



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLI Number 11

November 2017



Editorial

WHAT ABOUT THOSE SCARECROWS?! The dog and I have recently been taking some nocturnal rambles. WE'RE not afraid of the dark, nor the load of spooky scarecrows that confront you when coming round St. Mary's Church. Except that then one moved. "Yip!" said the dog, jumping 6 foot backwards. "Eek!" said I, and fell over. Well, it was the one with the ghostily drifting Helium balloon — (Crier Award for Spookiest Scarecrow at Night) and meanwhile, Big Congratulations All, these scarecrows are so delightful and continue to pop up everywhere, including the pages of this edition.

Many Congratulations Tristan Latchford who has recently been awarded and International Prize for his composing (see p 7). We last saw Tristan directing the traffic in the High Street where those mischievous traffic lights (which apparently cost a fortune to hire) were up to their usual tricks and bringing the High Street to a standstill again.

Henry Brown will be back shortly with more editions from his memoirs But although Henry might be the oldest man in the village, he is not the oldest person. That is 97 year old Connie Sayers, who has lived in Adams Road for nearly 50 years and will be 98 in February. Congratulations, Connie! And many

thanks to Shirley Wilkins for her card and this information.

We wish we could report on the progress (or preferably otherwise) of so-called "Solar Power" Burwell Gas Station, planned for our doorsteps — any info, anyone?

Meanwhile, Happy Bonfiring, but do we really have to burn the Guys?

Caroline Matheson



POP Litter Picker setting off to work. Or is it??

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Cover Picture: *The eyes have it* by Lorraine Izon



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well once again everybody has helped to raise a magnificent sum! The grand total is £695 which is wonderful! Thank you to all those who made or bought cakes; bought raffle tickets or gave raffle prizes, and everybody else who made donations. It all adds up and is most welcome.

Thank you also to those who helped on the day:- Ann and Christine on the cake stall, Kate on the Smarties in a Jar game and Robin selling raffle tickets. I couldn't have managed the morning without all your help.

It was lovely to see some new faces too, as well as our regulars. The next Macmillan Coffee Morning will be on the last Friday in September- the 28th. So do make a note in your diaries and I hope to see you all here again!

With many thanks,

Ruth Scovil

Dear Editors,

Coopers Green Notice

It is with great reluctance and disappointment that I have had to write this notice in relation to kids playing on the public green. Coopers Green is of course a public green so anyone has a right to enjoy it, play on it and spent time there, however I please ask that if your children are playing games on the green that you remind them to be respectful of neighbouring gardens and not to play directly next to sharing fences or bushes.

I have been forced to request this after a pregnant hedgehog that was under my care a few weeks ago, that was wondering around our garden during the day was almost hit by a football that flew over the bush from boys playing football on the other side of the green. Hedgehogs get stressed extremely easily during illness or pregnancy and being startled by sudden noises can result in them having miscarriages and even killing their young. In this case, the hedgehog had a miscarriage shortly after and even though I took it to my fellow colleagues at the hedgehog hospital, the hog suffered complications and passed away. Safe to say I was very upset by this and asked the boys directly to please play on the other side of the green where there is still plenty of space to play ball games.

However they have continued to play near the sharing bush- had two footballs come into the garden and they have continued to kick the football against and under the bush which directly hits the fence and affects the hedgehog boxes that are positioned under the bush on the other side. When playing they have also been extremely loud, shouting and swearing prolifically which the whole street can hear. This noise and disruption every day is now affecting the animals within the garden and there is very little I can do about it other than to ask for everyone in the village to please be aware of it and please be respectful.

Saffra Monteiro



Unruly pupil reading Crier

MINCE PIES Advent by Candlelight

Sunday 3rd December at 4.30 pm in the two churches

Once again it will soon be that time of year when kind villagers provide warm mince pies at the conclusion of the event . I would be most grateful if you would kindly let me know how many you will be providing, not later than 02.12.17

Thank you so much (in advance),

Kate Child. 743984

Flag Flying Days this Month from the Tower of St Cyriac

12th November Remembrance Sunday

14th November Prince of Wales' Birthday

20th November 70th Wedding Anniversary
Queen and Prince Philip



From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Everyone was so bright and alert at the last PC meeting with an interesting bit of banter even before it began. Moving quickly forward it shot straight past the report from our CCC representative Joshua Schumann. Nothing has been seen of him since his very slick and quick appearance some months ago when he said we were always in his thoughts. I think he has bigger fish to fry than lil ol hick SP on the edge of the fens.



Allen Alderson then gave his report. First he handed out a reply to the questions about waste collection which a friend of Mike Malster had submitted and requested answers. Allen, when handing out the answers, wondered why the person “would want the waste figures”, and Michael said, “because we ought to know”. Obviously the PC didn’t feel the need to know because they were not discussed and I am not sure how many even looked at them. The only reason I am reporting this is the one question, which asked “How much would be saved by removing green waste collections from rural areas and providing compost bins”. If ever there was a guaranteed vote loser in an election, this must be it. The planning proposals continue to pour in and the ECDC planning people are working an extra 25 hours a week trying to keep up with them before the final decisions are made.

There has been little progress in the additional bulb planting. Janet it seems mentioned the difficulty getting volunteers. So it was decided to have “Operation Snowdrop” and the WI, the School, the Scouts, the VH, and other organisations will be asked if they would like some snowdrops to plant in the Spring. There will also be a notice in the Crier asking if there are any villagers who would like to plant some in the verge outside their house. “Operation Bluebell” will be deferred until next Autumn which will allow more time to think about the merits of the Spanish or English varieties.

Michael again stressed the need for more off-road parking spaces in Fairview Grove. He explained that when his wife Elaine was on the PC many many years ago – this was when she was the token lady, an admirable policy our PC has always been immaculate in following as far as I remember – anyway, when Elaine was on the PC she asked for extra parking, the PC put in the request, and it was provided. Just like that! The general comment was that it “must have been a very long time ago” because that is not how things are done now. Mike insisted the PC should make an application to the small road improvement scheme that looks at ideas from all over the county. Steve, who knows the scheme inside out, explained that awards are made on a points system and that as so few people would benefit it was highly unlikely to succeed. Mike insisted, the application will go ahead, and Elaine can put away the rolling pin.

Three people have yet to send in payment for their allotment rent. With a waiting list they will be receiving a notice saying, “pay up or lose it” or “use it or lose it.” Steve said that Sid was being giving a rest in a shed because of the presence of travellers. There was a planning application for an extension to 26 High Street (Eric Day’s old house) and this was approved. But serious thought had been given

to the gas-powered generators in Burwell. There is no doubt these would do grievous harm to the inhabitants of so many of the new houses, and also seriously diminish the value of the homes (this by the way is not accepted as a valid objection). A much better site had been identified but this would mean moving a mains gas pipe. Paul L will draft a letter objecting to the current proposal, both “technically and philosophically”, the latter being the impact on human beings. David again stressed that you can never rely on technical information because it may be slanted, simply incorrect, or contradicted by some equally valid technical information. Was Mr Gove right in saying we should ignore all experts and rely on the gut response of, say, a Boris?

Peter Rand on behalf of the Village Hall Committee then made a request for more money. This irked Steve who felt the VH should not go ahead with work before payment had been agreed. Peter explained this is not always possible and he pleaded that he had to go ahead with this one piece of work by hiring a man and a digger for £230, with Alan and Peter providing the labour, because Scotsdales had agreed to donate, FREE, £500 worth of shrubs and plants, together with a planting plan, and were arriving earlier than expected. Peter and Alan could not wait for approval by the PC to accept a contractor’s quote of £980 plus VAT, including some extra work, and used their initiative and saved a whole lot of money. Sounds like a pretty good deal. The PC agreed to pay this. The waste at the end of the car park still needs to be disposed of. The cost may be up to £600. Big question – do we burn it (when the wind is right) or spend £600? What would you do? Paul L thought enough had been spent on the Village Hall. Steve’s views had already been expressed. Sandra led the defence and said the grounds (incidentally the sole responsibility of the PC) had been neglected for so long and therefore would require money to be spent. The proposal was that the PC pays up to £300 for the removal of the waste, with the Village Hall finding the rest. This was seconded and there were 5 yeses, 2 nos and 2 abstentions. Peter Rand did not dare ask for the cost of about 10 slabs to replace the broken ones at the back and front of the Hall which might be a danger to children. The quote to have the work done professionally was very expensive and Alan and Peter will do it themselves. Of course the PC will be footing a rather expensive bill for a new Trust Deed for the Village Hall. It seems the one, that has always followed the original one drawn up when the PC bought the building from the Allix family in 1973, is not quite right.

Not only are the grounds of the Village Hall better than they have ever been before but the whole top half of the High Street is in good fettle. There is the fresh as a daisy appearance of the frontage of Well House opposite that dazzling display of scarecrows and animals in front of St Mary’s Church, and also, the day after the PC meeting, there was a most generous announcement by Steve and Michelle of The Red Lion offering a 25% discount on all drinks on a Friday from 4.00 to 7.00pm. The time is perfect for mums picking up children from the after school club at the end of a hard week. They will now be able to have their gin and tonic or port and lemon first. And do let the *Crier* know if you personally would rather burn some carbon-neutral waste, or spend £600.

Alastair Everitt

The Great Football Match Question

What happens to the like-dressed boys
One sees before a match?
They're led onto the football field
In a well-ordered batch.
It's not as though they take a part
In the game that is to follow;
I think perhaps they're never seen again,
Though I hope that's hard to swallow.
But then again, it's 'Ritual';
And if a sacrifice is due;
Someone must pay a penalty.
Who'll miss but one or two?
I like to think it's not in vain
They disappear for ever;
They've had a taste of glory
And must be glad of that, whatever.



Ryan the school veg patch scarecrow

Ophir

Update on Newspaper sheds

Thank you to those of you who are still putting newspapers inside the shed for me to take and use at the hedgehog hospital. We are now coming up to our most busy time of year and are already bursting at the seams with poorly hedgehogs to look after - totally full to capacity. This means we get through a lot of newspaper as bedding, very quickly. So any extra newspapers you can save up and add to the sheds store over time will be really helpful to our spiky patients.

On another matter, some of you may notice that the sheds are a little disorganised at the moment, with bin bags in both - this is because I'm currently attempting the huge task of clearing out the floors of both sheds that are covered in fossilized old newspapers that cannot be used - this may take me some time by myself so please just add newspapers to the neat stacks of papers that are lined up by the walls rather than just putting them on the floor - if they get dirty or damp then we can't use them so please don't put them near the mounds of damp broken up papers that I've made in the sheds. Once I've worked out where I can shift all the rubbish bags to then there will be a lot more space and it will be easier to store the papers without any wastage. If anyone is feeling rather charitable and would be up for helping me to clear the rubbish into bin bags then please email me directly at saffra.monteiro@gmail.com any help would be much appreciated.

Thanks and keep saving those papers

Saffra Monteiro

International Antonín Dvořák Composition Competition



Tristan Latchford (Great Britain)

Junior 2nd Special Prize - For the best music based upon Antonín Dvořák's music among junior participants.

Horse Help Wanted in Swaffham Prior

Reliable and trustworthy help needed to look after our horses
in Lower End

Flexible working with a maximum of 7 hours a week
Would suit a teenager with some experience of horses.

Apply to Judi Churcher 07763 769933

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY ONE

"It seems such a shame when the English
claim the earth

That they give rise to such hilarity and mirth.

Noel Coward (1899 - 1973)

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

I would ask that you reply as soon as possible.

The majority of applicants come from our pensioners in particular those who have to manage on the state pension. If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty-but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance.

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

Mrs Pam Waters

Clerk to the Trustees Tel 01638 741035

SILVER SWANS

Tues 10am Quy Village Hall

- o Silver Swans classes are specially targeted at older learners, both novice and experienced dancers
- o Although targeted at those aged over 55, there is no upper or lower age limit to be a Silver Swan
- o These classes will help improve mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels
- o Most importantly, these classes are an opportunity to have fun and enjoy a sense of wellbeing from dance

Classes taught by Lisa Nixon RT-bbodance

DBS checked, fully insured, Fully qualified dance teacher.

lisaucan@msn.com

Classical ballet tuition available
from 3-99yrs



JULIE'S BONFIRE BANGERS & BEANS

3 tbsp veg oil
1 onion chopped
2 celery sticks finely chopped
4 rashers streaky bacon chopped
1 tbsp tomato puree
2 x 400g chopped tomatoes
2 tbsp dark brown sugar
2 tsp dijon mustard
2 thyme sprigs
2 tsp worcestershire sauce
2 x 400g drained cannellini beans
2 x red peppers chopped
2 x 450g quality sausages
Handful of parsley leaves chopped

1. Heat oil in large pan, add onion, celery and bacon, cook for 5 mins until soft, add tomato puree and cook for further 2 mins, then add chopped tomatoes, sugar, mustard, thyme, worcestershire sauce and 200ml water. Bring to a boil and and cook on a slow heat for 15 mins. Then add the beans and peppers and simmer a bit longer and add more water if needed.

2. Meanwhile heat the oven to 190c/170c fan and cook sausages for 30 mins until brown. When the sausages are brown put them in an oven proof casserole with the beany sauce mix and cook for another 30 mins in the oven. Sprinkle chopped parsley when ready to serve.

This recipe will serve 8 people and lovely served with a jacket potato and a dollop of soured cream.

Mulled Apple Juice

1 litre apple juice
Strips of orange peel
1 cinnamon stick
3 cloves

simmer altogether for 5-10 mins until the flavours have infused and serve

A lovely warming drink for a cold bonfire night, and for those who like a tipple why not try it with cider.

Meryl Moore

And

The First World War

This is quite a saga. Meryl Moore came to Swaffham Prior in about 1991 and lived in Rose Cottage in Cage Hill until 2006 when she moved to a bungalow in Burwell. She is the most lovely lady, was very active in the village, and wrote elegantly as a *Crier* reporter. She was also notable for always leaving events to work on her father's First World War diary and correspondence. To be honest many of us thought she would never complete the work as she had been working on it long before she came to Swaffham Prior.

Earlier this year I was amazed when someone showed me a copy. It is an excellent book and I cannot recommend it more highly. But, because there is insufficient space in the *Crier* for a full description, if anyone, especially those who knew Meryl, would like to receive a longer notice about the book I will happily send this to you.

The title is *I embarked for France. The War Diaries and Letters of an English Family in the Great War*, Edited by Meryl Moore. And the "Family" reference is the very special aspect of this book. It begins with Meryl's grandmother Ada's diary, on 28th July 1914. This relates how she and her son Evelyn (Meryl's father) aged almost 16, set sail from St Katherine's Dock for Bruges to meet up with daughter Enid. They were all on their way to their usual summer resort at Petit-Fort-Philippe, not too far from Dunkirk. It was on this very day, 28th July, that Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia, followed by Germany declaring war on France on 3rd August and invading the neutral Belgium, which led to the United Kingdom declaring war on Germany on 4th August.

This is not just a tale of one soldier's war time experiences but also a broader account of civilian reaction both here and abroad etc etc. And the whole family were in the thick of it right from the beginning. I shall not say more.

Alastair Everitt



Minion



Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

**10AM TO 4 PM
MANDEVILLE HALL, BURWELL**

★ Craft Stalls ★

Rocking Ukuleles of Ely

Santa's Grotto ★ Fabulous Food

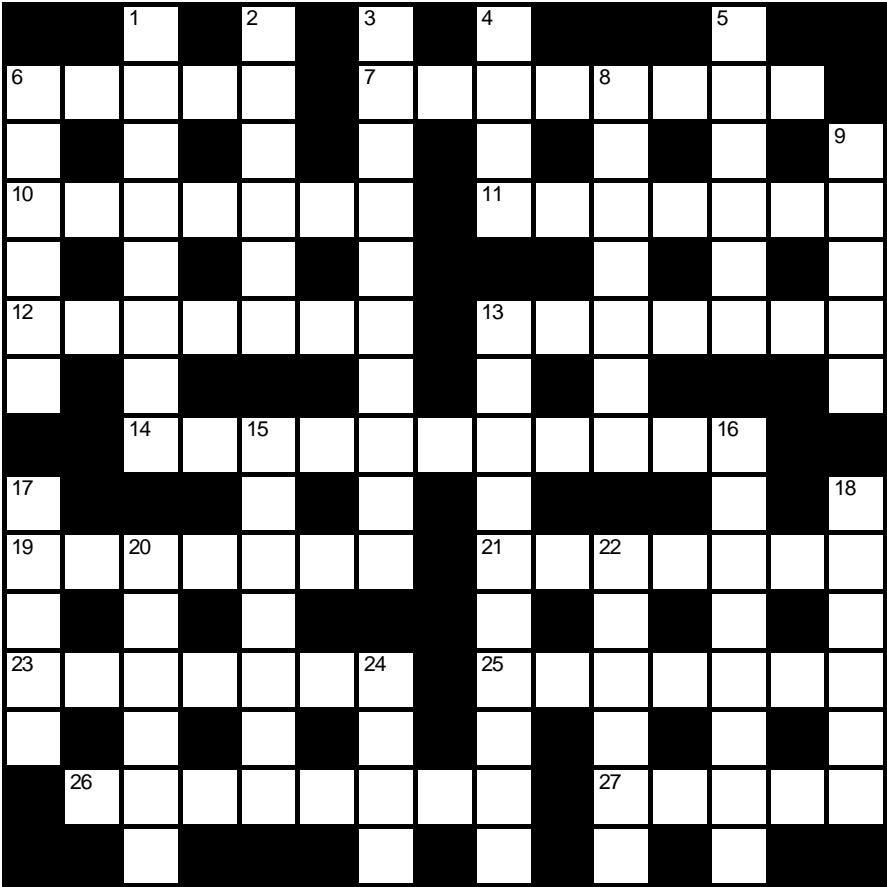
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For more info contact sue.anderson@burwellprint.co.uk or call on 01638613102

Crossword Number 147

Compiled by BYWELL

This month’s puzzle is a cryptic crossword in which clues marked * contain no definition, but are all around us. Send your answers to the editors by 18 November 2017. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a £20 meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.



Name:.....

Address:.....

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

Across

- 6 *Could end with a set of balls (5)
 7 *My carrot should be cooked (8)
 10 Refined bloke with a fish (7)
 11 One who painted dancing Creole around midnight (2,5)
 12 Abednego is Tsar providing a home for self-centred people (7)
 13 Loud song is French, as was Snow White (7)
 14 *Bring the AGM into order (6,5)
 19 It helps a speaker stick to the car (7)
 21 A trio of characters going to a province of Kabul, perhaps (7)
 23 For workload containment in the office (2-5)
 25 Harsh turn in actors' comic ending (7)
 26 Central board confuses EU with 'sell-by' irregularities (5,3)
 27 *Profoundly beaten in the second half (5)

Down

- 1 Bookmaker's offer concerning good service (8)
 2 Rode roughshod over never-ending and endless commands (6)
 3 Key board member swimming under peacock regularly to get pastry (6,4)
 4 *On foot and unaccompanied (4)
 5 Best composition of French monastic author (2,4)
 6 *Follow German leaders (6)
 8 Indirectly seeking sport from the bank (7)

- 9 *Better than fifth but not acceptable (5)
 13 So few Bach pieces keep time, as do these (3,7)
 15 *Everyone supports Blackpool or Brighton possibly (7)
 16 Drinking to a star (8)
 17 *Country bearing (5)
 18 *Unruly cabin boys losing 5 to 7 (6)
 20 Performs an additional task for youngsters at university (4,2)
 22 Sadly my gull is at sea (6)
 24 Moved quickly in clipless pedals (4)

Solution to crossword no. 146

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

We congratulate Sue Jackson, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Tansy Budd, Michael Mead and Andrew Houston



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Swaffham Prior Scarecrows 2017

The Results

A big thank you to everyone who had a go at making a scarecrow for our competition. Your imagination and skill were amazing. We had some spectacular entries, large and small, which showed what creative talent there is in Swaffham Prior.

The winners are:

Peanut the Dog: *Olivia Strange and family*

Awarded for artistic skill. A really beautiful dog that lots of people would give a home to.

Aunt Sally: *Lilly and Milo Cook and family*

Best traditional scarecrow. A stylish and sturdy traditional scarecrow with a striking face.

Jeff the builder: *Emily Yorke and family*

Scarecrow showing technical skill. An imaginative variation on a scarecrow, themed and technical.

Red Lion: *Staff at the Red Lion*

Scarecrow displaying creative skill. A lovely link with its setting, an excellent face and some humour.

Ryan: *The children of Swaffham Prior School gardening club.*

Best small traditional scarecrow. A very cute chap who has stood the test of weather and time.

Smaller scarecrows:

Alex the brave: *Alex*

Technical small scarecrow. A well made and attractive scarecrow.

Starlight the Mammoth: *Giselle Green*

Creative skill. A lovely small scarecrow with lots of work involved in its making

Packman:

Artistic skill A well made scarecrow using a modern theme with a great face.

Highly Commended

Scarlet Rose

Well done for a lovely small scarecrow.

Octopus

This was a really interesting take on a scarecrow, well imagined.

Lyuba *Swaffham Prior School*

An amazing model with a story to tell, well done.

Dalekcrow *Eleanor and Lara Spencer*

Very eye catching and the use of the potatoes was extremely effective. Well done.

Sue Giles

List of all the Entries to the Scarecrow Competition

- displayed inside and outside Church:

- Sue Giles- " Francis works on his Preaching"
- Giselle Green 6 "Starlight the Mammoth"
- Alex 5 " Alex the Brave"
- Ella May Stamer 8 "Amelia"
- Jacob Aves 5 "Stewie" (Stuart)
- Lucianna 5 "Luciana the Brave"
- Lorelei Clarke 5 "Lorelei the Mermaid"
- Ashley Peirce 7 "Master Hay"
- Tia West 7 (and Nanny West) "Twinkle"
- Shirley Wilkins 80 "Minny"
- Annette Goodfellar and Children 5 + "Stuart"
- Betty Prime - old!- WI Craft Group "Willy"
- Dee Noyes !! "Maize for Masa" "Maisy"
- Iris Barker 7 + "Cleo-Pot-RA"
- Olivia Strang 10 "Peanut the dog"
- Emily York 8 "Jeff the Builder"
- Alfred Shakeshaft 7 "Octo"-pus
- Pupils at Swaffham Prior School " 2 Pupils at Desk"
- The School Garden Club 2016 "Ryan" School vegetable patch scarecrow- outside all last year scaring
- The School Garden Club 2017 " Lyuba" replica of baby mammoth -ears and tail eaten by First Nation dog during rescue from ice . Best preserved Mammoth ever found.
- Eleanor and Lara Spencer "Dalek Crow"
- Scarlet Rose Sadler -Reception- "No Name"
- No name "Baby in tin bath with straw"
- No name "headless Belle"
- No name " minion with yellow tee shirt"
- No name " Man with a Magazine!"
- Film Church "Tristan the Teenager"
- Snakes by Beavers, Lola Wade-Gledhill and School Garden Club



" Maisey" Maize for Masa

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 circular sun shades with stands light beige/white. Catherine, 01638 742545 or 07880730265
- Casio desktop calculator (runs on 4 AA 1.5v batteries), 2 rolls included. Marian 01223 812010 (please leave a message)
- A small number of imperial size DIY tools eg spanners, Allen keys. Jacqui 01223 811190
- 2 Large (A2) Art Folders with Crayons, Colour Pencils, Water Colours, Felt Tips, etc. Nicole 01223 812363
- 6 Photo/Picture Frames 20 x 30 cm, silver-edged. Nicole 01223 812363
- 1 Photo/Picture Frame 30 x 40 cm, silver-edged. Nicole 01223 812363
- Folder with approx 40 Plastic A4 Wallets for 28mm photograph negatives. Nicole 01223 812363
- Charger and computer connector cable for Panasonic Lumix Camera, TZ6. Marjorie and Malcolm, 01353 659840
- Breadmaker – Morphy Richards; good condition and in full working order. Easy to use, instruction book included. Anne 01223 812395
- 2x50 Staples foolscap suspension files (brand new). Diana 01223 811946
- Pine bookcase with four shelves (three are movable). Height 170cm: Width 80cm: Depth 33cm. Very good condition. Chris and Judith 01223 812085
- Bike carrier - will fit most cars; will carry 2 or 3 bikes. A few years old but perfectly usable. Very good condition. Tim 01223 813815

Wanted

- Old (100 %) Double Futon. Nicole 01223 812363
- 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.



A Happening at the Church

On the Allotment To dig or not to dig?



Increasingly the necessity of digging the vegetable garden once (or twice) a year is being questioned - some gardeners take the view that using a three year crop rotation will ensure that the digging in the year when root crops are harvested is adequate. The three year rotation works by allocating three plots as follows: Plot A for root crops – beetroot, carrots, potatoes, turnips, swede, celeriac, kohlrabi and sweet potato. Plot B for beans, peas, leeks. Lettuces, onions, shallots, radish and garlic. Plot C for brassicas – cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kale, savoy and spinach. Other crops can be included as appropriate.

Plot A should be prepared by adding compost over winter and fertilizer before sowing. Plot B by adding well rotted manure in winter and fertilizer before sowing and Plot C by adding compost in February and fertilizer before sowing.

Year one; plots A – B – C, year two, B – C – A, year three C – A – B.

- It's not too late to plant garlic and onion sets.
- Parsnips and Brussels sprouts can be harvested
- If you do intend to dig in the traditional way – now is the time.

Mike Malster

The Swaffhams WI News

At the October meeting we welcomed back Horry Parsons, project manager for the millennium tower construction at Bury St Edmund's Cathedral. In his first talk we explored the building process and carrying on from there, Horry discussed the design and fitting of the stained-glass windows and the special glass needed to project the light through the lantern tower. The master craftsmen chosen were the best in the country and a number of them were also involved in the refurbishment of Windsor Castle following the fire there. We then heard about the suspended oak ceiling. Interestingly the oak required for this came from Croatia but was sawn by experts in Venice before arriving in UK (all 26 tons required to carve the 3000 components). After carving the parts were all assembled off site in the first place to make sure it all fitted perfectly, then dismantled again and brought to the Cathedral. A true labour of love.

We hope to visit the cathedral next year and see it all for ourselves, possibly with Horry if it can be arranged. He is also booked to give a third talk next October. Such a brilliant speaker, we can't wait!

Sadly, we heard that Jeanie King, one of our members and former President of Swaffham Bulbeck WI, had died the previous Thursday. At her funeral one of the hymns chosen by her family was Jerusalem because she loved the hymn and the WI. A very emotional moment for those members present. She will be greatly missed by us all.

The next meeting is on November 20th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm when we welcome back Sylvie Short with a talk entitled "Old Gels behaving badly"

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 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



Baby in tin bath

Let them stand!



November can bring with it the feeling that the growing year is over. If you can prise yourself away from the warmth of your sofa and venture out into the garden, it is tempting to cut all herbaceous plants back to the ground and wait for the spring. Yet are we being too hasty here and robbing ourselves of unexpected winter delights?

Even after the flowering performance of many herbaceous plants has finished, the dead

flower heads provide vital food in the form of seeds or sheltering insects for overwintering birds. Letting dead heads stand over winter can also help protect plants from cold snaps. Leaving the dead heads on lavender plants for example, can act as thermal lagging to protect next spring's frost sensitive buds. An early cut down of herbaceous borders will also rob you of the fleeting visual delights of a hoar frost picking out in silver the winter structure of ornamental grasses and seed heads.



Cutting back is always a compromise. Visit the Scented and Mediterranean Gardens at Cambridge

University Botanic Garden and you will see the silver leaved hummocks of many Mediterranean plants are not cut back, giving excellent structure throughout the winter. However, sometimes a wet autumn can turn herbaceous plants into a soggy mess. Some plants need a good tidy around them to remove the year's pests and diseases: cutting out all the leaf spot in infected hellebore leaves helps prevent next year's leaves being re-infected and raking up the leaf litter around roses prevents black spot and exposes pesky sawfly larvae in the soil for robins to eat.

Perhaps the answer is a selective cut down? Tidy up the soggy mess and keep good hygiene around disease susceptible plants but let those *Phlomis* seedheads and ice plants (*Sedum*) stand for height and visual structure and enjoy this year's tall grasses, which look graceful even in death as they catch the low winter light.



Paul Aston,

Alpine and Woodland Supervisor

Photos by: Howard Rice

On the Wildside: Wise Owls of the big trees



For a lot of us that live out in the countryside, one of the greatest pleasures are the sounds of nature. One of the most well known and commonly heard has to be the night calls of owls- talking to one another as they glide majestically through the big tree's of our community, under the cover of darkness.

Owls like most animals in our British wild-life, are made up of different species- some are more endangered then others such as the barn owl, who's numbers have sadly been decreasing rapidly over the last decade.

Whilst the more commonly seen Tawny owl, also known as the brown owl has managed to keep their population from reaching the endangered birds of prey list.

In Swaffham prior we are blessed with a very healthy community of Tawny owls that live among the branches of the large sycamore

trees at the back of coopers green and in and around the old church grave yard.

There often viewed as less beautiful or not as interesting as there rarer white barn owl cousins but I couldn't disagree with this more- there's so much to love about them.

They have a coat of thick feathers, speckled brown and white to camouflage themselves in with the bark of the trees. Why you may not see them, a tawny owls ears are positioned asymmetrically, with the growth of their facial feathers formed in a satellite dish shape. This means that the tiniest sound is funnelled straight to their ears, making them some of the finest night time predators known to man despite there relatively average eye sight. Their diet consists mostly of small rodents and large flying insects, they live in the hollows of big trees, protected by large branches and hidden from view during the day so that they themselves don't fall prey to eagles.

And of course let's not forget that they (like all owls) can rotate their heads 270 degrees, which let's face it, is just pretty awesome! They can do this because unlike us with one main stiff spinal cord, in their neck area, they have lots of little vertebrae surrounded by thick soft flexible muscles which means they can turn their heads further without cutting off the blood supply to their brains- making it easier to spy prey on the ground and for their own protection from bigger birds of prey.

It is a myth that all owl calls go twit twoo... tawny owls very rarely use this call and instead have a shriller, piercing squawk that is very distinct. It is believed that it is because of their eerie calls, that in the past, village folk associated them with bad luck and death. William Shakespeare didn't help their cause by describing them as the omen of death in his play, Julius Caesar but they soon regained favour, espe-

cially with films such as Harry Potter arriving on our screens where tawny owls were regularly used as the post owls for Hogwarts. They are in fact believed to be extremely sensitive, romantic birds that are very curious and outgoing. They stay together with their partner for life, only breeding with them! And have been seen to pine and starve myself when their partner dies. Recently a study carried out on owl species into their emotional state found that some birds even suffer with depression after partners die.

Tawny owls are highly territorial of their tree's, so other than their long term owly wife or husband, they will not allow any adult birds near their patch- the only time there will be more in the same tree is when they have babies to feed. A tawny owl will breed between March to early summer and their clutch is typically three eggs. However it is rare that all three will survive to adulthood, with normally only one or two owls fledging their parent's tree.

But despite not being on the endangered list currently, they still face difficulties like most animals- from loss of habitat (big trees being cut down) countryside being lost to make way for more houses and roads. To the confusing night time city lights and car head lights which cause a surprising amount of tawny owls to become confused and disoriented, sometimes flying into oncoming cars and ending up concussed and injured on the side of the roads.

If you ever see an injured owl, please don't leave it, by itself it will die! You need to put on some thick gardening gloves to prevent being cut by their sharp feet and using a towel, catch it, being careful with its wings- cover the towel over its eyes and ears so that it doesn't struggle and calms down. Place in a dark protected box and take as soon as possible to a wildlife rescue where they will be able to rehabilitate the owl and get it flying again so it can get back to the wild.

Tawny owls are the wise birds in our big trees that are always watching and without them, our countryside just wouldn't be the same- Vive la Tawny Owl!

Saffra Monteiro



The Winner!
Peanut the Dog
By
Olivia Strange &
Family



October 2017

During September as well as my normal Councillor duties, I also undertook two site visits.

The first was a tour of Dalham Hall Stud, which is part of the horse breeding empire of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and is managed in an immaculate fashion. It employs 700 people, has 450 staff houses, and covers an area of over 7000 acres. As such it is an important employer in the Newmarket area.

Secondly, as a member of the Community Services Committee I attended a tour of our new Leisure Centre that is being built on the Ely bypass at Downham Road. It should be completed by April/May 2018.

It will include the following:

- An eight lane 25m swimming pool
- A learner pool with movable floor
- A 120-station gym floor
- Two activity studios
- A four-court sports hall
- A meeting room
- An outdoor all-weather sports pitch
- Free car parking

It is being built next to our new six screen cinema which is now open and proving very popular.

October's planning committee is all day, starting at 9.30am instead of 2.30pm because of the increase in planning applications it is having to deal with.

When our new Local Plan is in force things should return to normal.

Cllr Allen Alderson



Christmas Dinner

RENEW Church is blessed to be placed where it is, and have people from Bottisham, Lode, the Swaffhams, Quy, Burwell, the Wilbrahams and Reach make up our church family. As minister, I feel blessed every day to be part of the community where I live and where I worship. I was considering recently how as a church family we could be a blessing to our communities, and so I have an idea to 'put out there' to see if it reflects a need.

We would like to offer Christmas Dinner, on Christmas Day, in Bottisham Community Primary School hall, to anyone from our villages who will be alone, and would appreciate a meal and company. I hope to also be able to arrange transport where needed. There will be no cost to our guests, it would be our honour and privilege to share Christmas dinner with you.

I know how difficult it is to accept an invitation sometimes, and to admit to maybe being lonely, but I urge you, if you would appreciate this provision, please contact me on 01223 812558 / 07896 000796 / or alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk; we would love to set a place for you at the table. Research suggests there are millions of people in the UK who will be alone and feeling lonely over the Christmas season, RENEW church would like to make a small dent in that statistic by at least giving the opportunity for people in our villages to enjoy hospitality on Christmas Day.

By the way, just in case you're wondering, there's no hidden agenda here, we will not bash you with any Bibles, sign you up for any courses, bombard you with many questions. We are doing this because we are blessed, we have experienced the goodness of God in our lives, and in following Jesus, He tells us to love and care for others. We do care. That's our motivation, but if you join us on the day, all you will experience is a lovely Christmas dinner with new friends, and maybe some folk you know as well.

For planning purposes we need to have an idea of numbers by Friday 17th November.

Before I go, here's my new favourite Christmas Cracker joke:

What's the best gift you could possibly buy someone for Christmas?

A broken drum ... you just can't beat it!

May you know God's blessings today,

Revd. Alan Brand

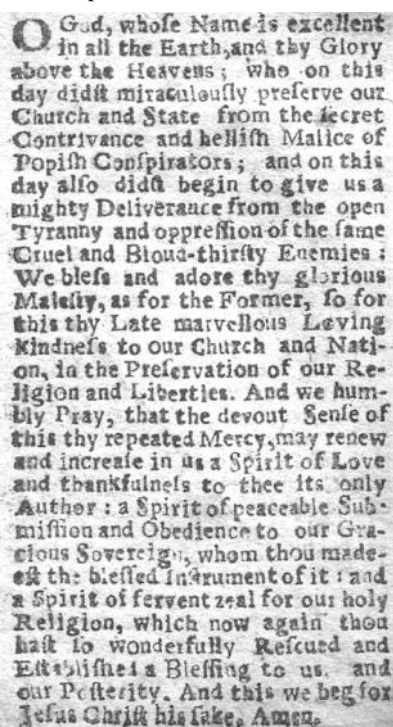
Remember, Remember the 5th of November...

If ever you need a prime example of ‘any excuse for a party’, Bonfire Night must take the biscuit. After all, we make an effigy of a man, put it on a big bonfire and burn it, and gather round to celebrate the whole thing in an atmosphere of fun and frivolity. Now don’t worry, you’ll get no killjoy ‘We shouldn’t be doing this’ grumbles from me. In all my years from innocent childhood to grumpy old man I’ve enjoyed the fun and fireworks, and whilst I knew of its origins, I’ve never had any difficulty separating the party from its past.

That said, the history of Bonfire Night is highly religious so a brief look at it, here in the ‘God slot’, might be in order.

It all started with an act of terrorism. That word didn’t exist in 1605, and neither did Semtex or C4. So for ‘terrorism’ read ‘Gunpowder Plot’ and for ‘explosive vest’ read ‘36 barrels of gunpowder’. The plot was to blow up Parliament while the King (James I) was there for the State Opening – thus taking out the top layer of English government in one fell swoop. The conspirators were Catholics and the King was Protestant, at a time in our history when this mattered to a degree almost unimaginable to us today.

But the government received an anonymous tip-off. The terrorist attack was thwarted, and the conspirators arrested. The best-known was Guy Fawkes. He wasn’t the leader; he was (so



O God, whose Name is excellent in all the Earth, and thy Glory above the Heavens; who on this day didst miraculously preserve our Church and State from the secret Contrivance and hellish Malice of Popish Conspirators; and on this day also didst begin to give us a mighty Deliverance from the open Tyranny and oppression of the same Cruel and Blood-thirsty Enemies: We blese and adore thy glorious Majesty, as for the Former, so for this thy Late marvellous Loving Kindness to our Church and Nation, in the Preservation of our Religion and Liberties. And we humbly Pray, that the devout Sense of this thy repeated Mercy, may renew and increase in us a Spirit of Love and thankfulness to thee its only Author: a Spirit of peaceable Submission and Obedience to our Gracious Sovereign, whom thou madest the blessed Instrument of it: and a Spirit of fervent zeal for our holy Religion, which now again thou hast so wonderfully Rescued and Established a Blessing to us, and our Posterity. And this we beg for Jesus Christ his sake, Amen.

to speak) the ‘radicalised jihadist’ – the bomber caught red-handed guarding the 36 barrels in the basement of the House of Lords.

Today’s ‘Guy on the bonfire’ might lead us to imagine that Fawkes and the others were burnt at the stake – but no, actually they were hung, drawn and quartered. Aren’t you glad we don’t have to re-enact that on the school field on November 5th? (The nearest we get is when some of the stuffing falls out of the guy’s waistcoat!) And it’s as well that we don’t delve into the real identity of the guy; it was in fact the Pope. It is a vestige of 17th century anti-Catholic sentiment, but a cause for embarrassment for Christians today. That sentiment was institutionalised in the passing of a law making November 5 an obligatory day of national observance and adding a special service to the Prayer Book, complete with its own special prayer thanking God for his miraculous preservation ‘from the secret contrivance and hellish malice of Popish conspirators’ (picture). These measures survived until the mid 19th century.

Christianity doesn’t have a ‘jihad’ peg on which terrorists can hang their murderous hats, yet murderous acts and hatred have still blemished its history – clear evidence that perversity lies universally in the human heart. The best antidote is

the sort of personal relationship with Jesus Christ in which we each strive to follow his example – and it’s impossible to imagine him wearing a suicide vest or being the point man with 36 barrels of murderous gunpowder.

Mike Procter (LLM)

Church Services in November 2017

in St Mary's, Swaffham Prior unless otherwise indicated



Sunday 5 November, All Saints' Day

11am Matins

Sunday 12 November, Remembrance Sunday

10.50am Remembrance Service, with Scouts etc

Sunday 19 November, Second Sunday before Advent

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 26 November, Christ the King

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am All Age Benefice Service – Lode

RENEW Church Services in November 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 before Morning Worship from 10.10 am.

Sunday 5th November. Morning Worship. 10.30am

(Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 12th November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Followed by shared lunch

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

Sunday 19th November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 26th November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 26th November. 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

Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary November 2017

Mon	20	Crier Copy Deadline WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	21	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	22	
Thu	23	
Fri	24	
Sat	25	
Sun	26	
Mon	27	
December		
Wed	2	Christmas Fayre, 10am-4pm, Mandeville Hall, Burwell
Dec	3	Advent by Candlelight, 4.30pm, St Mary's and St Cyriac's
	31	

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