

The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLII Number 5 May 2018



Editorial

What a Party! And what an education. The Village Hall Committee must be congratulated on the impressive 150th Birthday Party for our "Reading Room" that they staged last month, where there was a such a

wealth of interesting history that has been preserved. We hope there will be another excuse for this fascinating exhibition in the near future. See our centre spread.

Lots to read in this month's issue, but one thing the editors may have got a bit fed up with recently is nonspecific accusations of "inaccuracy" that are sometimes levelled at Crier coverage of PC meetings. Perhaps this is because Clerk has got a bit behindhand with his reports and people only realise a month later that our reporter was right after all? All apologies happily accepted, but in future, we will be requiring chapter and verse.....

However. where we don't want chapter and verse is instead of an address! week's Last anonymous letter writer is apparently called Mrs Smith and lives at Deuteronomy. Chapter 5. Full name, address and telephone number please reader!

Last month's Muntjac rescuer turned out to be Clive Green who was out on an early morning jog when he heard the most piteous racket. The muntjac had managed to get both his head and his front legs stuck through the railings in the Town Close playground gate, and while Clive pulled backwards, the animal was equally intent on going forwards, splaying his legs added traction. for Fortunately, Clive was able to flag down a passing cyclist, and finally the muntjac was free to rejoin his family who had been patiently waiting by the Newspaper Shed.

Don't forget Ascension Day — next Thursday, 10th May, Cambridge Voices will be singing from St Cyriac's Tower (if, unlike last year, they can find the key) — angels from above.

And it's the Village FEAST! May 26th — see you there!

Caroline Matheson

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Cover Picture: Ancient Sound by Clare Newbolt





Dear Editors,

An Allotment Allegory - 'The Correct Procedure'

Once upon a time a villager wanted an allotment and noticing that two plots were left to grow weeds, he asked the King if he could have one to grow vegetables on. The King said he would ask if it was necessary to have two providers of weeds and after a time one of the plot holders (we'll call him the first weed farmer shall we) said he would like to give up growing weeds and just walk his dog.

So the villager had an allotment.

A friend of the first villager said that he would like an allotment "Ask the King" said the first villager. "I will" said his friend "and I will share yours until I get one".

So they did.

Then the King said that the second weed farmer wanted to give up growing weeds so the second villager could have an allotment as well. "We can share two allotments now" said the second villager to the first.

And they did that.

Then the first villager said to the second "We can build a special house for growing things and have a shed to keep our tools in ".

And that.

After a while the second villager said "I don't want to share plots anymore but we can share the special house for growing things and the shed to keep our tools in".

They carried on growing vegetables, but after a time the second villager lost interest in growing vegetables and decided that as nobody was growing weeds he would do that and he became the new weed farmer.

So he did that for some years.

Then another villager said to the King "I would like an allotment to grow vegetables on – can I have the one growing weeds?" And the King said to the new weed farmer, "We don't need weed farmers anymore and we would like everyone to grow vegetables." But the weed farmer ignored the King. So the King said you must give your weed farm to the new vegetable grower.

The weed farmer became very angry and drank a lot of beer in the village inn and complained about incorrect procedure. He then punched the first villager in the face (which surprised the first villager and everyone who saw him do it).

"Oh dear", said the first villager, "I don't think that is the correct procedure!!"

So the inn keeper called the Sherriff who said to the first villager – "Shall we take the weed farmer to court?" "Oh no" said the villager, "but he should not do

that". "We will tell him to say sorry", said the Sheriff's men.

So they did and the weed farmer said sorry to the villager.

Now you might think that would be the end of it but the weed farmer still complained about incorrect procedures.

It's a funny old life!

Mike Malster



And they all lived happily ever after! The End. Eds

Dear Editors,

Reach Fair Pennies

Reach Fair dates back to 1201 and tradition has it, that the Mayor, as he passes through the villages, throws newly minted pennies to the poor villagers who line the route. The villagers would cry "Please Sir, Pay Sir" as his carriage approached.

Last May we waited, sixteen of us at the end of Longmeadow and others in the other villages, and the convey drove straight past - no pennies! It had been decided that there was no longer any call for this ancient tradition. We petitioned the Mayor, who apologised, and promised to reinstate the tradition this year. In turn we promised to encourage a good turn out in all the villages.

This year, we expect the convoy to arrive shortly after 11am in Quy, and the subsequent villages shortly after. Quy - Main Street by the grassy area opposite Herrings Close, Lode - the layby before the crossroads, Longmeadow - on the B1102 outside the Sun and Gate, Swaffham Bulbeck - at the bus stop on the Denny opposite the shop, **Swaffham Prior - outside the village hall**. *Clare Wilkes*

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

The April PC meeting was held on the very day of the emergency Cabinet meeting to decide whether we were going to join France and the US in a strike

against Syria. Haven't we been here I thought, and as I walked along I decided to direct my thoughts on the better things of life. Such as, the Pope deciding hell does not exist (that's a relief), that there has been confirmation of the *Burke's Peerage* claim in 1986 that our Queen is a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (DNA testing next?), that scientists now know the reason why knuckles crack, and that there is a new Nivea Men Body Shaving Gel (comment?). But enough of this rambling. It is just a way of saying what a relief it was to reach the PC meeting where sanity always



reigns. Not that there was a lot to report, and without Allen Alderson we would have finished quite early. In some ways it was also an extraordinary meeting. It started 2 minutes late at 7.32, there was an apology from Sandra and one absence, and by 7.35 they had reached item 5 of the agenda, the CCC and ECDC reports. No one even bothers to mention the CCC report now.

At the March meeting Allen had promised to let the PC know why ECDC have such a good economic and management record. He said he would give a few major points otherwise it could take up to two hours. He spoke fluently and I offer all I was able to note down. 1. The number of officers has been reduced. 2. They have appointed what they call a "champion" to help and advise each department to operate more efficiently and to resolve any queries. 3. In Ely they have a "community hub" to help and advise people about homelessness, job finding etc, thereby reducing the social costs. 4. They have just opened a second "community hub" in Littleport. 5. They have received a record number of planning applications, which provided a great contribution to their funds. 6. The new Leisure Centre has been funded by borrowing from ECDC reserves, rather than using the more expensive external borrowing. 7. ECDC now has its own Development Company working on several projects that contribute to their funds. And there were others.

Paul L asked how many were one off contributions just for the one year. Just the one said Allen and this was the excessively large number of planning applications with which "people were just trying their luck" before village stop lines

are established again. He again gave the warning that in two years time the Government will cease making any grant to councils, telling them to obtain all the money required from business rates. Frightening?

The time was now 7.50 and we skipped through items 6 and 7 on the agenda so quickly I wondered if I had nodded off. We moved on to item 8, Planning Applications. It appears that the bungalow application opposite the Windmill has been withdrawn. Allen said that ECDC Planning had asked a number of questions to which they received few answers. There was a one-page amendment to the application from 10 Lower End which

It appears that the bungalow application opposite the Windmill has been withdrawn..... had reduced the number of houses from two to one, and had redirected the approach of the driveway. The PC concluded this was not an amendment but a completely new application and they refused to comment on a one-page proposal.

The CIL monies have now gone and with some relief Steve said he had closed the books. The possible revised legal documents question of the Village Hall is ongoing and David will try to find out if there are disadvantages in having the Charity Commission as Trustees. Paul L is still preparing the new documentation now required for the allotments and the weather has been unsuitable to carry out the stringing job. The SID hiring agreement has still to be completed, but this is quite a knotty one.

John, after the meeting had closed, raised the question of potholes, now a national problem. There was quite a bit of banter and an anecdote or two about potholes, and then the meeting closed. *Alastair Everitt*



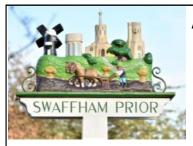
Where's that Bear?

Well, here he is sunbathing on the windscreen of Viv Elston's van. But some children have spotted him in all sorts of unlikely places and one even took him home, found him some pyjamas and tucked him up in bed.

Can you find Rupert Bear? He gets everywhere, you never know....

Do write and tell us if you spot him!





Your chance to find out what goes on in the village and have your say....

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, 16th MAY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

AGENDA including:

The School & School Governors Youth Club Beaver, Cub & Scout Groups Burwell Tigers Football Club CIL Monies The Community Land Trust Village Hall Management Committee Parochial Charities Swaffham Prior Community Car Scheme

Open Question Time

Supernova

A dying star burns with a light that far Outshines its fellows; so much energy to waste, And mass; so little time to burn it through Before the blackness; so it was with you Who started dying early, then misplaced, Somehow, the knack of it and blazed instead. Improbable time-traveller, propped between Mortality, a back-rest and a screen, You steered your chair down paths where Newton led To build in maths a history of time – A world best-seller and a world least-read. Your synthesizer voice became the paradigm Of what great scientific thinkers thought and said.

Prophet of reason and of rational thought, To be borne through the city and be brought, Like some heroic warrior king, to take Your leave in sight of that God of whose mind Physics, you said, knew all there was to find, Would be the sort of irony to make You smile that mischievous, lop-sided grin. Now the charged particles that made you, you Enter the vast cosmic recycling bin And will have other matters to attend to, The radiation of your name alone Escapes the gravity to which you've gone.



In memoriam Stephen Hawking 8 January 1942 14 March 2018 Wulsin

Julie Nunn's May Recipes

A couple of seasonal recipes this month.

Rhubarb Gin

You will need:

A 2 litre Kilner jar or wide necked bottle A large sieve A funnel Bottles to put finished product in

Ingredients

500g rhubarb 1 litre London dry gin 300g caster sugar

- 1. Sterilise jar with boiled water
- 2. Cut rhubarb into 2cm pieces
- 3. Put the rhubarb in jar
- 4. Add sugar and gin
- 5. Close lid and shake mixture
- 6. Shake everyday for 4-5 weeks until the sugar is dissolved
- 7. Sieve the gin and make sure all the rhubarb is removed

Use funnel to pour into bottles, this should stay good for a year.

Rhubarb and Ginger jam

Ingredients

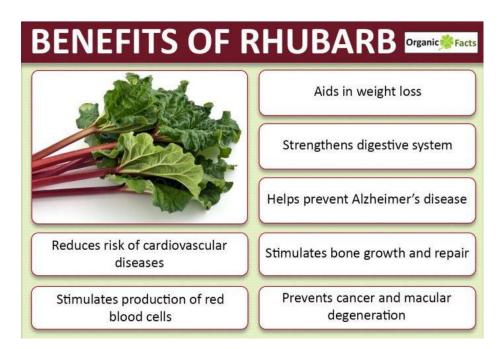
kg rhubarb, trimmed weight
kg of jam sugar
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
50gr stem or crystallised ginger finely chopped
4 cm piece of fresh ginger peeled and grated

- 1. Put chopped rhubarb in a pan, add sugar, lemon zest and juice, and both gingers
- 2. Leave for a couple of hours so that sugar dissolves into the rhubarb juices

3. Then cook on a medium heat until the rhubarb is tender and has reached setting point about 15 minutes

4. Keep doing setting test by putting onto a cold saucer

When you think the texture is right then let cool a few minutes and pour into sterilised jars.



So they say! - Eds

THE MAN WITH CARDBOARD KNEES

I know a man with cardboard knees Who claims he's sailed the seven seas; He says the only trouble that he found Was when has ship once ran aground.

The shock that shook the ship was so, One knee fell off and broke a toe, And doctors said the only cure Was not to sail, not anymore.

Now he's my club's commissionaire Whose members never fail to stare As with exaggerated ease He bows politely, from the knees.

Ophir

Moveable Feast

This year's moveable feast is being held on Saturday 19th May, 7.00pm start, and as you know, for those of you have been before, it is an event not to be missed.

Three courses in three different places - sounds like madness but you have to be there. Venues yet to be confirmed, but will of course, as in previous years, be spectacular! If you haven't participated before, make this year your first - there will be excellent food and warm hospitality to be had at each and every course. Numbers are restricted, so it is on a first come first served basis and newcomers to the village are especially welcome. It is a wonderful way of meeting other village folk in relaxed and convivial surroundings. Proceeds to St Mary's Church, it is really good fun, where else do you get three courses, wine, exceptional company and all for £17.50 a head?? Price held for the EIGHTH year running!!

Waiting by the 'phone, (01638 743472) for your call to reserve a place and for offers to host a course! Last bookings taken on 11th May - don't miss out.





Poppies in Prior

Many of you will be aware of the national poppy project to commemorate the end of the last war in November this year. For our part in this project we intend to hang knitted and crocheted poppies in and around the churches in our 5 villages Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, Bottisham, Lode and Quy. We are all using the same colour black and red yarn (some of which has



kindly been donated by King Cole Yarn to start the project). Tina in Burwell is stocking it too. I have the patterns as well as yarn which can be had for a small donation towards the costs.

Anglesey Stitchers have arranged workshops here in Prior in St. Cyriac's between 2.00-4.00 p.m. On Saturday 28th July and Saturday 11th August during the pop-up tea sessions an opportunity to have a natter whilst making poppies. There is also a session in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck (at their monthly meeting) on Thursday 15th May and another on 30th June at the street market in the church yard in Swaffham Bulbeck. Do come along to any of these sessions and bring your friends, any age, we very much hope some young people will also get involved. If you have any spare 4.5mm or 5mm knitting needles or crochet hooks we would be most grateful. If you are interesting in helping or want to make a donation, please get in touch.

Kate Child 73, High Street, 01638 743983 Email: catherine.child.Prior@gmail.com

LODE HALF MARATHON & 3 MILE FAMILY FUN RUN

(ON-LINE ENTRY & CHIP TIMING FOR BOTH HALF MARATHON AND FUN RUN)

The 8^{th} Lode Half Marathon is fast approaching and this year our charity is Headway (charity no. 1025852), who work to improve lives after brain injury. Over the last 7 years we have had great support and raised over £25,000 for charity and local causes.

ENTRY open from Monday 23 April so if you are a runner please get your entry in as soon as possible. If you are not a runner but would like to help with **stewarding** please get in touch. It is being held on **Sunday 4th November 2018** at 10 a.m. - our race HQ is the Fassage Hall in Lode. The Family Fun Run will start at 10.15 a.m.

The course is flat and takes you from Lode village, along the "Lodes Way" to Wicken Fen and back, with water stations along the way. Trophies will be awarded and each runner who completes the course will receive a medal.

(See our website for further details and on-line booking form - <u>www.loderunners.co.uk</u> or contact Tessa Shrubbs on 01223 811812 or email: <u>lodefarm@aol.com</u>). Many thanks to the following companies who are so far sponsoring this year's event: **Mead Construction & Plant Hire, Laragh Homes, Scotsdales Garden Centres, Tesco Fulbourn, Bottisham Village Stores, Create Signs and Halls of Cambridge.**

I will not go to any more parish council meetings. Here's why.

On the evening of the March PC meeting my work took me to a school that until last summer had been located at the foot of Grenfell Tower. They had lost students in the fire. The school had been rebuilt in two months, by positive, inspirational people who worked together, and for all. I came away deeply impressed by all I had met there, staff and students.

But back home later, I found the opposite: an email from the PC chair commending the clerk for finding a reason why, if I wasn't at their meeting, all that I had emailed and asked to be considered should be ignored.

Points I had emailed and wanted to be put to the PC were:

- when Robin Mathieson contacted me about parking issues, I'd said to contact the PC. A discussion of concrete blocks on the verge had ended in us both thinking it was not a good idea.
- that since Robin's letter had been circulated by the PC to the Crier 'reporter' also, I wanted that to be known before the 'reporter' did the usual misrepresentation of what I say.
- that I had always found it hard to understand when a lady I knew who used to live in the village told me about 5 years ago while she was still living here, that she had been very disappointed to be told when she had asked, no she could not have an allotment; although she knew the person she had asked had two. So why is it still the case that there's a waiting list and the person administering the list has two? doesn't 'allotment' mean an equally allotted amount to all?
- that the bungled termination of an allotment tenancy at the December meeting would have been averted by talking to the holder in the first instance. I had tried to ask at that meeting what the allotment holder might say in reply; but I was brushed off with "it's too late".
- And perhaps the outcome of doing this so badly should be one of those moments where this PC, as a responsible local body, does a bit of reflection and asks itself whether its habitual practices are really doing the best job for the people it serves.
- I added that this is a small community. Perhaps one of the first outcomes of reflection might be the Parish Council aiming, on principle, to start with talking to people, not sending formal letters.
- and for interest, how the go-ahead Bishop of Bath and Wells introduced allotments in 1807 to the village of Willingham when he was a humble rector there. (the Eds put this bit in the last *Crier*) so Cambridgeshire has a fairly ancient and pioneering history in the allotments, granting the use of land for ordinary folk for practical purposes. Worth the PC contemplating here.
- as a PS I'd added that I had spoken twice to Burwell Post office weeks ago re the long deep muddy rut by the post box in Fairview Grove left by the post office van. He stopped doing it for a while but seems to be starting to do it again so I would remind them next time I go there.
- What has really put an end to all this for me is that our Parish Council seems to delight in finding procedural ways to prevent some people from having a say. At

the previous meeting, they wouldn't consider the letter from the allotment evictee as it had been submitted later than the Sunday before the meeting, for all that it was a matter of significance. But it seems the Chairman can ignore the rule if he feels like it, so an out-of-time letter from the Vicar was allowed.

I first became aware of their perverse joy to limit hearing from everyone not long after I joined the PC. The CIL money was due. They weren't interested in ensuring that the whole of our community should be equally able to have a say (Letters, January 2016). As for the habitual sniping inaccuracy of the Crier 'reporter' I'm not bothered. I can answer that. re his March *Crier* letter: short of writing it down for him, I don't know what will help him make the connection between the need for new driveways at the top of Fairview Grove that he derided in the February *Crier*, and what has changed. So neither he nor the clerk wrote down in the Jan meeting what I described that has changed. It was said to them. Of course he could come to this road and have a look, as I suggested before, but he seems unwilling. PS: it's getting worse.

People have told me on the last couple of years I should stay on the PC and make a difference. But there's no difference to be made there. I've learned quite a bit from being on the PC, but not many good things. Trying to get them to think about whether they could do things better is a foreign language. Blank looks. I also need to rationalise my time and cut what is as near pointless as makes no difference. I have been dealing with a family tragedy of the most awful proportions since the autumn. Someone has to. It falls to me. People matter even after they are no longer with us, and the people who are still here need to be helped. It takes a lot of my time and it will take probably at least the next year to get things into place for those who are left.

The people on the PC don't seem to put people first. I'm not saying all of them; I wouldn't tar them all as the same. But most seem to care about being the ones who make the decisions. Yes they can say, look at all the things we've done. But take the youth club building. In all the time it has come up for discussion, it's been about what can be done with the building (they love discussion of buildings, buildings aren't people). I'd heard no real thought given to the total absence of a replacement social place for young people of the village now the youth club is closed. It took that letter from the vicar for it to occur to them.

Update to this letter written in March, and reported in the April *Crier*: bizarrely, a PC member by himself, without authority, without PC discussion, *without even informing the PC* - put in a bid for £350,000 to rebuild the youth club hut. (nb as things stand there isn't anyone in place to run it even, which isn't to say it shouldn't happen, only that's how little this has been thought through).

He said that he did this because the district council "had made a last-minute appeal", suggesting there had not been time for parish councils and other organisations to discuss what they wanted to bid for, so he put it in just before the deadline. But I knew Burwell PC had known in time to discuss it. They put in a large bid for recreational facilities; I knew too that Soham's Viva Theatre put in a huge bid, £600,000-odd, too. Perhaps not unrelated to Cllr Josh Schumann's family interest in Viva Theatre. I've had enough. Our PC is too dysfunctional an organisation for me to continue to going to. *Mark Lewinski*

The Village Hall's 150th Birthday Party

Speech Given By C.P. Allix On The Opening Of The Swaffham Prior Reading Room 1868

"Ladies and Gentlemen

In my address to you on the occasion of the opening of the Reading Room this evening, I think it will be a subject of interest to many who are present to have the origin of the institution explained and the entertainment it will provide for its members set forth, and last though not least, the ends that it will secure to the parish.

The building, as shown in the inscription over the entrance door, was erected by Mrs. Roberts, Miss Juliana Allix and Miss Mary Allix, lately deceased, who expressed a wish in a testamentary memorandum made by her, that a sum of $\pounds 200$ should be applied to the benefit of this parish in such a way as might be the best.

It was hoped by the family at the time that some way might be devised of using the money, which, while it combined charity to the poor and usefulness to all members of the parish, should at the same time be a memorial to the memory of the deceased, and in this manner the erection of this Cottage and Reading Room was determined on.

We hope to find that the portion of the building set apart as a cottage will provide a comfortable home (rent-free), for whom may be placed in charge of the building, and the Reading Room, a convenient place of assembly and amusement for all its members.

I intend, on acting on behalf of Mrs. Roberts and Miss Juliana Allix, to retain the management of the building in my own hands, and as a manager of course my great



object in carrying on the institution will be, that it shall be done as the members themselves wish, and to meet this end I shall ask some of the leading men in this parish to form themselves into a committee for the working of it.

The Reading Room as soon as it is in a fit state will be opened for the reception of members, two nights in the week, Wednesday from 6 p.m. till 10 o'clock p.m., and on Saturdays from 4 o'clock p.m. until 10 p.m., and I hope that I shall be applied to by the committee to increase the number of opening nights.

It will contain for the use of mem-

bers a small billiard table, a backgammon and draft board, a set of dominoes, the beginning of a small library (2 dozen vols.), and some maps, which last will be hung on the walls for reference. Pens, ink and stationery will be provided, and newspapers will be taken in for the use of the room on the opening nights. The anteroom will be open every day, from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m., for



the free use of all the old men of the parish who are receiving its relief only. On the evenings when the Reading Room is open the ante-room will be closed half-an-hour previously.

A fire will be kept up all day in the winter in the ante-room for the benefit of any old and infirm persons who may like to take advantage of the warmth; and in the summer benches will be disposed of about the garden, which as well as the ante-room will be open all day for the recipients of parish relief or other members, and the rules to be observed will then be given, to be varied, altered or withdrawn, as circumstances may allow and suggest at the request of the members. He ((Mr. A.) then stated the rules in *extenso*, saying, this concludes the main rules that I have thought might be useful in guiding the institution, together with the account of the origin and object, which I have endeavoured to place before you as clearly as possible.

It only remains to say in conclusion that what has been done has been through hearty good-will and attachment to you all as a parish, and we hope to receive your

support in carrying out the undertaking, and I sincerely trust that with God's blessing it may tend to promote in this your village an element of unity and an honest emulation in the habits of sobriety, cleanliness, a good feeling, and be a humble means in His hands of setting forward His kingdom amongst us."

C.P. Allix Thursday 28th April 1868



The Village Hall's 150th Birthday Party

A huge thank you to all who came to help us celebrate the village hall's 150th birthday. We had a fantastic attendance and according to feedback received, it was a great success.

The cakes and cream teas were delicious and thanks to all who gave their time to provide a splendid spread.

Thank you to all who researched and/or shared personal historical photos and documents that all made fascinating viewing.

The hall was built and donated to the inhabitants of the village by the Allix family in April 1868, originally as a reading room. The opening speech by Mr Allix is of particular interest.

We were fortunate to have the company of Monica Dunling, the last surviving resident of the cottage that formed part of the reading room. Born in January 1927, she remembers moving into the cottage that formed part of the hall and celebrating her 9th Birthday there with a party in 1936. Her mother Dorothy (Dolly) Preston was the caretaker of the reading room. Monica lived in the hall/cottage until she married, her wedding reception was held in the hall on 19th May 1951. Many interesting memories were shared.

We hope to see you all again at the Village Feast on the 26th May, 1.00 pm.

The Village Hall Management Committee





Crossword Number 153

Clues marked with * contain no definition; however solutions have been seen on the streets of London. Send your answers to the editors by 18 May 2018. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a $\pounds 20$ meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.

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Name:	
Address:	
	Tel:

Across

- 1 Most underdone cookery of Sartre (6)
- 4 So lie back to absorb heat and to improve the view (8)
- 9 Tiramisu's highlighted to hide something else on the menu (5)
- 10 * Metamorphosis of cairn and crag (6,3)
- 11 * Team leader to show disapproval (4)
- 12 Blast repair (4)
- 13 Writer born on an Italian table? (5)
- 15 Incomplete score carried by broadcaster (7)
- 16 Blow on the green note in training (4)
- 19 Infection is an eye-opener following the end of angioplasty (4)
- 20 Set from production of mine featuring wingless angel (7)
- 23 Citizen engulfed in Roman iconography (5)
- 24 Bird found in wood (4)
- 25 * Backing a call for secular education? (4)
- 27 Collecting small notices (9)
- 28 Saw more than the last two thousand years? (5)
- 29 Horse eaten during judge's trips (8)
- 30 Tastes salt swallowing goods on the way back (6)

Down

- 1 Perennial arrangement to rub shoes (8)
- 2 Brings back stocks again (8)
- 3 * Beginners to shake hands in person (4)

- 5 Place pin in couscous that's not easy to see (13)
- 6 Extremely strong pimento not to be cooked (10)
- 7 Bill has money for Scouse or Geordie perhaps (6)
- 8 Scream at dishevelled hikers! (6)
- 10 Prepared to believe Her Majesty helps with computation (5,8)
- 14 * Man from the north bound to go centrally (7,3)
- 17 Put new life into play (8)
- 18 For drivers changing course and riders not changing course (8)
- 21 * Spinner could be a bowler (3,3)
- 22 Sol's predecessor dressed appropriately for African trip? (6)

Solution to crossword no. 152

26 Blows hot and cold maybe (4)

L A S T N I G H I O R O U D I I O R I I O R C L I P A R T B R O R C C C R C C C C R C</td

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

The Swaffhams' WI News

SPIRING WOMEN The speaker at our April meeting was Jane Kennedy who came to talk about deafness and sign language. Jane became passionate about sign language through her work as a district nurse when she sometimes had to deal with profoundly deaf people and became

aware of the problems involved in not being able to communicate easily with them. The statistics on deafness are quite shocking. There are 11million people in the UK with hearing loss, that's about 1 in 6 of the population, and 900,000 of these have severe or profound hearing loss. 50,000 children have hearing loss of which half are born with it and half lose it during childhood. It is not difficult to see how Jane decided to learn sign language and has gone on to be a tutor in the subject. Having been given the background we then had a practical session and discovered that it is not just the hands that are involved but that facial expression is an important part of this language and that some of our members have very expressive faces that are perfect for signing. Despite the seriousness of the subject, Jane made the evening very enjoyable which of course is the art of a good speaker.

If you are interested in learning more about hearing loss, visit www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

Our May meeting is on 21st at 7.30 in Swaffham Prior village hall when the speaker will be Julie Bounford talking about the history of Heffers.

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

COMBERTON RAMBLERS

Join our friendly group for wonderful walks

Comberton Ramblers walk alternative Sundays between 5-7 miles. We are a friendly / informative group and enjoy exploring the varied countryside in this area.

New walkers are very welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks, and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member. Annual membership fee is $\pounds 8.50$ per person.

Our full walks programme can be viewed + photo's on.

www.combertonramblers.org.uk

For further information please contact Stella the Secretary. Email. stella.ramblers@hotmail.com Tel 01954 210049



VILLAGE GARDENERS

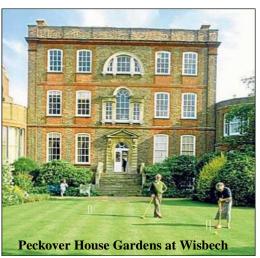
Our April meeting was a very interesting talk by Veronica Bennett on Peckover House and gardens in Wisbech. Peckover House was originally called Bank House as it was the bank and also the

family home of the Peckovers. When

the National Trust acquired it in 1948 on the death of Miss Alexandrina Peckover they renamed it Peckover House in honour of the family.

It was originally one of the finest and most complete Georgian houses when Peckover bought it in 1794 from the Southwells. They had also owned Thorpe House in Wisbech and made many of the alterations on Peckover house. It had originally been simply two rooms deep.

Lord Peckover was a Quaker and a banker. By the end of the nineteenth century many small banks, including Peckovers, were



taken over by Barclays. Part of the original banking hall is still visible, as is a man trap and musket used by the night watchman! The trap door to the cellar, made by Chubb, required two people to open it. Lord Peckover was awarded an honorary doctorate by Cambridge University. He built a most extensive library with many rare books in it, including early Bibles. There were about 550 volumes. He paid for a monument for Thomas Clarkson, an anti-slavery campaigner from Wisbech.

The ornate front rooms had "snob" screens, the equivalent of net curtains, so that customers visiting the bank would be unable to see the family in their home! The family were great collectors and brought many things from their travels including a locust, pin cushion, models of mummies and coins. The children were not allowed to touch them. If they dared grandfather Peckover would boom "Keep off dirty paws"!

" Lord Peckover left a huge collection of fine wines and spirits. However, his daughter and sisters all belonged to the Temperance Movement....." Lord Peckover died in 1919. He had left a huge collection of fine wines and spirits. However, his daughter and sisters all belonged to the Temperance Movement. Consequently the alcohol had to go. It took all day for the staff to pour it into the River Nene. The last few bottles were poured onto the vines at the request of the butler!

The garden is about two acres now and has very distinct, interconnected areas. It's very much the same as in the Peckover's day, except smaller.

There was an orchard lawn for fruit and pigs who ate the fallen fruit. There is a kitchen garden, rockery around the pool and a maze that has been reproduced in stone. There is also a wilderness walk with tress and shrubs. The Ribbon border consists of a typically Victorian planting scheme. There is also Alexa's rose garden and a beautiful, romantic summer house. Peckover is famous for it's roses and the replanting has been funded by the Savoy Hotel. The Orangery has an underwater storage system and the oranges are used in the Reed Barn (17th century) restaurant on site.

The family had many cats and they all have their own headstones. Favourite names were Algernon and Penrose.

There are many events at Peckover House and one of the most popular is the Wisbech Rose Fair from 4th-7th July when gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th May when Linda Gascoigne will be talking about Wildflower and Wildlife Gardening at 8.00pm in the Village Hall.

Ruth Scovil





EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District Councillor Allen Alderson

Residents who have ordered their second blue bin will now begin receiving them as East Cambs trading company, East Cambs Street Scene, prepares to start delivering waste and street cleaning services.

This move has enabled the council to provide residents with the option to acquire a second blue bin for a one-off payment of $\pounds 25$. This will allow them to recycle even more and help the council reach their target to get 60% of households in the district to actively recycle. Blue bin orders can be placed on the website www.eastcambs.gov.uk

As the new Local Plan is finally moving forward some normality has returned to the amount of planning applications that the planning department was receiving. The previous high level of applications gave both the planning officers and us councillors a lot of extra work, particularly as we were often having to deal with unsuitable applications.

The Ely southern bypass is progressing well if going to Ely you should allow for temporary speed limits. There will also be short periods during which temporary traffic lights will be in place on the A142 at Stuntney Causeway and also Angel Drove. These will only operate between 09.30am - 03.30pm to avoid disruption during peak hours.

Allen Alderson



Mothers' Union

At our February meeting Hazel Williams MBE came to talk to us about how she came to be awarded the MBE and the day she collected it from Buckingham Palace. Hazel told us of how it was a great surprise when she received the letter informing her she had been awarded the MBE for her services to the local community. To highlight Hazel's steadfast commitment she was

a founder member in setting up the Burwell Day Centre, and has continued with her dedicated support since. As well as being a parish councillor and member of local government Hazel is involved with far too many charitable and local organisations. We all listened with great interest as she talked us through the events of the day she went to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from Prince Charles. One of the things she found most interesting was meeting fellow award recipients and their steadfast commitment to working many years, to benefit others less. We also learnt about the etiquette for when, where and how your metal should be worn. At the end of her talk we congratulated Hazel on her being elected or MU Diocesan President

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for the next triennium.

In March we held our spring social meeting, and bring and buy. Members enjoyed playing a form of Kim's game based on our theme for the year 'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps'. Focusing on the work of our founder, and how we as members today carry on the work she started in 1876.

Our guest speaker in May will be Barry Griffiths, Communications and Communities Officer for Jimmy's Cambridge. You are most welcome to come and join us on Thursday 17th May in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm.

There will be no meeting in June as members will be going on an outing to Ely Cathedral Flower Festival. Ann Langran

DEVIL'S DYKE MORRIS MEN GIVE OUR FARM SOMETHING TO WASSAIL ABOUT

We are so excited to recruit a new group of Farm Friends, as The Prospects Trust has been chosen as The Devil's Dyke Morris Men's charity of the year. We hope to work with the Morris Men to decide which project or element of our growing charity they wish to support with their very FUN fundrasing talents. Every year the Devil's Dyke Morris Men are a popular feature of your Reach Fayre, this year give them an extra cheer from all of us at Snakehall Farm. To find out more about the Devil's Dyke Morris Men take a look at their forthcoming events on their website <u>http://www.devilsdykemm.org.uk</u>

We are always looking for groups, businesses and corporate partners who wish to



help support our small in size but large in ambition charity. To find out more about Charity of the Year, Sponsorship or Supported Corporate Volunteer days please contact our Development Manager -Maz.baker@prospectstrust.org.uk OUR FARM IS GROWING - WE HAVE SPACE FOR MORE SUP-PORTED PLACEMENTS

You may know us as that little farm up the road where you can buy free range eggs and organic veggies a plenty but our core reason for being here on Swaffham Road is to provide a meaningful place of work for adults with disabilities. We have

space to grow more abilities! We are currently recruiting new Co-workers on both the farm and garden teams. We can provide one to one placements too, for those with more profound disabilities, using our great team of qualified and caring Support Workers to help people shed their disabilities and grow their abilities at The Prospects Trust.

FREECYCLE

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14th of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail (junthompson44@gmail.com) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and



nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1st of the month to make it a little fairer.

Offered

3 large cream sunshades with stands; 3 seater cream sofa loose covers, can wash. Catie Whiteley 01638 742545

4 strong white plastic chairs with arms; 3 galvanised metal chairs, painted white - ripe for upcycling; One lady's bike helmet; Electric strimmer - with extension lead; 2 electric drills. Lucy/Nick 01223 811192.

1940's/1950's balance kitchen scales with complete set of Imperial weights (2lbs to 1/2oz). Lis 01223811233

A quantity of chipped crockery which could possibly be used for some game requiring plate smashing. There must be about 15 dinner plates+other smaller plates and mugs. Ann 01223 811620

IKEA wooden garden two seater folding bench. Needs some small amount of attention (recoating/painting); 2 x high back plastic garden chairs, white; Small garden parasol; Free standing, wheeled gas BBQ with attached cooking ring. Needs new rubber gas piping and lava rock. David or Angela on 812994

Cat brush; incandescent bulb night-light; 1x PS/2 wired keyboard; Childs toy - pile of Teifoc bricks for building houses (see <u>http://www.eitechtoys.com/teifoc/</u> for more info). Childs toy – ELC 50-piece plastic marble-run; Childs toy- Memo (Matching pairs game with picture cards); Floor mop (Squeezy sponge type). Jun 01223 813362.

Wanted

Large/Medium soft-sided dog bed, condition immaterial. Susan/Peter C.811584

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.



Notes from Parish Council March 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: Michael Malster declared an interest in the letter from Mr Kirby and Steve Kent-Phillips, an interest in the payment of cheque – item 12c.

Public Participation: None.

Reports:

ECDC: Allen Alderson reported to the meeting including, noting that the grant from central government will soon be zero. He mentioned some interesting hats were worn on a recent visit to Truners. John Covill asked about bin collections. Allen Alderson noted that nothing was done last week, blue bins would be this week and there was a double day of black bag collections planned with blue bins. John Covill asked further about the fen run. Paul Latchford asked about the overperformance compared to other councils. Allen Alderson offered to provide details at the next meeting, he also noted that ECDC were taking collections back in-house soon, which should save money. Paul Latchford offered to send the clerk details of contacts for getting the grit bins refilled.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that the snow drops had been delivered.

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

The letter from a resident (Mr Kirby) would be dealt with under the Allotments agenda item. The VHMC email / letter form Allan Durrant would be dealt with under Village Hall.

Letter from a Resident (Robin Mathieson) relating to damaged verges was discussed: It was suggested that the verges were either privately owned by the property owner or the responsibility of Highways.

The chairman had also received correspondence from Sue Giles relating to the youth club hut, which has recently been returned to the control of Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities. Steve Kent-Phillips pointed out the he recently responded to a request for large CIL projects. The application was for £350K to replace the existing building. Allen Alderson noted that it would be discussed at a meeting he would be present at.

Consideration of Planning Applications Received:

17/01947/FUL - Sterling Farm 4 Heath Road - Replacement dwelling, garaging, new access, parking and associated site works: It was noted by Steve Kent-Phillips that (from earlier application) the car port was the only change. No Objections Proposed: Steve Kent-Phillips, Seconded: Paul Latchford, Unanimously agreed.

18/00170/LBC - Stocks Farm House 1 Lower End - Conservation rooflights to be installed to the pantile roof of the existing house, new timber-framed windows and doors installed to the west of the main house. Construction of a new porch. Construction of a new single storey yoga studio and changing facilities, and the conversion of the existing garage into an annex with living facilities and attached

spa room. 18/00169/FUL – see above. No objections were agreed for both.

CIL & Open Space Money Projects

Steve Kent-Phillips reported that no further projects had been suggested from the Crier request, therefore infrastructure could be considered as all the Open Spaces monies had been spent. He reported that there was in the order of £4.5K remaining. There was one project remaining to replace seating (benches) in the play area, with one additional bench. The Village Hall LED replacement lights were discussed. There were 2 quotes to consider. The first of the village hall projects included other electrical work such as, emergency light, hand dryers and disabled alarm in the toilet. These totalled £2735 and £2214. The second village hall project was to replace the blown double glazing at £490. Steve Kent-Phillips pointed out that this met all the criteria applied to the CIL projects. Sandra Gynn enquired what the current spend on the village hall had been so far. Steve Kent-Phillips reported that it was around £5K. John Covill suggested that some money could go to help replace the Youth Club Hut. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested making the remaining funds available to the YCH. It was agreed to go ahead with all 3 projects (both VH projects, play area benches and remaining funds to YCH), Proposed: Peter Hart, Seconded: Michael Malster, Agreed – Paul Latchford abstained.

Village Hall

Steve Kent-Phillips presented the VHMC options and the Clerk read David Greenfield's legal company's findings and suggestions. It was agreed to wait for David Greenfield and Alan Durrant to be available at the next meeting to decide.

Allotments

John Covill stated that he was pleased with the report provided following the site inspection. Paul Latchford presented the full report and explained the findings. There were many recommendations including re-establishing the paths and boundaries, not allowing access via the cemetery during burials. Paul Latchford agreed to amend the agreement to include 5 new clauses and write a 4-week notice letter. Steve Kent-Phillips would improve the water tap's installation. Andy Martin would be asked to remove the rubbish. Steve Kent-Phillips proposed a team (Steve Kent-Phillips, Paul Latchford and possibly Sandra Gynn) go and establish measurements and possibly peg the ground. He would email arrangements. Paul Latchford would get the breach letter to the Clerk to send.

Mr Kirby's letter to the chairman and subsequently to the Clerk was considered. All of the points were addressed, many by Michael Malster. Steve Kent-Phillips and Paul Latchford noted that most of the points would be addressed by the changes just proposed. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested many issues were procedural errors by the PC. There were infringements of the agreement but it was agreed that 2 warnings had not been issued.

The meeting was suspended at 21:03

AK noted that the process was not followed and there was evidence that it was not done. Steve Kent-Phillips stated that one letter was sent. Sandra Gynn asked if this means the eviction does not stand. AK also noted that in the November meeting minutes no letter was sent. The letter was sent in December. Peter Hart suggested that the eviction should be withdrawn. John Covill stated that there must be a written apology for the mistake. Sandra Gynn suggested an apology as discussed, AK accepted with thanks.

The meeting was resumed at 21:10

It was agreed to rescind both offer of tenancy and withdraw eviction with written apology, informing new tenants with an apology, stating that procedure was not correctly followed by the PC.

Clerks' Report

The Clerk reported that the interment process was documented for the use of councillors in case the Clerk was not present. The insurance had been agreed for the revised inventory items and would be in place from April 1st. The Annual Village Assembly was arranged for Wednesday Mat 16th. The Data Protection Act registration had been renewed with the Information Commissioners Office.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Sandra Gynn asked about the incorrect digging of a plot in the cemetery and reported on the school's recent OFSTED situation and the head's absence. Sandra Gynn also mentioned vehicles, one noticed in particular, had churned up the verges turning and one had narrowly missed the lap post. Paul Latchford asked that if future requests to the PC were made could they include a cost benefit, as this would help assessment of the proposal's value. He also offered to construct the breach of agreement letter for the allotments and the amended T&Cs for the next meeting. Peter Hart asked about the other allotments, Paul Latchford suggested we could look at these next time. Peter Hart noted that the village hall pot holes looked better, Steve Kent-Phillips said that Mead's had repaired some. It was noted that the statutory documents would be due for review in August.

Open Question Time

Alastair Everitt asked if the grass in front of Robin's was private. Steve Kent-Phillips stated it was, if not private it was Highways'. Mrs Kirby pointed out that a late item had been included. It was noted that the item was sent directly to the Chairman. There was a discussion about the hedge between allotments and road and then generally regarding Highways maintaining the hedges. Steve Kent-Phillips suggested they would not do it and there was a suggestion that the land between ditches and owner's property may be the owner's responsibility.

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

Future meeting dates: May 10th, June 14th, July 12th 2018. All are welcome to attend and the

ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 16th MAY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

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/



"PIECING TOGETHER THE PAST" EXAMINING AND HANDLING ARCHAELOGICAL FINDS Andrew Peachey MCIfA

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

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

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

Ticket/s: Hilary Fielding (01638 741853), Claire Halpin (07834 740881) Liz Tabecki (07944 235838) <u>Claire.halpin@ascontracts.co.uk</u> To ensure a place please book in advance



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

BON MOT NUMBER EIGHTY SEVEN

"Women are like tea bags – they don't realise how strong they are until they're in hot water." *Eleanor Roosevelt* (1884 - 1962)

PASTORAL LETTER, May 2018

Bottisham Vicarage

Dear Friends,

I am sitting down to write this article on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Yet the brightness of the day belies the darkness and precariousness of the world at this moment in time.

Our country currently has a strained relationship with Russia over the use of chemical nerve agents on UK soil so there is tension in the air. In addition we have just

engaged, with the United States and France, in military action in Syria following the apparent use of chemical weapons there.

The world is a complex place with many different views and many different voices. Finding the right, or perhaps more accurately the best, course of action is very difficult. Which view is the correct one? Which voices and what information should be used to inform our response. From history we know that lack of action allows atrocities to gather momentum so that evil behaviour becomes stronger and can spread further. However we also know from history that hasty interventions can result in further suffering and can unleash hidden consequences, which root themselves in generations yet to come. The world is a beautiful and productive place but it can also be a dangerous, painful and confusing place for many of its inhabitants.

I cannot answer the questions I have raised but Christians have a resource that is of utmost importance in our complex and broken world. Christians (and people of other faiths too) are able to pray and to take to God the complex dilemmas that the world faces. In prayer we seek the guidance of the one who loves each person that contributes to the complicated situations the world faces. Yet God has the greatest concern for those who are poor and suffering. When we bring the struggles of the world to God in prayer we are powerfully reminded that however we feel about the players on the world stage we are speaking with one who values them as he values us. God's desire is that we all turn our attention to the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world who reap the consequences of our pride and love of power and the wrong choices and decisions that others make. Prayer changes the attitude of the one praying and opens up new perspectives. Prayer challenges the way we look at the world and each other.

In the time between Ascension Day 10th May and Pentecost 20th May there is a national time of prayer called Thy Kingdom Come. This is an opportunity for Christians (and others) to pray for our nation and for the world. It is a time to deepen our understanding of prayer and our practice of prayer. We can learn from one another and encourage each other as we hold the needs of the world in our hearts. It would be wonderful to welcome anyone who would like to join us as we pray for God's kingdom to come.

Let us pray for the peace of the world. With best wishes



Sue

Church Services in May

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

Sunday 6 May, Sixth Sunday of Easter

11am Matins

Thursday 10 May, Ascension Day

Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1T), St Cyriacs

Sunday 13 May, Seventh Sunday of Easter

10amBenefice Service Holy Communion (CW1), Lode3pmGodparents' Service

Sunday 20 May, Pentecost

11am Family Service

Sunday 27 May, Trinity Sunday

8am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30am	Children's Church, Lode
10am	Morning Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

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; <u>suethevic@btinternet.com</u> and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; <u>gina.radford@btinternet.com</u>

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

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

May 10th Ascension Day Service 7.30 pm

St Cyriac and St Julitta, Swaffham Prior with music from Cambridge Voices.

Dates for Your Diary May 2018

Thu	10	Ascension Day Service, 7.30pm (with Cambridge Voices) PC Meeting [26], VH, 7pm
Tue	15	Mobile Library, Cage Hill 2.45-3.15pm Chapel 3.20pm-4.00pm Village Gardeners [22], 8.00pm, VH
Thu	17	Mothers' Union [24], 2.30pm, Lode Chapel ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY [32], VH, 7.30pm
Sat	19	POP Litter Pick [10], 10.00am, Village Sign
Sun	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	21	WI, 7.30pm, VH [20]
Thu	24	Piecing together the Past [29], 7.15pm, Reach VH
Sat	26	VILLAGE FEAST [5], VH 1.00pm

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place		
FOSPS	Clare	741316	2 nd Mon 8pm		Village		
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		
			Tues	7-8:30pm	Youth Club		
Youth Club	Alan Badcock	742228	Thurs	7-10:00pm	Hut		

