



The Swaffham Crier

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Editorial

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL OUR READERS! Now is the time of year we traditionally say thank-you to all the people who help out with our monthly *Crier*. First of all, our **correspondents** and **photographers**, with some special apologies this year. Our new email provider's spam filter is a whizz at evicting the Danielas and Irinas who were occupying some 95% of our inbox before it came along. But sometimes it gets too enthusiastic, and many apologies to Sue Giles and Ophir whose evidently too steamy contributions ("Dulkayr" must be a very rude word in Tibetan – see p. 24) were censored last month. We're keeping a sharp eye on it now, but if your copy is meanly ignored, do not sit and seethe, but get on to us.

Next, our **distributers**: who venture out in all weathers to make sure everybody receives their copy every month. Especial thanks go to Betty Prime, who has taken retirement this month after a short spell on the delivery front. Since she and her husband Ron Prime were our editors in the eighties? Only 30 plus years then!

Next our **Advertisers**: the Crier receives no grants or financial support (bar some gratefully received donations). Thank-you for all your support during 2018, we can't exist without you. If you'd like to advertise do get in touch: *Crier* pages are the first place anyone looks if they need something doing. And especial thanks are due this year our advertising manager Peter Cook, whose sterling work means that we can now afford to incorporate colour into the magazine.

And lastly, **donators**: we may be an entirely voluntary publication but printing and other essentials cost *real* money. Donations make an essential difference over and above our usual income, so if you appreciate the *Crier*, do consider a few quid now and again.

Apologies to Jonathan Giles, who was only vaguely considering the Parish Clerk's job before the Crier jumped the gun. Vacancy still open (p. 7).

Read all the Community Heat Scheme latest (or is it?) and see you New Year coffeeing... **Caroline Matheson**

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Cover Picture: *Will 2019 be any better?* by **Elizabeth Odling**



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Poppies for Remembrance

No-one can have failed to notice the wonderful displays of poppies in our five Anglesey parishes in November. Each church had its own displays, as did the war memorials of Lode and Swaffham Bulbeck, and the Land Girls Memorial in Swaffham Prior. Most spectacular, and the main focus, was the cascade down the tower of St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck, with the Lode memorial also stunningly effective. Those who ventured into Swaffham Bulbeck church will have found a display of purple poppies to commemorate animals lost in war.

The facts and figures behind these displays are truly amazing:

Over 8000 poppies, crocheted, knitted and felt

Over 100 adults (including six men) and 200 children involved

All four schools, the Guides, both WIs, Queen's Court, Swaffham Prior Quilters, Lode Coffee Morning and Red2Green all joined in

Over £400 raised for the British Legion Poppy Appeal

Thanks to press coverage from BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, That's TV Cambridge, Cambridge Independent, Newmarket Journal and Cambridge News, visitors came from far and wide. One traveller had been staying near Newmarket and, realising that he wouldn't be home in time for any services in his home town in Yorkshire, stopped off in Swaffham Bulbeck for his own act of remembrance having seen the report in the Newmarket Journal. But most importantly, the displays provided a focus for our own communities to remember those that died, and a backdrop to the services of remembrance held across the benefice.

Our thanks go to all who participated and supported in any way – those who planned, donated, made, hosted, tied, stored and installed – you are too many to thank individually but you know who you are. We have been asked by many of you, what will happen to the poppies now? The current intentions are that the Lode display is kept intact for use in future years, the Swaffham Bulbeck tower cascade is divided up to make altar fronts for the churches, and individual poppies are sold to wear next year.

Thank you once again for all your support for this project, and through it, for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. If you would like to join our group on a regular or occasional basis, we meet on odd-dated Tuesdays in the Black Horse, Swaffham Bulbeck. We usually work on our own projects, be that knitting, crochet or other handicrafts, and from time to time, embark on a group project. All our welcome, from learners to experts.

Contact us: angleseyinstitches@gmail.com

FB: angleseyinstitches

That's TV report: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?sns=em&v=hMRm-UgD9Jw>

Clare Wilkes



The Cascading Poppies at Swaffham Bulbeck's Church on Remembrance Day
(See p. 18 for more)

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

Last month the *Crier* reported that Jonathan Giles is to be the new Clerk. Jonathan had expressed an interest in the position and had come along to judge whether he could fit it into his already busy schedule. After careful thought he decided against taking on the position. How wise it is to do this rather than over committing oneself, and falling down on the job. This illustrates just how easy it is to get a story wrong and to create FAKE NEWS (*Oh alright! Eds*)



Paul L and Mike had given their apologies and there were only three in the Public Gallery which was very disappointing with an important vote coming up on the Agenda.

Allen gave a resume of all ECDC's achievements for the year. He then dealt with a burning question which has been consuming SP for the last few months - what has Paul L got against the new black bin bags. Allen provided the answer. It seems that, though thinner, the bags are much stronger than last year's supply because they have higher rate of plastic polymers which allows them to carry more weight. Allen said the only downside is that, if a person tries to insert something larger than the opening, the bag will split.

Allen has also been working hard on behalf of The Red Lion regarding its roadside notices. It seems you are only allowed to have a notice on council land if you open and supply food every day. So Steve has to take his notices down or risk a very heavy fine. Allen has spoken to Henry Hurrell who owns land nearby and Steve was urged to speak to Henry who it seems will have no objection to a notice board on his private land. And there will be no restriction on the size. Steve added there had been a complaint from a resident of Cage Hill about The Red Lion notice at the top of Cage Hill, saying it made it difficult to see the oncoming traffic. Steve suggested it be moved to the other side of the road.

Then we eventually moved onto the other big vote of the week, the first being that for Theresa May's Brexit Plan on the 11th December. Well, Theresa dealt with that by deferring it until the week of 14th January! One forgets that the PM can make decisions in the same way as Donald Trump. All MPs wanted the vote, all the people wanted the vote, and the only person who didn't was Theresa May. She wants more time in order to shorten the time available to discuss possibilities other than either her deal, or no deal.

This was very disappointing nationally. But surely, locally, our PC would be more successful in having a vote whether to support the Community Heat Scheme proposal or not. You may remember the PC had been assured a Technical Report would be available on 23rd November and that this gave the SPCLT adequate time to complete their application providing the PC made its decision on 13th December. The PC would even have agreed to an emergency meeting if this had proved necessary. So, what happened? Nothing. The Technical Report did not appear on the 23rd November or any time thereafter. One can understand that reports can be delayed. But what cannot be acceptable is that the PC was not given any

information, apology, or reason for its non-appearance. They were treated with total disrespect. They were there just like stuffed dummies and some were a bit annoyed that they had been so pressurised at the last meeting and accused of not being co-operative. Then David produced a Cambridge County Council News notice dated "XX November" which shows it was assumed the PC would agree. This is reproduced elsewhere in this *Crier* (p. 13) as it is now sufficiently large to be a separate issue. If you have any interest at all in District Heating, in local democracy, in the CCC or in what your CCC representative is involved with, you must read it.

The PC...were there just like stuffed dummies and some were a bit annoyed that they had been so pressurised at the last meeting and accused of not being co-operative.

However there was some light relief when Allotments was reached on the Agenda. "Has anyone sent the letter to James Willmott yet?" This was like a family arriving back from holiday at their front door, and asking "Who has the key?" "I thought you had it". "Not me, wasn't it X?" And so it went on, until they realised that no-one had sent the letter. For the last three years this subject has been a bit of a frolic and has not shown the PC at its best. I have not spoken to James but it is possible that he is a little bemused about having to kick his heels while awaiting a letter which everyone thought had gone out in September. And I should imagine all James wants to do is to turn over a few sods, ready for the frost to break up the soil in preparation for Spring sowing. October, November and December were perfect for a rough dig. January, if he receives the letter and his application is successful, may be less favourable. But there are still a few "ifs" to be overcome yet.

A perfect example of how efficient the PC can be was illustrated at the same meeting when Sandra reported an incident with the defibrillator last month. A person was in need, a villager went to the phone box, the number to ring was obscured in a shadow caused by the light, the person did not have his reading glasses, went home to collect them. and eventually phoned up. In spite of the delay everything turned out all right, but it may not have done. Next day I happened to walk past and glanced to see the size of the obscured type. I could not see it but there straight in front of me was a large notice with all the information you needed, and which could be read with or without glasses. That is the usual efficiency of the PC.

The same has happened with the cemetery. For some time Sandra had been unhappy about some unkempt parts of the cemetery. Vince Neale was employed, cleared it all up within budget, and the problem is solved for a time.

There is further news on the requested extra parking spaces in Fairview Grove. Martin Mead will install them for, say, £10,000. The CCC with its Joint Local Highways Initiative only uses it's own contractors for the work and the cost would be double which means the village would need to find £10,000. The reason it is double is because the CCC's contractors always build to motorway standards which

allow for regular 40 ton lorries. Just what you need in Fairview Grove! It would be good if we had a CCC representative to raise this with. We will have to wait for another year before making another application.

So, that was the end of another successful year with all CIL projects completed, most people happy, and which ended in The Red Lion with members chomping sausage rolls and mince pies.

If only 2018 had ended in such a jolly way. There are uncertainties throughout the world and in our own Great Britain. But, if you had kept a very close eye on the news, you would know that the only certainty is that Prince Charles will be our King within 18 months. Happy New Year.

Alastair Everitt

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING

10.30 – 12.00 Noon



**Friday
25th January
2018**



44 High Street
Cake Stall & Raffle
Produce Stall

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

have an immediate 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.

VACANT ALLOTMENT

There is a vacant allotment to the rear of the cemetery.
Apply to the Clerk at swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com.

BON MOT NUMBER NINETY THREE

“In a Referendum a 52-48 percentage would be
unfinished business by a long way.
If the Remain campaign wins two-thirds to one-third,
that ends it.”

17 May 2016 Nigel Farage (1964 -)

Bid to reunite haul of burgled property with owners

DETECTIVES are releasing photographs of thousands of items of property recovered as part of an investigation into a prolific crime gang.

They hope to reunite the items, which are believed to have come from crimes in Cambridgeshire and surrounding counties between 9 December 2016 and 9 January 2018, with their rightful owners.

Last month, the gang members were sentenced to a total of 71 years in jail. They had committed more than 200 burglaries, including nearly 100 in Cambridgeshire, costing victims more than £2 million pounds.

Gang members would mask their faces using balaclavas and smash or force open doors or windows in broad daylight. They would steal specific items, mainly high-powered BMWs and Audis, firearms, cash and jewellery, all of which they could dispose of through contacts.

Norfolk suffered a similar number of burglaries to Cambridgeshire while other offences took place in Suffolk, Essex and Bedfordshire.

The images can be viewed here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ophawksbury/>

Those who believe an item belongs to them should email OperationHawksbury@cambs.pnn.police.uk with their name, date and address of offence, crime number, exhibit number/album-photo ref of property, contact details, including email address, and any receipts/proof of purchase or photographs of items.

More on the sentencing of the crime gang here <https://www.cambs.police.uk/news-and-appeals/burglary-conspiracy-jail-Norwich>



**Just a few of the
proceeds of 200
recent
Cambridgeshire
burglaries on
view for owners
to identify and
collect.**

Julie's January Recipes

I was looking at recipes for a healthy option after all the over indulgence of Christmas, but being one who likes the excuse to celebrate all or anything I thought I would put in some recipes for Burns Night.

Cock-a-leekie soup

1 tbsp vegetable oil	2 celery sticks, chopped
1 medium chicken, jointed into pieces	1-2 leeks, washed and cut into thick rounds and retain the leek tops
180g smoked bacon lardons	Splash of white wine
2 carrots, chopped	

1. Heat the oil in a large heavy based saucepan until hot. Fry the chicken pieces until golden brown, remove and set aside. Add the bacon, carrots, celery and leek tops, and fry for 5 mins until brown. Pour off any excess fat.
2. Splash in the wine and boil rapidly, scraping the bottom of the pan. Return the chicken pieces to the pan with the herbs and add enough cold water to cover. Slowly bring to the boil and simmer for 40 mins until the chicken is tender.
3. Remove the chicken to a plate. Strain the soup into a clean saucepan and discard all the other ingredients. Leave to stand for a few minutes and skim off any fat that rises to the top. Pull the meat from the chicken bones and tear into large chunks.
4. Simmer the soup with the chicken, leeks and prunes for another 20-30 mins. Season to taste and serve with crusty bread.

Raspberry Cranachan trifle

568ml pot double cream	<i>For the topping</i>
284ml pot double cream	140g butter
250g tub mascarpone	4 tbsp honey
140g sifted icing sugar	200g whole jumbo porridge oats
6 tbsp Scottish whisky	100g golden caster sugar
1kg defrosted frozen raspberries	100g roughly chopped hazelnuts

1. First make the topping by melting the butter and the honey in a saucepan, add in all the other ingredients until everything is well coated. Heat the oven to 180c fan and spread the mix out on a baking sheet and bake for 20mins until crisp. Cool and crumble into pieces and set aside.

2 For the Whisky cream, beat both pots of cream with the mascarpone, icing sugar and whisky until smooth. In a separate bowl stir in a couple of tbps of icing sugar into the raspberries to taste.

3. To assemble: spoon some raspberries into the bottom of a glass bowl, followed by a layer of cream and then oats. Repeat 2-3 times finishing with a scattering of oats on the top. Finally before serving dust with icing sugar.

Enjoy! Wishing you all a Happy and healthy New Year.

Julie Nunn

Advent By Candlelight 2018

You know that with Cambridge Voices you will always get an imaginative choice of music and great singing presented with showmanship and theatricality. The Advent by

Candlelight Concert on 9th December was no exception and the music was much enhanced by the readings from members of the audience and by opportunities for some community singing.

The choir have recently dispensed with having a conductor. Rehearsal and performance decisions are now made collaboratively by the singers. Nevertheless, the concert still retained the imprint of Ian de Massini's quirky DNA, from his introductory talk, through subtle nods and winks as individual singers came in on cue, to his dash to the organ to accompany the hymn singing, and by the inclusion of his own musical compositions and arrangements.

For the St Mary's part of the concert the church seating had been re-arranged so that the audience faced the north aisle and the war memorial windows. The stained glass was illuminated by external lights and together with candles on the window ledges provided the low-level, atmospheric lighting.

Before the choir made their first entry, singing from the porch, Ian explained that the choice of music and readings had been woven together to celebrate disparate, though related, centenaries - the ending of the First World War, the beginnings of women's suffrage, the foundation of the Republic of Estonia, and the deaths of the composers Hubert Parry and Claude Debussy.

There were too many items to mention them all. Everyone will have had their own favourites but the memorable music for me in the first half was the motet *Bogoroditse Devo* by Arvo Pärt, Estonia's most famous composer, and the solo rendition of *Homeward*, a setting by Sarah Morgan of a poem by Cicely Fox-Smith that marks the part that both men and horses played in the Great War.

Dead lads and shadowy horses — I see them just the same,
I see them and I know them, and name them each by name,
Going down to shining waters when all the West's a-glow,
And the lads sitting sideways and singing as they go.

Between the music, many of the readings were from the war poets. Ivor Gurney and Wilfred Owen's works are well-known. Sybil Bristowe's 'Over the Top' and Philip Johnstone's 'High Wood' were, perhaps, less familiar. As was 'Munition Wages' written by Madeline Ida

Bedford. It provided a reminder both of the effect of the war on those left at home and the new opportunities, however risky, that were opened to women.

I drive out in taxis,
Do theatres in style.
And this is mi verdict —
It is jolly worth while.

Worth while, for tomorrow
If I'm blown to the sky,
I'll have repaid mi wages
In death — and pass by.

Church pews are not always the most comfortable seating but we had various opportunities to stretch our legs and sing, as verses of Parry's setting of Dear Lord and Father of Mankind were interspersed at intervals through the programme. As the first half of the moveable concert finished we all trooped out of St Mary's to the sound of a Bach chorale prelude for solo organ upon Sleepers, wake! If that was a hint, it was wasted. Nobody in the audience needed waking. Our route to St Cyriac's for the second half was lit by volunteers with torches and we were greeted there by the choir continuing the theme with Sleepers, wake! from Bach's Cantata No. 140.

St Cyriac's has a remarkably different acoustic to St Mary's. It was also about ten degrees colder and it was surely no coincidence that the next item was an arrangement of In the Bleak Midwinter. That was followed by the Agnus Dei from Imogen Holst's Mass in A which, for me, was the star of the show.

Having had a reading from Winter by Edwin Muir (sometime village resident) in the first half, two of the readings in the second half also had some local significance. Shirley Williams lived in the village for a while and the reading from Testament of Youth by her mother, Vera Brittain, was a remarkably prescient forecast of the dangers of failing to treat a defeated enemy (in this case Germany) with sufficient compassion. In addition to his work with Cambridge Voices, Ian is well-known for his devotion to the Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College and has often

**Dead lads and
shadowy horses
— I see them
just the same,
I see them and I
know them, and
name them each
by name.**



been seen at the head of the queue to obtain seats. It was no surprise then that the readings included an excerpt from the Bidding Prayer by Eric Milner-White, Dean of the college, and written for the first Festival in 1918.

There was never any danger that a concert that had focused so much on war and death was also going to end on a gloomy note. Nor did it. The final item before we all moved back to St Mary's for mulled wine and mince pies was a joyful arrangement for unaccompanied choir of the Alleluya from Ravel's Mother Goose Suite for four-handed piano.

Many thanks to the choir, to Ian de Massini, to the many villagers for their readings, to the Revd. Sue Giles, to the Churches Conservation Trust, and to all those involved in setting up the churches and providing the refreshments. **If you didn't go, you missed a treat. Put it in your diary for next year.**

Gareth Davies

Community Heat Scheme **Is The Village Being Taken For a Ride?**

You will need to pick up part of this story by referring back to the PC Report. Like our Prime Minister, I have always been clear about this Heat Scheme. Initially I supported it because every new idea should be welcomed. The first report was totally unconvincing. I and others therefore rejected the idea as being unsuitable for retrofits in villages. At a public meeting (which I did not attend) people were persuaded that a further inquiry would be broader than just retrofitting. At the open November PC meeting I suggested the PC should support further funding as we would have a ringside seat in all the decision making. How foolish can one be! You know that the SPCLT failed to keep its word regarding the 23rd November technical report. And, as can be seen from the following CCC NEWS the PC and the Village have been shown the exit and in effect told to wait in the back alley until and if called.

The SPCLT is determined to go ahead developing a "detailed business case". We should help them in this because we can contribute something very useful to this "pilot project for both government and similar villages". SPCLT say we are being used as a "Guinea Pig" we should prepare a "Guinea Pig Survey" giving the views of residents which can be presented to the CCC and the government. Would anyone like to help to gather information about what this village thinks, and also its characteristics. This would give some people the opportunity to talk to neighbours and to exchange views. There is no hurry, but if interested, please email me on a.e.everitt@btinternet.com.

Now to the CCC NEWS. Enjoy.

Alastair Everitt



Date: XX November 2018

Cambridgeshire village one step closer to community heat scheme

Residents of Cambridgeshire village Swaffham Prior are one step closer to achieving a low carbon community heat scheme after Councillors gave approval for the project to move to the next stage.

The decision by members of Cambridgeshire County Council's Commercial & Investment Committee means the scheme can now progress to the development of a detailed business case.

The Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust (SPCLT) first approached the County Council in 2017 to collaborate and support them with a community heat scheme, which will enable the village to stop relying on oil and move to a renewable heat source for heating and hot water needs. After exploring numerous low carbon heating options, a detailed feasibility study suggested that a district heat network with an energy centre, which has a combination of heat being extracted from groundwater and mains gas, would be the most viable option.

The proposed project still has a lot of work and analysis before any implementation can take place, but aligns with the vision of the councils Corporate Energy Strategy and councillors were in high praise of the innovative project.

CIr Josh Schumann, Chair of the Commercial & Investment Committee said: "This project will support the village to move off oil and onto a renewable energy through heat extracted from ground water. What excites me is the knowledge that by 2021 the village could own its own heating system and not be vulnerable to fluctuating global prices of oil that the residents are currently tied to."

"Boreholes to test the ground water could be drilled as early as next year, which is a vital next step for the project. We will also need access to homes to identify what is needed in the home to connect to the community heat network.

"The project has identified Cambridgeshire County Council land in Swaffham Prior as a location for the energy centre and we are very keen to discuss how this helps the village realise its low carbon ambitions and manage their future energy costs."

The proposed project will be retrofitted, one of the first of its kind in the country, and as such will act as a pilot project for both the government and similar villages looking to convert to sustainable heat systems.

Henry Brown Life and Times 1946-

Henry Brown is Swaffham Prior's oldest male resident. He wrote his wartime experiences, previously serialised. This is the seventh section of his post-war entrepreneurial life, having designed washing machines, cars, and then farm silos for the Simplex company.

Years went by. Farming was changing, but the Simplex directors became old and stuck in their ways. The patented grain drying silo, the backbone of the Grain Division, only held 100 tons. More grain was being produced and larger systems were required. Dairy farmers were expanding their herds and required some automation to handle the milking – Simplex had none. The Sealed Store Division became the largest part of the company. I could foresee the decline of Simplex, so after nine years there I began to look around for another avenue.

My friend, John Telford, the marketing manager, told me about a position to develop a patented spiral staircase that Donald McKay had designed and then sold to the Guinness Group. I went for an interview and didn't get the job, but the man they chose declined the offer. John then told McKay that the best man at Simplex had applied, so McKay told Guinness he wanted to offer the post to me. John actually had a motive in encouraging my move. He thought that I would eventually become MD of Simplex, and he wanted the job!

The timing of my departure was very hard for the company. My No.2 had recently departed and none of the directors knew much about Sealed Stores, which they considered an add-on division, even after 9 years, which said quite a lot about them.

Crescent of Cambridge

My brief was to enable the patented staircase to be mass produced, mainly by the Camac Cask Co. in Dublin, a Guinness subsidiary. The Mackay spiral staircase business, which became Crescent of Cambridge (1972), was located in New Street, Cambridge, alongside the rest of the Mackay enterprises; the personnel consisted of a share of a top foreman, Ted Ison, and my son, Robin.

The new staircase had to be metric and modular, ie to be built in identical matching sections, so the length of Don McKay's foot was out!! I adopted a tread angle of 22.5 degrees and designed a baluster passing through the treads, adjusting the rise with lengths of spacer tube. The core section making the spine of the staircase supported up to an 1800 mm (6ft) diameter staircase; the standard components would also suit a 1500 mm (5ft) diameter staircase.

After observing the traditional method used to form the curved handrail from a solid rectangular section I devised a new method. Using a hollow rectangular section, a lengthwise slot was cut in a hollow rectangular section allowing it to twist sufficiently to follow the rise of the spiral. This design was registered in my name

and prefabricated by a Midlands metal section manufacturer to avoid any production bottlenecks.

Prototype spiral staircases were made by Mackay. A Postgraduate Cambridge University engineering student was commissioned to carry out a variety of tests; these were written up in a form suitable for any authority.

A two flight spiral was erected on the gable end of the Laurie & McConnell store in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, which later became Habitat and photographs were taken for Guinness and for promotional literature.

At Camac I found John Nunan, the manager, to be knowledgeable and friendly. The company installed a large press to make the treads, complete with a non-slip surface and also an automatic cut-off saw for production of the core sections. I recruited a draughtsman, Philip Langford, who made production drawings and also worked out the curvature of the handrails.

On the sales side, I found the UK Building Regulations to be very vague. Don McKay's minor literary masterpiece was his Fire Escape leaflet, "Where a 1500 mm diameter was deemed suitable for up to 50 people up to a height of 30 feet". This was the best selling aid, but not enough for mass sales. What was needed was a British Standard for spiral staircases. So I formed the Spiral Staircase Manufacturers' Association with myself as chairman.

The authorities required a standard to be determined; so numerous trips were made to BSI, the British Standards Institution, accompanied by Philip Langford, and, together with the Ministry, we produced BS 5395. This did, of course, cover both existing Crescent models as well as larger staircases for greater numbers of people.

Five salesmen were recruited covering the country and every architectural practice in the UK was supplied with a Crescent Design Manual. More employees and rising orders meant more space was needed, so Crescent moved into the ex-Cadbury warehouse on Hills Road, on the Brooklands Avenue side adjacent to the railway bridge. By this time Crescent had become the largest spiral staircase company in the UK. A pretty good project all round!

Extracts from Henry Brown's Memoirs
Mark Lewinski



Out on the Wild Side

The Pied Wagtail and Forsythia (Winter Jasmine)



Happy New Year to Out on the Wild Side readers and welcome to a brave new edition for a next calendar year. Yes, it's January- the month of two faces. One looking back and the other forward. It's a time of reflection post-Christmas and of keeping as warm and cosy as possible, so wrap up warm if you live, play or work outdoors. This time around in our love for nature and its Winter beauty, we feature the Pied Wagtail alongside a couple of plants, the Forsythia or Winter Jasmine? It's an odd combination to feature but something different illustrating the mutuality between fauna and flora out and about in our environment.

To start with, let's get on by conversing with the Pied Wagtail- we could even ask it how its day is going if like Dr. Do-little we can talk with the animals, but that's a bit of a farfetched new year's resolution, even for us. Our particular Wagtail is one species of 3 across the British Isles, the cousins being the Grey and Yellow Wagtails respectively. The Pied variety is one of our most common species across these Sceptred Isles. Though their lifespan is short on average, of just two years, records have show that some pioneering individuals can reach the dizzying heights of 11 years- according to the Wildlife Trusts.

These birds are black and white, a combination of beautiful and beguiling streaks of colour that define this small but enigmatic bird. I personally have recent experience of these little creatures, darting about between metallic constructions of a species that actually help Pied Wagtails by leaving discarded pieces of food around for them to eat and keep them going through winter. The Pie Wags for short are usually seen darting around grassy fields or solid grey surfaces in search of food and they certainly know how to get a wiggle on. As their name suggests, they wag their tail up and down.

Their Latin name is *Motacilla Alba* but what that has to do with the price of bread or butter, we'll never be privy too. More interestingly, Pie Wags family name is Pipits and Wagtails- ice cool if you ask me. And now for some fun facts. There are around 470,000 breeding pairs of Pied Wagtails across Britain and if they were to walk into a haberdashery to request bespoke dressing gowns, their dimensions would be in the cm range. They are resident across our towns and country, so visible all year- especially as they love to dash! They are also...like woodland pigeons- one of our least endangered species, being in the 'green' safe list on bird and animal watch species.

A quick shout out to the RSPB once again for their unparalleled faith in our unique flying fauna and a continued inspiration for our articles. Before I move from the fauna to some of our Winter Flora, I'd like to make a dashing and darting presentation on the Pied Wagtails: they are unique in Britain for being the only native bird which are part of a triple identity of birds, i.e. they white, grey and yellow can sometimes appear hard to distinguish. On the European continent, the White replaced the Pied as the most abundant type. There is said to be a roost of these furry friends at Buckingham Palace. For far more interesting facts about the beautiful curiosity that are the Pied Wagtails, please head to the online resource 'living-with-birds'.

And now onto the Flora. We're also featuring a plant I think many of us can easily forget but which brightens up many a dull grey mood anyway, the Winter Jasmine. This Wintry plant is a vibrant sunshine yellow. First thing to say is that Forsythia, named by and after William Forsyth (the 18th century Horticulturalist) and winter Jasmine are easily confused due to their likeness. Although the former doesn't usually flower until March and has woody stalks whereas the latter bloom by late December and have green stems or shoots- that mostly grow from walls or rocky outcrops or crags in the soils. Winter Jasmine is a delicate 5 starred petalled flower which is vivacious amongst the darker brown and green hues of the stems.

Both Forsythia and Winter Jasmine originally herald from China and Asia more generally but with changing patterns of human movement, the plants were transported to Europe. Yingchun is its Chinese name- meaning the "flower that welcomes Spring". The somewhat mysterious, yet hilarious scientific name for Winter jasmine is '*Jasminum nudiflorum*', a fitting tribute to this season of hibernation, introspection and jubilation. And on a much more practical note, if you would like to grown this delightful cousin to the Forsythia, then it does equally well in each of the four main soil types. A special thanks to 'Flower Spy' of Neglected Beauty for clearing up the confusion and the RHS (Royal Horticulture Society) for their input in our first floral feature...

Season's Greetings Everyone!

By Jorge Xico Monteiro

Some of the 8000 crocheted poppies made by over 300 local residents for November’s Remembrance





Mothers' Union

Anglesey Group Mothers' Union Report

At our October members had fun applying their skills to the art of napkin folding. Ann Langran guided the group through the steps of breakfast, classic, victorian and modern folds to create cutlery pockets, fans and Christmas trees. We also held our autumn

bring and buy stall.

Reverend Sue Giles was our guest speaker in November. We began the afternoon by watching the film reports and video clips of the Anglesey in Stitches poppy displays in the Benefice. Sue's talk was in theme with the Armistice Centenary and Remembrance. Sue centred it around war artists and their pictures. It was during the Great War that the British government first deployed official war artists to record the front line and its horrors. We were shown pictures by E. H. Shepard who on the outbreak of war was a cartoonist for Punch. He volunteered for service on the western front and continued to sketch for Punch on the observations of life around him. E. H. Shepard is probably best known as the illustrator for A. A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh. The Menin Road painted by artist Paul Nash with its shattered landscape gave us much to think about, as did paintings by Stanley Spencer, and Flora Lyon. Flora was commissioned at home to cover munitions factory and other scenes of women playing their part in the war effort. Sue pointing out that women's role in war is recognised in the stain glass window in St. Mary's Swaffham Prior. We then moved to the Second World War with drawings and paintings by Polish artist Jan Komski, a survivor of Auschwitz depicting everyday life in the concentration camp. We were also shown graphic art posters such as 'Dig for Victory'. This very thought provoking and poignant presentation concluded with Sue reading The Creed of a Holocaust Survivor by Alexander Kimmel.

Members and several husbands enjoyed Christmas Lunch at Scotsdales Garden Centre, Horningsea

Copies of our programme for 2019 are now available in all five parish churches. To begin our programme Reverend Liz Caswell will lead our New Year Communion Service. Our meetings take place on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in Lode Chapel. All are welcome to come and join us.

Ann Langran



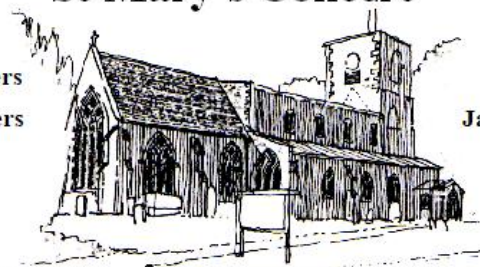
The Menin Road
by
Paul Nash



Date for your diary
Lode Village Fete
will take place on Sunday 23 June 2019
on the Fassage Playing Field Lode
from 12 noon – 4.00 pm
To book a stall please contact
Pauline Holmes 01223 812029
For any other information please contact
Chris king 01223 813274

St Mary's Concert

St Mary's Singers
St Mary's Players



Conductor
Jack Bazalgette

English Folk Songs

Telemann – Concerto 2 Horns

Fauré - Requiem

Purcell – Thou Knowest Lord

Stanford – Beati Quorum Via

St Mary's Church Swaffham Bulbeck

Entry Free

Collection for Charity

26th January 2019 19.30



The Swaffhams' WI

December is a month of celebration, so we did that with our Christmas party.

As usual we had wonderful food. I don't think I remember quite so much cream on the puds- heavenly!

Judi won our party completion - again, with a very original cracker and has taken the cup home for a second year.

We did a "Cambridge" quiz and finished off the evening, devised by Shirley—a 'sing along' carols, with a welsh voice choir. We were all in good voice and It really put us in the mood for Christmas.

At our meeting in January- the 21st, John Flood, will be talking to us about the Cambridge Museum- known to all as the Folk Museum. All welcome.

One of the quiz questions was: Name the museums in Cambridge.

Answers on a postcard please.

Margaret Joyce

COMBERTON RAMBLERS

Join our friendly group for wonderful walks

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

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

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

<https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

For further information please contact Stella the Secretary.

Email. stella.ramblers@hotmail.com, Tel 01954 210049

News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients' Group

Telephone Advice: The doctors and nurses are happy to speak to patients by telephone, outside consulting times. Please leave your details with reception staff and a doctor/nurse will return your call between surgeries.

Care Network: This charity has three branches. **Help at Home** providing free short term practical and emotional help for adults at home after a crisis, illness or hospital stay. Contact 01223 714433. **Community Navigators** help older people find enjoyable activities and useful services, for East Cambridgeshire area call 01353 659639. **Community Development** to support and sustain community groups for older and vulnerable people across Cambridgeshire and for East Cambs area 01954 211919. All their leaflets are available at our surgery.

Rethink Carer Support: Families and friends of people with mental ill health often need information, encouragement and the strength from knowing you are not alone. Their phone number is 07783 267013 and email address CambridgeRethinkGroup@rethink.org. They can provide a lot of information and support.

Too Many Missed Appointments: In order to reduce the number of these please arrange to register for a text reminder. If you no longer need a booked appointment then please let the surgery know as this can then be used for to another patient to avoid delay.

Other News: The repainting of the surgery has now been completed. Another clinic room has been made to accommodate a Health Care Assistant when one has been recruited. Janet our phlebotomist and receptionist has left.

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 18 and 30 January, 15 and 27 February, 15 and 27 March 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 24 January 2019 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

We hope you have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Bottisham Patients' Group

Coming Soon to a Village Hall Near You!

Decided on a New Year's resolution to get more exercise? Here is a sport for the whole family: classes will start on Wednesday 23rd January in Swaffham Prior Village Hall, 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Contact Bernadette or Richard for more information about Tang Soo Do



WORLD TANG SOO DO ASSOC

**COORDINATION
CONFIDENCE**

**FOCUS
SELF ESTEEM**

**RESPECT
DISCIPLINE**

**PATIENCE
CONCENTRATION**

BLŒ-TANG SOO DO
2ND DAN BLACK BELT
FAMILY MARTIAL ARTS CLUB
BERNADETTE : 07923230302
RICHARD : 07827387166
SEAGER.TSD@HOTMAIL.COM

A Tender Garden Prospect

My 'Begonia-*Dulkayr' is thriving
 In its garden tub;
 Thanks to it's reviving
 When I give its leaves a rub.
 For this plant, by my Tender Touch
 Knows I really care.
 Although it doesn't amount to much,
 It's more than it'd get elsewhere.

Ophir

(*'Dulkayr' is a sought-after Begonia variant)



VILLAGE GARDENERS PROGRAMME FOR 2019



Tuesday 15 January	Joe Sharman	Hellebores
Tuesday 19 February	Andrew Sankey	Pests—or Mr Mole and Friends
Tuesday 19 March	Ian Limmer.	Getting the beast from your Roses
Tuesday 16 April	Rodney Tibbs	Vegetables for Value
Tuesday 21 May	Linda Gasgoine	Tundra to Tarmac
Tuesday 11 June	Evening Visit	Prospect Trust- Reach
Sunday 30 June	Coach Outing.	Bressingham Gardens Norfolk
Tuesday 16 July	Evening visit.	Judi and Mike Churcher's Garden
Tuesday 15 October.	AGM	
Tuesday 19 November	Charlotte Cane	Devil's Dyke - Romans, Saxons and Flowers

Indoor meetings at 8pm in Swaffham Prior Village Hall.

Detail of summer visits, will be confirmed nearer the time.

Membership £20 per person.. New members and Visitors always welcome - £3 per evening.

Co Chairs: Sophie Rowell. 01638 602833

David Whitehead. 01638 742560

Treasurer: Maggie Halverson

Margaret Joyce

St Mary's

Fundraising and Social Events Dates for your 2019 diary

25th January Annual Coffee Morning at 44, High Street ,
10.30-12 noon.

16th March Quiz Night , Village Hall, 7.30p.m.

18th March Frugal Lunch at 1, Mill Hill.

27th March Frugal Lunch at 73, High Street .

19th May Rogation Sunday (TBA)

30th June Moveable Brunch (TBA)

21st July Strawberry Teas (TBA)

14th September Dog Show at Village Hall

5th October Quiz Night at Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

12th October Harvest Supper at Villsgs Hall at 6.00.m.

1st December Advent by Candlelight at the 2 churches

21st December Commissioning of Church War Windows
Centenary .

Wicken Fen News

We're starting to experience some lovely crisp mornings here, and the fen looks magical with the frost sparkling on the tops of the reeds. The numbers of overwintering birds are at their peak, with large groups of fieldfare, widgeon, golden plover, and unprecedented numbers of whooper swans. We've got more information about winter wildlife and the best ways to enjoy it on our website, see

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen.

When you visit the reserve, do pop in to see us in the Visitor Centre for the latest information and sightings, and also to scan your membership card if you are a member. Many of our members don't realise that we receive vital funds from our central office every time a card is scanned: £2.50 per scan. As you can imagine, this makes a significant difference to our income and the resulting conservation work we can do as a charity.

We've also recently opened a temporary viewing platform at the edge of the boardwalk on the Sedge Fen. The platform has been constructed so that we can rest the peat soils along the Wicken Lode, while still offering views over the reserve, and the opportunity to see roosting birds at dusk. It really is worth visiting to experience the beautiful fen vista from this new vantage point, which is a short distance along the boardwalk from the Visitor Centre.

If you want to get the New Year off to an active start, why not join our weekly **Heartbeat Health Walks**? The walks are at Wicken Fen on Wednesdays; join us at the meeting point in the car park at 10:00, there's no need to book, just drop in. Walks cover a distance of 3 – 4 miles. They are a great way of getting some healthy exercise, making new friends, and are free to join.

You could also join one of our new guided walks: the **Winter Wildlife Safaris** on either Saturday 12 or Sunday 20 January, from 14:00-15:45. Join one of the rangers on a walk into the reserve, where you will be able to spot winter wildlife, and learn about our grazing herds and how they contribute to the fen landscape. It's the perfect way to explore the wider reserve at Wicken Fen and experience a fen sunset. The walk costs £8 per adult which includes a hot drink, and can be booked via

our website (see the 'What's On' section).

Winter Wildlife is also the theme for our monthly **Mucky Pups** craft and adventure activity for under 5s on either 9 or 10 January. It's a great opportunity to have fun in the great outdoors, and to meet other families with young children. For further details, go to our website (address above).



The Windpump on a frosty morning (photo: NTImages/Justin Minns)



December 2018

As this year draws to a close, I would like to reflect on what I think has been a successful year for us elected members and our hard-working officers and staff.



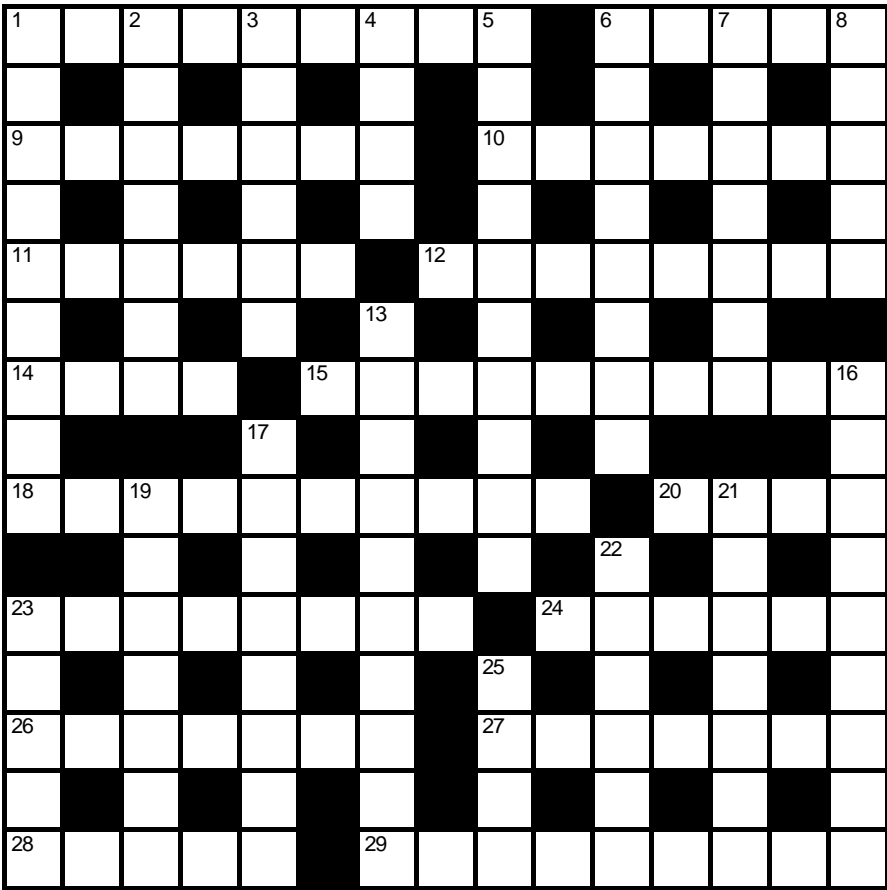
- We have built a leisure hub on the Ely bypass that includes a 6-screen cinema, a 6 lane swimming pool and learner pool, an all weather sports pitch, a fitness suite, a badminton court, together with a range of eateries.
- Extended the Angel Drove commuter car park
- Put a million pounds of council funding towards the Ely southern bypass which since opening has eased traffic congestion at the railway crossing gates which are now permanently closed.
- Set up hubs at Ely and Littleport where our residents can seek advice on housing and other problems at an early stage, thereby significantly reducing the number of people becoming homeless
- Supported Community Land Trusts in our district as a way of providing affordable housing for local residents to buy or rent
- Taken the waste collection and street cleaning contracts in house. It is now costing less, giving a saving to our council tax payers.
- Arranged visits to several of our local companies to see how the council can be of help to them.
- Continues free car parking in our district at all our car parks except for Angel Drove commuter car park which is chargeable

We have been able to achieve all the above whilst also giving our residents another year of no council tax increase.

Crossword Number 160

Compiled by **NIBOR**

This month’s puzzle is a simple cryptic crossword. Send your answers to the editors by 20 January 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

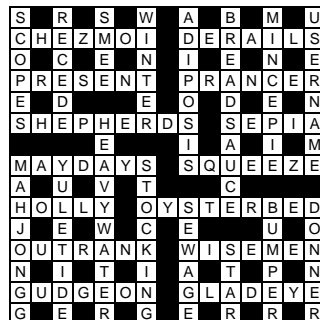
- 1 Shirt accoutrements are a hit on the golf course (9)
- 6 Chum using container for garden enrichment (5)
- 9 Busy supporting article attempt (2,3,2)
- 10 Impartial at first, now every upmarket Thai restaurant annoys liberals (7)
- 11 Screw inside wasp I rallied (6)
- 12 Selection has no pole or poll (8)
- 14 Crazy agony aunts loose suntan to find discipline (4)
- 15 Hops around after Arabica looking for cafe (6,4)
- 18 Need gel but changed into scarab (4,6)
- 20 Labour leader meets terror organisation to get money from Turkey (4)
- 23 Ron leaves salmon trout all at sea? yes, all of them (3,5)
- 24 Caterpillars start love affair; romance, volatile and erotic (6)
- 26 Crush nut reportedly (7)
- 27 Otalgia upsets each era (7)
- 28 Midwives eaten by fish? work it out! (5)
- 29 Throw out garment we hear and get another garment (9)

Down

- 1 Squinting? irritable I'd say (5-4)
- 2 Look inside. Come off it! Tin gods are correct (7)

- 3 Remove dish from broken daisy wheel to get flexibility (6)
- 4 Twelve may be high (4)
- 5 A line in one folder (6,4)
- 6 Rumps and suspicions about middle class (8)
- 7 Mad heroism is tempting (7)
- 8 Point to gangster on view in parlour (5)
- 13 Good French point monsieur; pointer to myeloid tissue (4,6)
- 16 Put workers with team leader to find location (9)
- 17 Perfect but bales out anyway (8)
- 19 Small pies missing from Minneapolis assembly (7)
- 21 Trendy initially, very ancient castle under offer is isolated (2,5)
- 22 Root of vehicle corrosion (6)
- 23 Gets rid of bags (5)
- 25 Nonetheless I see Bigfoot (4)

We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Christine & Mike Carrington



**Solution
to
crossword
no. 159**

Notes from Parish Council November Meeting

John Covill (chairman) chaired the meeting with 6 Parish Councillors and 10 members of the public in attendance. The meeting started at 7.55pm after a presentation on the district heating scheme.

Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda + Requests for Dispensation: None.

Public Participation: None.

Reports:

ECDC Matters: Cllr Allen Alderson's report was read by the Clerk.

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

Steve Kent-Phillips reported having met Vince Neale regarding jobs in the cemetery, including repairs to the path. It was noted that he would take away spoil. He would not quote for individual jobs but charge £15 per hour. Paul Latchford asked how we would manage hours. It was agreed to set a limit. VN would invoice or report per project. It was suggested to set a limit of 35 hours and then review. The Clerk would contact VN. David Greenfield noted the help from Martin Mead and Alan Durrant in getting the filing cabinet into the village hall. It was agreed to send letters of thanks to them both

Correspondence for Circulation/Consideration:

Regarding Fair view Grove, David Greenfield asked if it was clear what CCC were asking. Paul Latchford noted that CCC are doubling the price. It was agreed that the specification needs to be proved and that Martin Mead should be asked to talk to his contact at CCC.

An email from a resident was discussed relating to proposed planning applications for 6 Cage Hill. The Clerk agreed to reply with the facts from the minutes.

David Greenfield agreed to send the village hall deeds on to Wellers Hedleys, the solicitors.

Consideration of Planning Applications Received:

17/02142/FUL 18/01206/FUL – approval – noted.

18/01356/TRE – Tree work at 25 High Street – approved – noted.

18/01390/VAR – 26 High Street – variation of previously approved - no objections.

Allotments:

Paul Latchford reported he had a letter for James Willmott and had arranged a meeting for a week on Sunday (17th) also that one of the existing allotment holders was giving up their plot, leaving one allotment to advertise. This will leave GAP 5 vacant. Paul Latchford agreed to send a plot map to Steve Kent-Phillips for the Web site.

Agree donation for Remembrance Day Wreath:

Andrew Camps had not received the costs for the wreath, so the decision on a donation was put back to next meeting.

Agree action for drain / ditches:

a) Blocked road drain grilles in Beeches Close area . Andrew Camps explained the situation. Paul Latchford asked if Hi-Ways was responsible. Steve Kent-Phillips said it should be reported. Paul Latchford asked how that was done. Steve Kent-Phillips covered the Web site reporting system and agreed to report this issue including

Knights Manor and near the Beeches both sides of the road. Michael Malster asked what can be reported. Steve Kent-Phillips stated any road issue. The Station Road drain from kerb to road that may have caused the puncture in the tuck tyre of the truck recently stuck in the road. Paul Latchford offered to get the personal email of the CCC person responsible.

b) Ditch and bank along south side of Lower End.

It was agreed to send a letter to the property owners to arrange maintenance of the bank and ditches.

Empty Seat – decide on action

Steve Kent-Phillips outlined the options to co-opt or leave the seat vacant. The Clerk reported on the applicants. One of the candidates did not meet the qualification for time lived in the parish, Alan Durrant was the remaining single candidate. It was proposed to co-opt and fill the seat. It was also proposed to appoint Alan Durrant. The Clerk announced that the seat was taken by Alan Durrant.

Clerks' Report

The Clerk introduced Jonathan Giles who had expressed an interest in the post of Clerk.

Parish Councillors' Reports

Paul Latchford asked about the road works and closed slip-road at the Cambridge end of the village and noted that a nearby resident did not know about the works. The meeting was reminded about the rather unprofessional notice presented at an earlier meeting. David Greenfield asked if the Clerk would take the keys to the new fire safe / filing cabinet. The Clerk agreed. Michael Malster asked if yellow lines had been discussed as a solution to the Station Road parking and traffic problems. Paul Latchford began a discussion reminding the meeting of the many proposals and discussions on the subject, including using the village hall car park, talking to relevant groups, including the school, parents and the Red Lion. John Covill mentioned some fly-tipping that Allen Alderson had had success with getting cleared

Open Question Time

LK asked if a local land-owner may give land for extra car parking. There was some discussion regarding other possible solutions to parking. LK also mentioned that there had been an instance of children jumping out in the road when being dropped off at the school. Sandra Gynn suggested that if the gate could be opened there was a way via the village hall to enter the school and agreed that the parents in a hurry are the ones that just park up and drop off. Sandra Gynn also offered to ask the headteacher to remind parents regarding safety when dropping off their children and would suggest a walk to school day. John Covill asked about the amount of time external lights were on. Alan Durrant said that they were on sensors, so should always go off. Alan Durrant asked about a confirmation letter from the PC stating the car park ownership and maintenance. The Clerk agreed to send the letter.

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

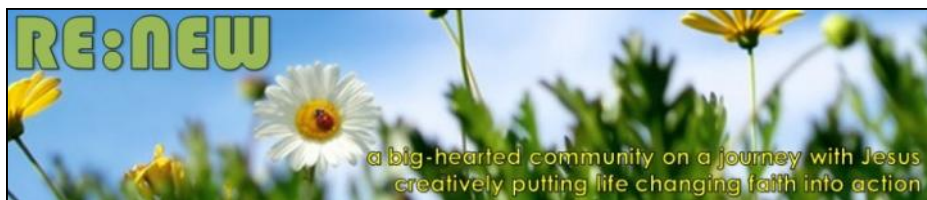
Future meeting dates: February 14th, March 14th, April 11th 2019.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Paul Catling, **Tel:** 07040 908743 (Voice Mail only).

Email: clerk@swaffham-prior.co.uk, **Website:** <http://www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/>

pc/

Paul Catling



Turbulent Times ...

As I sit down to write this article we are in the midst of the chaos of Brexit. The debates in Parliament have begun, the government has been defeated three times in one day, and the future is looking very uncertain indeed. For you reading this now perhaps there will be a little more clarity, but it seems as though, whatever the outcome, we will be living in a divided nation with a hard road ahead of us. It seems as though things will have to get worse before they can get better.

If you were to look back in the Bible, the Old Testament prophets were constantly bringing words of warning from God about the consequences of turning their backs on him. Jesus himself spoke about the difficult and dangerous times which would take place before he returns to restore the world to how God intended it to be. You can read what he had to say in Chapter 24 of Matthew's Gospel. In verse 12 Jesus says that *'Lawlessness will increase and the love of many will grow cold.'* When love grows cold we are in trouble! The Bible tells us that without love we are nothing.

Love, along with forgiveness, is the heart of the message of Jesus. It's why he came. Love is the key!

I pray that as we go into this New Year we will all strive, in whatever ways we can, to replace hatred with love, conflict with peace, discord with harmony, and bitterness with forgiveness.

As Paul wrote to the Christians in the heart of the Roman Empire where they were under the constant threat of persecution: *'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.'* [Romans 12:18]

If you are looking for a fresh start, or a new direction for your life, or just want to come and see, then you will be very welcome at any of our RENEW Church services. [See below] And do look out for our third Village Praise meeting at Lode Chapel in early February – an opportunity for everyone, from whatever church, or from none, to join together for an hour of hymns, readings and hearing one another's stories, followed by coffee, cakes and chat!

A Happy and Hopeful New Year to you all,

Peter Wells

RENEW Services for January 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 6th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am

With Holy Communion. (Bottisham Primary School)

Sunday 13th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Followed by shared lunch

Sunday 20th January. Morning Worship. 10.30am (at the School)

Sunday 27th January. 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

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

2019 Meeting Dates

Thu 10 January 2019

Thu 14 February 2019

Thu 14 March 2019

Thu 11 April 2019

Thu 9 May 2019

Thu 13 June 2019

Thu 11 July 2019

Thu 8 August 2019

Thu 12 September 2019

Thu 10 October 2019

Thu 14 November 2019

Thu 12 December 2019

PC Elections

Wed 2 May 2019

Annual General Meeting Thu 9 May 2019 @ 7.00 pm

Annual Village Assembly Wed 15 May 2019 @ 7.30 pm tbc

Meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm.

The deadline for items on the agenda is 1 pm on the Sunday preceding the meeting.

PASTORAL LETTER,

Bottisham Vicarage

January 2019

Dear Friends,

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”



So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

This piece by Minnie Louise Haskins was used by George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast. Then the country was facing the darkness of a world at war.

As we stand on the brink of a new year we are not facing such a bleak and terrible future but we are facing a time of great uncertainty. The future is not clear and some of the divisions which have been present in our society have gathered very visibly around the decision to stay or leave the European Union. There are people in our society who feel vulnerable, those who feel their voice has not been listened to. There are those who are convinced of the importance of being part of a large and diverse European community.

There are so many views about what would be best for our country and also many different views about the right way to achieve a secure future. What is clear is that once the decisions have been taken we will face the challenge of rebuilding relationships with one another; with our neighbours; with others in our country and in Europe and even with members of our family. We will not all attain what we believe to be good and right, and we will not all be satisfied with the outcomes.

New beginnings can be very difficult and challenging especially when deep divisions and strongly held views are present. Minnie Haskin's piece reminds us that whenever we face the unknown, whenever we struggle with fear, uncertainty or change we don't have to face the future alone. If we are unsure about how to proceed or we cannot see clearly what to do, God is walking with us. If we turn to him he will guide us, if we put our hand out for his he will always respond although it may not be as we imagine.

We are setting out into a new year. There will be personal challenges, hopes and concerns for each of us to face. There are collective challenges we must face. We can trust God that if we seek his help he will guide and bless us. He can give us courage, and wisdom to be peace makers and bridge builders. He will give us strength to manage the things we cannot change. Whatever your year brings you could ask God to be part of it. What ever your year holds I wish you health, happiness and the blessing of God.

Best wishes, Sue

Church Services in January

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

Sunday 6 January, Epiphany

11am Matins

Sunday 13 January, Baptism of Christ

10am Benefice Service - Holy Communion (CW1), Lode

Sunday 20 January, Third Sunday of Epiphany

11am Family Service

Sunday 27 January, Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30am Children's Church, Lode

10am Morning Worship, Swaffham Bulbeck

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

Holy Trinity, Bottisham; St Mary's, Quay; St James', Lode and St Mary's, Swaffham Bulbeck;

you are welcome to attend services anywhere in the benefice.

*Our Vicar is Rev'd Sue Giles; Tel: 01223 812726; suethavic@btinternet.com
and our Curate is Rev'd Professor Gina Radford; gina.radford@btinternet.com*

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

*For weddings and baptisms please contact:
admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk*

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

Dates for Your Diary January 2019

Thu	10	PC Meeting, 7.30pm, VH [30]
Tue	15	Village Gardeners, 8pm, VH [24]
Wed	16	
Thu	17	Mothers' Union, Lode Chapel, 2.30pm [19]
Fri	18	
Sat	19	
Sun	20	Crier Copy Deadline
Mon	21	WI, 7.30pm, VH [21]
Tue	22	
Wed	23	
Thu	24	
Fri	25	Annual Coffee Morning, 44 High Street, 10.30-12 noon [6]
Sat	26	St Mary's Concert, St Mary's Bulbeck, 7.30pm [20]

Numbers in square brackets denote the page number of the 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	(See Crier)
Village Gardeners	Margaret Joyce	744390	3 rd Tues of month	8:00pm	Village Hall
WI	Pat Cook	742224	3 rd Mon of month	7.30 pm	Village Hall