



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLII Number 6

June 2018



## Editorial

WHEN WE FIRST STARTED EDITING THE CRIER in January 1998 as part of an editorial team of five (the Gang of Five, as Our Reporter quickly dubbed us, although it didn't last long: a reverse cuckoo job, we were pushed back in the nest while the rest flew out!) someone had complained to Our Reporter that they didn't see why we had to have TWO Parish Council Reports, one from Our Reporter, and an official one from the PC Clerk. Alastair put up a spirited defence "While the *Crier* Report is a poor thing compared to the great parliamentary sketch-writers, it does follow the same tradition and without fear, will be lively, irreverent, critical, factual, informative, as well as seeing the PC as theatre, or, as Norman Shrapnel once wrote of Parliament, 'a famous but ever-struggling repertory company'". Absolutely. He also defended the role of the Clerk which someone wanted to replace with a dictaphone (this'll settle all those accuracy disputes). Not quite, apart from anything-else, everybody talks at once....

And here we are 20 years on, with more ammunition for the doubters. Last month, one correspondent jumped to wrong conclusions (see Letters) because he'd simply read the sketch-writer, at the same time complaining that the sketch writer had been insufficiently comprehensive. So Clerk, we need you just as much, and next month, readers, we very much hope that we will finally get back in sync! No Dictaphones required....

Last month saw the sad demise of two of the Crier's most veteran helpers: Clive Fletcher and Peter Partridge, both 90 years old. Clive Fletcher delivered milk originally, but he also delivered the Crier to Heath Road and one of our foreign outlets (Swaffham Bulbeck). Peter Partridge was one of the first people I got to know on the Crier: the very first day I turned up after the reverse-Putsch with my very first Crier fresh off the print, there was Peter at the High Table in the Village Hall. In those days, we collated, stapled and folded the Criers ourselves, the pages being laid out in order along long tables, from which we carefully collected them and delivered them to Peter Partridge. This was the skilled stuff. And only Peter could do it. He had to get the staple through in exactly the right place. We still have the stapler, but alas the expertise has died with Peter. Farewell Clive and Peter, you did a wonderful job for us.

What a Village Feast! And continued by a delightful do at the Lion. More pictures, including the Gurning, next month readers.

**Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture: The Village Sign**

### Regulars

Letters	2
Our Reporter	4
Rupert Bear	4-5
Julie's Recipes	11
Ophir	12
Cllr Alderson	19
CROSSWORD	18
WI	21
Village Gardeners	2
Wicken /Anglesey News	22
CROSSWORD	24
Freecycle	25
PC Report	26
Flying the Flag	27
Bon Mot	27
Sue Giles	30
Church Services	31
Diary & Clubs	32

### News, Views & Reviews

Who Stole the Poppies?	3
Scouts in the Orchard	6
Egg-Throwing Rules	7
Annual Village Assembly	8
VILLAGE FEAST	13-18

### What's On

Pop-up Tea Shop	12
Lode Fete	12
Strawberry Teas	5
Poppy Making	7, 29



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### Where are Swaffham Prior's Swifts?

It is well into May and the swifts have yet to make a full appearance, so where are they??

The British Trust for Ornithology says Swifts should be here now:

#### Average arrival dates of swifts at four bird observatories

<b>Portland</b>	<b>Skokholm</b>	<b>Bardsey</b>	<b>Calf of Man</b>
23 April	29 April	29 April	3 May

If you have swifts nesting at your house – firstly well done you are very lucky! If they haven't arrived don't despair the winds will change and they could make a late appearance (hopefully!).

I would be interested to collect anecdotal evidence of swifts arriving or in fact not arriving at regular nest sites in the village. I am also keen to see if you have a site within the village that would be suitable for swift nestboxes as I think we ought to be able to get a grant to obtain them.

Contact me on [sceloporus.mike@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sceloporus.mike@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mike Barker**

Direct: 01480 302781

Mobile: 07483 908581



**Affordable housing  
for swifts? There  
might be a  
Government Grant...**



---

Dear Editors,

### Mark Lewinski's Letter

The Clerk was carrying out his legal duty when he asked for Mr. Lewinski's reason for absence. Technically, the Chairman must accept them. Also, the Parish Council DID NOT put in a bid for £350,000 from ECDC. We merely expressed an interest on the closing day for nominations. The Scout Group had already expressed a strong interest in taking over the running of the Youth Club Hut.

**Steve Kent-Phillips**

Dear Editors,

## Pot Holes and Pet Problems

Please report potholes using the online service [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and click "Roadworks". The more reports the council gets, the faster they fix them.

If you are passing the play area and the gate is open, can you please close it as we are getting dogs wandering in there and doing their business.

**Steve Kent-Phillips**

Swaffham Prior Parish Council

---

## Who Stole the Poppy Wreath?

For many years now, Andrew Prince (Sid Prince's son) has been kindly putting a cross with a poppy attached onto the Commemorative Plaque on the green at the at the bottom of Cage Hill that was erected in memory of the Women's Land Army . Last year, he thought he'd go one better and ordered a beautiful wreath from the British Legion, which he duly placed there on Remembrance Day.

We all must have noticed it, but now it has disappeared! Was someone mowing the grass perhaps and, and.... Or what?

This seems a bit shabby! We do hope it was by accident, and the wreath can now be returned. If you know what happened to it, please contact the *Crier*, or ring Andrew on 741420.



**At the unveiling  
of the plaque in  
May 2014:  
Andrew Prince,  
Martin Mead (to  
the back), Pam  
Waters, Ralph  
Waters (to the  
back), Sidney  
Prince, Stephen  
Bradley (to the  
back), Emma  
Fletcher kneeling  
and on the end  
Linda Kirby.**

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

May's meeting? Not the Parish Council's finest hour. Perhaps it is time for the PC to be more P.C?

'Whingeing' 'Diatribes' 'Nimbyism' - these were Parish Councillors' comments on representations by concerned residents on various planning applications. The residents' concerns were not discussed, just disregarded with audacious remarks.

Confusion over action points from previous meetings regarding both a donation to the Village Hall and the long overdue apology letter to an allotment holder. Ummm. Surely unnecessary if approved minutes were to hand?

Slightly smug declaration of last year's £4.3k surplus and cash assets of £29.7k yet begrudging of a one-off reduction of 2 months allotment rent as a so-called gesture of goodwill for the aggrieved allotment holder still awaiting his apology and confirmation letter from the Parish Council. To quote a member of the public, shameful. But strangely, according to the accounts, there has been no income received from allotment rents over the past couple of years so 2/12ths of nothing is nothing.

**"Perhaps it is time for the PC to be more P.C?"**

But looking at the positives, the elusive County Councillor Joshua Schumann came with updates on the Ely Southern by-pass and how the fiery Dragon Patcher is tackling potholes. And, ta-dah, the Parish Council has a new Vice Chairman, David Greenfield. Peter Hart has done a sterling job these past years but it will be refreshing to see someone else have a fair crack of the whip.

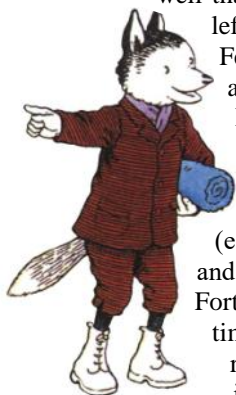
**LG**



---

## Where WAS that Bear?

Last month, some children hid Rupert Bear so well that no-one could find him, and he was left out all alone in a field at night. Until Ferdie Fox came with a warm blanket and took him home to his cosy Den. Possibly! But readers of Rupert Bear will know that foxes can be very badly behaved and sometimes forget to bring things back in the morning (especially people's socks and slippers and washing from the line, so we're told). Fortunately, Ferdie did remember this time, but another time, children, always remember to bring Rupert back before it's time to go home.





This month, Rupert has been helping Viv Elston with some decorating. Here he is, just checking to see Viv hasn't made a mess of things...

---



## Strawberry Teas

Sunday 15th July

3.00 – 5.00 pm

Lords Acre, Lords Ground Farm  
Swaffham Prior Fen  
Follow the signs from the School

Tickets £5.00/£3.00  
Must be booked in advance  
please

Jess Shakeshaft 01638 744266  
[jess.shakeshaft@swaffham-prior.co.uk](mailto:jess.shakeshaft@swaffham-prior.co.uk)

All welcome 😊  
Will go ahead whatever the  
weather!

In aid of  
St. Mary's Church  
Swaffham Prior





## Scouts go to Reach Orchard

Recently the Scouts spent a sunny Saturday morning in the Reach Village Orchard knocking down, killing a few weeds and then spreading a wood mulch around the trees to keep the weeds down. Ice-creams afterwards for the cool down.

*Neil and Nathan*  
1st Swaffham Prior Scouts





*Oooh....Paul Latchford! Is this Veteran Egg Champion from previous years about to catch? Or did he just miss?*

## WHAT ARE THE RULES? We should be told!

For a great many years, residents of Swaffham Prior have been participating in the popular egg-throwing contest along the High Street which marks the close of the annual Village Feast.

But when Wilmotts v. Willmotts, the two sole surviving pairs from the second heat, both crashed out together with all eggs scrambled and no heat winner decided, there was something of a hiatus: what to do? Well, options might be:

1. Both go through
2. Get more eggs and continue (this is what happened in the consequently many egged final) OR
3. Both go out.

After some thought, referee Martin Mead plumped for Option 3: NO winners — possibly not a popular decision!

But what ARE the rules? And how long has this game been going anyway? Someone somewhere must know, please write and tell us.

## Poppy Progress

You may have read in previous issues about the project to create installations of crocheted and knitted poppies on the tower of Swaffham Bulbeck church and at each of the five parish war memorials for the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November. We have more than 50 people from all five villages involved already, many of whom have learned to crochet from scratch, and have 400 poppies completed, but we still need more of you to join in if we are to reach our target of 5000 poppies.



You can find us at the regular Anglesey in Stitches meetings: 8pm on odd-dated Tuesdays in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck. We will also be at the Swaffham Bulbeck Street Fair on June 30th and Swaffham Prior pop-up teas in July and August.

Please get in touch if you would like to take part but can't make any of these dates so that we can supply you with yarn and a pattern.

**Veronica Stephenson**

[vron.stephenson@gmail.com](mailto:vron.stephenson@gmail.com) 01223 813 555

FB angleseyinstitches

## The 2018 Annual Village Assembly

The Annual Village Assembly comprised the usual suspects – half the PC and a dozen or so rank and file villagers, most of whom were there last year, and the year before...

The first two items on the agenda were the CCC and ECDC reports, both presented by Allen Alderson, deputising in the first instance for Josh Schumann who apparently does exist but had a more important meeting somewhere else. The lead item was the Ely Southern Bypass, which is progressing well and should be in operation by October; it was originally scheduled to be finished in June but they had encountered 'unexpectedly soft ground conditions' which had slowed them up and cost a lot more money. Soft ground? Really? Allen was careful in his response to the predictable audience reaction, suggesting that if the original proposal for the project had indicated the real cost, it would never have got off the ground... I'm sure we will all be very happy when it is complete. He also clarified that the existing road under the bridges will remain open to local traffic, reduced to one lane with traffic lights to allow for a decent footpath.

Next was extra money for 'Connecting Cambridge' – otherwise broadband and fibre for outlying areas – with the aim of providing Superfast Broadband to 99% (geographical or households?) of the county within the foreseeable future, and to serve the 'Digital Innovation Corridor' which apparently starts somewhere and finishes in Linton. CC Council Tax will rise by 2.99% plus another 2% ringfenced for adult social care, and the CC have obtained a fire-breathing machine which will fix potholes properly. We learned that the CC is planning to sell the premises on Castle Hill and move to Alconbury; there was no detail of how much this exercise would cost or save in the long term.

Allen was very pleased to inform us that the DC has now kept their portion of the tax bill at the same level for five years, and promise the same again next year, thanks to cost-saving exercises like bringing waste collection back in house, anticipated income from Community Land Trust projects in Stretham and Ely, and the extended commuter car park at Angel Drove. The new cinema and leisure centre on the western bypass is now in operation, and the swimming pool will be open soon. It is considered a great success, but the possible impact on businesses in the town centre has not yet been assessed.

Questions from the floor about what ECDC



**Tim Doe receiving the Gay Bulleid Award 2018 from Parish Council Chairman John Covill, presented jointly this year to Steve White and Tim.**



was doing for rural communities south of Ely morphed into a lengthy discussion about infrastructure and traffic problems, particularly the morning tide into Cambridge. Steve KP told us that the local PCs were getting together to monitor traffic (we have all seen the strips across the roads) to provide data, and Allen said there were plans to improve the A10 (so reducing traffic through here) and modify the dangerous crossroads at the end of Bulbeck heath road. There are also ideas to provide more train services and parking at places like Dullingham and (maybe) Soham, but these are unlikely to attract custom from SP residents. There seems to be no attention at all to the improvement of bus services, and it was agreed that the lack of a service to Cambridge North station was a missed opportunity.



After all this the PC report came as welcome light relief, being short and relatively succinct. They have helped to fund works at the Village Hall, bought snowdrops, monitored traffic from Reach, improved the cemetery notice board, and are working on a detailed plan to ensure that a recent unfortunate incident of preparing a grave in the wrong place will not be repeated. They will also review their procedures to make sure that the Allotments saga won't be repeated either. The CIL funds arising from the Rogers Road development have now almost all been spent on the selected projects, and any surplus can be put towards a survey of the Youth Club hut.

Chris Goodfellow, Chair of Governors, reported that following the recent Ofsted report ('requires significant improvement'), Swaffham Prior School is obliged to change to Academy status, and will become part of the Ely Diocesan Trust. The head teacher, who has been on sick leave for a significant period, has resigned, and Donia Mercer has stepped up to take over for the remainder of the academic year. More teachers have been recruited, and there is renewed optimism amongst staff and parents for the future.

Tim Doe gave his usual upbeat account of the Scout troop, who are fewer in numbers this year but having just as much fun ('doing things they wouldn't do in other environments'.) They are perennially short of leaders, having only two per section rather than three, and would welcome any interest and assistance. They are particularly pleased that so many of the 'graduate' Explorers, who would normally be expected to move on are still maintaining their links with the troop. One of them is Harry Oliver-Towers, who told us about the World Scout Jamboree being held next summer in West Virginia, which no less than three (he and two others) from the troop have been chosen to attend – a fantastic result for a small village troop. They need to raise around £3,800 between them to cover the cost; there will be information in the Crier and I'm sure we can all rally round to make sure this happens.

Tim and Steve White (who can be credited particularly with the success of the Explorers) share this year's Gay Bulleid Award. Well done both.

**The engagement of local residents [with the Community Heating Scheme] is not clear, particularly given the proponents' somewhat patronising attitude to our likely understanding of technology...**

the PCC (who were keen to point that out), but they don't have funds for a major refurbishment, for which the first step is a survey of the structure, foundations and known presence of asbestos. Any remaining CIL money has been promised towards the cost of the survey.

The Village Hall is busy, and day-to-day operations are providing a surplus, but there is always a list of maintenance and improvement projects which need funding (fence, pantry, roof tiles) and a proposed extension for storage to make the smaller room more usable in isolation. The PC has helped to fund some of this.

Emma Fletcher took the floor to talk about the Community Land Trust (Rogers Road development) and the ongoing investigation into the possibility of a village-wide community heating system. The CLT is deemed to be working well; apart from a planned swap between larger and smaller houses for two existing tenants it seems that everyone is likely to see out the five-year term of their current contracts, and are then likely to re-apply. The terms and conditions of selection and tenancy are expected to remain the same.

The village 'central heating' investigation, with which you may be familiar and have filled in questionnaires, continues to find sources of grant money to expand their scope. It became clear that the perceived justification for the scheme is to find an economic replacement in the longer term for oil as a prime energy source. With what it would be replaced is not yet clear (subject to further investigation) but someone pointed out that an existing scenario included a very large oil-fired boiler as the standby for emergencies. At what point the engagement of local residents becomes part of the further study is not clear, particularly given the proponents' somewhat patronising attitude to our likely understanding of technology.

Janet reported on the village car scheme, which has managed to respond to all but one request in the last year. So far so good, but two of the regular driver volunteers have moved elsewhere, so more would be welcome. The POP (Proud of Prior) scheme is also busy (I saw them out litter picking today) and could also always use more people. Janet asks for suggestions for other good works that might be done.

Steve closed the meeting with a request that it be held in June next year, because there were several other things (like filing accounts) that had to be done in May. No-one seemed to object, so see you next June.

Burwell Tigers now have up to 250 members of various ages playing at weekends (not all on the field at Station Road, which unfortunately had its fencing stolen recently). They remind us that the field is available for other events.

The subject of the Youth Club Hut came up as a topic under different headings. It is dilapidated and would need significant attention to become safe and usable, but could be an asset for the village, and the Scouts could make very good use of it. It now belongs to

*John Chalmers*

## Julie Nunn's June Recipes

### Strawberries in Pimm's



#### Ingredients

- 1kg fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 4 Tablespoons caster sugar
- 120ml Pimm's No 1 cup
- Fresh mint leaves to garnish

#### Method

1. Put strawberries into large bowl, sprinkle the sugar over strawberries and coat evenly. Let stand at room temperature for 15 mins stirring occasionally.
2. Add the Pimm's and stir and leave for another 30mins then finally garnish with mint leaves

Serves 10

---

### Strawberry and White Chocolate Cheesecake



#### Ingredients

- 250g Digestive Biscuits
- 150g Melted Butter
- 600g Cream Cheese
- 100g Icing Sugar
- 400g halved Strawberries
- 100g melted White Chocolate

#### Method

1. Butter and line a loose bottomed tin
2. Crush digestives into crumbs
3. Melt the butter and then mix with biscuit crumbs
4. Press mixture into lined tin
5. Leave to chill in fridge
6. For the filling put the cream cheese and icing sugar together and beat well
7. Pour the melted chocolate to mix and stir in well
8. Chop the strawberries into small bits and add to mix, keeping a few strawberries back to decorate the top
9. Pour the mix on to the biscuit base evenly
10. Put into fridge for a few hours until firm

Serves 8-10

## The Fruitless Forum

Nobody said anything, nothing was said,  
And the silence hung heavy, heavy as lead.  
Someone broke the silence though, “*Nothing*” was said;  
A ‘nobody’ said, “*Nothing*”, and hung his head.  
Although he was a ‘nobody’, “*Nothing*” he’d said,  
Though he’d said it loudly, then lost the thread.  
He had meant to follow it, with something good,  
And now he’d said, “*Nothing*” he wished that he could.  
He realised as he said it, the silence was broken  
And heartily wished it was not he who had spoken.  
He regretted the impulse and wished it unsaid;

Then his face suffused with an instant warm red;  
And once again the silence hung, heavy as lead.

*Ophir*



**The Village Hall**  
Swaffham Prior

Pop Up Afternoon Tea  
Shop 2018  
Open 3pm to 5pm

**Sunday** 8<sup>th</sup> July, then  
Saturdays:  
21<sup>st</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> August &  
1<sup>st</sup> September  
Pop in for tea and cake



## LODE VILLAGE FETE

**Sunday 17 June**  
**On the Fassage**  
**12noon - 4.00 pm**

Another fun packed day



With stalls, Dog Show,  
Beat the Goalie  
food, bar and Tea and Cakes



Featuring  
**Soham Majorettes**  
Ukuleles  
and mini athletics

contact [chrisjking56@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjking56@gmail.com) for further information

# Village Feast Thank You

*Just a brief notice - full details and more pictures, including the gurning photos, will be published in next month's Crier.*

A big thank you to the weather once again. A grey and damp start to the day was followed by copious quantities of sunshine, to the point that bouncy castle users were in danger of overheating and Clare, in the kitchen, was inundated with small children asking for drinks.

The afternoon started gently, but visitors soon accumulated, attracted by even more stalls than in previous years. All stallholders reported brisk trade throughout the afternoon and the event had a real buzz.

Winners of the various competitions were as follows

Football:

Adults - **Pete Bridgeman** and **Dan Claydon**

Children - **George Sutton**

Follow the Path:

Adults - **Pete Bridgeman**

Children - **Chris Verdonk**

End Game Quiz:

**The Parry family**

4 other completely correct entries were handed in

Playstation F1:

Adults - **Nick Swift**

Children - **Leah Swift**

Egg Throwing:

**Josh Willmott** and **Helen Blair**

**See over**



Congratulations to the winners and a huge thank you to everyone who turned out and made the day such a resounding success.

Over £1,000 was raised to help to keep the Hall in tip-top condition.

*The Committee*



## From The Crier Archives, June 2014:

Dear Editors ,

### Village Feast!

What happened to Feast Day this year? There has always been a Feast Day ever since we've lived here.

At one time there was a theme and all the stallholders dressed to represent it. As well as Maypole dancing we had a children's fancy dress parade, we had guess the weight of the cake, how many Smarties in the jar, stalls selling plants, ice cream, cakes, bric-a-brac, bottle stall as well as side shows, a greasy pole and Miss Swaffham Prior. One year the vicar sat on a chair in his swimming trunks and people paid money to aim at tipping a bucket of water over him (I'm not suggesting our vicar be asked to do this!). It was all great fun.

It was all part of village life. Why do these things disappear? Are people too busy sitting in front of their computers to make the effort? ... Here's hoping it will be back again next year, I look forward to it - and I'm very willing to help if needed.

*Betty Prime*

**No sooner said than done Betty, and true to her word, here she is in May 2018. With all her stalls and a few more to boot. Bar the Vicar in a wet bikini.....**





**The Paparazzi**



**The Cake Stall**



**The Maypole**





Sid the Kid — Egg Stomping





with winners and losers



...but we are the Champions!







Beauty and...



Football Finesse



...the Scarey Beast!  
With Prize Colouring  
Set...



Rocket Girl





## End of Year Report



### Council Tax

Our fifth year of zero percent Council Tax rise with the same pledge for a sixth year in 2019/20 makes us different – all the other District Councils in Cambridgeshire are again raising Council Tax this year, and all have Council Tax rises built in to their MTFSSs which ours does not.

### Waste services

Waste and recycling services were brought in house with the councils new trading arm East-Cambs Street Scene Ltd in April 2018. Any profits made will now go to our District Council rather than Veolia. The cost to the council will be just £1 per week per house for waste collection.

### Housing

We need to press ahead with housing and CLTs in the district to meet current demand. The last financial year has seen

- The first CLT homes occupied in Stretham, where the CLT owns 23 homes, for ever for local people to live in their own community, at genuinely affordable rents.
- Building is well underway at Soham CLT, Haddenham has been granted permission for 54 homes, 19 of which will belong to the CLT. Kennett will have 500 homes, 150 of which will be owned by the CLT

### Homelessness

We have had the opening of the Ely Community Hub – a safe place for people to get advice and support on a whole range of issues. It is an integral part of the unique way that our housing team prevents homelessness. 1<sup>st</sup> March saw the opening of the second community hub in Littleport.

### Planning

Without the Local Plan in place 2018 was a very busy year for planners and us councillors. We had to deal with a large number of planning applications, many of which were inappropriate.

### Commuter Car Parks

We have seen the delivery of two commuter car parks at Littleport and Ely railway stations, which helps to cut down on street parking



## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Linda Gasgoine, from Mildenhall, gave us a very interesting talk, on wildflower gardening, behind a sea of wildflowers, which happily we could purchase.

The number of wildflowers, have been declining over the last few decades, falling prey to herbicide spraying, changing farming practices (earlier cutting of silage - which means less seeds), the felling of native trees and mass planting of conifers, which has led to a huge loss of bluebells, wood anemones and oxslips and the further draining of the Fens, where the casualty has been Snakes Head Fritillaries.

### **What can we plant for wildlife? Berried plants for birds and tolerate a few thistles and brambles.....**

We can do a little to slow the decline down, by planting wildflowers in our gardens and many groups are doing this, countrywide, on reserves — locally in Norfolk, the Friends of the Earth, have fields full of flowers at Tichwell. Wicken Fen is of course a haven for wild flowers, where no spraying is allowed and RSPB reserves, where bird life and wild plants, happily co-habit.

There are of course areas, where wildflowers continue to flourish- the wild orchids on the Limestone in the Dales; railway embankments and motorway verges have been opportunistically colonised, by amongst others, Rosebay willow herb and Cowslips- see the Fordham by- pass.

There are 50 species of native British Orchid - 9 are endangered, but locally, the Military Orchid is doing well at Barton Mills and the Bog Orchid at Sutton Fen RSPB reserve.

Many native wildflowers, we have now cultivated in our gardens: aquilegia, foxgloves, cowslips, honey suckle, cranesbill, and muscari, of which there is a special species, native to Thetford.

Some of course have been imported: Rosebay willow herb from the States, a Viking invader, Scurvy grass, that loves salt and thrives on the side of motorways, and, as Linda called them, the villains: Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed—not to be encouraged!

Many of our native plants have a fascinating local variation in names and over the centuries have been used for pharmaceutical, homeopathic and cosmetic purposes. Think of scabious,



Bird's-foot Trefoil — see it now on the old railway embankment

pulmonaria, self heal, lady's bed straw, bird's foot trefoil and meadow sweet- or courting and matrimony( work that out), belladonna and digitalis. The dyes Madder and Wode come from wild plants and we all enjoyed Pontefract cakes because the town was surrounded by wild liquorice.

What can we plant for wildlife? Berried plants for birds and tolerate a few thistles and brambles. Have a pond for frogs, toads, dragonflies and water loving insects, and for the pollinators- marjoram, lavender, verbena and night scented plants for the moths. Not too much to ask!

We now look forward to our summer garden outings in June and July. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Peter Hart, on 741681.

*Margaret Joyce*



## The Swaffhams WI News

At our May meeting the speaker was Dr Julie Bounford who gave us a very interesting talk on the history of Heffers. The content of Julie's talk is a result of research she undertook to write a book on the social history of Heffers and from which we enjoyed numerous photographs illustrating the development of the company from the first small shop in Fitzroy Street opened in 1876 by William Heffer to the prestigious company that was finally sold to Blackwells in 1999. At that time the company had been a family business for four generations. What different times we live in today. It is so good to have these historical records of how Cambridge people were working and living in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

There is no meeting in June as we will be having our annual Garden Party on 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 High Street. The next meeting in Swaffham Prior Village Hall will be on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Veronica Bennett talking about the National Trust property at Felbrigg.

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



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

**Pat Cook – President**

Tel: 01638 742224: Email [patcook6@btinternet.com](mailto:patcook6@btinternet.com)



### Wicken Fen

Our **Cuckoo Festival** is now in full swing, and the distinctive calls of male and female cuckoos will continue to be heard on the nature reserve throughout the month of June. As cuckoo numbers are in decline, it is with a real sense of excitement that visitors experience seeing and hearing these fascinating birds. We will be offering pop-up ranger walks, and information to visitors about where and when cuckoos have been seen and heard. **Boat trips** through the nature reserve are available every day too; they are a great way to hear and see cuckoos, and can be booked by telephone or in person at the Visitor Centre (£6 per adult, £3.50 per child, £17.50 per family).

**Fen flowers** will be in full bloom in June, the perfect time to enjoy the scents and sights of fen wildflowers across the nature reserve. Look out for rare marsh pea, purple and yellow loosestrife, marsh thistle, ragged robin and the early and southern marsh orchids. We will be offering a **Wildflower Wander** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 2-4pm, this is an opportunity to enjoy a guided walk with a ranger to see the wildflower highlights. Tickets cost £5.50 and include a hot drink. To book please visit our website.

If you are interested in local artists and artisans, we also see the return of Nadine Anderson for her popular **Willow Frame Basket Making Workshop** on Saturday 16 June, from 10am to 4.30pm. You can also visit a **Pop Up Gallery** in partnership with the Isle of Ely Festival and East Cambridgeshire Open Studios artists on Saturday and Sunday 23 & 24 June from 10.30am to 5pm. Further details available from our website.

We will be hosting **The Story Orchestra: Four Seasons in One Day** for the first time on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June from 11.30am to 1pm. This is an event for children of primary age that includes story, music and craft. Tickets cost £10 per child (accompanying adults free). Please see [www.eboracumbaroque.co.uk](http://www.eboracumbaroque.co.uk) for further details and to book.

Further activities for families include **Traditional Mud Oven Cooking** on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June, from 10am to 2.30pm, for children aged 8+ and accompanying adults, costing £50 per family for a delicious outdoor cookery activity. Our regular **Mucky Pups** sessions for under 5s continue on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 June, from 10.15-11.45am. This month's seasonal fun, craft and adventure theme is 'Bugs and Bees'. Please call the Visitor Centre to book (£4.75 per child, accompanying adults are free of charge). Please check our website for further information about events and to book: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen)

### **Anglesey Abbey**

**High days & holidays (5<sup>th</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> September).** Join us this summer as we explore Lord Fairhaven's journeys across the globe in his luxury Steam Yacht, The Sapphire. Discover how his travels influenced his design of the garden, and enjoy the Dahlia Garden where he entertained his close friends, including members of the Royal Family, upon his return home for the final stages of the flat racing season.

Our exhibition will include artefacts never seen before. A digitised cine film taken by Lord Fairhaven at the Cowes Regatta in the 1920s will be on show in the House, after the Conservation Team, discovered it in a trunk in Lord Fairhaven's wardrobe. Important moments in Lord Fairhaven's life such as attending both Royal coronations and his personal friendship with the Royal family will also be explored. His perfectly preserved coronation robes will also be displayed for the first time.

Our restaurant and shop will be offering themed food and products so you can taste and take home a flavour of Lord Fairhaven's travels.

This summer programme includes:

**Going Stateside (5 May - 3 June)** We focus on Lord Fairhaven's travels and influences from his home continent, North America. For half term we'll be launching our family passport activity, which will run throughout the summer.

**Motoring around Europe (4 June - 15 July)** After North America, we look at Lord Fairhaven's European adventures in his luxury Rolls Royce. He was also partial to a round or two of golf, with his close friend Lord Inverclyde, who joined Lord Fairhaven on many of his travels.

**An Eastern Exploration (16 July - 9 September)** Our exploration takes us to the Far East. Highlights include games on-board the Sapphire whilst circling India, Singapore and Egypt.

**Homecoming (10 - 30 September)** Traditionally Lord Fairhaven returned to Anglesey Abbey in September to enjoy the latter stages of the flat racing season where he could entertain guests including Royalty in his Dahlia Garden.

A date for your diary – Tickets for this year's **Winter Lights at Anglesey Abbey** go on sale on Tuesday 24 July. The event runs for 10 nights, over 3 weekends in November (9 – 11, 15 – 18, 23 -25 November). Ticket prices are Adults £15.50, Child £10.50, Family £50.50 (2 adults & up to 3 children), Under 5s & Carers (accompanying a disabled ticket holder) Free. Tickets will be available from the NT Box Office on 0344 249 1895 or online – see [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey).

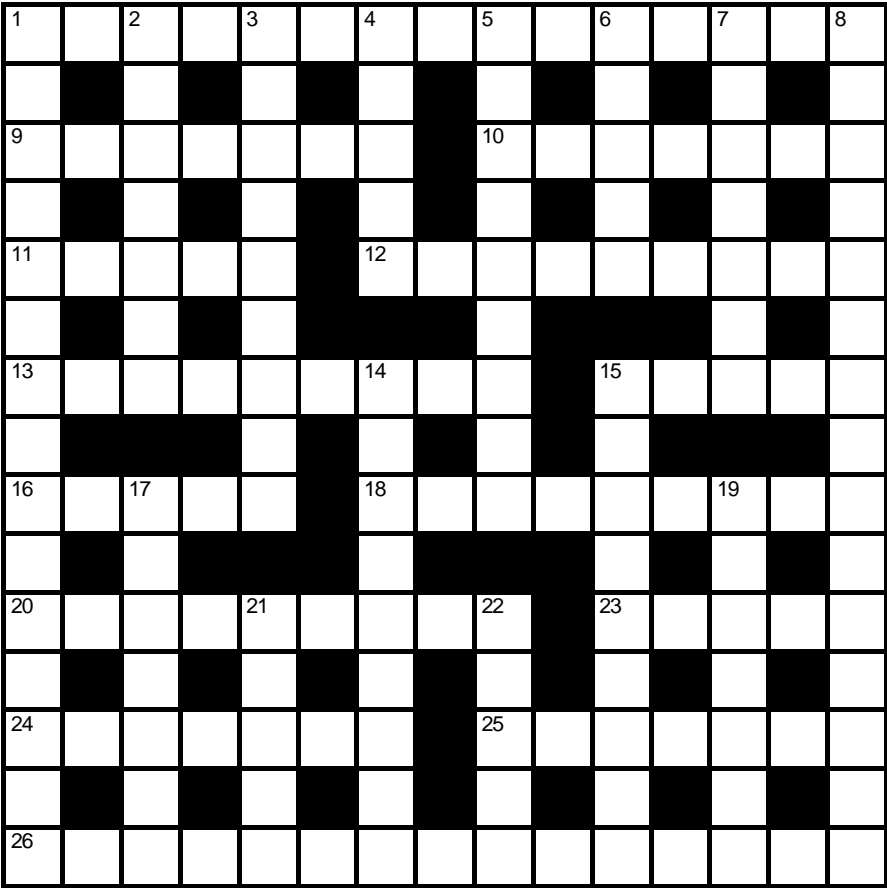
*Julia Hammond*



Crossword Number 154

Compiled by NIBOR

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 June 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 Retirement benefit for workers covered in yellow fish (6,9)
- 9 Visitor to Virginia is very unsure (7)
- 10 Graticule found in heretic leaflet (7)
- 11 Clio leaves crashed police car and gets run over (5)
- 12 Researcher finds it is scent substitute (9)
- 13 Olive product maybe with French bread on empty tables might make a picture (3,6)
- 15 Kingdom found by amusing soldier (5)
- 16 Lightheaded US soldier meets theologian on 4th July (5)
- 18 Unruly brats go up to find a place to eat (9)
- 20 Ran back to score; that's telling (9)
- 23 Start snapping extra photos in a brown colour (5)
- 24 Spin six-gun after eliminating ring leader (7)
- 25 South East Asia, Scilly Islands, China and Korea all start to make you feel unwell (7)
- 26 Adjusted net ball status to show it's important regardless of position (4,3,3,5)

## Down

- 1 Rule or get army officer to stand in for monarch (8,7)
- 2 Order cigarillos? no sir; be rational! (7)
- 3 Model, divorcee and eastern politician meet the French redhead and youth leader (9)

- 4 Dislikes hot and tangy Egyptian spicy starters (5)
- 5 Deb leaves crumpled business card and a daffodil (9)
- 6 South Africa can produce silky fabric (5)
- 7 Sale of bridge perhaps (7)
- 8 Current cover keeps you warm at night (8,7)
- 14 Careless in wild glen one man enters (9)
- 15 Pre-empt on behalf of oriental kiosk (9)
- 17 Drives, embraces sweetheart and obtains the answer (7)
- 19 Papa goes around first rebels in Kabul to find pepper (7)
- 21 Improvisation from bad librarian (2-3)
- 22 Enthusiasm got us in trouble (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 153

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

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

## Notes from Parish Council April Meeting

John Covill chaired the meeting with 7 Parish Councillors and 5 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: Allen Alderson reported to the meeting. His answer to Paul Latchford's question at the last meeting regarding the overperformance compared to other councils was: 1. Reduced top-level officers, 2. Champions had helped improve efficiency in all departments, 3. The community hub in Ely has helped people with jobs and homelessness and has helped reduce the B&B and other support from £800 to zero, as it is today. Another hub is now active in Littleport. 4. Business rates collection has been improved. 5. Planning applications have been at a high level, which has contributed. 6. The new leisure centre has been funded from council and grant money not external borrowing. 7. ECDC now has a development company which will contribute to income with projects such as Palace Green Homes, King's Road etc. will provide £1.6M. There is now a project in Soham too. 8. Street cleaning and refuse collection will soon be taken in-house, replacing Veolia. Michael Malster asked about the champions, which Allen Alderson said now help every council department. Paul Latchford asked if these savings were sustainable, Allen Alderson said that the contribution from planning applications may not be as this was due to applicants "trying their luck" whilst village stop lines were not in place. John Covill asked about fly tipping etc. as Veolia had a system. He also asked about extra blue bins, which Allen Alderson said could be provided for a one-off fee of £25 and no additional emptying charges. Steve Kent-Phillips asked the same about green bins.

**Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:** None.

**Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:** None.

**Consideration of Planning Applications Received:**

17/01947/FUL – Sterling Farm, 4 Heath Road – has been granted.

18/00357/FUL – 1 Fairview Grove – Garage conversion:

It was agreed there were no Objections.

18/01208/OUT – Land North of Manor Cottage Mill Hill – 10 Dwellings – had been withdrawn.

17/01090/OUT – 10 Lower End – 2 houses and garage. It was agreed that there would be no objections but there was not enough information provided and as it was reduced from 2 to 1 property it looked like a new application.

**CIL & Open Space Money Projects**

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that an additional application had been received for an additional notice board to display the history of the 2 churches. It was agreed to keep the project for possible future use. The Play area project was now closed, with the village hall repairs (windows and electrics) remaining open. The cemetery notice board was repaired from the general maintenance.

**Village Hall**

David Greenfield distributed some notes. Anomalies and issues are problems. The 2 options are to carry on the same way with named trustees or use the Charities Commission as custodian, which is cost effective and other councils have adopted this option. It does have risks such as exposure. The Charities Commission may limit the changes. There was a discussion about who The Charities Commission are and who should be on the land registry. The costs and effort of named trustees was noted as when the move, resign or die, changes must be made every time. Peter Hart asked if an example of the proposed arrangements using The Charities Commission were available. David Greenfield agreed to try and find. The Clerk

agreed to find a list of PCs for David Greenfield to call round.

#### **Allotments**

Paul Latchford stated the new agreements were being worked on and that the weather had not been suitable for marking up the plots. It was agreed to send all letters and documents, including 2 copied of the new agreements, invoices and notice to clean up together.

#### **Clerks' Report**

The Clerk reported that the overgrown path reported by Andrew Camps had been dealt with by the owners, including work on the boundaries of Dencora field. There were some questions relating to the drains on the hillside. Steve Kent-Phillips had already reported this to Highways. The insurance inventory had been updated and was in place from April 1st.

#### **Parish Councillors' Reports**

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that SID was ready to be deployed but would wait for the insurance documents to arrive before putting it up. Peter Hart suggested we should consider where SID was deployed. Steve Kent-Phillips said that the current location was for deterrent purposes. Andrew Camps asked if higher up Lower End was possible. Paul Latchford reported that "chambers" had been in on Saturday and wanted to know who to contact. The Clerk agreed to send him the contact details. Steve Kent-Phillips asked Paul Latchford about the SID lease / rental document. Paul Latchford said it was in progress. John Covill mentioned pot-holes and started a discussion about repairs and vehicle types causing damage.

#### **Open Question Time**

There was some more discussion about pot-holes.

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

**Future meeting dates:** June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**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/>



#### **Flag Flying Days from the Tower of St Cyriac's**

10 <sup>th</sup> June	Birthday of the Duke of Edinburgh
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Official Celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday
3 <sup>0th</sup> June	Armed Forces Day

## **BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY EIGHT**

**"A difference of taste in jokes  
is a great strain on the affections."**

***George Eliot (1819 - 1800)***



## RENEW Church Hold on to what gives you life ...

*"During the bombing raids of World War II, thousands of children were orphaned and left to starve. The fortunate ones were rescued and placed in refugee camps where they received food and good care. But many of these children who had lost so much could not sleep at night. They feared waking up to find themselves once again homeless and without food. Nothing seemed to reassure them. Finally, someone hit upon the idea of giving each child a piece of bread to hold at bedtime. Holding their bread, these children could finally sleep in peace. All through the night the bread reminded them, 'Today I ate and I will eat again tomorrow.'"* (Linn, *Sleeping with Bread*, p.1)

This excerpt is from a book that has really impacted my life. I can imagine the sense of peace and stillness in the camp on the night the children first had the opportunity to hold onto something life-giving rather than the fear, uncertainty, pain and sadness - things that do not give life.

The book centres around 2 questions:

1. For what moment today are you most grateful?
2. For what moment today are you least grateful?

I don't always immediately recognise the significance of words shared or events that occur. Sometimes it's only after taking time to reflect over my day that I'm reminded. I always thank God for the joyful moments in my day, and try to thank the people who have been involved too.

I recall time spent with refugees in the Jungle camp, Calais; in a conversation about why they risk their lives hiding in or under lorries attempting to get to England, the refugees responded, 'we are dead already, we have lost everything, we are worthless'. I find this heartbreaking. I pray that refugees around the world now and indeed anyone who feels hopeless, would have a metaphorical (or maybe a physical) chunk of bread to hold through the night, something that gives them hope, something that gives them life.

I want to be involved in conversations and actions that cause people, on reflection, to be grateful for the moments we shared that day. What can you say today? What can you do to bring joy to someone, to make peace? Think over the last day or so. For what are you most grateful? Give thanks. For what are you least grateful? It's important to recognise these moments, learn from them; move forward holding on to what gives life.

At RENEW each week we share our good news stories, and our struggles when we gather for worship. You would be made very welcome at any of our services. There's a place at RENEW for you.

**Rev. Alan Brand**

### **RENEW Services for June 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 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Morning Worship. 10.30am*



## Poppies in Prior

Joining the national poppy project to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 in November this year, we will be knitting and crocheting poppies to be displayed in the five churches of our Benefice.

All the poppies will be made from the same colour red and black yarn, some of which has been kindly donated by King Cole Yarn, and Tina's in Burwell is stocking it too. Patterns and yarn can be obtained from Kate Child, for a small donation, by contacting her on 01638 743983. If you have any spare 4.5mm or 5mm knitting needles or crochet hooks that would be most useful.

Anglesey Stitches have arranged some workshops, one of which will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> July in St. Mary's Swaffham Prior during the St. Mary's Saturday (SMS) session, 3.00-5.00pm. You would be most welcome to come along and join in.

If you would like any further information, or would like to make a donation, please do get in touch with Kate on the above number. ☺



*With Holy Communion.  
(Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Morning  
Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

*Followed by shared lunch*

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Morning  
Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Morning  
Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

***Service to be led by our Young  
People's groups***

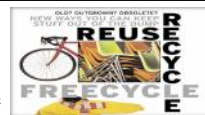
*For more information about any  
of the activities of RENEW Church  
please contact:*

*Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558.*

[alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk](mailto:alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk)

[www.renewchurch.org.uk](http://www.renewchurch.org.uk)

## FREECYCLE



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail ([junthompson44@gmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.

### Offered

A double trike and a sand water table. Clare/Steve 01223 811693

Cedar wood greenhouse (8' x 8') standing on own concrete foundation; Two cold frames; One CD/DVD storage cabinet; 1 roll of shed roofing felt. Alf 01223 812878.

### Wanted

Jam jars with or without lids. Jackie 01223 812227

A full size SCRABBLE set. Lis 01223 811233

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,

**You know you are living in 2018**



- 1 You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
- 2 You haven't played Solitaire with real cards in years.
- 3 You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
- 4 You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
- 5 Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
- 6 When you pull-up on your drive you text to see if anyone is home to help carry in the shopping.
- 7 Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is a cause for panic and you have to go back and get it.
- 8 You get up in the morning and go on-line before getting your coffee.
- 10 When you go out for a meal everyone at the table is texting or has their phone beside them on the table.
- 11 You start tilting your head sideways to smile! :)
- 12 You're reading this and nodding and smiling.
- 13 Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
- 14 You are too busy to notice there was no 9 on this list.
- 15 You actually looked back to check that there wasn't a 9 on the list.

All our amazing technology doesn't necessarily improve our communication with one another.

Noticing people, smiling, saying hello or giving someone a hug, are all powerful ways to communicate.. A small kindness or a thoughtful action can speak volumes.

Thankfully God's system for communication has always been simple. All we have to do is call upon his name and the line is open.

With best wishes

*Sue Giles*

**Faithbook: You have one new friend request from Jesus.**

## **Church Services in June**

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

### **Sunday 3 June, First Sunday after Trinity**

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

### **Sunday 10 June, Second Sunday after Trinity**

10am Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1), Quy

### **Sunday 17 June, Third Sunday after Trinity**

11am Family Service – for Father's Day

### **Sunday 24 June, Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Bottisham

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior is part of the ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES

together with: Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, Quy;

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; [suethevic@btinternet.com](mailto:suethevic@btinternet.com)

and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford;

[gina.radford@btinternet.com](mailto:gina.radford@btinternet.com)

Detail of services and events can be found on

[www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk) and [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

[angleseychurches](http://angleseychurches)

For weddings and baptisms please contact:

[admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

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

## Dates for Your Diary June 2018

Tue	5	Poppy Making, 8pm, Black Horse, S. Bulbeck [7]
Sat	9	The Story Orchestra, 11.30am—1pm, Wicken Fen [22]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, 7pm, VH
Sat	16	Willow Basket Making, 10am—4.30pm, Wicken Fen [22]
Sun	17	Lode Fete, The Passage, 12-4pm [12]
Mon	18	WI Annual Garden Party, 6 High Street [21]
Tue	19	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm
Wed	20	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Thu	21	Wildflower Wander, 2-04pm, Wicken Fen [22]
<b>July</b>		
Sun	8	Pop-up Tea Shop [12]
Wed	15	Strawberry Teas, 3-5pm, Lords Acre, Lords Ground Farm [5]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page numbers

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club Hut
			Thurs	7-10:00pm	