



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 1

January 2017



## Editorial

**HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL OUR READERS!** .Now is the time of year we traditionally say thank-you very much to all the people who help out with our monthly **Crier**, and this year we thought we'd combine this with some excellent ideas for keeping those be-more-healthy New Year resolutions you might have made in a misguided moment: Get More Exercise, Engage Brain, stuff like that.

First of all, our **correspondents** and **cover illustrators**, who have as usual done a brilliant job this year. Welcome to Mike Malster, who is going to be writing our new Allotment Column, and if you too would like to contribute to the **Crier** or have an idea for a new column, just send your copy in or get in touch with the editors. Next, our **distributors**: from up on the Heath to down on the Fen, Swaffham Prior stretches far and wide, but our distributors go out in all weathers to make sure everybody receives their copy every month. We hope there've been no more injuries this year! Special thanks go to Pam Waters, who is now helping Ruth Stinton with the not inconsiderably organisation of this task. But we could always do with some extra "stand-bys" — if you'd like to help occasionally, please get in touch. Next our **Advertisers**: the Crier receives no grants or financial support (bar some very gratefully received donations, see below). Thank-you for all your support during 2016, we can't exist without you. If you'd like to advertise do get in touch: Crier pages are the first place anyone looks if they need something doing.

**Donators**: not only do these make an essential difference over and above our usual income, they are so encouraging to everyone who works so hard every month in this magazine. Thank-you, and keep them coming in!

Many apologies for the technical glitch which somehow hit the printed version of the Christmas Crier (but, for some mysterious reason, not the web version) sabotaging amongst other things, the Diary and the Cover picture by-line. Here's hoping this issue is glitch-free. Hmmm. See you coffeeing! **Caroline Matheson**

### Regulars

Letters	2
Ophir	2
Our Reporter	4
On the Allotment	8
POP News	13
Bon Mot	13
CROSSWORD	16
John Norris Remembers	21
David Brown	22
Botanic Gardens	23
Renew	24
Freecycle	25
Sue Giles	26
Church Services	27

### News, Views & Reviews

Clare's Drawing	2
The New Cemetery Plan	10
Specials	12
Bottisham Patients	12
Christingle 2016	14
Andrew Badcock's Award	15
WI News	18
Village Gardeners	19

### What's On

Annual Coffee Morning	3
Yoga	3
Coffee Morning	5
St Mary's Singers	6
Comberton Ramblers	7
What's On	9
Bottisham Players	12
Lets Dance	18
St Mary's Players	20

### Situations Vacant

Crier Deliverers	4
Special Constables	12
Key People	7

**Cover Picture: A Pre-Raphaelite New Year Party by E.H.Shepherd**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Misunderstood Humour

I am sorry that Mark Lewinski should think I did not like his letter about his name. I adored it. It was truly hilarious. Which is why *The Diary of a Nobody* immediately came to mind. This classic is as funny and relevant today as it was when first published in 1892. My linking it with Mr Lewinski should be considered to be quite a compliment.

*Alastair Everitt*

---

### Winter Musing?

It feels as though the platform's wrong,  
or the train is very late;  
And there's nothing else that I can do,  
but wait, and wait.  
And wait.

It's very lonely waiting here,  
with no one else around.  
With just my thoughts to listen to,  
there's very - - little - - sound.

It's sure to happen sometime soon,  
but as yet I've had no clue,  
And as I've said already, I think it's overdue.

But maybe there's a plot afoot,  
planned by The Association;  
To keep me here for ever,  
and cancel the reincarnation !

**Ophir**

### December Cover Picture

Many have asked "who drew the exquisite cover picture of the December *Crier*." It was drawn by Clare Newbolt and the full title is *Madonna with Child and Book – after Raphael*.

[Many apologies from the editors! See editorial]

# ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon



Wednesday  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2017



*Lowfield, 49 Lower End*

Cake Stall & Raffle  
Produce Bring and Buy Stall

*All proceeds to St. Mary's Church*

# YOGA

**Wednesday 7-8pm - from January 11th**  
Swaffham Prior Village Hall

For all ages and levels of experience



## ***Reserve Crier Deliverers Wanted!***

Ruth Stinton would very much welcome a few more people who are willing to be 'standbys' in case a regular is not able to do their delivery and perhaps even take over when others move away or drop out for other reasons.

## **From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting**

Four members were absent from the mid December meeting. That evening, because they had been so much in the news, I wondered if the Chairman would have liked the gap to be filled by the three Brexiteers. Would they be welcome?

Then I remembered Patrick Kidd of *The Times* and his suggestion that the three – Boris Johnson, David Davis and Liam Fox perhaps “represented the Freudian Brexit psyche: - ego, superego, and id (iot).” So, perhaps not.

Not a lot happened at the meeting, and all went swimmingly ahead. CIL projects are proceeding apace and Peter Rand made a good case for some Village Hall replacement windows if he obtains the quotes. Still no news on the Bollards.

The Andrew Noyes gave a presentation on the cemetery project. What an eye-opener this was, and he could hardly contain his pleasure and fascination with the project. He said that he was “chuffed” that he had been asked to do it, and generally, was, very very “chuffed”. Elsewhere in the *Crier* is his full descriptive account on the project. Meanwhile he already has his eye on other cemeteries that may require the same treatment.

The Annual Precept has to be agreed eighteen months ahead and as there has been no change to the £14,500 for the last ten years it was passed with no questions or objections.

At the end Steve said he had been approached by Action for Swifts and thought it would be a good idea to put some nesting boxes in with the bells. Andrew was asked if he would contact Churches Conservation Trust for permission. I expressed doubts and thought it should be discussed with the bell ringers and the Fellowship first.

Since the meeting there has been an exchange of views and generally it was agreed that St Cyriac's is a non-starter for a site – for a start who would pay the architect's fee. It is here suggested that all those interested should visit the Action for Swifts website to see what is involved, and that private houses, both old and new, could be the answer. If a Swift Lover is really interested they should contact the PC.

Meantime, we at the top end of Lower End are very happy with the two flocks of swifts we have. They do give so much delight in the summer.



***Alastair Everitt***

Margaret Joyce and Ruth Scovil's

# COFFEE MORNING

in aid of The Arthur Rank Hospice

10:30 am – 12:00 noon  
on

Friday

24<sup>th</sup> February

2017



at

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



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

*making every moment count*



**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**7:30 pm**

**St. Mary's Church, High Street**

**Swaffham Bulbeck Cambs**

**CB25 0LX**

# **The St. Mary's Singers and Players 21<sup>st</sup> 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**



**Do your daily walks with your Dog take you past the Churches?**

You could be just the person we are looking for!!

We urgently need more volunteers to help with the unlocking and locking of St Mary's and St Cyriac's Churches.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Jan Pattinson on 01638 743866.

No experience required! Weekly rota with a commitment of approximately three or four times a year.

You do not, however, need to be a dog walker to apply ☺

## **Comberton Ramblers - formed in June 1974.**

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you.

Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6. miles every fortnight on a Sunday.  
Our Spring 2017 walk programme starts on the 8th January 2017.

So why not give us a try, you'll have the benefit of an exhilarating walk plus the companionship of a group of like-minded people .

For more information please contact the Secretary Stella.

Tel. 01954 210049

Email. [stella.ramblers@hotmail.com](mailto:stella.ramblers@hotmail.com)

[www.combertonramblers.org.uk](http://www.combertonramblers.org.uk)



**The Crier is delighted to welcome a new regular columnist Mike Malster, who will be guiding readers through the gardening year.**

## *On The Allotment*

A few years ago my wife returned home after an evening meeting to find me asleep surrounded by glossy publications crammed with pictures about which I had been fantasizing. It's happened to most of us vegetable gardeners – January is seed ordering time and we dream of perfect peas, succulent sweet corn, asparagus cooked and eaten within minutes of cutting and tomatoes wrapped in a leaf of basil and exploding in flavour. Reality may be somewhat different – battling pests, predators and disease, but

in January we can dream.

I like to grow both early and main crop potatoes but some take the view that land devoted to main crop could be better used as they are relatively cheap to buy. My favourite earlies are Epicure – a “first early” bred by James Clark of Christchurch, Hampshire in 1897. It is high yielding, recovers from frost, has a floury texture and excellent flavour. Another of my favourites – also a “first early” – is Red Duke of York – originally a Dutch variety. It has deep red skin and a wonderful flavour. Pink Fir Apple is a main crop variety imported from France and Germany in the 1850s. They knobbly, should be cooked whole and are delicious hot or cold. A relatively new variety of main crop is Sarpo which have a greater resistance to blight.

On delivery it is customary for potatoes to be “chitted” – the process which allows strong “chits” (shoots) to develop prior to planting. It is not essential but it can help bring crops forward – soil temperature when planting can also make a difference. Personally I'm in favour of “chitting” - it's good pub conversation. Dormant or just sprouted tubers are placed in trays in frost-free conditions – the warmer the room, the quicker the process. “Chitting” can be used to affect the size and quantity of the crop. Removing the side shoots and leaving the end shoots results in fewer, larger tubers whilst the opposite gives more numerous, smaller crops.

The following can be sown indoors for replanting outside: lettuce, summer cabbage, cauliflower, carrots spinach and broad beans. By using seed trays divided into compartments, usually 12 or 18, plants can be replanted with little disturbance to the roots.

If you intend growing tomatoes you should order seed now for sowing in February. There are two types of tomatoes – determinate or bush which produces small cherry tomatoes and indeterminate or vine tomatoes which require support. I have found the best flavoured cherry tomatoes are the red or yellow varieties and for vines, it is difficult to go wrong with the traditional varieties such as Alicante, Gardeners Delight etc. When buying tomato seed it is a good idea to order labels, because if can't tell your determinates from your indeterminates, you will be in a real pickle – just like your tomatoes.

***Mike Malster***





I have been asked to be the Director of our wonderful Pantomime again this year, which is '**Robinson Crusoe**', written, again, by Joshua Dixon and which will be performed in the Main Hall of Bottisham Village College on the evenings of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017, plus a Matinee performance on the Saturday. Tickets are £7.50 with concessions at £5.50 and we offer a 10% discount to parties of 10 or more.

Tickets are available from:

**Box Office: Tina's of Burwell: 01638 742785;**

**Bottisham Village Stores: 01223 811281;**

**Sue Tennant: 07449306832** (answerphone available)

Why don't you take a look at our website, where you will find lots of interesting information: [www.bottishamplayers.org.uk](http://www.bottishamplayers.org.uk)

### **The Story of Robinson Crusoe**

A boy called Robinson Crusoe who yearns for adventure, decides to go to sea to see what lies beyond the harbour. Robinson has a very pretty friend, Sally, the daughter of Captain Birdseye and Sally, Billy (Robinson's brother) and Mrs. Crusoe (Robinson's mother) all want to join in the adventure too.

The magic Enchantress gives Robinson a treasure map, but the Sorceress of the Seven Seas isn't going to let the Enchantress beat her and decides to make lots of trouble by introducing Blackheart the Pirate and his hapless pirates, Cockle and Winkle, who she insists will find the treasure first. After finding themselves shipwrecked, Robinson and his friends eventually reach a tropical island full of cannibals, led by a Cannibal Queen but is she who she seems? Will the treasure be found? Can Robinson save Sally? Who will end up ruling the sea – the magical Enchantress or the wicked Sorceress? Will there be a happy ending?

As with all Pantomimes, there will be lots of singing, dancing, scary bits and lots of fun. Sit back and follow our epic tale.

Please clap, sing, cheer, boo and shout but above all, enjoy the Show!

***Sue Tennant***  
Director



# The New Cemetery Plan November 2016

The Parish Council cemetery, as opposed to the nearby church graveyard surrounding the two churches, was created in the late

1890s. Its first occupant was Charles George Heffer Benstead who died, or was buried, on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1898. His grave, plot no 1, is in the right hand corner of the cemetery to the right of the gate leading on to the site. You can't see the grave easily now as there is no headstone, which is the case with many of the older graves. Whether this is because the headstone was made of wood which has rotted away or that there never was a headstone we cannot be sure. All we have is a name on a plan.

The cemetery is a quiet and serene place on an autumn afternoon with the sun shining and the breeze in the trees; not spooky or troubling at all! It is laid out in a grid either side of the central path that runs from the gate nearest the church to the allotments at the rear. The original cemetery with its border of then small trees was extended some years ago to provide extra land for plots. The trees have since grown but the original border is clear to see.

Either side of the path there are 16 plots on the left, 16 on the right. Nice and orderly. Or so you might think! Originally there were plans to have 25 rows of 32 plots but over the years the graves were dug a little too generously, particularly on the right hand side where they have pushed down the site. Hence there are only 23 rows! This is not what it says on the big old plan the Parish Council has been working from, which has caused confusion. Row 23 is visible on the left starting with plot No. 769 Eileen Ellen Wilson who died on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2000 - but not on the right! That is because those on the right were child graves under the trees, dating from 1926 to 1939. And for those there are no headstones, no markings at all. It took us a while to understand that. Without Andrew Camps' invaluable knowledge we would have been lost; thank you, Andrew.

Beyond the trees towards the rear on the left there are more recent graves, where a recent arrival is Eric Day. Prior to Mr Day was Neville Ling. In the older part of the cemetery Sid Prince has recently been buried. They may be gone but will never be forgotten, which is very comforting. Only now can I see the reason for a plaque or headstone or something with a name and a date; not something of any relevance when you are young!

Our job was to not only record names and dates and plot the existing graves but also to create more plots for the future. We now have measured out and written down a further 66 full size plots and some 154 cremation plots. Hopefully that will provide for the village for many years to come. If you would like to reserve a plot

for you or your family members please contact the Parish Clerk, Paul Catling – [clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk) or on 07040 908743 and he can explain the charges. Plots can be reserved in advance: Eric Day and Sid Prince are each buried next to their late wives.

Noyes & Noyes co-ordinated the job photographing and visiting the cemetery to record all the names and dates, and used the services of Chris Jay of C J Surveys Ltd to plot the graves digitally on CAD. Unlike the big old plan with names neatly hand-written – easy to read until more than one name is added to a plot, and then a third and a fourth and fifth with ashes! – we decided to number the plots on the plan and create a spreadsheet for the names and the dates. That document can be amended regularly. A big old plan can't, and that was the problem. Subsequent small plans were very neatly and carefully drawn by Henry Hardiment and, I think, Mrs Stinton.

Dates - of death or of burial - are an issue. Most of the dates on the old plan were the date of burial as this would have been known to the Parish Clerk. Headstones, if they existed, recording the date of death would be set in place sometimes months, or years, after the burial. For historians or those tracing family members it causes confusion. Where possible we have recorded the date of death but have not always been successful; where there is no headstone we can't tell which is which. However, should revised information become available the Excel spreadsheet can be amended at any time.

There was a certain poignancy to this exercise as it drew to a close around Remembrance Sunday. As we listened in Church to the names of the fallen from the two World Wars we thought of the names we had recorded whose graves are in the cemetery. They too will not be forgotten.

Doing a job like this was unusual for us, but what a pleasure to do something of long-lasting effect and value to the community. Thank you Steve, Paul and Andrew for setting us this challenge! And the cemetery is such a lovely, peaceful place to visit to escape the mad world of Brexit and Trump!

*Andrew Noyes*



## Do something Special this New Year

Cambridgeshire police is urging residents who want to give something back to their community to consider becoming a Special. With Christmas and then New Year approaching, what better time for people to consider doing something new, exciting and rewarding. Not only does joining the Special Constabulary allow you to do something really positive and worthwhile, it also gives you unique and valuable skills and experience.

Specials are volunteer police officers who wear the same uniform, carry the same equipment and have the same powers as police officers, including the power of arrest. They volunteer a minimum of just four hours a week and the constabulary can fit around their lifestyle.

Being a career Special is a vocation in its own right and there is a whole range of roles, including specialist areas such as road policing, the major crime unit and the rural crime action team (RCAT). You could be tackling anti-social behaviour, involved in crowd control at major events, going on foot or vehicle patrol, assisting at the scene of collisions, fights or fires or enforcing road safety initiatives.

You will get professional training, skills and experience that can be used in everyday life and career progression. Training takes 10 weeks and consists of distance learning via online training packages that can be completed in your own time.

People often ask if being a Special could upset their employer. Our experience is that employers are usually extremely happy for staff to become Specials and many actually support them by giving paid time off while they're on duty. Some organisations actively encourage their staff to become Specials and work in partnership with the Special Constabulary.

For more information and an application form visit the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website.

---

## News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

**Community Nurses:** As a result of our petition (725 names) Aidan Thomas, Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, attended our meeting to explain about the new Neighbourhood Teams. Bottisham and 8 other practices based just north of the A14 will form the Cambridge North Villages Team with a base at Histon. Community Nurses along with other health professionals and social care will be part of the team. Patients raised questions and voiced their concerns about how the continuity of care could be maintained, particularly the current close connection the nurses have with our GPs, and also pointed out the delays and difficulties of the travelling. Another issue highlighted was that nurses would not have their medical supplies in Bottisham.

**Red Bucket Appeal:** So far this money has been used for equipment requested by the Practice. At the last meeting it was felt we should ask patients if they had any suggestions for suitable items that could be considered. Please pass suggestions to

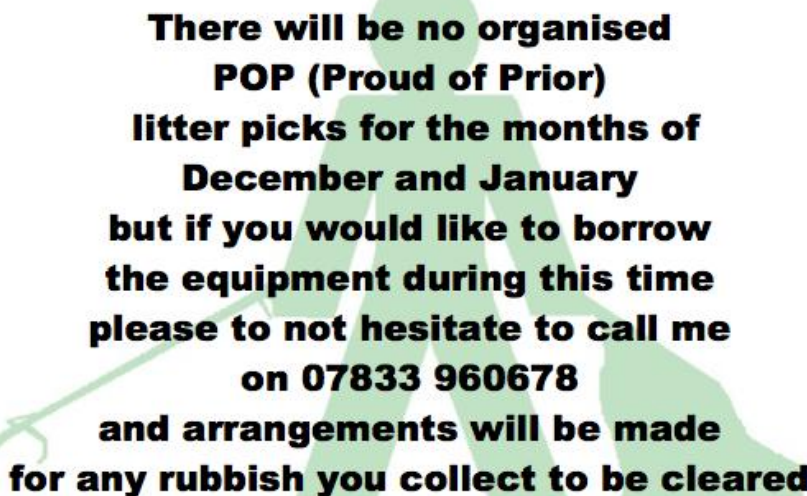
[s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com) or leave at the reception.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

*Bottisham Patients' Group*



**There will be no organised  
POP (Proud of Prior)  
litter picks for the months of  
December and January  
but if you would like to borrow  
the equipment during this time  
please do not hesitate to call me  
on 07833 960678  
and arrangements will be made  
for any rubbish you collect to be cleared**

## **BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY TWO**

**“Failure is not the opposite of success:  
it's a stepping stone.”**

Told by her mother to *Arianna Huffington* (1950 - )

# Christingle at St Mary's



**December's  
Christingle  
Service was a  
delight and  
much enjoyed  
by a packed  
congregation.**



## Our very own Local Hero ANDREW BADCOCK

Many congratulations to soon-to-be-retired PC Andrew Badcock of Greenhead Road whose presentation last month of a “local hero” award by Cambridge’s MP was covered by the Cambridge News. For readers who missed the story, this was the *sixth* award he has won during his 17 years service in the Cambridge Police: three divisional commander’s commendations, one Chief Constable’s commendation, a crown court judge’s commendation and a nomination for national neighbourhood officer of the year in 2010.

His superintendant said: “PC Badcock has been a dedicated community officer in the south of Cambridge since 2002. During this time he has consistently been the top performing officer in Cambridge.

His list of achievements is incredibly impressive, from catching murderers to helping vulnerable members our community keep safe. He is dedicated to working in partnership with others agencies, to help his local community minimise crime and disorder and work towards a more cohesive neighbourhood.

There are numerous examples of him going the “extra mile” to protect those at greatest risk of harm and relentlessly pursuing those who prey on our most vulnerable. He has been a role model to other police officers and has helped develop the next generation of officers to help keep Cambridge safe.

I believe the way that PC Badcock is perceived by different elements of the community is exactly as a “hero” police officer should be: hugely popular with the community and partner agencies, well respected by colleagues and (perhaps most importantly) feared by criminals.

Despite being one of the more mature officers in Cambridge, his enthusiasm and energy is outstanding. He regular makes personal sacrifices to change his working pattern in order to meet the needs of the community he serves.

PC Badcock retires in March after an exemplary career. He is truly irreplaceable and is very much a local hero.”

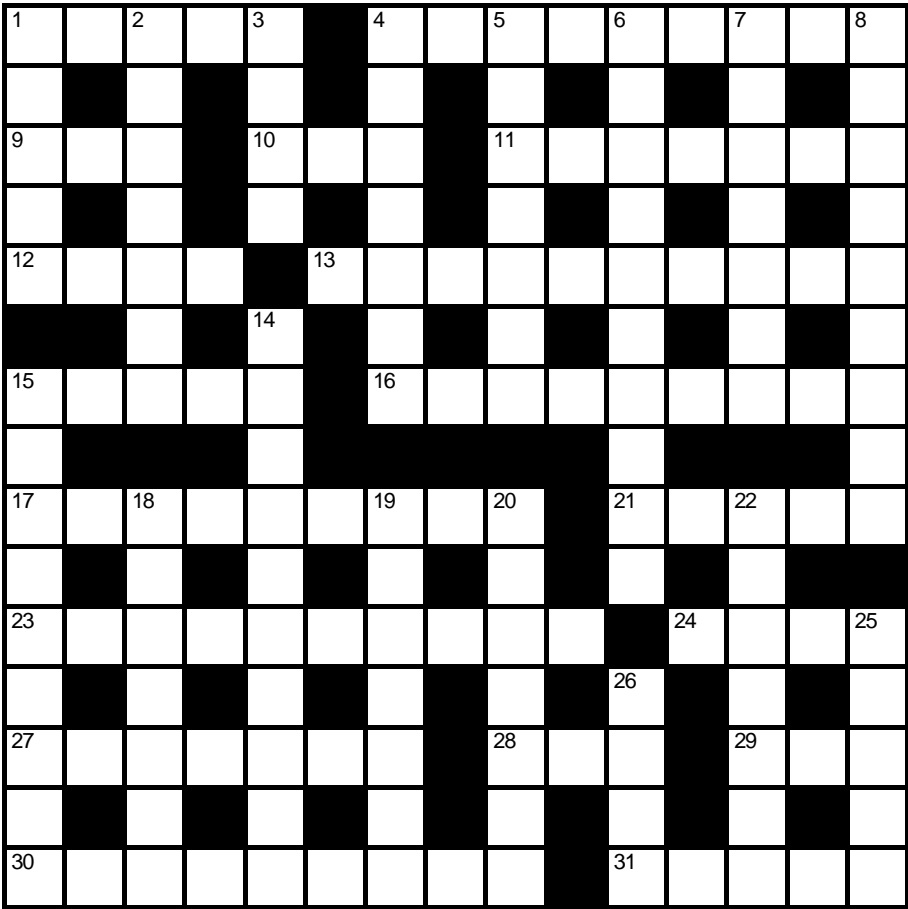
What an accolade! Many congratulations from the *Crier*: we hope Andrew very much enjoys his retirement, but if he gets bored....well, he took over Swaffham Prior’s Neighbourhood Watch from Eric Day in days gone by, and the village has had a spate of burglaries recently.....

*Picture/report courtesy of Cambridge News*

Crossword Number138

Compiled by BYWELL

In this month’s cryptic crossword, clues beginning with an \* allude to places where housing costs have been relatively stable for some time. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will receive The Winner’s Certificate.



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

## Across

- 1 Run, then step back to summarise (5)
- 4 Maggie's written to the left, penning the first four-letter word (9)
- 9 For carrying note back (3)
- 10 Endlessly bleak grassy area (3)
- 11 Steed and Peel both rage about celebration of wartime success (7)
- 12 \* Brownd unevenly (4)
- 13 \* Constant volume measurement these days with coffee-makers (10)
- 15 Yellow fruit from Nicaragua valley (5)
- 16 \* He is into racing with money (3,6)
- 17 Wanting to leave small payment after head-to-foot transformation (5,4)
- 21 Try to capture hill overwhelmed by pain and pleasure (5)
- 23 Can owlets fly north in LA? (10)
- 24 See 3 Down
- 27 Remove head from and re-sequence loopiest atomic variation (7)
- 28 Fury at removal of odd entries from diaries (3)
- 29/26 \* Knelt down unhappily, after finally losing directions (3,4)
- 30 \* European cash that is French euro oddly (9)
- 31 Bird partly found in Catalonia (5)

## Down

- 1 A herb preparation to help recovery (5)
- 2 Musical passage around the German country (7)
- 3/24\* Everyone buried in May these days has allergy to begin with (4,4)
- 4 Fan of Peter and Catherine or Dire Straits perhaps (7)

- 5 Mystic state with his head in a block (7)
- 6 Publicity surrounding showplace is covered by too much for one to tell (10)
- 7 Fine clothing for knocking back the best beer (7)
- 8 Suffering ministers have two ways to travel going north (9)
- 14 \* Mother taking up egghead prize (10)
- 15 Cook outside - swirling mist can be source of flour (9)
- 18 Sparkling Cinzano for singers in Provence (7)
- 19 Persuade to handle after letter (7)
- 20 Swimming in water more like an owl? (7)
- 22 Enjoying good fortune like butter or jam, possibly (2,1,4)
- 25 Induced working under new form of lighting (3,2)
- 26 See 29 Across

## Solution to crossword no. 137

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

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Sue Jackson and Trish Whitehead.

## The Swaffhams WI News

In December we met for our Christmas Party. Every one brought along some delicious food and we enjoyed a very sociable supper together. Afterwards we were entertained by Betty Prime's granddaughter who sang songs from the shows. A very talented young lady, we were all spellbound by her beautiful voice. We then had the raffle and the evening finished with a quiz and of course some time to chat. We have had a very successful year with a good variety of speakers and social events and have been pleased to welcome some new faces to our group.

Our next meeting will be on January 16 when Debbie, one of our members will be talking about her experience visiting the Arctic Circle earlier this year. We also hope to have a demonstration of how to use the defibrillator which is now kept in the village phone box.

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

***Pat Cook – President***

Tel: 01638 742224

Email: [patcook6@btinternet.com](mailto:patcook6@btinternet.com)

---



## 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: January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup> (Black Tie optional), March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> (Floral May Ball)

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 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](http://www.letsdanceclub.org.uk)

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



## SWAFFHAM PRIOR VILLAGE GARDENERS PROGRAMME FOR 2017

Tuesday 17 January	Richard Ayres MBE	‘Kirtling Towers Gardens’
Tuesday 21 February	Liz Mann	‘National Memorial Arboretum’
Tuesday 21 March	Stephen Poyser	‘Beekeeping and the Gardener’
Tuesday 18 April	Rodney Tibbs	‘Gardening Then and Now’
Tuesday 16 May	Andrew Sankey	‘The English Landscape Movement’
Tuesday 13 June	Evening visit	‘To NIAB Histon’
Sunday 2 July	Coach outing	‘Somerleyton Hall’
Tuesday 18 July	Evening visit	‘Moat House Little Saxham’
Tuesday 17 October	<b>AGM</b>	
Tuesday 21 November	Pippa Temple	‘Elizabethan Gardens’

Indoor meetings at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall

Details of Summer visits will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership £15 per person.

New members and Visitors always welcome £3 per evening.

Chairman: Peter Hart 01638 741681

Treasurer: Maggie Haverson

Joint Secretaries: Mary Hart 01638 741681 and Margaret Joyce

**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](mailto:datson@btconnect.com)**

## John Norris Remembers: The Dovecote

Last week I repaired my time-worn Dove House, which reminded me of an incident that occurred when it was first completed. My daughter acquired

two white fan-tailed pigeons to start a colony at Anglesey House. The pair were duly confined to the Dove House for ten days so that they should know where home was, and then they were to be released. Away they flew and sat on the roof top, and eventually went back to their home. Next day one was missing, and the next, and the next.

The children were very upset and began asking around the village if it had been seen. No luck for ten days, then Mr Sheldrick, who had just finished building his new house, next to Anglesey House, said he thought

he had heard noises in the kitchen chimney. This chimney was not in use but was put up in case they wanted one later, and was bricked over at the present. He very kindly volunteered to knock out a few bricks and take a look. This he did, and on making a hole, out flew a very bemused thin pigeon. After being fed, and no doubt having learnt the folly of going down chimneys joined his or her companion in the dove house. They lived there happily leaving many droppings on the path, and in the gutters, and were able to breed successfully, until they all had to be banished to the countryside. a flock of twenty or more. My wife says no more pigeons! And rightly so.

**One in an  
occasional  
series of  
articles by the  
late and much  
lamented  
John Norris**



May I start this report by wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2017 and hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Full Council met on 13<sup>th</sup> December. A number of motions were debated and agreed. Two of these motions included decisions to overturn previous decisions taken at the budget meeting in February 2016. These related to winter gritting and street lighting. Council agreed to re-instate the previous gritting routes and to re-instate the previous levels of street lighting (over-turning the previous decision to dim street lights overnight), with the associated savings being met from reserves. The decision on street lighting has been implemented, and new gritting lorries have been procured and drivers are being trained to enable the increase in winter gritting.

General Purposes Committee met to consider a number of items. These included the usual range of financial reports. The Committee also agreed to commence a consultation on a draft energy strategy for the County Council (details are available on the website at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)).

I attended a seminar regarding the latest position on business planning for the coming years and also attended a joint meeting with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee to discuss growth areas across Cambridgeshire and the associated educational/schools requirements. Following the announcement of a Government consultation on fairer funding for schools nationally, the County Council is currently working up a lobbying campaign with our MPs to continue to make the case for Cambridgeshire schools.

UK Power Networks is urging any people in need of special support in the event of a power cut to register on the priority helpline. Further details and how to register can be found at [www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport](http://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport) or by calling 0800 169 9970.

*David Brown*

---



**The Botanic Garden's Lake is due for renovation in 2017. A winter view, left, and opposite, how it appeared in the summer.**

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS

Happy New Year – and a healthy new lake!

Every New Year provides an opportunity to refresh, renew and perhaps change the odd bad habit. At the Botanic Garden this year, it is more a case of modifying our bad habitat. This is not just a whimsical New Year's resolution. After months of planning and hard work, the Lake, one of the Garden's most natural and beautiful areas, is being given a detox and facelift.

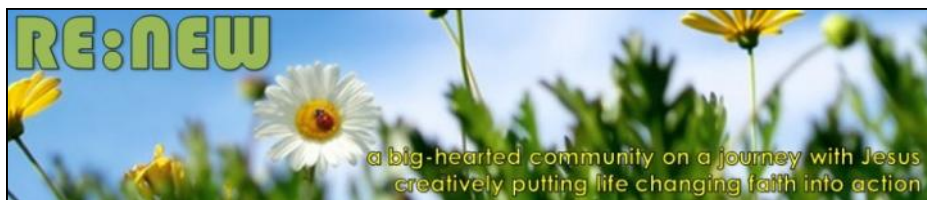
The Lake, for the first time in its 160 year history is being dredged, which became vital when Garden staff realized that it had become so full of silt that plant and pond life had become difficult to sustain.

Before the lake dredge began, great care was taken to protect the aquatic life. Fish handlers caught existing fish and have temporarily relocated them, and the freshwater mussels are being housed in a nursery pool in the stream. Both will be reintroduced to the Lake once it has been re-filled with water.

The 'Murray Map', drawn up by the Garden's first Curator, Andrew Murray, in the 1840s, shows that a lake was part of the original Garden design. Syndicate notes from the Garden's archive collection reveal that the Lake was completed by 1858 — for the princely sum of £152!

The Lake has been a striking feature of the Garden ever since, providing variation in landscape and vegetation. It also offers a vital habitat for a wealth of wildlife. Fresh water mussels, fish, water snails, leeches, herons, moorhens, ducks, little grebe and kingfishers are all either resident or frequent visitors. We hope that the 'new' Lake will become a thriving aquatic environment and one that will continue to thrill and delight all our visitors for years to come.





RENEW Church is very excited to be hosting two Alpha courses ([www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org)) starting this month. Everyone has questions. We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask their questions and share their point of view.

You don't even have to commit to the whole course initially, why not come along to an introductory session and take it from there?

You are so very welcome at either of these courses:

**Sunday Morning** (starting 8th Jan): **10.30-12noon** - **Bottisham Primary School**  
(followed by lunch together from 12noon on 8th Jan)

**Monday Evening** (starting 9th Jan): **7.30-10pm** - **Bottisham Primary School**  
(inc. evening meal)

### **What is Alpha?**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

### **No pressure. No follow up. No charge.**

Run over twelve weeks, each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome. No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common:

### **First up there's food:**

Whether it's a group of friends gathered around a kitchen table, or a quick catch up over coffee and cake, food has a way of bringing people together. It's no different at Alpha. Sessions start with food because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other.

### **Then a talk:**

The talks are designed to grab your attention and inspire conversation. We will be using the brand new Alpha Film Series, a brilliantly produced film around twenty-five minutes long for each week. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from *Is there more to life than this?* to *Who is Jesus?* and *How can we have faith?* to *Why and how do I pray?*

### **Followed by good conversation:**

The chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say. It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an

honest, friendly and open environment.

Check out our website [www.renewchurch.org.uk](http://www.renewchurch.org.uk) or contact Alan Brand or Peter Wells for more information and to sign up. We look forward to exploring the Christian faith with you.

## Happy New Year!

Revd Alan Brand

### RENEW Church Services in January 2017.

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

*A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.*

*1<sup>st</sup> January. 10.30am – RENEW The Bigger Picture. With Communion (Bottisham Primary School)*

*8<sup>th</sup> January. 10.30am – **Alpha #1** (at the School) followed by shared lunch.*

*8<sup>th</sup> January. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)*

*15<sup>th</sup> January. 10.30am – **Alpha #2** (at the School)*

*22<sup>nd</sup> January. 10.30am – **Alpha #3** (at the School)*

*22<sup>nd</sup> January. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)*

*29<sup>th</sup> January. 10.30am – **Alpha #4** (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](mailto:alanbrand77@icloud.com)*

*Or visit our website at [www.renewchurch.org.uk](http://www.renewchurch.org.uk)*

---

## FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone ( 01223 813362), e-mail ([jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk)) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

## Offered

Large comfy beige-toned fabric armchair (Photo available). Jean/Christine 01638 742631 or [pipnoodlew@icloud.com](mailto:pipnoodlew@icloud.com)

## Wanted

1 or 2 black rectangular recycling bins as formerly used by E.Cambs before we got the wheelie bins. Broken handles are no problem as long as the box itself is ok. Mike 01223 813963 or 07747 161843.

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.

# **PASTORAL LETTER,**

## **January 2017**

### **Bottisham Vicarage**



Dear Friends,

Endings and beginnings are complicated and often interwoven - these threads may be particularly clear at the turning of the year; a marker in the flow of time. Sometimes it is good to be able to draw a line under a year, which may have been painful or challenging. I am taking a for a couple who want to be able to mark a time for their family to a new and hopeful beginning as they start their married life together.

wedding on New Year's Eve  
transition from a difficult

For some reading this letter, the last year has brought heartache that can never be left behind, yet somehow they have to turn to the coming year to make the most of the precious time that remains for them. For some, this year brings exciting possibilities and new opportunities that draw them on into the New Year. New beginnings come with a mixture of feelings.

New beginnings are very much a part of our Christian life too. At every service we have the opportunity to reflect on the actions we regret and the poor choices we have made and to bring them to God.

Some would say Christians are overly concerned with sin and wrongdoing but those who practice this discipline know that what is most important is not our mistakes but God's forgiveness and the promise of a new start that we have in Christ. There is an amazing freedom that comes from letting go of what has been done, because it can't be undone and moving on to a new day with new opportunities to learn and grow. Forgiveness like the New Year enables a change of direction, a radical break with the past and the opportunity to try the same things again with renewed energy and commitment and with God's grace and help.

It is not just individuals who need mechanisms for allowing change and new beginnings. Communities and countries across the world also need the same opportunities but collective new beginnings are more complex still. As we begin this New Year we hope and pray not simply for our own fresh start but for a new beginning for the people of Syria and the Yemen and many other communities. A beginning that will allow some healing and the possibility of peace and hope for a better future.

*Sue Giles*

## **Church Services in January**

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior  
unless otherwise indicated

### **Sunday 1 January, First Sunday after Christmas**

10am      Family Communion (CW1), Bottisham

### **Sunday 8 January, First Sunday after Epiphany**

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

### **Sunday 15 January, second Sunday after Epiphany**

11am      Family Service

### **Sunday 22 January, third Sunday after Epiphany**

8am      Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1T)

10am      Benefice All Age Service, Swaffham Bulbeck

### **Sunday 29 January,**

### **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

6pm      Evensong

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice?  
It makes sense to share cars and can be reassuring to go into church with someone  
else. Please be in touch and we will do our best to arrange a free lift: 07553

151585

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR,  
ALL OUR  
READERS!**



## Dates for Your Diary January 2017

Sun	8	Comberton Ramblers [p 7]
Wed	11	Walk for Health, Bottisham Surgery, 11am [p13] Yoga Starts, Village Hall, 7pm [p 3]
Thu	12	PC Meeting, VH, 7pm
Mon	16	WI, Village Hall, 7:30pm [p 18]
Tue	17	Village Gardeners, Village Hall, 8pm [p 19]
Wed	18	Coffee Morning, 49 Lower End [p 3]
Fri	20	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Thu	26	Bottisham Patients' Group, Bottisham Surgery, 6:30pm [p13] Bottisham Players Pantomime, BVC [p 9]
Fri	27	Bottisham Players Pantomime, BVC [p 9]
Sat	28	Bottisham Players Pantomime, BVC [p 9]

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	