



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

CHARLOTTE CANE PART OF A “SERIOUSLY WEAK” MANAGEMENT? Sorry Ofsted, what planet do you live on? Ever-calm, ever-sage, a seeming font of all knowledge, Charlotte is surely one of the best leaders anyone could wish for. But see page 14, readers, our school has fallen foul of this seriously blind outfit yet again and very much needs our support. All we can surmise is that Charlotte, having successfully raised the loot for their essential refurbishments, has miserably failed to rob a bank in order to pay for extra fripperies. Like teachers..

This month, we were most amused to receive a letter from Steve Kent Phillips (the District Heating Scheme Debate rages on, see also Emma Fletcher on page 10) which, while taking issue with Our Reporter’s flamboyant use of fonts in his article last month, was if anything even more flamboyantly bedecked itself. Good joke Steve! We very nearly kept it so, but step forward Arch-Gremlin Microsoft’s we-are-now-installing-your-updates font sabotaging menace. Apologies all.

Au revoir but we very much hope not adieu to our lovely Wildlife correspondents Jorge and Saffra, while welcome back, Henry Brown. We’re in the post-war years now, readers, and this month we’re going to learn about a truly brilliant washing machine that Henry successfully built and sold on regaining Civvy Street. It did the wash in **10** minutes, we all want one, Henry. And Crier readers have a great treat in store for the next few months. Sue Wade has very kindly agreed to send us snippets from her recent researches. You’ll see the first on our cover, and isn’t he wonderful? Any body-beautiful gym-frequenting readers might like to note that possibly they should be out on the Fen instead.

Happy Birthday for next month, Village Hall! *Caroline Matheson*

Cover Picture: *The Sedge Cutter* by **R. W. Macbeth**

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Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

FINAL CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Parish Council have nearly used up all the CIL and Open Spaces monies on many projects around the village; full details are on the PC website.

We have a couple more in progress, but very soon we will have to return any unspent money.

If anyone has a small village project they would like funding for, now is the time to apply to the Clerk.

The next meeting is Thursday March 8th, when we will consider all outstanding proposals.

Steve Kent-Phillips

Dear Editors,

Fairview Verges

I am sorry that Mark Lewinski is a little disappointed with my last report. I have compared the two records of the December meeting – my own and that of the Clerk. In general they are in accord. Mark raised the question of parking on the grass at the top of the Grove. He was quizzed about what had changed since he first raised it five years ago. The Clerk recorded that David Greenfield had asked the question, and I noted that it was Peter Hart who had asked. There may have been others. There was no clear answer. So, what has changed? More rain? We need more clarity.

Alastair Everitt

Dear Editors,

High Street Verges

We read with interest Mark Lewinski's recent letter concerning the grass verges on Fairview Grove

We live opposite the Children's playground in the High Street and we also have problems with the grass verges outside our house and those of our neighbour .

Without any thought people either reverse onto the verges or, when turning their vehicle, pay no heed to remaining on the road .

It will be appreciated that such actions lead to erosion of the soil on the fringes of the grass and in wet weather these areas become dangerous . We do not say this lightly, as sadly, the proof of such danger became all too apparent when my neighbour slipped in the mud when entering his car which is parked outside his house alongside the verge . Sadly he ended up in hospital as a result and will be incapacitated for some time

At the very least I hope the Parish Council will be able to display suitable warning notices in an effort to keep vehicles off the grass. Not that we think that is the ideal solution as notices saying 'No dogs ' in the park are blatantly ignored on an almost daily basis ! However it would be a start .

Robin and Ann Mathieson

Dear Editors,

Ivy - this one will run and run....

My garden of 26 years is surrounded by ivy. The bees love the pollen, drawn by the lovely honey scent, and a particularly large bush is alive with them at certain times of the year. Likewise the black berries ripen in the winter when there is little else in the way of fruit around for the birds. It's a wonderful resource. So I do my best to let it grow and only cut it back at particular times, like now, day after day in February – when the berries are gone and soon the plant will be shooting and flowering anew. But cutting back it does need.

So I read with interest John Norris's wisdom on the plant. Here in Swaffham Prior it so, so loves our chalky ground it is wild with enthusiasm to grow up, up all over trees, fences, sheds, outbuildings, houses, roofs, gravestones - outside, through, inside, prising apart the cracks – and failing any upright support it will advance horizontally through your beds, your grass, and form a splendid thick ground cover plant, if that is what you want, or even if you don't want. In fact, I think given half a chance (like if we humans went away) within a few years Swaffham Prior would be lost under a jungle of the stuff, like Mayan temples in Central America.

When an old countryman passes on the knowledge of his lifetime and the lifetimes of many who went before, one sits up and takes notice. We might disagree with some of his opinions on more recent things – like Roundup, or the policies of the National Trust - but wild plants like ivy have been growing here for millennia and old countrymen know a thing or two about them. My old grandfather, whose family had farmed in Hertfordshire for hundreds of years, would have agreed with John Norris.

I'm keen on the Woodland Trust, and have every respect for its work. The Woodland Trust, then, is concerned withwoodland, and allowing complex natural habitats to develop to the best advantage of wild creatures, protecting large, mature, native trees – which can cope well with the huge weight and dense evergreen foliage of wild ivy. But I don't think the same people would allow ivy to overrun their nurseries (if such there are), or areas where they might be bringing on young trees. And in their own gardens at home, their young forest trees, fruit trees or less vigorous old native hedgerow trees would not survive the suffocation of wild ivy, if it grows anything like as profusely as it does here.

So, as in many things, there is no simple, one size fits all, answer.

Angela Nisbet

Dear Editors,

The Community Heating System

Firstly, I must make it clear I am writing this as a private person and not as a representative of the Parish Council. I read Mr. Everett's article about the Renewable Heat Network and aside from his strange use of fonts, (*see Editorial. Eds*) he does make some valid points. Upon reading the survey more closely I have some more technical concerns. I actually sent these concerns (and a few others) to the people involved on 4th January and have had no response.



Firstly there is the economic viability. The projected cost is more than three million pounds. There are two sorts of grants. The first is for installation, called HNIP. The second is for day-to-day running, called RHI. You can't have both (survey p31). HNIP only pays up to 50% of the costs (Govt website), so you are looking at finding 1.5 million pounds of private funding, then the scheme must pay for itself. This is somewhat irrelevant, because without RHI, the whole scheme is unviable (p32). You cannot receive ANY public funding if you want to have RHI (Govt website). That means you have to find the full three million pounds plus of private funding to set it all up. Who will provide a £3,000,000+ commercial loan on zero collateral for an untried project with an unproven customer base? Then there are the loan repayments. They are not included in the figures (why not?) and could easily eat up all the RHI grants and then some.

Secondly, there is the technical viability. The "free" heat comes from the water coming out of an open loop borehole at 12 degrees C (p15) and the system requires a winter outflow of 75 degrees C (p25). How does the system heat the water from 12 degrees to 75 degrees? There is mention of 100 cubic metres of thermal store (p21, no heat losses stated – why not?) but the return flow is 45 degrees C in winter (p22); so how do you continually inject 30+ degrees of heat into the system? You cannot use solar energy to get RHI (Govt website), so the answer would appear to be £116,000 a year in conventional electricity (p30) plus two backup oil burners (p20). The projected cost of just £18,000 for oil (p30) simply cannot be right, and assumes the price of oil won't rise in 25 years. You'd have to supply the oil in tankers and then burn it, so any environmental benefits literally vanish in smoke. The diagram on page 22 indicates a 25-30 degree heat loss in the distribution system, every hour of every day of the year. Therefore, even assuming you can extract all the "free" heat of 12 degrees, none of the "free" heat is used to heat anybody's house, just the pipes, and not even all the pipes. It is much more efficient having the heat source as close to the houses as possible, i.e. personal boilers on each house, which is exactly what we have now. Finally, if you extract water from the ground, take some heat out, then put it back into the ground, doesn't that cool the rest of the water below the ground?

Then there is the environmental cost. We all know the chaos a simple temporary road works has on the top road. There would be that for days, plus the disruption that digging up the High Street, Cage Hill, Greenhead Road, Fairview Grove and Lower End will cause. Then there is the individual disruption of digging up everyone's pavements and gardens; plus ripping out old boilers. If you have electric heating, they have to rip out all your night stores and install pipes and radiators throughout your house – furniture shifted, carpets and floorboards up, holes drilled in walls, redecorating. Is it really worth all that for a few pounds (maybe) off your heating bills?

Before they burn £100,000 more of our money on yet more consultants, perhaps they should address these (and Mr. Everett's) issues first.

Steve Kent-Phillips

(See page 10 for latest. Eds)

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There was a dearth of members at the January meeting. Apologies had been received from John Covill, David Greenfield, Mark Lewinski and Sandra Gynn. It was a pity Sandra was not there during the week celebrating the centenary of some women getting the vote. Our PC has always had an immaculate record, has always stood up for women's rights, and has always ensured that there should be one woman on the PC. Peter took the Chair.



With so few members and a very short agenda I predicted the meeting would end at 8.15. No one in the public gallery would take the bet. The meeting ended EXACTLY at 8.15.

Allen sent his apologies and Paul the Clerk read his report which appears in full in this *Crier*. Joshua again apologised and said he would deal with any queries if we had any. The minutes were then approved with the additional information that it was an Amelanchier Canadensis rather than a Japanese Maple which had been planted to replace the Norwegian Maple. A much better choice, and you can eat the fruits that are sweet and juicy. The minutes recorded that it had been planted "about 8 years ago". This was contested and it was changed to having been planted "about 8 months ago". "It cannot have been very long" maintained Paul L because he claimed never to have seen it before. The "8 months" was challenged in Open Question Time, and the PC will conduct more research to discover the truth. Will it be "8 years" or "8 months"? Keep your eye on those minutes

Paul L is still working on the hiring agreement for SID and also the question of the insurance. Steve would like a flexible agreement, which would mean that wealthy councils would pay more than the poorer ones. He quoted Burwell as having a lot of money whereas less would be charged to "little Reach". Someone pointed out that Reach is not impoverished. In fact rumour has it that they make a handsome donation to their village magazine, which enables it to have lots of colour in each issue. The agreement will also allow the option for clients to use either their own insurance cover, or to use ours. Meantime Rogers Road would like SID installed again. Paul the Clerk is still working on the "Cemetery Plot Procedure" document. And the Village

Hall Legal Document is still being pursued. It will be such a relief when all are completed.

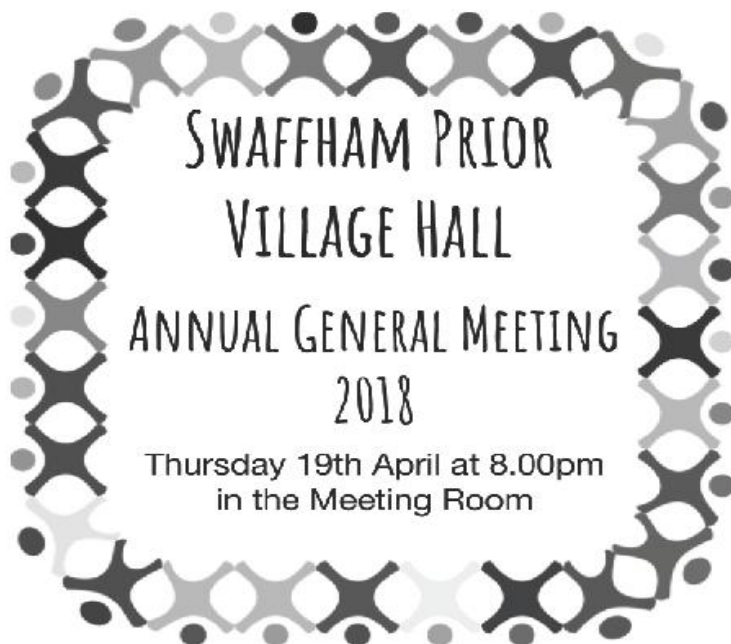
Steve was overjoyed to have received several new requests for the remaining CIL money. Peter wanted further clarification whether they met the CIL criteria and asked for a full list of criteria to be available at the next meeting. There was also the question whether any of the work should be funded from the general maintenance budget, which I gather is quite healthy. Sandra had asked that the notice board at

the cemetery be repaired and it was agreed this should be paid for by “general maintenance”. “What’s its purpose?” someone asked. For statutory notices they were told. But suggestions for more possible projects are now urgent. All projects for the remaining £4500 money must have started by April, else the money will be lost. Separately in the *Crier*, from the PC, is a “Last Call” for ideas.

Next month’s Agenda will very likely be quite a long one, and may cover the allotments now that the alleged felon has been revealed as AC, and no longer in the village. Also the threat to The Red Lion may be on the agenda with people wondering whether Steve will end up in jail.

Arrive early for your seat.

Alastair Everitt



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

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

For more information, contact:

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

Swaffham Prior Feast



Saturday 26th May

Attractions will Include:

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

The Village Hall Committee is desperate for your help:

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

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

Also for your diary:

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

DONATIONS!

Many thanks to Lode Chapel and Henry Hurrell for their very kind donations to the *Crier* this month. Although we are largely funded by our Advertisers, donations are an important part of our revenue and a great boost for everyone who helps with the *Crier*. We are extremely grateful for all we receive.

Village Hall Birthday Party



If you look above the entrance to the front door of the Village Hall, you will see this inscription >

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

150 years have passed since the Reading Room was built. It has been altered and extended, but it still plays a central role in the life of the village.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to invite everyone to celebrate the event at a pop-up birthday party on Saturday 7th April with cream teas, cake and bubbly.



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

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

Julie Nunn's Easter Recipes

Easter Lamb

Leg of lamb (about 2kg) 100g of baby fennel, trimmed & cut in half lengthways.

Sea salt & freshly ground pepper. 225g of baby carrots trimmed.

40 g of fresh mint. 110 g of baby leeks trimmed.

1 clove of garlic peeled. 200 g of courgettes sliced lengthwise.

125 ml extra virgin olive oil. 250G of fine or green beans trimmed.

250ml chicken stock. 150 g of asparagus trimmed to 6cm lengths.

400g new potatoes sliced thickly.

Preheat oven to 220 C/425F or gas mark 7

Score the lamb all over & season then make a paste in a blender from the mint, garlic, olive oil & seasoning and brush over the lamb. Baste regularly until the lamb is cooked. Cooking times for the lamb for medium is 15 minutes for every 450g plus 20 minutes, then let rest for 10 minutes.

While the meat is resting make a broth using the pan juices & stock.

Also cook the potatoes in a large pan of boiling salted water for 5 minutes add the fennel & carrots and cook for 5 more minutes. Add the remaining vegetables and cook for a further 5 minutes.

Drain & serve the vegetables in a shallow bowl with the lamb sliced on top with the broth drizzled over it.

Crème Egg Chocolate Caramel Cheesecake

800g of digestive biscuits. 100G of caster sugar.

75g unsalted butter, melted. 1Tsp of vanilla extract.

2tbsp cocoa powder. 300ml of double cream at room temperature.

125g dark chocolate chopped. 150 g ready made caramel eg Cadbury plus extra

4 sheets of leaf gelatine. to drizzle.

500g full fat cream cheese at room temp. Cadbury Crème Eggs, fridge cold



Line an 8 inch loose bottomed cake tin with baking parchment. Whiz the biscuits in a processor and mix together with the butter & cocoa powder, then press evenly into the base of the tin. Chill in the fridge while making the filling. Melt 100g of the chocolate in a basin over a pan of simmering water let cool slightly.

Soak the gelatine in a small bowl of cold water for 5 minutes. Meanwhile whisk together the cream, cheese, sugar & vanilla until combined. Whisk the cream until softly whipped, gently fold into the cream cheese mixture, split into 2 separate bowls. Squeeze out the water from the gelatine then dissolve with 1 tbs of boiling water mix this into one of the cream cheese mixtures along with the caramel until smooth, spread this onto the base mixture. Fold the melted chocolate into the remaining mixture, spoon over the cheesecake and level. Cut the crème eggs in half then press cut side up into the cheesecake.

Chill for at least 6 hours, then serve with the remaining chocolate melted and caramel drizzled over if you wish.

£77,000 HNDU GRANT APPLICATION FOR SWAFFHAM PRIOR DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM



Following on from the (possibly slightly negative) report in last month's Crier we have been busy at work preparing a bid for £77,000. As correctly reported we need to find more money to undertake the next stage of feasibility. We knew this at the start of the project, so we are not deterred!

Whilst the report raised a number of potential systems (we had to review everything available), we are pushing forward with our preferred ground source system which is better environmentally and less visually harmful. The aim has always been to achieve a more sustainable form of heating for Swaffham Prior homes, at less cost than individual oil boiler systems. Its about leap frogging forward, putting the village on the map and to help future proof the village for 21st century. This is exactly the type of project that Central Government wants to support to help reach national targets and there are significant funds available for this sort of community scheme.

There does have to be a backup boiler and we have initially chosen an oil based system as we felt that this is what people would feel comfortable with and understand when we are describing how it works. Similarly none of us want to be taking delivery of wood pellets or biomass and having to work out where to store it in our spare time! The oil can be stored easily and only used when it is needed. Locally we also have oil suppliers and boiler engineers who can maintain the system. This can be changed in the future as and when we see fit. However it is only a back-up system to be used vary rarely.

For the next round of work we need around £115,000. We are delighted to announce that we have been working with Sheryl French, Project Director for Mobilising Local Energy Investment at Cambridge County Council together with the backing of Josh Shumann our County Councilor. On 31st January the County Council submitted a bid on our behalf for £77,050 (2/3rds of the money) via HNDU (Heat Networks Delivery Unit in the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy).

HNDU is a £320m capital investment programme providing support for the capital costs of heat networks. This project sits very squarely in what they are trying to achieve with this fund. If we can prove that this system works then, like the provision of the CLT homes in the village, we make the next scheme somewhere else easier to deliver.

The SPCLT is responsible for finding the balance of the money which we are doing via various bids for energy grants for community projects.

There is also now significant interest in this project nationally and the County are keen to see if it can be replicated elsewhere in the region. We have also started to discuss how the heating system will run in the future and how the County Council can help.

Quite rightly we have received a number of challenging questions and enquiries (we expected nothing less!), some of which we have needed to go back to the consultants to get answers. Many of the questions were similar so we decided to prepare a FAQ fact sheet which is now posted together with the initial report, on the CLT website <http://www.swaffham-prior.org.uk/pc/CLT.html>

If you have any further questions we have not answered or if you want to know more, please email Emma Fletcher emmafletcher@smithsonhill.co.uk or Mike Barker BarkerM@rpsgroup.com

Emma Fletcher

Sue Wade has been researching into local history, and in particular, images and photos. She has made some delightful finds, and here is the first (see our cover) in a short series for the Crier.

The Sedge Cutter

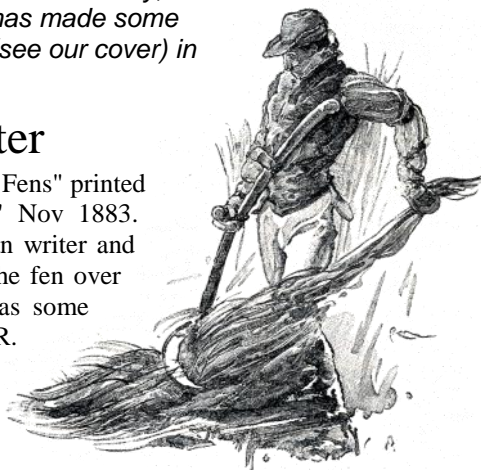
This image is from an article "In the Fens" printed in "The English Illustrated Magazine" Nov 1883. The author Austin Dobson (a Victorian writer and poet) writing in 1883 travels through the fen over the Upware chain ferry. The article has some splendid illustrations in ink wash by R. W. Macbeth.

Leaving Upware Inn for Wicken Fen (very) early morning Austin Dobson writes:

"I remember starting out for Wicken Fen from Upware one cold, quiet morning at about half past one when the only sound to be heard was the fitful restless quiver of the large poplar in front of the little Inn. Passing over the bridge and following the dyke, I made my way into the midst of the Fen which was still cloaked in a white wet mist.

It is the hour when the sedge cutters start out from the village to their early morning work. The men are crossing one of the numerous dykes with scythe and provender for the day on their backs. Handkerchiefs are tied over their mouths to protect them from the effect of the deep dew, pieces of stocking are wrapped round their arms and hands as armour against the sharpness of the sedge, their waistcoats are of calf skin, and they wear leathern leggings like greaves about their legs. The drawing of the sedge-cutter is in fact exactly as he is to be seen at his work. While everything is wet with the heavy dew, the short broad blade of his scythe tells effectively."

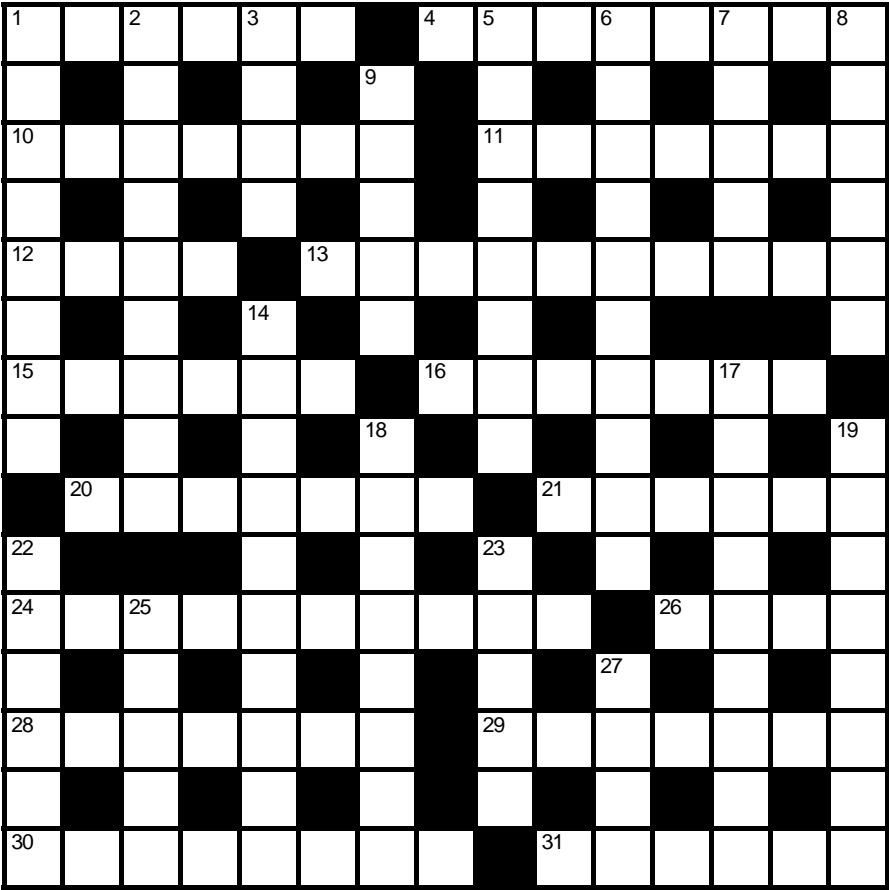
Sue Wade



Crossword Number 151

Compiled by **NIBOR**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 March 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 Avaricious journalist in dreary surroundings (6)
- 4 Unofficially it's strange but no oily content is unrealistic (8)
- 10 Philosopher may stop his broadcast (7)
- 11 Yearn for the French sewers (7)
- 12 Just starting off near London? yes! (4)
- 13 Aversion to green cup; an irregularity (10)
- 15 Gentleman takes cocktail before dawn (6)
- 16 Odd gynaecologist loses giants of the environment (7)
- 20 International group standard is not common (7)
- 21 Pronoun is in it self-evidently (6)
- 24 Literary origin of writers with stylish ending (10)
- 26 Duty states put on first (4)
- 28 Hooter may stop beginner boxing for the time being (4,3)
- 29 Mother has a blemish; a bit of makeup is needed (7)
- 30 Thug is away so start game (5,3)
- 31 Hungry dog in real slog (6)

Down

- 1 Perhaps hydrogen operates in plant producing energy (8)
- 2 Agitated ox lines up for rejection (9)
- 3 Trickle tear after bad ending (4)
- 5 Declare that girl put on a little weight (8)
- 6 For a fresh start scrub the roof tiles (5,5)

- 7 Tumbled towards reported criminal (5)
- 8 Pay attention to inventory points (6)
- 9 Mammal goes over the top with hesitation (5)
- 14 Life science, researching sparkling drinks we hear! (10)
- 17 Colourful place off Baffin Bay (9)
- 18 Sign of music but low key (4,4)
- 19 Out of the limelight the coach is rotten (8)
- 22 This tree turns initially better and better over a barrel (6)
- 23 My hog leads a small person (5)
- 25 Distressed taylor lacks a place in Italy (5)
- 27 Star turn for the emperor (4)

Solution to crossword no. 150

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

We congratulate Michael Mead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Trish Whitehead, Chris Carrington and Robert Nunn.

School News

OFSTED says school leadership is “Inadequate”

As you many in the village are aware, Swaffham Prior School was inspected by Ofsted at the end of Autumn Term.

The inspector's key finding was that the school was inadequate when it comes to Effectiveness of Leadership and Management and therefore overall is a school that 'Requires Significant Improvement', commonly referred to as 'Serious Weaknesses'.

It is a challenging read for all within the school community, but at the same time the Governors, the head teacher and the Local Authority all agree it highlights the key challenges that the school faces.

The report gives us a firm basis to drive forward the changes we know the school needs. The School, the Governing Body and the Local Authority have already been working on a number of these prior to the Ofsted inspection and there will continued focus on addressing these issues.

Following the Ofsted report, Charlotte Cane has resigned as Chair of Governors. She believes that it is right for her to be ultimately accountable for the criticisms of Leadership and Management in this report and that new energy will be needed to help drive forward the changes needed, especially with respect to Effectiveness of Leadership and Management. Charlotte has made an excellent contribution to the school in the last few years as Chair, being instrumental in obtaining the funding for the school refurbishment and having laid a number of key foundational pieces that will allow the school to make quick progress in resolving the issues outlined by the Ofsted report. I am sure you will join us in thanking her for the time and tireless dedication she has given to the school.

Following Charlotte's resignation, Chris Goodfellow, a Foundation Governor nominated to the Governing body last year by St Mary's PCC has been elected chair. Chris and the Governing Body as a whole are working closely with the staff, the Local Authority and the Diocese on ensuring the school's challenges are quickly addressed.

A number of members of the village community have already asked how they can help the school.....

The Local Authority has also reviewed its support arrangements, including appointing a new School Advisor. It has also drafted a School Action Plan on how it will help the school achieve the priorities for improvement over the medium term.

If anyone has children due to start at the school in September and would like to discuss the recent Ofsted further they can call the school on 01638 741529 or e-mail office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk.

A number of members of the village community have already asked how they can help the school. Village



residents already help the school in a number of ways and new contributions are always welcome – the two easiest ways to get involved are:

Supporting the Friends of Swaffham Prior School (FoSPS).

School funding is a constantly challenge and the money raised by FoSPS is vital to the school. You can support FoSPS with both time and money. FoSPS can be contacted either through their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fosps/>) or by e-mail on fosps@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk

Reading Volunteers

Reading is the gateway to ensuring children can achieve across the school curriculum and an easy way to get directly involved in the school. Volunteers will need to undergo a criminal record check. E-mail office@swaffhamprior.cambs.sch.uk to find out more.

Finally, we would like to invite everyone in the village to join the School for our Easter Service in St Mary's at 2pm on Tuesday 27th March.

Swaffham Prior C of E VC School Board of Governors



Mothers' Union

At our January meeting Rev'd Roy Knifton led our New Year Communion Service in the absence of Rev'd Sue Giles. Diocesan President, Susan Baker joined us for the service, and after tea visited indoor member Joyce Rank who was celebrating her 70 years membership of Mothers' Union. Susan presented Joyce with a certificate, and branch members congratulated her with a card and flowers.

Joyce receiving her 70 years membership certificate from Susan.

On March 15th we will be holding our Spring Social with Bring and Buy Stall. All are welcome to come and join us in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm.

Ann Langran



The Swaffhams WI News

The speaker at the February meeting was Keyth Rooney, an Estate Planning Consultant, and the title of his talk was 'protecting your family wealth'. Any concerns that this might be a rather depressing subject were quickly dispelled by Keyth's style of delivery which was very upbeat and positive. It soon became apparent that when considering will making, setting up trusts and arranging power of attorney, it is never too soon to make the arrangements. The caution must be in selecting the right advisors to help. There are a lot of sharks circling round to take your money in excess fees and bad advice and worse case fraudulent activities. We were told about various associations to which professional advisors might belong such as STEP which is a global professional association for practitioners who specialise in family inheritance and succession planning. There is also the society of will writers whose membership also assures a high level of expertise and competence. Details of these and other organisations can be found on the internet and give access to lists of members etc.

The next meeting is on March 19th when there will be no speaker as it is our annual meeting. There will however be refreshments and entertainment after the business section is completed,

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

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

Pat Cook – President

Tel: 01638 742224

Email: patcook6@btinternet.com

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY FIVE

**“Economists and forecasters are merely the latest
in a long line of social coping mechanisms.
They are the calculator-equipped descendants
of priests, prophets and ancient oracles.”**

Ed Conway

(Economics Editor of Sky News)



VILLAGE GARDENERS

The talk at our February meeting was given by Peter Vince, a very enthusiastic speaker for the Woodland Trust, from whom we learnt a great deal about the charity. Peter's Talk was accompanied by many iconic photographs of the woods owned and managed by the Woodland Trust.

Ancient Woodland is precious - that is an area that has been continuously wooded since 1600 and therefore possibly even since the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. The Ancient Woodland Inventory of 'native' trees are the thirty three species present when this country was joined to continental Europe, including beech, birch, oak, ash and lime. These provide a complex ecosystem and are now only present in small, constantly vulnerable



pockets of our landscape. Our country has lost more woodland in the last fifty years than in the preceding five hundred, thanks in part to the Common Agricultural Policy, Dutch Elm Disease, storms and urban development. Only 12% of our land is now wooded, of which 7% is Ancient Woodland, much of which is under threat. So the Woodland Trust was founded in 1972 to try and halt this decline. Did you know that merely looking at woodland from afar can have a beneficial effect on your health? And walking in woodland is even better for you!

The Woodland Trust campaigns to protect vulnerable woodlands and tries to purchase vulnerable woods in order to care for them. Restoration of Ancient Woods is an important part of the charity's work. Woods are often damaged by interplanting by conifers or colonisation by invasive tree species. The Woodland Trust also creates new native woodland including many community woods. They wish to give every child the chance to plant a tree and to give ready access to Woodland close to everyone's home. A recent project was to record the location of every ancient tree in the country.

There are problems, of course - much fly tipping occurs these days and diseases and pests attack the trees. Peter gave us one final piece of advice - do not go straight from a Garden Centre (where many of the plants are imported) for a walk in the woods, especially on a wet day, as you may carry pathogens hostile and damaging to the trees, on your boots - take care!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20 March when Twigs Way, local garden historian, writer and lecturer, who will this time take as her subject Artists and their Gardens. Everyone is welcome to hear Twigs who we already know as a fascinating, dynamic and original speaker.

Mary Hart



Bottisham Village College

Adult Learning

Evening Courses starting after Easter include:

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

Did you miss out on your Maths GCSE?

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

in September 2018

*subject to eligibility

Saturday Workshops – 28 April 2018

Calligraphy: Combining Ancient and Modern

Cook with your Kids

Computing: MS Office – an Introduction

Design a Patchwork Cushion

Mindfulness

Make-up for Bridal Party and Special Occasions

Springtime Flower Arranging for Fun

Stained Glass Tealights

You can enrol at any time by visiting our website

www.bottishamvc.org/adultlearning

Tel: 01223 811372 email: adultlearning@bottishamvc.org



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District
Councillor
Allen Alderson

February 2018

Fly tipping in the ward has recently been held up because Veolia's grab truck is awaiting an MOT. Veolia is attempting to collect any rubbish with their caged vehicle wherever possible.

The consultation period on the Local Plan ended before Christmas.

The next step is to pull together all the final necessary paperwork in order to 'submit' the Local Plan (and the comments received) to the Planning Inspectorate this February. From February the Plan then enters its 'examination' stage led by a Government inspector.



During January I attended the following four engagements

- 1) East Cambs full council meeting
- 2) A health and well-being seminar
- 3) A budget seminar
- 4) A visit to Lancaster Way Business Park at Witchford

It has been classes as an Enterprise Zone which gives it the following benefits

- Rates relief up to £275,000 over 5 years
- Fast tracked planning
- Additional support for business from the Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership
- Access to growth funding

Our district council supports suitable local business projects which thereby enable people to work locally and cut their travelling times and costs.

Massive Spring Jumble sale Saturday 17th March 2-4pm

The venue is St James Church, High Street, Lode, Cambridge CB259EH.

There is a car park opposite the church

Teas and coffees will be for sale as well as amazing bargains.

Entrance is £1 for adults and children are free

We look forward to seeing you.

Henry Brown

Life and Times 1946-

Henry Brown is Swaffham Prior's oldest living resident. Last year his wartime experiences were serialised. This is the first section of his post-war entrepreneurial experiences.

When I returned home in May 1946 the war had been over for a year and the forces personnel were yesterday's people; we had to look after ourselves.

My fiancée Jean had arrived from South Africa 6 weeks before me and was being looked after by my sister, Betty. Mother said that Jean had put on weight since her arrival!

Jean had dowry money from her father, who decreed that we should marry in a Presbyterian chapel, which we did 3 weeks later in the chapel in Hyde Park, Leeds. The family attended, including several aunts and uncles. We went to the Lake District for our honeymoon. Having been separated for 3 years we were virtually strangers – but you have to get on with life.

What to do in Civvy Street? Uncle Normal had pressed me to join him as a shipping agent in Cete, France, the last time I saw him. I wrote to him but received no reply, so decided to pay him a visit. I bought at auction an ex- War Department Austin 8, in good condition. It cost £140. Jean and I set off to Southern France. It took about 3 days and we found Uncle Normal at his apartment in Montpellier. He explained his situation. The harbour at Cete had not yet been cleared of wrecks, so there was no shipping possible. He had an office on the quayside and before the war had had a reasonable business. So we drove home.

I decided I would go into engineering, so went to see my old friend, Bob Deans, at Deans Brothers Engineers in Leeds. Bob said he would treat me as an apprentice and give me simple jobs on the various machines in his workshop, making steel and aluminium pie moulds of all shapes and sizes for the Camwheat Pie Machine Company. The fancy crust ones were difficult!

Our home in Headingley, was now crowded: Jean and I, Walter, Ronald, Betty, John and mother. I began a house search. Not easy when all the ex-service people were on the same quest. I was lucky and found a pair of semi-detached cottages in Horsforth, derelict and priced at just £500 the pair! There



The Castra is thorough

No more wash day worries with a Castra in your kitchen. No more rubbing, scrubbing and churning! Just plug in, switch on and the family wash is done in record time.

The Castra is careful

The simple agitator mechanism, gentle in action, cannot harm the flimsiest fabric, while the well-sprung, fold-back wringer easily takes a full-size blanket. The handsome cream enamel finish is a credit to the smartest kitchen. Yes, the Castra really has everything!

was, of course, a catch. One house had been used as a dwelling, and the other as a workshop in the textile industry. It had no party walls and the first floor timbers had been worn out by 100 years of use. I had to obtain permits for all materials and engaged tradesmen to convert No.23 into a comfortable house. I had No.21 redecorated and sold it for a good price.

The Leeds Engineering and Cycle Company

Bob Deans advised me that the Ministry of War were selling off machine tools at knock down prices. I went with him to auctions. I needed premises for a workshop and found a derelict stone purpose-built rhubarb shed in Rodley, and with a Yorkshire stone roof, about 100 yards length and width about 15 yards. It had a coke furnace, at one end which serviced an efficient central heating system. I also bought a two storey building at the end of the shed, an ex-club house with a toilet block. The stone roof was replaced with asbestos and roof lights. I bought a variety of machines – capstan lathes, presses and so on – and formed The Leeds Engineering and Cycle Company. My funding was all from my trading in the RAF. It was easy to transfer money from India to the UK.

I spent a lot of time with Bob, who was very kind and instructive. The largest local business was textile factories, so I visited Bradford and talked to the component suppliers. One thing I was able to make for them was an improved shuttle spindle. My design was approved, and went into production, making many hundreds. However, the looms they fitted were 50+ years old and obsolete. I could see this was a dead end. I had other designs to put to the market.

I tried to get Halford's to take my patented Cape Streamliner as a product line in their shops. These they declined, but said they would buy some cycle lamps if I could make them. They said that Millers, their usual supplier, had not yet got back into post-war production. So I designed a bracket lamp. Where to get the material? I had to go to a small aluminium rolling mill in Leeds, supply it with scrap and wait my turn. I made the press tools for the components and took the finished lamps to Halfords. 'Sorry', they said, deliveries had just been made by Millers!

My workshop, with its wide variety of equipment, became known in the district and people started coming to ask me to make items for them, such as a glazing clip for a local roof glazing company. I made the tools and my staff, two willing lads, operated the machines. One day a slickly-dressed chap came to see me. His name was Percy Gibson, and he asked me if I could make a washing machine for him. I



“Castra uses very little soap and no more electricity than an electric iron.... “

A typical Castra load

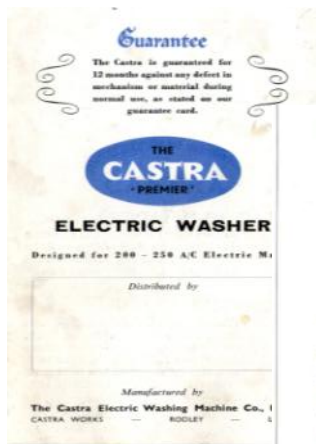
The Castra holds 4½lbs. of cottons, silks, woollens or rayons; 4lbs. cottons and rayons mixed. Here is a typical load:-

SHIRT, VEST
TOWEL, SHEET
PILLOW CASE
TABLE CLOTH
HANDKERCHIEFS

replied that I could, and went into in partnership with him, the *Castra Electric Washing Machine Company*. Gibson could easily sell every machine we made. I went to see English Electric at Bradford, who made electric motors, and arranged for a supply of utility ¼ hp motors at a special price. Material was still very difficult to obtain, so I came up with a square washing bowl fixed to a square base (conventional machines had a round bowl in a square case). The issue was how to put a neat lid on the machine? This needed the washing bowl to be pinched in, but how? ‘No trouble’, said Joe Barker, an ex-charge hand I had picked up, made redundant after 30 years by Wilson and Ratheson, Leeds gas cooker makers. ‘Get me a Jenny’, said Joe, and we were in production with a smart machine that sold like hot cakes and used the minimum amount of material in its construction. [A Jenny had three rollers that ironed the metal to shape.]

I had an extension built on the end of the works where we started casting our own aluminium components, such as the agitator, wringing machine body and pulley wheels. I owned the premises and equipment; Gibson owned 50% of Castra. We prospered and increased production to 100 units/week, employing 9-10 people. We made everything in-house, except the electric motor, so our profit margins were good.

Extracts from the Memoirs of Henry Brown
By Mark Lewinski



Henry Brown's Washing Machine. Unlike modern machines, this one did the job in 10 minutes.

Getting the best from your



Setting the Castra going

First sort your wash into groups in the normal way. Then, when you've made sure the draining hose is secure, fill with warm water to an inch above the agitator fins.

Put in your wash, add a handful of good soap powder and switch on.

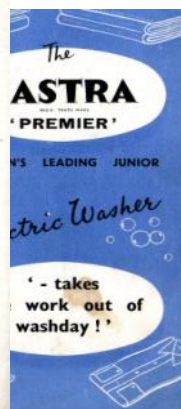
After a while the clothes should revolve. If they don't, remove a garment or two until the rest are happily turning. Then leave the Castra to do the job for about ten minutes. (See instruction card).

Wringing and rinsing

Switch off; disconnect the plug. Put the wash through the wringer (bulky things included!) and rinse in water of the same temperature as before. To drain the water, lift off the drain hose, seal one end with your thumb and put the other end in a bucket.

Looking after your Castra

The Castra is very simple in design and, with normal care, will work for years without trouble. After use, wash the machine and wringer inside and out, making sure that the rubber rollers are quite dry. Lift off the agitator (it's not heavy), clean it, dry it and put it back. Once in a while, pour a few drops of good light oil - sewing machine oil will do - down the agitator axle. The motor is already lubricated to last at least 12 months.



News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Dispensary: This will now open from 8.30am as from 5 February.

Appointments: There will be an extra 23 appointments per week in February and March to cater for winter pressures.

Self Help Groups: We would like to find out patients' interest in setting up groups of patients, who have similar conditions, e g diabetes, for mutual support. Please leave your name at reception if you are interested.

Doctors: Dr Higham has semi-retired and will do less clinics. Dr Keith will cover and become a partner in the Practice.

Mental Health: There is to be a triage session at the surgery on Wednesdays with a member of staff from the Mental Health Services (PRISM) attending for assessment and directing on for appropriate treatment. There is a new self-referral service for young people up to the age of 25 called CHUMS details on their website. The self-referral service (IAPT) for brief psychological intervention continues.

Stop or Switch: The Clinical Commissioning Group is looking into reducing the cost of prescribing drugs so your GP will discuss this with you if you are affected.

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

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 9 and 21 March, 6 April, 11 and 23 May 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 22 March 2018 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 26 April at 7pm at the surgery.

LODE VILLAGE FETE

Sunday 17 June
In the Passage
12noon - 4.00 pm

Another fun packed day
With stalls, Dog Show, food,
bar and Tea and Cakes



Featuring
Soham Majorettes
and mini athletics

contact chrisjking56@gmail.com
if you'd like to run a stall
or help on the day



There is a story told of a business man who had enjoyed significant success and become very wealthy. Despite his wealth, he did not feel fulfilled and strongly suspected that something was lacking, something needed to change, but he was unclear as to what. The businessman travelled to find the person he felt had the most clarity in their life, the person he felt would be able to help him be more clear about what he was to do.

He sought out Mother Teresa in Calcutta and asked her if she would pray for him. "What would you like me to pray for?" she replied. "Clarity" said the businessman, "I need clarity". "No you don't" Mother Teresa asserted, "I will not pray for clarity, your desire for clarity is the thing you need to let go of. What you need is faith, the gift of being able to trust Jesus, that is what I will pray for you".

This is a poignant message for me as I seek clarity in areas of my life for all sorts of reasons. I hear Jesus saying, "Trust me". As scripture says, those who follow Jesus, "live by faith, not by sight". We can't always see the way ahead, but we keep walking, one step at a time, as he reveals the way. Things become clearer as we walk the path of life, in faith.

The **Alpha Course** is designed to enable people who have questions in life, who desire clarity, to consider Jesus, to trust Him, and find in Him the fulfilment and purpose they have longed for.

Come along to **Lode Chapel** on **Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm** for a *hearty meal*, followed by an excellent *video presentation* of an aspect of life and faith leading into an *opportunity to discuss the themes* that are introduced. This is the Launch night. There is **no pressure. no charge. no follow-up**. You can come along to the launch and feel free not to continue through Alpha, or you can join us for the 12 weeks and take the time to thoroughly reflect on the claims of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian. I know many people who have decided that Christianity is boring, untrue or irrelevant, without really taking the time to check it out deeply. Please don't be one of those people. There is too much at stake. Contact Alan to book your place on Alpha or follow www.renewchurch.org.uk/alpha

Rev. Alan Brand

FREECYCLE

UPDATE

**– I have changed my email address –
UPDATE**



If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offered

Computer Desk. Natural wood finish; 5.9 X 13.4 X 7.3 cm. [5.9 X 10.9 X 7.3 cm. with extension flap down] sliding keyboard shelf; 4 castors; raised monitor shelf; 2 shelves. David 01223 811105

IKEA DESK: Large corner desk (approx 2.20m long x 1.20m at widest point). Light scratching and marks to pale wood veneer top but otherwise in very good, sturdy condition. Grey trestle legs. Height adjustable. Sonia 01223 872212 or 07834 772010

3-tiered stainless-steel steamer (hob-top). Jun 01223 813362

Wanted

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

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.

Old wreck of a bike needed to scavenge for parts. Preferably British but anything considered. Coral 811457

Easter Lilies

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

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

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



Ruth Scovil

Knitted Poppies

Poppies for remembrance - calling all knitters, crocheters and community groups.

This year we have a project across the Anglesey Benefice to knit and crochet poppies for display in November 2018, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. The majority will form an installation at Swaffham Bulbeck church, with smaller displays at each of the five parish war memorials.

We are looking for people who can already knit or crochet, or who would like to learn. The aim is for this to be a community-wide project with involvement from all five of our parishes. If you are involved in a community group that you think could take part, then please get in touch. We are also looking for donations to fund the cost of the yarn.

To ensure consistency of size and colour, we will supply you with yarn and with a knitting or crochet pattern. We will put on some workshops for anyone who would like to take this opportunity to learn to crochet or knit, and you are welcome at the regular meetings of Anglesey in Stitches, the group which meets in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck at 8pm on odd-dated Tuesdays.

The project is being coordinated by Veronica Stephenson. Please get in touch with her to express your interest, or with anyone else listed below to find out more. Further details will also be posted on the web and facebook pages of Anglesey in Stitches.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Veronica Stephenson

vron.stephenson@gmail.com 01223 813555

Sue the Vic suethevic@btinternet.com 01223 812726

FB: angleseyinstitches



A Slumber Number

When I find I can't get to sleep;
I don't waste any time counting sheep.
I think through the next day, what I must do;
I plan it in detail; chart the day through,
Then in the morning find I can't remember a clue,
But - - -
Though the minutia I'd planned; I hadn't kept,
- - At the least, I realise, for a few hours - -
I had blissfully slept.

Ophir

Church Services in March

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

Sunday 4 March, Third Sunday of Lent

11am Matins

Sunday 11 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent; Mothering Sunday

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CWIT)

Sunday 18 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent

11am Family Service

Sunday 25 March, Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Quy

Thursday 29 March, Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion, Lode

Friday 30 March, Good Friday

10am Family Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

7.30pm Reflection, 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; 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*

Dates for Your Diary March 2018

Thu	8	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH
Thu	15	Mothers' Union Spring Social, Lode Chapel, 2.30pm [15]
Fri	16	
Sat	17	Lode Jumble Sale, 2-4pm, St James Church, Lode [19]
Sun	18	
Mon	19	WI, 7.30pm [16]
Tue	20	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Crier Copy Deadline Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [17]

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	