



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 6

June 2017



## Editorial

A-Z! Yes, that was the secret of those 26 unidentified Feast birds, and how people managed to get any at all without first cracking that sneaky code we'll never know. What a lovely Feast (see pages 1-40 approximately) even though it did pour down in the middle. A great many thanks are due to all those who helped out, and see you all next year!

It's been some month in Prior because there was also a Village Assembly in which villagers found out, among other things, how well the Village Hall is now doing, how badly our lovely school will be hit next year, and the parlous situation we now have planning-wise. We have an excellent Parish Council (many congratulations to Steve KP, who most deservedly won the Gay Bulleid Award this month — see p 25) and they do their best to make sure that any development in the village happens (a) in reasonable places people are happy with and (b) with affordable housing for local people. You'll remember that Local Plan form we filled in about this. But of course, "they" have just scrubbed all that so everything is now in chaos causing alarm and ill-feeling on all sides. Many of us signed the petition from the Windmill, and there's also another off-plan area someone wants to develop. Read all about it in Alastair's report.

Meanwhile, we have a blow-by-blow account of that truly miraculous restoration of our Village Sign to new sumptuous glory in this issue. But it was completely rotted through! Take a bow, Peter Rand, hope for our windows yet, it seems....

Henry Brown's riveting WWII continues this month, don't miss it. Butcher Harris? Yes, well that was Bomber's original nickname — read Henry. Lastly, a plea from Thomas Arksey, who has had to remove several lethal broken bottles artfully concealed in the increasingly long grass that festoons the children's playground at the moment. This is real hazard, please cut the grass! See you at the Teas, Flower Festival, Open Gardening....

*Caroline Matheson*

### Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Bon Mot	7
Henry Brown's WWII	8
CROSSWORD	22
CU Botanical Gardens	24
Out on the Wildside	26
Village Gardeners	28
WI	29
On the Allotment	32
Cllr Alderson	33
Flag Flying	25
Ophir	25
Re:new	36
Freecycle	37
Sue Giles	38

### News, Views & Reviews

Village Sign Restoration	10
Village Feast	12
Mark Towriss Bursary Fund	18
Gay Bulleid Award	25
Police Volunteers	27
Annual Village Assembly	30
Disability Care	35

### What's On

Princess Ida	3
Flower Festival, Village Open Gardens, Teas	6
POP Litter Pick	7
Car Boot Sale	17
Cantilena Singers	10
Feast Egg Throwing	20
Ordination	39

### For Donation

Carpet + Vinyl	5
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### Situations Vacant

Church Cleaners	39
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**Cover Picture:** *Down the Toilet Again*, Seated Ecuadorian figure circa 300 BC



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Rat Alert!**

Many of you will be aware that there have been multiple Anglian Water vans going around the village in the last three to four weeks that have been cleaning out the drains. Due to a blockage occurring in one of the drains on the greenhead road/cage hill side they have had to dredge every single drain and some more than three times including the drain situated on Coppers green by the public bench- this has also caused a sewery odour. Since the problems with the drains have occurred...i have heard more than five reports of rats appearing around the village including in our garden which is very close to one of the drains in question. Anglian water no longer have a pest control service and will not take responsibility as being the cause of the rats- whether it is or isn't -there are now rats in the village which probably escaped the drains while they were open and being pumped out.



So please all be aware and keep any eye out for any rats in your garden...they appear to be travelling from garden to garden and have no real same place of rest. Often rats will have burrows in more than three gardens so that if one is found, they have the others to retreat to. Wildlife gardens like our own are particularly vulnerable because of water and food sources so if you too have a wildlife garden then we suggest you put these measures into place: limit food in bird feeders (make sure there is no excess bird seed dropping on the ground as this really attracts rats). If your leaving food out for hedgehogs, only put a very small amount in a dish once it is dark and not before and then remove it first thing in the morning, check any unoccupied hedgehogs boxes to make sure no rats have moved in.

Anyone with chickens in the village place take note that the pest control officer who visited us yesterday said that rats love chickens and will 80% of the time try and make a burrow near to a chicken coop. If you have chickens please check that the area the chickens are in is secure and that there is no sign of rats, make sure when you feed the chickens you do not spread seed all over the garden as it is likely the rats are coming into your garden and eating it and then disappearing back into the bushes. The current rat problem seems to be a village wide issue so we all need to do our bit and discourage them from our garden. For signs of rats- look for burrows under sheds and garages, rat runways which are areas where the rats have cleared leafs and look like paths through grass and rat droppings. Rats are a particular threat to hedgehogs as this time of year aswell as it is hedgehog baby season and rats will eat baby hedgehogs. Hedgehogs will also tend to stay clear of an area that has rat scent... if you see any hedgehogs that look like they have been attacked by a rat, injured or a baby alone- please message me straight away and i will come round.

If you think you too have rats in your garden then call pest control as we did- there are traps and methods that can be put in place to deal with the rats without harming other wildlife. Please refrain from spreading poison all over your garden as you'll simply kill other wildlife including hedgehogs and not the rats. If you know of a rat burrow then you can set traps at the entrance holes or place poison inside it where hedgehogs and birds can't reach it. Humane traps can be set up outside but these can still catch hedgehogs so need to be checked regularly and any hogs released- also rats are phobic of new objects so if you place a very obvious trap outside, it is likely they will stay away for a month or so and then come back once there has been no change.

*Saffra Monteiro*

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## Princess Ida

### Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre is proud to present Gilbert & Sullivan's comic masterpiece 'Princess Ida' in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW, on:

Wednesday 14 June 2017 at 7.30pm - £8

Thursday 15 June 2017 at 7.30pm - £9

Friday 16 June 2017 at 7.30pm - £10

Saturday 17 June 2017 at 2.30pm - £7 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets are available via our website, [www.sbsummertheatre.com](http://www.sbsummertheatre.com) or by contacting Caille Peri on [sbst.tickets@gmail.com](mailto:sbst.tickets@gmail.com) or 07541 554845. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

### Princess Ida synopsis

Princess Ida and Prince Hilarion were betrothed when they were babies. Twenty years have passed and the time has come for Hilarion to claim his bride. She, however, has other ideas and has set up a women's only university where men are not allowed. A feud between the two families occurs and there are threats of war if the Princess does not comply.

Further complications arise when Hilarion and his two friends dress up as women and climb into the university.

Love triumphs in the end as the families attack each other before coming to a peaceful solution.



## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

In the Public Gallery there were fourteen at the May PC meeting and *Slimming World* did a great trade in providing extra chairs. Is this good news for the attendance at the Annual General Assembly in the following week?

When the meeting started they moved quickly to approve the minutes of the last meeting. David asked for some changes and Peter recalled that the PC had agreed to write a letter to the residents of 19 Mill Hill asking them to restrain their three rescue dogs which had been found in South Africa. How bizarre can Swaffham Prior get? To support his case Peter, that very evening, on his way to the meeting, had been bitten on the leg by one of the dogs which had put its mouth through the wire. Being a man of great fortitude he forbore to display his wound. Later on in the meeting the two black Labradors belonging to the Mill were discussed. Those who knew them agreed they are enthusiastically noisy but were extremely good natured and wouldn't bite anyone.



At last the PC has received an answer regarding the now famous Bollards in Station Road – from Graham Hughes, or is it Hughes Graham, or even Graham Hughes (all three names are used in his email). He is Executive Director of the Economy Transport and Environment at the CCC. As so many in the village are interested in these Bollards, the letter is being reproduced in full in the *Crier*.

There was also a letter from a Mr Thorday (a good old East Anglian name – The Nine Tailors and all that) about a disabled parking bay in Fairview Grove. I must have fallen asleep in one meeting or other, as I had no idea why they would want a disabled parking bay there. There appeared to be a lot of mumbling about it. No doubt Paul's minutes to be published in July will reveal all.

Then we moved on to the Further Draft of the 2017 Local Plan. Having been upgraded from a "small" to a medium" village, with currently no village envelope we are vulnerable to all development requests. There are two plans asking for permission to put forward a planning proposal. Plan 28/06 has been extended to allow between 11 to 55 dwellings. This includes the horses field next to the cemetery, also the land owned by Kate Child behind her house, and the Scouts field.

The second site is 28/08 which is the land adjacent to 38 Mill Hill and which had already be considered and objected to by the PC. The meeting was suspended while Jonathan Cook gave an excellent and convincing presentation on why any development would be detrimental for the Mill. Meantime Meade Homes Ltd had made a connection with the owner of the land, and was proposing 10 bungalows. A few queried whether Martin, who has always done so much for the village, was taking advantage of his position in the village. It was pointed out that it is Meade Construction, which makes the contribution, and that Meade Homes is a different company. Meade Construction offers it help in many places for example, with Marshalls, it offered to remove those dreadful traffic controls in Quay at their own expense. CCC Highways turned them down or made impossible demands. Now that the truth about diesel pollution is known maybe those living near the centre

barrier could sue CCC should they develop any lung problem. So Meade Construction are the goods guys.

After Jonathan had given his presentation a statement from Meade Homes was handed round (maybe PC members had seen it first). I only read it carefully later. It did put forward an opposing case, but there was no discussion and only Jonathan made any comment. But one phrase does stand out – “It is however extremely disappointing that the group which was formed to challenge the proposal ...rejects our very reasonable recent offer to meet and discuss the site one-to-one.” A lot seems to be stake here and it is probable that passions will rise – just like some of the recent international situations as strong men and girls come on to the scene. If we cannot amicably discuss contrary views in this small village, is it any surprise it is more difficult in the wider scene. At this point I stop because it is anticipated it will be discussed at the Annual General Assembly.

One general point made by David, our watchdog on development, is that while technical details and data are key, it must be remembered that technical data can always be shot down by other technical data. Put two experts together and they are likely to disagree, especially if employed by opposing sides.

Sandra was aware that there may be a water shortage this summer but she wondered why the cemetery tap only produced a dribble. “Ah!” said Andrew, “that’s because of the reverse flow.” It seems this is a great system to avoid wasting water but it does need to be maintained, and it obviously isn’t. “You just hit it”. “Do you want to borrow my hammer?” asked Michael. “Not with a hammer, just a punch” said Andrew. The boys promised to fix it for the lady. Paul then said that for the second time he had come across cyclists riding up the slip road towards Bulbeck – not on the cycle path but in the middle of the road. He nearly hit them and they became quite abusive and hostile, banging the top of his car. Asked whether he responded, he, being a placid kind of fellow, said he thought it better to avoid confrontation. Or maybe there were a lot of them. John then commented on the “arrogance of cyclists” and asked, whether they think they are “so moral” and “godly”. It seems that when driving down the fen they expect him to get off the road to let them pass. Many at the meeting began to vigorously nod their heads in agreement.

Meantime the swifts are back. Nothing is finer than sitting in the garden, on a fine May evening, glass of white wine in hand, head lifted high, watching the sweeping, swooping and exuberant joy of the swifts – and feeling a bit humble.

*Alastair Everitt*

**Large new carpet remnants and vinyl, not needed.**

**Donation to Oxfam.**

**01638 744390. 07841932971.**

*Margaret Joyce*



## **Flower Festival**

**in St Mary's Church**

**17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

**2.00-6.00pm**

## **Village Open Gardens**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

**2.00-6.00pm**

**Tickets £3.00, available  
on the day in St Mary's**

**Teas, 17<sup>th</sup>, St Mary's  
18<sup>th</sup>, in a Hidden Garden!!  
3.00-5.00pm both days**

**Accompanied children free,  
and no dogs allowed, thank you  
All proceeds to St Mary's Church**





## **Join POP (Proud of Prior)**

**for another monthly**

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

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2017  
10.00am**

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

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

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

**Look forward to seeing  
the results!**



### **BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY SEVEN**

**"The greatest gift of any statesman rests  
not in knowing what concessions to make,  
but recognising when to make them."**

*Prince Metternich (1773 - 1859)*

## Henry Brown's WWII

Henry Brown is the oldest living resident of Swaffham Prior, and a war-time pilot. He was sent to North America then South Africa for pilot training, eventually returning to England in the later part of the war and began active service as a bomber pilot.

Squadron Leader Irving was my first flight commander. A tough character, he was a regular of about 30 years, about my build and very street-wise. As a Flight Commander he was invisible and just went through the motions. There was no communication with new pilots; it seemed he had not joined up to lead men to war. After finishing his tour of duty he disappeared to be replaced by Squadron Leader Dave Robb, a Canadian who was very friendly and encouraging to all.

Butch (Air Marshal Arthur Harris, now more often known as Bomber Harris but then was nicknamed Butcher, for his enthusiasm in bombing civilian as well as military targets, shortened to Butch) was soon back to area bombing at night. He had wasted 1000 bombers on Berlin during the winter of 1943, trying to carry out the promise to Churchill that it would end the war! We now ranged over a variety of targets. The Ruhr towns and factories were valuable targets, but there seemed little to be gained bombing towns such as Duren, Freiburg and Bonn. We attacked oil refineries which the Germans relied on for all their fuel requirements, but the attacks were piecemeal over several months. Why weren't they all knocked out in a concerted effort? We knew where they were and could strike anywhere in Germany by night. The pattern seemed to us to be that we were leaving enough infrastructure to allow the enemy enough resources to delay the Russian advance until the Allies had made their advances to where they wanted to be.



I did the majority of my ops in Lancaster H "How", and had the aircraft from brand-new. Stamper Metcalfe, my bomb aimer, painted 'Hellzapoppin' on the nose and we looked after it. It was a very fast aircraft and I was often the first to return from raids. The ground crew put a lot of effort into keeping it "as new".

My rear gunner, Alf Lloyd, would describe the raids to them and this sparked a desire in Paddy, one of the ground crew, to come with us. Unknown to me, he was smuggled aboard for a raid. On our return he told all the ground crew what we had to put up with on a raid and the extra attention to details in servicing after that was dramatic.

Unfortunately, when we were on leave my flight commander, Squadron Leader Robb, borrowed H for an op and near the target allowed another aircraft to release its bombs above them, one of which landed on H, lodging in the main spar. Dave turned back and landed with a full bomb load, plus 1 – the only bomber ever to land with more bombs than it took off with! This was the end of Hellzapoppin' as it had



to be rebuilt.

We – my crew and I – had leave over Christmas 1944. This was at the time of the Battle of the Bulge. When we returned the Squadron had suffered many casualties having been very active as one of the few stations not fog-bound. I was told by the CO that I was now senior captain and I was to report to Group Air Commodore Walker. A/C Walker was a colourful character. He had lost a hand but still flew the occasional operation with his hook to open the throttle. Walker said, “Brown, why are you still a Flight Sergeant?” I said I was without ambition in the service. He said, “Nonsense. With your survival experience you will be a Flying Officer as from tomorrow and you will talk to the aircrew and given them advice on how to avoid being shot down!”

Walker was not being honest with me, because he would know that the new and deadly German tactic was to fly beneath the bomber with twin cannons (The Schrage Musi Attack), which were aimed upwards at a wing to avoid the bomb load. The wing would break off and the bomber would spin out of control. The Royal Canadian Air Force based in Yorkshire, flying Halifaxes, had briefed their aircrews and fitted a bottom observation panel for the mid-upper gunner to keep a watch from. I only learned the details after the war, but nothing surprises me reading how stupid the UK services were. The CO had arranged for me to talk to the aircrews. I had to convince them that you could not take on a German fighter; it had a 20mm cannons minimum armament whereas we had 303 bullets which would not penetrate the 5 mm armour plate of the fighters. Consequently, there was only one tactic if you flew steadily on and let the gunners take it on. You had to corkscrew or dive away to survive. The Lancaster was very manoeuvrable and could be thrown about; the crews who survived had pilots who could fly with toppled instruments. I told the aircrews about the attacks I had dodged and how I did it. This was received in silence as it was completely against a bomber pilot’s training!

The next duty to come my way was to be seconded to the Pathfinder Force for 3 raids, starting with Dresden. Why 3 raids? The answer is that surviving 4 raids would be virtually impossible.

My Lancaster was fitted with a time-lapse camera and I was to fly over the targets 10 minutes after the raids had finished. The Germans would normally be waiting for the plus 10 minute plane. We saw the fires miles away – it was like flying into a cauldron. I flew straight and level across the city. The raid had been devastating; there was no flak and just one fighter. I looked around and felt very lonely, and expendable. There couldn’t be a more hazardous duty than being the post-raid camera plane. If there had been any flak we would have had it all. The fighter was probably observing the damage, so we were lucky again! Why, one asks, were we in a virtually unarmed aeroplane over the grossest target in Germany, when the Pathfinder Force had a squadron of Mosquitoes at their disposal, a ‘plane with twice the speed of the Lancaster and 20 mm cannon? The second raid was on Chemnitz. We arrived to hear the master bomber say that the bomber force was to bomb the parachute markers above the clouds that covered the target. My brief was to photograph the target which I found was clear at 18,000 feet. The force could have been told to go down to this altitude. The bombs ended up in open country, with woods on fire,

etc. We took photographs, dropped our bombs on the target and went home. There was no flak and no fighters. When we reported to the Intelligence Officer he was very agitated. The upshot of this situation was the cancellation of the third raid. The 3 long distance raids were to be undertaken on consecutive nights, giving the crews no rest. When we asked why, we were told it was orders from Harris.

*Henry Brown*

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## VILLAGE SIGN RESTORATION

Well the village sign is back in place at last, apologies that I didn't put regular updates in the Crier as suggested but the carving was in a very sorry state and for a long time the news would have been quite sad. Those of you with access to the 'Swaffham Prior Notice board' Facebook Group may have seen my earlier post with about twenty detailed photos of the sign at its various stages of restoration. I won't add many photos here as any detail will be difficult to see in small print.



The sign was in a much worse state than I had imagined when I volunteered to restore it, but it's such a beautiful carving and with a personal fond memory of it being erected 31 years ago, I decided not to give up on it but to press on.



The sign was originally funded by Malcolm Hall after the success of the local Fenland Fair – then held in the grounds of Swaffham Prior House. Ron Morris in Reach was commissioned to carve the sign and it was first erected on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1986. A small brass plaque mounted on the post bears the date of the Fenland Country Fair August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 1985. On talking to Malcolm Hall, he told me that a time capsule

with newspaper cuttings and articles relating to the sign was buried at the base of the sign.

### **The Restoration:**

Removal of the sign and repainting of the post was carried out by Viv Elston. My role was to restore the nameplates, plinth and carving.

On inspecting the sign after its removal from the post, most of the paint and at least the first millimetre of wood fell off to the touch. With extensive rot and being soaked through, the signs component parts were separated, treated for woodworm, and after a couple of weeks with a dehumidifier running, left to dry out for 3 – 4



months.

All paint was sanded off of the name plates and plinth and as much rotten surface wood as I dare was removed from the carving. Now I could see what I was up against. A new church tower and other replacement oak components were made using a nice piece of Oak donated by Roger Cook.

A specialist two part epoxy resin was used that would soak into the surface of the wood, harden it and provide a key for a thicker two part epoxy resin. Boat builders epoxy resin was used in conjunction with epoxy filler to repair surface detail.

All church, windmill and house windows and much other missing surface detail was re-carved and in some cases replaced using Oak pieces. I supplemented the original oak dowels that held the three main Oak sections together with several lengths of stainless steel studding, fixed with epoxy resin. The studding would prevent the three sections from moving – cracking the paint, letting in water which had caused the extensive rot at the joints and under the paint. Three new pieces of Oak were recessed into the base of the carving to provide a firm seat onto the plinth. Six lengths of stainless steel studding with washers and locking nuts would be used to fix the carving to the plinth.

The carving was then primed and painted with several coats of the Dulux oil based Weathershield system. The paint should give eight years protection, the best I could find.

On 31<sup>st</sup> April, Viv Elston and myself refitted the plinth and carving to the post. Here's hoping with a little on-going maintenance it remains good for its fortieth birthday.

***Peter Rand.***

# The Village Feast

## A Tale of Sunshine and Rain

A week until the Feast and the weather forecast was for warm dry weather. We were feeling hopeful!

Three days to go and there was 20% chance of rain starting at 5pm.

Friday and the forecast was for rain in the morning too - but fine between 1 and 5pm. That's okay!

Saturday morning; forecast was now fine until 1pm, then rain until 5pm. Despair!

A horde of helpers descended on the Village Hall in the morning to clear away pine cones, set up stalls, hang bunting - all in beautiful sunshine.



As the 1pm start approached the clouds remained high and distant, and families came to see what attractions were on offer at 2017's Feast..

Stalls opened, competitions got underway, Pimm's and Icelandic beer were drunk, the Maypole dancers skipped in and out in perfect synchronicity - and the sun re-



mained.

Dark clouds were starting to build in the south, gaining intensity and moving closer, but everyone was still enjoying the bouncy castle, the produce on the cake stall, the can shy, the burgers and hot dogs.

2.30pm and the first fine drops of rain fell, quickly getting larger and more frequent. People moved under the cover of gazebos, or into the Hall for a cream tea. The rain continued, there was talk about how warm and dry the pub would be, and the crowds thinned.



Through it all, Matt Rand's lure casting continued: a spot of rain can't dent the enthusiasm of a true fisherman!

Just when all seemed to be lost, the rain



stopped, the clouds broke, and the sun reappeared. Miraculously, so did the crowds of villagers, their spirits undampened by the weather, and the buzz returned to the event.

The afternoon proceeded with the Family Challenge, then prizes were awarded, raffles drawn, and finally everybody moved to the road for the eagerly awaited and hotly-contested Egg-Throwing Competition. Could the Willmotts retain their title? Who would have the Eggs-factor? It was eggcellent to see both younger and older generations having a crack at it; the eggcitement of the youngsters was eggstremely good to see. The eggchanges produced strong challenges from the Wrench family and Ruben Long and Sam White (should that now be Sam Albumin?), but their hopes of a triumph were scrambled by



Michael and Richard Mead, who certainly had no egg on their faces and, with no eggsaggeration, caught their eggs very soufflé. After all the eggs had finished flying (they were well past their eggspiry date), and our new champions had been crowned, the crowds dispersed, happily wending their way home, discussing major and minor triumphs, and that Icelandic beer.



# The Competition Results

## *Fancy Dress*



First Prize:

**Hugh Griffiths**

Second Prize:

**Eleanor Spencer**

Third Prize:

**Beanie Griffiths**

Fourth Prize:

**David Griffiths**

## *Colouring*

Older Children:

**Bethany-Louise Thacker**  
**Bethany Peirce**

Younger Children:

**William Griffiths**  
**Alex Woods**

## ***Football***

With equal scores, our joint winners were:

**Frazer Fairbairn and Harry Murfet**

## ***Formula 1***

Children: **Leah Swift** (a bit of nominative determinism in action!)

Adults: **Michael Mead**

## ***Bowls***

Children: **Phoebe Clayton**

Adults: **Rod Clayton**

## ***Egg Throwing***

This year's worthy champions are:

**Michael and Richard Mead**

Yet another family victory in this event - their names will go on the trophy, which is hung in the Hall for all comers to see!































## Bird Identification

The winner, with an impressive 24 out of 26, was  
**Adam Strange.**

Here are the answers to the quiz:

			
Avocet	Boobies	Chaffinch	Dodo
			
Eagle	Flamingo	Goose	Hummingbird
			
Ibis	Jay	Kingfisher	Lapwing
			
Magpie	Nightjar	Osprey	Pelican
			
Quail	Raven/Rook	Swift/Swallow	Toucan
			
Umbrella bird	Vulture	Wagtail	Xenops
			
Yellowhammer	Zebra finch		

## **Gurning**

Here are this year's entries for the gurning competition.

Register your vote by emailing [editors@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:editors@swaffham-prior.co.uk), with the number of your favourite gurner in the text.



Gurner 1



Gurner 2



Gurner 3



Gurner 4



Gurner 5



Gurner 6



Gurner 7



Gurner 8



Gurner 9



Gurner 10

## **Thank You All!**

The success of the Feast extends well beyond the organising committee, and we would like to thank everyone who came and made the afternoon such a fun occasion - and helped to raise a brilliant £1,100 to help improve the Village Hall facilities. The money will be put to good use!



Many thanks to our regular supporters, including Alastair Everitt (left), the Bournes, the Meads, Julian Luttrell, Paul Latchford, the Mathesons, the Wrench family, Lynne Rand, Julie Nunn and the WI; as well as our more recent helpers: Steve White and the scouts, Griff Hunt, Matt Rand, Chris Brand, Mike and Lynne Horsfall, Paul Murfet, Griff Hunt, Finny O'Dowd, and our new chairman, Alan Durrant

## **Fundraising Event For Burwell Print**

Burwell Village College Car Park  
**Saturday 1st July 2017**  
9am to 12.30pm (Sellers from 8am)



**BBQ**  
**Tea &  
Coffee**  
**Cakes**  
**Soft  
Drinks**

**Pitches :    £5 in advance  
                  £7 on the day**

**BOOK EARLY to guarantee a pitch.**  
**Call Sue at Burwell Print on 01638 613102**

**BurwellPrint**  
*your community print centre*

To promote independence and increase self-esteem for adults with learning disabilities in a stimulating working environment, while providing quality community printing and related services.

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# MARK TOWRISS BURSARY FUND UPDATE

by Ute Towriss

**Family Medicine is growing - and our contribution too**



**Dr Moussa and Dr Gad (Class 2016)  
and Dr Boaz (Class 2015) at  
Chogoria Hospital with Ute**

- 10 Family Doctors in Training (5 scholars in 2nd Year/5 scholars in 1st Year)
- 3 Family Doctors now qualified and working

**Over £88,000 raised in total**

- Thank you dear Donors
- Thank you dear Family Doctors for taking up this great challenge



**Dr Maureen - Class 2016**

For two weeks in February this year I visited an inspiring, vibrant and dedicated group of doctors engaged in Kenyan Family Medicine. With Dr Bruce Dahlman (Medical Director of Family Medicine at Kabarak) and ex-Cambridge GP Robert Dobler (photographer), we travelled many miles along large stretches of rutted roads under the strong equatorial sun, passing tea plantations, paddy fields and bustling towns, to reach the outlying hospitals and meet our Towriss Bursary Scholars - and others. These district hospitals are the last bastions of precious medical care - deeper in the countryside there are only nurses, clinical officers and traditional healers. There had been a doctors strike in Kenya for the last two months and the Mission hospitals were overwhelmed by patients unable to get care in government hospitals. Despite this, we were given time and shown gracious hospitality - and even gained access to the wards to witness our Bursary scholars at work at Tenwek, Kijabe and Chogoria and the government hospital of Longisa, now run by our fine ex-Bursary Scholar Dr Kibet (who had kept the hospital open throughout the strike).

These students are working hard! both in the classroom and in hospital. The 4-year course is very demanding, for it aims to provide them with the wide variety of skills needed as a doctor who may not have anywhere to refer a very sick patient.

They will be presented with many emergencies. I was impressed by the imaginative and practical forms of both summative and formative assessment being developed to support this training. These doctors come not only from Kenya but also from the war ravaged countries of Burundi, Sudan and DR Congo. Their stories and compassion for their fellow human beings was deeply moving.

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**SATURDAY 8th July 2017 at 7.30pm**  
**Church of St Mary, Stow cum Quy, CB25 9AF**  
**The Cantilena Singers**  
**A Celebration of Britain and Europe**

With Britain on the verge of a new relationship with the countries of continental Europe, join the Cantilena Singers for a summer evening exploring the rich musical tradition that has bound us together for more than 500 years, from the early Renaissance music of Josquin des Prez to the plainsong-inspired music of Maurice Duruflé some half a millennium later, by way of the English Tudor period and the Romantic part songs of 19th century England and Germany

Programme to include:

Josquin des Prez – El Grillo (The Cricket)

Byrd – This sweet and merry month of May, Though Amaryllis dance in green

Passereau – Il est bel et bon

Clara Schumann – Abendfeier in Venedig

Rheinberger – Abendlied

Elgar – My love dwelt in a northern land, As torrents in summer

Stanford – Shall we go dance? Heraclitus, When Mary through the garden went

Duruflé – Notre Père

Finzi – My spirit sang all day

Director Daniel Spreadbury

Refreshments available. Tickets £10 (free admission for under 18s) on the door or contact Caille Sugarman-Banazsak 01223 813918

website: [www.cantilenasingers.org](http://www.cantilenasingers.org)





# *2017 Feast Egg Throwing*



Last year's Champion, James Willmott, attempting to defend his title



Unsuccessfully, so lucky



Neil crashes out of the Semis —so where's my egg then?



The Winner  
look at the





ky Harry gets the broken egg....



And spectators enjoy the spectacle



ners! Richard and Michael Mead (just  
that concentration) take the 2017 title.



*Janet Willmott*

# Crossword Number 143

Sponsored by **The Red Lion**

Compiled by

**OUNCE**

**A Capital Idea?** Clues marked \* are all based on a theme. NOTE: the solutions to those clues [no. of letters in square brackets] are NOT the words to be entered into the grid, but should lead the solver to the correct answer (no. of letters in round brackets). Send your answers to the editors by 18 June 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a free meal for two at the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.

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Name:.....

Address:.....

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

## Across

- 1 \* Had lost from broken hearing aid [7] (5)
- 4 \* Jab a zanier revolutionary [10] (4)
- 9 \* Admitting barmen Ian and Bill [7] (7)
- 10 \* Call out Palaeolithic freak [8] (5,5)
- 11 \* Prohibition about shack [6] (7)
- 12 Operate maladroitly, removing aorta gently (6)
- 14 \* Little Violet and French man returns [7] (5)
- 16 Rhyme from the author of "The Raven", Mike (4)
- 17 Pudding is a lemon mixture? Yes, but no (8)
- 19 Lifts and drops shoulders to don short cardigans? (6)
- 21 Organise reappearing pipe to disappear (7)
- 26 Weather party? (6)
- 28 \* Lunge away from unimaginable mess [7] (8)
- 30 \* Thousands bend awkwardly [5,5] (4)
- 31 \* Note Ms Newton-John [7] (2,3)
- 32 Flavours of toothpastes refined; photo taken (6)
- 34 Shambolic police force crop off sheet of frozen water (3,4)
- 36 \* Fumes disorientate a cat badly [6,6,2,7] (10)
- 37 Gold article found in mine; glacial deposit (7)
- 38 \* Lizards went nuts! [11] (4)
- 39 Metal block found holding others (5)

## Down

- 1 IRA chants from one who believes government is not necessary (9)
- 2 Language in film the amateur dubbed (4)
- 3 Wild donkey gun, I'm supposing (8)
- 4 Beelzebub blessings hiding foams (7)
- 5 \* Hound is brown? [11] (5)

- 6 Automates cinemas she built (10)
- 7 \* Ms Taylor swallowed by insect [6] (8)
- 8 \* Middle-sized beatniks you hear around [10] (8)
- 13 \* PM ate nothing [8] (7)
- 15 Insane Rome burner? (4)
- 18 Eavesdropper madly hares to within this? (7)
- 20 \* Alcoholics Anonymous guard Ian, but band go berserk [7,3,7] (5,5)
- 22 Exchange wasp (4)
- 23 Zulu tribunal pulverised edible tree product (6,3)
- 24 \* Father has Royal Spanish water at journey's end [8] (8)
- 25 Swam round a very loud husband in Norfolk (8)
- 27 \* Force far from the sea [7] (8)
- 29 Cat caught chicken in here? (7)
- 33 In zoo, llama, zebra and lion astonish us (5)
- 35 Male returns in nougat sweet (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 142



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

## How do plants recognise seasons?

June is the height of the summer when we enjoy our gardens in full bloom. But how do plants know when it's their turn to perform?



Work from plant scientists around the world is starting to decipher the code that plants use to sense the season. They have discovered how plants use day-length as an indicator to tell them what the season is. Impending spring is marked by two major changes: increasing day-length and warmer temperatures. It turns out that plants have elaborate mechanisms to sense both of these. Longer days in many plants cause the expression of genes that

accelerate budburst and flowering. In this way, plants use day-length as an indicator that summer is coming.

In recent decades, many plants have also started to flower earlier in the year. While day-length has not changed, it is getting warmer. For example, globally 16 of the 17 warmest years have occurred since 2001. Plants have detected this, and many plants have flowered weeks or even months in advance. This is because plants have an intricate mechanism for sensing temperature.



Plant scientists at the Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University (SLCU), based in the Botanic Garden, have been working with international collaborators to show that the molecule plants use to respond to light during the day, also senses temperature at night. In this way, the light sensor, called a phytochrome, moonlights during the night playing a separate role. By changing the activity of the phytochromes, the scientists have been able to change how a plant responds to temperature. This research will help them understand a long-standing question in biology, how do plants know the calendar and in time, may help them breed climate change resilient crop plants.

In his talk *How do plants recognise seasons*, plant scientist Phil Wigge, from SLCU will be explaining more about this research as part of the Botanic Garden's 'Science on Sundays' series. This is a 'drop-in' talk, 23 July at 11am and repeated at 2pm at Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

***Helen Needham***

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

# The **Gay Bulleid** Memorial Annual Award

This award, held for one year at a time by people considered to be “good village neighbours”, is in memory of

**Mrs. Gay Bulleid**, who was for many years **President of Swaffham Prior WI**

She died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1998, and the following could have been said by her:

**“Some people strengthen society by just being the kind of people they are”**

*(J. W. Gardner)*

1990 Frederick J. Reeve	2000 Vera Scrutton	2010 Alastair Everett
1991 Jean Moore	2001 Kate Child	2011 Not awarded
1992 Mary Day	2002 Ruth Stinton	2012 Not awarded
1993 Edith Prentice	2003 Elizabeth Everett	2013 Not awarded
1994 Bob Smith	2004 John Norris	2014 Not awarded
1995 Jean Fielden	2005 Patricia Harrison	2015 Janet Willmott
1996 Ruth Dalton	2006 Gillian & Andrew Badcock	2016 Andrew Camps & Shirley Wilkins
1997 Shirley Wilkins	2007 Dee & Andrew Noyes	2017 Steve Kent-Phillips
1998 Betty & Ron Prime	2008 Caroline & James Matheson	
1999 Pat Cunningham	2009 Barbara Dennis	

## O.A.P. Plea

Please don't think of me as 'Old';  
Rather believe, "I'm maturely gifted".  
'One is only as old as one feels',  
And there are days when I'm truly uplifted.

'Old', is only a relative term,  
Invoking a digit and a sequence of noughts;  
And I wouldn't like that figure emerging,  
When, or if ever, I appear in your thoughts.  
Ophir. (1925 - )



## Out on the Wildside

### Humble Serpents in the long Grass



The grass snake also known as water snake or ringed snake is a creature of beauty, patience and humility. But like any other species of snake they are often labelled as villains by people, evil reptiles with long fangs that lurk about our gardens, feeding on innocent wildlife and watching us with their cold eyes from a distance.....this just isn't true! Those of you who have been in the village a while will remember an article I did for the Crier when I was 9

years old...entitled "From a pond near you" where I described seeing a huge long monster swimming in our pond. Of course it wasn't Swaffham Priors own version of the Loch Ness monster, it was just a chilled out grass snake having a swim to cool off from the heat of the day and actually of little danger to anyone except frogs.

Grass snakes are Britain's most common reptile; they are non-venomous (so you can't die from being bitten) and live in or around water and long grasses. With Swaffham Prior so near to Wicken Fen with their wet marshy land we have a much higher population of grass snakes than other areas of the country. Like many snakes- grass snakes are very strong swimmers and spent over 80% of their time in water, hunting for a meal below the surface. To get a glimpse of one is a rare treat- they are timid and shy and show little aggression compared to other species, so it's unlikely one would ever put a fight up....they simply slip away into the undergrowth. The most common time to see one is in the peak of summer around garden ponds where they will often sunbathe on the hot rocks to store the sun's heat. They have a particular liking for slate as this rock is a better heat conductor and provides them with nooks and crannies to sleep under.

They are typically dark green or brown in colour with a yellow collar on their neck hence their given name. Female snakes tend to be bigger than the males and can grow from anything up to 80cm long. People are often afraid when they see one as they can be mistaken for their cousin, Britain's only poisonous snake- the Adder. However, Adders are highly endangered and only live in warm heath land habitats like Thetford Forest. They are also rather distinct with a long black zigzag pattern along their scales and a wider head that is arrow shaped. Grass snakes being reptiles are cold blooded and so hibernate during winter, only emerging when the earth is warmed by the sun's heat. They will shed their scales once a year — Ecdysis— and lay one clutch of eggs per year during the spring/summer months.

In truth the only time that these snakes come into conflict with humans is in our garden ponds...all pond owners would have at one time or another found a fish with a bite out of it or a lack of frogs. It is true that grass snakes will eat garden fish but they will only pick off the small ones and usually prefer amphibians for a meal. If



you are continuing to find dead fish then it is more likely that you have a heron bird attacking them not a grass snake and should get a net. As Grass snakes are protected under the rare wildlife act, it means that you cannot attempt to remove a grass snake- if for any reason you have a snake and do not wish it to stay then you should seek the help of an environmental officer who can send someone out to catch it and take it to a suitable place with water. But really, if you have a snake in your pond then be proud, count yourself lucky that your garden is a home to such a fascinating reptile...and while frogs are special in their own way, remember that wildlife is full of food chains so while the snakes may eat the frogs, the snakes inevitably will be eaten by owls or other birds of prey. Let's try and overcome this phobia of snakes and start seeing the serpents in the grass as friends rather than villains.

*Saffra Monteiro*



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

## Chief and Commissioner praise volunteers

Chief Constable Alec Wood said: “Specials get involved in the exciting world of frontline policing, including specialist areas, and gain professional training, skills and experience. All our volunteers get a unique insight into the current challenges of delivering local policing and provide an independent voice on behalf of the communities we serve. I would like to thank all our volunteers and would encourage anyone else who wants to do something worthwhile in their spare time to visit the recruitment pages of our website.”

Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite said: “Volunteers play a hugely important role in keeping our communities safe. The Chief Constable and I both recognise the enormous contribution our volunteers make, and are constantly impressed by their level of commitment, professionalism and determination. Whilst we recognise that people are able to make different levels of commitment, whatever they give makes a difference and is hugely valued.”

Specials provide support over a whole range of policing activity, from road policing, football matches and emergency response to major crime and other specialist areas such as domestic abuse and the rural crime team. Some case studies of Specials working in Specialist areas are included at the bottom of this release. They must commit a minimum of four hours a week to their duties and, like the regular colleagues they work alongside, are sworn in by a magistrate and have identical powers by law, including power of arrest.

For more information on becoming a Special or Police Support Volunteer visit: [www.cambs.police.uk/recruitment](http://www.cambs.police.uk/recruitment)

For more information on other volunteering opportunities visit: [www.cambs-police.co.uk/recruitment/volunteers](http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/recruitment/volunteers)



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Andrew Sankey came to talk to us about the English Landscape Movement which proved to be an interesting and at times, amusing, topic. In the early 1700s gardens were very formal. There were miles of clipped box, gravel drives tended by "weeder women", and enclosed gardens in individual rooms. The English Landscape Movement was driven by poets, essayists and artists who wanted a more relaxed feel to the gardens. Alexander Pope was one of these. French gardens were more formal.

Young men went on the Grand Tour to Europe and came back with paintings by Claude Lorrain which they wanted to copy. They included a temple, a belt (circular) walk lined with trees and a lake. Women apparently fainted at the sight of a curved path, so used were they to straight paths!

The Classical Landscape Garden was popular between 1720-1760. One example is Stourhead (see right) created by Henry Hoare the second. It included a circuit walk. Depicting the classical story of Aeneas based on a Claud Lorrain painting. Typical features were a temple, obelisk, grotto, wooden bridge and cascade. A grotto needed a hermit as resident. These varied from imaginary, to stuffed dummy hermit and finally to a live hermit. Charles Hamilton, in 1738, advertised for one but instead of remaining in his grotto all the time he was found, within three weeks, at the local pub with a dairymaid!



William Kent trained Lancelot (Capability) Brown at Stowe but when Kent died in 1748 Brown simplified the garden. He relied on water, grass, beech and oak trees. In 1764 Brown moved onto Blenheim Palace and began altering the work of Vanbrugh. A brick bridge which had provided guest accommodation had the lower part flooded by 15 feet to improve the vista from the palace. An amazing cascade was added elsewhere in the garden. Flowers were banished from the gardens by Brown. There was just a lake, woods, clumps of trees, rolling lawns right up the doors of the house from the ha-ha. No lawnmowers, just scythes and lots of labour!

Humphrey Repton, an artist, landscaped 400 gardens, twice as many as Capability Brown. He placed gardens around the house instead of grass. He also included parterres, water and roses.

Charles Hamilton, who had the live hermit, bought Painshill Park near Cobham, Surrey in 1738. He created an incredible garden from 185 acres. It included a ruined abbey, lake, vineyard, Gothic temple, Chinese bridge, grotto with man-made stalactites, Turkish tent. Every feature created, or provided, amazing views.

The English Landscape Movement became very popular and was taken up on the continent where it was known as the English Garden.

Our next meeting is an outing to NIAB Histon and we leave the Village Hall at 6.00 pm, prompt. Everybody's most welcome.

*Ruth Scovil*

At our May meeting we welcomed as our speaker Sarah Harrison, well known author of *Flowers of the Fields* and many other titles. As well as her successful career in writing she is also a very talented entertainer which was her role for the evening. Well they say now that laughter is very good for one's wellbeing so I think you will see a lot of happy members skipping about as we were in stitches for the whole of the presentation as we listened to all her musings on events she has witnessed over the years. Certainly, the title of her talk "you couldn't make it up" was very true. I think we may very well be inviting her back next year to do another of her talks, especially as a number of members were absent due to ill health etc.

Earlier in the meeting we also debated our two resolutions which will be taken forward to the national AGM in Liverpool. The first was on ways to address loneliness, this is of serious concern to the WI as it affects all age groups, not only the elderly, and causes many serious health problems as a result. The second was the effects of 'plastic soup' on our environment. It refers to the millions of microfibres washed off synthetic fabrics every time they are washed. It is now recognised that they pose a serious threat and pressure should be brought to ensure filters are fitted to washing machines to prevent this.

Both were unanimously approved and I am sure we will be hearing a lot more on these issues through the WI later in the year.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we have our annual garden party for Members and guests. As usual this takes place in a member's garden so we are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather.

In July, we will be back in Swaffham Prior village hall on 17th at 7.30 when our speaker will be Nicky Newton from Addenbrookes hospital with a talk called 'from Leeches to Lasers.' I am sure that will be both interesting and informative.

New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings so do come along and be part of our friendly group. Check us out on the Swaffham Prior Village website

[www.swaffham-prior.org.uk](http://www.swaffham-prior.org.uk) and click on the link women's institute where you will find our programme for the current year and some background information.

***Pat Cook – President***

***Tel: 01638 742224***

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

# **Report on the Annual Village Assembly**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

It was a pretty good turnout. Apart from those on the high table, over thirty villagers were present. The new CCC member had not yet settled in so Allen Alderson opened the batting for the ECDC. He ran through all the various Ely achievements including getting rid of the railway crossing, and the need to build more rent or buy low cost housing. He mentioned some successful developments of low cost housing but did not know how many were low cost rent, or buy. Allen spent some time talking about Oliver Cromwell's house, but I am not sure if this was for low cost rent or buy. The rail underpass was becoming one way and it was being left open so that emergency vehicles would have easier access to the incident – unless it had happened to be on the wrong side of the one-way system. Allen will find out why it is not two way, and will check whether fire engines can pass underneath the bridge. Cars may also use the underpass.

John, as Chairman, presented the report of the Parish Council, and started with two of the highlights of the May meeting – the vice-chairman being bitten by a South African dog and Paul Latchford being attacked by cyclists – Mike Carrington denied being one of them – and John ran through the most significant events and achievements of the year – all fully reported on the *Crier* throughout the year. The highlight of the report was the presentation of the Gay Bulleid Award to Steve Kent-Phillips for his services to the community. He was given an enthusiastic burst of applause.

Charlotte Cane gave the report on the School. The roof has been replaced, various other repairs completed, all asbestos removed and a new boiler installed. It is now a “much nicer environment”, especially with the new swimming pool changing room and occasional spare classroom, and for this she gave special thanks to Steve and to Alex Kirby. There are about 110 children at the school and they try to keep class sizes down to about 33. There were staff difficulties last year and the exam results were disappointing. But new staff has been appointed and a new method of teaching maths has introduced which is proven to ensure a wider and better understanding. The school is optimistic, but as with so many other schools, the downside is that the “new government funding formula” means that next year there will be a £38,000 deficit. Like many other schools, staff may need to be shed, which could be disastrous for a small school.

There were no reports from the Youth Club, the Scouts or Burwell Tigers. The Sports and Social Club at that very moment in the meeting, was working hard in The Red Lion to discuss whether it should fund the provision of more picnic tables in the play area. We await the decision.

Mike Carrington gave an excellent presentation for the Village Hall Management Committee that does now have an excellent committee and Mike highlighted the three people who are responsible for the nuts and bolts of the daily running – Clare Freeman, Chris Carrington and Peter Rand. And the rest of the committee are a great back up. The Hall continues to be very busy and the income increase has

been through more bookings rather than any increase in hiring charges. It is now cleaned twice a week **at 4.00-5.00 AM!!** The Feast and Autumn Show are now more successful and this has resulted in a huge increase in their fundraising. While this is very welcome, Mike thought it more important to make them great village social events – as was proved again by this year’s Feast. New LED lights are to replace the existing lights. It was hoped these would not be those harsh soulless versions that are brighter than the sun. Their excessive use – up to 40 – 50 lights or 5 feet of strip light – on well-designed cars, seems to be an unnecessary danger to other road users. At least they are driving the elderly off the road at night. If only there was light pollution as well as noise pollution. And following Nathan Wrench’s move to what Mike calls, “the dark side”, his place as Chairman has been taken by Alan Durant, who has himself just arrived from “the dark side” – i.e. Burwell.

It was suggested that any spare funds from the Parochial Charities should not only be offered to the elderly but also to students and the young.

Janet Willmott reported on the highly successful Car Scheme. This year the usage has been a little lower and Janet thought this probably reflects that friends and neighbours are being very helpful. She also reported on the PoP litter pick activity, which she initiated, and it is remarkable just how much litter is thrown away in such a short time.

In Any Questions, the Local Plan was discussed. David Green field said that the PC’s response and other details were laid out at the back of the Hall, and that he would be pleased to answer any questions after the meeting. He explained that ECDC only wanted one response, and that that should be from the PC, after it had consulted all the various bodies with a possible interest. All opinions were included in its report, including its own opposing views to the developments. Paul, as Clerk, intervened and said that if anyone wished to have the documents emailed to them they only needed to enter their name on the list at the back of the Hall if they thought anything had been missed or if they had views. “By when do you need the comments?” was a perfectly reasonable question. This put David a bit on the spot. He said they didn’t really want any more comments because they had had a lot of meetings and had already incorporated all views, for and against. “Which meetings? Were they publicised?”

David was under pressure. He had put a lot of work into the report to the ECDC and really didn’t want or need any more comments, and again said he would at the back of the Hall to answer any questions. He also explained the reason behind the new ECDC plan. It seems ECDC had fallen very badly behind the necessary number of new homes required in the area and was having to cast far and wide for building plot suggestions. At this point Allen entered the debate with a welcome passion and fluency. He maintained that all new developments should concentrate on areas such as Burwell, Soham and Ely because developments there would have less effect on the overall character of the area. Having lived on Reach for 29 years he did not wish to see any change in its quite distinct character. And all those who know Reach will agree. It is a gem, which is quite timeless and precious. He argued that Reach together with Prior and Bulbeck should be kept to preserve an essential

part of the area. Alex Kirby asked why Prior should not contribute to the housing shortage and again Allen made the point that there are more appropriate places for major developments. When the meeting closed many people surrounded David discussing details of the proposed Prior developments,

One of the unexpected joys of this meeting is that no-one stood up and said “LET ME BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR.”

*Alastair Everitt*

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## On the Allotment

What a difference the rain made – although it may be the last for some time Asparagus and broad beans in particular added inches in a couple of days.

In June we really start to enjoy the fruits (or vegetables) of our labours. Early peas should be ready this month and early potatoes can be dug. Replace potatoes with another crop immediately or plant leeks if you have not already done so. If you have not planted runner beans, dwarf beans or sweet corn, it's not too late to do so now. Squash, courgettes, marrows and tomatoes should now be planted outside.



Continue to sow succession crops – carrots, beetroot, peas, broad beans and salad crops.

Feed asparagus with organic fertilizer towards the end of the month and check for asparagus beetle – orange body with black and yellow wings. Either spray or remove these by hand.

It may be worth trying celeriac – generally our soil is not rich enough for celery – in soil that has been fed with organic compost.

Indoor tomatoes (indeterminates) should be staked and the lateral shoots removed. These appear at the junction of the stalk and leaf can be a brighter green than the rest of the leaves, are very vigorous and take energy from the plant. Very carefully cut these off close to the stalk or nip out the smaller ones by hand. Tomatoes should be fed regularly and be careful not to over water. Ideally water from the bottom (if your plants are in grow bags water the compost in the bag as this will encourage the roots to grow downwards in their search for water. The same effect can be achieved with outdoor plants by sinking a pot beside the plant and watering into it.

Cut most of the runner off strawberry plants, leaving just enough for transplanting next year. This will ensure that the plants energy is used to produce fruit. Once the new plants have rooted, detach these from the main plant and plant in a pot over winter. Strawberry plants should be fed regularly – tomato feed can be used for this. However, periodically it is a good idea to apply a feed containing manganese and magnesium, particularly if the leaves start to turn yellow – a sign of chlorosis.

In addition to harvesting, June is a month for the three Ws....weeding, watering and waiting (for more rain).

*Mike Malster*





## **Annual Report 2017**



### **Housing**

As house prices become ever more expensive it becomes harder for people on average incomes to be able to purchase a property. One way that ECDC can help is by assisting communities to set up Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to build affordable houses to rent.

- At Stretham and Wilburton CLT the first houses at the 75 home development have been completed and CLT tenants have started to move in.
- At Swaffham Prior the eight CLT properties are now all occupied. Haddenham CLT are currently working alongside a local developer Palace Green Homes to develop a scheme of 54 homes on a site near West End, Haddenham.
- Thrift CLT have been granted planning permission for 13 homes in Soham. Eight of the homes will be owned and managed by the CLT. Six on an affordable rental basis and two on a shared ownership basis.
- Local people in Fordham were beginning to feel that they were losing control over the future of their village. As such, a group of trustees have come together to ensure that the community has a voice in how their village will develop. Fordham CLT held a very well attended public meeting in January 2017 and are currently pursuing various possibilities within the village.
- And lastly Swaffham Bulbeck will soon have a CLT.

### **Tourism and Town Centre Team**

It has once again been a busy year for the Visit Ely. For a small team we have continued to move the business on in our endeavour to become more commercial. A summary of our activities are as follows:

- We launched a new Visit Ely website along with new branding and logo ([www.visitely.org.uk](http://www.visitely.org.uk)) as well as a dedicated Oliver Cromwell's House website ([www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk](http://www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk)) and Eel Festival ([www.elyeelfestival.co.uk](http://www.elyeelfestival.co.uk)).
- Our Visit Ely Guide for 2017 took on a new A5 format and we came away from the traditional listing and made it more into a lifestyle magazine. We also increased print numbers and distribution and are immensely proud of its new look and reach.
- We attended four Travel Shows this year to help promote our wonderful area, specifically aimed at the group market.
- We have worked and supported two key new tourism businesses – Ely's first Riverboat Hotel, The Waternymph and the Sake Brewery in Fordham due to open

next Spring. We are very proud to have these in our tourism portfolio as they widen our appeal to visitors.

- Oliver Cromwell's House has seen several new bespoke lines in its Gift Shop including a new beer which has this month been featured in East Magazine as one of the best beers in the region from a micro-brewery. We have introduced a new series for public tours and turned the whole house into a re-enactment market in January as part of our Lord Protector's Historical Fayre which worked extremely well. We have also launched a pop-up Escape Room which is a concept that is trending across the country and this has brought in significant income to the house as well as providing another attraction for Ely and the district. This activity has also increased our engagement with the corporate market. We have introduced on-line book ability for all our tours and events and this has greatly increased sales.

## **Infrastructure Update**

### **Ely Southern Bypass**

Construction of the bypass is underway. CCC is planning a public consultation on the layout of Station Road and the underpass (which will remain open to one-way traffic), the date of this is TBC. The bypass is expected to open in Spring 2018.

### **District Leisure Centre**

The ground works are complete and the steel frame for the building is now being erected. Work will continue through the summer to make the building watertight by autumn. The new centre is expected to open in Spring 2018.

### **Ely Cinema**

The Arbuckle's restaurant opened in March and the cinema is due to open to the public on 12th May. The other food outlets will open once their fit-outs are complete. The underpass is also due to open on 12th May. The Council is working with CCC to enable a regular bus service to the site.

### **Littleport Schools**

Work is ongoing on the construction of the new education campus comprising secondary, primary (including a pre-school) and special education needs (SEN) schools, sports facilities including playing fields and the erection of a new leisure centre are due to open September 2017.

### **Soham Railway Station**

Network Rail has completed the report evaluating the different options for delivering a station at Soham. The conclusion of this is the recommendation that they design a 2-platform station but do so in a way that allows for phased delivery, so if the required track doubling work is delayed a 1 platform station could still be delivered. Network Rail is looking at the costs and procurement route of this work.

### **Ely Commuter Car Park**

The planning application for a new 128 space public car park on land South East of the former Strikes Bowling Alley has been approved. Work is due to start shortly and the car park is expected to open late this year.

### **Littleport Station Car Park**

The planning application for 74 car parking spaces and 16 cycle spaces at Littleport Station has been approved. The car park is expected to open later this year.

## Local Issues

We still have a problem with the high volume of cars passing through our ward on their way to Cambridge. As we do not have village planning envelopes because we do not have a Local plan, I am increasingly involved in opposing inappropriate planning applications in our open countryside.

Also, I have been involved in several disputes between Sanctuary Housing and its tenants.

There is still a problem with fly tipping, but it is not as bad as it has been in previous years.

*Allen Alderson*

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## Voices4Choices - a chance to shape your care and support

Do you or someone that you care for have a disability or a long term health condition and are receiving support such as home care, a support worker, day services or respite care? Maybe you are starting to feel as though you might need some help in the future but are not sure about your options and how you go about getting the help that you need?

A Direct Payment is one way to fund care and support that you or someone that you care for needs. It is money from the council that aims to give you more **flexibility, choice** and **control**. For example, you could use the money to pay a friend or neighbour rather than use a care agency.

If you would like to take more control of the care and support, you may find it helpful to come along to one of our four **Direct Payment Awareness Raising Events** across the county planned for June and July.

Are you already in receipt of Direct Payments? If you have a story, good or bad, to share we'd love to learn from your experience. If you are already in receipt of Direct Payments and just want to learn a little more or have a chance to chat to a real person, then these events are also for you!

Tuesday 20 June	Huntingdon Library
Thursday 29 June	March Community Centre
Thursday 06 July	Owl Café, Sawston
Thursday 13 July	Ely Library



**Time:** 2.30pm to 4.30pm

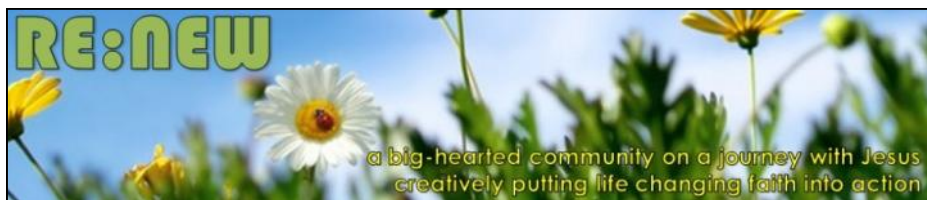
**Cost:** Free, including reimbursement of travel expenses.

**Refreshments:** Hot and cold drinks will be provided.

To find out more or to book into one of the events, get in touch with James or Leisha: Tel 0300 111 23 01 or email

[james@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk](mailto:james@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk), [leisha@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk](mailto:leisha@cambridgeshirealliance.org.uk)

Listen to James talking to Cambridge 105 about Voices4Choices and the work we do at CAIL <http://cambridge105.co.uk/phil-rowe-04-01-2017/>



## Come and See ...



I sometimes come across people who have heard of RENEW but are not sure what it is or where it is.

**RENEW is a church;** a community of people drawn from Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Bulbeck, Swaffham Prior, Quy and Burwell, who believe in Jesus Christ and want to follow him.

RENEW is also a great place to discover Jesus for yourself, you don't have to be a Christian to come along; you may be searching for answers in life, for meaning, for purpose. You may have suffered pain through circumstances and storms of life, there is a place at RENEW for you. Indeed, RENEW is a community of people just like you, people who have experienced the highs and lows of life and have realised that faith in Jesus and the reality of His presence with them is what gives the joy, peace, meaning and purpose to life.

The best way to find out about us is to 'come and see' and you are very welcome, **every Sunday morning 10.30am til 12noon at Bottisham Primary School.**

Breakfast (croissants, pastries, fruit, tea, coffee, juice) is available from 10.10am and on the second Sunday of each month we have 'bring & share' lunch after the service.

Our sung worship has a contemporary style and our preaching aims to prepare the congregation to live for Jesus in every part of their lives, and join in the mission of God in the world.

We have all ages represented at RENEW and our services include groups for children and youth.

I know how hard it is to go to a new church for the first time, but I promise you, a warm welcome awaits you; step over the threshold and before long you'll have a cuppa in your hand and you might even find you already recognise people from your village in our congregation. If you are reading this thinking, 'I might go along to RENEW sometime', we are praying for you. 'Come and see' - be the answer to our prayers.

Check out our website [renewchurch.org.uk](http://renewchurch.org.uk) or our Facebook page @renewchurch1, and feel free to email me [alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk](mailto:alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk) or call me on C.812558 if you would like more information or would like to meet to talk further about any matters of life or faith.

Come and See,

**Rev. Alan Brand**

### **RENEW Church Services in June 2017.**

*We have activities for children and young people at all our morning services. A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.*

*Croissants and drinks are available from 10.10 am.*

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Morning Worship. 10.30am (Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Morning Worship. 10.30am*

*(Bottisham Primary School) Followed by shared lunch*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Evening Worship. 6.20pm . (at Lode Chapel)*

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Morning Worship. 10.30am*

*(Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Morning Worship. 10.30am*

*(Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Evening Worship. 6.20pm (at Lode Chapel)*

*For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact:*

*Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: [alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk](mailto:alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk)*

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

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## **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**

- HP Genuine ink cartridges No 363, 1 x Cyan, 2 x Yellow, 2 x Light Cyan, 3 x Light Magenta. Christopher 01223 811501
- Cast iron mangle, has been outdoors for a few years but could be restored. Could be used as a garden feature. Helen or Ian 01223 813962.
- Plastic plant pots, various sizes; Desktop computer without hard drive, 64-bit, 4GB memory, processor Intel Core 2 Quad CPU @ 2.4 GHz; will boot from external drive, e.g. USB. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592

### **Wanted**

- Wire hanging baskets. Fibre (not plastic!) wall plugs (rawlplugs), sizes no. 8 or no. 10. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592
- 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.



### Thinking allowed.

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?  
 What are you thinking, when you look at me?  
 A crabbit old woman, not very wise,  
 Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,  
 Who, quite unresisting, lets you do as you will,  
 With bathing and feeding the long day to fill.  
 I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,  
 As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.



These are the opening lines of a poem written by a Scottish nurse Phyllis McCormack, in 1966. The poem goes on to describe some of the significant events that the elderly speaker of the poem has had. Her joys and hopes and struggles. These experiences may be locked inside her as memory and language slip away but this is who she is. The complex web of interactions are what make her the person she is. Her life has touched many others and contributed to the rich tapestry of the world and this remains the case whether remembered and expressed or not. The poem is a reminder that ***dementia is not the person*** and this is the message behind Dementia Awareness Week, which is about to begin as I write this article.

Too often we value people because of what they do and what they contribute to society rather than for who they are. It is very easy for people to be overlooked when they find communication difficult. It is very easy to become impatient when people begin to repeat things. It is often the case that people slip out of view once they are no longer able to contribute to the life of the world.

The gospels challenge this way of looking at others. Based upon how God treats us and how he responds to us. There is nothing that we can do which would make God love us less, there is nothing we can do which would make God love us more. He loves us for ourselves not for what we do. Love is not earned or won, it is given freely, and it is a gift of grace. A person living with dementia may be difficult or aggressive, confused, funny or delightfully different, they may not be able to prove their value or earn respect by what they do but they have their place in the hearts and lives of others and they remain people to be valued and respected.

We live in God's grace and we are asked to reflect that grace in our relationships with others. When a good and patient carer looks after someone suffering with dementia they are sharing in that work of grace. When a family member visits a loved one and spends time with them even though they are unrecognised and their visit is immediately forgotten they are demonstrating grace. And where love and grace are shared that is where God is to be found for that is the very nature of God.

*Sue Giles*



**Ordination of  
Rev'd Professor Gina Radford  
Curate at the Anglesey Benefice**



**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017  
Ely Cathedral - 5.00pm  
All Welcome**

If you would like assistance with transport to get to this service please call **07553 151585** and we will arrange a lift for you ☺



**St Mary's Church  
Swaffham Prior**

is looking for more volunteers  
male or female

to join the  
Weekly Church Cleaning Rota

If you have an hour to spare  
once every couple of months  
you are just who we are looking for ☺

No heavy lifting involved,  
all materials provided

To sign up, or for more information,  
contact Kate Child on 01637 743983

Your help would be  
very much appreciated



## Dates for Your Diary June 2017

Thu	8	Election Day
Wed	14	Princess Ida, Downing Farm, Bulbeck, 7.30pm (to Saturday) [p. 3]
Thu	15	
Fri	16	
Sat	17	Flower Festival (2-6pm) and Teas, St Mary's, 3-5pm [p 8]
Sun	18	Village Open Gardens, 2-6pm [p 25]
Mon	19	
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm <b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Sat	24	POP Litter Pick, Village Sign, 10am [p 7]
Sat	1	Car Boot Sale (in aid of Burwell Print) 9am—12.30pm, Burwell Village College Car Park Ordination of Gina Radford. Ely Cathedral, 5pm [38]

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 Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	