



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLII Number 4

April 2018



Editorial

Someone having once described our back garden as “functional”, we thought we were King & Queen of Junk but as we will see from this month’s edition, we have been singularly trumped by Our Allotment Correspondent! What a schmozzle, but we’re very glad to see that the pen is mightier than the fisticuff, and at least some things are being put to rights now, with the PC rescinding what seems to be an astoundingly unfair eviction.

Many thanks to the kind soul who came to the rescue of a poor little Muntjac whose piteous screams could be heard all over the village when in the early hours of a February morning it inadvertently got its head stuck in the bars of the gate to the Children’s Park. No marks to spouse (“it’s squirrels fighting...”) but full-marks to Bob Nunn, who even though invalidated out at the moment, did manage to get out of bed and observe. Who was it? Please tell us someone.

Colour this month readers, and we can see the painting for which last month’s Cover Sedge Cutter was drawn, along with another by the same artist of the Ferry Crossing at Upware. We never knew you had to go by ferry



Fen Snowman

Don’t forget Village Hall Birthday Party, but we don’t know what time, and we have to go to press! Happy Easter All! **Caroline Matheson**

PS We have just received a letter concerning Swaffham Prior Primary School, but it was anonymous. The Crier always needs to know who correspondence is from even if (at our discretion) we occasionally publish under pseudonyms, although this is usually reserved for humorous contributions. Please could the sender get in touch? Eds

Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	6
Bon Mot	11
Julie Nunn’s Recipes	18
Cllr Alderson	18
News from Wicken Fen	22
Bottisham Patients	23
Ophir	23
BVC Courses	25
CROSSWORD	26
WI	28
Photo Club	28
Village Gardeners	29
Henry Brown	32
PC Notes	34
Pastoral Letter	36
Church Services	37
Renew	38
Freecycle	39
Diary & Clubs	40

News, Views & Reviews

Gracie, the Spanish Wonderdog	10
Saturdays in St Mary’s	15
Snowmen Fishing	14
Scouts Giant Igloo	20
HNDU District Heating	30
Nesting Swan	31

What’s On

Flag Flying	8
Village Hall Birthday Party	9
Village Hall AGM	11
Ringin’ for Peace	12
The Gay Bulleid Award	13
Annual Village Assembly	14
Swaffham Prior Feast	16
Poppies for Remembrance	17
Spuds in Buckets	18
Archaeological Finds	19
Bulbeck Summer Theatre	26
POP Litter Pick	35

Situations Vacant

Lifeguard	24
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For Hire

Chairs and Tables	33
-------------------	----

Cover Picture: WI planting snowdrops? by Camille Pissarro



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors

Lent Lunches

Three Lent Lunches were held in homes in Swaffham Prior this spring in support of women and children in our link parish of Mara, Tanzania. Thank you to hosts, Kate, Anne and Hilary, for providing warm hospitality and a variety of delicious home-made soups. The convivial occasions have raised around £400 for the Rehema project which works with women in poverty, and in particular this money will go towards funding a newly established playgroup. Grateful thanks to everyone for supporting this cause. If you would like to add to this total please contact noy-eshome@tiscali.co.uk or 743864 for details of how to donate. Thank you.

Dee Noyes

Dear Editors,

QUIZ NIGHT

The Spring quiz is over, that's if you can call it spring what with the weather we have been having. We hope everyone enjoyed it and will come to our next one, which is on the 6th October, so please put it in your diaries. Qizzimodo were the winners, although there were only two of them, oh to be knowledgeable, congratulations to them. Thank you to Janet, who was our quiz mistress and to April who organised the raffle. Thanks to all who donated prizes and to Linda, Sheila, Shirley and Mandy who helped in the kitchen and organised the food.

The money raised was £280 for St. Mary's Church. Once again, everyone is much appreciated and Jenny and I thank you.

Lynne and Jenny

Dear Editors,

Art at the Village Hall Anybody?

The Cambridge Open Studios is supported in the village and there is a number of studios and spaces open during the July weekends. There will be a number open this summer again, including the church of St Cyriac & St Julitta used as a fabulous setting for local art.

However, the village hall is also a potential venue and a small group of local artists are looking for other interested artists and craftspeople to jointly book, set up and run the hall as an 'open studio', we would also be interested to hear from people interested in organising teas/cakes.

If you are a budding artist thinking about the open studios format but don't want to or can't offer a venue individually, why not join us at the village hall.

For an informal chat, please contact Mike (sceloporus.mike@yahoo.co.uk); or Deborah (deborah@bramblecottagecrafts.co.uk)

Mike Barker

Dear Clerk,

Allotment Eviction

I note that at the December Parish Council meeting the council decided to cancel my allotment lease. Mrs Kirby and I have tidied the plot and removed our belongings; I hope that this is acceptable. I enclose a cheque for £10.00, payment for the period 2016 —2017.

I received two letters from the Council during 2017 regarding the allotment. The first was dated 30 July 2017 and was an invoice for the annual rent, accompanied by the new Terms and Conditions of Tenancy agreement. I am afraid that I put the letter to one side and forgot about it. I understand that the Council forgot to pay all allotment rent monies for the period 2016 - 2017 into the Council's bank account, so effectively no rent was collected for any allotment for that period.

The second letter, from Steve Kent-Phillips and dated 16 November 2017, set out three requirements, all of which we met:

1. The Council receives my rent with 14 days - I sent a letter to SKP containing a cheque.

2. The Council receives my signed Allotment Tenancy Agreement within 14 days - this was with my letter to SKP.

3. Confirmation that my allotment has been maintained in good order in accordance with the agreement. Mrs Kirby met with SKP, within the 14 day period, and outlined the corrective action that we had taken and asked if he considered this to be acceptable. SKP replied that he had not had a chance to visit the allotments recently.

I understand that Councillor Mike Malster had expressed concern to another councillor that growth from my plot and the path adjoining my plot was creeping towards his plot (contrary to condition 4 of the Terms and Conditions). Somebody, not I, applied strong weed-killer to part of my plot and to the path. Applying weed-killer to somebody's allotment is not an approved measure detailed in the Terms and Conditions document (and is contrary to condition 2). Applying weed-killer to the path is contrary to condition 13.

The weed-killer was applied without any discussion, consultation, notice, or authority; it seems a bit underhand to me.

The process for eviction from the allotment is set out in condition 19 of the Terms and Conditions and includes: site inspections, two warning letters, details concerning any breach of the conditions, agreement on corrective work, two compliance warning periods of four weeks and then two weeks.

The SKP letter 16/11/2017 is not a warning letter that supports eviction under condition 19. There is no mention of any inspections, or the results of inspections; there is no mention of any breach of any condition; the word 'warning' is not used; there is no four week warning period; the three requirements set out in the letter do not refer specifically to any of the terms and conditions.

It is not clear to me why I did not receive any warning letters from the Council, or notice of four weeks and two weeks, or any agreement regarding corrective work, as mandated by condition 19, prior to eviction.

Condition 19 states that visual inspections will be undertaken. I believe that an inspection was done, however I was not invited to observe or participate in the inspection; I have seen no evidence, report, or record, of the results of the inspection or inspections - there is no detail in the council minutes or in The Crier I do not know who carried out the inspections, or when. This seems to me to be secretive, and does not demonstrate the openness that councillors are committee to.

The allotment inspection will have shown, and recorded, where other plot holders are in breach of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

For many years there were two entrances to the allotments: a small gate on the by-pass side and a larger gate in the south-western corner of the allotments providing access from the village side. A few years ago when MM took on the tenancy of the south-western allotment, he blocked off the larger gate between the allotments and the graveyard; it remains blocked (contrary to condition 2). So, for a few years plot holders and visitors to the graveyard would remove one of the fence panels, to the annoyance of some councillors at the time (one councillor told me, while replacing the panel, 'this is a fence or it is a gate, and it is not a gate').

MM also blocked off and annexed the wide green path running from the blocked gate, between his south-western allotment and the graveyard fence, by building a large metal and timber compost clamp on the path (contrary to conditions 2 and 4).

MM has also extended the boundaries of his allotments to include sections of the central allotment path, which once followed the width and line of the central gravel path in the graveyard (condition 2).

MM has extended the boundaries of his north-eastern plot to include a section of the central path beside the by-pass gate - it

is used as a general rubbish store (conditions 2 and 9).

MM has the two largest plots on the allotments; at a time when there is increasing pressure on green space in the village it is not clear to me why MM should annex green paths belonging to the village for his own benefit.

Several months ago MM placed several items of rubbish in the hedge on the north-eastern side of the allotments, bordering the by-pass verge. The rubbish has been there so long that the hedge has grown up through it (condition 9).

The council set a precedent at the December meeting regarding the eviction of plot holders, it is this:

•Eviction will not follow the process set out in the Terms and Conditions of Tenancy agreement (as shown in condition 19).

•The council will not issue formal warning letters to plot holders in breach.

•There will be no notice periods.

•The council will not set out formally the details of any bread to individual plot-holders, and will not specify formally what corrective action is required.

•Plot holders will not be invited to inspections and the results will not be provided to them.

•The council will not debate or take a vote concerning the eviction of any tenant, and will not consider representations regarding any corrective action undertaken or any other mitigation; once a breach is identified eviction is automatic.

We can be confident that the council will apply with rigour this precedent to any other plot holder currently in breach, including plot holders who are also council members, and that green footpaths will be restored.

AR Kirby



Dear Clerk

.....It may be of historical and perhaps even entertainment interest that the Bishop of Bath and Wells introduced allotments in 1807 to the village of Willingham when he was a humble rector there. He went on to expand this massively (100 acres) at Wells when he was elevated to a position where he could direct such things. So Cambridgeshire has a fairly ancient and pioneering history in the allotment world of granting the use of land for ordinary folk for practical purposes.

That being said, I found it hard to understand when a lady I knew who used to live in the village told me about 5 years ago while she was still living here that she had been very disappointed to be told when she had asked, that she could not have an allotment although she knew the person she had asked had two.

Mark Lewinsky



The Bishop of Bath & Wells introduced allotments into Willingham

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The March PC meeting was a real humdinger. Two members were absent. Please read on, and remember that if you are more than eighty you have all the time in the world.

All went ahead swimmingly and they had just reached the 'ECDC Report' when Allen walked in. Again he complimented ECDC on still balancing the budget without any rate increase and in spite of the government grant being cut from £659K to £354K for this coming year. Paul L asked how ECDC continues to achieve this while so many other councils of all colours are suffering badly with increased costs and responsibilities and continued government cuts.

Allen said he would find out and come back with the answer. See his report with facts about Turners of Fordham. They employ over 1,000 people, most of whom are local, plus about 500 seasonal Eastern European workers when needed.



Sue Giles had written on behalf of the Charities asking for funding for a detailed inspection of the Youth Club Hut. This is something the PC had debated and decided on before. As the inspection costs were being read out Steve interrupted with the news that he had just put in a bid for a £350K rebuild of the Hut. ECDC had made a last minute appeal for projects costing between £100K and £3M to use the CIL money that will be coming from the Soham and Ely new developments. Steve submitted it just before the deadline. Too good an opportunity to miss. Some knowledgeable person who had looked at the building said it was just a large chicken hut and that it "should be knocked it down and rebuilt in brick". They were asked by Robin Mathieson to comment on his letter about High street verges which appeared in the March *Crier*. The PC agreed notices would not help.

There were no objections to the slightly amended planning application for Sterling Farm. And all were happy with the Stocks Farm House proposed changes once they were assured the "yoga studio" was not a commercial venture. The 2,000 snowdrops have arrived for planting - 200 for the School, 600 for PoP, and 1,200 for the WI. (*See the front cover.*)

Steve has had no further requests for the final dollop of CIL money of about £4,500. This left him with the request to refurbish the benches in the play area and also the provision of a new one. Quotes will be obtained. There was also a request from the Village Hall to amend some of the electrics, add LED lights, and also some safety factors. They also applied for some work on the rear windows. Both Peter and Paul L raised difficulties. Steve with a smile assured Peter that the Village Hall met all the criteria. Paul L wanted to know the financial savings to be made by introducing LED lights. He thought this should be essential information before any grant is made. Even Paul the Clerk intervened to explain about the time and expense saved by not having to change the bulbs regularly. But the two Ps were still not satisfied. "Isn't there anything else the money can be spent on? "Surely there must be something else in the village". "What about Fairview Grove" was the last desperate throw. Steve had been answering all queries with great patience, and even forbearance, and he waited his time before delivering the killer punch. "Should we

give the money back? The final decision has to be made NOW". All opposition crumpled at this point. The person sitting in the Public Gallery next to me whispered "They must be thinking 'Damn it! We'll have to let the Village Hall have the money after all.'" It was agreed that any remaining money would be put towards a Youth Hut inspection.

"Damn it! We'll have to let the Village Hall have the [CIL] money after all"

Phew! That took a very long time. But it was the easy one, because we next moved on to ALLOTMENTS.

A bit of background. At the December meeting it was decided to evict Alex Kirby from his allotment. Alex sent a letter to the PC, dated 27th February, contesting the legality of this eviction. This is reproduced in full elsewhere in this *Crier* - **this is essential reading**. Meantime at the February meeting Linda Kirby had asked the PC to inspect the condition of the allotments (hereinafter referred as A). This was completed and Paul L, a seasoned A holder, read out an excellent 4 page report which he had written. First he laid on the table four photographs, taken by Alex and presented to the PC, which showed the "rubbish" surrounding Mike's double A. These remarkable pictures are reproduced elsewhere in this *Crier*. The first two pages of Paul's report contained a detailed inspection of the A, and clearly there were many things amiss. Pages 3 and 4 covered Recommendations and General Observations. It was agreed that the PC make an inspection twice a year.

I have not seen a copy of the report but there had been 'land creep' where people have stolen bits of pathways, untidy rubbish, etc etc. Paul L said the correct plots and paths should be marked out with pegs and string. Peter thought this over the top and wondered why they could not just have a site plan. Paul explained that some of the corrections were so large that a string line was essential. The idea caught on and Steve, Sandra and Peter all offered to help Paul L. In fact they became quite excited and made it sound as if they were going on a trip to the seaside with balls of string in their pockets.

The reading of Paul L's report and the following discussion all took an extremely long time and I wondered if Alex and Linda were getting worried, or even frustrated, that their own concerns were not being discussed.

Even though Alex's letter had been circulated on line very few members had bothered to print it out. So Paul the Clerk was asked to read it, and this he did very well. John asked Mike for his comments as Alex had made observations about Mike's allotment. Mike said he couldn't remember all the details of Alex's letter, but from memory he couldn't recall complaining about the state of Alex's A to other PC members, that the rubbish on his own A was not rubbish but just bits of wood and cardboard he was saving for a special purpose, and that the compost heap he had on one of the paths was there to keep down the brambles. Time was also spent discussing whether the hedge between the A and the bypass was the responsibility of the PC or CCC. This could be a lively tussle.

Then there was a very active discussion whether the necessary warning letters had been sent out. Peter said the fact that there were no copies in the PC records

does not mean they were not sent. He is correct to say that; often, just because you cannot find any evidence does not mean that something does not exist. Steve said this was not so with the PC records. In any case, someone said, it was too bad, and they must do better next time. Paul L said they had no obligation to evict all the A holders who do not comply because obviously some A holders were a bit dodgy.

Peter, always a stickler for facts, recalled the December meeting when he had acted as Chairman. He said he had not realised that two warning letters had to be sent before an eviction. Steve, acting Clerk, said that Alex had returned his form and signed the agreement. Peter asked Mike, knowing his concern, whether Alex had met the terms of the Agreement, and Mike said “No”. Peter then said we should send the eviction notice to Alex. At long last, after about 35 minutes, John asked Alex for any comments. Alex reminded the meeting, referring to the PC minutes, that at the October meeting it had been acknowledged that the A reminder letters had not been sent out, neither had they been sent out in November, and yet he had been “sacked” during the December meeting which would not have allowed time for the two warning letters mentioned in the Agreement. This Agreement (a copy of the Ely allotment agreement) was new and had been introduced at the behest of Mike who was concerned about the state of some of the allotments, especially that of Alex – which is why Peter asked the question at the December meeting.

“We haven’t done right and we should rescind the eviction”



The discussion still dribbled around various possibilities until Sandra cut through it all and said “We haven’t done right and we should rescind the eviction.” Someone said we just say it was a bit of a muddle at the time and we just say “Sorry”. Steve said it was complicated because the A had been given to someone else (fortunately no work done on it). Sandra retorted that the PC was not in a position to give it away, and proposed that they withdraw the eviction order and offer it back with apologies. Peter seconded this proposal and it was passed unanimously.

John wondered if the PC had other “missing links”, to which Peter added, with a smile and a chuckle, “before we stumble again?” The meeting closed at 9.30.

Alastair Everitt

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

Village
Hall's
150th
Birthday
Party

THIS READING ROOM AND COTTAGE
WAS ERECTED BY MISS MARIANNE
ALLIX, M ROBERT AND MISS JULIANA
ALLIX FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
INHABITANTS OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR
APRIL 1868

2 to 4 on Saturday 7th April

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to invite everyone to celebrate this momentous event at a pop-up birthday party with cream teas, cake and bubbly.



If anyone has any historical images or information about the Hall or its earlier uses, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact: Jenny Brand (01638 742161 or jenny.brand26@gmail.com) or Lynne Horsfall (lynne@emmandell.co.uk)



Gracie—the Spanish Wonderdog

Lost on the Fen for 9 days

Spanish Dog Gracie was purchased from a Rescue Centre in Spain by her Burwell owners. But after a few days, she slipped the her lead and escaped out onto the Fen, for whence she did not return for nine days, out and about all the way through that atrocious snow, storm and icy spell. In her desperate attempts to find the Costa from whence she came, she was seen just about everywhere, from the A14 (where the police were called) to Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Fordham, Wicken Fen, Horningsea, Quy Fen and Lode. Everybody was trying to catch her. But her owners began to give up hope of ever succeeding, increasingly fearing that she could not possibly survive much longer under such conditions.

So, two assistants from the Spanish Rescue Home set out to drive to England, bearing with them Gracie's special doggy friend from home. Stuck in the snow crossing the Pyrenees, they had to spend a night in their car in France. By the time they arrived here, Gracie had finally given up her bid for freedom: the British owners had just managed to recapture her.

After a short spell at the Vet's with a touch of pneumonia, it was decided that Gracie really would like to go home, and off she went with her Spanish carers and her old canine pal. What a dog!

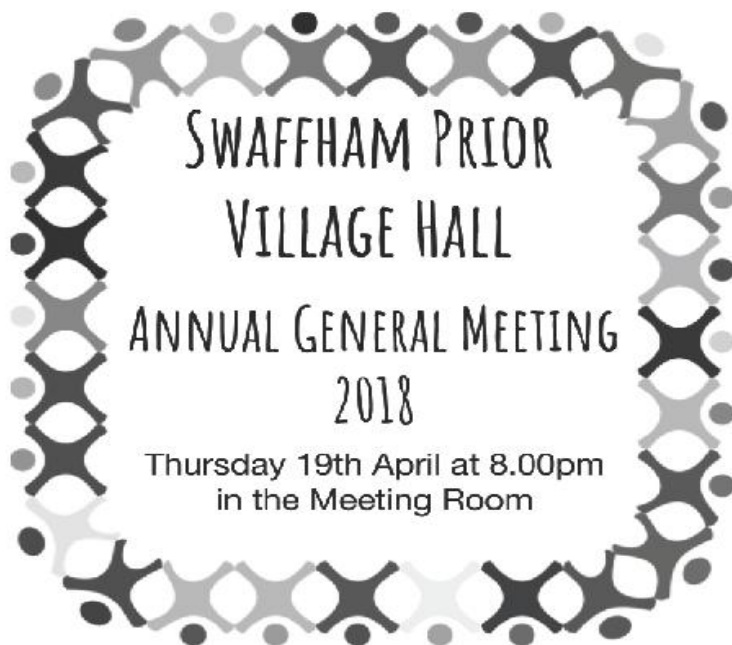
Easter Baskets

Beavers and School garden club have been busy making Easter baskets with primroses, small mossy stone caves and three little crosses. They are on display at the school until the children plan to carry the baskets up to the church porch prior to the end of term church service. The baskets and branches with eggs will be on display over Easter as you enter the church.

Sue Wade

**See these
delightful
Children's Easter
baskets in the
Church Porch**





If you would like to know more about the running of the Hall, and future developments, or have any suggestions, please come to this open meeting.

Also, if you want to be more involved in the life of the Village, please consider joining the small, friendly, hard-working group of volunteers who try to provide a pleasant, modern, well-equipped venue for the benefit of all members of the local community.

For more information, contact:

<i>Alan Durrant:</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>01638 810606</i>	<i>alanmdurrant@sky.com</i>
<i>Mike Carrington:</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>01638 741659</i>	<i>mcarrington@me.com</i>

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY SIX

“I do sort of feel that women are much more fractured on the wheel of life than maybe we were 40 years ago.”

Anne Robinson (1944 -)

Ringling for Peace

Armistice 100



BATTLE'S OVER



A NATION'S TRIBUTE
11TH NOVEMBER 2018
100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

BE PART OF HISTORY

Church Bells will ring out & Big Ben will strike to mark the centenary of Armistice Day. Bell ringers will mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. COME AND LEARN TO RING FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. See details below:



St Mary's Church, Swaffham Bulbeck
Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.15pm
Contact: Lesley Boyle Tel 07545 570865
E mail: lhmb Boyle@gmail.com

Ringin Remembers

When the church bells rang out on 11th November 1920 they announced the end of the most catastrophic war the world had yet seen. At the time the bells were at the heart of the community marking events of great significance and communicating to people long before modern technology connected us. They had been silenced throughout the course of the war.

Many bellringers joined the war effort and many lost their lives. Just after the war the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers wrote to all bell towers to compile the Roll of Honour. At that time 1077 men were reported as lost. More recent research has uncovered many more who died in service. In total some 1400 bell ringers lost their lives in the Great War. The updated Rolls of Honour take the physical form of beautiful vellum hand lettered, leather bound books, but the data is available online here – <https://cccbr.org.uk/rolls-of-honour/> - with searchable links that click through to any Commonwealth War Graves Commission database entries. Almost 30 ringers from the Ely Diocesan Association lost their lives, which must have had an enormous impact, given that there are only c. 140 members today.

To commemorate these 1400 bell ringers who died in WW1 a nationwide campaign is being run by the Dept of Communities and Local Govt and the Central Council of Church Bellringers to recruit 1400 new bell ringers, linking together past, present and future. On 11 November 2018, 100 years since Armistice, bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country. Big Ben will also strike at 11am. You could be part of that – get in touch with Lesley (lhmb Boyle@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more or experience a taster session of bellringing.

THE GAYBULLEID AWARD

Now the Gay Bullied Award has been safely re-established it only requires a short reminder about this. Every village and community is dependent on those people who are active and make a contribution, in some small or large way, to maintain the good heart of the community. There are only two rules – the person must live in the village, and it cannot be awarded twice to the same person within five years.

It is a kind of local Oscar, a small local acknowledgement. So, discuss it with your friends and neighbours. Think who has made some kind of contribution to the Village, whether from the Scouts, the Church, the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council, the Youth Club – one could go on and on. The person who receives the greatest number of votes receives the award. As simple as that.

All names, with a short reason, must be submitted in writing to Sandra Gynn by 30 April. Her address is 30 High Street, Swaffham Prior.

The award winner will receive on loan for one year, an original painting of the windmill, by Ophir Catling, our resident poet, who happens to live on the Isle of Skye. **It will be presented at the Annual Village Assembly to be held in May.**

SWAFFHAM PRIOR ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 16th MAY 2018

IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

AGENDA

Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Approval of Minutes of Meeting dated 17th May 2017

**County Council Report
District Council Report**

Parish Council Report

Additional Village Reports including:

The School & School Governors

Youth Club

Beaver, Cub & Scout Groups

Burwell Tigers Football Club

CIL Monies

The Community Land Trust

Village Hall Management

Committee

Parochial Charities

*Swaffham Prior Community Car
Scheme*

Open Question Time



Snowmen fishing down on

Saturdays in St Mary's

Building on the success of the Pop-up Teashops held in the churches in recent years, we have decided to hold various informal events in St Mary's on Saturdays throughout the summer. We noticed how much those coming along to the teashops liked to stay and chat, and how people of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new people in the village. While we cannot promise cake every time, we hope there will be something of interest on offer to tempt you into the church building or churchyard, even if it is just to play dominoes or read the paper!

We will have tea, soft drinks and biscuits for you to help yourself and something going on for various age groups. Quite what that will be we don't yet know, but we are hoping that volunteers will offer to share their interests or skills.... Don't be shy; please get in touch! Are you a musician who could perform some background music? An artist who could lead a sketching group? An expert on wild flowers or birds? A photographer, local historian, needle-worker? A card player looking for others to compete with; a cook with recipes to share? A dancer or sportsperson who could coach others? An IT specialist who could give advice? We want to keep everything low-key and in so far as possible free, so we are open to suggestions of what should happen in these slots. (Possible activities so far suggested include brass-rubbing, photo booth, talk on the WW1 windows, beetle drive...)

We are very keen to make the church building welcoming to all in the village – it is your church! Not everyone is able or comfortable to come along on a Sunday and we don't have services there each week, but we do want all in the village to feel that the church is an important part of Swaffham Prior. Please pop in at any time – the building is open during daylight hours – and please do come along on one of the Saturdays below to see what is going on. More details in future editions of the Crier, the noticeboard outside the church and village Facebook page...

Proposed dates:

May 19

June 2; June 16 - Beetle Drive; June 30

Sunday July 15 - Strawberry Teas; July 28

August 11; August 25

September 8; September 22



**Dee Noyes noyeshome@tiscali.co.uk;
743864**

n the Yellow Brick Road

Swaffham Prior Feast



Saturday 26th May

Attractions will Include:

Beer Tent	Gurning
Bouncy Castle	Cream Teas
Bric-a-brac	Egg Throwing
Barbecue	Treasure Hunt
Bowling	Ice Cream

The Village Hall Committee is desperate for your help:

- Suggesting ideas for new, fun games
- Planning and setting up the Feast
- Providing a bottle for the Bottle Stall - Donating bric-a-brac
- Helping to run a stall for part of the afternoon
- Potting up some seedlings for the Plant Stall
- Baking a cake for the Cake Stall

Please contact: Mike Carrington (01638 741659 or mcarrington@me.com) or Peter Rand (01638 741960 or perand@btinternet.com)

Also for your diary:

The Autumn Show will take place on Saturday 15th September, so buy some seeds and get planting. All the usual categories - see www.swaffhampriorvillagehall.co.uk for more detail.

Poppies for Remembrance - Workshops



If you would like to get started on knitting or crocheting poppies for this year's Remembrance Day (see last month's article) we have three workshops. These are for anyone who would like to participate, whether you can knit or crochet already or particularly if you would like to learn. We are aiming to produce 5,000 poppies, so the more people the better!

Tuesday 3rd April 8pm - 10pm, Swaffham Bulbeck Black Horse

Saturday 28th April 10am - 12 noon, Lode Church (Parish Room)

Tuesday 15th May 8pm - 10pm, Swaffham Bulbeck Black Horse

We are also looking for black buttons between 1cm and 2cm diameter, and donations towards the cost of yarn and other materials. Any excess will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

If you are interested please contact:

Veronica Stephenson vron.stephenson@gmail.com 01223 813 555

Kate Child catherine.child.prior@gmail.com 01638 743983

FB: angleseyinstitches: www.angleseyinstitches.wordpress.com



Spuds in Buckets - 2018!

Beat your neighbours in the great village competition 😊

Just £5 will buy you a bucket and a spud! Choose red (Desiree) or white (Jelly), or both! It is then up to you to grow the heaviest yield of potatoes in your bucket to be weighed at the Harvest Show and Dog Show on Saturday 15th September.

Call Mandy Kingsmill on 07796 091855 or contact kingsmills@btconnect.com to sign up.
In aid of St. Mary's Church

The Rules:

1. Spuds and buckets will be available for collection up to 20th April
2. Spuds to be grown in the buckets in whatever manner the grower chooses
3. Spuds and buckets should be delivered to the Village Hall at 2.30pm on Saturday 15th September for the grand weigh-in
4. The adult and child (under 16 at that date) with the heaviest yield of potatoes from their undisturbed bucket will be declared the winners of 2018's competition
5. The judge's decision will be final
6. The winners will be announced at the Harvest Show and in the Swaffham Crier



Julie Nunn's Easter Recipe

Spring Chicken Casserole

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
1 leek finely sliced
8 chicken thighs, skin removed and pesto
2 tbsp flour
300ml white wine
400ml chicken stock
500gr new potatoes halved if large
175gr spring greens
150gr garden peas
3 tbsp basil pesto
Small bunch of mint leaves, finely chopped



Method

1. In a large hob-proof casserole, heat 1 tbsp of oil and saute the leek for 5 mins. Then add the chicken thighs and brown on all sides. Stir in the flour and cook for 1 min before adding the white wine, bubble for 5 mins. Add the chicken stock and new potatoes, cover, bring to a simmer and gently cook for 25 mins. Add spring greens and simmer for 3 mins and then stir in the peas. Season and garnish with the mint leaves.

Serves 4 people



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

In the recent bad weather, it is important to use the salt bins in our ward to help keep the roads clear. If any bins need refilling, they will do so if the parish council notifies the highways department.

During February I attended a Swaffham Internal Drainage Board Meeting, also a planning committee meeting and a Full Council meeting where we passed our budget for the 2018/19 year.

It was very pleasing that we were able to freeze our element of Council Tax for a further year. What is particularly significant is that this has been



achieved despite a reduction in Government grant from £659K in 2017/18 to £354K in 2018/19.

Financial challenges lie ahead, but the indisputable fact is, we are currently outperforming all of our neighbouring authorities.

On March 2nd as part of our policy of working with and understanding the needs of our districts businesses we visited Turners Food Packing Plant at Fordham. They supply all of the major supermarkets in the UK and they process 100 million punnets of citrus fruits such as grape/limes/oranges and pineapple a year.

They employ over 1000 workers, most of whom are local, plus about 500 seasonal Eastern European workers when needed.

Allen Alderson



**“PIECING TOGETHER THE PAST”
EXAMINING AND HANDLING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS
Andrew Peachey MCifA**

**7.15pm for 7.30pm Thursday 24th May 2018
Reach Village Centre**

*An opportunity to hear about artefacts recovered from
archaeological excavations and learn about the differences
in pottery and tools throughout the ages.*

**Adults £7.50 including a glass of wine
Children (under 16 years) £2.50 including soft drinks**

**Ticket/s: Hilary Fielding (01638 741853), Claire Halpin (07834 740881)
Liz Tabecki (07944 235838)**

Claire.halpin@ascontracts.co.uk

To ensure a place please book in advance



All proceeds to the Reach Riders Group (24Acres Project)



As the beast from the east and storm Emma left a good fall of snow, the village Scouts made an igloo big enough for a man to stand in. Team work and hot chocolate where both needed to achieve building this huge igloo.

Neil and Nathan
1st Swaffham
Prior Scouts



Sedge Cutting in Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire - Early morning

Robert Walker Macbeth R.A. 1848-1910 Scottish Painter, etcher, water colourist, specializing in pastoral landscape and rustic genre. He studied in the school of the Royal Scottish Academy. From 1870 to 1880 he spent long periods in the fenlands of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire painting scenes of field labourers such as " The Sedge Cutter in Wicken Fen", " A Lincolnshire Gang " and " Potato Harvest in the Fens". He would make quick preparatory sketches and later large oil paintings in his studio. The rural subjects he captured while travelling through the fens were to feature continually through the remainder of Macbeth's career. It is wonderful to think that in 1870s Macbeth must have sat on the bank over the river Cam opposite the Upware "No Hurry Pub" drawing a quick black ink painting of the lambs being herded into the chain ferry. ("Crossing the Ferry" drawing in black and white.) He made a marvellous visual record of that time when the Upware crossing was so important to local people and farmers to take animals to market. *Sue Wade*

Lambs crossing at the Ferry Inn



News from Wicken Fen & Anglesey Abbey

Both Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen will be running **Cadbury's Easter Egg Hunts** over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend, Friday 30 March – Monday 2 April. Trails are £2.50 per child (normal admission also applies). You can just turn-up at Wicken, but advance booking is required for Anglesey Abbey. Please see the individual property websites for further details.

Children's events at Wicken over the Easter school holidays includes **Pond Dipping & Minibeast Hunt** on 3 & 10 April (age 3+) **Den Building** on Wednesday 4 April (age 3+), **Nature Crafts** Friday 6 April (age 3+), **Story Time – Adventures of Peter Rabbit** on Monday 9 April (age 3-7), **Spring Safari** on Wednesday 11 April (age 5+), **Go Wild – Nature Detectives** on Friday 13 April (age 8+).

Kerry Devine will be showcasing her debut album '**Away From Mountains**' as part of an immersive audio and visual art installation inspired by the landscape and people of the Fens on Saturday 7 April at 7.30pm. The performance which features a mixture of photography, film, sound and art focusses on the female legacy of the Fens, from the dark past of witch hunts that took place in isolated communities, to the role of women in agriculture and those pushing for change in a conservative rural area. Tickets for the event are a bargain at £8 – please see the Wicken website for ticketing information.

Spring has well & truly arrived on the Fen – the first Konik foal & Highland calf were born in mid-March, and our summer migrants have steadily been arriving back over the past few weeks; although the call of the Cuckoo echoing around the fen is still eagerly awaited.

One of the true highlights of the natural world at this time of year is the dawn chorus. If you're up for an early start (4.45am), our expert Rangers will be leading **Dawn Chorus Walks** on Saturday & Sunday, 5 & 6 May. Looking slightly further ahead, Professor Nick Davies, one of the world's leading cuckoo experts, will be leading guided **Cuckoo & Warbler Walks** on Saturday 26 May at 10.15 & 1.45pm, as part of our **Cuckoo & Warbler Festival**, which runs throughout May & June. Please book early for these events as they are sure to sell-out quickly.

If you've got some free time on your hands, how about volunteering for the National Trust. Anglesey Abbey are holding a volunteer recruitment fair over the weekend of 21 – 22 April, from 11am -3pm each day.– please drop into the Robinson Room in the main Visitor Centre to find more about volunteering opportunities currently available.

And finally --- we're about to take delivery of a Fen Harvester, which will have a massive influence on our ability to undertake and complete our annual cutting regime on Sedge Fen. A regular cutting programme is vital to enable many of our rare wetland plants to survive, but a succession of wet summers have often created conditions unsuitable for our existing equipment. Although a major financial commitment, the harvester can easily handle our challenging wetland conditions. As seems to be the norm these days, we're holding a naming competition! Entrees include the mundane, Harvey, to the predictable, Munchy McMunchface, to Crunchy Munchy Teeny Weeny Superfen Machiney – suggestions to mar-tin.lester@nationaltrust.org.uk please. *Howard Cooper*

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Practice Newsletter: The Spring edition is available on the Practice website and in the surgery. The newsletter contains useful information about the Patient Transport Service, diabetes, family carers, contraception, self care, over the counter medication and details of a talk on Alzheimer's in Great Wilbraham Memorial Hall on 8 May at 7pm, so do take a look at this letter on line or pick up a copy from reception.

Red Bucket: We are looking to raise funds to purchase a SurgeryPod for the Practice. This is a machine designed to give patients more quality face to face time with their doctor. It is a secure computer system which has the capability to accurately record patient data and take readings such as weight and blood pressure measurements and send directly to the GP, thus allowing more time during the appointment for discussion with the patient. This is an expensive piece of equipment and costs around £5000.

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

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 6 April, 11 and 23 May, 8 and 20 June 2018, Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 April at 7pm at the surgery to which all patients are invited. Red to Green will be giving a short talk about their future plans.

Next meeting Thursday May 24 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Artistic Temper -ament in Bloomsbury?

The artist and her luckless spouse
Lived, for a while, in the same house;
Surrounded by her paintings for,
She painted 'pictures', by the score.

They used to hang, on every wall,
Until no space was left, at all.
Her spouse would hang them, in a frame,
And noticed they were all the same.

No bowls of fruit nor vase of flowers
Nor landscapes; which would have
taken hours;
No! These were abstracts, just de-
signs;

Of random shapes and squiggly lines.

She's left him now, and lives "in town".
She said he hung them,

Upside down

Ophir.

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre



Is proud to present a double bill of entertainment in 2018 - Gilbert & Sullivan's enduring operetta 'H.M.S. Pinafore' together with 'Cox and Box', a one-act comic opera with libretto by F.

C. Burnand and music by Sir Arthur Sullivan. This was Sullivan's first successful comic opera.

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW; dates as follows:

Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £8

Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £9

Friday 15th June 2018 at 7.30pm - £10

Saturday 16th June 2018 at 2.30pm - £7 and 7.30pm - £10.

Tickets are available via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07541 554845. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

Gilbert and Sullivan's 'H.M.S. Pinafore' will be set in 1918, to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War. Sailors and Wrens keep H.M.S. Pinafore ship-shape while their Captain seeks to marry his daughter Josephine to the ruler of the King's Navy. She would rather marry the common sailor of her dreams. In true G&S fashion no one is quite who they seem but in the end all are happy with their lot.

'Cox and Box' is pure Victorian farce/melodrama, telling the tale of two gentlemen who both rent what turns out to be the same room from Mr. Bouncer, an ex-military man. One sleeps during the day, the other at night, but they occasionally meet on the stairs. All goes wrong when one of them is forced to take a holiday! This delightful short piece ends with the discovery that Cox and Box are long-lost brothers.

**Bottisham Early Morning
Swimming Club**

Lifeguard needed

**for morning session on
Wednesdays**

06.45 to 08.30 hrs

Bottisham Sports Centre

Rate:

£25 per 1³/₄ hour session

Please contact:

07850 005 440

Email: geoflawn@outlook.com



Bottisham Village College

Adult Learning

Evening Courses starting after Easter include:

- Creative Painting and Drawing (NEW for evenings)**
- Digital Photography (Beginners)**
- Cut Flowers for Summer**
- Indian Cookery: A Taste of India**
- Introduction to Counselling**
- Pottery and Ceramics**

Did you miss out on your Maths GCSE?

Our 5 week 'Prepare for Maths GCSE' evening course starts in June. This course is recommended if you want to enrol on our FREE* one year Maths GCSE evening course in September 2018

*subject to eligibility

Saturday Workshops – 28 April 2018

Calligraphy: Combining Ancient and Modern

Cook with your Kids

Computing: MS Office – an Introduction

Design a Patchwork Cushion

Mindfulness

Make-up for Bridal Party and Special Occasions

Springtime Flower Arranging for Fun

Stained Glass Tealights

You can enrol at any time by visiting our website

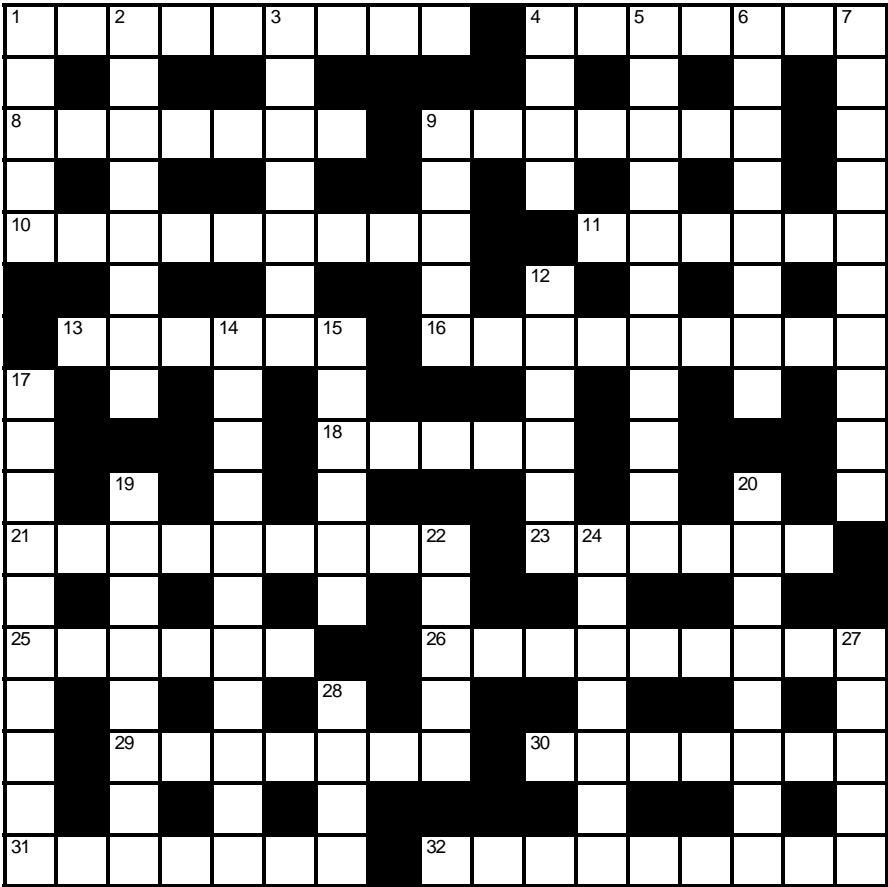
www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org

Crossword Number 152

Compiled by OUNCE

Clues marked with * are associated and most have no other definition. Send your answers to the editors by 18 April 2018. 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:.....

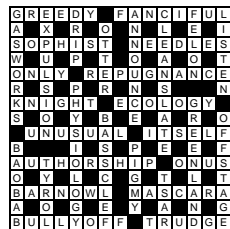
Address:.....

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

Across

- 1/3/24/16/27 *Tatty ladies-in-waiting enamel Grandmother badly (4,5,1,6,1,4,2,9,5)
- 4 *Spy out cunning cyberspace heroine? (7)
- 8 Aid removed from patricidal maniac's picture source (4,3)
- 9 Small sibling from the Antipodes hesitates before fake tanning product (7)
- 10 Transport US gardens to dry docks perhaps? (9)
- 11 Snooze while oriental weapon returns (6)
- 13 Bee swarm that searches for heat within (6)
- 16 *See 1
- 18 *Axiom of hero? (5)
- 21 *Rue radium mixture? (2,7)
- 23 Capital sought in Minneapolis boneyard (6)
- 25 Name alternate road for country... (6)
- 26 ...country with spice and Galilean moon cocktail? (9)
- 29 Vouchers for soupcon of stew? (7)
- 30 Originally all that arid countryside appeared miles around desert (7)
- 31 Dodgy cult swallows unique selling point (7)
- 32 Diverted march around nothing can yield genetic material (9)
- 3 *See 1 Across
- 4 Mata Hari (otherwise M MacLeod) hiding violent disorder (4)
- 5 Oddity of zebra's reins (11)
- 6 *16A location of maize barrier? (8)
- 7 Put another way, Percy hates exemplars (10)
- 9 Broome, we hear, holds desire to be somebody (5)
- 12 Ocelot, for example, climbs up thin layer of rock (6)
- 14 Curse mutual development of body system (11)
- 15 Confines man with male vice? (4,2)
- 17 *Edit little Doctor Raven's manuscript? (3,7)
- 19 Hugs Dana fleeing awful Danse Macabre (8)
- 20 Depressed when feathers thrown? (8)
- 22 Brer Rabbit's uncle founded Rome (5)
- 24 See 1 Across
- 27 See 1 Across
- 28 *Snake with rat's tail (4A's grave?) (4)

Solution to crossword no. 151



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

Down

- 1 Fastens tresses (5)
- 2 *Crazy or lucid is a 4A heroine (after talk with 17D)? (8)

The Swaffhams WI News

There was no speaker at the February meeting as it was the annual meeting with lots of business to attend to, the new committee to be agreed and the President to be elected. Once this was completed we enjoyed a cup of tea and cake, drew the raffle and then settled down for a beetle drive. It was a long time since some of us had played and despite Betty's best efforts the scoring was a bit erratic in the first round. However, we did get ourselves sorted and everyone enjoyed themselves. We even had chocolate beetles for the winner in each round so the competition was fierce! Our next meeting is on April 16th when the speaker will be Jane Kennedy talking about hearing loss and sign language.

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

Bottisham & Burwell Photographic Club

To celebrate our 45th Anniversary in November this year, we are holding a one day exhibition at the **Royal British Legion Social Club** in Bottisham, on **Saturday 12 May 2018**, 10:30am – 4:30pm, free entry. The official opening will be at 11 am. A selection of members' Prints and Projected Digital Images will be on display. We expect to display 200 mounted prints, in monochrome and colour, and to project 200 digital images over a wide range of topics. Refreshments will be available all day. Look out for posters and flyers advertising this event in the village.

We are always pleased to see new members wishing to join the club or to attend as guests throughout the year. Several new people joined in September 2017 and the club currently has about 40 members, which is still a relatively small club. Our members include some very experienced photographers who are able to share with new members their depth of photographic knowledge and skill.

Date for your diary in 2018:

Tuesday 1 May

'Monochrome Landscapes' by Barry Freeman ARPS DPAGB APAGB, from Ipswich. Barry is a black and white specialist and will be presenting his prints and discussing these.

This year's season ends on 11 May 2018 with our Social Evening, followed by our Annual Club Outing on Sunday 10 June. This year's trip is to Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. If anyone is interested in joining us on the day, there is a possibility that seats may be available on the coach, price £17.00. Please contact our Secretary, Daphne Hanson, see below for contact details.

Guests are welcome to attend any meeting at our venue, Lode Chapel CB25 9EW

on Tuesday's from 7:30 pm to 9:30pm. Fee: £3.00, including refreshments, refunded on joining.

Annual subscriptions: Adult: £40.00, Joint Membership: £67.00, Student: £21.00. Refreshments 50p. New members joining now will receive a pro rata rate.

Lastly we would respectfully ask guests attending the club not to **double park** in the vicinity of Lode Chapel, as there is local concern regarding access for emergency vehicles.

Barry Coles

For further details contact:

Mrs Daphne Hanson DPAGB APAGB,

T: 01638 741106 , www.bottburpc.org



VILLAGE GARDENERS

At our March meeting we welcomed garden historian, writer and lecturer, Twigs Way, who led us on a whirlwind of a tour through the gardens of various Impressionist artists who were also horticulturists and often designed their gardens with a view to painting them. The most famous of these, of course, was Claude Monet, a founder of the French Impressionist Movement and a prolific painter 'en plein-air' especially in his own garden at Giverny. This idea became a widespread movement in the nineteenth century especially in France and England.

Monet, aided by eight Gardeners, planted his garden with specific colour-matches which he wished to paint; he also often concentrated on water and light. In his garden today the water lilies (for the benefit of the many visitors) are arranged as they are in his paintings!

The French Impressionist Caillebotte and art critic Mirabeau corresponded profusely with Monet on art and Horticulture. Monet famously remarked "Apart from painting and gardening I'm not good at anything".

Paul Bonnard was another French artist who knew Monet well but developed his own 'jardin sauvage' near Giverny. Twigs also led us through the garden of Henri le Sidaner which was terraced, architectural and sculptural, quite different from that of Monet. But, like Monet, he worked simultaneously on several canvasses dotted around the garden.

Cedric Morris was a notable English artist and horticulturist who established the East Anglian School of Painting in Suffolk. He was a great Iris grower and he bred many new varieties, as well as painting prolifically.

Among the other gardens mentioned was that at Charleston Farmhouse in Sussex, created by Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant and frequented by the Bloomsbury Set.

Twigs' talk was illustrated throughout by charming pictures of the artists' creations both on canvas and in their gardens. What a delightful evening we had.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 17 April when National Trust volunteer speaker Veronica Bennett will talk to us on Peckover House and Garden at 8pm in the Village Hall. Guests and potential new members are very welcome.

Mary Hart

The HNDU grant, District Heating Plan, and Josh Schumann

Emma Fletcher did indeed try to provide some useful information in her well-considered answer to some of the queries raised about the above. Emma and Mark also produced much extra information in their FAQ sheet that is available on line. I could not find this immediately and my few comments are at the end. She is to be congratulated on having CCC backing for the HNDU grant of £77,000, and reveals that Josh Schumann has given his backing tEmma Fletcher did indeed try to provide some useful information in her well-considered answer to some of the queries raised about the above. Emma and Mark also produced much extra information in their FAQ sheet that is available on line. I could not find this immediately and my few comments are at the end. She is to be congratulated on having CCC backing for the HNDU grant of £77,000, and reveals that Josh Schumann has given his backing to the scheme. This is the first time the PC and the Village has learned anything about what our CCC representative does. He never comes to PC meetings or sends in a report. But he does say he will answer any queries.

So, perhaps he will come to a PC meeting, or better, to the Annual Village Assembly on Wednesday 16th May, and explain: - 1) why he supports the SPDHP when there is no evidence that a retrofit will work; 2) why it is not being explored on the new builds in his home territory of Soham; 3) why he thinks 180 houses in this village in reasonable clusters will agree when there is no evidence to support this view; 4) and why he thinks the required £3 million investment can be justified. Mr Kent-Phillips has raised his own very important questions that Mr Schumann must also answer.

I know that today we have to break new boundaries and crash through glass ceilings to “leap frog into the 21st century”. This may be something I am least qualified to do. But I did notice that HNDU is part of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). It has given £320m to HNDU “providing support for the capital costs of heat networks”. But BEIS is also responsible for the introduction of Smart Meters, which is going to cost **£11 BILLION**. This is serious money and it must be the greatest waste that has been exposed time and time again. I asked someone whether it helped to have a smart meter, and he said “No, because I know when I have put on my second freezer.” And most of us know when we have left lights on, and cannot be bothered to turn them off.

But worse than this is the fact that the first and only meter installed, Smets1, needs to be changed if you wish to change suppliers. Smets2 is very much delayed because of technical problems. Because BEIS has set a target of installing all 50 million meters by 2020 the Smet1 continues to be installed, and will have to be replaced when Smets2 is finally ready. Currently 8.6 million meters have been in-

stalled. To achieve the ‘by 2020’ date *24 meters need to be installed every minute* for the next two year. BEIS refuses to revise the end date and energy companies risk heavy fines if they don’t meet the target. Fortunately for us, the people, it is not compulsory to have them. I have had two letters, three emails, and two phone calls from my supplier. At what cost I wonder. They appear to have given up trying.

The benefits appear to be minimal in spite of the BEIS saying, “Smart meters are a vital upgrade of our energy infrastructure”. There is no evidence to support this.

Meantime who is paying the **£11 BILLION**? Are we seeing it as part of our energy bills? Will the fines given to energy companies for failing to achieve the impossible also appear on our bills? Because of this I don’t believe we can have faith in all BEIS projects. Let it be hoped that Josh Schumann will come to the Village, answer all the HNDU questions, and assure us that the District Heating Plan is not just another Smart Meter fiasco *as far as this village is concerned*.

It is to be hoped that a number of villagers will have looked at the original report and also the subsequent FAQ sheet, and will then express a view. Unfortunately the FAQ sheet answers no questions satisfactorily, and only provokes even more questions. **But**, you will find more information if you google “District Heating

Companies”, or similar, or even “Sheffield District Heating Plan” which has been successful since 1988. It is fascinating.

Initially I was one of the people who enthusiastically supported the expenditure of money on the first report. Having seen it, however, there appears to be no reason to spend any more exploring a possible retrofit in this village – in my opinion.

Alastair Everitt



**After the snow,
Mother (or
Father?) Swan on
her nest at Reach
Lode**

Henry Brown

Life and Times 1946-

Henry Brown is Swaffham Prior's oldest living resident. Last year his wartime experiences were serialised. This is the second section of his post-war entrepreneurial experiences, beginning with designing and making washing machines.

On the home front, my wife Jean had settled in and our son had been born. Then in 1950 the Korean War began. A Conservative government was elected and all steel allocations were stopped with immediate effect. We were left with 2 week's supply so I phoned a large steel construction company in Leeds and asked for advice! They suggested I go to a large conglomerate, like Rubery Owens (RO), which then owned 80+ companies. So I phoned RO and thus began a sad saga.

Leeds Engineering Company

At about the time another salesman had come to the works. He was a travelling man, covering all England visiting garages with a variety of products. He dumped a number of Ford clutch thrust bearings on the bench and asked if I could recondition them. There was an urgent need and the money was good. He said he would call back in a week's time. The bearings were loose; they had lost all their lubrication and would rattle in use. I found the bearing contact surfaces to be sound and obtained some new ball bearings and bearing grease. I found a way to adapt the bearing case so it could be re-assembled by rolling it over in the lathe. Our man was delighted and brought in 200-300 or so.

So I moved Leeds Engineering Company to Shed 18, Airedale Mills, about ¼ mile down the road from our Castra washing machine works. Shed 18 was an ex-weaving shed about 100 yards square. It had good light and was heated by overhead steam pipes; it was a peppercorn rent. I installed Harry Midgely and a youth to work on the bearings. Harry had been sacked by the local crane works for lighting a cigarette between maintenance jobs. I bought a large Pratt & Whitney surface grinder, which would re-surface 20 bearings at a time. Our traveller arrived every Friday afternoon, dumped worn bearings and picked up reconditioned ones. Jean would look after the book keeping, bank the cheques and pay Harry and his mate. This business went on for about 2 years, until the Ford Motor Co issued a decree to all their dealers, instructing them to fit only new bearings to their cars.

The bearing business halved, but other work arrived from Kirkstall Forge, cast iron brake shoes, which required the edges surface grinding. They sent the holding jigs, the shoes and a good price - I had the largest surface grinder in Leeds and the man who could use it!

Castra was going in a different direction. I sent details of our company to Rubery Owens. Three directors graced Wood Street, Rodley, in two Bentleys. Alfred Owen (chairman), William Glover (secretary) and Ernest Coupland (chief engineer). They decided Castra would fit into their Easyclene range, selling a number of vitreous enamelled sinks. The name would be changed to Easyclene forthwith. We were paid out with our own money and the company was capitalised to a new value. I was told to double production, for which my salary would be doubled. Easyclene were rubbish

and couldn't sell 100, never mind 200 machines. Rubery Owen had their own vitreous enamelling plant for the sinks, so we were instructed to send all our bowls to Darlestone to be processed by the Vitreous Enamel Co at Keighley.

We were enamelling with Trico, a father and son company. They were chemists, and knew what they were doing. They covered our seam weld inside the bowls with liquid slip before spraying; we had very few rejects. Rubery Owen enamelling was rubbish, and we had up to 50% rejects. They would not take advice.

We carried on producing although stock was piling up. Easyclene sales said they wanted a twin tub machine. Rubery Owen had just started a Group Research and Development (R&D) Department, Coupland's baby, to create new products for all the companies in the Group - a sure way to commercial suicide. How could the R&D know the markets? I said we would produce a next-generation machine ourselves. We knew that we could not compete with Hoover, Servis, etc. Our clients were one bed apartment people with a tiny kitchen. On the viewing date I arrived at Darlestone with our new machine, which had power rollers and a water pump all in a compact case, and it worked like clockwork. R&D's was less good and had two bowls mounted on two motors mounted on a frame. As they were the new R&D theirs was chosen. I had worked for Rubery Owen for about 18 months and now knew Coupland and others fairly well.

Coupland next said that Rubery Owen needed a car in its portfolio to survive. He said if I went ahead and made one Rubery Owen would help. Coupland next said that Rubery Owen needed a car in its portfolio to survive. He said if I went ahead and made one Rubery Owen would help. I also talked to Ernest Owen, who advised me to make a one ton van instead; this was good advice. Vehicles would be the next stage of the story.

Extracts from the Memoirs of Henry Brown
By Mark Lewinski



Organising an event and don't have enough tables and seats? We can solve the problem!

For Hire: Grey hard plastic stacking chairs, black metal legs, can be used indoors and out, hirer collects and returns (deposit required), 50p per chair and a £1 per table per hire. Contact 07833 960678

Proceeds to
St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

Notes from Parish Council February Meeting

Peter Hart chaired the meeting with 5 Parish Councillors and 4 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

ECDC – Cllr Allen Alderson's report was read to the meeting. Paul Latchford asked about council tax rises, Peter Hart asked about traffic calming in Burwell; who's was it and what for. Steve Kent-Phillips reported that it was Burwell Parish Council.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Paul Latchford asked what value was attributed to SID and what the charges would be. Steve Kent-Phillips reported a request for SID on Rogers Road as a deterrent. Paul Latchford asked about item 2297 regarding the cost price for the wreath at £18.50, was the £50 a donation? Steve Kent-Phillips asked about the cemetery procedure item 2294. The Clerk will produce and distribute the cemetery allocation procedure for the next meeting. Steve Kent-Phillips also noted that the Village Hall Item 2292 should be on the agenda for the March meeting. He reported that the yearend accounts had been completed with a VAT claim for around £800, the snow drops were on order, Mead Construction had been contacted re the village hall drive and the defibrillator batter had been checked.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

There was no correspondence.

Consideration of Planning Applications Received:

17/02142/FUL | Conversion of an outbuilding barn to a dwelling with two extensions. | 26 High Street – there were no objections.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects

The poor state of the cemetery notice board was discussed. A quote had been received from Jon Taw to repair of £451. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested it could be done from CIL money as all criteria were met.

The meeting was suspended to discuss the village hall requirements:

Peter Rand reported that there were glass double glazing sealed units that had blown and quotes had been received from 2 suppliers for £490 and £560 (AKC Windows and DH Windows) and that they favoured the lower quote. The replacement of the remaining lighting in the hall that was not already LED was discussed. Quotes from Thomson Electrical and DW Tonge were for £ 2735 and £ 2214. Peter recommended Thompson.

The meeting was reconvened.

Paul Latchford pointed out that the village hall has its own funds and it may be that other projects meet more CIL Criteria. It was decided to make a last call for CIL funded projects in the Crier. Steve Kent-Phillips proposed the cemetery notice board repairs to be met from PC funds (not CIL) Paul Latchford seconded and all agreed.

The replacement benches near to the play area were discussed. It was noted that these were on the existing list of projects. A quote for the village hall doors had been received by the PC for the main (rear) doors for £800 from Elston Decorators. This was passed to the VHMC.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Andrew Camps reported that there were laurels overhanging in Lower End. The Clerk agreed to write to the property owner.

Open Question Time

Mrs Kirby asked about deadlines for items to be included in the meeting or agenda. The Clerk stated that the agenda had to be posted by the Sunday before the meeting. There was a discussion relating to the state of allotments. Paul Latchford and Steve Kent-Phillips agreed to visit the following Saturday and report back at the next meeting. Alastair

Everitt asked about the maple tree removed and its replacement. It was noted that the replacement: *Amelanchier canadensis*, was noted in the email presented at the meeting. He suggested it must have been there 8 years.

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

Future meeting dates: April 12th, May 10th, June 14th 2018.

All are welcome to attend and the

Annual Village Assembly May 16th.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Paul Catling

Tel: 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only).

Email: clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk

Website: <http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/>



Join POP
(Proud of Prior)
Spring Clean for 2018

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK
POP NEEDS YOU!!

Meet at the bottom of Cage Hill
Under the Village Sign
Saturday 14th April, 2018
10.00am

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

Please bring your own gloves
All other equipment provided

Come and join friends and
neighbours on this tidy up

Look forward to seeing
the results!



A Big Deal for Easter

We lived in Cyprus for 11 years. People sometimes ask me if I miss it. Well, the answer is ‘Not much; working someplace isn’t the same as being on holiday there’, but I did enjoy Easter there. It feels different. The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates it on a different date to us (this year it’s one week later), because it follows the ancient Julian calendar. But that’s not why I liked Easter in Cyprus. What I miss is the fact that Easter is a very big deal in Greek Cypriot culture. It is publicly celebrated far more than it is here, and more than Christmas. There are street parades, special foods, huge midnight mass church services with people overflowing into the streets and televised on the main TV channels. There is



Easter crowds overflow this church in Nicosia. (Photo George M. Groutas, Flickr.com)

colour, there is warmth, there is welcome, there is tradition, there is enthusiasm. It’s a very happy occasion.

Here, in the British public life, the run-up to Easter never matches the pre-Christmas hullabaloo. It’s as if Father Christmas trumps the Easter Bunny. Pricey presents trump chocolate eggs. And the season to be jolly trumps the season to be melancholy – after all, Christmas is about a birth, Easter about a death, right?

Well, no.

The Cypriot Christians’ joy at Easter isn’t because of the death of Jesus Christ; it’s because of his resurrection. Yes folks, resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead. You’d better believe it! The general Greek Orthodox greeting for Easter is *Kalo*

Pascha (Happy Easter), but from Easter Day itself it becomes *Christos anesti* (Christ is risen!), to which you reply *Alithos anesti* (He is risen indeed!). Actually, we use the same greetings (in English) in the good ol' Church of England at Easter, but the difference is that in Cyprus you are far more likely to hear them outside, among neighbours or in the street.

Jesus' birth was unique – coming from heaven, born of a virgin. His death was unique – he was uniquely and innately sinless and not deserving of death. But at least we are familiar with birth and death. But resurrection? That is *super* unique – Christ's crowning glory! It demonstrates his power as our Lord and Saviour, his divinity, his authority – as if to say, 'Get lost, death!' The apostle Paul wrote, 'If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith'. Our Orthodox friends are right to celebrate Easter as a big deal. The Bible says 'If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Now that *is* a Big Deal!

Christos Anesti!

Mike Procter (LLM)

Anglesey group of parish churches.

Easter Day (April 1) services are at 8am in Quay, 0930 in Lode and Bulbeck,

Church Services in April

at St Mary's, Swaffham Prior, unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 1 April, Easter Day

11am Holy Communion (CW1T), followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 8 April, Second Sunday of Easter

10am Benefice Service – Bottisham (CW1)

Sunday 15 April, Third Sunday of Easter

11am Rogation Service (venue to be confirmed)

Sunday 22 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Quay

Sunday 29 April, Fifth Sunday of Easter

6pm Evensong

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior is part of the ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES
together with: Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, Quay; St James', Lode and St Mary's,
Swaffham Bulbeck;
you are welcome to attend services anywhere in the benefice.

With the development of satellite navigation technologies it is now rare to see a paper road map being used. Many people just switch on the satnav, the gps quickly identifies where they are, they type in their destination, and just follow the directions.

I love maps. When I got my first car satnavs were not common and google maps didn't exist. I remember studying the road map before an unfamiliar journey, writing down on a piece of paper the key points of the journey so I had some reference points en route.

Following the planned journey via the key points and landmarks helped me to be more fully present on the journey rather than just mindlessly following the satnav.

I have also completed several long distance walks, and discovered that hiking using an OS map is very different from planning a car journey using a road map. It is fairly easy to find out what road you are driving on, with regular road signs, but much easier to get lost on a footpath in the countryside.

A map alone is not enough when fog overwhelms your surroundings or if you don't know where you are to start with. You may be able to find your intended destination on the map, but if you don't know where you are it's impossible to plan a route. I recall, often times, convincing myself I knew where I was, and being completely mistaken, and walking stubbornly in a direction only to find some time later that I was miles off course.

I believe there are strong parallels between this walking in the countryside and navigating through life. The experiences we have as individual Christians and as a worshipping community at RENEW help us to see we are on the right track, following Jesus, not just our own ideas. I call such spiritual experiences 'milestones' on our journey of faith.

Recently, a number of people have discovered RENEW and believe God has led them to us; certain relationships and experiences have confirmed to them that this is the right path for them. Some have rediscovered their faith at RENEW, finding us a homely and welcoming church family. Those who have been baptised as believers, publicly professing their faith at RENEW recognise the milestone that was on their faith journey. Those who experienced Alpha with us last year encountered the claims of Jesus Christ and the Christian faith and were given weekly opportunities to engage in conversation on the themes and to respond to Jesus and His message. Our next Alpha course starts on Wednesday 25th April, sign up today on our website.

From my experience, one of the most important aspects of any journey is the companions. We would love you to join us on our journey of discovering what lies ahead for us at RENEW Church. Is there a part of you that, if you're honest feels lost at times? Do you have question on life, faith, meaning, purpose, fulfilment? Join us at Alpha. (Proverbs 3.5-6)

Rev. Alan Brand

RENEW Services for April 2018

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

A crèche is available if required. All are welcome.

Croissants and drinks are available before Morning Worship from 10.10 am.

Sunday 1st April. Easter Sunday Celebration 10.30am

(Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 8th April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 15th April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 22nd April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 29th April. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

The Alpha Course begins on Wednesday 25th April 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

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) 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

3-tiered stainless-steel steamer (hob-top); Cat brush; incandescent bulb night-light; 1x PS/2 wired keyboard; Childs toy - pile of Teifoc bricks for building houses (see <http://www.eitechtoys.com/teifoc/> for more info). Childs toy – ELC 50-piece plastic marble-run; Childs toy- Memo (Matching pairs game with picture cards). Jun 01223 8133621

IKEA wooden garden two seater folding bench. Needs some small amount of attention (recoating/painting).

2 x high back plastic garden chairs, white.

Small garden parasol.

Free standing, wheeled gas BBQ with attached cooking ring. Needs new rubber gas piping and lava rock.

Contact David or Angela on 812994

Wanted

Empty plastic margarine/spread tubs for scout activity please (leave in our porch, or I can collect). Jun 01223 813362/07980 421320.

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.

Dates for Your Diary April 2018

Sun	1	Service & Easter Egg Hunt, St Mary's, 11am
Tue	3	Poppies for Remembrance, Black Horse, 8pm
Wed	4	Bell Ringing, Bulbeck St Mary's, 7.30pm
Sat	7	Village Hall Birthday Party, VH
Wed	11	Bell Ringing, Bulbeck St Mary's, 7.30pm
Thu	12	PC Meeting, VH
Sat	14	POP Litter Pick, 10am, Village Sign
Sun	15	
Mon	16	WI, 7.30pm, VH
Tue	17	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH
Wed	18	Bell Ringing, Bulbeck St Mary's, 7.30pm
Thu	19	Village Hall AGM, 8pm, VH
Fri	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Wed	25	Bell Ringing, Bulbeck St Mary's, 7.30pm
Sat	28	Poppies for Remembrance, Black Horse, 10am
Sun	29	
Mon	30	Gay Bulleid Deadline

Club	Contact	Tel.	Variable		
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	Term	Time	School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Weds (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
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
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	