as it was last year. I mention this because the bull finches used to strip all the blossom at this time of year, and all the trees could manage would be a good show of leaves. As with so many of natures cycles we are not assured of a good plum harvest, as Jack Frost could very easily wipe out all this show of promise, but we can hope.

John Norris

“Metric measurements and weights were still a long way off, and like many other folk of my age, I wish they still were.”

Faire is the Heaven

Saturday 18 March, 7.30pm

St. Mary’s Church, Church Lane, Newmarket CB8 0HP

Join the Cantilena Singers for an evening of unaccompanied and accompanied sacred music, including works by William Harris, Charles Wood, Herbert Howells, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, and others.

**Director Daniel Spreadbury
Organ Jonathan Giles**

Refreshments available

Tickets £10 (free admission for under 18s) on the door or contact Caille

Sugarman-Banazsak 01223 813918

website: www.cantilenasingers.org

St. Mary's Players - Swaffham Bulbeck

present an
Evening at the Theatre

**It Runs
in the Family**

**A comedy by
Ray Cooney**

Thu. 16th. Fri. 17th. February - £10

Sat. 18th. February - £12

7.30 in the School Hall

(all prices include glass of wine)

Tickets from: Geoffrey Datson 55 High Street
Tel: 812395 or email: datson@btconnect.com

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

NHS Stay Well this Winter: A guide to dealing with winter ailments is available on website [https://nhs.uk/stay well](https://nhs.uk/stay-well) and also on the Practice website. With the well advertised current pressures on GPs and hospitals it is important to keep healthy. Please remember that the ambulance service and the Accident & Emergency departments are for serious and life threatening cases. Healthwatch advice is:

Pharmacy - your pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints without having to wait for a GP appointment.

Call NHS 111 - available 24 hours a day and free to call. Connects you with the out of hours doctor service. Also provides mental health crisis care if you choose option 2.

Your GP surgery - make an appointment with your GP or telephone for advice for an illness or injury that won't go away.

Minor injuries units - usually a shorter wait for less serious injuries and illnesses that still need to be cared for quickly.

Missed Appointments: Despite the demand for appointments, there were still 77 missed appointments in December. Please ensure you inform the surgery if you are not going to attend so that the slot can be allocated to another patient.

Community Nurses: Following our meeting with the CEO of the Trust responsible, he has written to explain why they are being moved from their Practice base. The Clinical Commissioning Group has decided that district (community) nurses should work with other professional staff dedicated to the care of people with long term conditions and the elderly in teams, which in due course will include social care staff. He thanked us for our efforts to bring our concerns to his notice and assures us that the new arrangements are an attempt to try and improve resources for the growing number of people who require them. A copy of this letter will be on the notice board in the surgery.

Practice Nurse: Michelle has joined the practice nurse team part time.

Dispensary: Thank you to the patients who ordered their repeat prescriptions and collected the same in good time, which helped ease the pressure over the busy Christmas period.

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

Walks for Health: The next walk with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson starts at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 3rd and 15th February and 3rd and 15th March 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 23 March 2017 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Repeat Prescriptions: Due to demands on the Practice, turn round time for repeat prescriptions as from 23 January 2017 will be 72 hours.

Bottisham Patients' Group



From our Local County Councillor

January 2017

General Purposes Committee met to discuss the proposed Business Plan/Budget for the next four years.

The political groups at the County Council came to the meeting with their stance on Council Tax rates for 2017/18 clearly defined:

Labour – 3% increase on Council Tax and 2% increase for Adult Social Care;

Liberal Democrat – 2% on Council Tax and 2% for Adult Social Care;

Conservative – 0% on Council Tax and 2% for Adult Social Care;

UKIP – 0% on Council Tax and 0% for Adult Social Care.

After a long, and at times heated, debate no agreement was reached on a budget paper to be presented to Full Council.

Full Council meets on 14th February to debate the Budget and Business Plan. With no agreed plan to present to Council I am expecting that the meeting will

...and from our District Councillor, Allen Alderson

New Ely Cinema

During January, we had a site visit of the new 6 screen cinema on the Ely bypass. It is nearing completion but will not open until the A142 underpass is completed, which should be this Spring. The underpass will enable cyclists and pedestrians access to the site without the need to cross the A142.

Also in January, I attended a full council meeting, a Commercial Services Committee meeting, and a budget seminar meeting.

I have recently inspected all of the 16 kerbside grit salt bins in the ward. They were all full or mainly full. The bins are for our residents to keep the roads clear of ice.

I am working to solve problems that two local residents have with Sanctuary Housing. My efforts aren't helped by the fact that very often their case officer leaves the company and the case is put back on the shelf to be dealt with by someone else.

Sanctuary Housing certainly needs to sharpen up their act. The big issue this next year should be affordable housing, with the emphasis being on Community Land Trust Housing – local houses for local people.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

CARING FOR ORCHIDS

It's that time of the year again, the heady days of summer seem so far gone and Spring is still a couple of months away. The garden is short on flowers, but for a couple of winter staples. This is when house plants step into the fold to provide some much needed winter colour. Amongst these is the moth orchid (*Phalaenopsis*) which has saturated the market with its exotic blooms and affordable price. It does, however, remain an enigma to many when it comes to watering regime and re-flowering. This is one of the most common questions I get asked, so here is a quick guide to orchid care.



Phalaenopsis is a mainly tropical genus, so these orchids are best grown at temperatures above 18°C. In their natural habitat, they grow on trunks and limbs of rainforest trees, in medium to low light and so when kept as houseplants, they are best kept on an east facing window sill, which receives the gentle rays of the morning sun. They should be potted in a coarse bark and watered with a wet-dry cycle allowing the roots to dry, but not desiccate, before re-watering. The key to keeping orchids healthy is to avoid overwatering them. Between Halloween and Valentine's Day watering should be reduced considerably, with moisture being added a couple of times during this period. And finally re-flowering: you can initiate this by a drop in temperature of 2-3°C for a couple of weeks. Do this during the winter period when you reduce the watering, or move the orchid to a cooler location in your house. It should then be a matter of weeks before you see a new flower stalk emerge. Watering should remain as per above and this is also governed by light and temperature.

If this has whetted your appetite for a bit of winter colour, then why not visit the Garden, where our Orchid Festival will run from 12 February to 12 March in the warmth of our Glasshouse Range. This year's theme is India and will showcase an array of South Asian orchids, many drawn from the Garden's reserve collections, to provide a colourful taste of the Subcontinent – enough to brighten up any dreary winter day.



The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am - 4pm in January, 10am - 5pm February & March, 7 days a week.

Please check the website at

www.botanic.cam.ac.uk for details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and special events

Notes from Parish Council December Meeting

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

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

Public Participation: Peter Rand presented a proposal to replace the Village Hall windows. The current windows are quite rotten so they will need replacing soon and the VH funds were depleted due to recent maintenance. The type of replacements was discussed, wood was preferred, David Greenfield suggested composite could look very much like wood and require less maintenance. Steve Kent-Phillips asked if the VH Committee would take on the project Peter Rand said they would. CIL money could be used as the VH is infrastructure. Steve Kent-Phillips reminded Peter Rand that bills would need to be sent to the PC so the PC can show where the CIL money has been spent.

Reports

CCC Matters: Cllr David Brown's report was read to the meeting. John Covill asked if there was any policy on candidates for Mayor. David Brown said that some were conservative and Peterborough had some Labour. In his opinion, Mayor should be a full time job.

ECDC Matters: Cllr Allen Alderson was unfortunately unavailable and had not presented a report.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes: David Greenfield reported a good meeting with CGM clearing up the issues of where and when to cut the grass, especially considering the wild flowers, which we will tell them when to cut. Invoices to pay and credit notes were agreed. There had not been time to discuss path clearing. Steve Kent-Phillips reported the Village Hall driveway ruts and other damage had been attended to by Mead Construction but further work required would have to wait for warmer weather.

Correspondence for Circulation / Consideration: Residents' emails regarding dog fouling in the play area: Steve Kent-Phillips pointed out we should not put a dog bin in the play area and that a notice had been put in the recent "The Crier".

Consideration of Planning Applications Received:

The tree work and refusals of planning applications were noted.

16/01530/FUL & 16/01531/LBC The Windmill 9 Mill Hill: No objections.

16/01518/FUL & 16/01519/LBC Oak Cottage 46 High Street: No objections.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects: Steve Kent-Phillips reported the status of all projects. A good deal has been completed:

Replace St. Cyriac's back gate (see later item).

Cemetery: The Shed doors had been completed – an excellent job.

Swimming Pool Hut: Alex Kirby and Steve Kent-Phillips had had a meeting with FoSPS and the CCC project engineer – some small changes were suggested. FoSPS and teachers were still to decide on the design.

Cemetery Mapping: The meeting was suspended at 20:00 and Andrew Noyes

presented the results of the survey and the final mapping with schedule of burial plots. Andrew Noyes presented a map and schedule to Peter Rand for the Village Hall. There was some discussion about the source of the original maps and data. Andrew Noyes said that Chris Jay had done the GPS mapping for them. There were now 154 unallocated cremation plots and about 64 full burial plots identified. The meeting was re-convened at 20:22. Steve Kent-Phillips proposed a formal vote of thanks. Village Hall: It was decided to split the village hall work into 2 projects; the side fence, which Andy Martin would be asked to quote for and the windows, which would be a new project funded from CIL money.

Allotment standpipe for South-East side of B1102: Anglian Water had called Michael Malster and they were on track. The Clerk would forward the subsequent emails to the PC.

Allotment fees: Michael Malster proposed a review of rents and agreements and to base the agreement on Ely's, to be reviewed at the January meeting. There had been a request for the owner of the horses in the paddock next to the cemetery to use the tap. It was decided to charge £50 to April. The sizes of allotments were discussed and Michael Malster said he had all the sizes and he would present at the next meeting.

Replacement of gate in churchyard (small wicket gate): The quotation from Jon Taw (£740) was agreed.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed. The Manchester Building Society account forms were signed and it was agreed to open the account with £25 000.

Annual Precept for 2017/8: It was agreed to make no change to the £14 500 precept.

Clerk's Report: The clerk reported that CE Fuller & Co were impressed with AC's marking out of grave plots.

Parish Councillors' Reports: Steve Kent-Phillips reported a request from the local Swift Society enquiring about putting swift boxes on the church tower. Michael Malster agreed that it was a good idea. Steve Kent-Phillips asked who to contact regarding permission. Andrew Camps offered to find out. John Covill noted that the travellers had moved from Black Drove, some of the travellers were tidy and CCC had taken the rubbish and some of the pot-holes had been repaired.

Open Question Time: Alastair Everitt said that the committee should be copied when sending to CCT and copy Sharon Robinson.

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

Future meeting dates: February 9th, March 9th, April 13th 2017. All are welcome to attend.

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/>

Paul Catling, Clerk to the Parish Council



Just a crutch?

I remember, during my first week at university, hearing one of my friends dismiss the Christian faith as, 'just a crutch'. The comment wasn't aimed at me directly, but I was offended, hurt and angered by her words. As an 18 year old man with his first real taste of freedom and independence, learning to fend for himself in the world, the last thing I was prepared to admit was being in need of a 'crutch'.

Do you ever think back to experiences or conversations you've had and wish you'd had more time to consider your response? Or wonder how you'd react if you were having the same experience or conversation knowing what you know now, however many years later?

My response to the next person who claims my faith is a crutch will be, "What does a crutch do?"... "Have you never needed or do you not expect to ever need the help of a crutch?"

I am more than happy to hold my hand up and my head high to the reality that my Christian faith is at times a crutch for me to lean on, helping me to stand and continue to move forward when I am not strong enough in myself.

I would also assert, as does adventurer Bear Grylls in the first Alpha Film Series Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmeSw6KVweU>), that my faith is so much more than a crutch - it is more like a backbone, shaping who I am and enabling me to stand tall and strong through life; and more than that, at the heart of my faith is the experience of being known by God, being loved to death by Jesus and having life in Him through the power and help of the Holy Spirit every day.

If humans are the measure of all things, then I am deeply fearful of the future. If God is real, Jesus lived, died for me, and rose from the dead and if the claims of the Bible are true - then I am full of hope! I urge you to resist making an ultimate decision to reject Jesus Christ and the claims of scripture, before first exploring them for yourself.

Do get in touch if you'd like to explore these things within the RENEW Church community, we'd love you to join us on the adventure.

Rev'd Alan Brand

RENEW Church Services in February 2017.

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

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

The Alpha Course continues: Two opportunities to join in – Sunday morning or Monday evening.

All are welcome. Please get in touch if you'd like to join in. Contact Alan (Details below)

5th February. Breakfast from 10.15am – Alpha #5

(Bottisham Primary School)

Monday 6th February. Evening meal at 7.30pm – Alpha #5
(at the School)

12th February. Breakfast from 10.15am – **Alpha #6**
 (Bottisham Primary School) Followed by shared lunch
 12th February. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)
Monday 13th February. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha #6**
 (at the School)
 19th February. Breakfast from 10.15am – **Alpha #7**
 (Bottisham Primary School)
Monday 20th February. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha #7**
 (at the School)
Saturday 25th February. Alpha Away Day.
 26th February. Breakfast from 10.15am – **Alpha #11**
 (Bottisham Primary School)
 26th February. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)
Monday 27th February. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha #11**
 (at the 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.

Offered

Pair of Mission 700 loudspeakers. W26. H46. D24.5cm. Walnut veneer. Need some attention. Suit enthusiast. Martin 01223 811703

From Cartridge World remanufactured Inkjet Cartridges for Epson Stylus

Office printer B1100/B40W/BX310FN/BX600FW/BX610FW/Stylus SX510W/SX515W/SX600FW/SW610FW: 2X Black, 1 Cyan, 1 Magenta, 1 Yellow. Nicole 01223 812363

Plastic animals (water creatures and African creatures etc); 3 small toddler-sized backpacks (one khaki coloured Eurohike, one HelloKitty – white with HelloKitty heads all over, one lurid pink/purple); Blue plastic dumper truck (about 30cm long), Hot wheels looping track; Jun 01223 813362.

Lean-to aluminium and glass cold frame (large enough for tomato plants). Irene 01223 812473

Wanted

Used ladies bicycle. Madelein 07900 943540

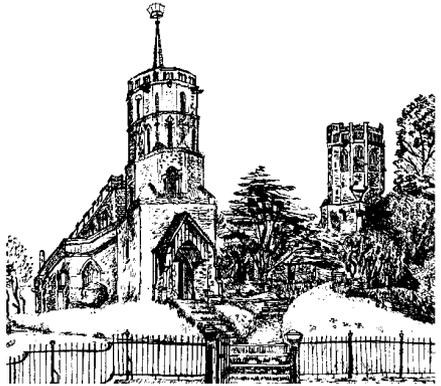
Empty iPhone boxes (all models, but iPhone 5 in particular). Nicole, 01223 812363

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.

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas season, with your family and friends at its heart. [I'm writing when Christmas is very fresh in my mind] I usually spend Christmas in Kenya so I've really enjoyed this year at home and joining in the traditional activities, in spite of the change in temperature. It was especially good to see so many people taking part in, and enjoying the Christmas services throughout the Benefice. It's good to know that the commemoration of the birth of Jesus still plays a part in peoples' lives; that the baby who arrived 2000 years ago, still touches our lives today.



We remember it in a profusion of ways - the stable, the shepherds, the star, the kings, gifts, nativity plays, Christmas trees, Father Christmas, presents, turkey and the rest. So many traditions and all so enjoyable! The sad thing is that we can get so bound up with the traditions that we miss the central message. We rarely stop to think about the baby at the centre of Christmas, or more significantly, the man that the child became. The very reason that Christians came to mark Christmas at all, was because of the impact of the message that the man delivered: that God cares so much about us, is involved in our lives, and has a purpose for us all. That's what Jesus was teaching. And nothing will get in the way of that: not busyness, not selfishness, not mistakes nor wrongdoings (even repeated ones): there well always be a way back.

We can still get to know that man of 2000 years ago; come to understand why he made such an impact on his peers, and why he continues to make such an impact today. Mark's story gives the eye-witness' account of Jesus' life (best read in a modern version to start with, in my opinion: sometimes the imagery and the language can be a bit dated but the man and the message is still there). The other Gospels embellish the account. It's worth the effort, because life has meaning. It's meant to be "deep not shallow" (a comment I heard on the radio recently in relation to poetry, which I thought was apt). So many people search for a meaning to life, and yet overlook the one closest to home.

In her first sermon of the New Year, Sue asked us all to re-commit ourselves to Christ. We all need to examine our faith, to look beyond the generalities, the traditions, the superficialities and even misconceptions of our faith, and work out how we can live our lives today, in our communities, in the light of Christ. As she said in her January Letter, new beginnings are very much a part of our Christian life. May we all find the meaning of our lives this year.

Brenda Wilson

Church Services in February
at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior
unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 5 February, fourth Sunday before Lent

11am Holy Communion (CW1)

Sunday 12 February, third Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 19 February, second Sunday before Lent

11am Family Service

Sunday 26 February, first Sunday before Lent

8am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1T)

10am Benefice All Age Service, Quy Village Hall – with
pancakes!

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

Litter pick day

Sunday 5th February from 2-4

This is a request from the village of Lode with Longmeadow to our neighbours to help with this important annual clear up. We are hoping to not only do our own village, but we also do the roads to Bottisham, Quy and Swaffham Bulbeck. We are rather hoping that anyone who feels this is important would do a section of road and meet us half way. It is important that no children help and that high Vis jackets are worn and great care is taken not to step out into the road in case there is a cyclist going past. Let us know if you can do any part, even if the date we have chosen is not convenient and you prefer to do another time. Thank you

Fran Platten [Lode Parish Council]

01223 813 016

Dates for Your Diary February 2017

Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Sat	11	POP Litter Pick, 10 am, meet by Village Sign, [p11] St Mary's Singers, 7.30 pm, St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	15	Frugal Lunch, 12 noon, 73 High St [p12]
Thu	16	It Runs in the Family, 7.30 pm, School Hall, Bulbeck (until Sat) [p26]
Fri	17	Bottisham Airfield Museum Film Night, 7.30pm, [p21]
Tue	21	Crier Copy Deadline WI, 7.30 pm, VH
Fri	24	Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon, The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, [p 6]

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	