



# The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIII Number 2

February 2019



## Editorial

“It would seem that there is a trend amongst younger generations to have fewer belongings to move around and to dust”— so writes Sue Giles this month, and haven’t we all noticed. “The children won’t be comfortable in your house, Granny, it’s too cluttered.” is one comment that has reached our ears!

Yes, not only has “cluttered” become a dirty word but also synonymous with one extraneous ornament on top of the bookcase. Not that we need bookcases anymore, according to Sue’s Guru, we’re only allowed 30 books. Well, all we can say is that we know just where the Minimalist Department in our family dumped all their “clutter” — our house of course.

“Swans sing before they die— ‘t were no bad thing, Should certain persons die before they sing”. So says Samuel Coleridge, and I’m ashamed to say I never realised that that’s where the term “swansong” comes from. Read Jorge Monteiro on swans this month, those oh so beautiful birds that are camping out on our Lodes at the moment. And whereas the Mute Swan doesn’t sing in extremis, it appears that most of the others really do, some sort of scientific reason allegedly.

Don’t miss Sue Burden’s letter this month. She is interested in windmill history and particularly wants to know if one of our mills was used as an observation post in the last war, as many others were? Someone is bound to know.

Many thanks to onetime Prior resident Hester Bowers for a delightful account of this year’s Boxing Day Hockey, where despite some heroic saves by Josh Willmott, it seems alas we lost again. Oh well, there’s always another year.. Don’t forget to sign up for March Quizzing... **Caroline Matheson**

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**Cover Picture:** *Whose Smiling Now* by **Clive Riggs**



## Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

### **Swaffham Prior Windmills**

I wonder if any of your readers or local historians might be able to help me. I am interested in both old windmills and the Second World War, and wonder if Swaffham Prior Smock Mill (the house converted one) might have been used as an observation post in the War. A number of windmills were used for this purpose.

Before it was house converted, the smock mill was a ruin with no cap, and 5 sides of the weatherboarding and framing in the top storey cut out. There were to the south, just over a mile away, a searchlight emplacement, 2 miles to the south west Newmarket airfield, and just over 3 miles to the south west, Bottisham airfield. I wonder if the top floor was mutilated in this way so that the remaining 3 sides acted as a windbreak for the observers. The windmills at Stretham and Ely had their caps removed when they were used for observation posts. Stretham got a flat roof, but Ely didn't, so its wooden tower deteriorated and it was later pulled down.

Windmill photographers William and Donald Muggeridge photographed this mill (the Muggeridge Collection is in the University of Kent). Their photographs of this mill taken in 1935 show it disused but complete, but those taken in 1954 show it as a capless stump, as it was before conversion.

If this mill was used as an observation post, it is possible that there might be graffiti on the woodwork inside, written by the men who served there. This is the case at Old Buckenham windmill, Norfolk.

***Sue Burden***

Email: millgeek@hotmail.com

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Dear Editors,

### **Retirement and Closing Down Sale**

We would like to let everyone know that, after nearly 15 years running our showroom and workroom in Bottisham, we are retiring in the Spring. We have enjoyed our time at Stocks and thank all our clients who have supported us over the years.

As a result we will be selling off various remnants and ex-display curtains and other showroom items between

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
9.30am until 5.00pm

After which the showroom will be closed. We will accept orders for soft furnishings until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

***Ray and Gill Elston***

## VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHT

Hello quizzers, here is the date to put in your diaries for the next village quiz,  
Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

Hope to see you all there.

*Lynne and Jenny*

### A Meadow Lark

Mary had a little lamb

Its fleece was white as snow.

She'd sing to it a dithyramb,\*\*

That's all you need to know.

Except to say, 'A dithyramb,

Is an ancient Grecian hymn.'

She did not sing it every day,

Just did it on a whim.

I could just add, 'A dithyramb,

Is a song in praise of wine.'

And was probably wasted on the

lamb,

Which would give her a look, benign.

*Ophir*



*The dithyramb was an ancient Greek hymn sung and danced in honour of Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. Happy Clappy in days of old?*

## **SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL**

*have an immediate vacancy for a*

### **PART TIME PARISH CLERK**

Starting 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com)  
or contact Steve Kent-Phillips on 743883 for more details.

## From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

We are still in the Pantomime Season though we have already forgotten the clown acts which took place in the last days of 2018. The show continued in 2019 and a really class number was introduced when the affect of any customs delay on the movement of thousands and thousands of lorries was explored with a trial using - only 89 lorries. As usual, Chris Grayling, with his usual heart-warming beatific smile thought it had been a success. There was a repeat of the Drone Joke, but this went down less well.



So I looked forward to the PC meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January which usually offers a fair degree of clarity. Having seen the Agenda, I predicted the meeting would end at 8.30. Everyone was being very jolly when I walked in and I would not have been surprised if they had got out the paper hats and streamers. David had sent his apologies and there were two on the Public Gallery.

We moved through quickly to the reports from our ECDC and CCC representatives, none of which had been sent. But Steve did have the good fortune to see Allen outside the Burwell Butcher that very morning, and Allen had an important message to the village. He would like everyone in the village to check the salt bins near them, and to let him know if they need filling or topping up. He anticipates a hard winter and hopes that the villagers will do this.

“Correspondence” raised some issues. Paul L was asked to draw up an agreement for the hiring out of our SID. He winced slightly as drawing up a legal agreement which covers every eventuality can be time consuming. Helen Bartley had sent a Christmas Card to the PC, and they were delighted as this is the first one they have ever received from the School. Steve said the ECDC auditors had raised a new query on his accounts as they have made a slight revision to the usual rules. And Newcastle has changed the system for filing VAT reports.

The Village Hall and Allotment affairs continue to make progress.

**There are no applications for the Clerk position, nobody wants the job. The situation is not yet desperate but it will be if it is not resolved by 29<sup>th</sup> March. So Steve proposed Plans B and C, and if these fail, there is always Plan Z ...**

The Clerk reported that there are no applications for the Clerk position and everyone so far approached does not want the job. It appears there is a shortage of people interested and that in South Cambridgeshire they are searching for six new clerks. The situation is not yet desperate but it will be if it is not resolved by 29<sup>th</sup> March (does this date ring a bell?). With some forethought Steve reeled off a number of contingency plans. He proposed B and C, and if these fail, there is Plan Z which would only be used in the last resort. Steve said it is not helped by the fact that the legislation and increased responsibilities of a clerk has

become far more onerous.

The forthcoming PC elections were discussed and it was revealed that none of the current members had been elected. By some careful management the PC had avoided an election for many years and thereby saved the village a minimum of £7,500, maybe more.

The meeting ended at exactly, yes exactly, 8.30.

*Alastair Everitt*

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## Boxing Day Hockey



The clouds and crowds gathered on Boxing Day for the Prior vs. Bulbeck annual hockey match. Swaffham Prior managed a brilliant turn-out of fourteen players. This meant we could play three rolling substitutions, keeping legs fresh on the pitch alongside the usual tactics of fear, surprise and an almost fanatical devotion to the Prior!

The match was a game of two halves (well four quarters actually), beginning well for Prior but unluckily slipping out of our hands in the second half. The team started with some fantastic defensive work and truly heroic saves by the ever-courageous Josh Willmott in goal. The second half however things began to slip as a Bulbeck managed a nifty goal followed by another in the last quarter and the match ended a slightly disappointing 2-0; a score which didn't seem to reflect the energy and grit shown by the Prior team.

The spectator crowd having begun modestly grew and grew as the match went on. Sources say it was a "massive field of people" and regular attender, one S.Spicer qualified that this was the "largest audience ever to watch a Boxing Day hockey match, period ! Both in person and around the globe".

A big thank you to Mandy Kingsmill for organising the team and Jo Jones (and Mr Kingsmill?) for umpiring what is always the best part of Christmas.

*Hester Bowers*

## Julie's February recipes for Valentines Day

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### Salmon with Tarragon Hollandaise

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1 tbsp olive oil  
2 salmon fillets, scaled, skin on, about 150g each  
125g asparagus tips, ends trimmed  
2 bunches cherry tomatoes on the vine  
1 tbsp chopped tarragon  
150ml hollandaise sauce, to serve, shop brought

1. Heat the oven to 200c/fan. Heat the oil in an oven proof pan over a high heat. Add the salmon, skin side down and cook for 5 mins until the skin is crisp.
2. Add the asparagus and the vine tomatoes, then place in the oven. Cook for 7-10 mins until the salmon is just cooked through.
3. Add the tarragon to the Hollandaise and stir through. Drizzle over the salmon and nicely place the asparagus and vine tomatoes in a decorative way.

A really easy and tasty meal.

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### Easy Red Velvet Cake

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300g self-raising flour  
300g caster sugar  
225ml vegetable oil  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
1 tsp white vinegar  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 eggs  
225ml buttermilk  
3-4 tbsps of red food colouring

For the cream cheese frosting  
225g cream cheese  
110g butter  
450g icing sugar  
1 or 2 tsps vanilla extract  
60g chopped nuts optional

1. Preheat oven to 180c. Grease or line three 20cm round cake tins.
  2. In a large bowl, mix together sugar, oil and eggs. Add the food colouring and vinegar to buttermilk. Add bicarbonate of soda to flour. Now add flour mixture and buttermilk mixtures alternately to the sugar-egg mix. Mix together well. Stir in 1 tsp vanilla and mix again. Pour mixture into prepared cake tins.
  3. Bake for 20 to 25 mins until cooked and knife comes out clean. Remove sponges and cool on a wire rack.
  4. For the icing mix together the cream cheese, butter, icing sugar and vanilla extract until perfectly creamed.
- Spread the frosting on top of each cake layer, finishing off with a top layer, finally scatter over with chopped nuts if desired.

## The Reading Group Reads...

### Ladder of Years

by Anne Tyler

Forty-year-old Cordelia Grinstead is last seen strolling along a Delaware beach, wearing nothing more than a bathing suit and beach robe and carrying a beach tote with five hundred dollars tucked inside, leaving her husband and three almost-grown children. She wasn't planning on leaving; it just happened.

Delia arrives at a new town where she knows no one, not intending to stay. But no-one in her family seems to want her back and there she reinvents herself as a single independent woman with no ties and begins living a new life altogether.

Soon Delia begins to find new friends and we meet a variety of quirky side characters. Anne Tyler steadily builds up a picture of life the way her characters live it. There are no huge dramas, no histrionics, just the ordinariness of daily life and of everyday people.

We all enjoyed this book at Book Club. We related to Delia Grinstead; most of us have thought about what it would be like to just walk away from our lives and to start over, or we have wondered what life would be like if we were someone else.

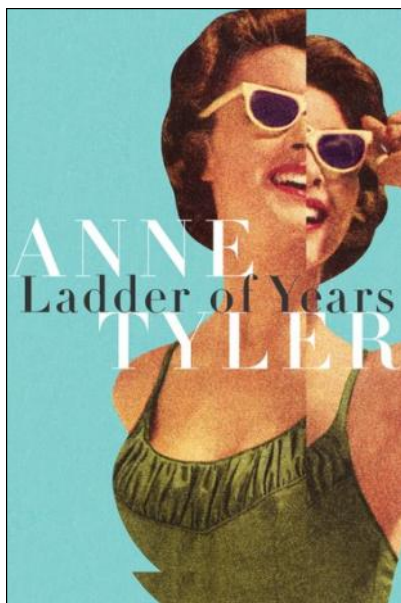
If you haven't read any of her books, this is a perfect place to start.

Next month (Wed February 6<sup>th</sup>) we are discussing Sally Rooney's latest novel *Normal People* which has been described as the "literary phenomenon of the decade." Perhaps you have already read it?


And on March 5<sup>th</sup> we plan to discuss Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat*. It's about time we looked at a classic!

Please come and join us – our meetings are kindly hosted by Caroline Matheson and we start at 8pm.



**Roz Chalmers**



St. Mary's Players - Swaffham Bulbeck  
present an  
Evening at the Theatre

 **DRY** 

**ROT**

 A comedy by **John Chapman** 

**Thu.21st. Fri.22nd. February - £10**  
**Sat. 23th. February - £12**

**7.30 in the School Hall**  
(all prices include glass of wine)

Tickets from: Geoffrey Datson 55 High Street  
Tel: 812395 or email: [datson@btconnect.com](mailto:datson@btconnect.com)

# 200th Anniversary Peal On The Bells Of St Cyriac's Church

“On the **9th December 1818** were rung by six ringers of Swaffham Prior, on the bells in that parish, 5040 changes, part treble bob and part plain bob” (*Cambridge Chronicle & Journal*, Friday 1st January 1819)

On the **9th December 2018** were rung by six ringers of the Ely Diocesan Association, on the bells in the same parish, 5040 changes, in seven surprise minor methods.

The ringers for the 2018 attempt came from Godmanchester (Mike Purday), Cambridge (Alan Winter; Phil Gorman), Great Shelford (Paul Seaman), and Reach (Lesley Boyle; Gareth Davies) and all were very pleased to mark the 200th anniversary of their predecessors' efforts. All the ringers at some time have rung at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. When the peal attempt was first organised we believed that we would be marking the first peal on the bells. The 'bible' of early bellringing performances, a database originally collated by the Reverend K.W.H. Felstead, showed 1818 as the date of the first peal. However, an earlier performance was brought to our attention, recorded in the *Cambridge Chronicle* for 7th December 1805. Nevertheless, any early nineteenth century peal was a notable achievement and we were happy to commemorate the second peal on the bells.

The very first peal was described as follows: “RINGING. - On the thanksgiving day was rung, on the beautiful new peal of 6 bells, at Swaffham Prior in this county, 5040 changes in 3 hours and 15 minutes, without once making a stop.”

We can certainly agree with the description of the bells. They are remarkably tuneful for a ring cast in 1791. The reference to thanksgiving day tells us that the first peal was rung on Thursday 5th December 1805 when Nelson's victory at Trafalgar was celebrated across the country. Unfortunately, by the time that the appointed day was reached, news had arrived of Nelson's death and some of the gloss went off the festivity. In some places the bells were rung half-muffled to mark his death - alternating loud and soft strokes. That probably didn't happen in Swaffham Prior on this occasion but I'm sure anyone who heard the bells of St Cyriac's ringing for Armistice Day morning in November will appreciate what a mournful and moving sound that can be.

We don't know how long the 1818 peal took to complete but, generally, peals today tend to be rung more quickly than those in the nineteenth century. Our peal was nearly half an hour quicker than the peal in 1805. In many cases the increased speed of ringing can be accounted for by improvements in technology, especially the introduction of ball bearings to reduce friction when the bell swings. However, when St Cyriac's bells were restored in the 1990s, their plain bearings and other fittings were replicated exactly as they would have been when John Briant first installed them two hundred years before. Historically, it is interesting to experience exactly



what it felt like to ring in the eighteenth century but, practically, it makes ringing a peal more difficult. Plain bearings benefit from more regular ringing than is currently managed at St Cyriac's. They also need to be oiled regularly and even after an hour or so's ringing they can begin to dry out. The extra effort required when that happens accounted for many of the blisters that Paul, our tenor ringer, had acquired by the end of the peal.

The generally accepted standard for a full peal is to ring more than 5000 changes. On seven or more bells all the changes have to be different to qualify. However, on six bells only 720 different combinations are possible - the so-called 'extent' -, so each is rung seven times to make a full peal of 5040 changes. There are many different ways of organising the 720 changes and each different way is called a method. In 1818 they rang two methods - Plain Bob, one of the most straightforward, and Treble Bob, a rather more complicated pattern. Like peal speeds, though, the complexity of methods that are rung regularly has also moved on in the last two hundred years. We rang seven different Surprise Minor methods - one extent of each, all named after places - London, Wells, York, Durham, Beverley, Surfleet and Cambridge. Like 'Plain' and 'Treble Bob', the term 'Surprise' just designates a group of methods that have some common features. Minor indicates that the methods were rung on six bells.

There have now been 33 peals rung on Swaffham Prior bells. The third was also rung in 1818, two days after Christmas. Perhaps encouraged by their success in early December, the ringers attempted an even longer performance. They completed nine and a bit extents in 4 hours and 8 minutes of ringing - a total of 6696 changes. Having had two peals in 18 days, the village then had to wait another 134 years for the next one in November 1952. Another twenty or so were rung during the 1950s and 1960s. There was only one in the 1970s and none in the 1980s. Since the bells were restored in 1991 there have been a further eight peals, the last three, by coincidence, being at regular four year intervals.

The band very much enjoyed ringing the peal and would like to thank John Chalmers, Alastair Everitt, Sharyn Robinson and the Churches Conservation Trust for helping to make it possible. We hope you enjoyed hearing the bells and that we did our predecessors proud.

**If you are interested in learning to ring or just visiting a ringing practice to see what bellringing is like, get in touch with Lesley Boyle ([lhmb Boyle@gmail.com](mailto:lhmb Boyle@gmail.com)) - unless you request otherwise your trial lesson would be at Swaffham Bulbeck where the bells are on ball bearings and easier to ring.**

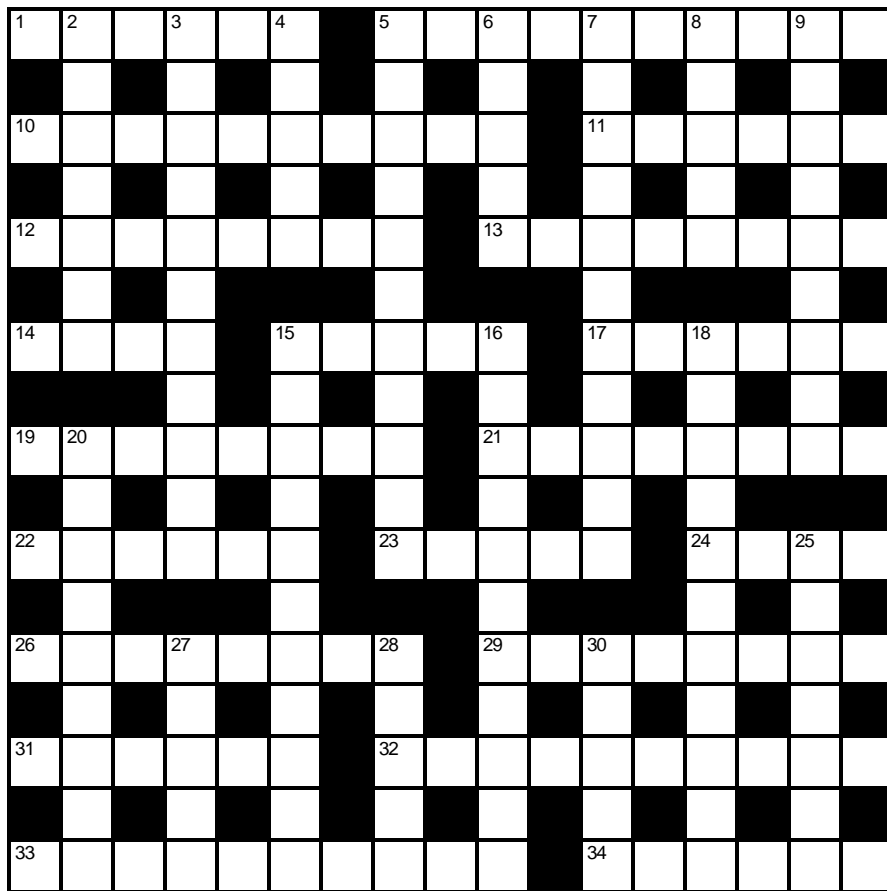
**When St Cyriac's bells were restored in the 1990s, their original plain bearings were replicated exactly as in 1818. But this makes ringing a peal more difficult, and Paul, our tenor ringer, acquired many blisters ....**

*Gareth Davies*

# Crossword Number 161

Compiled by **OUNCE**

This month's puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 18 February 2019. 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 Exceptionally bad language when bagel is stolen in Africa (6)
- 5 Note, study the stars for excellent cuisine (10)
- 10 Defective barrage? Credit I obtain by reusing this (7,3)
- 11 Needlework chant about bridge partners (6)
- 12 God becomes unethical when Turk's Head removed (8)
- 13 Article about stream; never-ending adventure film (8)
- 14 Swine swallows Republican; a smugly self-righteous one. (4)
- 15 Prove I was elsewhere, hiding corporal I bit (5)
- 17 Sly dickens of a dodger? (6)
- 19 Assistant, a disc jockey, is followed by crude taunt (8)
- 21 Taking small drinks, hot inside Navy for example (8)
- 22 Bedding of the French animal doctors (6)
- 23 Dacha in Russia hiding 66 feet (5)
- 24 Cleans starting with most of polished surfaces (4)
- 26 Homer and Pat fabricate figure of speech (8)
- 29 Occurrence when there's short measure little Stanley before Church (8)
- 31 Tiny document or just notes? (6)
- 32 White powder is runic gag? Crazy? No, sweet! (5,5)
- 33 Despite scrambled album one politician is able to walk about (10)
- 34 Bad week in slower extremes? Spit! (6)
- 3 Awful "wagon rage" with ancient city's railway? (6,5)
- 4 Warning, queen in metal shirt! (5)
- 5 Show extreme anger when trashing lilac bigots (2,9)
- 6 Sense place, we hear (5)
- 7 Doubt about native Americans' land? (11)
- 8 Post reportedly containing Greek and Arabic letters (5)
- 9 Mid-morning, Ma in new madness with question from Manuel? Dummy! (9)
- 15 Loss of sensation as a tisane he brews? (11)
- 16 This month has talent for irregularity (11)
- 18 Wild emu separate from means of determining vital statistics? (4,7)
- 20 Erudite Greek character compounded isotope (9)
- 25 111 forge mountaintop into pointed tool (7)
- 27 Finally, Leona and Toni leave Timbuktu. Farewell (5)
- 28 Cash on the nose for massive mammal (5)
- 30 Hatter leaves, straightens out omens (5)

## Solution to crossword no. 160

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

We congratulate Tansy Budd, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Jenny Brand, Martyn & Debbie Clark, Sue Jackson and Robert Nunn

## Down

- 2 Is one 'R' not taught at this school? (7)



Hello folks and welcome to the February edition of Out on the Wild Side. As we gracefully swim through Winter, we arrive in the month of Valentines, a time when partners can express love, romance and gratitude for each other. This is why I have chosen the Swan, because its deep love knows no bounds and will protect and mate with its partner for life. Learning to live as they do without a need to look back but stay steady and keep gliding on and with Valentines arriving soon, it's time for couples everywhere to celebrate their achievements together. When you learn to fly, like the wonderful Swan, you realise that such beauty can be attained and it's a journey of life and love that is endless in wonder.

This is true of Swans, who slowly but gradually build up trust in each other, knowing that commitment once begun has no end. Choosing a mate in life can be challenging but once you find love, you realise that you hold on to it and it keeps you strong, both in your body and soul. Swans are called Cygnus from the family Anatidae from their Latin name. I would consider that we need to learn about the wonder name and I think that we are all trying to think about love and what loves means to all of us at this special time of year, when snow may be on the ground but the heart is never frozen.

Swans are wonderful parents and know how to be very protective of their spouse but also critical of their offspring and their family. Nothing is more important than family when their loves keeps you going and the grace and beauty with which they do this demonstrates their commitment to each other and to those around them. It's a life that if you learn from many years together that what doesn't keep you apart only makes you stronger. It's a beautiful dance that Swans learn from each other through thick and thin. Their love even continues even if one of their pair dies, the other partner will still love it for as long as it lives. The power of love is awe-

inspiring, magical and magnificent. It's a blessing that keeps the Swan universe ticking over.

Swans accept that hierarchy creates stability and prosperity and we must accept this. We can never learn enough from this. Sir David Attenborough respects these Swans more than any other bird I would guess because

they demonstrate without fear that love is boundless irrespective of your station in life. That is why they live so long and why are an example to all of us. Swans also are very effective fighting teams because their love for each other is so strong, it's a mutual benefit that enhances their core love and keeps the pair stronger than ever. Britain has the most exceptional life pairing and look what they've achieved for their country and for each other, a bond that will last forever.

Swans take disruption in their stride and realise that the race is not to the swift but the steady. They inspire us to love and to give more than we take from each other. Swans not only can swim but can walk and fly too. **The Mute Swan is highly intelligent and also the heaviest flying bird. There are 6,400 breeding pairs altogether.** Swans can also fly as fast as 60mph which is pretty spectacular, which is why they have such long take offs and landings on the surface of the water. To borrow a phrase, even the 'water' has learnt not to annoy the Swan. There is not another bird that can claim this honour.

They treat ducks and other river birds with respect unless the ducks and other river creatures become too quarrelsome and threaten the harmony and peace of the river, which is what makes the riverside a joyous place to be in the first place. Let's not forget that Swans are the only bird under the royal protection of the Queen and for good reason. Their courage, love and strength are unparalleled. Swans have cygnets, usually 1-2 in a brood per year and they can live with their offspring from 6-9 months, which compared to ducks is considerably longer than just the one month. Swan Eggs also take between 35-42 days to hatch.

The male Swan is called a Cob and a female Swan is called a Pen. As already mentioned, the White Mute Swan isn't just beautiful but it mates for life successfully because as a pair, they protect their ability to breed through the long years of their relationship. You can also get black swans that are native to Australia as well as their more famous White Mute Swan cousins, though these are less successful because they breed more frequently with other Black Swans. These traits reveal that the White or Mute Swan has a bond that not only is successful enough to keep the couple going, but they don't need to stray other. This is the ultimate recipe for success, keeping the bond fresh, while giving more protection to their species also.

According to keen observers, the 'swansong' is a myth, and when swans part company in life, their song is released. A secret is learning that love can last many lifetimes and it's the weight of it that keeps you going. The wonder of it all is the best thing of all. Mates don't just do romance, they have to learn to give and take and this is something you need to cherish. Time is a special thing in the natural world, you can realise that love is a bond like blood and is thicker than water, which Swans glide over while paddling.

**According to keen observers, the 'swansong' is a myth....**

**Jorge Monteiro**

*Image- courtesy of Chris Grady*

## News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

**Health Care Assistant:** Bottisham Medical Practice has recently recruited a new Health Care Assistant (HCA) Clarissa Fordham who starts work at the Surgery in mid-January and we are all very much looking forward to her joining the practice. She will be supporting the nursing team by providing a wide range of general clinical procedures for patients while working within our new clinical treatment facility.

**Antibiotic Use:** Antibiotics are a vital tool used to manage bacterial infections. A Public Health England report highlights how more than 3 million common procedures such as caesarean sections and hip replacements could become life-threatening without them. This campaign returns to alert the public to the risks of antibiotic resistance, urging them to always take their doctor, nurse or healthcare professional's advice on antibiotics. Antibiotics do not work on virus infections.

**New Guide for stroke survivors:** Around 80,000 people a year are admitted to hospital with a stroke, and there are more than one million stroke survivors in England. The recently updated My Stroke Guide from the Stroke Association – Helpline 0303 3033 100 - gives people free access to trusted information about stroke and risk factors, alongside advice on prevention. It includes personal stories from stroke survivors, case studies from healthcare professionals who have used the guide and explains how it can support staff working with people affected by stroke. It also includes information on locally commissioned support services.

**Walks for Health:** The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 15 and 27 February, 15 and 27 March, 17 April 2019. 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 28 March 2019 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

*Bottisham Patients' Group*

### Spring Jumble sale

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019

From 2-4pm

St. James' Church, High Street, Lode, Cambridge.

CB25 9EH

There is a car park opposite the church.

The entrance fee is £1 for adults and free for children

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and cakes are available when you tire of your strenuous jumbling!

We look forward to seeing you.

Some of the proceeds of the sale will be used to offset expenses for the pop up picnic. The date for this is August 26<sup>th</sup> bank holiday Monday, so hopefully see you then too.

## Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service



CFRS is encouraging residents to register their appliances for a safer 2019. Just visit [registermyappliance.org.uk](http://registermyappliance.org.uk), and register large appliances bought within the last 12 years.

Registering appliances can instantly improve safety in the home as it ensures that householders can be contacted swiftly if a safety repair is ever needed or if an item is recalled by the manufacturer.

With many households relying on appliances every day to handle essential chores, chill food and cook for their families, this quick task affords peace of mind.

As an incentive to encourage the registration of appliances, many of the leading brands on 'registermyappliance.org.uk' are offering registrants entry into free draws for a range of desirable prizes. Appliances being registered don't have to be brand new or in warranty to be applicable.

### **Get the call - become an 'on-call firefighter'**

CFRS is looking for men and women from all backgrounds to become on-call firefighters and provide emergency cover from either their home or their workplace.

On-call firefighters are a vital part of our Service and community. In addition to responding to emergency incidents, our on-call firefighters support their communities by providing information and advice on a range of community safety topics such as the one above.

They receive an annual wage to reflect the time they commit to being available plus additional payments for attending incidents and drill nights (one evening a week for two hours).

## **BON MOT NUMBER NINETY FOUR**

"Let us read, and let us dance

– two amusements that will never do any harm to the world"

*Voltaire (1694 - 1778)*

## The Swaffhams' WI

We had an interesting talk about the Museum of Cambridge, formerly the Folk Museum, given by John Flood, one of the museum's trustees.

It was opened in 1936 and we have the Cambridge Federation of Women's Institutes, to thank for that. In 1933, the CFWI, held an exhibition, called "A Festival of Olden Times", which was held in the Guildhall. Each village, had presented objects of local interest and as a result, there were calls for a permanent social history collection, to be established.

An association of "town and gown", was subsequently formed, including local worthies—Lord Fairhaven, Florence Keynes—the first female town councillor, the Chairwoman of the CFWI- Catherine Parsons, whose original idea it had been to set up the exhibition in the Guildhall, the Director of the Fitzwilliam and members of the Rotarians.

Fortunately, the Town Council had a property to let—the White Horse, 2, Castle Street—where it remains today, though somewhat changed.

The Museum, was to house a collection of common objects, that would reflect the life of the local people, over the centuries.

John first showed us a picture of a Cambridge Street- nobody knew where it was! It was Petit Cury—quite unrecognisable—things have changed.

Then came mostly Victorian artefacts, pictures of workhouses and harvest times, posters of school dinners and patent medicines, in which tapeworms, opium and laudanum seemed to figure quite largely.

These and hundreds of other objects are all in the Museum, laid out in the rooms, that are not so different, to those in the White Horse in 1936.

It's certainly worth a visit and needs local support.

Our next meeting, is on the 18th February, when our speaker will be Mike Francis talking on Senior Fraud Protection.

Everyone welcome.

*Margaret Joyce*

### The Museum of Cambridge — well worth a visit

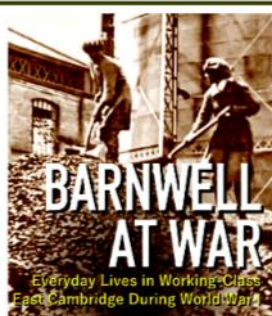
Our 2019 schedule is in operation — we're open for visitors throughout the week, as follows:

- Monday: open for tours at 12:00pm and 2:00pm
- Tuesday: 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Wednesday: 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Thursday: 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Friday: 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Saturday: 10:30am – 5:00pm
- Sunday: 11:30am – 4:30pm

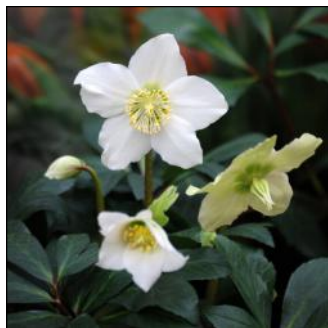
The Museum of  
Cambridge, 2-3  
Castle Street

Did you know that our Museum Shop stocks a wide range of exciting and unique products that will make perfect gifts throughout the year?

We are proud to support local artists and craftspeople and our range of *Made in Cambridge* items are great for young and old alike.







*Hellebore Niger — Kill or  
Cure for Depression?*

## VILLAGE GARDENERS

Joe Sharman from Monksilver Nursery near Oakington gave us a very interesting talk on Hellebores and he brought quite a lot with him so we were able to browse and buy afterwards!

Hellebores are excellent value for early colour and the bees love them too. There are two native hellebores one of which is in many of our gardens. It is the Stinking Hellebore (*hellebore foetidus*). The flowers are sweet smelling but the stinking part comes from the leaves when they are crushed. This particular variety has long stems and flourishes in dry areas.

There are variations of each plant and they can be unique to a particular village so that Swaffham Prior varieties are different from the Reach or Swaffham Bulbeck ones.

Many of the hellebores have blooms that hang their heads and this is to protect them from the rain. *Hellebores Argutifolius* is native to the southern Mediterranean and likes shady dry banks. The leaves are quite spiky and it will grow here but in the sun.

One of the best known hellebores is *Hellebore Niger*, so called because when the roots are dried they go black and are ground down and once was used as a medicine to cure depression. However, as it is now known that all parts of the hellebore are poisonous it might be a case of "kill or cure"!

*Hellebore visicarius* grows in the Middle East in the mountains of Turkey and northern Syria. It needs the cold of winter, snow that melts quickly and very hot summers. It has huge seed pods that burst and spread their seeds all over the desert.

Hellebores are found in Corsica, the Middle East, Italy, the Balearics, the countries of old Yugoslavia and one was brought along the Silk Road from China. There have been none found in north or South America.

*Hellebore orientalis* grows wild in the Turkish mountains and in Georgia. It is evergreen, tall, has small flowers and has proved to be the best 'mother' plant for breeding purposes.

Hellebores have been around for over three million years. Seeds can be taken but in order to have the same colour and variety one needs to place a paper bag over over the seed heads as they scatter everywhere! They can be divided in the autumn by chopping them into chunks and replanting. Large hybrids need feeding but most of us admitted, privately, to never feeding them!

Joe advised us that the best place to buy a hellebore is from a nursery as you can then see the flower colour and pattern. Those plants bought via mail order can vary enormously from the pictures.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19th February when Andrew Sankey will be giving a talk entitled 'Pests - or Mr. Mole and Friends'. Everybody is most welcome and we start at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

***Ruth Scovil***

# Anglesey Abbey News

## **The Winter Garden at Anglesey Abbey**

The year of 2019 marks 21 years since the opening of our, now famous, Winter Garden. Planted to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Lord Fairhaven in 1896, the quarter of a mile path contains over 150 different varieties of plants.

The design of Lord Fairhaven's garden meant that there was always an area of beauty, regardless of the season, with the one exception of winter. An extremely sensory mix of plants, the Winter Garden now offers colour, scent and beauty in the frosty months of January to March – a particular highlight being the beautiful snowdrops which are bursting into flower across the gardens to herald the arrival of spring.

Anglesey Abbey is renowned for having one of the finest snowdrops collections in the country with over 300 varieties of the delicate white flowers, including 20 varieties that have been discovered at Anglesey Abbey.

There are a number of ways to explore the snowdrops, from self-led walks to guided tours. If you're interested in learning more about the snowdrops here at Anglesey Abbey, why not join one of our specialist tours with the garden team and discover our renowned collection of over 300 varieties – details of how to book can be found on our website (tours running from 28<sup>th</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> February, weekdays only).

## **Half Term Fun**

Get a head start on your half term fun and join us at Anglesey Abbey this for some family adventures in our Hoe Fen Wildlife Discovery Area, open daily from 9:30am. Pick up our nature trail at reception to be guided on a discovery adventure, spotting woodland creatures and experiencing the multi-sensory features of Hoe Fen.

## **Make the most out of your visit**

Here at Anglesey Abbey, we're opening our gardens and restaurant from 9:30am permanently to help you get the most out of your visit and what's more, Redwoods restaurant is now offering a tasty breakfast menu to kick start your day. Pick up a hot bacon roll or hearty porridge to set you up for your day, or if breakfast isn't your thing, pick up a warming winter drink to take away and take it out into the gardens

with you. (Breakfast is available between 9:30-10:30am daily).



**Anglesey Abbey  
is renowned for  
having one of the  
finest snowdrops  
collections in the  
country**

## Wicken Fen News

There's still an abundance of winter wildlife to see at Wicken Fen. Our Country-side Manager, Martin Lester, has been enjoying the sounds of corvids on the fen; the corvid family includes crows, jackdaws, rooks, magpies and jays. Martin recommends a walk along Monk's Lode to hear the chattering of jackdaws and rooks. There are around 1000 of them at the moment, and they come in to roost on St Edmund's Fen almost immediately before dark. It's a spectacular sight and sound!

Visitors are enjoying seeing the magnificent hen harriers as they overwinter here at Wicken Fen. If you can visit in the afternoon as the sun starts to set, head for the Visitor Centre, Boardwalk hide, or our new viewing platform to look out for hen harriers quartering over the fen, looking for a safe place to roost. Our friendly team will be happy to point you in the right direction.

It's the time of year when we start planning for the new season ahead, and looking for new volunteers to help us at Wicken Fen. If you have some spare time and would like to join our friendly team, we currently have some interesting volunteer opportunities available. If you'd like to find out a little more about volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Manager, Peter Green, email: [peter.green@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:peter.green@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Join us for some fun events for half-term including **Wintry Wild Art** on Tuesday 19 February and **Go Wild: Winter Outdoor Survival** on Thursday 21 February. We'll also be offering 'Wild Weather' activities in the Family Discovery Area of the Visitor Centre. Winter weather can be unpredictable, but we've got ideas to get families outside whatever the weather!

Other events include: **Mucky Pups** for under 5s on 13 and 14 February (this month's theme is Feathery February), and our **World Wetlands Day Walk** for adults on Saturday 2 February. Full details of all events and booking arrangements are available in the 'What's On' section of the Wicken website at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen)



Hen Harrier on the hunt at Wicken Fen



## **What does love look like?**

This is how a group of children responded to the question:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend down and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love."

**"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth."**

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired."

**"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mummy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss"**

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen."

**"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate."**

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well."

**"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore."**

"Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

**"You really shouldn't say, 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget."**

I love the depth of insight evident in these children's comments on 'love'. I believe the deepest longing of the human heart is to be loved. If you love someone, let them know, today, don't assume they know. But, God didn't just tell us He loves us, He demonstrated His love, in giving His Son Jesus. ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him."*** John 3.16-17

The Bible says love looks like this: Love is patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud. Love does not dishonour others, is not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. Love always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13.4-8)

If you want to know and experience more of the life and love from God for you, it would be great to welcome you at RENEW. **Rev. Alan Brand**

## **RENEW Services for February 2019**

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Morning Worship. 10.30am*

*With Holy Communion. (Bottisham Primary School)*

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

*Followed by shared lunch*

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. 5.30-6-30pm Village Praise 3. (at Lode Chapel)**

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

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February. 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)*

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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.

### **Offers**

HP Colour Laserjet printer 2600n, in good working order and well maintained. No longer required for work purposes. Ian 01223 811255.

Coalport china tea set - 'Ming Rose' design, includes: cups, saucers (at least 4 of each), cake plate, sugar bowl, milk jug. Don't think it's ever been used. Sonia 07834 77201

Small blue double sofa-bed in good condition. Marilyn or David Butler 01233 811888

### **Wanted**

Any seedlings of holly, blackthorn, hawthorn, wild rose or other thorny hedgerow bush/shrub. Any ash or hazel seedlings would be appreciated. Toni, 07803 364278

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>)

Dear Friends,

Marie Condo is a petite Japanese decluttering guru who has been seeking to bring joy to people for some years. Recently however, her programmes on Netflix have been reaching more and more people, and her philosophy has even brought controversy since she suggested that people should keep only thirty books.



Sometimes when the world seems to be spiralling out of control around us and people feel they have little control, it is reassuring to find a small part of our lives where we have a measure of control. We can look at what we own and make choices about whether to keep things or pass them on. Then, when we have made the choice, we are free to implement it.

The Condo way is to empty out a drawer or a cupboard and then to pick up each item and consider whether it brings you joy. If it is something you use, something that brings you pleasure or makes you feel joy because it is beautiful then, almost reverently, it can be put back neatly in its place. If it does not bring you joy or it is not something you use then it can be upcycled, given away to friends or taken to a charity shop.

There is a great sense of freedom in walking lightly in the world but I for one am not good at this. There is a great deal of wisdom in not clinging to material things for comfort, or a sense of identity and value, yet many of us are very wedded to what we own. It is a very helpful thing to look at our possessions and to consider carefully what they mean to us and why they are important and perhaps to live with fewer things.

Jesus talked to people many times and in many settings about their relationship to possessions and wealth. He taught about the importance and value of spiritual wealth and encouraged people to see that the material world is a place we travel through not a place where we can settle permanently and put down deep roots. In time we will all have to leave behind what we own and the things that we value. What we take with us will be the beauty those things have brought to our lives, the memories they carry,

the people that gave them to us and the feelings they evoked. These are the things that have lasting value.

**“ It would seem that there is a trend amongst younger generations to have fewer belongings to move around and to dust... ”**

It would seem that there is a trend amongst younger generations to have fewer belongings to move around and to dust; fewer pictures because much of it is stored on their phones and fewer books because many of their books are on devices with a library in the cloud. When Jesus spoke, he didn't talk about the cloud, but he did talk about heaven and said that we should value spiritual treasures that can be stored in heaven and which will have eternal value and significance for us. For where our treasure is stored that's where our hearts will be too.

It is a lifetime's learning, to walk gently through the world's treasures holding lightly to their pull upon us. It takes a lifetime of care to leave a small footprint rather than a large hole in the world's resources. It is the moments, the experiences, the wisdom and the love that we take with us when we leave the world. These, together with an assurance of the love and presence of God are our spiritual landscape and our eternal treasure.

*Sue Giles*

## **Church Services in February**

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

### **Sunday 3 February, Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

11am Holy Communion (CW1T)

### **Sunday 10 February, Fourth Sunday before Lent**

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1T)

### **Sunday 17 February, Third Sunday before Lent**

11am Family Service

### **Sunday 24 February, Second Sunday before Lent**

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Bottisham

*St Mary's, Swaffham Prior is part of the ANGLESEY GROUP OF PARISHES  
together with:*

*Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, 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; [suethetic@btinternet.com](mailto:suethetic@btinternet.com)  
and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; [gina.radford@btinternet.com](mailto:gina.radford@btinternet.com)*

*Detail of services and events can be found on [www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk](http://www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk)  
and [www.facebook.com/angleseychurches](https://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

### February 2019

Wed	6	Book Club, 8pm [7]
Thu	14	PC Meeting, VH, 7.30pm
Mon	18	WI, VH, 7.30pm [16]
Tue	19	Village Gardeners, VH, 8pm [17]
Wed	20	<b>Crier Copy Deadline</b>
Thu	21	Evening at the Theatre, 7.30pm, School Hall, Bulbeck [7]
Sat	23	Evening at the Theatre, 7.30pm, School Hall, Bulbeck [7]
MAR		
Sat	9	Spring Jumble Sale, St James' Church, Lode, 2-4pm [14]
Wed		

*Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article*

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