



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLII Number 10

October 2018



Editorial

The Village Energy Meeting took place this week. Alas, we could not go, all the more alas because there's been some grumping on this topic in our house of late, and similarly in this magazine (see Crier's passim and Our Reporter on the subject of in personal details suddenly demanded by County Councils!). But Crier reporters were inevitably present (oh yes), and whereas I have always agreed with perfectly valid objections from villagers who do know a thing or too, have seen a great many village schemes primarily concerned with directing tax-payers money in the direction of hard-up consultants etc, I personally am still on the fence. Possibly about to jump ship to the other side even. It's a question of the bigger picture. This is an investigation into the nuts and bolts of supplying such energy (a good thing) to UK villages, and we are rather fortunate to have been chosen as a guinea pig. So let's cooperate all we can. And an official report of state of play please?

Does anyone know why School House is called such on Cooper's Lane (See Steve KP's delightful School History)? Congratulations Village Hall on a brilliant Harvest Show (they need more helpers!), to Viv Elson., overall winner of the Harvest Show Cup, to the many runners up, and also of course, to the delightful Dog Show, judges and contestants. Which picture to put on the Cover from such an impossible choice? We narrowed it down, but the final choice was courtesy of the Crier's own Expert Judge, as employed every month to select the Crossword Winner from among the correct entries: Harry the Dog (who was very fed up not to attend himself this year).. He found himself much impressed by the Dalmatian Puppy... Advance warning of some very impressive Change Ringing about to happen in this village on December 9, and see you Quizzing, Harvest Suppering! *Caroline Matheson*

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Cover Picture: Cruella de Vil with Dalmatian Puppy. Or is it? Photo *Janet Willmott*



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Mini Hedgehog hibernation reminder

That time of year again is almost upon us, when the hedgehogs begin preparing for hibernation. I know some of the villagers have spoken to me about advising them on how to make their gardens suitable with winter homes for the hogs. To anyone else who is keen to help out our prickly garden residents then my main advice is to keep water and food bowls out right over the winter period between September and February as some hogs will hibernate much later than others depending on their body mass. Also make sure the garden is accessible with holes in the fence ideally so they can freely move from one side to the other and check that any hedgehog boxes or wood piles you have for them to use, are water tight and thick enough to provide warmth under the layers of wood.

But please most importantly, if you wish to help our endangered friends then if you see a hedgehog out and about from October onwards- quickly get a pair of thick gardening gloves, pick up the hedgehog and then weight it on your scales, before putting it back immediately where you found it in the garden. If the hedgehog weighs 250grams or more than its suitable to let go, but if the hedgehog is extremely thin or small and weighs less, than it's not likely to survive the winter hibernation. In this instance you should seek advice from our local wildlife centre's such as Shepreth hedgehog hospital about taking the hog to be admitted in order to gain weight over the winter months before being released the following spring. By doing this, many more hogs will make it through winter and you'll be helping their already decreasing population to stabilize. If you want to be more hands on and look after the hedgehog yourself over the winter months then please contact me for more detailed advice on how to care for a hedgehog correctly e.g diet and where to keep them.

Saffra Monteiro

PRIOR FEN CHAPEL

"The Little Chapel in the Fen"

All welcome to our

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 7th October

3pm

Traditional harvest service and hymns
Produce welcome

Find us at CB7 5YJ, between Upware and Swaffham Prior.
Be early to guarantee a seat.

For more information contact Trish: 07979 868676



**Congratulations to
Ruth Scovil
(Madame de Pomme-de-
Terre?)**

**who received her prize for
the heaviest weight of Spuds
in a Bucket from Phil
Kingsmill at the Village Hall
Harvest Show. See our
centre spread for the full
report.**

**And the VH Committee really
need a few more members!
See page 21**

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

have an immediate vacancy for a

PARISH COUNCILLOR

The position will be held until the local elections in May 2019. No previous experience is required. There is an evening meeting on the second Thursday of each month.

and will have a vacancy for a

PART TIME PARISH CLERK

Starting 1st January 2019, the job entails up to 10 hours paid work from home per week plus one evening meeting per month. No previous experience is required as full training will be provided.

Applications to the Deputy Clerk at swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com
or contact Steve Kent-Phillips on 743883 for more details.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting



In the middle of August I wrote a short PC report on the August meeting because no ‘Reporter’ had been able to attend the meeting. On the 29th of August, a “sudden happening” in the Village meant that one item was no longer valid. But, like Boris Johnson, even though the error had been revealed, I am not changing what I say.

AUGUST

As no ‘Reporter’ was available for the August meeting, I take this opportunity to pick up on something not previously reported.

Last October, at my request, Steve (our Highways Liaison Officer) asked CCC whether they could do something about the rather filthy sign on the by-pass as you leave the village via the High Street. Nothing happened. At the end of the June meeting I asked whether there was any news. Steve said that the CCC was short of money, needed it to fill potholes, and that, as we are a “self-help village”, he thought I should clean the sign myself.

I can imagine the headline in the National Press:

COUNCIL SENDS AGED PENSIONER UP LADDER WITH BUCKET TO CLEAN ROADSIDE SIGN

It would equal:

COUNTY COUNCIL WANTS DETAILS OF ALL MAKES, AGE AND OIL CONSUMPTION OF BOILERS

August is known as the “Silly Season”, so please ignore all the above. But, it is possible some issues may return.

Meantime the “sudden happening” mentioned above is that the road sign on the by-pass had been cleaned at the end of August. Now it is a joy to leave the village via the High Street, instead of being sent off with a bit of gloom.

SEPTEMBER

It really was the most extraordinary and eventful evening. I don’t think I have ever witnessed such a joyous, almost clownish one. Three members were missing with apologies from David Greenfield and Mike Malster. Five were in the Public Gallery including Helen Bartley, the new Headteacher at the School. She had come to introduce herself, saying that she wants to work with the village, saying she aims to set the school off onto a positive direction, at Soham she had already had a good experience with the Academy into which the school has been moved, and was very pleased to meet everyone in the room. All was smiles, good graces and good will, and what is more, looks very good for the school and for the village. Maybe Helen’s smile set the tone of the meeting.

Item 4 was “Clerk’s Announcement” and in this it was announced that as Mark Lewinski had missed six meetings in a row, and, under Section 87(2) of the Local

Government Act 1972, Mark is no longer a Parish Councillor. It reminded me of the problem more than twenty years ago when the PC had a similar problem, but then, if I remember correctly, it dragged on for a couple of years. One member regularly failed to turn up but always at the sixth meeting he would appear, and the whole process would start all over again. They found it a little trying and it has been suggested there must be something in the water at that end of Fairview Grove.

One member regularly failed to turn up but always at the sixth meeting he would appear, and the whole process would start all over...

Steve then set out the range of options open to the PC. Keep your eyes on the *Crier* and the Village Notice Board. This Notice Board is an important source of information. For example, if anyone wishes to read the “Unapproved Minutes” of a meeting they can always read these on the Notice Board about a week before the next meeting. The “Approved Minutes” appear in the *Crier* the month after.

The Clerk then dropped another bombshell. He is resigning and gave 6 months notice. His work is going to take him more often to the States and he considered it unfair to both the village and his work to attempt to do both. After his last States visit he had to take time off work to complete the PC business. Ads will appear in the *Crier* and elsewhere and it is hoped to fill the post by December so that the two can work together for three months and thereby make a very smooth changeover.

The minutes which had been written by Steve went through without any changes, which is a very rare event. That was the case until the very last minute of ‘Open Question Time’ when Michael Limb asked whether, in minute 2420, the date should have been “1 May and 31” rather than “1 March and 31”. O dear, red faces all round, and heads dropped, including mine.

Allen presented his ECDC report and distributed a map showing the work to be done on the Ely Underpass now that the Ely Southern Bypass is open. All comments and questions had to be submitted by 31 July 2018 (this is not a misprint). Steve was dismayed by the permanent closure of the level crossing. “How are lorries delivering to the town going to get there?” He was not convinced by the answer that there are very very few and that they would use the bypass and go a different way into town. Will fire engines and ambulances be able to get under the bridge - “had they thought about that?” Allen wasn’t sure and will find out. It was suggested that Sat Navs would be updated so that lorries did not wait at the level crossing. Not so, said Steve, it takes five years to change a Sat Nav. Not helpful for driverless cars?

Allen mentioned that ECDC had made more site visits to ascertain the wishes and concerns of businesses. When questioned, he agreed that Brexit makes them “a little worried but they hope it will be all right on the night.”

In No 2422 of the minutes it was recorded that “Paul Latchford and David Greenfield offered to arrange a meeting with the allotment holders to discuss various options”. Paul L reported that there was “very little interest from the allotment holders about the new paths and the clearance of rubbish.” He suggested this may

have been because they were all on holiday, which may be being very kind. As an observer I have been amazed at all the patience and serious hard work that the PC has put into these allotments over the last two years. Perhaps one day the allotment holders will form their own committee.

**Confucius, he say:
“ You don’t set a
cricket field for a
bad ball....”**

The PC continued to be relaxed at everything in the meeting but they began to really loosen up from now on. During “Correspondence” they discussed the road closure which occurred after a lorry burst a tyre on the corner at the school. The correspondence was discussed, and the various options, including the chance of a lorry bursting a tyre ever again on that corner. The conclusion was that “you don’t set a cricket field for a bad ball.” This could be a Chinese saying because it is certainly as wise, and it came from our cricket supremo. Then the ECDC Annual Report was discussed, mocked and nearly all began giggling, thought it a huge hoot and a total waste of money. One held it up in fingertips and at arms length as if it was infected with the plague. Allen stoutly defended it and said there would be some people who would want to know what ECDC does. And he is quite right, and this does stop people saying “Why don’t they tell us.”

I cannot convey to you the level of hilarity which there now was at the meeting. We moved on to Planning Applications. No 6 Cage Hill has chopped a metre off its new building following complaints from next door’s owner “who lives in Swindon”. “Does Swindon have any relevance” asked someone. It seems not. They they discussed the application from No 6 Heath Road which applied to build a large music room. No objections were raised. But they did wonder why a shower was required in a Music Room. Peter suggested at may be because a new style of music requires the sound of a shower. They discussed other possibilities and the meeting descended into further hilarity. At one time Paul L was so convulsed with giggles, I thought he was going to disappear under the table. No-one seemed to really care about the shower but they thought they ought to ask because “at least it shows we are on the ball.”

Next they came to the question of the extensive PC records and the purchase of a fireproof filing cabinet. Karen King when Clerk required a complete small bedroom. Paul the Clerk is using half his conservatory, and Paul and Steve have planned in detail how to reduce the storage space required so that it is not a burden for the new clerk. The Village Hall Committee has agreed that a PC filing cabinet and a fireproof cabinet can be kept in the Meeting Room. The plan is that a considerable amount of very old non-essential records would be put in a skip. More important early records would be sent to the County Archives, the absolutely essential records and papers would be put in the fireproof safe, and current working documents would be put in the filing cabinet. It appears to have been a well thought out and sensible plan. But, fireproof cabinets can cost several thousands of pounds. David had got round this by being to purchase a 3 hour safe through his firm for £950 – one could call it a snip. Steve couldn’t find David’s letter, thought Paul had

it, Paul denied this, and in the end it seems that Steve must have left it at home. This is relevant.

Steve asked the PC to approve the purchase. And how the PC excelled itself in finding so many reasons why the approval should be delayed. It reminded me of the times when the Village Hall asked for money. "If it is only a 3 hour fire cabinet what happens if the fire lasts 4 hours?" "Is there a 5 drawer cabinet if the essential records increase?" "Will the cabinets fit the allotted space?" What happens if someone breaks in and steals the fire cabinet?" "We ought to see the letter first." "Will we get a receipt if we buy it?" The end result is that approval is to be left until the next meeting.

The cemetery "Horse Gate" is to be replaced at a cost of £1,008. The cemetery cremation plots have been recorded the wrong way round on the cemetery map and this will be corrected. It came to light with the request that the ashes of Peter Cunningham should be placed with those of Pat, his wife. Formerly of Carters Cottage many will remember that Pat was a leading light in the refurbishment of the Village Hall.

During "Accounts for Payment" it was revealed that all the signs in the village had been cleaned by Andy Martin at the request of the PC. It seems that Andy was amazed just how many dirty signs there were in the village. So we are all squeaky clean now. Should anyone find one lurking, and needing attention, do let the Editor know.

The only item of interest in the Clerk's and Councillor's Reports was when Steve said that once again ECDC auditors had after two months raised an unnecessary query about the accounts. They asked why there was such a disparity between one entry and that made last year. Steve explained that this was because in one year we had spent more of the CIL money. Not good enough said the auditors to show they were on top of their job – we need detailed figures. Steve was obviously very irritated by such nitpicking. John, with a chuckle, said "Just like us asking why they want a shower in the Music Room."

Alastair Everitt

QUIZ NIGHT

Swaffham Prior Village Hall

7.30 pm Saturday 6 October

Tickets £6 each. To book a table, contact



Jenny Brand
(01638) 742161

or

Lynne Rand
(01638) 741960



Jacket Potato Supper

Bring your own drinks and glasses !!

Proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Swaffham Prior

LET THE BELLS RING OUT
*The 9th of December
in Swaffham Prior*

Starting about 10.00 o'clock in the morning a three hour Peal of the bells of St Cyriac's will begin. This is to celebrate the Peal which was rung exactly TWO HUNDRED years to the day. We don't know the names of the ringers but we do know what they rang from the newspaper report that appeared in the *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal* on Friday 1st January 1819.

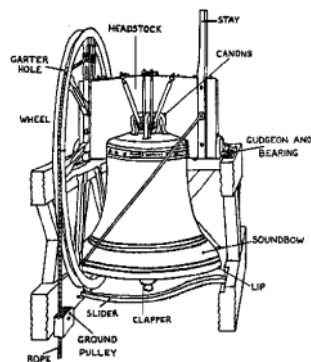
"On the 9th ult. were rung by six ringers of Swaffham Prior, on the bells in that parish, 5040 changes, part treble bob and part plain bob."

It will be a very fine band including people who have rung in St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. However, unlike the nineteenth century ringers, they will not be coming back for another peal eighteen days later. Encouraged by their success on the 9th December 1818, the ringers went on to complete a long peal of 6696 changes in four hours and eight minutes just two days after Christmas. Those were the second and third recorded peals on the bells. The first had been rung in 1805, fourteen years after the bells were installed.

At 4.00pm will begin ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT. This is the 26th year that Cambridge Voices have organised this event for the benefit of Emmaus. As in previous years it will be a very varied programme of music with readings by members of the parish.

The theme this year is War and Peace to celebrate the Armistice of 1918. For the occasion the Memorial Windows will be floodlit from the outside. One always has to be cautious when saying anything is unique, but there are possibly no other memorial windows illustrating such an array of the instruments of war - Tanks, Submarines, Fighter Plane, Cannon, War Hospital, Zeppelin etc., all supported by words from the Scriptures.

More details will be published in next month's Crier. Do not go away that weekend.



VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER



at 6pm

Village Hall, Swaffham Prior

Supper with scrumptious puddings

Bar serving wine and soft drinks

Entertainment

Raffle for Fair Trade hampers

**In aid of St Mary's Church and
Projects in Mara, Tanzania**

**Please remember your own
plate, bowl and cutlery**

Tickets – prices held from last year:

Adult – £8; over 65/under 16 – £7;

under 11 – £5

Please book in advance to aid catering

Newcomers to the village especially welcome



From Janet Willmott – 07833 960678

Dee Noyes – 07585 807413

Village Harvest Festival

St Mary's Church

11am, Sunday 7th October

A SCHOOL HISTORY LESSON



In response to Mr. Everitt's comments in the Aug/Sep Crier, I have done some internet research on the school's history, although as is the nature of the internet, I have no idea how much of it is true. It seems that the school history goes even further back than the proposed 1730 date as an unlicensed schoolmaster was reported in 1610. In the 1640s and 1650s the vicar, one Jonathan Jephcott, "well versed in ancient languages and mathematics", was educating Roger Rant's sons and others privately. However, the school started "for real" when a permanent endowment for education was provided when the parish charities were reorganized in 1730: £5 yearly was to be paid to the schoolmaster (already in 1728 keeping a charity school with 24 pupils), to teach ten poor children for free. By 1744, a schoolhouse had been built by the street at the north side of the churchyard, where a master's house also stood by 1800. The remains are still there – the strange half wall in the churchyard next to Anglesey House.

The £5 had been increased to £10 by 1818 when three other day schools took another 160 children. The overseers were then paying "schoolpence" for up to 15 poor pupils. By 1833, besides two Sunday schools with 119 pupils, started in 1828 by Presbyterians, there were four day schools: the endowed one with only 15 children of both sexes; two with 31 more whose parents paid and a National school (one of two started in 1819) with 51 girls supported by subscriptions and by 1836 also by the charity and schoolpence. Under the supervision of the curate who also kept a boarding school at the vicarage, the National school was taught by a mistress, but without sectarian distinctions.

In 1837 the parish finally ventured to dismiss, after twenty years service, the unqualified endowed-school master, who had defended alleged misconduct with a claim to a freehold in his post. The result was the establishment by 1846 of National schools for both sexes at which 82 boys and 80 girls were taught. The masters, the first serving 1837-57, were assisted (as was usual up to the late 1800s) by their wives who taught the girls. There was also an evening school for 34 boys.

Probably from about 1841, a teacher's house was provided on the high street. The schoolroom, then over-crowded, was rebuilt in 1852 on the old site to take 150

children. In the 1850s and 1860s the church day and Sunday schools together had 170-200 pupils, of whom the village produced 120-30, but few came from the fen or field cottages.

A scheme of 1863 accepted the school's Anglican character, formally entrusted custodianship to the parish charity trustees who already owned the buildings; both the management of the school and the choice of the teachers, and formally confirmed an increase, first made in 1851 in the charity's contribution to £30, half the school income. Schoolpence yielded another £20. In 1868 a certificated master was appointed.

Until 1900 the masters, changing every 4-5 years, had charge of an average attendance from the village of 70-80 in the 1870s; 90-100 thereafter. The vicar, whose daughter kept a poorly attended night school in the 1870s and 1880s, taught regularly into the 1890s at the village school, which he was able to retain as a church school.

From 1904 half the village school's £30 endowment was intended for the church Sunday School. From 1908, £5 for building repairs was added. Although the master's house was turned into an infants' classroom for about 50 pupils from 1889 and another residence being rented, the old schoolroom, supposed by 1910 to take 112 children and actually holding 80-95, was by the 1920s thought congested.

From 1923 the older children were sent to Burwell county school, although some parents initially resisted, sending their children for a year to privately run local classes. Fearing closure, in 1928 the church school managers raised funds to build on a site across the street obtained from Mr. C. I. L. Allix Esq. who took the old school building for demolition and gave £500 towards the new one. A new church primary school with three classrooms opened in 1929 and is still there. That original school is what now comprises the hall, offices and kitchen parts only of the school. The classrooms in present use were built in 1966, and the two sections were connected by a covered way a few years later. Two new classrooms were added at the rear in 1973. The mobile classroom was added as numbers increased as a temporary measure, and is still there. The library extension was added in 1997 and the new classroom in 1998, to be followed by a staff room in 2003 and not forgetting the splendid swimming pool changing hut which was built last year.

I know I am missing something because there is "School House" on Cooper's Lane, so that must fit in there somewhere (or was that the original 1889 "masters house" ?), maybe somebody can fill in that gap. Also, perhaps someone more local than myself (I have only been a resident for eighteen years) would like to supply the full history of the swimming pool and it's related huts, of which I know of at least three incarnations.

The library extension was added in 1997 and the new classroom in 1998, to be followed by a staff room in 2003 and not forgetting the splendid swimming pool changing hut which was built last year...

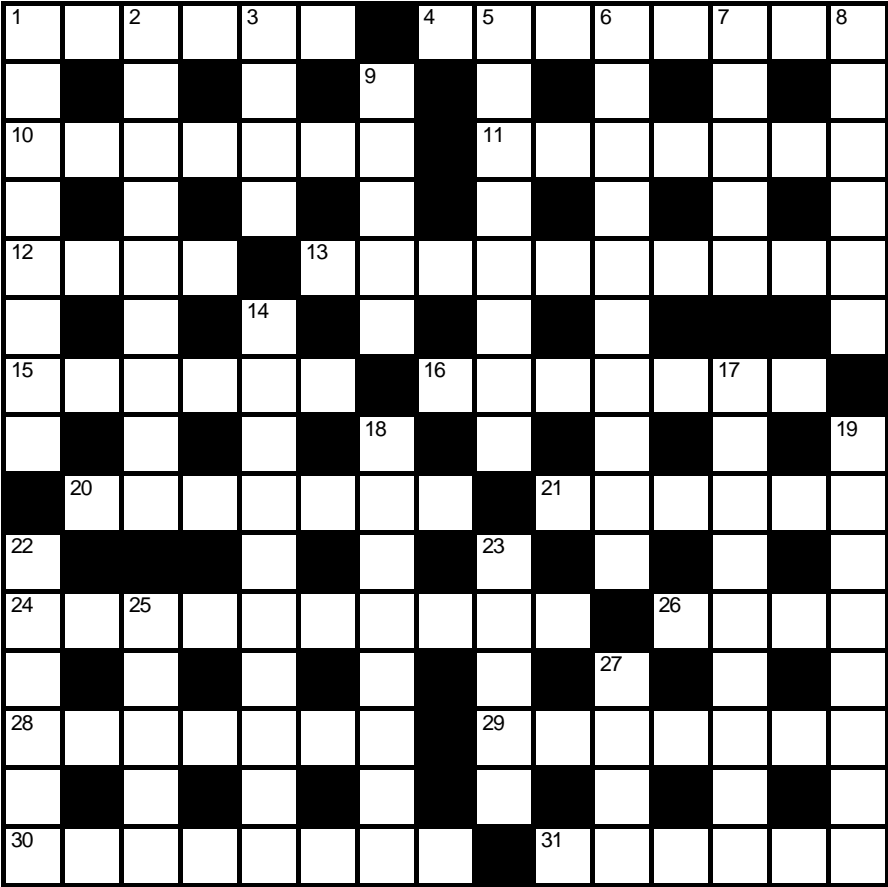
Steve Kent-Phillips

(See <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol10/pp302-303> for more information)

Crossword Number 157

Compiled by **NIBOR**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 October 2018. The first correct solution out of the hat will win a £20 meal voucher for the Red Lion—see the pub manager for full details.



Name:.....
Address:.....
.....Tel:.....

Across

- 1 First issue from Sheffield estate agent (6)
- 4 Columns of honour and crumpled silks (8)
- 10 Ran into Gary whilst looking for storehouse (7)
- 11 Liberal Party characters leapt out to find book keeping facility (7)
- 12 Dislike heat wave (4)
- 13 Take a photo of monster flower (10)
- 15 At first two or more characters are tracking a male animal (6)
- 16 Drunken distiller loses id but finds framework (7)
- 20 Nail back pigtail to article and discover local resident (7)
- 21 Abnormally shy cop is schizophrenic (6)
- 24 In France a sea reaches Channel Islands before loud type of boat finds middle England pitiless (10)
- 26 Saga captured in nice picture (4)
- 28 Mixed random variable lacks mineral content and bluster (7)
- 29 Where in France South American first finds reindeer (7)
- 30 Put team leader in gallery? Ruby is torn (8)
- 31 Five points about final letter might be a cold symptom (6)

Down

- 1 Albumen for example given to pale German leader first (3,5)
- 2 Conscript who might produce a plan (9)

- 3 Sawn off a cob maybe (4)
- 5 Approximate value of a sports stadium (8)
- 6 Political theory that makes Blair smile awkwardly (10)
- 7 Jargon found in some people's language (5)
- 8 Adage may initially be served aboard yacht before gin sling (6)
- 9 competing within the Navy in general (5)
- 14 Bespoke tar oil (6-4)
- 17 Useless but fashionable hat fit to be worn (9)
- 18 Baronet I confused with a singer (8)
- 19 Settle end (8)
- 22 Troubled trout eats bishop and becomes a different fish (6)
- 23 Rebel leader leaves late morning meal to form gang (5)
- 25 Designated article found in London police force (5)
- 27 King George and an old family member (4)

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

**Solution to
crossword
no. 156**

We congratulate Shirley Wilkins the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors.

Out on the Wild Side:

The Barn Owl

As we reach the new high season of Autumn, the temperatures steadily decline and our temperate vegetation starts to change colour, if it hasn't done so already. This is a time of vibrant colours and in my view a more practical and reflective part of the year than summer. For this October issue, I've chosen to talk about Owls, of which there are many types. Keeping it local though and the Barn Owls are in keeping both with our local fauna and a species that is also doing well. I have had the pleasure of seeing a pair of these birds in the landscapes surrounding Swaffham Prior. They are both elegant, but wary and certainly once you've encountered their look, you can never forget it.

Owls generally speaking are arguably one of the most unique extant bird species and as I have discovered have a lineage as a species that stretched nearly all the way back to the end of time of the Dinosaurs around 55-60 million years ago.



They are also one of the few birds that are included in some of the oldest cave paintings in the world, attesting to their evolutionary time on Earth and our human fascination with them. There are two branches of the Owl species, one family called the true owls or 'Strigidae' and the other of Barn Owls denoted as 'Tytonidae'. There are some evolutionary differences between the two explaining the divergence within the Owl family.

The Barn Owl flies effortlessly and silently across fields and forest alike on the look out for prey. Their hunting technique is aided by their unique hearing ca-

pabilities. Their appearance is both startling and haunting and this explains why we have had such a dynamic but ambivalent relationship towards them throughout history. Why do Barn Owls like Barns? They are a niche species in evolutionary terms so they actually find the construction of the 'English rural barn' to be an ideal habitat for them to use as a home. It's not just these birds that nest in Barns, but Barn Owls make give substantiated credibility to preserving our country barns, some derelict, others still in use i.e. Cadenham farm.

Owls are one of the few birds that are included in some of the oldest cave paintings in the world...

The Barn Owl is resident throughout the British Isles. They are doing well and keeping their population steady. Like all British Owls, they have a white complexion and their wings underneath are white too. Their plumage on the top side of their bodies is a wonderful chestnut or warm golden brown colour with grey or black striations. Their faces are heart shaped and their jet black eyes are mesmerising on closer inspection and seen from a distance. They have powerful talons on which to catch prey unawares on the ground, normally mice or other rodents. The vast majority of Barn Owls live between 1 and 3 years but they can easily reach upwards of between 12 and 19 years reportedly. A capped peak was found that a Barn Owl on the continent lived to be 21 years young.

It may seem obvious to state that all Owls including the 'Barns' are Nocturnal creatures but when I was fortunate enough to see a breeding pair, it was around dusk. Perhaps this is a big part of why Owls feed into our imaginations and culture in such a powerful way. **The setting of the sun and rising of the Moon.** The mythology of Owls is a global legacy that creates fear and wonder in equal measure. We already know that Owls can be seen both as birds of the greatest wisdom but also of foreboding. They in my opinion are also birds of great healing and insights which humans can learn from. Some cultures of the past thought, like Banshees of Ireland, they forwarded death, associated with the night, whereas others see them as warding off evil, rather appropriate as we approach All Hallows Eve.

In truth, they are a majestic and mysterious bird, both stunningly beautiful and frightening. Who's to say who disturbs who more, Owls to people or People to Owls? One new thing I've learnt is that the number of times an Barn Owl hoots from 1-9 times, depending on the person hearing it signifies different fortunes to occur to that individual, so next time you're burning the midnight October oil, have a listen out towards the trees and feel free. Friends claim that they cause bad luck, but others see spiders are the real villains. I personally think we're lucky to hear them in all their colours hoots and twit- tawoo at night around the Swaffham Prior, it's a sign that we haven't lost touch with nature or rather it won't let us loose touch with it.

Jorge Xico Monteiro

(with appreciation to the RSPB and Paul Frost)



Autumn Show Report

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;
Lengthen night and shorten day;
Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.
I shall smile when wreaths of snow
Blossom where the rose should grow;
I shall sing when night's decay
Ushers in a drearier day.

Emily Brontë

Another year heads into Autumn, schoolchildren are back in the classroom, and another Show of Swaffham Prior's garden produce has taken place in the Village Hall.

Well done and thanks to everyone who grew, baked, made and photographed.

Electronic entry logging went smoothly and, by the 12 o'clock deadline, there were 115 entries arranged on the tables. At 12.15 there were 116 entries, the latecomer being allowed by the judges on the basis that it must have taken at least 15 minutes to transport the huge and beautiful vegetable from garden to the Hall.

Judging was carried out by our team of anonymous and enthusiastic experts who sliced, measured and deliberated to ensure that all awards were fully deserved: it was generally agreed that the entries, bolstered by the efforts of the children in the After School Club, were of a very high quality this year. And while the judges were casting critical eyes over the entries, dogs and their owners sought rosetted glory on the lawns outside.



Our 2016 Champion:



The detailed computational analysis of the results has been automated this year, thanks to the discovery of the 'unique' and 'dsum' spreadsheet commands. This resulted in the early announcement that **Viv Elston** was back on top as the **2016 Overall Show Champion**; he scored **41** points, beating the Fletcher family (with 33 points) into second place. Ruth Scovill was third with 26 points.

Many congratulations to Viv for another excellent all-round performance! Other successful contestants were Julian Luttrell and Jill Bourne each with scores of over twenty points. The Brand family also put in a storming performance over a range of classes.

We are looking forward to another exciting and hard-fought contest next year, and hope that we will see many new entrants, and the return of those who have been stalwarts over previous years.

Winners of the different categories were:

Beetroot	Viv Elston	Onions	Viv Elston
Shallots	Jill Bourne	Carrots	Fletcher family
Potatoes	Viv Elston	Tomatoes	Julian Luttrell
Runner beans	Fletcher family	French beans	Fletcher family
Cherry tomatoes	Viv Elston	Marrow	Fletcher family
Cucumber (?)	John Clarke	Any other vegetable	Julian Luttrell
Trug of mixed produce	Fletcher family	Odd/rude vegetable	Viv Elston (very rude!)
Mixed herbs	Jill Bourne	Raspberries	Julian Luttrell
Pears	Viv Elston	Plums	John Brand
Dessert apples	Clayton family	Cooking apples	Ruth Scovill
Any other fruit	Roz Chalmers	Alcoholic drink	Julian Luttrell
Roses	Lynne Rand	Dahlias	Jenny Brand
Mixed flowers	Alastair Everitt	Other flowers	Jenny Brand
Flower arrangement	Jill Bourne	Miniature flower arr.	Jenny Brand
Handmade bread	Matt Lowther	Jam or Jelly	Scott Nielsen (again!)
Preserve or Honey	Betty Prime	Marmalade	Ruth Scovill
Victoria sponge	Christian Brand	Decorated cake	Ruth Scovill

Decorated cupcakes	Ava Brand	Any other cake	Lynne Rand
Veg or fruit animal	Ella-May Starmer	Miniature Garden	Matilda Brand
Junk model	Jamie Warner	Gardens quiz	Clare Freeman
Under 16 Photography	Hattie Clayton	Over 16 Photography	Lynne Rand

The children's classes, as always, contained many wonderful entries, and I would like to particularly commend Jamie Warner's amazing junk model and Ella-May Starmer's giraffe, which was a brilliant feat of engineering and well worth her first prize in the most competitive of the classes this year.

Sadly we had no scarecrows to display. Please let us know if you think that we should continue with this class next year.



Thanks Go To:

- Our excellent, but anonymous, team of judges who arrived stealthily, did their work fairly, and then quietly faded into the night.
- Lynne and Mike Horsfall, who provided sustenance in the form of cream teas, coffee, juice and other delights.
- Alastair Everitt, who expertly ran the Auction of Produce, making a profit of £85 to help with the running of the Hall.
- Jenny Brand and April Cook for running the raffle and tombola, as well as lots of additional, behind-the-scenes, organisation.



Suggest a caption for the picture on the right and send it to the Crier:

- Everyone Else who helped out on the day, including the indefatigable John Brand.
- Many thanks also to everyone who supported the event by coming along, entering produce, buying raffle tickets, cream teas, ice cream, and bidding in the auction.

In total, our free Autumn Show raised over £200 to keep the Hall in tip-top condition.

Helpful comments and suggestions are always welcome to ensure that the Show improves year-on-year. Let us know if there are classes of fruit, vegetables, flowers, drinks, or anything else that you think should be added.

Comments and suggestions to mcarrington@me.com

And get planning for next year's Show!





Luke Skywalker and Princess Leila



Thoughtful moment



All going well



Dog on a mission

Swaffham Prior Dog Show 2018



Ready to go



First prize winner



Pirates of the Caribbean



Beauty and the Beast

Dog Show 2018

Saturday 15th September saw a beautifully warm day, ideal for the village dog show. Our villagers and their lovely dogs didn't disappoint and turned out to enjoy the fun. It was lovely to see old faces and lots of new faces too. This year's classes were Agility, retrieve, most appealing expression, Junior handler, the ever popular food alley and not forgetting the dress up round.

I was really impressed at how well everyone did in the agility, mastering the weaves, tunnel and jumps with some fairly quick times too.

In the junior handling, I was looking to see how well the children could control their dogs. They all did an excellent job especially as some of the dogs were bigger than the children!

Class 5 saw the dogs having to avoid the temptation of eggs, sausage, cheese and biscuits. Food alley!! Lots of dogs made a great start with their owners desperately calling them past the plates of food only to turn just before the finish line to eat the tasty treats! Some didn't even get past the first plate before giving in to temptation!

I am always amazed at the creativity that goes on with the fancy dress costumes and once again I wasn't to be disappointed. We had Beauty and the Beast, Pirates of the Caribbean, Luke Skywalker with Princess Leia and Cruella De Vil complete with a Jack Russell covered in black spots! You all looked amazing!

Results

Agility

1st Scarlett with Bach (35 seconds) 2nd Tegan with Bernie (37 seconds)

Retrieve

1st Ellie with Izzie (7 seconds) 2nd Sam and Mia (10.9 seconds)

Best child handler under 12 years

1st Lola with Boe 2nd John with Tilda

Most appealing expression

1st Olivia and Willow 2nd Lord and Veronika

Food alley

1st Lola and Boe 2nd Sam and Mia .

Disney dress up.

1st Mary and Aaron with Rufus as Pirates of the Caribbean and 2nd Leo with Squidge dressed as Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia.

A huge well done to everyone who took part. Thank you also to my lovely assistants Sue Burge and Charlotte Elston, without whom I couldn't have done it and to April Cook keeping us all on track.

Thank you to Alan's Ark at Soham for the fabulous Prizes, as always and to the Pop up Tea shop for sponsoring the Rosettes for which we are very grateful. A total of £37 was raised for St Marys church.



Judges deep in thought



Many thanks to Janet Willmott for brilliant pictures

Janine Elston

Call for New Members

- If you enjoyed the Autumn Show and the Village Feast
- If you think that community spirit is important
- If you would like to meet local people
- If you want to keep the Hall as a focus of Village life

"With everything that you can imagine at our fingertips, many of the social interactions that help tie people together in a community have faded away. Are communities traditionally built on relationships, trust and familiarity a thing of the past?"

Dean Ornish

"A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone ... It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role."

Yehuda Berg

Swaffham Prior Village Hall Management Committee would like to encourage people to help in the running of our beautiful, 150 year-old Village Hall.

We have an increasingly large community, and there must be many people with the skills and energy who could contribute significantly to the everyday running and improvement of the Hall for the benefit of all local residents.

The current committee is both friendly and enthusiastic, but lacks numbers, and needs to be freshened up with people who are keen to get involved.

If you would like to find out how you could help us, please contact Alan Durrant (either by email: alanmdurrant@sky.com or by phone: 01638 810606).

You can find out more about the Village Hall from our website: SwaffhamPriorVillageHall.co.uk

"The local community is very important in one's life; the feelings of identification with a place and people."

Alexander McCall-Smith

"I know from my own parents how important active older people are to a local community."

Charles Kennedy

"The most powerful thing we can do is get involved locally. Help our local community and become community activists in our own smaller circle."

Gavin Creel

"Nobody's going to fix the world for us, but working together ... we might just be able to fix it ourselves."

Jamais Cascio

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GP PRACTICE AND
HAVE YOUR FLU JAB
DONE AT BURWELL
SURGERY**



We are now booking appointments for those who are eligible to have a FREE NHS flu jab! Please contact us to book an appointment.

Eligible patients include:

- ✓ Patients on cancer treatments or long term steroid therapy
- ✓ Pregnant women
- ✓ Patients with BMI >40
- ✓ All Patients over 65 years
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Heart disease
- ✓ Liver disease COPD/Asthma
- ✓ Neurological disease
- ✓ Carers
- ✓ Children aged 2 and 3 years on

Our Saturday open clinics are on Saturday 29th September for adults only – 9.00 – 12.00 noon. In October, Saturday 20th from 9.00 – 12.00 noon – just turn up! Can't make an open clinic? – book your appointment with Reception.

School News



As summer turns to Autumn and the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer, it can mean only one thing – Back To School for the children of Swaffham Prior Primary (and the start of the new series of ‘Strictly’)! I’m sure everyone will agree that the annual event experienced by us all as children used to fill us

“It takes many hands to build a house but many hearts to build a school.”

with anticipation, dread and excitement in differing measures, Certainly for me, this summer I experienced a whole host of emotions as I visited Swaffham Prior Primary School in readiness to take up my new position as Head teacher this September. Fortunately however, as is usually the case, the anticipation is more nerve-wracking than the event and since school started last Wednesday, I have had the most wonderful, exciting and rewarding start to

the brand new term in a brand new school.

‘Learning, Working and Growing Together’ is the motto of Swaffham Prior Primary School and I am delighted to confirm this is exactly what I’ve observed in my short time in school. The pupils, staff, parents and community have been so welcoming and patient with me as I have such a lot to learn. I am determined to meet as many people as possible in these first few weeks but please excuse me if I occasionally get mixed up!

I firmly believe the school is at the heart of the community and the phrase, ‘It takes many hands to build a house but many hearts to build a school.’ is absolutely right and already in my brief tenure so far, I am very grateful for the many hearts that make such a great contribution to the pupils at Swaffham Prior. From the dedicated Teaching Assistants and staff who we celebrated in assembly on National Teaching Assistant Day, the volunteers who give up their time to listen to children read or help out with the garden or teach sewing and countless other help we receive, I thank you all. These are all people who enrich the lives of the pupils and make their experience at school so well-rounded. Of course, we always open to additional help so if you can spare your time, your skills or make any contributions I promise we will welcome you with a smile and a cup of tea so please don’t hesitate to get in touch!

Helen Bartley
Head teacher

The Swaffhams WI News

We had a beautiful morning for our outing to Bury St Edmunds in September and the Abbey Gardens and Cathedral looked very impressive in the sunshine.

Our guide for the Cathedral tour was very welcoming and took us through the history of the building as we walked round. There has been a church on the site since 1065 when St Denis's Church was built within the precinct of the Great Abbey of St Edmund which was a major centre of pilgrimage in medieval England. The church was rebuilt starting in 1503 and the cathedral has developed from this parish church of St James into the inspiring building it is today with the beautiful Millennium Tower dominating the skyline. There is so much to see with the painted ceiling, the baptismal font, the stained glass windows and the organ. We certainly enjoyed our time there and even placed some lego bricks in the model which is under construction and will contain 200,000 bricks when it is completed in about 4 years time.

On October 15 we stay with the cathedral theme when our speaker is Horry Parsons with more of his 'Tales from the Tower'. As this is an open meeting, visitors both male and female are welcome to join us at 7.30 in the Village Hall. The charge for non-members is £3.50 so hope to see some of you there!

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



Mothers' Union

Our members have enjoyed a number of activities during the summer. In June members and friends went on a coach trip to Ely Cathedral 'Kaleidoscope of Life' Flower Festival. This was a most pleasurable afternoon viewing all the colourful and creative arrangements. We welcomed Alice Leadbeter, to our

July meeting as our guest speaker. Alice ran the 2017 London Marathon to raise awareness of Mothers' Union, and the work it does worldwide. She explained how she came to take up running, and how it has benefited her general wellbeing. Describing how she enjoys the beautiful wonders of nature as she runs through the countryside in all weathers and seasons. Alice expressed how the London Marathon creates huge excitement for runners and supporters alike. She gave us a narrative of the day from preparing for the start, to crossing the finishing line. This included the camaraderie between runners and the support and cheering on from onlookers especially when 'the going gets tough'. For Alice her lapse in energy and strength is usually around the 18 mile marker, but with the encouragement of the crowd she

is soon motivated to keep on running and complete the further 8 miles to the finish. We all valued the opportunity of seeing Alice's medal. In August a group of us enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Scotsdales Garden Centre in Horningsea.

Our meetings usually take place on the third Thursday of the month in Lode Chapel at 2.30pm. At our next meeting on 18th October we will be learning the art of Napkin Folding and holding our Autumn Bring and Buy Stall. You are most welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran

News from Bottisham Surgery

Flu Vaccinations: It's never too early to start thinking about protecting yourself from flu.

The Practice is running the usual flu clinics at Bottisham Medical Practice on Saturday 13th October and Saturday 3rd November, 9am-1pm, when the Patients' Group hope to be running a tombola stall to add to the funds for the purchase of the Pod.

In addition they are extending their weekday hours to accommodate patients who are aged under 65 into the evening with Friday 19th October and Wednesday 28th November, 6pm to 8pm.

This year there will be further flu clinic dates on weekdays as below

Wednesday 10th October, 3:30-5:30pm

Friday 12th October, 9-11am

Wednesday 24th October, 9-11am

Friday 26th October, 3:30-5:30pm

Monday 29th October, 4-6pm

Wednesday 31st October, 3:30-5:30pm

The Practice will notify you to join them for the flu clinic and will book you into one of the above to suit yourselves. Appointments can only be made by phone or at reception.

The Practice have already ordered your vaccine; please support your local GP practice by having your flu vaccination at the surgery.

The flu vaccine is the best way of protecting yourself against the virus. You will be eligible for a free flu vaccination if you are a registered patient and are:

Over 65

Pregnant

Have certain medical conditions including, but not limited to, chronic (long-term) conditions such as: respiratory, heart, kidney and liver diseases, neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease and MS, diabetes, and a weakened immune system (or if you live with someone who has).

If you receive a carer's allowance, or you are the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill

If you have any questions or to check if you are eligible, please contact us on 01223 810030 so we can provide further advice and information.

Bottisham Patients' Group: The Patients' Group would be delighted to hear from you – please see the notice board in the waiting room for details, speak to the receptionist or look at the practice website for further information. We would welcome help with running the group.

Walks for Health: The next

walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 3 and 26 October, 7 and 23 November and 12 December 2018. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Anglesey Abbey walks continue on Thursdays at 10am from the reception area. Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Thursday 22 November 2018 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Bottisham Patients' Group

Strength and balance classes help local man stay stronger for longer

A major new strength and balance campaign is launching this International Older People's day to help people in Cambridgeshire stay stronger for longer.

Michael Brooks-Harley, from Haddenham, near Ely, is reaping the rewards of a strength and balance programme after first visiting Everyone Health's falls prevention team several months ago at Ely library.

The 82-year-old had previously suffered a number of falls at home which had affected his balance while his mobility was greatly reduced after having a heart attack last year.

But since he began a personalised exercise programme, it had made a huge difference.

"I can manage to do things for myself around the house more easily, I only use a stick when I go for long walks, and I'm no longer constantly looking down at my feet to see where I'm going," he said. "I'm feeling fitter and healthier, physically and mentally.

"The way my health trainer Callum talks to me has given me confidence in what I can do, so now I push myself more and more. I currently have the challenge of walking up a large hill each morning to fetch the newspaper for myself and my neighbour, which is a task I would have asked others to do for me six months ago."

Simple strength and balance exercises twice a week are proven to keep you stronger for longer so you can keep independent and enjoying the great things in life, whether it's playing with grandchildren, shopping, socialising with friends or gardening.

For success stories and more information on classes in your area visit:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/strongerforlonger

The Stronger for longer campaign has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council working with local NHS health partners.



Julie Nunn's October Recipes

Roast pumpkin and walnut dip

Ingredients

500g Butternut Squash peeled and cubed into 2cm pieces
½ cup walnuts
¾ cup plain Greek style yoghurt
1 tsp of cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
Or 2 tsp of Moroccan spice mix
1 tbsp fresh coriander leaves

Method

1. Preheat oven to 200c
 2. Put pumpkin onto baking tray, drizzle with the oil and roast until tender. Set aside for 10 mins to cool.
 3. Process the walnuts until roughly chopped.
 4. Add all other ingredients and process until combined.
 5. Sprinkle with some chopped flatleaf parsley or herb of your choice and serve with breadsticks, pita chips or toasted bread.
-

Walnut Fudge cake

Ingredients

100g margarine	25g butter
75g caster sugar	1 x 15ml spoon milk
1 x 15ml spoon golden syrup	1 x 15ml soft brown sugar
2 medium eggs	2 x 5 ml spoon of golden syrup or black treacle
175g S.R flour	100g icing sugar
1 x 15ml spoon milk	Walnut halves to decorate the top
50g chopped walnuts (for the icing)	

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180c, then grease an 18cm cake tin.
2. Cream the margarine, sugar and syrup until light and creamy.
3. Beat in the eggs with the flour gradually then add the nuts and milk.
4. Place the combined mixture into the greased tin and bake for 40-45 mins.
5. When cool split open and sandwich together with the fudge icing.

To make the fudge icing gently melt the butter, milk. Sugar and treacle in a pan, beat in the icing sugar. Allow to cool and use to sandwich the cake together and spread on top and decorate with walnut halves.

News from Wicken Fen

Those walking on the fen during October will be rewarded by views over the spectacular landscape as the fading golden brown reed head spikelets are highlighted by the low winter sun. We're looking forward to the return of autumn migrants such as widgeon, redwings, short-eared owls and hen harriers. Increasing numbers of lapwing and golden plover will be seen in numbers close to 2000 birds. They often gather on bare arable fields and blend in so well that they are hard to see until you look closely.

We're going to be making improvements to the Woodland Walk paths over the next few weeks, and soon construction of a temporary viewing platform close to the Lode bank end of the boardwalk will begin.



Widgeon (image by Richard Nicoll)

We're excited to share these new views with you! This platform is part of our 'Resting the Sedge Fen Project', which will allow us to rest parts of the Sedge Fen in order to protect the delicate peat soils and fen plants there. Eventually there will be a new permanent hide and viewing platform, which will offer fantastic views over the fen, and opportunities to see Wicken wildlife such as hen harriers coming in to roost on the Sedge Fen in winter.

We'll be embracing seasonal change in our outdoor activity sessions for under 5s: Mucky Pups Autumn Fun will take place on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 October. We're also planning some great half term activities: Autumn Adventure (age 3-11) on Monday 22 October, Geocaching (age 6+) on Wednesday 24 October, and the ever-popular Fenland Spooktacular (age 3-11) on Friday 26 October. Pre-booking is essential for these activities, see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on>

Tickets for Father Christmas at the Fen are now on sale! This wonderful Christmas experience includes: meeting Father Christmas, completing our Christmas trail and making something festive in our Christmas crafts area. This event always sells out quickly, so early booking is advised for the little ones in your family. For further information see the 'what's on' link above.

News from Anglesey Abbey

Conserving and Preserving (25th September - 6th October)

Join us at Anglesey Abbey this autumn as we uncover the secrets of the conservation work our teams do to preserve this special place. Discover the work we do to keep our mill wheel turning, our gardens flourishing and preserve Lord Fairhaven's country home.

In the House, discover the ten agents of deterioration that endanger the collection within each room and get involved in hands-on conservation activities. Why not take one of our seasonal tours – our Behind the Scenes tour provides an in-depth look at how our team prevents deterioration on the collection and in our Timely tour, dis-

cover the challenges of conserving a large collection of clocks.

At the Lode Mill, follow the story of the work taking place on the water wheel and discover how the agents of deterioration affect the mill.

Pick up a Family Conservation Kit from reception and get stuck into exciting conservation activities around the property in your very own Conservation Trainee Log-book. Don't forget to collect a stamp for each completed activity – if you finish the whole logbook you'll be able to claim an exclusive conservation badge from reception!

The garden will be alight with autumn colour – head to any of the tree lined avenues for a stunning autumnal view. We'll also be putting on a 'Meet the Gardener' tour. Running once a week, you'll be able to spend time with one of our knowledgeable gardeners as you discover what they're working on and how they are creating the stunning displays for next year.

Redwoods restaurant will be serving warming seasonal dishes and specials and our shop will have themed products available for you to take home a memento of your visit to Anglesey Abbey.

Police cadet leader receives commendation

A CADET leader who was commended for her dedication and leadership has urged others to get involved in the scheme.

Sergeant Alice Draper received a South Area Commander's Commendation "for her dedication, outstanding leadership and commitment to the South Cambs Cadets" last month.

Alice, 38, has been a police officer for 12 years and a cadet leader in Cambourne for two years. She has volunteered her own time to set up and lead the South Cambs cadet troop and now runs an evening session every week with more than a dozen police cadets. Alice said: "I was an army cadet when I was younger and I got a massive amount from that and it formed who I am. As an adult I wanted a way of giving back some of what I had gained."

The citation for her commendation stated: "Young people in the age range of the cadets can be challenging but with her patience, compassion and outstanding commitment to leadership, Alice has built strong relationships with the cadets and their parents and this in turn has led the troop to have a stable membership of motivated, disciplined and extremely well-drilled cadets who are a credit to the constabulary whenever they are seen in public."

Cadet volunteers can offer as much time as they can afford.

For more information about becoming a cadet leader, email cadets@cambs.pnn.police.uk



The Community Champions Scheme

POLICE are looking for people to be the eyes and ears of their community in East Cambridgeshire with the launch of a new project. The community champions project launches tomorrow (13 September) and is a partnership between Cambridgeshire Constabulary and East Cambridgeshire District Council. The aim of the scheme is not just about reporting crime but also focuses on vulnerability and harm - and when it is recognised by someone in the community - knowing what to do or who to tell.

Sergeant Phil Priestley said: "This new project is about protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities and knowing how to do that effectively. For example, if an elderly man or woman keeps a supermarket delivery driver talking for ages - this might be the only contact they have had with anyone in days. Can we flag that up and bring an agency in to provide support and assistance? We want to work with a number of key employers that have people going in and out of addresses – encouraging them to flag any community concerns they have as part of their job role.

The supermarket delivery driver is not there simply to drop off shopping, but is instead part of a collective community presence and, thanks to this project launch, may now feel empowered to do something when they recognise things that need to be addressed. The launch is intended to get groups, agencies and companies on board and signed up to a longer term commitment that goes beyond a one off appeal."

The new eyes and ears project is a way that people can look out for each other in their East Cambridgeshire neighbourhoods without having to sign up to any agreement or schedule.

Sgt Priestley added: "We want people to understand that the police and other public services are only as strong as the support we receive from the community. "It is frustrating for police officers and other agencies who identify problems to be told the problems have been going on for years, but somehow the situation has never been brought to light. During this course of time, evidence is lost and harm is suffered. It is particularly distressing when a vulnerable person is suffering from neglect, or is being victimised repeatedly, and nothing is said or done."

Any groups, agencies and companies wishing to get involved in the community champions scheme should contact sergeant Mark Rabel on 101. The public can report any community concerns they have by calling 101, or alternatively via the police website at www.cambs.police.uk/report.

BON MOT NUMBER NINETY

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

George Eliot (1819 - 1880)

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.



Tim Doe

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

PARISH COUNCIL OF SWAFFHAM PRIOR

NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that MARK EDWARD LEWINSKI-GRENDE formerly a member of the above named Parish Council has ceased to be a member thereof and that a casual vacancy exists in the office of councillor for the said Parish.

CLERK TO SAID PARISH COUNCIL

What do you long to hear?

During the first Village Praise at Lode Chapel last month, I shared this message: A cross section of the British public were surveyed to find out, “*What phrase do you most long to hear?*”

The top three results were:

1. “I love you”
2. “I forgive you”
3. “Dinner’s ready”

This suggests to me that people up and down our land, people up and down my street, people maybe even reading this, do not have the blessing of feeling loved, being forgiven by someone they may have wronged, or having a place at a table to share a meal & enjoy hospitality.

I hear the words “I love you” every day from my wife and children; I have made mistakes, and have been forgiven; I hear, or say, “dinner’s ready!”, every day. I don’t take any of these blessings for granted as I know many people do not hear, and long to hear these words.

As human beings we can demonstrate love, forgiveness and hospitality, but I believe, and it is my joy as a Christian minister to share with you, that each of these characteristics are totally fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. He satisfies the deepest longings of the human heart.

People are desperate to hear the words, “I love you” - God says, “I love you so much that I gave my only Son, Jesus, and if you believe in Him you will not perish but have everlasting life!” (John 3.16)

People are desperate to hear the words, “I forgive you” - God says, “If you confess your sin I can always be trusted to forgive you and wipe your slate clean” (1 John 1.9)

People love to hear the words, “Dinner’s ready!” - God says, “I’ve prepared a feast for you because I love you” (Song of Songs 2.4). Jesus describes himself as the Bread of Life and says if you come to him you will be satisfied. (John 6.35)

The key to these truths making a difference in our lives is whether or not we are prepared to take the step of faith required to trust God rather than depending only on what we can understand. Proverbs 3.5-6 says, “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He’s the one who will keep you on track.”

Tell your loved ones you love them today, don’t just assume they know it or feel it. Is there someone you need to forgive? Tell them you forgive them. Invite someone to share a meal.

You are welcome to join us at any of our services if you’d like to explore further the love, forgiveness, and life in all its fullness that Jesus offers.

Rev’d Alan Brand

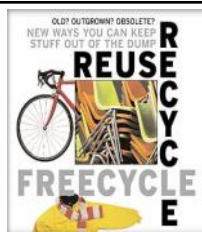
RENEW Services for October 2018

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 7th October. Morning Worship. 10.30am
 With Holy Communion. (Bottisham Primary School)
 Sunday 14th October. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)
 Followed by shared lunch
 Sunday 21st October. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)
 Sunday 28th October. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)
 For more information about any of the activities of RENEW Church please contact:
 Rev. Alan Brand on C.812558. Email: alan.brand@renewchurch.org.uk
 Or visit our website at www.renewchurch.org.uk

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.



Offered

- Oval Babies White Wicker Cot with Mattress. Excellent condition. 35”x 22”; Large wooden pallet. Lesley 01223 812901
- Small electric garden lawnmower in good working order. Beryl 01223 811491
- Several carpet off-cuts of varying sizes (new). Ann, 01223 811620
- Pink and white roller-skates (quads) for child size 8-11. Jun/Andy 01223 813362
- Wooden toy garage; Car vac (unused); Floor lamp with tall paper shade; 3 drawer A1 plan chest. Emma/Guy 01223 812793
- Medela Mini Electric breastpump - used but in full working order; Microwave steriliser for baby equipment. Amy 07795 975075
- Dark brown mirror fronted two shelf wall cabinet. 55cm x 13cm x 35cm; Dark brown oval mirror 45cm x 37 cm. Peter 07967555460

Wanted

- Bottling equipment for cider-making. Jun/Andy 01223 813362
- Any large, no longer required, suitcase, for transporting donated items to a charity in South Africa. Janet 07833 960678
 - 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>)

Mara Update

Introducing...

THE SAFE HOUSE

in the Diocese of Mara, Tanzania is a refuge, welcoming girls who are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or child marriage. These customs, illegal in Tanzania, are traditional in some ethnic areas in Mara, near Lake Victoria.

FGM involves the cutting of external female genitalia, in unhygienic conditions using razor blades or broken glass. It is done by community elders to girls of 12-15 years in December every other year in the belief that it protects virginity, discourages promiscuity, ensures marriage prospects and improves fertility. In fact, its effects include severe pain, infection, scarring, injury in labour and even death. FGM is imminent for many girls this coming December.

The vision of the Safe House, with active support from government and police, is to save young girls from this practice, by the following methods:

1. As the cutting season approaches teams visit the villages, explain to parents the harm this practice does and try to get an undertaking to discontinue the practice.
2. If this fails, girls at risk are brought to the Safe house, have schooling arranged and learn skills such as tailoring and computing.

3. The ultimate aim is to end FGM; to give the girls education, skills and self-awareness; and to foster healthy family life in the community.

Since the Safe house was established in 2015, more than 400 girls have been rescued from FGM and the families of 147 girls have agreed to discontinue the practice. 48 girls are at present residing at the safe House, but this is expected to increase before the end of this year.

Funding. A UK charity, the Tanzania Development Trust, made donations for capital expenditure to set up the Safe House, providing money for vehicles to allow social workers to visit villages to educate families and rescue girls; and equipment for the skills classes at the House. However, they need our help to support the ongoing costs of providing this essential service.

Present needs include fuel for village visits, maintenance of the equipment in the kitchen and classrooms, and girls' living costs. There is only one dormitory, accommodating up to 80 girls – but during the cutting season they expect to receive about 150 girls.

We in the Anglesey villages hope to raise substantial funds in support of this humanitarian project, which will have far-reaching consequences for the future of communities



in Mara region. We shall be inviting donations or pledges of donations, in order to support this work before the end of the year. ***Roger Bowen***



Melina Gabilona, the Safe House Director, will be visiting us in Anglesey in October. Please come and listen to her explaining her vision for healthy, prosperous family life in Tanzania.

7.00 p.m., Thursday 11 October
Swaffham Bulbeck School--

Church Services in October

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

Sunday 7 October, Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

11am Harvest Festival Family Service

Sunday 14 October, Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Service Holy Communion (CW1) - Lode

Sunday 21 October, Twenty first Sunday after Trinity

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

Sunday 28 October, Bible Sunday

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Quy

St Mary's, Swaffham Prior is part of the ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES together with: Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, Quy; St James', Lode and St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck; you are welcome to attend services anywhere in the benefice.

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

For weddings and baptisms please contact: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk
Would you like a lift to a service in Swaffham Prior or elsewhere in the Benefice?
Please call 07553 151585

Dates for Your Diary October 2018

Sat	6	Quiz Night, 7.30pm, VH [7]
Sun	7	Harvest Festival, Prior Fen Chapel [2]
Fri	12	Mobile Library, Village School, 3.10 - 3.35.
Sat	13	Harvest Supper, 6pm, VH [9]
Sat	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	15	WI, 7.30pm, VH [24]
Thu	18	Mothers' Union, 2.30pm Lode Chapel [24]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of article.

Club	Contact	Tel.	Date	Time	Place
FOSPS	Clare Freeman	741316	2 nd Mon of Term	8pm	Village School
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Tim Doe	01223 861083	Variable		
Reading Group	Brenda Wilson	743937	1 st Weds of month	8:00pm	Kent Ho
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