



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLII Number 11



## Editorial

100 YEARS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE WWI ARMISTICE, Villagers in the Anglesey Parish have just completed a heartfelt tribute to all those who fought and died in that horrible war and those that followed. You may have read about their progress in this magazine, but now curtains of cascading hand-made poppies are everywhere, and you can read about the final preparations for this tremendous feat in this month's issue.

Not all conflicts are horrible though; some are quite delightful, and we are now coming up to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of such a one. Hosted by this magazine throughout, it started with the authorship of Shakespeare, attracted national interest at one stage, dallied into this or that as years went by, and is now alive and well on the subject of what is the definition of "missing"? (See *Letters*, *Our Reporter*). I would have thought "not there", but far be it for me to take sides....

Congratulations Henry Brown, 96 this month, although still not quite the oldest resident in Swaffham Prior (due to unfair female competition). Our very own Entrepreneur Extraordinaire is back to tell us about his adventures in Silo Construction this month.

Congratulations too to Betty Prime, who has just retired from a longish stint (how long, Betty?) looking after our beautiful churches, Read her letter, we need some more volunteers! And how delightful to hear from Ruth Dalton in this month's issue (see *School News*). Ruth is not only a well-known figure in the village, but the sort of person that when she's around, one feels nothing can be terribly wrong, doubtless why she's so very good at what she does. We do hope she doesn't suddenly find an Irish Grandma and ups sticks when it comes to Brexit...

Ah well, let's just hope we're all present and correct come next Armistice Day. Meanwhile, on an October's evening stroll with the dog along the backpath, I very stupidly dropped my debit card in amongst the exuberant foliage and Autumn leaves while messing about with the doggy bags. Not to worry, before I had even noticed it was missing (as in "not there") a very kind soul had not only found it, but had tracked me down and was on the phone. Swaffham Prior, I'm glad I live here. Happy Bonfiring, get cooking Julie's Bonfire Bangers!

**Caroline Matheson**

**Cover Picture: "Here's YOUR chance. It's MEN we want." (War Poster)**

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## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### QUIZ NIGHT

Jenny and I would like to thank everyone who came to our quiz on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves and hope to see you and more quizzers at our next one in March. No date yet but keep checking your Criers.

Our winners were Quizimodo, just two men on their own, amazing, we had three teams in equal second place. Well done to everyone. Andrew was our quiz master again so a big thank you to him. The ladies in the kitchen did an excellent job again serving food so a big thank you goes to Jo, Mandy and Sheila. April was unable to do the raffle this time as she was treading the boards but we are grateful to Pam Mead who stepped into her shoes. Thank you to those who donated raffle prizes. We raised £290 in total for St Mary's Church so thank you once again.

*Lynne and Jenny*

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Dear Editors,

### Everything You Need to Know about the Village Heating Scheme

Directly from their latest Q&A:

**Q.** "Will the scheme financially stack up?"

**A.** "We do not know if the scheme will break even."

**Q.** "Is this a Guinea Pig scheme for the Council?"

**A.** "Yes"

*Steve Kent-Phillips*

*See the latest from the Community Heating Project on page 24. Eds*

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Dear Editors,

### Macmillan Coffee Morning 2018

Wow! What a fantastic amount we all raised - £770! Thank you so much for all your generous donations. It is an incredible amount and takes our final total over the 25 years to £12,465! We had some special raffle prizes from many of you and the local traders. I couldn't have managed the whole occasion without the help of Margaret Joyce, selling the delicious cakes that so many of you made, and Robin, selling the raffle tickets.

A special mention should go to Sibyl Marshall who, apart from me, is I think the only other person who has been to all 25 coffee mornings!

I hope you were able to see your photo in the local papers - the Cambridge Independent and the Newmarket Journal. I can't promise the same amount of attention from the press next year but I can say there will be another Macmillan Coffee Morning on the last Friday of September at my house in 2019!

With many thanks for all your generosity,

*Ruth Scovil*

Dear Editors,

## **Poppies for Remembrance**

A massive thank you to all who have contributed to the poppies for remembrance project in the Anglesey Benefice. We are delighted to have exceeded our target and produced over 7000 poppies. By the time you read this, installation will be well underway. We aim to have all displays up in early November, for a fortnight, and wreaths of felt poppies made by children in our schools will be laid in all five parishes as well as in Reach.

Poppies can be found:

- Cascading down the tower of Swaffham Bulbeck church
- Round Lode War Memorial
- At Swaffham Bulbeck War Memorial
- On the War Memorials in Bottisham, Quy, Swaffham Prior and Lode churches
- On the Land Girls Memorial in Swaffham Prior.
- A display of purple poppies to commemorate animals that died in war can be found in Swaffham Bulbeck church along with poppy artwork by Swaffham Bulbeck Primary. Displays of poppy artwork by Bottisham Primary can be found in Lode and Bottisham churches.

In Swaffham Bulbeck church you are invited to write a message on a label remembering someone special to you involved in conflict, or thoughts about peace, and tie this on to netting with a poppy.

There is a donation point in Swaffham Bulbeck church for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - please give generously. We would also be grateful if you could help us by sharing on social media.

Thank you for your support.

***Clare Wilkes***

(Follow us on Facebook: angleseyinstitches)

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Dear Editors,

## **Clarification to the Crier 'Reporter' Re the Parish Council.**

I have not 'missed' any meetings. 'Missed' indicates some intention to attend and failure to do so. I wrote in this magazine early in the year that I would not go to any more PC meetings, and why.

In brief: 1) it was a truly awful experience. 2) demands on my time dealing with serious matters elsewhere preclude

I really haven't 'missed' those meetings, believe me.

***Mark Lewinski***



Dear Editors,

## **HELP NEEDED**

Do you ever go into St Mary's Church to have a look round, and look at the Visitor's Book? People come from all over the country, and sometimes from abroad, and the comments are always very appreciative. This is due to the ladies who arrange the flowers every week, and the group of ladies who clean.

Unfortunately, the group of cleaning ladies is getting smaller. I've had to hand in my notice as I find that at my age, wielding a broom in one hand and a stick in the other is not easy!

If you could possibly spare a couple of hours every 7 weeks, it would be greatly appreciated - having a friend with you there it would take half the time. You don't have to be a member of the church, the door is always open and the cleaning materials are provided.

Just give Kate Child a ring on 743983. She will be eternally grateful.

*Betty Prime*

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## **Swaffham Prior Parochial Charities**

Once again the time has come to remind anyone who considers themselves eligible for our Christmas Grant.

The majority of our applicants come from our pensioners, in particular those who have to manage on the state pension. If however you are in particular need or know of someone who may be in difficulty but are unlikely to apply on their own behalf, the Trustees will always be happy to consider requests for assistance,

Applications should be sent to me or to any Trustee and may I stress that assistance is available at all times not only at Christmas.

*Mrs Pam Walters*

Clerk to the Trustees

31 Tothill Rd, Swaffham Prior, CB25 0JX, Tel: 01638 741035,

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## **Are You one of the Chosen?**

On 25 October some very select members of our community were sent a nine page document containing 97 Questions and Answers on the new proposed Heat Plan, with Maddie Alpar promising she will get in touch again regarding "future engagement work."

**Have YOU been left out?**

# **Rule, Britannia!**

**“Britain is a Great Ship of State.**

**Once we are out of the Harbour of Europe  
We will be able to Sail the High Seas Again!”**

**Jacob Rees-Mogg**

**“How did such a small country get such a big head.”**

**Jeremy Paxman**

**“Scanning foreign newspapers the following  
saying of Burns comes to mind:**

***O wad some Power the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as ithers see us!”***

**Edward Clay**

**“What is it about Britain that turns every  
IT project into an embarrassing debacle.”**

**Philip Johnston (*Daily Telegraph*)**

**“Getting out of the EU is quick and easy.**

**UK holds most of the cards in any negotiation.”**

**John Redwood**

**“Rule Britannia! Britannia rule the Waves!  
Britons never, never, never shall be Slaves.”**

**James Thomson (*A Scot*, 1700-48)**

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There were six PC members, apologies from Sandra and Mike, no ECDC or CCC representatives. The Clerk was present, in a dazzling sweater with two black and white penguins cavorting wildly on his chest.

Paul the Clerk had been given an ECDC Report by Allen but it had been left at home. Paul L had a question for Allen and this concerned the new black bin bags one of which had been placed neatly folded in the middle of the table. There it remained for the whole meeting, brooding. Have you looked at your own new black bin bags yet?



The meeting moved at a pace with very little to report. In ‘Correspondence’ ECDC announced a new “Public Spaces Protection Order” which means that dog owners who do not pick up their dog mess can be fined. Members wondered how one goes about this and will ask for advice. Meantime we need a “Dog Fouling Officer” to whom miscreants can be reported so that the Officer can take the matter further. Normally such a role would be assigned to any member unfortunate not to be at the meeting. Someone mentioned that in Canada they use DNA to support any charge. And there is one place in Britain where the offending poo is dumped on the doorstep. So our new DFO will have a lot of leeway. There was also an ECDC notice on “Timebanking”. I couldn’t follow what this was about, but the conclusion was a resounding - “it’s a stupid idea”.

The PC has heard from Ruth Draper of Highways regarding Mike’s application for more lay-bys in Fairview Grove. She says that Martin Mead’s quote of £12,000 is not to CCC’s specifications which would cost £24,000. She asked who will make up the extra £14,000 required on top of the £10,000 grant. Steve will pass it all over to Mike to ask for the specifications and to discuss with Martin.

David mentioned a meeting about the Heat Scheme to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at which he has agreed to give the pros and cons of the idea. Steve said he had had been in touch with Joshua Schumann who supports the further research. Joshua explained that the CCC has no data at all on the scheme and would like some in case it comes in useful for any developments they are considering. Most members were amazingly stirred by the subject - “there is plenty of data out there already”, “this is not a sensible use of *our* money”, “it is not suitable for a retrofit in this village” (do other villages differ much from SP?). Someone likened it to Smart Meters, the cost of which has now risen to 11 Billion Pounds with no chance of that scheme being completed on time with the continuing looming question “Who is going to pay for it?” Muggings of course. David thought more members should have attended the recent meeting and presentation in the Village Hall.

The PC had approved the purchase of a fire safe. David produced seven prices which, without VAT, ranged from £749 through to about £14,000 for exactly the same safe and specification. The choice and discussion was simple. David will have it delivered to his house because he has truck barrow, his car will take the weight, Steve will help, and a Village Hall Committee member will be there to make sure all

goes well, so that will provide a little more manpower. If in real need would Katrina possibly lend a hand?

Allotments was on the agenda, Paul L still has to complete one final task, and the allotments holders continue to show little interest.

The Clerk said they were still trying to persuade Barclays to change the delivery address of the PC account to Steve (Deputy Clerk) in preparation for the new clerk. Last time it took a very very long time to change after Karen King had resigned as Clerk, and it was not finally completed until long after she had left the village. "You can get no sense from that bank" was the conclusion.

There have been a couple of applications for the vacancy on the PC and it will be debated at the next meeting as the vacancy will have been advertised for 28 days in the *Crier*. They will decide whether to co-opt a new member or leave the vacancy open until the Spring Election. As I write this I wonder who they would choose to fill the vacancy out of the current contenders for the PM's position – Jacob Rees-Mogg, David Davies, Michael Gove, Boris Johnson, Andrea Leadsom, Jeremy Hunt – one could throw in Jeremy Corbyn. Who would be most useful on our PC? A secret ballot would be interesting.

John again reported on the rubbish which had been dumped down in the fen and which had been collected very quickly by ECDC. It is very good that John, living down there, does report on this and remind us that we are also part of, and on the edge of, what our Secretary of State for Environment calls "the stark majesty of the fens."

The evening had been quiet and restrained, but the next one in November should be a cracker, though this is usually reserved for December. But, do come next month to hear about the shower in the music room, the allotment holders enthusiastic response to the PC's invitation, Allen's answer to Paul L's query about the new bin bags, the decision regarding the PC vacancy, and whether Andrew will provide information about the "School Foundation Trust" which only came to light at the end of the July meeting. This School Trust has remained a secret for over 100 years, and is still active it seems. The information is needed to fill out some of Steve's excellent history if the School.

So do come and learn all about the above at the next PC meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

*Alastair Everitt*

## **Succulent Quinces**

**If anyone would like some rather magnificent  
quinces please phone Alastair Everitt on  
742974**



## MINCE PIES ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT 9th December at 4.00pm

After the event in the two churches it is tradition that mulled wine and warm mince pies are served , once again I am asking generous villagers to let me know no later than Friday 7 December how many they would like to donate. Thank you in advance

*Kate Child 743983*

## Friendship

The fascination of friendship is part of its charms,  
The sharing of pleasures, the contact of palms;  
The exchange of memories, the recalling of scenes.  
All this, and more, is what friendship means.  
So cherish and guard it; long may it last,  
Until, sad the day, when your flag's at half-mast.

*Ophir*

## Remembrance Day Scouts' Parade Sunday 11 November

The Remembrance Day Scouts' Parade starts at the bottom of Lower End and proceeds along the High Street up to the St Mary's on this day.

We leave the Lower End/Rogers Road junction area at 10:15am & we would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who wishes to parade with us on this occasion.







# **SAT 17 NOVEMBER**

# **LIVING IN ANTARCTICA**

# **2.30 – 3.30PM**

**An interactive presentation for adults and children**

Dr. Peter Fretwell will be giving an illustrated talk with props to entertain the whole family, following his recent trip to Antarctica. Find out what it's like to be an explorer and live in a tent in freezing temperatures! All proceeds will go to Lymphoma Cancer Research.



**British  
Antarctic Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

**Lymphoma  
action**  
Inform | Support | Connect

**Swaffham Prior Village  
Hall**

**FREE EVENT**

**Donations will be given  
to Cancer Research**

**Please give generously**

**No need to book, just  
turn up!**

**Refreshments from 2pm**

## **FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

Dr. Peter Fretwell

e-mail: [ptf@bas.ac.uk](mailto:ptf@bas.ac.uk)

or call Eleanor on

07929 090337

## **BON MOT NUMBER NINETY ONE**

“What’s the use of worrying?  
It never was worth while,  
So, pack up your troubles in your old kit bag,  
And smile, smile, smile.”

***George Asaf (1880 –1951)***

## Henry Brown

### Life and Times 1946-

Henry Brown is Swaffham Prior's oldest living resident. (*male — Eds*). Last year his wartime experiences were serialised. This is the fifth section of his post-war entrepreneurial experiences, moving from producing an affordable three-wheeler car into a new area - making farm silos.



Several ex-Rodley and ex-Jowett workers were recruited so there was a lot of know-how around. The sales set-up, however, was pathetic. One of the junior locomotive salesmen designated to join Scootacar sat in an office, smoking, waiting for customers to knock on the door! Meanwhile, our competitors were touring the country, visiting dealers. So sales were slow - but steady.

But I was woken in the early hours one morning. The Old Pattern Shop was on fire. The wooden premises were no more. The blaze may have been started by a tub of mixed resin, which could spontaneously ignite. All was well insured, so some next door substantial property was acquired and we moved in quickly. Then the Mini was launched at a subsidised price. I produced a Mark II model, which had a lower profile and more comfortable seating, but I wanted to look for a new avenue of employment.

#### **Boythorpe Cropstores**

I read an article in the Yorkshire Post about a new development in farming – a sealed steel tower silo for storing feed. I wrote to the author, Don Ravis, and he came to see me. Ravis was impressed with the Scootacar project and invited me to see him at A.O. Smith at Boythorpe on the East Yorkshire Wolds. Ravis was looking for a general manager and I was looking for a general manager's position. It was late 1959 when I arrived at Boythorpe with my caravan as accommodation.

But Ravis had some bad news. He had heard that instead of manufacturing the

silos in each of the European countries, they had made a deal with Mannesmann of Germany for them to supply all Europe. Rivis was convinced that this would mean higher prices.

**Only the foreman received a reasonable wage**

Work-wise I was thrown in at the deep end. George Stephenson, the free-lance erector, had gone on strike, leaving a job with only the base completed. I had to take one of the farm hands, the silo parts and an instruction book and drive the lorry to Suffolk! I made a good start and had completed two rings and the roof when George turned up. We completed the silo together. We got on well - there was never any further trouble with him!

I had already attended an agricultural show by taking time off prior to leaving Scootacar, so had met some farmers and I found the job interesting and the environment so much more healthy.

Rivis had arranged a trip to A.O. Smith in the USA; this was the first time I had been there since 1941 with the R.A.F. I worked with a Harvestore dealer who sold a 20 foot x 60 foot unit to a farmer with just 100 acres! We dismantled a silo with faulty glazing and put up a 20' x 60'. There was a gang of 5 men and we worked non-stop. Only the foreman received a reasonable wage. We also had a tour of the Harvestore production unit with its vitreous enamel line. I took notes of what I saw. A.O. Smith was similar to Rubery Owens. They had several divisions and were also heavily involved in the car component industry.

On the family front, we rented and moved into High Dale Farm house, Weaverthorpe. This was a pleasant, but somewhat chilly house with about 150 acres around it. Fine in summer but tough in winter! The working farm was owned and run by Tot Bannister, who lived nearby with his family at Manor Farm in Butterwick. Both children went to school in Scarborough, with Jean ferrying them down to catch the bus in Sherburn.

At Boythorpe I shared an office with Rivis's daughter, Angela, who did the typing. We sent out sales literature to farmers responding to our adverts. The Harvestore unloader fed a screw conveyor for a fully mechanised cattle feed set up running the length of the cow shed! I used it to demonstrate 'Modern Mechanised Farming'. However, only hobby farmers could afford to buy the silos. The first question from farmers was always "How much government grant do I get?" Rivis was working on this with a local MP and managed to get 25%. This was a real boost to sales, but the Harvestore was still very expensive. I did a costing for a home-made silo and found it could be made at about a third of the price. When Rivis asked me if I could make one, I said 'yes'. The key factor was the vitreous enamelling. If Trico at Keighley who I'd used with excellent results for my washing machines could give us an acid resistant finish, we were in business. I went to visit the Whitakers at Keighley who assured me they could do the job, provided I used the most suitable grade of steel sheet.

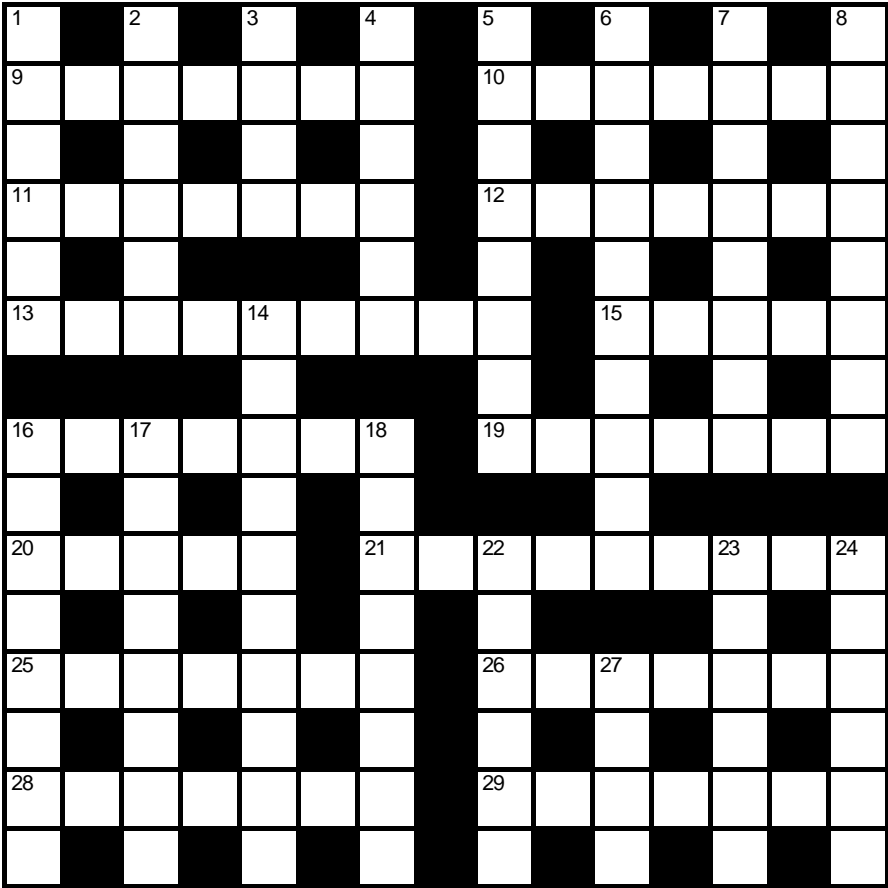
Rivis said "Let's go!", so I took over a disused cattle shed and a piggery and the Boythorpe Cropstore was launched.

***Extracts from Henry Brown's Memoirs by Mark Lewinski***

Crossword Number 158

Compiled by OUNCE

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

- 9 Foolishly retire on first of April to part of Africa (7)
- 10 Dive encountered after fruit (7)
- 11 Stirred up by erratic direction without alternative (7)
- 12 Minister's dress? Madness! Thousand desert country (7)
- 13 I'm suffering with bad catarrh. Mum's in charge (9)
- 15 Fancy neckwear embraced by Maharaja. Bottoms up! (5)
- 16 Carriage is lost from tangled pantihose (7)
- 19 Smirks affectedly on discovering lad's impersonation (7)
- 20 Artist joins soldier at the end of October. That's less common (5)
- 21 Cat or I crashing in French wine - period (9)
- 25 Saw expert on type of word (7)
- 26 Epitaph on rope used by 17D jumpers? (7)
- 28 1000 kg of gold on back of truck (7)
- 29 Blyton returns to South African river for fish (7)

## Down

- 1 Wordlessly sing about priest - what a gas! (6)
- 2 Punch copper, entering fast? (3-3)
- 3 Saw sea mist (4)
- 4 Look, farmyard bird (6)
- 5 Wets small apple-core and whips (8)
- 6 Mother (needing deodorant) meets elephant? Claptrap! (5,5)

- 7 Docile, end prayer with can (8)
- 8 Poles and Attila ruin fabled city (8)
- 14 Arbitrated as Terence did poorly (10)
- 16 Domestic creature swallowed by skydivers; leaping from battlements? (8)
- 17 Queen's had a baby we hear; delivered by stork? (8)
- 18 Shade is sad after service (4,4)
- 22 Scour a misbehaving tenor (6)
- 23 Incongruous or wry finding armchair on icy plane (6)
- 24 Poked concoction of French manure (6)
- 27 To stitch pull up right length first (4)

## Solution to crossword no. 157

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

We congratulate Robert Nunn, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive his prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Andrew Houston, Sue Jackson, sue Richards and Trish Whitehead.

# 5,000 Poppies for 100 years of Remembrance



## So now we are in October....

We have >7,300 poppies already made, funded so far by donations from individuals

We have had some funding from local businesses towards the costs of putting up the installations

There have been over 100 poppy makers of all ages and skills – we have held teaching workshops and even a men only one in July where 3 proud men learned to crochet – <https://en-gb.facebook.com/angleseyinstitches/>

We have undertaken workshops in most of the local schools and also a local charity to teach and help children how to sew a felt poppy if they are unable to knit or crochet. Guides, Scouts, WI and other local community groups have been involved. Over 200 children have taken part.

There will be a workshop for children and adults on the first Monday of half term (Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 2pm) to help tie the poppies to the netting for the Swaffham Bulbeck Church Tower. This will be in Downing Farm Barn, Swaffham Bulbeck

There will be a further tying on workshop in Downing Farm Barn on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am





## **The displays & Remembrance Sunday 2018 – and afterwards**

The poppies will be put up over the last few days in October (will be slightly weather dependent) and remain in place until after Remembrance Sunday. They comprise:

A large installation of poppies from Swaffham Bulbeck Church tower down to the ground, together with children's art work inside the church and a map showing where poppies have been made

An installation of poppies around the whole semicircle of Lode War Memorial outside the church

Smaller poppy displays/installations in the other churches of the benefice (Stow cum Quy, Bottisham, Lode, Swaffham Prior) around the war memorials and also on the Land Girls Memorial in Swaffham Prior

On Remembrance Sunday, there will be a parade starting from The Denny in Swaffham Bulbeck at 2.15pm followed by a special Service at 2.30pm in Swaffham Bulbeck church. The British Legion and other uniformed organisations will be involved.

Poppies will be able to be bought and messages left with these poppies in Swaffham Bulbeck church, money raised will go to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The sewn poppies rings will be kept in the churches to be used in future years as will the internal installations.

***Veronica Stephenson***





Hello folks! Yes it's November already- I can't quite believe it, mainly because I'm writing this article in late October, sorry to spoil the magic kids!! Anyhow, welcome to a new monthly edition with our focus this time being the 'European Badger', native to the British Isles. The reason I've chosen to feature this wonderful creature is because of a sad truth that the better part of the last month, I've come across at least 3 dead badgers by the roadsides in the course of my work. Whether this is down to careless drivers or fearless badgers is hard to gauge. It has though piqued my curiosity enough to explore an animal I really have never paid enough attention too, mainly because they are nocturnal.

So the badger.... even its name sounds curious. It's bad or it's a black and white coat with a 'badger' of pride- that's a joke! Its scientific name is *Meles meles*-specifically relating to the European Badger, which is the species native to the U.K. According to Wikipedia, the prefix refers to a particular gene pool of badgers which include 3 living species, the aforementioned; *Meles Anakuma* of Japan and the *meles Leucurus* found across Asia. Besides these, there are also another three species of badger from different branches of the gene pool; the famous Honey Badger the Hog Badger and the American Badger. Does the Honey badger eat honey I hear you ask?? Answer: Grandfather Google probably knows!

Our European Badger is a unique British Mammal with its iconic – already stated- black and white stripes across its body and face. It's the UK's largest land predator and carnivore, although also an omnivore like its cousin, the *Homo Sapien*. It dwells in gardens, woodlands, grassland and across farmers fields nation wide. They live in social groups of 4-12 adults, a similarity often shared by humans too. The two sexes have different names, the female called a sow and the male- a boar (please refrain from laughing). Badgers diet includes mainly earth-



worms but they also eat small birds and other mammals alongside insects and grains and berries. Mating takes place in summer and the average litter produces 2-5 cubs between late winter and early spring.

Badgers live in Setts like the county Somerset. These are a network of chambers or tunnels dug out from the earth and the largest ever recorded were 879 m in length with 129 entrances. On average they can live between 5-8 years. According to the Mammal society, badgers core range covers south west England, Wales and the eastern seaboard of Ireland, with the rest of the British Isles seeing regular activity by them and a small part is scarce to see one. Badgers have increased in number substantially since the 1980's, now at around 480,000 nationwide. This expansion has led some to believe they are responsible for carrying the disease T.B. which can be fatal for cattle and into confrontation with farmers and the public alike. I personally feel that incontrovertible evidence of their disease carrier status must be attained before we continue the culls. On the other hand, our food and livelihoods must be protected. If they are to be culled, let it be humanely.

Badgers also feature in literature; in *The Wind and the Willows*, in *Narnia*-*Trufflehunter* aiding Prince Caspian and of course, as the emblem of the *Harry Potter* Hogwarts House., *Hufflepuff*! I think that Badgers are endearing creatures, though can clearly cause harm. I do think we need to reevaluate their reputation and see the marvellous animals they are as well as the bad they are capable of re: cattle.

*By Jorge Monteiro*

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## **FREECYCLE**

If you have any offers or wants, please contact me by the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month by phone (01223 813362/07980 423210), e-mail ([junthompson44@gmail.com](mailto:junthompson44@gmail.com)) or drop a note through the letter box (23 Longmeadow). Please let me know if you would like anything repeating in subsequent issues. Everything is free and nothing is expected in return. Please can you contact the offers after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month to make it a little fairer.



### **Offered**

Office desk with 3 drawers H 74cm, L 118cm D 68cm and an office chair. Mark/Emma 01223 635617

Outdoor wooden dog kennel, suitable for a small-to-medium dog (kennel dimensions are 36" width, 44" length, 39" height). Bill 07944 511860

### **Wanted**

Jam jars with or without lids. Jackie 01223 812227

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. (For an idea of what George is gathering this for – please see <http://georgetrapp.co.uk/georgetrapplamps.html>).

# School News



With the weather being so unseasonably warm the saying, 'Make hay while the sun shines' has been particularly poignant this Autumn. We have been very busy at school learning and working together. Just to mention a few of our highlights this half term: the younger children went to Superhero School then had a visit from local superheroes - the fire brigade; one class was transformed into a circus for the morning; the Year 5 and 6 children visited Ely Cathedral and finally the Year 3, 4 5 and 6 children had an Egyptian Day which as you can see from the

**“ Ruth Dalton.... is the longest serving member of the school and has worked here for 31 years! ”**

photograph, the costumes were spectacular and the children really enjoyed a range of Egyptian related tasks. Add all that to the hard work that the children do every day learning to read, write and calculate and, as you can imagine, we are very ready for the half term!

Last month, I read with interest, the article about the history of the school and it got me thinking about the more recent memories of the school. There are members of staff who came to the school in the sixties

who now work here and another member of staff, Ruth Dalton, who is the longest serving member of the school and has worked here for 31 years! I asked her about her memories of her time at Swaffham Prior Primary School and she said the following, “I started as a dinner lady in September 1987 then became a Teaching Assistant. Even though I have seen many changes to the staff over the years, some staff have remained a constant and it has been a privilege to work with them all. Although we’ve changed from blackboards to interactive white boards and from the old Banda duplicator to hi-tech photocopiers, the most important aspect of the school – the pupils - haven’t changed. Being part of the school community for so long has



enabled me to see many children go through the system and now some of their children attend the school. When I am out and about I see past pupils and it is so rewarding to hear what they are doing. Over the years I have been on many residential trips from Thornebridge in Derbyshire to Aylmerton in Norfolk and more locally, Burwell House. Often these visits are the first time children have been away from home and later in life, when you talk to them, you can see the visits have left lasting special memories.” When you see Mrs Dalton



out and about, do share your experiences of your time at school with her!

As the Swaffham Crier represents the whole community, I asked two of our Year 6 children to write a short piece about the harvest festival too:

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we joined together with Reverend Sue, parents and the community at St. Mary's Church for a harvest celebration. This year's theme was Rain and Sun. We learnt that these are especially important

for a good harvest and that we give thanks for the harvest we have and recognise that there are others in the world who are not so fortunate. Sadly there are parts of the world which experience droughts or indeed flooding while others have very little or too much sun. We learnt about how to use solar panels to our advantage. We sang a song about a family whose crops had failed but they were given seeds and aid in order to grow more and that if everyone supports each other then there would be enough food for everyone and, as the song lyrics said, 'everyone would reap a harvest of love.' By George and Breeze, Year 6

*Helen Bartley*

### **News from Anglesey Abbey: Trees**

Join us from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December – 6<sup>th</sup> January to uncover the stories behind Anglesey Abbey and the life lived by its owner, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Fairhaven. Begin your journey through the House and gardens to discover twelve trees, each uniquely decorated to reflect Lord Fairhaven's passions and pastimes. In the House, discover trees adorned with decorations to show his love of collecting fine objects from all corners of the world, including books and silver. Share the experience of Lord Fairhaven's guests at his lavish winter shooting parties and uncover his favourite gentlemanly pastimes.

Many of the trees around the garden were selected personally by Lord Fairhaven for their beauty, provenance or to commemorate a special occasion. Stumble upon four trees throughout the grounds, festooned with decorations to highlight and enhance their natural splendour.

Head to the Servants Hall in the house to create your own special decoration, created from natural materials. Hang it proudly on our final tree just outside the Visitor Centre to help us create a display of your handiwork!

Head into Redwoods restaurant to see another specially decorated tree and choose from our selection of warming seasonal dishes. Don't Our membership team will be offering beautifully packaged gift memberships to purchase for a loved one and have created their own tree to reflect what you give when you grant the gift of a National Trust membership.



## Mothers' Union

Due to unforeseen circumstances our speaker was not able to join us at our

September meeting. Members enjoyed a social afternoon of catching up on current projects and events within Mothers' Union and the community. Ann Langran spoke about her visit to Norwich to see the GoGoHares Sculpture Trail, which took place June to September. This was presented by Norfolk young people's charity Break (celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year) in partnership with Wild in Art. Fifty over six foot tall beautifully decorated hares were on display throughout the city. Alongside this young people from schools, community groups and sports clubs across Norfolk crafted over 160 leverets. These could be found in shop windows, and public places. All money raised through sponsorship, merchandise, competitions and the auction of hares, when the trail is over, goes to Break. It made a fun day out with her granddaughter, and the city was full of buzz about the hares despite the rain. Children and adults alike were fascinated by the wonderful designs and became excited when another hare was found. Unfortunately, it was only possible to find 17 hares and a good number of leverets in one day, but it was a most pleasurable day, despite the rain. You can still see the colourful hares on the website <https://www.gogohares.co.uk>

A similar event will be held in Ipswich next year 'Elmer's Big Parade Suffolk'. This event coincides with Elmer's (the patch work elephant) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. All funds raised during the event will go to St. Elizabeth Hospice. If you wish to find out more visit the website [www.elmersbigparadesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.elmersbigparadesuffolk.co.uk)

Our meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. In November Reverend Sue Giles will be our guest speaker. You are most welcome to come and join us.

*Ann Langran*



Professor Hare and his Magic Library in  
Norwich Cathedral Close

## News from Wicken Fen

Numbers of fieldfare, widgeon and redwing are growing as the wintering birds return to the fen. We've also recently had the first sightings of short-eared owls on Burwell Fen, so it's well worth a visit to enjoy the autumn wildlife highlights. It's also a good time to take a stroll to the West Mere hide, as the old hide has been dismantled and a new, bigger hide has been constructed. The new hide is elevated, and has been moved over slightly so that it is at an angle to the mere, and views are now extended. Whether you enjoy looking for birds or not, it's a lovely place to relax and see part of the beautiful fen landscape.



We've been fortunate to secure funding from WREN to make improvements and increase accessibility to the Woodland Walk paths. This work will be taking place over the next few weeks, but there is a rolling programme of works designed to ensure all the paths are still available, so your enjoyment of these areas shouldn't be affected. Many thanks to WREN for their generous support for this project.

The theme for our Mucky Pups outdoor activity sessions for under 5s this month is Wild Weather. The sessions will be on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 November from 10:15-11:45am. Tickets for Father Christmas at the Fen are proving popular, so if you would like to book it may be advisable to contact us soon to avoid disappointment.

For adults we are offering some festive workshops: Christmas Felt Decorations on Saturday 3 November from 10am to 1pm and Christmas Lino printing on Sunday 18 November from 10am to 12.30pm.

See <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on> for information and booking details for all our events.

*Julia Hammond*



## **Julie Nunn's Bonfire Recipes**

### **Hearty sausage ratatouille & garlic bread bake**

3 tbsp olive oil  
12 good quality sausages  
2 red onions sliced  
3 courgettes thickly sliced  
1 aubergine, cut into chunks  
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes  
4 tbsp chopped fresh oregano  
135g pack of garlic bread slices or if preferred make your own

1. Heat the oven to 180C. Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a frying pan and brown the sausages all over. Meanwhile in a large casserole heat the remaining oil and fry the onion, courgette and aubergine until soft and golden.
  2. Then add the sausages, tomatoes and chopped oregano. Season well and bring to the boil, then bake uncovered for 30 mins until bubbling.
  3. Remove from the oven and top with the garlic bread and cook for a further 10 mins until brown and crispy.
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### **Toffee apple muffins**

2 eggs lightly beaten  
80g caster sugar  
240ml milk  
100g butter melted  
300g plain flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt  
Pinch of cinnamon  
2 eating apples, peeled, cored & finely chopped  
200g shop bought toffee pieces

1. Preheat oven to 190c and line a 12 hole muffin tin with paper cases.
2. Mix the eggs, sugar, milk and melted butter in a large bowl, then sift the flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon into bowl and combine well.
3. Add the chopped apple and lightly mix in.
4. Using half the mixture, quarter fill each muffin case and then top each with toffee pieces and then finally cover with the remaining mixture until the muffin cases are half full.
5. Bake for 30 – 35 minutes until well risen and golden. Serve warm or cold.





# Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

10AM TO 4 PM  
MANDEVILLE HALL, BURWELL

★ Craft Stalls ★

Santa's Grotto ★ Fabulous Food

Burwell Print Centre is a Social Training Enterprise. We are running this event so that we can continue to provide additional work opportunities for people with learning disabilities. [www.burwellprint.co.uk](http://www.burwellprint.co.uk) Registered Charity Number 1053026

For more info contact [sue.anderson@burwellprint.co.uk](mailto:sue.anderson@burwellprint.co.uk) or call on 01638613102

## **Swaffham Prior Community Heat Scheme Update**

Following on from the successful delivery of the eight homes on Rogers Road, the Community Land Trust turned their focus onto dealing with heat poverty and the cost of actually running the existing homes in the village. For many, the burden of fluctuating oil prices is hard to budget for together with the impact of large boilers, oil tanks in gardens and the nuisance of arranging physical deliveries via oil suppliers.

In addition to these factors, the carbon agenda and reliance on a diminishing fossil fuel is of great concern to many of the younger people and families in the village, especially in the light of recent announcements by independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC). Insiders in the industry are now suggesting that the Government wants to speed up getting all homes off oil much sooner (within 10-15 years) than the previous target of 2050.

### **Summary of work so far:**

Two years ago we undertook a Stage 1 Assessment, 100% funded by a grant from government (via WRAP) which looked at what options were out there in the market in order to provide a fuel source for a district heating scheme. A potential site was identified for the equipment on Heath Road, on land to be allocated for commercial use in the Local Plan and owned by the County Council. This report is on the CLT page of the village website.

This report then led to Stage 2: A Techno-Economic Feasibility Study. In order to achieve funding we had to partner with a public sector body. East Cambs do not have a sustainability officer so we approached the County Council to see if they would be interested in the project, bearing in mind we had identified their land as a possible site for the heat equipment. An application was submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council on our behalf to the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and £40,200 was awarded as a grant for the project. This was then match funded by £20,000 by the Mayor/Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This year to date, we have been working with the County Council who have provided invaluable project management support and Bouygues Energies and Services (a framework partner of the County Council) to work through the techno-economic study. This has involved us contacting people about their current age and make of their boilers together with an estimation of oil consumption. Thank you to everyone who completed either the online or paper survey. It has provided valuable insight into the village carbon footprint. The carbon saving of the proposed district heating scheme is now thought to be in the region of 70%.

We held a public open meeting with a presentation in the village hall on 2 October to gain greater insight and direction for the project. On the back of this we have started to look at air source (as well as ground source) heat generation together with the possibility of the backup boiler system being linked to the gas main not LPG. We also took on board thoughts about installation, disruption and using local businesses to maintain the system.



A sub-group has also been set up for those who wish to understand the project further (all we can say is how lucky we are as a village to have some very talented people including engineers and scientists with relevant knowledge) and also help give a view on how the scheme moves forward. We would welcome anyone who missed the meeting to get in touch and get involved.

In parallel to the work above we have also procured solicitors with the grant money to act on our behalf to advise on the Heads of Terms between the heat supplier and the heat customers (people living in the village) to form the basis of the supply agreement. The sub-group have met and started to discuss these terms in further detail.

### **Looking forward:**

The results of techno-economic study work will be known in the next few weeks. Should the results be positive, the next stage is a further grant application to the next HNDU funding round, due in by the end of the year, to provide further funding to work up a physical design and layout of the scheme.

Similarly, we are a group of volunteers who understand that this might be the right time for the village. If the results of our work prove that the scheme is undeliverable we will go back to watching the TV of an evening and wait till it is. Our work though has not gone un-wasted and the eyes of many are on us in terms of learning and understanding at every stage. What might not work for us, could work for another community and we understand that this is the first project in the Country to retrofit a district heating scheme in a village.

The irony is that this is old technology, just new to the UK. 85% of Danish villages run on this type of system and rising levels in Germany and the Baltic Countries. Of interest though is that the Combined Authority/Mayor are now benchmarked on sustainability and delivery of district heating systems is one of the key components. District heating is coming and Government, in line with carbon **reduction objectives, is driving the agenda hard.**

### **The important bit:**

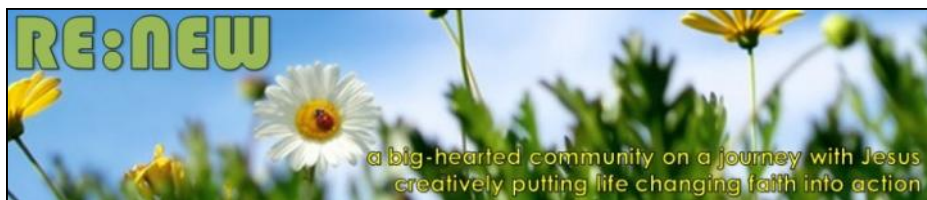
**Our key aim and our mantra at every stage of this project is to ensure that the cost of the scheme to the individual will be the same price or cheaper than the cost and maintenance of oil, otherwise, why do it.**

We look forward to reporting further in the coming months. We will also be briefing the Parish Council at their next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November. If anyone wants more regular updates please register your interest by emailing [mlei@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:mlei@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Insiders in the industry are now suggesting that the Government wants homes off oil within 10-15 years....**

*Emma Fletcher*

On behalf of Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust



## **Village Praise at Lode Chapel**

It was simply amazing to see so many people gather together in Lode Chapel for our first Village Praise in September, more than 70 people of all ages! The singing was wonderful and it was fantastic to see people from our villages participating in various ways, including sharing poetry, singing a solo, preparing and serving refreshments and explaining why a hymn means so much.

If you have a favourite hymn or song, do feel free to get in touch and we will try to include it in a future Village Praise. You may have a favourite reading or a gift you can share in the service - we'd love to hear from you.

**Our next Village Praise will take place on Sunday 2nd December, 5.30-6.30pm at Lode Chapel.**

Just to remind you, Village Praise is for **you!** If you worship elsewhere regularly, but would value the opportunity to occasionally worship with other Christians in your village, get involved - no strings attached. It was great to see several different churches represented at the service in September. If you don't regularly attend church, but you have faith and would like an opportunity to reflect on life and faith without committing to a particular church at this stage - come and see if Village Praise could be for you. If you would not consider yourself a believer, but are curious as to what all the fuss is about - you are so welcome to join us. Come and see for yourself.

Do get in touch with Rev. Alan or Rev. Sue if you'd like to know more or you'd like to offer to share something during the service. We still have posters and fliers available if you can display them or would like to invite someone personally (contact Rev. Alan).

I am very excited about what Village Praise could become and welcome you to join us on the journey.

***Rev'd Alan Brand.***

### ***RENEW Church Services for November 2018***

*We have activities for children and young people at all our RENEW morning services. Everyone is welcome.*

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

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Morning Worship. 10.30am*

*With Holy Communion. (Bottisham Primary School)*

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

*Followed by shared lunch*

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

*Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)*

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

*Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: [alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk](mailto:alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk)*

*Or visit our website at [www.renewchurch.org.uk](http://www.renewchurch.org.uk)*

## **Church Services in November**

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

### **Sunday 4 November, All Saints' Day**

11am            Matins

### **Sunday 11 November, Remembrance Day**

10.50am        Act of Remembrance, following Scouts etc parade

2.50am        Combined RBL Remembrance Service, Swaffham Bulbeck  
– meet at SB war memorial at 2.20pm for wreath laying and parade to church

### **Sunday 18 November, Second Sunday before Advent**

11am            Holy Communion (CW1T)

### **Sunday 25 November, Christ the King**

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, Quay; St James', Lode and St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck; you are welcome to attend services anywhere in the benefice.

Our Vicar is Rev'd Sue Giles; Tel: 01223 812726; [suethevic@btinternet.com](mailto:suethevic@btinternet.com) and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; [gina.radford@btinternet.com](mailto:gina.radford@btinternet.com)  
[www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk) and [www.facebook.com/angleseychurches](http://www.facebook.com/angleseychurches)

For weddings and baptisms please contact: [admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](mailto:admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)

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

## Dates for Your Diary November 2018

Fri	9	Mobile Library, Village School, 3.10—3.35
Sun	11	REMEMBRANCE DAY Scouts' Parade 10.15am, Lower End, Act of Remembrance, 10.50am, St Mary's Parade, The Denny, S. Bulbeck 2.15 pm, Service 2.30pm S. Bulbeck Church
Sat	17	Living in Antarctica, 2.00-3.30pm, SP Village Hall
Tue	20	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
<b>December</b>		
Sat	1	Christmas Fayre, Mandeville Hall, Burwell
Sun	9	Advent by Candlelight, 4pm St Mary's & St Cyriac's

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon of	8pm	Village
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable (term)	6:00-7:30pm	Village School
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 <sup>st</sup> Weds of month	8:00pm	(See Crier)
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall