

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 3 March 2017



Editorial

Driving into Cambridge the other day, I was admiring the pristine state of the grassy verges, all due to the excellent hard work of POP pickers and other like-minded souls from neighbouring villages. What a contrast, I was thinking, with the horrible mess that awaited me on either side of the A14. But then suddenly, the lorry in front of the lorry in front of me (both doing 40mph, and that was why I was admiring the scenery) disgorged a ton of litter/plastic/goodness-knows what up into the air, deluging the surrounding fields, hedges, pristine verges and all. In a second! All that work! Time for POP police, I think....

Not to be left behind the times, the Crier has decided to celebrate April 1st this year with a **Fake News Competition**. Readers are invited to muster a few Alternative Facts together and send them to the Crier. This can be as a letter, a short article, fake (sorry, completely genuine) photo, whatever you like. Or even something that is indeed completely genuine, but no-one believes a word of it. Email the editors or pop it through the door, and the most convincing/entertaining by popular vote will win a *prize*. Not sure what yet....

And... it's Spuds in Buckets time again! This is when you have to grow as many spuds in one bucket as you can (see page 11) and I don't think we've had this competition for a bit, but my recollection is that the last time the overwhelming victors were the Pumfreys — can you beat them this time?

Also on the horizon is the Village Feast: do get in touch (editors will do) if you would like to help this year. And don't miss Betty Prime's letter about Open Gardens.

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Many apologies to Village Gardeners, who were masquerading as the WI last month! See you Quizzing, lunching... *Caroline Matheson*

Cover Picture: A Change in the Weather by Lorraine Ison

Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Those Hedgehogs

I read with great interest the article on hedgehogs, in February's Crier.

Along Mill Hill, going round the corner down Cage Hill, we have quite a community of hedgehogs. We look after them and have persuaded the odd one from dicing with death, on the B1102.

I made the big mistake of buying proprietary food for them, but the only things that ate it were huge, disgusting slugs. I did console myself, however, by thinking, that maybe the hedgehogs were lurking in the border, waiting to leap out and eat the slugs, when they had finished gorging.

I shall from now on, buy the food recommended by Saffra Monteiro- thank you for the advice.

Margaret Joyce

Dear Editors

Allotment Humour

There is a story that Mike Malster picked some rocket salad that he had grown, but it went off before he could eat it.

TOG

Dear Editors,

Open Gardens

Time rushes on these days and before we know it summer will be here. This year Swaffham Prior is going to celebrate with a "Festival of Flowers" and one of the events will be Open Gardens on Sunday 18th June.

I'd be very pleased to hear from anyone who is willing to open their garden on that thy from 12 noon-6 pm for people to walk round. It doesn't have to be big or very tidy, just somewhere people can enjoy and perhaps get ideas for their own gardens. It doesn't matter if your garden is still in the development stage, it will still be very interesting.

If you are willing or want to know more about it please give me a ring.

Betty Prime. 741221

Easter Lilies

ach year we have had lilies in St Mary's Church at Easter time and, recently, many people have contributed to these in memory of a loved one.

Donations can be made anonymously or with your name and the name of your loved one. A list will then be compiled and placed in church for Easter Sunday. As a guide the Easter lilies will cost £2.75 per stem this year. All contributions will be *very* welcome and will enable us to have a beautiful display.

If you would like to make a donation please put it through Sue Rust's door at 23 Greenhead Road or Ruth Scovil's door at The Oaks, Manor Farm Court, Lower End (the letterbox is in the door at the back of the house!). Please include the name of your loved one and your own unless, of course, you wish to make your gift anonymously.

Ruth Scovil

Simnel Cakes for Sale

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

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

Look forward to taking your orders!



Janet Willmott

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

I missed the February PC Meeting so cannot report on it. But it did give me a chance to reflect on the value of the PC Committee. Just prior to the meeting a report predicted that Robots (AI) could replace a quarter of a million public sector jobs, most of which are carried out by the middle classes. The Bank of England followed up with an estimate that 15

classes. The Bank of England followed up with an estimate that 15 million jobs in the UK are at risk from Robots, covering up to 30 job categories.

Does this put our PC at risk? Are Robots able to replace our PC? I suppose the best test is to toss a simple problem into the air and ask whether you would trust our PC, Robots or Jeremy Hunt to try to solve it.

We have a tremendous shortage of nurses. We pay agencies a lot of money to scour the world to persuade nurses to abandon their own countries to come here. Jeremy has now axed the student nurses' bursaries and they need to take out a loan. The (unforeseen??) consequence is that there have been 9,000 fewer student nurse applications this year. Well done, Jeremy. Another triumph.

Everyone knows about the chronic shortage of hospital beds. The UK has an average of 2.4 beds per 1,000 population, compared to Germany (8), Austria (7.5) and France (6). So what does Jeremy do – he is cutting down the number of beds substantially and closing hospitals. With a little tweaking even Robots may do better than this.

Many see the rise of the Robot as bleak. But it is happening globally so the whole world is in it. It is also predicted that while many may lose jobs, people at the same time will need to be working longer at whatever they are given to do. This may appear to be bleak but it will also lead to opportunities. I mean to take advantage of one.

There is a shortage of skilled personnel to fill key posts on Britain's new £6.2 billion aircraft carriers. This has forced the Royal Navy to raise its normal age limit of sixty and to accept that the naval experience may be earlier the last five years. All one has to do is to pass a fitness test. So I have written off for the application forms, and have joined a gym. I will not mind "doing my bit" - again.

Alastair Everitt

BON MOT NUMBER SEVENTY FOUR

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone."

Anthony Burgess (1917 - 1993)

The Village Hall Newspaper Collection The End is NIGH

Long before recycling became the fashion the Village Hall was recycling newspapers and earning good money, up to £200 per annum, for its funds. This was started in the early 1990's when the shed would be filled four times a year and more than 10,000 kg was collected. It was destined to become horse bedding.

Inevitably, after the introduction of the excellent bin service, the amount of newspaper declined though a happy compromise was reached with ECDC/CCC. But in recent years the amount of newspaper has significantly reduced. It will now take eighteen months or longer to fill the shed. It is therefore no longer a working proposition. I have spoken to two people who loyally have continued to make a deposit and they agree it should end.

So the collection stops from this moment and arrangements will be made for the last collection. Meantime, Saffra of hedgehog fame is welcome to go to the newspaper shed near the children's playground and take as much as she wants. I am sure the horses will not mind sharing it with the hedgehogs.

Alastair Everitt

Massive spring Jumble sale

The Fassage, Lode Saturday 18th March from 2-4

Entrance adults £1 and children free

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

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

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

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

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 18 March

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand (01638) 742161

or Lynne Rand (01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses!!

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



Join POP (Proud of Prior)

for another

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK POP REALLY NEEDS YOU!!

Meet at the bottom of Cage Hill Under the Village Sign

Saturday 25th March, 2017 10.00am

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

Please bring your own gloves if you wish All other equipment provided

Come and join friends and neighbours on this tidy up

Look forward to seeing the results!



On The Allotment

Before starting on the jobs for, I thought it might be helpful to the characteristics of the five main soil types. That said, many soils will be a mixture of two or more types and will probably contain some organic matter making it difficult to be exact. However, the predominant constituent will determine the soil type and as a consequence, the way it should be managed and most importantly, what will and what won't grow well.

Clay soil particles are very small and compact tightly, limiting drainage and airflow. Clay is smooth and sticky when wet and rock hard when dry. It holds moisture and plant food well and with regular applications of organic matter, will produce excellent crops.

Sandy soil has large particles giving a rough and gritty texture making it well drained and aerated and requires regular feeding and watering. It is easy to cultivate at most times of the year and produces crops earlier than clay soil.

Silt has been deposited by rivers giving the soil a soft, silky texture. Like clay, silt has poor drainage and aeration but can be improved in the same way.

Peat provides some of the world's best farming land (originally peat bogs) and the dark brown or black soil produces excellent crops. It can become waterlogged in winter and dry in summer which can make it difficult to manage. Regular applications of lime are necessary for most plants.

Now the bad news – **Chalk** is one of the most restricting soils, its gritty texture and large particles making it porous – free draining and hungry. Its high lime content limits the range of plants it will support. Careful crop selection (brassicas and legumes do well) and diligent cultivation is necessary to achieve decent results. In Swaffham Prior we have predominantly chalk soil.

Loam is the common name for the ideal mixture of soils and is what gardeners work towards. After a few years' of good cultivation all but the most extreme soils s will become what gardeners dream of – **Good Loam**.

There is no substitute for freshly asparagus – best cut when the water is boiling – and if you have the space it is worth well worth growing. A bed should be 1m wide, well dug, weed free. And a good quantity of organic matter incorporated. Dig a trench about 30cm wide and 30cm deep, mix more organic matter with the soil to form a ridge 15cm high down the centre of the trench. Place the crown on the ridge with the roots spread either side with 30cm between plants and replace the remaining soil. Keep well watered. One year old crowns should not be harvested in the first year and only lightly in the second – in the third year you will be in full production. Asparagus should cut below the surface and it is important to keep the bed clean and weed free.

Early potatoes can be planted (see January's article) but ensure that emerging shoots are protected against frost by covering with earth to form a ridge.

Onions, shallots and garlic can be planted and salad crops can be sown now. Start by sowing indoors in modules and plant out when large enough, at the same time sow a further short row under cloches and continue the process until autumn to ensure crops lettuce, beetroot, rocket, endive, salad onions etc throughout the year.

Sow early peas (Douce Provence and Kelvedon Wonder are two good varieties) in a shallow trench 2cm deep and 15 cm wide, in groups of five, each group 7cm apart. Protect shoots against predators and provide support. Weed regularyto reduce competition for light and nutrients..

Sow leeks in a seed tray – Musselburgh is one of the best all round varieties with a long, thick stem (blanch) and winter hardy.

Mike Malster 07785 958857





Flag Flying Day this Month from the Tower of St Cyriac 13th March Commonwealth Day

Each year a theme is chosen for Commonwealth Day. The theme informs events to mark the day and helps to guide activities by Commonwealth organisations throughout the year.

At a time of increasing instability and uncertainty in the world, the Commonwealth family of nations in its rich diversity becomes an ever more-needed source of strength and hope for all its members. The theme of 'A Peace-building Commonwealth' for 2017 is a natural follow-on from last year's theme of 'An Inclusive Commonwealth', and reaffirms the Commonwealth Charter principle that 'international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress

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, communities and organisations to

and prosperity of all'. Commonwealth Day is held on the second Monday in March every year. It is an opportunity for individuals, communities and organisations to promote shared Commonwealth values of peace, democracy and equality, and to celebrate the association's rich diversity.



French washing instructions affixed to a bag produced by the Washington based Tom Bihn Company . "Nous sommes desoles que notre president soit un idiot" — we're sorry our president is an idiot. "Nous n'avons pas voté pour lui" — we didn't vote for him.

Returning by popular demand!!

Beat your neighbours in the great village competition....

Spuds in Buckets!

Just £5 will buy you a bucket and a spud!
It is then up to you how you grow the heaviest yield of potatoes in your bucket ready for weighing at the Harvest Show and Dog Show on Saturday 9 September

o7833 960678 (Janet) or admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk (Dee) to sign up & for more information – last day for planting: 14 April

Prizes for adults and children
In aid of St Mary's Church







Crossword Number 140

Compiled by **OUNCE**

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

1		2	3	4	5	6	7		8
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21			22	23	24				
25					26		27		28
29									

Name:	
Address:	
	Геl:

Across

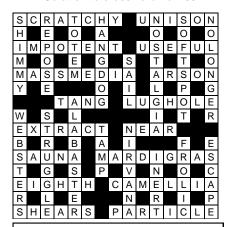
- **9** Walk on polyester around geothermal area (11,4)
- **10** Disregard shown in e.g. lecturing badly (7)
- 12 Lion's foot, for instance, used as an instrument by another (4-3)
- **13** Hereditary right misused by one vile prig (9)
- 14 Start soaking echidna pelts in acetone to make cuttlefish ink? (5)
- 15 Outlying farmland and buildings run in river (7)
- **18** Let off as ten deuces go wild (7)
- **21** Delaware natives hid scene of action (5)
- **23** Recalls about 1000 glowing fragments (9)
- **25** Metallic element, weird but delicious (7)
- **26** Breathes in Captain Hale-Smythe's cologne (7)
- 29 Closing fifth, Roy usually at sixes and sevens (5,10)

Down

- **1** We hear man sing paean (4)
- **2** Tire Iris (4)
- 3 Insuring small company against Eastern cartel (8)
- **4** Fly when group swallowed by team leader and second egghead (6)
- **5** Solid objection to Greek island (8)
- 6 Changes Greek letters (6)
- 7 The Spanish leave crushed pineapples for ancient instrument (8)

- **8** Debs walk around brown and white animal (8)
- 11 Make a mistake, otherwise blunder (5)
- **15** Prosthesis used to gas South East Ely (5,3)
- **16** Mature set born at the same time (3,5)
- 17 Graffiti artist's paint supplier perhaps extremely canary mixture? (5-3)
- **19** Part of engine, or part of arrow, found beneath river (8)
- **20** Raised whisky one final time for lofty home (5)
- 22 Nearly remove red from disgraceful old master (6)
- 24 Sadly, I toe my part (6)
- **27** The Italian follows fifty to unknown flower (4)
- **28** Herb departs dreadfully disloyal bean (4)

Solution to crossword no. 139



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. An honourable mention goes to Robert

Out on the Wildside

The Princes on the Lily-pads

While the frog is not currently on the endangered list, their numbers have rapidly declined over the last 10 years. This is mainly thought to be due to a loss of habitat (ponds and water sources) and climate change, which similarly as with the hedgehog, confuses them into laying too early, when the spawn will be susceptible to March frosts. Frogs are amphibians, and unlike mammals, cold-blooded. Some people confuse them with toads, but they are easily distinguished. A frog has smooth wet skin, strong long webbed feet, a greenish spotted appearance and bulging eyes.



Frogs in our pond

Whereas the common toad tends to be brown with dry, warty skin and sunken eyes. Their back legs are shorter and better for hopping and burying themselves under mud. Frogs lay their eggs in water, toads in soil.

In fact, frogs spend most of their lives in water, whether they're feasting on flies, mating or hibernating during the winter in the lower depths of ponds and lakes where it's warmer – they're nearly always there! Their average lifespan is an impressive 7 years and sometimes longer. For their

small size, they can cover a considerable distance and will hop from pond to pond searching for food and somewhere to rest. Their skin can sense water droplets in the air, and this seems to contribute to their amazing skill of instinctively knowing which direction water is in. Pretty clever really! Frogspawn is layed each spring, hatching into tadpoles which slowly grow legs until their tail falls off and they become tiny perfectly formed frogs. During the months of winter they will be hibernating, well covered in layers of mud and plants at the very bottom of a pond.

In Swaffham Prior we have so many large ponds and this is an encouraging incentive for them to arrive on our doorsteps. In our garden pond alone, we can get up to 35 frogs at a time mating in the spring and we can sometimes hear their croaks all the way from the house. They also eat unwanted flying insects but not bees -- bonus!

So what can we do to help them along? Well, for a start, during the hot summer months they sometimes become disorientated and you may find one by a road or path looking rather sorry for itself. The best thing to do is to pick it up and take it to a water source: if you have a neighbour with a pond then this would do nicely. If their skin feels really dry and dehydrated then wet them, this will make them more alert. Make your garden frog friendly by having a corner that is left natural with weeds, wild flowers and wood logs, this gives them a nice habitat. Although bear in mind that if your garden is tightly enclosed with fencing so that not even a frog can get under, you're unlikely to see any. But the most important thing is water! Except for in the mating season, they're really not that picky about where to swim and feed.

You don't need to have a big expensive pond, you can create a small homemade pond (an ideal thing to do with the kids). Get a small plastic tub, fill it with water and place it in a quiet spot of the garden, ideally among tall grass or trees. Place some rocks in it to make it more inviting and if you wish, you can buy an oxygenating aquatic plant which will help to keep the water healthy -- if not then some flowers or old branches will suffice and this will provide shelter. They seem partial to Gerberas, as these attract flies.

For four years now we've had the same frog with three distinctive spots. Shabba arrives in the spring and stays the summer but rather than heading for the pond, he seems satisfied to reside in an old red tub under the outside sink with only some water and some flowers for company, so you see sometimes a tub is just as good. Lastly, if frogspawn is appearing in your pond but then there's a cold snap, get a plastic tub or tray, fill it with pond water and gently using a net or plastic bag scoop the frogspawn into it. It is not as fragile as people think and you won't kill it. Place it in an outbuilding or garage, anywhere that is protected from the frost (and birds) returning it to the pond when it's warmer again, although try not to keep it more than a couple of days. Goldfish and coy will eat tadpoles so ideally keep it in a protected area e.g behind plant pots or a stone arrangement.

Let's help our little princes to go about their lives and educate people to help, not to wince away from them because they're green. Give them a go, you'll love them in the end!

Saffra Monteiro



From our Local County Councillor David Brown

Full Council met on 14th February to debate the Budget and Business Plan. After a 6 hour debate agreement was reached on a proposal to implement a 2% rise in Adult Social Care Precept and to freeze the general Council Tax. Council also agreed reporting arrangements for the Council's representatives on the Shadow Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and also on the Scrutiny Committee for the Shadow Combined Authority.

We held an additional meeting of the Children and Young People Committee to consider the review of Secondary Education provision in Cambridge City. The officers are recommending the expansion of Chesterton Community College to cope with the identified shortfall in places in North Cambridge. The Committee also considered proposals for re-structuring the senior management in Children, Families and Adults.

I attended a meeting of "Voices Matter", the Children in Care Council for Cambridgeshire. This is an opportunity for Children in Care to raise concerns and report on activities to senior managers and members.

Schools Forum met with Heidi Allen MP, Lucy Frazer MP and Daniel Ziechner MP to discuss the current consultation on a fair funding formula for schools in England.

There'll be another one along shortly

The gleaming, sleek, black vessel smoothly slips Its coned-off kerbside mooring - obols now Get you a limo for your final trip.

A freighter, custom-built to carry grief,
On hushed rubber it ferries its payload
Where an efficient nineteen-thirties quay
Creed-neutral and discreet on the ring road
Accepts amid Art Deco bas-relief
All that remains of who we used to be.

Earth to earth - in the warm fields beyond, Though no-one mentions it, they're spreading

Unbidden from some hidden fount of flippancy And word-association "Pooh Styx" floats along My thoughts and conjures, "ever-rolling stream." A squirrel skims - a flung stone on a pond - Across the perfect lawn, its energy Incongruous in the calculated calm And up comes "fly forgotten as a dream." Then bell, and shuffling procession, Consoling ancient words, cathartic balm And the collegiality of song.

But that's not it – not what a death has changed. That comes on stealthily in absences, In silences; familiar places rendered strange; In colours light no longer enhances
The way it used to do; in journeys that
No longer have a point; in photographs
In newly un-decodable scrapbooks.
This austere matron in the floral hat
Who now can name her? And whose son was he,
That Brylcreemed boy with matinee good looks
And pencil-thin moustache - that girl who laughs
Across the years – what's she to do with me?

Most times, we say, "It will all be OK,
We'll do it differently next time," but fear
This time, tomorrow's dawn will not redeem
The old world that's forever gone away;
Waking won't get us out of this bad dream.
Our days have holes the shape of those who've
gone

That life keeps snagging on and can't restore. That speck you used to see when you were young Out on the far, blue, bright and hard horizon That rarely came within sight of your shore, Emerging from the tall and shimmering heat, A homing, solitary ship, black-sailed Is so close now, you hear its canvas crack, Its whistling shrouds, while heeling at its back, Their timbers creaking in the rising gale Full-sail, relentless, onward comes the fleet.

Wulsin

FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

SATURDAY 18 MARCH, 7.30PM

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, NEWMARKET CB8 0HP

JOIN THE CANTILENA SINGERS FOR
AN EVENING OF
UNACCOMPANIED AND
ACCOMPANIED SACRED MUSIC,
INCLUDING WORKS BY
WILLIAM HARRIS, CHARLES WOOD,
HERBERT HOWELLS, SAMUEL
SEBASTIAN WESLEY, AND OTHERS.

DIRECTOR DANIEL SPREADBURY ORGAN JONATHAN GILES

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
TICKETS £10 (FREE ADMISSION FOR UNDER 18s) ON THE DOOR OR CONTACT
CAILLE SUGARMAN-BANAZSAK 01223
813918

WEBSITE: WWW.CANTILENASINGERS.ORG

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362), e-mail (jun.thompson@tiscali.co.uk) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like



anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offered

- 2 Maxi-Cosi black R0D1 XR car seats (Suits ages 4-12, up to 25kg), with removable back to convert to booster seat. Emma 01223 812793.
- Pair of speakers for computer; Lightbulbs 3 x R50 40 watt screw fit spotlight bulbs; 2 office/desk swivel chairs dark brown fabric. Jacqui, 01223 811190 afternoon or evenings
- A single swing with a blue plastic seat and a green and blue metal frame. For collection only. Jane 01638 741754.
- Large bag of Craft Bits beads, wool, ribbon, etc. Lin 01223 812691
- 6 by 8 foot aluminium greenhouse, with spare glass. Good condition, just needs dismantling and collecting. Matt, 07960072374 or 01223 813297
- Plastic plant pots, various sizes; Desktop computer without hard drive, 64bit, 4GB memory, processor Intel Core 2 Quad CPU @ 2.4 GHz; will boot from external drive, e.g. USB. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592
- Plastic animals (water creatures and African creatures etc); 3 small toddler
 -sized backpacks (one khaki coloured Eurohike, one HelloKitty white
 with HelloKitty heads all over, one lurid pink/purple); Blue plastic
 dumper truck (about 30cm long), Hot wheels looping track; Jun 01223
 813362.

Wanted

- Clean, empty egg boxes; Wicker shopping trolley basket. Janet 07833 960678
- Basically we have some <u>non-live</u> armoured electric cables underground in our garden (we know they are non live because we put them there 10 years ago ready for some garden lighting) but we can't find one of them. We are hopeful that it may be found by using a metal detector which we don't own or have the knowledge to use. Perhaps someone in the village can help us by loaning themselves & equipment for 1/2 an hour? Mike & Judi Churcher 07921 089610
- 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.

School News

This term each class is working on a new topic. Mercury and Mars are thinking about Space. Mercury Class has a Space Centre in the classroom, which the children are enjoying. In Mars class the children have a lunar landscape with moon rocks and rockets. Neptune and Saturn classes are studying Ancient Greece. Children in Neptune Class have been designing classical



scenes on plates and in Saturn Class they have been making clay pottery in the style of pots used in Ancient Greece.

Years 3 and 4 have had a very successful residential trip to Burwell House. The majority of activities were based outside and ranged from learning how to read compasses and use them to follow simple routes and locate areas on a map of the grounds, to working in teams to solve team challenges. The children created batik designs on bags and took part in the infamous 'Great Eggscape'. The governors are grateful to the members of staff who went to Burwell and stayed with the children to support them during their time there.

Some of the children wrote a report on their trip:

'We had to make a safe and comfy place for the egg in the Great Eggscape and then dropped it down the fire-escape. They went down like a bullet. One egg survived one splatted, one leaked and the rest cracked. In Burwell Fox you had a map showing a bird's eye view of the grounds and you had to find spots and then go to them using the map. There was a Play Pod where they kept things to play with that other people had thrown away and did not want. They included Zimmer frames, costumes, tyres, a teddy and some pipes. Some of us made goalposts and played football. It was fantastic in the bedrooms although nobody got any sleep! Their food was fantastic. We had a roast dinner on the second day and sausage and mash on the last day. We gave the roast 9 out of 10. We also had sticky toffee pudding which scored 10 out of 10.'

Please can you help us collect Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 vouchers for cooking and sports equipment? The scheme is running until 30th June 2017 this year. If you get these vouchers when you are shopping, please drop them into the school office.

Thank you to those who contacted me about becoming a Governor for the school. We still have some vacancies. There is a full range of training for Governors, so you don't need to know about education policy, school finances etc from the outset. You just need to want to play a part in ensuring that our children have an excellent primary school experience. We need a wide range of skills and experience on the board, but are particularly keen to

recruit people with Accountancy, HR or Legal skills and experience. If you would like an informal chat about becoming a governor, please contact me on 01638 741064 or chair@ swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk.

Charlotte Cane Chair of Governors chair@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk



Bottisham Village College Adult Learning

Saturday Workshops - 18th March
Cook with your Kids (10.00 - 2.00)
Paediatric First Aid (Sat/Sun) – meets Ofsted requirements
Stained Glass
Wedding Flowers
Willow Weaving – Frame Baskets
Russian Decorative Painting

Saturday Workshops - 20th May
Bread Making
Fun with Flowers
Illustration for Beginners
Stained Glass
Vegetarian Indian Cookery
Willow Weaving – Cut Flower Baskets
(Most workshops run from 10.00 - 4.00)

New Courses for the Summer Term
(from 25th April)
British Sign Language (Evening)
Food for Summer Entertaining (Evening)
Introduction to Counselling (Evening)

Our full programme can be found on our website, together with enrolment information:

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning
Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org



WI Notes

We had a very interesting speaker this month- Tor Docherty, from Red2Green, the Cambridgeshire charity, that is based at Harvey's barn, in Swaffham Bulbeck.

It was set up in 1997, working to increase opportunities, in learning, work and social participation, for adults, with a whole range of disabilities. This enables those that attend, to make new friends, experience new situations, gain in confidence, some to be prepared for employment and ultimately for as many as possible to slowly become independent.

They also run "Aspirations", that specialises in support, for adults on the Autistic spectrum. One of their aims being to improve their social communication and so reduce their isolation.

Tor said that they always welcome volunteers, who can give their clients added support, in many ways.

Our meeting next month, on March 20th, is our Annual Meeting and our speaker is Ellie Seymour New members are always very welcome.

Margaret Joyce

Succinctly speaking:-

They are not long,
the days of warm milk in small doses;
We must, to 'Solids' a.s.a.p. - be weaned.
Then to school, where essential knowledge
For the future, we discover,
may be gleaned.

*They are not long,
the Days of Wine and Roses;
A Partner; then offspring of your own;
Who all, in their due season,
will up and leave you,
And then; you're old and grey,
and all alone.

Ophir.

^{*}Thanks to Ernest Dowson for line five.

VILLAGE GARDENERS



This month we had a very interesting talk, from Liz Mann, who has developed a special interest, in the National Memorial Arboretum, near Litchfield in Staffordshire.

It is, as she said 'Where our Nation Remembers'.

It was initially set up, to be a national memorial, to the two and a half million British, who were killed in World War I. But It is now seen as an all year round remembrance, as well as the two minutes silence on November 11th each year.

Leonard Cheshire had originally wanted to set up a world memorial fund, but having worked with the ministry of defence, a fund was started for a memorial 'park', similar to one seen in the States.

John Major launched the appeal and a huge area of treeless, worked out gravel pits, mostly swamp, were found and donated by Redland Cement, for a ground rent of £1.00 per annum. £14 million pounds was needed to create woodlands, a visitors centre, memorials and a chapel. They immediately got £1.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and planting started in 1996/7, using the expertise of the forestry commission and thousands of saplings from Westonbirt. They used Willow, Alder and Birch, which hadn't any particular objections to their roots sitting in water.

The Arboretum opened in 2001, along with a further £5.2 million raised from public and private donations and in 2003 was taken over by the Royal British Legion. It now has 300 memorials- 60% of which are military and 40% civilian. Some are tiny and some are huge. From the aerial photos, it looked beautiful-mature Woodland, long pathways and open spaces. 50,000 trees have been planted, including a millennium wood where individual trees can be sponsored to a golden grove, where the trees celebrate golden weddings.

A new remembrance centre was opened last year and the millennium chapel holds a service of remembrance every day. All conflicts are remembered here.

There is also the Wind in the Willows garden for children, the WRNS memorial - a beautiful red Wren: a Lych Gate from Changi prison chapel: The Beat—a long avenue of trees—one planted for every member of the police service killed whilst on duty: a SANDS memorial, with a tiny babe curled up in the middle and a huge Armed Services memorial, to all those killed since World War II, designed to look like an ancient burial mound.

The most moving for me was the lone, white, blindfolded figure standing in front of the 'Shot at Dawn' memorial. A real Private Peaceful. All these 306 men were given a posthumous pardon in 2006.

There is good news for those of you whose legs don't work as well as they didyou can be buggied round on a guided tour. I think it would make a very good day out, but Liz said you need two!

Our next meeting is on March 21st when Stephen Poyser will be talking about 'Beekeeping and the Gardener'. All are welcome.

Margaret Joyce



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

Buildings of Local Interest Register

The register dated January 2017 has now been published. It has four categories of buildings:

Historical Association

Architectural Interest

Local Characteristics

Townscape Significance

The Swaffham Ward has two inclusions; Newnham House, 48 Commercial End and the Little Chapel in the Fen, Swaffham Prior Fen.



No Council Tax Increase

157 Local authorities are increasing their council tax, 4 are not. East Cambs District Council are one of the 4. Because of the careful way that we manage our financial affairs we are in budget again this year without the need to raise council tax in order to run our services. Also, we are the only council in East Anglia not to have car parking charges.

These two of the ways that we give our residents value for money.

The Band D District Council Tax will once again be £142.14p

Temporary Accommodation for Homeless People

Three years ago, East Cambs Council had a yearly bill of £750,000. After much work helping people avoid homelessness, this year our bill is zero.

Allen Alderson

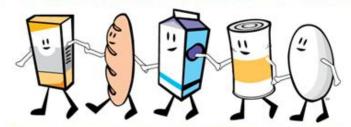


KOL ECHAD CHOIR

Directed by Danielle Padley

Sing music from the Jewish world St James' Church Lode Sunday 26 March 7.00 pm

FOODBANK COLLECTION



St James' Church Lode and RENEW have started a Foodbank Collection for Newmarket Open Door, a charity providing supported housing and training opportunities in Newmarket

You can find a collection box at RENEW Church in Bottisham, at St James' Church Lode, at the Wednesday Coffee Mornings in the Chapel in Lode and also at St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

The Foodbank is very grateful for donations of any of the following:

Tinned: soups, meat, fish, beans, fruit or vegetables
Bread, cakes, packet soups, flour, sugar and dried vegetables
Jars, breakfast cereals, biscuits, cereal bars, chocolate, sweets
Fresh fruits, salads and vegetables

Cooking sauces, chutney, mayonnaise, salad cream
Water, lemonade, squash, cola, juices, milk and other soft drinks
Pet supplies, cat/dog foods, tins, pouches, dried foods and litter
Soap powder, bleaches, washing up liquid, toilet cleaners and
other cleaning products

Shampoos, conditioners, toothpastes, soaps, shaving gels and other personal hygiene products
Seasonal items such as Easter Eggs and Christmas Puddings

Please leave your donated items in any one of the boxes provided and they will be taken to the Open Door Foodbank

If you need anything collected or wish to volunteer to transport items please contact either Beth 01223 813373 or Alan 01223 812558





St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Frugal Lunches

in support of

MAIZE FOR MARA

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

Soup and a roll; please book!

07833 960678 or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk
No charge for lunch; donations please.

The rains have failed in our link diocese of
Mara in Tanzania and those without
farms are going hungry.
Sacks of maize cost £40;
please help us to help those in need. Thank you



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDENS TULIPS - FLASHES OF INSPIRATION



As we move into spring and the days, thankfully, start to get longer, we can look forward to the wonderful colours of spring bulbs in flower. The Botanic Garden has a wonderful collection of species tulips – mostly native to eastern Europe and Asia – and these beautiful and surprisingly delicate flowers can be seen in the Mountains glasshouse in March and

April. However, it's one of the commercial cultivars that inspired an exciting research programme that uses the Garden's collections all year round.

'Queen of the Night' (see right) is a commercial tulip cultivar that you'll find in many garden centres. The flowers have been bred for a deep purple-black colour. But, surprisingly, that colour revealed something that tulips had all along but that was difficult for the human eye to see — an iridescent sheen on top of the main colour. If you look at 'Queen of the Night' carefully you'll see flashes of blue, green, gold and red,



particularly in bright sunlight. These colours are produced by a structure on top of the petals - a series of nanoscale folds of the petal surface that act as a diffraction grating. The data grooves on a cd act in the same way and produce flashes of colour too.

If you look closely at our species tulips you'll see the same flashing colours, but they're harder to pick out without that intense black base. Research at the Garden is focused on understanding how flowers produce these regular folds on their petal surfaces, and on exploring how they affect the behavior of pollinating insects. It's just one of many research projects that our living collection supports.

To hear about plant science and research that's linked to the Garden, why not drop-in to our free Science on Sundays talks which run on the third Sunday of each month between March and August. Details can be found on the Botanic Garden website.

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is open from 10am – 5pm in March, 10am – 6pm April – September. The Glasshouses and Café close 30 minutes before the Garden and the Botanic Garden Shop at Brookside closes 15 minutes before the Garden. Please check the website at www.botanic.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 336265 for details about opening times, admission charges, tours, courses and special events.

Notes from Parish Council January Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 9 Parish Councillors and 3 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.30pm.

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

Public Participation: None.

Reports

CCC Matters: Cllr David Brown's report was read by the Clerk. There were questions about the Council re-instating the previous road gritting routes. It seems Lower End and Cage Hill were not done. The Clerk agreed to ask what the routes are and were.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Mark Lewinski asked if swift boxes were exclusively for churches or any building. Paul Latchford presented additional paperwork relating to the cemetery from Ruth and John Stinton.

Correspondence for Circulation / Consideration

David Greenfield commented on the Local Plan including: Housing based on infill, a pedestrian crossing, Mill Hill, Rogers Road, better village hall use, red cycle routes, improvements to sports ground, creating green space / woods and employments site (as PC had suggested). Unfortunately, David Greenfield could not attend the meeting on the 18th.

Consideration of Planning Applications Received

Trees: 16/01615/TRE, 16/01659/TRE, 16/01701/TRE – noted.

16/01559/FUL Commissioners Farm Cottage - Single storey extension to cottage for exercise pool and keep fit area – no objections.

Michael Malster mentioned trees encroaching the path to Coopers Green. A property on Green Head Road and the High Street would be contacted.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects

Steve Kent-Phillips reported the status of all projects. The play area gates had been installed and passed by RoSPA. The Swimming Pool Changing Rooms had involved a number of meetings with parties pulling in different directions but the project is well on track. An external metal storage hut will be installed to store equipment. Electricity will be included and in budget. Sandra Gynn sked about frosted windows if the rooms were to be used for other purposes, this was not allowed but apparently curtains or blinds would be used when in use for changing. It seems the huts will be owned by the school, run by FoSPS and insured by the Diocese of Ely as they own the school. Steve Kent-Phillips noted that the hut's structure should be good for 35 years. The roof may need to be replaced as required. There was no plan currently for a toilet but that could be a later project as it would need a pump. Martin Mead will be project managing.

Street Lights: Paul Latchford reported that 7 had been completed. There is a remaining problem as Electrical Testing reported the Fairview Grove light has some cable type supplying it that they could not work on / with. There was also one light with cable problems. It was agreed to withhold payment of the ET invoice until they

get back to PL as the work is not complete.

Allotment standpipe for South-East side of B1102

There was a discussion regarding relevance and security of a water supply to the allotments. Tap locks and water tanks were proposed to stop hose pipe use and other unapproved use. To install a stand-pipe the PC would be paying for ground works and installation of acceptable pipework and other equipment. Steve Kent-Phillips noted that the installation would be around £2 000 (ex VAT) and this prompted a discussion about the uptake of allotments if water was provided. Paul Latchford suggested encouraging rainwater retention. It was decided to evaluate interest in allotment take-up before installing water or other costly infrastructure. Michael Malster was in the process of an article in The Crier that would start this process. There was some discussion as to the quality of the allotments. It was agreed that after canvassing opinion the PC would re-visit the subject in March or April.

Allotment fees

Michael Malster presented his review of allotment charges. This included the incentive to keep an allotment but possibly not keep it in good order and leave a problem for the PC or its next tenant. It was agreed Paul Latchford & Michael Malster would produce a new tenant agreement. John Covill asked if the other allotments were being maintained. Paul Latchford said not and more discussion was entered into regarding getting them in order for new tenants. David Greenfield suggested a £25 fee to include water and a new agreement to be discussed at the next meeting.

Accounts for payment

These were all agreed with the addition of the deposit to get the swimming pool changing rooms ordered.

Clerk's Report

Paul Latchford asked about the bollards in Station Road, The Clerk reported that emails had been avoided, Steve Kent-Phillips reported that it was with David Brown, was mishandled by County Highways and was on-going.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Steve Kent-Phillips reported being approached by a speed-watch company doing surveys on behalf of Mead Construction (in any case) and will be researching mostly lorries but will count cars and note speed. They are going to be doing 6 surveys or "snap shots" in 3 locations: Mill Hill, Lower End and by the school. They ask for a small donation – say £10/car (confirmed as observer's car) for them to provide the data collected. Paul Latchford asked what the data is for, Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed it may be passed onto the police but they make their money from haulage companies and that the current proposed survey will go ahead with the PC involved or not as Mead Construction was sponsoring it. The 3 survey locations would be 2 observer cars so the suggested donation would be £60. Steve Kent-Phillips needed authority to ask them for the data. David Greenfield noted that it would be good to have the data especially if someone else had commissioned the work. It was agreed to go ahead. David Greenfield was reminded that Swaffham Bulbeck have recently installed a Red Zebra Crossing, John Covill agreed that this was due to their speed limit being 30mph. Paul Latchford reported that Swaffham Prior's team had won the

festive hockey: 4-1 and the oldest outfielder had scored a goal. Sandra Gynn reported that she had attended the school governors' meetings but had nothing relevant to the PC to report (so far). John Covill mentioned the rubbish on Black Drove and that CCC had not been able to clear it due to muddy access. He said he would move it himself if that was not technically fly-tipping! Sandra Gynn asked about the notification of the bus times change. Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to chase.

Open Question Time

Alastair Everitt mentioned the Action for Swifts Website and that Tothill Road would be a good area for boxes. There was discussion about how to deal with a grounded swift. You don't launch them but put them on a roof. The source of the additional cemetery docs was requested Paul Latchford said it was John Stinton. It was suggested to get promotion out for allotments and present at the AVA. Peter Rand circulated pictures of the village sign. He is now painting, so it should be complete within 6 weeks. The 3 wooden sections are now joined with stainless steel studding. Mark Lewinski asked if the bank that needs attention near the village sign is High-Ways' responsibility.

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

Future meeting dates: March 9^{th} , April 13^{th} , May 11^{th} 2017. All are welcome to attend.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Paul Catling Tel: 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only). Email: clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk



The great conductor Arturo Toscanini was sitting at his podium before a concert one evening. As the orchestra warmed up just minutes before the performance, a bassoon player approached him in fearful panic. "Maestro, I am very sorry, but my instrument has suffered an accident, and the E-flat will not sound. I am afraid I will not be able to play tonight."

Upon hearing this news, Toscanini went silent and closed his eyes. The bassoon player cowered in fear of his fury. The great conductor put his hands to his head and continued in silence, adding to the bassoon player's agony.

At last Toscanini looked up and said quietly, "Do not worry. E-flat does not appear in your music tonight." Toscanini had played through the entire concert in his mind, reviewing every note the bassoonist would have to play. With his intimate knowledge of the music, the conductor was able to reassure the bassoon player that everything would be all right.

As a follower of Jesus, I gain real peace, strength and comfort from the assurance

that he knows what lies ahead for me and he will guide me through.

I have played trumpet / cornet in several bands and orchestras; I remember one conductor who was a well respected but very intimidating character who rarely encouraged the musicians but would highlight any mistake.

Some 'great' people make others feel small, but truly great people, make others feel great.

I still wonder at times what the future will hold and whether I have what it takes to do what is required of me. Through the highs and lows of life, I keep going, trusting that *God knows the score* and has good news for me. God says, "I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29.11).

If you would like to join a community of people discovering what it means to follow Jesus in this place and in these times, we would love to welcome you at RENEW, why not join us!?

Rev Alan Brand

RENEW Church Services in March 2017.

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

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

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

Sunday 5th March. Breakfast from 10.15am – Alpha Course

(Bottisham Primary School)

Monday 6th March. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha Course** (at the School)

Sunday 12th March. Breakfast from 10.15am – Alpha Course

(Bottisham Primary School) Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 12th March. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)

Monday 13th March. Evening meal at 7.30pm – Alpha Course (at the School)

Sunday 19th March. Breakfast from 10.15am – **Alpha Course** (Bottisham Primary School)

Monday 20th March. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha Course** (at the School)

Sunday 26th March. Breakfast from 10.15am – **Alpha Course** (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 26th March. 6.20pm – Evening Worship. (at Lode Chapel)

Monday 27th March. Evening meal at 7.30pm – **Alpha Course** (at the School)

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

Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: <u>alanbrand77@icloud.com</u> Or visit our website at <u>www.renewchurch.org.uk</u>

PASTORAL LETTER, March 2017

Bottisham Vicarage

Thinking allowed

Many organisations and groups have a code of conduct that everyone is expected to agree to and work to. These codes may include standards of dress, how quickly a phone call or e-mail should be returned, the levels of confidentiality that apply, where and how data should be stored, what health and safety rules should be adhered to. In places such as a kitchen or a hospital these



standards and rules can mean the difference between life and death. Fail to follow protocols on a hospital drug round and someone could receive the wrong medication, or the wrong amount, or drugs could go missing. Fail to follow the required labelling or hygiene rules and a customer could end up with severe food poisoning or an allergic reaction to a particular ingredient.

But what about in our own personal lives? What rules and standards do we adopt in our relationships and our behaviour? What code do you live by, what personal rules govern your actions?

For Christians, the Ten Commandments are a fundamental code directing our behaviour. These ten principles appear simple but have far reaching implications if they are fully applied. In the past many people knew what these ten commandments were. They were taught in school, in church and appeared painted on boards in many churches. Now many people might get one or two of the ten but would find it hard to name all of them. Are they out dated or irrelevant, do they have anything to say to our modern society or to younger generations?

If you would like to consider this and explore the standards you live by, why not come and join us on our Lent course this year. We will be watching a short DVD on Thursday evenings in Queen's Court in Bottisham at 7.30 pm beginning with the 10th Commandment and working backwards towards the 1st. There will be opportunities to discuss what we have seen at a later date either at Anglesey Abbey café or at other venues so why not come along and share your views and thoughts and hear how others feel about the ten best ways.

The first session is Thursday March 9th 7.30 pm at Queen's Court, Bottisham.

Sue Giles

Church Services in March

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior unless otherwise indicated

Wednesday 1 March, Ash Wednesday

7pm Holy Communion (CW1), Quy

Sunday 5 March, first Sunday in Lent

11am Matins

Sunday 12 March, second Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday 19 March, third Sunday in Lent

11am Family Service

Sunday 26 March, Mothering Sunday

9.30am Family Service, Quy

10am Benefice All Age Service, Lode

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice?

Please be in touch and we will do our best to arrange a free lift:

07553 151585

Dates for Your Diary March 2017

Thu	9	PC Meeting, 7.30pm VH
Tue	14	Frugal Lunch, 12 noon, Carter's Cottage, High St [p24]
Sat	18	Lode Jumble Sale, 2-4pm, The Passage, Lode [p5] Quiz Night, 7.30pm VH [p6]
Sun	19	
Mon	20	WI, 7.30, VH [p20] Crier Copy Deadline
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [p21]
Sat	25	POP Litter Pick, Village Sign [p7]
Sun	26	Kol Echad Choir, 7pm, St James' Church, Lode [p22]

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare	741316	2 nd Mon of	8pm	Village
	Freeman		Term		School
Cubs	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Scouts	Tim Doe	743656	Weds (term)	6:15-7:45pm	Village School
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
V. A. C. I	Alan Badcock	F42220	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club
Youth Club		742228	Thurs	7-10:00pm	Hut Hut