



The Swaffham Crier

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January 2018



Editorial

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL OUR READERS! .Now is the time of year we traditionally say thank-you to all the people who help out with our monthly *Crier*. First of all, our **correspondents** and **photographers** This year, we've had two new columns: Mike Malster and his delightful *On the Allotment* (Mike will be taking a well-earned break for a little while in 2018), and Jorge and Saffra Monteiro, whose wildlife column has been so interesting and original, dealing not with the rarities, as such columns often do, but rather the "common" creatures we might see every day (and so know diddly-squat about).

Also, we've had a storming return of the famous *Crier* Profiles with Mark Lewinski's adaption of Henry Brown's (our oldest *male* resident) WWII autobiography, and we do hope to see more in 2018. On the photography side, special thanks must go to Peter Rand (this edition's Christmas Carol shots look super on the computer—let's hope they come out in print) and Janet Willmott, who at the same time is no mean copywriter. If you too would like to contribute to the *Crier* or have an idea for a new column idea, just email us.

Next, our **distributors**: Swaffham Prior stretches far and wide, but our distributors go out in all weathers to make sure everybody receives their copy every month. It is also mailed free of charge to distant residents, and special thanks go to Pam Waters, who has seamlessly stepped into the shoes of Ruth Stinton this year as Distribution Manager. Next our **Advertisers**: the *Crier* receives no grants or financial support (bar some gratefully received donations). Thank-you for all your support during 2017, we can't exist without you. If you'd like to advertise do get in touch: *Crier* pages are the first place anyone looks if they need something doing.

And lastly, **donators**: we may be an entirely voluntary publication but printing and other things cost *real* money. Donations make an essential difference over and above our usual income, so if you appreciate the *Crier*, do consider a few quid now and again!

See you New Year coffeeing... **Caroline Matheson**

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Cover Picture: *Considerable Falls of Snow* by **Eric Ravillous**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Grass Verges in Fairview Grove and Other Environmental Stuff

In response to a very last-minute plea from the Editors for a letter as there are none otherwise to go into this month's issue, the only thing that comes immediately to mind is that there has been some discussion at Parish council meetings looking into ways the hard-standing parking in Fairview Grove could be increased. In the meantime, some grass verges are becoming churned from vehicles parking on them, and it would be helpful if residents who do have space and driveway parking could avoid parking on verges, and if all could avoid parking on them generally if at all possible especially at this time of year. Thanks.

Oh, and a resident also asked me whether the Donarbon recycling plant is in operation as there was a rumour that all our blue bin recycling might be going to landfill. Councillor Allen Alderson assures me that it has been and remains in full operation so please recycle as usual.

Mark Lewinski

Dear Editors,

The 2017 Bulbeck-Prior Hockey Match

There were no goals either side. The teams were well matched. Most of the play took place in mid-field not at the goal posts which is different from most years. It was a fast moving game with very fit players. Swaffham Prior had fourteen players turn up—so well attended. I served Mulled wine to warm up spectators. The King-smill family provided extra hockey sticks and equipment. There was a collection made for Magpas. A lovely sunny cold day with not too much wind chill. The Denny was muddy but not frozen or too wet—so ideal conditions for the match. The teams retired to the pub afterwards.

Incidentally, I have just seen a Rough Legged Buzzard in the field. At least this is what I thought it must be as Wicken Fen have made a few sightings of this bird of prey in the last few days.

Sue Wade

See page 6, Eds



The Rough-Legged Buzzard — it's got feathered boots and you can see it now at Wicken Fen



SO THAT WAS CHRISTMAS!

Carol Singers at the Church Gate in December



Photos: Peter Rand

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

One of the delights of sitting in on our PC meetings is that no one, over a whole year, has ever claimed to be “CLEAR” about anything. On the other hand the general public has had an exceptionally tedious year when so many in political life have said some variation of “let me be absolutely clear”, “I am being crystal clear”, “I have always been clear”. It is like the moment when someone says to you “I am being completely honest with you” that you begin to wonder whether they were lying before. The more that clarity is claimed, the more the fog seems to descend. Everyone is now at it – claiming to be “absolutely clear”. Except that is, our Parish Council, and Jeremy Corbyn.



John was away so Peter took the Chair at the December meeting and Steve again became Clerk with Paul still being in the States having done some good work in Alabama, so we hear.

Last month’s minutes were approved. There were no ECDC and CCC reports. It seems that Joshua did send in a report but it was after our last month’s PC meeting and a long time before the December meeting. Not knowing to what time period it referred, it was left in abeyance. The New Year may be more fruitful.

The unlit lamppost at the end of Adams Road has turned out to be a real problem. As related at the meeting it was so complex I am not sure what the problem is but it could involve two companies, two different light bulbs, some possible faulty wiring, an incorrect telephone number on the lamppost, and either a very gruff man or a very sharp woman depending who answered the phone. The Clerk’s report will give you a clearer picture, but I cannot.

Interestingly the planning application extending 26 High Street (Eric Day’s house) has been withdrawn. There were no objections to a replacement dwelling of Sterling Farm at 4 Heath Road. Meantime the snowdrop order has been completed and they will be ready for planting in February in the green form from which they will die off. Quite a number of village organisations have agreed to plant them amongst the daffodils. Paul L has arranged the installation of the new grit bin, filled, but square rather than round.

David has sent in the agreed further comments on the possible development of the Paddock. He was advised not to dwell on social housing and reference to this has been omitted. One puzzle about social housing is that ever since Margaret Thatcher introduced ‘Right to Buy’, local councils have not been allowed to use the money to provide replacement social housing. All governments, whether Tory or Labour, have consistently refused this. Why? Does anyone know?

Item 13, unlucky for some, concerned the allotments. The reminder letters to AK, AD and DB had been sent out. AK had replied saying that he and LK wished to keep their allotment. Mike now intervened, the result of his comments being that it was resolved by the PC that AK would be receiving a letter, quoting the “Use it or Lose it” edict, saying that he has lost it. AD identified himself from the crowd in the public gallery and said he had lost interest and hence had not replied. And we have yet to know who DB is. Meanwhile in one part of the village there is the rumour

that one allotment holder is a felon. Is DB the felon? More may yet be revealed.

At the end of 'Accounts for Payment' the Annual Precept for 2018/19 was agreed. Steve reminded the meeting, and all of us, that the precept of £14,500 has been the same for 10 years.

The Clerk's Report added little except to say there were free mince pies, deliciously made by the fair hands of Michelle, in The Red Lion for whoever at the meeting wanted to celebrate the end of the year. Then came the Parish Councillors' Reports, which took much longer. Mark said a resident had asked him to ask the PC to ask Alan Alderson whether the Denarborn recycling plant was working again or whether it was still all going into landfill. He was advised that either the resident or he himself could get in touch with either Alan or ECDC to find out. But ECDC, and other councils, may have a bigger problem than this now that *Blue Planet II*, *The Daily Mail*, and *The Times* have exposed the harm created by plastic, and Michael Gove has switched his vote-gathering love of animals to his vote-gathering hate of plastic, and aims to set up a centralised recycling standard.

Mark also asked who had given permission for the tree on the village sign green to be cut down. There is no PC record giving this permission. I suggested that Alan Gould might provide the answer. As far I remember, many years ago, say ten plus or minus five, Alan asked for permission to cut it down and this was agreed providing he planted a replacement.

Mark was now in full flow and again raised the question of parking on the grass at the top of Fairview Grove. The Grove is really in the news now with a request for twelve additional parking spaces at the bottom, and a request for four new driveways at the top. Mark's concern had been dealt with when he first raised it some years ago and Peter asked "What has changed?" that it should be brought up again. The residents have not complained and I think they felt somewhat harassed when it was brought up last time. What do they think now? The truth seems to be that it is only Mark who finds it unsightly when cars are parked on the grass and who does not like seeing the grass getting a little muddy at some times of the year.

The meeting rattled on for a little bit longer but ended in the good time of 8.45.

Alastair Everitt





14 super fit players turned up on Boxing Day to play for Prior

2017 Boxing Day Hockey

Result: Prior 0 Bulbeck0

Verdict: Score may not have adequately reflected an exciting mid-field game

(See Sue Wade — p.2)



Players cooling down



Spectators warming up



Please join us at the annual
COFFEE MORNING

**4 FOSTER LANE,
 OFF ROGERS ROAD
 SWAFFHAM PRIOR**

**Friday 19 January
 10.30am – 12 noon**

In aid of St Mary's Church:
 including cake stall,
 produce, raffle
 and a chance to catch up with
 neighbours on a winter's day!

ALL WELCOME

A Misanthropist Sends a Seasonal Card

Tell me no tales of the frost-jewelled street
 When all I can see from the window is sleet,
 Or of carolling bells from the icicled tower
 Through the gathering murk of an afternoon

hour;
 Or of landscapes transfigured by snow's bri-
 dal gown

While the skeleton trees brood over the town,
 For the message you hear in the pealing bells
 Is tolling the hours of a thousand hells.
 Spare me, if you will, the skater's arc
 The hiss of a sled on the hill in the park.
 This is the time of the fatal slip,
 The broken wrist and the fractured hip,
 Whilst hot roasting chestnuts and blazing

Yule log
 Just increase global warming and foul urban s
 mog.
 These are the days when with sinking heart

You turn the key and the car won't start,
 Still - the starlit ditch on the sparkling bend
 Might have been the place where your day
 would end.

Forget holly and ivy and mistletoe sprig,
 And red-breasted robin perched pert on a
 twig:

The one splash of red on the snow's pristine
 white
 Is the beheaded chicken the fox had last night.
 Here is the season when all the pipes froze
 And the odd sound of dripping was traced to
 your nose.

Owl-haunted dusk turns too swiftly to dark
 And the morning arrives much too late for the
 lark.

Now comes the hour, upon cold midnight
 clear

When all life seems condemned to the wrong

***Visit to the National Heritage Centre, Newmarket
& Sir Alfred Munnings***

on Sunday January 28th

***Introduction to Sporting Art at the N.H.C.
11 till 1 p.m.***

For those who have yet to discover this wonderful double venue of the Kings Yard displays and Palace House, I am running this morning talk to showcase the delights of this recently opened visitor attraction - a hidden local treasure

***Painting Winners – The Art of Munnings
2.15 - 4.15 p.m.***



***In Munnings, we witness a brilliance of achievement not seen since the epoch
of George Stubbs***

Using works from the Palace House collection and a temporary exhibition, we will discuss this often overlooked self made man, who rose from a provincial East Anglian upbringing to great prominence in British 20th century art, becoming president of the Royal Academy in 1944 and knighted in the same year.

His fame rests on the paintings of horses and his much admired Impressionistic style, a dashing light and spontaneous technique, bringing a new sophistication to images of modern rural life.

This is a rare opportunity to enjoy so many of his works, rarely seen together, for a short time only.

Conversation = chat, discussion, dialogue, discourse..

But in 2017 - -

"Hello. And how are you?"

"I mean really, sort of like, you know."

"Excuse me, but I have to go."

"Well, to be honest, you know, sort of like I mean."

"Is that, the sum total of the scene?"

"Quite frankly like, sort of, I mean, you know, er.Yeah.Yeah."

"Interesting. Though as I say, I've got to go."

Ophir

New Year Resolution to join in a local friendly fun filled activity?



Enjoy Singing? (Even if only in the bath!)

Then come along and test the water.....



HMS Pinafore

Sing Through:

7.30pm Thursday 8th February

Swaffham Bulbeck School

For more information contact Angela Roebuck 01223811722

Aroebuck73@gmail.com



St. Mary's, Swaffham Prior

Lent Lunches

in support of

The Rehema Project in our link Parish of Mara, Tanzania

- Monday 19th February - 73 High Street (Kate Child)
- Friday 2nd March - Anglesey House, 59 High Street (Anne Clayton)
- Wednesday 7th March - Rose Cottage, 42 High Street (Hilary Grant)

Soup and a roll; please book!

07833 960678 or email admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

No charge for lunch; donations please.

The Rehema Project in Mara benefits women and children in crisis. Many do not have food, clothing or shelter and are susceptible to all sorts of illnesses because of malnutrition. Some struggle with the effects of HIV or AIDS and suffer abuse, rape, theft and mistreatment; they are trapped in poverty, with little hope.

**By the Village
Sign...**



**Up
Greenhead
Road....**



**And at last, the
Carol Singers arrive
at the Red Lion**



Out on the Wild side - *A New Year, a New Tale*

Welcome to all dear Crier readers after what has been quite a special and festive Christmas time. After the parties and celebrations of both Christmas and New Year, with many sharing both occasions with friends and families alike, we can now look forward to what the year ahead will bring. As we herald in January and the heart of Winter, we may start thinking about New Year's resolutions i.e. exercising more and working off some of those Christmas puddings.

The bird that I am going to feature this month is none other than one of our most famous and well loved birds, the Robin. Or to be more precise, the red breasted Robin, which has been voted our favourite national bird in recent nationwide polls. Usually associated with Christmas, I have decided to nudge it into



January as the Robin really comes alive during the winter months, when its 'red-breast' is clearly visible in our gardens, parks and countryside tracks!

The Robin is a vivacious bird and a lot of fun to be around in the garden. The likelihood is if you have bird feeders in your garden, you will see a lot of different bird species all year round, including winter- when food is harder to come by in the fields and forests. Robins are ubiquitous across the British Isles. And like their counterparts, the wood pigeon- they are positively thriving across the U.K. Another key aspect of their flight, which tends to be swooping, with their wings and tail feathers shaped specifically for this kind of flight. But later in the spring during the nesting period, if you do spot a Robin's nest (the eggs are a baby blue) look but don't touch is the general rule. Parents will not go back to their chick's eggs if disturbed.

There are over 6.7 million breeding pairs in the U.K alone. One of the most memorable and charming features of the Robin is its song. And unusually among birds is that it's one of the few birds that sings all year round. This particular characteristic is related to the very territorial nature of the bird. They need to protect their territories throughout the winter. In recent years, as our knowledge of these beautiful birds that we share our ecosystem with has expanded significantly, the Robin has been one of those birds. Specifically, this is related to its behaviour around its own territoriality. Robins are now known to be both gregarious but also highly territorial birds.

During the year, a breeding pair will work in unison to protect it, so that while one partner is out looking for food to feed its young, the other partner will guard their local patch. Breeding territories average 0.55 ha in size, which is a considerable size for such a relatively small bird. But what they lack in size, they make up for in spirit and tenacity! And they don't like to be outshone by their fellow birds, just be-

cause they're larger, which is illustrated when Robins stand their ground against black birds and even larger birds in competition for a good grain. So let's give it up for the Robin, a great bird to usher in 2018!

Jorge Monteiro

On the Allotment

Brassicas should be earthed up to give better anchorage – Brussels sprouts should be given additional support with stakes or canes to prevent “wind rock”.

Dig a trench for next season's runner beans; 2 – 3 feet wide and 18 inches – 2 feet deep. Ridge the soil up on each side of the trench as the winter weather will be beneficial and compost can be added.

Lift a few roots of mint and plant in pots using potting compost. These can be kept in the greenhouse, polytunnel or conservatory – they will provide shoots for the early part of the season.

Finish winter digging, continue clearing weeds and generally keeping the plot tidy.

Clean and sharpen tools as necessary.

Clean canes before storing for the winter, paying particular attention to the ends of bamboo which is a favourite hiding place for pests.

Order seeds for next season. Ordering early ensures you get the best choice, but don't overdo it – just stick to the vegetables that you know you enjoy adding one or two types each year that you have not tried before.

Autumn fruiting raspberries should be cut down to ground level as next seasons fruit will be on the new growth. Summer fruiting varieties will fruit on this year's new growth so older canes should be removed. Canes can be burned and added to the soil around plants or to the compost heap.

Make a “hot-bed” with pallets, scaffold boards etc. This is similar to a raised bed but should be at least 2 feet in height. Mix horse manure with straw and top-up with garden compost (mushroom compost can be added and coarse grit mixed in). This will grow early lettuce, carrots, spinach, chard and radishes. These can be followed by bush tomatoes (determinates), squashes and melons.

Mike Malster
07785 958857

Eds Note: Many apologies all: this should have been included in the December Crier. However, now there's TIME to do a few things, only a little bit late....



Cambridge Voices

Advent by Candlelight

Sunday December 3rd

The Churches of St Mary and St Cyriac & St Julitta

This year's version of Ian de Massini's annual celebration of Advent in words and music took as its theme the lineage of Christ, which gave plenty of scope to celebrate, *inter alia* the 30th anniversary of the founding of Cambridge Voices and to meditate on the eternal cycle of inheritance and legacy in which all creation takes part.

We kicked off with Seamus Heaney's *Digging*, the sound of his father's spade below his window - upholding Adam's profession, as Hamlet's gravedigger memorably puts it - leading the scholarly poet to question where he stands as a descendant of generations of turf-cutters and to conclude that the pen is as effective an instrument as the spade for slicing down through the living roots of his own history. Thomas Hardy's *Heredity* followed immediately, reinforcing the notion that in every lineage there is something: "the family face" that continues across generations and, more broadly, in mankind as a whole "the eternal thing in man/that heeds no call to die".

This segued neatly into Arvo Pärt's brave setting of St Luke 3 vv 23-38, which, in case you're not familiar with it, is the ancestry of Christ traced back through the generations to Adam – and before him, God - and it does exactly what it says on the tin. It must have been one of those "because it's there" challenges for a composer, and its relentlessness is challenging for a choir, too, but both Pärt and Cambridge Voices pulled it off.

We stuck with Adam and Eve in Suzanne Delaney's *Fall from Grace* which depicts the Fall as a necessary part of the process that led to the coming of Christ, the second Adam, and in Charles Godfrey Leland's *Adam the First*, which emphatically does not. Leland's Adam is stropic; indignant; rebellious; Faustian; a soul-mate of Milton's Satan, and it was left to the well-loved 15th century carol *Adam lay ybounden* in a beautiful new setting by Cambridge Voice Antony Warren, to resolve the dichotomy with its reasoning that "Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been/Ne had never our lady abeen heavené queen." So that's all right then; it was worth it all along and we moun singen Deo gracias.

Wifred Owen's *The Parable of the Old Man and the Young* moved us on to Abraham and Isaac though Owen's Abraham spares neither his own nor anyone else's son, a jarring note soothed away by the unaccompanied splendour of Bach's *Sicut locutus est* in an arrangement by de Massini.

Next, the identification of the image of the rose with Mary, in the beautiful 15th

century poem *A spotless Rose*, in Herbert Howells' arrangement, blended with its ubiquity as an emblem of the beloved in courtly love in De La Mare's *When the Rose is faded*, which in turn anticipated a reading of the famously romantic passage from the *Song of Songs* and two songs from *The Hymnes and Songs of the Church*, 1623, to achingly beautiful settings by Orlando Gibbons. Before we got there though, we had a chastening reading from Malachi reinforced by *And he shall purify* from Handel's *Messiah*, just to remind us that relationships with our fellow men and women, and with God, bring reciprocal obligations; sorrows as well as joys. A reading of Walter de la Mare's *King David* caught the bitter-sweetness of melancholy well.

That brought us to what really was the heart of the programme; Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis* arranged by Ian de Massini for unaccompanied voices singing the complete metrical version of Psalm 2 from Archbishop Matthew Parker's Psalter (a local resident in Corpus Christi College library).

This was a revelation. Familiar as I am with the *Fantasia* and much as I love the majestic sonorous weight of the familiar orchestral version, I have to confess, I have never been able to hear Tallis in it. Now, suddenly, stripped of unnecessary instruments, with interleaving human voices substituted, here it was, sounding more like Tallis than Tallis himself and a work to rival *Spem in Alium*.

Dorothy Parker's *Fulfilment* was an abrupt change of tone and its juxtaposition with Edward Caswall's *Hymn to St Anne*, audacious. Bluntly, it showed that Parker understands what it's like to be a woman and empathises with Mary whilst Caswell and pretty much every other male renaissance writer or painter of Annunciations or Madonnas doesn't. This insight was reinforced by the second of Parker's pieces (sorry; couldn't resist that) - the first reading of the second half of the programme. *Prayer for a new Mother* is full of ominous ironies and foreshadowings: "Keep from her dreams the rumble of a crowd/The smell of rough-cut wood, the trail of red.."

First though, and emblematically, perhaps, we had to leave the womb-like warmth of St Mary's for the sepulchral chill of St Cyriac's, departing to the second half of *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* to an unfamiliar tune and greeted by Bach's *Cantata no 140* insisting that we sleepers awake - as if the temperature left us any choice in the matter.

An unusual setting of the *Magnificat*, by the Mexican composer Francisco López Capillas moved us onto an uproarious reading of Roger Hurn's *I want to be Joseph* (essentially a monologue by a stage-struck six-year-old) and firmly into family relationship territory.

Vaughan Williams' version of the traditional *Joseph and Mary*, scored by de Massini for accordion and choir gave a folksy tone to the travails of the nuclear holy family only for the terminally misanthropic Philip Larkin to advise us, in *This be the Verse*, "Man hands on misery to man/It deepens like a coastal shelf/Get out as early as you can/And don't have any kids yourself."

If King Lear had taken that advice, he wouldn't have had a daughter called Cordelia, who is, of course, the Christ figure in that play of almost universal un-

redemption. Her pert reminder to her father that when she marries, her father will have to share her devotion, led us into three very beautiful, contrasting movements from *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten, thence to a reading of the highly contemporary *A Child of the King* by Greg Guerra and finally to a rousing *Gaudete* arranged by Ian de Massini.

Gina the curate's reading of R S Thomas's *Amen*, a powerful but bleak poem by an irascible priest, was not quite the last word Thomas would have wanted it to be, as we stood to get our circulation going again with *Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending*. Then came the splendidly playful finale of Ian de Massini's *Ding, dong medley on high!* with the choir suitably bedecked for the occasion and the congregation doing their best to spot which familiar carol was going to turn up next.

...and so back to St Mary's for mince pies and mulled wine, a sense that Christmas is truly on its way and our thanks to Ian, Cambridge Voices and everyone who helped to make this joyous and traditional village event happen again.

Andrew Grant

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Antibiotics: Have you seen the advert with the dancing capsules? If you haven't then the important message is that antibiotics do not work on every illness and overuse means that in time they will not be effective for serious illness. NHS says please heed your doctor's advice.

Patients' Car Service: This service is being extended to 5 days a week for Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Lode and Quy patients as from 1 January 2018. This provision is for those who have no other means of getting to the surgery.

Communication: Please check before you leave your appointment that you fully understand what you have been prescribed and how and when to take it. It is important that you are clear about the instructions on usage, so if you need clarification do ask for it.

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's 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 12 and 24 January, 9 and 21 February 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: Next meeting will be **Thursday** 25 January 2018 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2018.

Bottisham Patients' Group

Tinnitus is very common and is reported in all age groups, even young children. About 30% of people will experience tinnitus at some point in

their lives, but the number of people who live with persistent tinnitus is approximately 10%. Of those people who have persistent tinnitus, around 1 in 10 will find it has a significant impact on their quality of life.

Tinnitus is more common in people who have hearing loss (usually caused by ageing, or exposure to loud noise) or other ear problems, but it can also be found in people with normal hearing.

The word 'tinnitus' comes from the Latin word for 'ringing' and is the perception of sound in the absence of any corresponding external sound. It is not a disease or illness; it is a symptom generated within the auditory system.

The noise may be in one or both ears, or in the head, or it may be difficult to pinpoint its exact location. The noise may be low, medium or high pitched. There may be a single noise or two or more components. The noise may be continuous or it may come and go.

The 5th – 11th February is Tinnitus Awareness week which is organized by the British Tinnitus Association (BTA) which angliEAR Hearing and Tinnitus Solutions are a corporate member. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of the condition, which, as mentioned, has a significant impact on approximately 1 in 10 of the populations quality of life.

As a clinic we have a passion for helping people with Tinnitus and raise awareness of what can be for some people a debilitating disease. During the awareness week we will be holding a number of events to support the BTA's campaign. Please get in touch and I will be happy to arrange additional information.

A very happy new year to you.

Sarah Carter

Tel: 01223 661 399, Mobile: 07734 411 443

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



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson



In 2017 ECDC managed to have a balanced budget without having to increase our council tax, whilst still maintaining our same level of services – the fourth year running.

There has also been an increase in the footfall of our Ely Markets as they have grown in popularity.

Our new Ely six screen cinema is now open, which together with free car parking and various eateries is proving very popular. I had been kept busy this last year dealing with various inappropriate planning applications because we did not have a local plan.

Last October we ratified the new draft Local Plan which has now gone to the Governments Inspector for his approval.

This next year we need to seek ways to increase housing for our lower earning families and individuals.

One way is by increasing the number of Community Land Trusts - these can provide local housing for local people at a reasonable cost to rent or buy.

2018 will see the completion of our new leisure centre next to the new six screen Ely Cinema, with its five lane 25m swimming pool. I am sure it will prove very popular.

It has been a privilege and an honour to have served the residents of the Swaffhams Ward these last 14 years, and I am looking forward to 2018.

Allen Alderson

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY THREE

“Whoever has many to please or govern
must use the ministry of many agents,
some of whom will be wicked and some ignorant;
by some he will be misled and by others betrayed.”

Dr Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

Anglesey in Stitches

It has been a busy and productive year for Anglesey in Stitches. We are an informal group of knitters and stitchers who meet in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck on odd-dated Tuesdays. Do get in touch if you would like to join us.

We usually work on our own projects, with jumpers, cardigans, scarves, gloves, socks, embroideries, a patch-work quilt and a mystery blanket all completed or under-way this year. Some of us occasionally use a meeting as an opportunity to catch up on more mundane tasks such as sewing Beaver and Cub badges onto uniforms. From time to time we have an away-meeting and this year have visited a former member's new home in Cottenham, tried our hand at weaving on a loom in



Swaffham Bulbeck and enjoyed a post-Christmas meal at The Shed.

We welcomed visitors from China and from Turkey, both visiting family in Bottisham on extended visits. Several new members have joined and we now have knitters and stitchers from four of the five Anglesey villages - someone from Quoy would give us a full complement.

From time to time we undertake a group project, and this year we knitted a digestive tract for use at Bottisham Primary



School's science day. It was life size, with 22ft of small intestine, a liver, a pancreas and a gall bladder, and can pass a marble. Needless to say much fun was had in the making, and words were uttered that would not normally be heard at our meetings. The children had great fun with it too.

Several of us sold hand-made key rings, tree decorations and scarves at the Swaffham Bulbeck and Lode Christmas Fairs to raise money for the respective churches and for Mara Bicycles for Clergy. We have an exciting and worthwhile group project in mind for 2018, with opportunity for any knitters or crocheters to get involved whether or not you can come to our regular meetings. Watch this space.

Clare Wilkes

01223 811 693

angleseyinstitches.wordpress.com

Facebook: [angleseyinstitches](https://www.facebook.com/angleseyinstitches)





LET'S DANCE

Come and join us dancing on Saturday evenings in the Main Hall at Bottisham Village College.

We will have music for Ballroom, Latin American and popular Sequence dancing.

Dates: January 14th, February 11th (Black Tie optional), March 11th, April 1st and May 13th (Masked Ball)

Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm.

The cost is £10 per couple, which includes interval tea/coffee. You are welcome to bring along your own refreshments. There is ample parking on site.

For further information please contact: Frank and Sue Hancocks, 01638 741159 or check out our website: www.letsdanceclub.org.uk



VILLAGE GARDENERS

Our meeting in December, was our annual Christmas party. What more to report, than lovely food prepared by the members, (more sherry in the trifle, than many of us could remember), much laughter, very silly games, a splendid raffle and little poinsettias wrapped in gold ribbon decorating our tables.

We were very pleased to welcome several new members to the party and of course are hoping for more.

Our next meeting is on Monday January 16th.

Margaret Joyce



Mothers' Union

In November Gina Radford came to talk to us. Gina as well as being Deputy Chief Medical Officer is also an Ordained Priest and as a Curate helps Sue Giles administer to all of us in the Anglesey Benefice of Churches.

Gina told us that many years ago she was a GP and loves her work because not only does she help to look after peoples' physical and mental health she can administer to their spiritual needs as well on Saturday and Sunday. During her talk she showed charts giving us some facts about the upside and downside of life expectancy.

Our meetings usually take place at 2.30 on the third Thursday of each month in Lode Chapel. Our next meeting will be on February 15th when Hazel Williams is giving a talk on 'Collecting her MBE from Buckingham Palace.' You are most welcome to come and join us.

Jill Jenyns

The Swaffhams' WI

Word is finally getting around that WI meetings are great for making friends and having fun. Here our lovely members are enjoying the annual Christmas Party which apparently was a great success. Unfortunately I was not able to be there this year but I hear there was delicious food and drink and hilarious games to get into the festive mood.



Now we wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to very varied programme for 2018. The next meeting is on January 15th at the village hall at 7.30 when Hilary Grant will be telling us about her return to Malaya this year to rediscover the land of her childhood.

New members are always welcome, just come along on the night, or if that seems a little daunting give me a ring or email and we will make sure someone is waiting to welcome you.

Pat Cook, President

Tel 01638 742224

Email patcook6@btinternet.com

OUR LINK WITH MARA, TANZANIA

Many of you who read this magazine will have made donations in one way or another over the last year, towards helping our friends in Mara, north-west Tanzania. Some of you bought bread baked by Ian Woodroffe to sponsor clean water projects, some patronised Lucinda's Christmas Fair in Swaffham Bulbeck to sponsor the purchase of bicycles and some of you made donations to other causes.

As a result, the following donations were sent in January:

£671.23 for water projects

£179.93 for mosquito nets

£2,269.50 for bicycles and a motor cycle

TOTAL: £3120



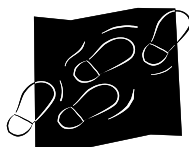
We have sponsored the bikes and motor-bike at the specific request of Bishop George when he visited us last year. They are for the use of the ministers and lay readers who need to travel some distance to cover the parishes in their areas of responsibility. The motor cycle is for the use of an Archdeacon whose area is very much larger. They do far more than take services and visit – they also promote and facilitate the humanitarian causes the Diocese is involved in. We are delighted to be able to support projects where our donations are acknowledged and transparently accounted for.



Bishop George responds:

‘Loving greetings from Musoma. My heartfelt thanks for your love, your prayers and your support for our Diocese. Please give our greetings to all who have supported us in God’s work here in Mara. You are most welcome to visit us in 2018.’

Next month: Special Report on Heather Johnstone’s work in Musoma



COMBERTON RAMBLERS' CLUB

The Comberton Ramblers' Club walk on alternative Sundays.

All walks start at 10.15 a.m.

Walks are from 4 - 7 miles, usually ending near a public house.

We are a friendly / informative group and enjoy exploring the varied countryside in this area.

New walkers are welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks, and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member.

For further details on how to join our sociable rambling group please contact Stella - The Secretary

Email : stella.ramblers@hotmail.com

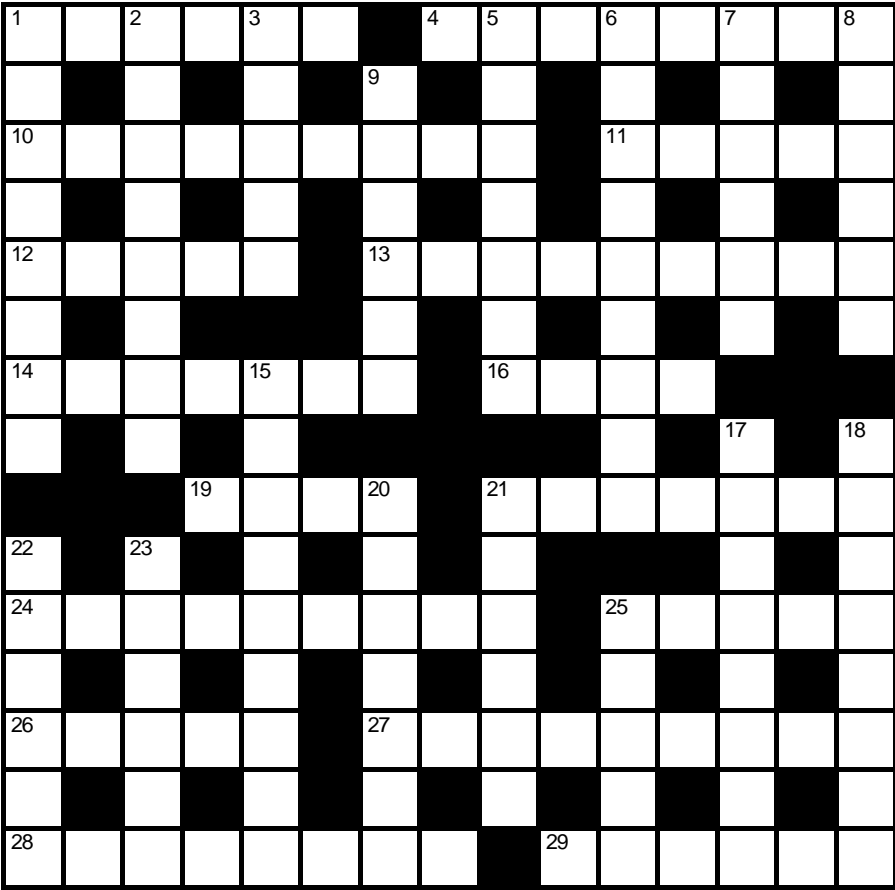
www.combertonramblers.org.uk

Tel : 01954 210049

Crossword Number 149

Compiled by **OUNCE**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 January 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

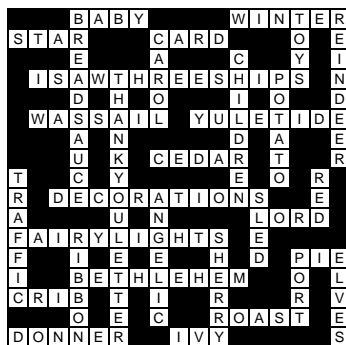
- 1 EU turf? Worry about what's to come (6)
- 4 Malformed creatures set on Mrs Wild (8)
- 10 Ocean going lunatic has a safe grin (9)
- 11 Enjoy backing simple machine (5)
- 12 Amin returned to fool (5)
- 13 Oriental language used to con Senate (9)
- 14 Fail to care for irregular resting-place after Paris departs? (7)
- 16 "Sigh!" Anne, we hear, is blue (4)
- 19 Singular type of 4A (4)
- 21 Lattice-work found in volatile 50 litres (7)
- 24 Feudal lords resign use doubtfully (9)
- 25 Drive Othello to swallow tea reportedly (5)
- 26 Gut while umbrella is concealed (5)
- 27 Adverse dusty rash on weekly basis? (9)
- 28 Tory leader and motoring organisation flog back to green vehicle? (4,4)
- 29 False conifers in? Out for wall painting (6)

Down

- 1 Makes loud residue with charged particles (8)
- 2 Way out but subtracting outlines (8)
- 3 Hero, a strongman, hides Sunday lunch (5)
- 5 Untamed Corgi, a new C-chemistry? (7)
- 6 Sticky ribbon peels a lot - disastrous! (9)

- 7 Is jealous of one in seven irrationally (6)
- 8 Southern ancient city with iron king who browses the internet (6)
- 9 Leo, for example, born soldier, returns with cold thanks (3,3)
- 15 19A rising over badly designed con I'm in; but it's well-designed! (9)
- 17 Splat, French water let loose on tablelands (8)
- 18 Sixth sense about ship? Love strong coffee! (8)
- 20 Ross abandons poor square roots for imaginary circle (7)
- 21 Thin paper in violet is Sue's delight (6)
- 22 Questioning because ruler? (6)
- 23 Wood joined to aluminium to get tiny gland (6)
- 25 Sailor and the French (twice) leave musical; Scrooge, for instance (5)

Solution to crossword no. 148



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

Notes from Parish Council December Meeting

Peter Hart chaired the meeting with eight Parish Councillors and four members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.30 pm.

Reports: None.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes (*for information only*):

The various letters sent to allotment holders were clarified. There is concern that the wrong amount was charged for the a recent burial. The Clerk to be asked to clarify at the next meeting. A response is awaited from Southgates re the cemetery damage.

Consideration of planning applications:

17/01947/FUL - Sterling Farm 4 Heath Road - Replacement dwelling, garaging, new access, parking and associated site works - there were no objections.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects:

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the snowdrops order was complete and that the cost would be similar to the daffodils.

Replacement Grit Bin:

Paul Latchford reported the bin has been replaced. It holds 205 kilos of salt and is full. The old bin has been removed at no charge.

Local Plan:

David Greenfield presented the draft response indicating (amongst other things) no more than 20 dwellings and improved tree protection. David will present it to ECDC asap.

Village Hall:

The process of redrawing the hire agreement is suspended awaiting legal input.

Allotments

None of the three tenants contacted have complied with the agreement to keep their plots in order. AK replied to the second letter and enclosed a cheque, but the other two did not.

The meeting was suspended Mr. Alan Durrant to speak.

Mr. Durrant was the mysterious "AD" referred to. He applied for an allotment but never got a reply, so he is on the list and does not currently have an allotment. He would still like one.

There was discussion about the terms of the agreement. The Clerk to be requested to write to one allotment holder and state that the terms of the agreement had not been kept and that the period allowed to tidy up the allotment had expired, therefore his lease is now cancelled. There are now two applicants for an allotment on the upper field.

Cemetery plot procedures and exclusive rights of burial

Both of these items were held over until the next meeting in order to allow the Clerk to document the processes required to reserve and implement a plot.

Speed Indicator

Paul Latchford had written a draft agreement and will circulate it in time for the

next meeting. There has been an enquiry from Lode PC about hire and insurance of the SID.

Clerk's Report:

There is just one outstanding credit from CGI, which is proving very difficult to resolve as they have a new Accounts Clerk. Mr. Joshua Schumann, CCC Councillor, sent a report but it arrived after the November meeting and it was not clear as to which meeting it referred. The Clerk, in absentia, invited everyone to the Red Lion for some Christmas mince pies.

Parish Councillors' Reports:

Mark Lewinski asked why the SID is not currently up. Steve Kent-Phillips replied that it was being rested for security reasons. Mark asked about the tree removal at the bottom of Cage Hill, but nobody knew who had done it. The Clerk will write to Mr. Alan Gould to see if he knows. Mark Lewinski asked if the Dunarvon recycler is currently out of action. But again nobody knew. Mark will contact Allen Alderson for an answer. Mark reported that the grass at the top of Fairview Grove is being churned up by cars. He pointed out that the top two houses do not have access to their drives. David Greenfield recalled we had visited the issue before and Hereward housing refused to pay for the access, and the residents declined to pay for it themselves. Mike Malster will contact Martin Mead for his expert opinion with a view to maybe including it in the ECDC MHI bid.

Sandra Gynn reported lots of dog mess on the High Street.

Steve Kent-Phillips reported no responses to the request for new projects to spend the £4K remaining in the CIL budget. The VHMC members present indicated that they would come up with a costed proposal for the PC to consider in the usual fashion.

Open Question Time:

Alistair Everett requested more information about the Joshua Schumann report. It appeared that only David Greenfield remembered seeing it. Alistair requested someone look at the notice board in the Bus Stop and Mark Lewinski volunteered to inspect and come back with a recommendation. Alistair Everett also clarified that it was Mr. Lewinski raising the issue of parking on the grass, and not any of the residents involved.

Michael Limb recalled that for access to the Fairview Grove houses, the occupants would have to pay. Steve Kent-Phillips confirmed it could not come out of CIL money as it did not meet the criteria. Michael also pointed out that the contact telephone numbers on the lamp posts were wrong. People are advised to contact the Clerk instead.

Alan Durrant requested an additional street light at the top of Adams Road. It was felt that the cost would be prohibitive.

If anyone would like further information on any of the above items, please contact the Clerk or visit the website www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/PC.

Clerk: Paul Catling – Voice Mail 07040 908743 – clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk

Next Meeting: Thursday 11 January 2018 at 7.30 pm

Every day is a gift ...



11th February, 13th March, 5th May, 9th July, 19th October, 3rd

November, 26th November: these dates are all special to the Brand household as we celebrate a member of our family being one year older; and 30th November, another year of marriage for Tammy & I. Add into the mix Easter, Christmas, family holidays, half-term visits from Grandma - there is always some sort of family event or celebration coming soon, something to **count down to**. "*Only 50 days until we go on holiday!*", "*It's my birthday in 20 days*", "*8 sleeps 'til Grandma comes to stay*".

Of course I understand that we look forward to milestones in our lives, and eagerly await opportunities to get together and celebrate with friends and family. At times however, through my life, and I've seen it in others too, we can be so preoccupied with counting down or waiting for a special day, that we neglect to make the most of every day we have been given.

"Every day is a gift, that's why it's called the present"

Every day we have an opportunity to show love and kindness, to do something that makes someone, somewhere, smile - to make a difference for good.

Who could you bless today? What could you do? How could you do it?

"Don't count the days ... make the days count"

In this spirit of making the most of every day, I'd like to make you aware of the start date of our next Alpha course so you can get it in your diary in plenty of time - **Monday April 16th, 7.30pm**. Alpha is an opportunity to gather and consider questions of life and faith with others who want to do the same. More info nearer the time, check out www.alpha.org and let me know if you'd like to join us.

You are also, as ever, very welcome to join us at RENEW any time!

Happy New Year!

Rev. Alan Brand

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 7th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am
(Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 14th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)
Followed by shared lunch*

Sunday 21st January. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 28th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

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

THE ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES

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.

Our Vicar is Rev'd Sue Giles; Tel: 01223 812726; suethetic@btinternet.com

and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; gina.radford@btinternet.com

Detail of services and events can be found on www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk and www.facebook.com/angleseychurches

For weddings and baptisms please contact: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk

Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice? Please call 07553 151585.

Dee Noyes

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

Bosch corded hammer drill. Old but in working order. Jacqui 01223 811190

Chocolate brown bucket-type single seat armchair (from John Lewis). Very good condition. Beth Marsh 01223 813373.

Full size table tennis table - top only ((standing frame broken). Brian 01223 813635

Myson white electric towel rail 540 wide x 600 high; Triton Opal 2 9.5 kw electric shower (needs flex, head, and riser rail); Bathroom mirror 450 wide x 600 high, bevelled edges, round top; Large black wood framed mirror, approx 2m high x 1m wide, frame approx 200 wide. Very stylish, very big. Dave or Sue 01638 742559

Wanted

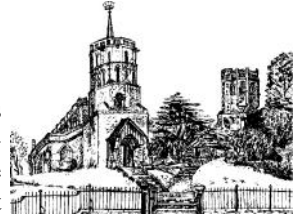
Wire hanging baskets. Fibre (not plastic!) wall plugs (rawlplugs), sizes no. 8 or no. 10. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592

Your old light fittings, brown Bakelite switches, iron conduit and switches, bulb holders and holders. Sheets and bits of bakelite. Postcard rack (carousel if possible). George 07895 064727.

Dear Friends,

Invisible Lines

Invisible lines can be powerful things. Most of us have a sense of personal space and this varies from person to person. When someone crosses that invisible line we may feel uncomfortable. At a recent event I met someone whose sense of personal space was considerably different to mine. I had to resist the urge to keep taking a step back when they came to talk to me and stood within my invisible space-line.



The same is also true for date and time lines. They are not visible yet they are enormously powerful and can shape our behaviour. The turning of the year is an internationally agreed event. Its timing moves around the globe yet it is a powerful marker of change for many people.

The changing of the year allows human beings to put events behind them, sometimes with great relief, sometimes with sadness, sometimes with gratitude. It also allows them to turn to a new beginning or a fresh start.

In the ups and downs of human life this invisible marker provides an important moment of transition and change. For some it re-energises them giving them a new sense of purpose or hope. For others it allows them to review the mistakes or tragedies of the past year, either to learn from them or simply to remember them. Such opportunities for reflection are important as human beings journey through life.

The love of God can also provide powerful opportunities for change and transitions but unlike date lines and other boundaries, the love of God has no line or limits and runs through all human life and society. The love of God has the power to give people a fresh start not simply at the beginning of a new year but at the beginning

of each new day. The love of God can redirect and re-energise those who experience it giving them purpose and hope even in the darkest times. The love of God enfolds those who review the past with grief or sadness giving them a sense of peace amidst the pain and a promise amidst the bleakness. It may be unseen to human view but it is powerful beyond measure and is there for any who want to embrace it at any time and without limits and or cost, except to the one who gives it.

May you know afresh the love of God this coming year or perhaps discover it for the very first time.

Wishing you a healthy and hopeful new year.



**" RICHARD IS VERY PROTECTIVE
OF HIS PERSONAL SPACE! "**

Sue Giles

Church Services in January

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

Sunday 7 January, Epiphany

11am Matins

Sunday 14 January, Baptism of Christ

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

Sunday 21 January, Third Sunday of Epiphany

11am Family Service

Sunday 28 January, Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2018
ALL!**



Dates for Your Diary January 2018

| | | |
|-----------------|----|---|
| Tue | 9 | Anglesey in Stitches, Black Horse Pub, Bulbeck [19] |
| Thu | 11 | PC Meeting, 7.30, VH [27] |
| Sun | 14 | Lets Dance, 7.30pm, BVC [20] |
| Mon | 15 | WI, 7.30, VH, [21] |
| Tue | 16 | Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [20] |
| Fri | 19 | Coffee Morning, 4 Foster Lane, 10.30am—12 noon [7] |
| Sat | 20 | Crier Copy Deadline |
| Tue | 23 | Anglesey in Stiches, Black Horse Pub, Bulbeck [19] |
| Sun | 28 | Munnings Art, NHC, Newmarket, 11am—1pm [8] |
| Mon | 29 | |
| February | | |
| Thu | 8 | HMS Pinafore Sing Through, 7.30pm, Swaffham Bulbeck School [9] |

Numbers in square brackets indicate the page number of the article in this edition

| Club | Contact | Tel. | Date | Time | Place |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| FOSPS | Clare Freeman | 741316 | 2 nd Mon of Term | 8pm | Village School |
| Beavers, Cubs and Scouts | Tim Doe | 01223 861083 | Variable | | |
| 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 | |