



The Swaffham Crier

Volume XLIII Number 6

June 2019



Editorial

A Very Big Welcome to our two new BOGOF Councillors, Charlotte Cane and John Trapp, who attended their first PC meeting this month. As usual there's a snag: more councillors, but even more parishes for them to look after (see *Our Reporter*) so we do hope they don't succumb to the classic Bogof problem: one goes off. We should also welcome our new Clerk, Jude Griffiths, only the last two we did that to did go off! But third time lucky, we hear Jude is doing excellent job and we look forward to hearing from her next month.

SP resident Stephen Brown has contributed a very interesting article about the new Papworth Hospital this month. It turns out that the self-same company that messed this up (by adding incendiary cladding) also managed to add an unwanted basement swimming pool to the neighbouring and even more swish AstraZeneca building. No-one told them about the water-table apparently. Who pays for these slip-ups?

Meanwhile, the Community Heat Scheme, now officially retitled Heating Swaffham Prior is steaming ahead, and there are two drop-in events you can attend this month, as well as an evening meeting. It's all getting quite exciting, don't miss them.

Alas, quite a few of us missed the Annual Village Assembly this year (where was everyone?) but not to worry, the Crier's new correspondent Tina Harbuckle has the low-down for you — on no account miss this!

If the good weather keeps up (fat chance) do go for a ride/walk along the Lodes Way bike path across White Fen (first left down Station Rd) where you might spot some of the many bee-orchids growing by the side of the path. Last year, they met an untimely end due to some equally untimely mowing, but we have asked Wicken Fen if they might delay a bit this year.

See you at the Tea Party/ Grand Duke /Romeo & Juliet. Oh, and the Reading Group has finally got round to telling us what it WILL be reading (see p. 7). In good time, so you can join us too!

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Caroline Matheson

Cover Picture: Bee Orchids on White Fen



Letters to the Editors



Dear Editors,

Thank Goodness for Beekeepers!

We recently returned home from a shopping trip to Cambridge and noticed quite a few bees flying above our drive. When we got out of the car we saw what appeared to be a huge mass of black treacle moving on a shrub, with many bees hovering above it. None of us being over fond of buzzing, flying things we realized it was a swarm with the queen at the centre. A telephone call and a direction to a website resulted in a beekeeper looking like a spaceman arriving within half an hour. He soon had them rounded up in a basket and said he would come back at dusk when they were tired to take them away. Thank goodness for beekeepers and the excellent help we received from the local council and the beekeeper.

Sue Richards

We couldn't agree more, especially as we too had a visit from a swarm of bees this month, in our case massing over our lawn and then settling into an apple tree. Fortunately, we live opposite a village beekeeper , and...

Beekeeper Andy Pumfrey capturing a swarm of bees

Andy used a standard bee-catching technique, which is basically to shake them off their perch into a box while dressed as an astronaut and blowing smoke at them. But some will still hang on and some will be away scouting, so the bee keeper leaves a small entrance and leaves them to it. Stragglers will eventually turn up to join their Queen, and by dusk they should all be in the box, ready to be transported to the hive.

This all went perfectly to plan, and Andy's bees were sufficiently impressed with their new accommodation that they stayed on, and we hear they're doing well.

Eds



Dear Editors,

After School Club move from Village Hall

What a shame the After School Club no longer feels able to use the Village Hall. It seems such a natural use for the Hall, and it's a lovely space for them to use.

We shall miss seeing and hearing the kids enjoying themselves, it's such a nice part of village life.

Dave and Sue Jackson

34 High Street

Yes, this does seem a shame. But we hear that the school premises are a lot more convenient for them? See page 12 for discussion on this at the Village Annual Assembly. Eds

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

have an immediate vacancy for a

PARISH COUNCILLOR

No previous experience is required.

There is an evening meeting on the second Thursday of each month.

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



Bottisham Nursery

30 Hour spaces still available

- 30 hours free childcare available for eligible working parents
- Some spaces remaining for September 2019
- Enquire at the school office for more information

Telephone: 01223 811235

Come and visit our happy, child-led nursery. Our specialist members of staff will be excited to welcome you and show you around. Wonderful outdoor provision and a warm nurturing space. We look forward to hearing from you.

From our Reporter at the Parish Council Meeting

There were two consecutive meetings, the first being the AGM which consisted of elections and confirmation of PC representatives for various committees and organisations, all of which passed off rapidly with no changes other than relating to the post of Clerk, now held by Jude Griffiths. She is lumbered with being the RFO (Responsible Financial Officer), as distinct from PCRf (Parish Councillor Responsible for Finance), which in any case has now reverted to Treasurer. She was also told that she must become a Director of the Community Land Trust, because as a paid employee of local government this establishes a necessary link between the two. She reasonably declined to go along with this without finding out a lot more about it.



The PCRf Treasurer gave a summary of the year's finances, which were apparently within £138 of the budget and provided a satisfactory surplus, then proceeded to distribute lots of paperwork to be signed by all committee members: I think this all came under the heading of Approval of Annual Audit Governance Statement 2018-2019, and turned into a saga which took longer than the meeting which preceded it, with at least one PC member plainly exasperated by the whole thing, striking out bits considered irrelevant and putting that day's date in every space requiring one. I trust it won't all come back to be done again...

This was followed by the main meeting, which rattled through the agenda with few diversions. I don't think there was a CCC report (if there was I didn't make any notes), but Charlotte Cane was present as one of our newly-elected ECDC representatives. She explained that there was little to report as she hadn't got her feet under the table yet, but confirmed that either she or John Trapp would attend every PC meeting. Between them they have to cover seven PCs...

Matters arising from the previous minutes started with the fact that SID was ready to go as of next Monday, at a rate of only £50/week, not £100 as previously minuted. It took me a while to work out who SID was, and what he did for such a reasonable fee – he turns out to be the traffic speed indicator display, which will be located at various places around the village for the next three weeks. I hadn't realised that the device records all the data, which is subsequently downloaded for our information. The other item was research on legislation about advertising displays on business premises, for which it transpires there is a strict size limit without specific planning approval. A polite letter will be sent to the proprietors of one such in the village.

The only items discussed under Correspondence were the fact that the long drawn out contract with Balfour Beatty to replace all the street lights had finally been closed off, leaving a couple of minor issues which won't get sorted; we now pay an annual fee for maintenance. Under this heading (for some reason) we also learned of an unexpected windfall of £428 resulting somehow from the refurbishment of the house formerly owned by Lord Soulsby, which will come in very handy (see below). There were no Planning Applications for consideration.

Accounts for payment were all approved, and Steve rattled through the Financial Report which included some complicated ups and downs relating to CIL money but came out nicely in the end (despite the fact that they had lashed out on a new filing cabinet), so there will be no increase in the precept. It transpires that although the Chairman has internet access to the PC bank account, no-one else does, and in any case he can't use it to make payments because the law requires a solid paper trail which can only be achieved using the chequebook... I can't believe that is correct.

It transpires that although the Chairman has internet access to the PC bank account, no-one else does, and in any case he can't use it to make payments ... I can't believe that is correct. [Alas it is! Same for the Crier. Eds]

The latest ROSPA report on the Playground reveals that the infant swings now have to have seat belts, so the seats will be replaced wholesale. Parts of the other swings and other furniture are worn and need replacing, which will all be done, using the Soulsby windfall to offset the cost. There was much discussion about the Table Tennis table, which is down near the Youth Club Hut (soon to become the Scout Hut – not before time). Apparently it's there because that was the only ground firm enough to support the 2-ton weight, but no-one uses it except to climb on. It was agreed that it should be moved into (or adjacent to) the play area, and Martin would be asked to quote for providing a proper foundation for it (and for moving it...).

The Clerk's report revealed that she has already attend one 6-hour training course, and has another next week, not to mention trying to get a place on the fully-booked Cemetery Handling course. Thanks to her for being prepared to go through all this on our behalf.

Finally, the main topic in Councillors' Reports was the business of creating parking bays along the side of Fairview Grove, becoming increasingly necessary as the number of cars parked at the bottom makes it difficult for large vehicles to turn round without knocking down walls. However the Highway Authority will only permit them to be done by their preferred contractor (not being Martin Mead, although he is preferred by other authority areas) and to their specification, which is the same as for a major highway. What nonsense.

Everyone was in the pub by 8.45.

John Chambers

BON MOT NUMBER NINETY EIGHT

"The country will neither be united at home nor respected abroad, till the reins of government are lodged with men who have some little pretensions to common sense and common honesty."

Lord Shelburne (1737--1805)

All the latest from....

Activities for the Community Heating Network, 'Heating Swaffham Prior' will be picking up this month and into the summer.

A series of public 'pop-ups' are planned in June, to provide more information on the project and to discuss things with the team. **We will also be scheduling household surveys to properly assess current energy use, the costs and impacts of connecting each home to the network.**



Tuesday 11 June 08:15-09:30am, Village School Entrance, drop-in event

Saturday 15 June 10am-2pm, Village Hall, drop-in event

Tuesday 25 June 7.30-8.30pm, Village Hall, public meeting

The heating project aims to provide a renewable energy option to heat homes that currently use oil or electricity, by installing a ground source heat pump in land owned by the County Council, adjacent to Goodwin Farm off Heath Road.

In parallel to the community activities, further testing of the ground conditions will take place during the summer, providing information for the following detailed design stages.

By September, all residents will be asked to confirm their intention to join the network in March 2021, to present the Village's interest to the funding bodies. The goal, is to connect around 170 homes and local community facilities to the community heating network before 2021.

For more information:

www.heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk

Info@heatingswaffhamprior.co.uk

Janet Hall

SWAFFHAM PRIOR PARISH COUNCIL

have an immediate vacancy for an

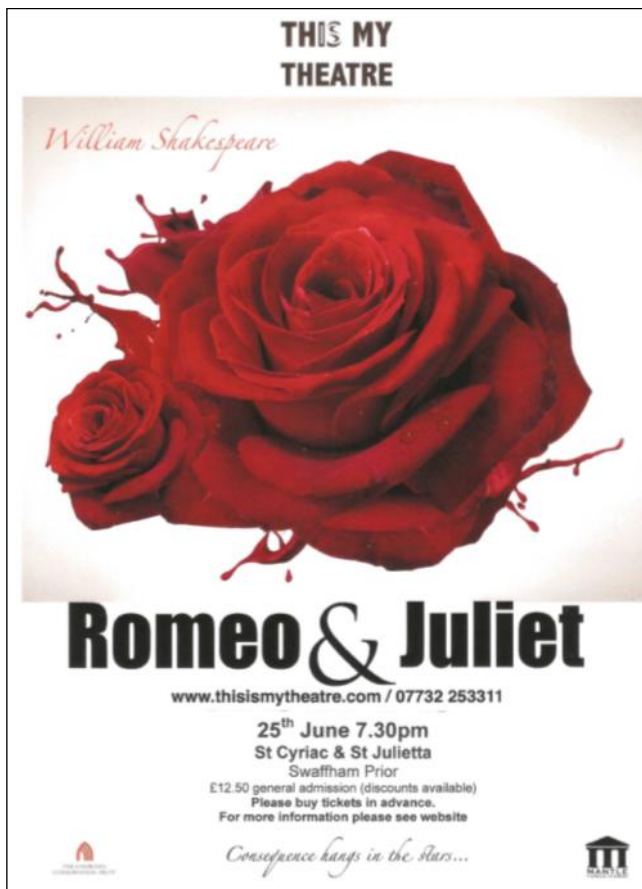
ALLOTMENT PLOT

Numbered SP-GAP-2 on the plan, see

www.swaffham-prior.co.uk/pc/notices.html.

The cost is £5 a year, payable in April.

Applications to the Clerk at swaffhampriorclerk@gmail.com



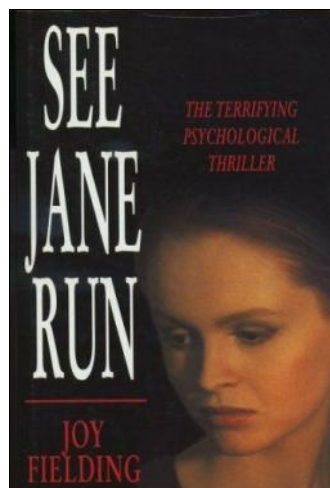
July's Reading Group will be Reading....

See Jane Run

by Joy Fielding

See Jane Run is a page-turning psychological thriller about a woman who suddenly finds herself out on the street, on her way to pick up milk and eggs, but with absolutely no idea who she is or where she's come from. It's an excellent book for trains/planes/holidays and currently obtainable from Amazon for just the price of postage. We'll be discussing it on **Wednesday, July 3rd at Kent House, 8pm**. Why don't you give it a go and come along and join us? You'd be very welcome!

Caroline Matheson





EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From our District Councillors
**Charlotte Cane &
John Trapp**

The turnout in Bottisham ward in May's local elections was the highest in the whole district of East Cambs – 43%, so thank you for your interest and participation in the election process and thank you for electing us. We both intend to work hard for all the residents of Swaffham Prior and the wider Bottisham ward.



We look forward to representing you on the Council and to championing those individuals or groups who need help. We will seek support from other Councillors to deliver our campaign commitments to improve our villages and district.

There are seven parishes in the ward and we will hold meetings in each village. Besides these meetings being an opportunity for you to discuss individual or group needs, it will also be a social event to become better acquainted with you. The number of villages in the ward means that we will hold meetings in each parish about twice a year and we will publish where we shall be each month. Our first such meeting will be in the Scout Hut, Bottisham on Tuesday 25 June from 6:30 - 7:45, and then at The Bell from 8:00 for a more informal session to meet your District Councillors.

We will also be writing a report for each issue of The Swaffham Crier, and coming to meetings of the Swaffham Prior Parish Council. Generally, it will just be one of us attending the meetings, so that we can cover all 7 parishes properly.

Our contact details are below, please contact one or both of us if you have anything to raise. You can also stop either of us in the street, in the shops or wherever you see us; if we are busy, we will arrange a time and place to meet you.

Charlotte Cane
34, Swaffham Road
Reach
CB25 0HZ
charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk
07976 607512

John Trapp
104, Commercial End
Swaffham Bulbeck
CB25 0NE
john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk
01223 812120

Julie's Recipes for June

Jersey Royal Potato & Asparagus Salad

750g Jersey Royal potatoes halved
2tbsp olive oil
¼ tsp dried mint
300g asparagus trimmed and halved
125g bunch spring onions halved lengthways
Zest and juice of 1 lemon
3tbsp low fat natural yoghurt
75g sugar snap peas halved lengthways
15g chopped flat leaf parsley
100g feta cheese crumbled

1. Preheat oven to 200c. Toss the potatoes with 1 tbsp of the olive oil and the dried mint, season and roast for 35 mins.
 2. Mix the asparagus and spring onions with the remaining olive oil and season, place on a separate baking tray and put in the oven for 12 mins. Meanwhile mix the lemon juice and zest with the yoghurt.
 3. Remove potatoes and asparagus from the oven, Finally stir in the yoghurt dressing and top with crumbled feta and chopped parsley. Ready to serve.
-

Tipsy Strawberry Trifles

1 packet strawberry jelly
100ml brandy
100ml milk
250g strawberries sliced
250ml fresh custard
100ml fresh whipping cream
50g chopped hazelnuts
200g sponge fingers

1. Make up jelly as packet instructions. Pour into a shallow tin and chill until set.
2. Mix together the brandy and milk in a shallow bowl, Dip the sponge fingers into the mix and divide into 4 individual dessert glasses.
3. When the jelly is set roughly chop and spoon half into the glass dishes, then add half the strawberries and pour over half the custard.
4. Repeat as before then finally top with the whipped cream and scatter over the nuts. Chill for 3-4 hours before serving.

The New Royal Papworth Hospital

As you may have seen in the press or TV the Royal Papworth Hospital has now moved to its new location on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus after 101 years in Papworth Everard, starting there as a tuberculosis colony just after WW1. It is the culmination of many years of planning, costing some £300m, involving clinicians and staff from the hospital at every stage of the detailed design and function, with over 300 beds in individual rooms 4 cath labs 5 theatres and 2 hybrid theatres and a staff of over 2000. Now in one building efficiency and infection control will be second to none.

There have been many hurdles along the way including finding the right site, awaiting government funding and lately the consortium building the Hospital using flammable insulation with a nearly complete hospital being dismantled causing many months of delay.

Royal Papworth is a standalone NHS Hospital Foundation Trust and is world renowned in many aspects of cardiothoracic specialism treating some 70.000 patients a year. It carried out Europe's first successful heart transplant, and the first heart lung transplant and continues to be at the leading edge of research and development in heart and lung medicine. Specialisms include; world leaders and the only centre in the UK to carry out Pulmonary Endarterectomy, recently carrying out the 2000th operation, a procedure involving an 11 hour operation, DCD non beating heart transplants procedure developed at the hospital, keyhole surgery for lung cancer operations, child apnea research, heart arrhythmia, national centre for Cystic Fibrosis, respiratory medicine, chest

The new Papworth has had its problems, not the least the nearly complete building having to be dismantled due to the contractor's use of flammable insulation.



reconstruction technology, national sleep clinic, with many more related specialisms, taking patients from all parts of the UK.

As a governor of Royal Papworth and having been on a number of stakeholder groups for over 10 years it has been fascinating to be involved in the development and move from Papworth Everard. The move took some 3 weeks with an overlap period of 4 days, the first patients arrived and operations commenced 1st May with the final 50 patients being moved the 16 miles on Saturday 4th May, including 11 critically ill patients escorted by police. A tremendous operation involving all staff

The new hospital is now fully functioning and will continue to be at the cutting edge of cardiothoracic care and research. We are fortunate to have this special hospital close by. If you want to know more visit royalpapworth.nhs.com. or NHS.com/royalpapworth.

Stephen Brown
Tothill Road, SP

News from Snakehall Farm

Summer is round the corner...

Come and visit the Veg Shed and see what delights we have to offer. The co-workers and staff have been busy making more candles and testing out different types of holders. These would make a nice centre piece for a summer garden party, especially our Citronella scent that will keep the mozzies at bay. We also have some lovely tomato plants, peas, mangetout and rainbow chard which would be a lovely accompaniment to a salad. Now that summer is drawing closer we will be introducing a new line of preserves, such as Rhubarb and Ginger which is ready now for you to buy.



Comberton Ramblers

If you like walking and enjoy the countryside we are the walking group for you. Comberton Ramblers walk an average of 5-6 miles every fort night on a Sunday.

To view our walk programme + photo's please go to our web-page. <https://www.combertonramblers.org.uk>

So why not give us a try, you'll have the benefit of an exhilarating walk plus the companionship of a group of like-minded people .

For more information please contact the Secretary Stella.

Tel. 01954 210049

Email. stella.ramblers@hotmail.com



The 2019 Annual Village Assembly

Tina Harbottle is my name, and my old school friends still call me Harbie. I decided to accept the invitation in the last *Crier* to give an account of the Annual Village Assembly on May 14th. And here it is, warts and all. That's the sort of language my grandchildren like when I write to them. I do so enjoy writing and waffling on.

It was a goodly sort of crowd and opened with a report from the School by Helen Bartley, the new Headmistress. This came first because the date of this Assembly had been changed from a Wednesday to Tuesday, and now clashed with a PTA meeting. From what I have heard from my friends, both young and old, the School has had a big turnaround since the arrival of Helen. There have been a number of trips *including a forthcoming one to the Houses of Parliament in June* which is very good timing, more music lessons on lots of odd instruments, various fund raising schemes, the swimming pool will remain open during the summer, and so on. A lot seems to be happening.

We returned to the Agenda with the County Council report presented by Josh Schumann. It began with the lament of all councils that the continuing reduction of government funding means extra pressure especially with the increasing demand for child and elderly care. £1.8 million has been spent on potholes – repairing, not making them. He was a great supporter of the Community Heat Scheme and spent some time on this. It seems the move out of Shire Hall is a wise decision, though the Registry Office will be relocated within Cambridge, probably at a Park and Ride site. Mr Schumann appeared to be enthusiastic, earnest, fluent, and an extremely well dressed young man. In fact, at my age, I am allowed to say I find him quite dishy.

Allen Alderson was unable to attend to present the ECDC Report so the newly elected Charlotte Cane spoke following the Liberal Party success in the recent elections. As all ECDC affairs have been covered so well in the *Crier* I need make no comment. Charlotte Cane and John Trapp are now both on the Finance and Planning Committee.

The Parish Council Report offered nothing further to that you will have read in the *Crier*, so again no comment. The Gay Bulleid Award went to Alan Durrant and Peter Rand for their work on the Village Hall and its surrounds. This was greeted

The Village Hall has lost a lot of its income because the School has taken back the After School and Holiday Club bookings, resulting in a 40% revenue loss to the Village Hall, about £7-8k per annum

with enthusiastic applause. Steve Kent-Phillips said the parking problems of Burwell Tigers have been resolved, and, more importantly, girls' teams are being introduced. Hurrah to this last, something regrettably I missed out on when I was younger.

Emma Fletcher brought us up to date on her Community Heat Scheme. More money has become available, Janet Hall, a CCC employee, has been appointed as the liaison person who will make a monthly report to the *Crier*, and there will be a consultation plans, with a lot of door knocking to drum up new customers and

to acquire all our heating costs etc. They are tapping in to the current climate change agenda, becoming more professional and technical, and all household data will be used anonymised by them and will not be sold on.

The Village Hall has lost a lot of its income because the School has taken back the After School and Holiday Club bookings, resulting in a 40% revenue loss to the Village Hall, about £7-8k per annum. This was followed by the Parochial Charities report which said it had just given the old Youth Club Hut to the Scouts on a long term lease on a peppercorn rent in exchange for the repair costs. It is now known as the Scout Hut.

Tim Doe arrived to give an account of the Beaver, Cub and Scout groups. He said he was thrilled to have the Scout Hut, was raring to go, but was still awaiting the lease. It seems it is not so much a matter of the ink not being yet dry, because it was not even at the inking stage. The condition of the Hut is not as bad as originally thought, and perhaps with new doors and electrics and a coat of paint and the removal of asbestos it may be useable. Funding is under way for this. Numbers are back up for the scouts but there continues to be a shortage of leaders. Tim had an amazing speed of delivery which made it impossible to note all he said. And he may be correct when he said “Sorry, I’ve rambled for too long”. But it was great fun, full of enthusiasm, and a high spot of the evening. Has he ever thought of the stage?

Janet Willmott was not there to report on the Community Car Scheme and Pop, but all said that the village greatly appreciated both.

Phew, that’s it. I enjoyed that, and maybe I will be able to return one day. Meantime just that you know, my new friends call me Tintin.

Tina Harbottle



Mr Schumann [our County Councillor] appeared to be ... an extremely well-dressed young man. In fact, at my age, I am allowed to say I find him quite dishy.

[Eds note: There’s been some confusion reported arising from the above note about the **After School and Holiday Club**. It is only the booking which has changed from the Village Hall to the School, i.e. where it is held. Everything else remains the same, including its excellent management.]

News from Wicken Fen

Our Nature Trail open on 1st June, when the fen will be full of lush green foliage and fen flowers. It's a lovely summer walk of 2 ¼ miles around the ancient Sedge Fen, where you'll also have the chance to see butterflies and dragonflies on the wing. Look out for marsh orchids, ragged robin, yellow loosestrife and marsh thistle amongst the foliage.

We're still enjoying hearing the male and female cuckoos on the reserve. The male gives the distinctive 'cu-ckoo' call that we all know and love, but you may not have heard the females bubbling call. Listen out next time you are out walking at Wicken Fen. It's great to be able to hear and see these birds when their numbers are declining, and your support helps us maintain their habitats.

Now that we're feeling the warmth of the sun more often, we can really enjoy the outdoors and being closer to nature. Join us for a boat trip along the Wicken Lode if you enjoy a leisurely summer outing, or bring your bike (or hire one from our Cycle Centre) if active exploration is your thing! It's worth calling to book your boat trip at busy times (weekends and school holidays), telephone 01353 720274. Boat trips and cycle hire are available every day until the end of October.

Our programme of adult events continues with **An evening with Tony Juniper** on Friday 14 June 19:30-21:30. Join us for a lively look at the future of conservation in the UK, and how the Wicken Fen Vision is contributing to the way forward, with the newly appointed Natural England chair. The second of our series of writing workshops **People in the Landscape: the Fens** takes place on Saturday 15 June 10:00-14:00. Writer-in-residence Guinevere Glasfurd leads a half day workshop investigating the stories of our local history. We also see local basketmaker Nadine Anderson return for her popular **Rush Weaving Workshop** on Saturday 29 June 10:00-16:00, and local printmaker Judith Handley return for her second **Introduction to Lino Printing Workshop** on Saturday 20 July 10:00-16:00.



Advance booking is essential for all events at Wicken Fen. Full details and ticketing information can be found on our website:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/

**One of the many
Flag Irises in
bloom on Lode
banks at the
moment**

Photo: Glynis Pierson

PAINTINGS BY LOCAL ARTISTS 2019

Once again 3 artists from Reach - Hannah Webb, Dafila Scott and Joss Goodchild, together with East Anglian painters, Vee Wallace, Heather Maunders and Julia Suddaby exhibit their works as the art group Outside Edge. This event takes place in the beautiful and atmospheric St Cyriac Church at Swaffham Prior on Saturdays 6 & 13 July and Sundays 7 & 14 July from 11am to 6pm. A range of paintings will be shown - landscape to still life studies, portraits to wildlife. Cards, postcards and books will also be available.

Admission is free and all are very welcome.



Village Feast 2019

This is just a brief notice - full details and more pictures, including the gurning photos, will be published in next month's Crier.

Thank You to everyone who came!

A big thank you to the weather once again which provided us with lots of sunshine. Thank goodness for the ice cream and Pimms!

The afternoon started gently, but visitors soon accumulated, attracted by even more stalls than in previous years. Overall, the event had a real buzz.

Thanks also go to everyone who lent a hand with the organisation and running the stalls on the day, as well as all the the maypole dancers - seen in action here.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Steve and Michelle from the Red Lion, who once again supported the event.

This year we had a circus theme and this included circus skills workshops and a Punch and Judy show, which attracted large crowds.



As always, the day ended with the Egg Throwing competition on the High Street, providing great entertainment for both participants and viewers - and causing some disruption to Cambridgeshire's bus timetable.

There is one result to announce - the quiz on the leaflet produced three joint winners - the occupants of 26 High Street, Robert Nunn and Caroline and James Matheson all got 20/20. A special mention must also go to Joannie Webb who was one letter off a perfect score.



Congratulations to the winners of all the competitions and yet another, final **huge thank you** to everyone who turned out and made the day such a resounding success.

This year, over £1,500 was raised to help to keep the Hall in tip-top condition, up by nearly £250 from 2018.



Please keep the date!

**Saturday 21 December
2019**

is the **100th** anniversary
of the dedication of the unique
War Memorial Windows
in St Mary's, Swaffham Prior

We will be holding a commemoration in
church at 4.30pm to celebrate the
centenary, which will include excerpts
from the original dedication service.
The short ceremony will be followed by
refreshments.

More details to follow.



This is a bird that is probably well known to many readers as it's both a resident of the British Isles and one of our most common birds. As many of our most dedicated readers will know, I have a fondness for wood pigeons (from years of empirical study from the kitchen window), but I'm afraid that natural preference does not extend to starlings. The RSPB actually qualify in part this personal view of mine.... said birds are 'aggressive, garrulous and dumpy birds'. Garrulous, what a wonderful word! Their plumage is 'glossy and iridescent', being heavily spotted.

They have a harsh churring call, although their distinctiveness makes up—in some way—for their rather 'Maleficent' overcoat. Can you tell, the author isn't over enamoured with this particular bird. Even the Latin name given.... *Sturnus vulgaris* is a bit of a give-away. Moving swiftly on, and swifts are actually out and about it seems right now. And although the adult's behaviour and appearance leave a lot to be desired in this particular bird, the juveniles—while far more boring in colouration—are far more approachable. What did happen in between? This particular Starling seems to be standing on the tip top of a conifer tree, a Victorian relic—both unflattering to the local ecology (truly) and seems to possess natural coating of green dust.

The RSPB at the time of publication have also written that the Starling is 'noisy, squabbling and quarrelsome, plus extremely fat looking when relaxed'. My favourite word is still garrulous though, what a fine but perpetually underused language we have. In spite of all of it's perceived negatives, this bird is doing fair to middling across the country with 1.8 million breeding pairs, which sounds healthy. They are part of the three most common garden visitors, which include the Song Thrush and Blackbird—and if not there—the park is the place to see these guys. A splash of colour is required when the year turns from Winter to Spring and their long bill turns bright yellow as the weather perks up a pinecone.

And now for the darling's dimensions, including age. Maths GCSE pencil cases at the ready, they are a length of around 21cm long, a wingspan of 37-42cm or thereabouts, and a weight of 75-90g. In terms of diet, they are omnivores, eating both insects and fruit. Common starlings have a good success rate with their nesting of between 48 and 79% and an average life span of 2-3 years. There is a longevity record of 22 years and 11 months however—I always like to mention the record breakers. They have reddish legs as well, an affable mention.

While you may not be convinced by this bird so far, it has its own 'Star' quality and that is the Murmuration. To put this marvel of nature into something a little succinct, starlings in Britain are joined by individuals from overseas during the Winter months to form vast flocks which 'murmurate' in the twilight sky or sky of dusk. Individuals can number hundreds if not thousands, and I, alongside many other people have been lucky enough to witness such amazing aerial displays, notably in Aberystwyth, the Welsh coastal town of my own student days. While this is a spectacle of such beauty for people down below, gathering in such numbers can attract the attention of predators, "peregrine and sparrow hawk"—but is that not the price of play.

From what we've found out so far, Starlings are birds of great versatility and while I personally find the individuals irksome, in flocks they are mesmerising and beautiful beyond measure. And it truly would be rude of me not to include this marvellous image of a 'Murmuration', taken by Jeremy Moore of the Pier in Aberystwyth, Wales. Other locations are available across Europe and Britain, not to mention our very own Tubney Fen. Here's a challenge, what does the Murmuration look like with its unique shape below? Please send in any suggestions to the Crier and we'll mention the most inventive (within reason) in next months OOTWAS article. Special thanks once again to the RSPB but also to the British Trust for Ornithology.

By Jorge Xico Monteiro 'Starlings Inc'



The Swaffhams' WI

We had an extremely interesting talk from Sophie Ellis, a Research Fellow at Cambridge University's Institute of Criminology, on Prisons and prison life, basically - Do they work?

She presented us with some pretty surprising figures.

We have more people in prison, than any other European country and more than Turkey. Our recidivism rate is 50% - as compared with Norway's 20%.

Our prisons are mostly full of white males and not immigrants, as some sections of the press would have us believe. A large number of prisoners, not surprisingly, are from violent, abusive, homeless, hopeless backgrounds and are illiterate but more prisoners are detained for anti social behaviour, than for violence.

We have more people in prison, than any other European country and more than Turkey. Our recidivism rate is 50% as compared with Norway's 20%...

We discussed treatment of prisoners and is how we are treating them, working? Should just depriving them of their liberty be sufficient punishment? Shouldn't the prison service, educate, rehabilitate and really support them when they come out? Is what we want, ex prisoners, who can now lead a worthwhile life and contribute to society, who commit no further crimes, when they've 'Served their time'? Or do we want repeat offenders, going in and out of prison, at huge cost to the country. Wouldn't it be better to fund decent prisons and prisoner welfare?

Forgiveness, came briefly into our discussion. Could we really forgive child murderers and what justice did they deserve?

We all left the session, with a lot to think about.

Next month is our annual garden party, at the home of Andrew and Hilary Grant.

We have a coach trip to Felbrigg, in Norfolk, on the 21st of September. If anyone is interested in joining us, then please contact me.

Margaret Joyce.

01638 744390





VILLAGE GARDENERS

Linda Gascoigne, from Mildenhall, gave us a talk entitled- Tundra to Tarmac—Britain's Flora and Fauna, from the Ice Age to the present day and Illustrated it with an amazing number of photos-habitats, birds, insects, mammals, trees, plants—many from her Fenland collection.

An almost impossible task to write up in any detail.

The ice over Britain 18,000 years ago was a mile thick and it was only in the south that some grass survived—enough to keep alive, the Woolly Mammoths, Arctic Foxes, Giant Elk and Reindeer.

By 14,000 years ago, the ice had retreated and bushes survived—cranberries, bilberries and saxifrage, enough for Loons, Divers and Snow Buntings. The Caledonian pine forests grew in Scotland, again as the climate warmed, along with Birch and Red Squirrels.

The broad leaved, deciduous trees, arrived about 6000 BC—Oak, Ash, Lime, Beech and Hazel. The whole land was wooded and not until medieval times, was there wholesale felling of trees for ships and houses and a lot destroyed by hunting. Pigs were used, hundreds of years ago, in the New Forest, to eat the acorns, that are poisonous to horses. Today, the pigs are still brought in during the Autumn, to do exactly the same task—probably different pigs, but maybe ancestors. Wild flowers proliferated- foxgloves, honeysuckle, Lilly of the valley along with small mammals and thousands of insects.

The Fens were drained in the 1600s and the fertile sedge peat used for agricultural land. Only Wicken Fen and Woodwalton Fen, remain as true wetland, where the reed, grown for thatching, for hundreds of years, is still grown.

Wildlife and wildflowers struggle in modern times, but many can survive if field margins are maintained and grasslands are grazed. The real villains, the cause of most species loss, are the grubbing up of hedges, monoculture, planting of conifer forests, herbicides, housing and tarmac!

But of course, it isn't all bad news- some species can and do adapt—there are now more Peregrine Falcons in London—high rise ones- than in the country and with help, birds, for example the Red Kite, has been carefully reintroduced into new areas and has made a huge come back. The Great Crane Project, which was started in 2007, has ensured that cranes will survive here, for the first time in 400 years.

So there is hope- planting for pollinators, is a good start.

We are going to Bressingham Gardens on June 30th, so if anyone would like to come along for a day trip, please get in contact.

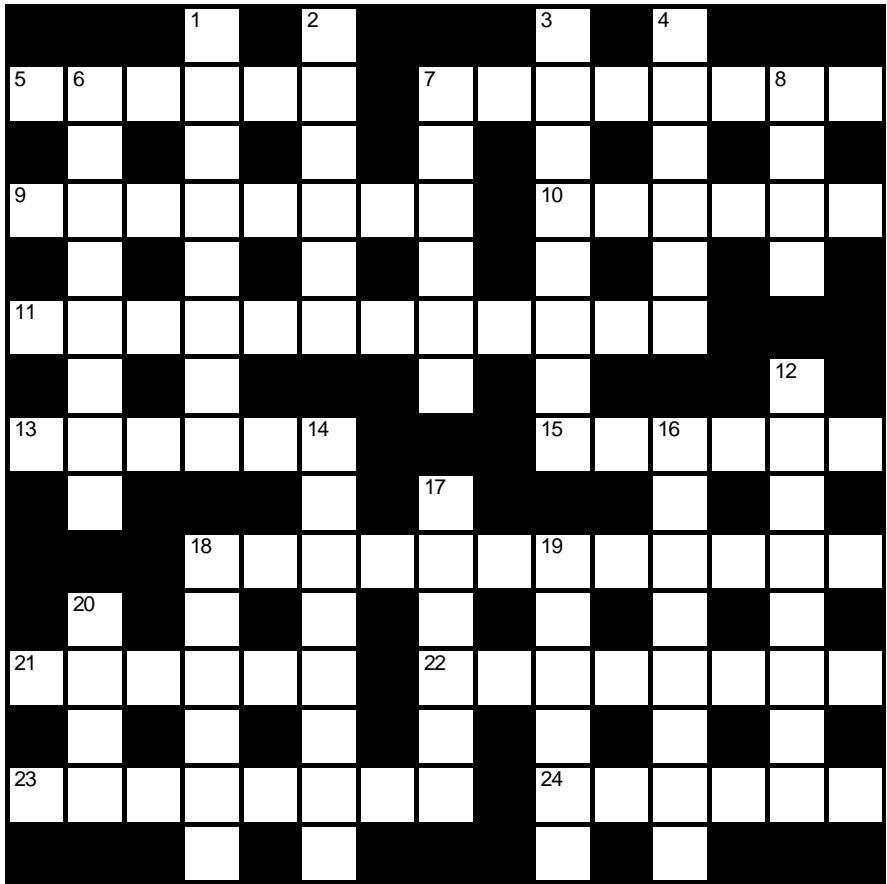
Margaret Joyce.



Crossword Number 165

Compiled by BYWELL

Clues headed by an '*' contain no definition. Periodically the answers will appear on the table. Send your answers to the editors by 18 June 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

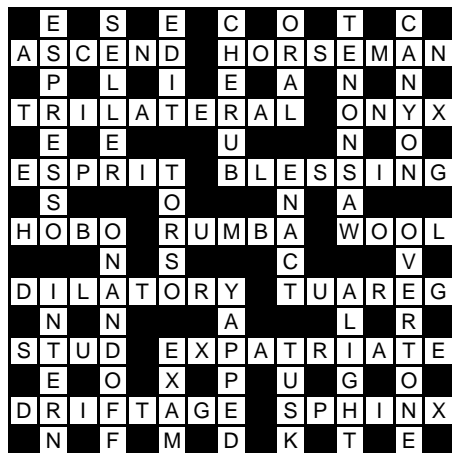
- 5 Represent ticket seller after power (3,3)
- 7 * 4 loses daughter after a bit of play (8)
- 9 * Canned fruit? The other way round! (8)
- 10 Reduced to bankruptcy at home and was sorry about it (6)
- 11 * Digested apricot in tum (12)
- 13 Quickly buy photo at university (4,2)
- 15 * Nasty smell about prophet (6)
- 18 Saucy tart in conjuring trick performed by Tenniel, perhaps (12)
- 21 * No going back on dietary component (6)
- 22 OK to be cooked with lactic mixture (8)
- 23 Not safe for a six-legged one almost running in Wensleydale (8)
- 24 Familiar melody gutted after much ado (6)

Down

- 1 Stride into top set of rambles (8)
- 2 Cultural point embedded in moral principle (6)
- 3 Has first mutant with five arms (8)
- 4 * Fashionable princess shows verbal hesitation (6)
- 6 * Calorie's central part in a cut of meat (8)
- 7 Priam's crumpled shirt found under the shoulder (6)
- 8 Drug addict at centre of docu-series (4)

- 12 * Number perhaps found under Parisian street on the way up (8)
- 14 * Chopped up mooli with new stuffing (8)
- 16 * Multitude in chaos after large number run away (8)
- 17 Soul discovered during epilepsy check (6)
- 18 I had to carry a note to pay attention to having close relatives (6)
- 19 Florid style of endless chocolate on gold backing (6)
- 20 Spanish gas or water (4)

Solution to crossword no. 164



We congratulate Trish Whitehead, the winner of last month's competition, who will receive her prize certificate from the editors. Honourable mentions go to Martyn & Debbie Clark, Lesley Daly, Julian Luttrell, Danin O'Dowd and Sue Richards.



LODE VILLAGE FETE

Sunday 23 June

On the Passage

12noon - 4.00pm



Another fun packed day

With Stalls, BBQ, Bar, Raffle,
Photo & Seed competition,
Tea, Cakes & Ice Cream.



Featuring
Music from Cloud Nine &
The Strumsters



Punch & Judy,

Team Games
and Mini Athletics
Fun Dog Show

contact chrisjking56@gmail.com for further information

Worth t - trying?

I with foot the
walk one on kerb.

The in gutter.
other the

I because have told.
do I been

It'll c - my
c - cure stutter.

Ophir

Isle of Ely Arts Festival

14 June - 13 July 2019

Celebrating arts and culture throughout East Cambridgeshire

- Music
- Drama
- Literature
- Spoken Word
- Visual Art
- Ely Cathedral
- Family/Fringe

pick up a
programme
locally

www.isleofelyartsfestival.org.uk



A Night at the
MOVIES



News from Bottisham Patients' Group

Red Bucket Appeal: At the PG AGM we heard from Dr Keith that with new IT software now on the Practice System and the appointment of a Health Care Assistant this has made the eventual, expensive, purchase of The Pod unnecessary. Instead the doctors would like us to buy smaller items of equipment such as a special light for looking at skin disorders, another 24 hour blood pressure monitor and a Dopler machine to monitor blood flow, especially for use on the feet of diabetic patients so that early treatment can be started.

Practice Matters: Dr Keith told us that under the NHS 5 year plan £500 million is being allocated to GP failing practices and developing staff resources. The Primary Care Network which starts on 1 July requires practices to federate with others to cover 30 – 50 thousand patients to provide staffing such as paramedics, social prescribers and pharmacists. Bottisham will still care for their own patients here. The other practices with us are East Barnwell, Nuffield Road, York Street and Arbury. Bottisham is a training practice.

From 1 July there will be extra appointment times on Mondays and Tuesdays with pre bookable appointments from 7am and over the lunch time period 12 – 3pm. These appointments will only be pre-bookable and on line. The surgery phone line will not open earlier.

The entrance doors will be automated shortly.

A new fence has been installed in the car park, drivers please take care.

The over large new notice boards installed by the Deaf Service, who are leasing the old dental surgery, are causing some complaints. This Service needs to seek planning permission

There is extra funding for the Joint Emergency Response Team (JET) who can be called upon by the doctors. JET is a paramedic home visiting team and they have access to other services like physio for patients who may have an injury after a fall.

Asthma: Asthma affects about 5 million people in the UK. Asthma triggers cause airways to swell and so get narrower, while the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and produces more sputum, which makes the airways even narrower. This makes it harder to get air in and out of the lungs. Symptoms include wheeze, breathlessness, a tight chest, a cough and trouble sleeping due to shortness of breath/cough/wheeze.

There are many triggers for asthma including colds and flu, animals/pets, pollen, dust mites, cigarette smoke and moulds/fungi.

There are many types of asthma, often classified as seasonal asthma, childhood asthma/adult onset asthma, occupational asthma and difficult to control asthma. It is important that your asthma is well managed and controlled so that you can breathe comfortably and you should take your preventative inhaler as prescribed (every day) and have your reliever with you at all times.

Asthma UK has some really helpful short videos about living with asthma, covering topics such as exercise, travel, studying/exams.

<http://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/living-with-asthma/>

Asthma UK also has some excellent short videos you can watch to check your inhaler technique is as good as it can be – to ensure the optimal amount of medication get into your lungs. There is a video for each type of inhaler.

<http://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/>

Asthma can be very serious and so it is important to pay attention to the early warning signs of an attack see below:-

Walks for Health: The next walks with our accredited walk leader Steve Gilson start at 11.00 am from the surgery car park on 7 and 19 June, 5 and 24 July 2019. Do join Steve for a walk he would be delighted to see you. Walks from Anglesey Abbey continue on Thursdays

at 10am from the reception area.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be Thursday 25 July 2019 at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

is proud to present 'The Grand Duke' by Gilbert & Sullivan in June 2019.

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 0NW; dates as follows:

Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £9

Thursday 13th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £9

Friday 14th June 2019 at 7.30pm - £10

Saturday 15th June 2019 at 2.30pm - £7 and 7.30pm - £10

Tickets will be available after 1st April via our website, www.sbsummertheatre.com or by e-mailing sbst.tickets@gmail.com or telephoning 07708 577570. For further information about the show please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

First performed in 1896, The Grand Duke was the last of The Savoy Operas.



Despite its short run, it contains some of Sullivan's best music, but Gilbert's plot was capricious and wordy resulting in an overly long operetta which soon faded from public acclaim and is rarely performed. However, we have cut unnecessary dialogue and a few of the repetitive songs to deliver a comic and fast moving show, true to its traditional origins but of normal length, that needs a bit of concentration to keep up with its twists and turns, too numerous to go into here! If you have not had the pleasure of seeing it before we recommend this opportunity, and we are sure you will enjoy it.

Love does not boast ... (1 Corinthians 13.4)

So far in our considering what it means to love from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, we have considered 'love is patient' (March), 'love is kind' (April), love does not envy (May); this month we come to the next defining characteristic of love: 'love does not boast'. Remember, in defining love, these characteristics also describe something of God & Jesus, because 'God is love'; and they ought also to describe those who claim to follow Jesus.

The Greek word translated here as 'boast' means 'to brag or point to oneself'. In contrast to the kindness and patience mentioned in the beginning of the verse, boasting is not a mark of love.

Paul's mention of boasting is significant; earlier in his letter Paul reveals that the Corinthian Christians were boasting about many things. They touted their allegiance to different apostles, creating division within the church (chapters 1–3). They were often critical of Paul (chapter 4). They boasted of their tolerance of immorality within the church (chapter 5). They sued each other in court (chapter 6). These and other arrogant actions are what Paul is challenging, holding up love before them as the right way to live.

People today are not exempt from the same traits Paul was speaking against.

Rather than being kind and patient, many focus on differences, what divides us rather than what unites. Church leaders are often criticised by those they serve and are called to lead. Some believers brag of their position in the church, claiming a perfect life, expressing a 'holier-than-thou' attitude.

For people claiming to follow Jesus, Paul says, the right way to live is to love, not to boast.

Love is focused on the loved one, not on oneself. Someone who boasts is full of oneself; putting the spotlight on their own accomplishments, too concerned with making themselves look great to notice others. Love turns the perspective outward. A person living Jesus' way will big-up others, focus on others' achievements or needs, and celebrate the other or offer help with no thought of repayment or recognition.

Paul had chances to boast, but he chose not to. He had served the Corinthians without financial gain, but he did not boast of his sacrifice. Instead, he wrote, "If I preach the [gospel](#), that gives me no ground for boasting". Elsewhere, Paul wrote that no Christian has a right to boast about salvation: we are saved by grace through faith, "so that no one can boast."

May we each endeavour to love this month by focussing on others more than on ourselves. Look for something in someone else to celebrate. Who can you help this month?

Join us at RENEW Church if you'd like to be part of a community journeying together to discover Jesus' way and follow Him. Also, don't forget Village Praise this month (Sunday 9th 5.30pm, Lode Chapel) we'd love to see you!

Blessings!

Revd. Alan

FREecycle



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

Offered

Freestanding slide suitable for toddler to 6-years old (in good condition). Sian, 07940 759053
1 tonne coal bunker, suitable as log store. Andrew 01638 741018
<p>Large box of baby stuff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plastic baby bath - changing mat (cream coloured with monkey design) - two potties (blue with frog logo) - two toilet seat inserts for toilet training (blue with frog logo) - two steps for reaching toilet / basin (one orange plastic, one wooden) - unopened box of disposable breast pads - microwave steam steriliser for baby bottles - tons of dribble bibs and burp cloths - Bumbo baby seat (turquoise, no straps) - Breast pump - Soft arch that goes over cot to hang toys on - Two cot mobiles, one old fashioned wooden and one modern white plastic - Baby bouncer seat - Baby play mat with foam arches over the top to hang toys on - Standalone plastic arch to hang toys on <p>Vicky C.812801</p>
20" child bicycle in fair condition. Pam, 01223 812050
2.3m green plastic wavy slide (just the slide, so needs a platform to bolt it to) – some scratches on it from use, but perfectly functional. Jun/Andy 01223 813362

Wanted

<p>Wire hanging baskets. Fibre (not plastic!) wall plugs (rawlplugs), sizes no. 8 or no. 10. Bob or Nicky, 01223 813592</p> <p>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)</p>

ReSounding Summer Sing

ReSound A Cappella Choir in concert
Sunday 30 June 5-7.30 pm

**St Cyriac's Church, High Street,
Swaffham Prior, CB25 0LD**

Over 30 interweaving voices raised in heart opening and inspiring acappella harmony in the extraordinary acoustics of this beautiful ancient building. The singing will be from 5-6pm, followed by shared refreshments...and more music.

Tickets £10 available from Eventbrite

eventbrite.co.uk/e/resounding-summer-sing-tickets-60276415381

Proceeds to the Prospects Trust, Snakehall Farm, celebrating 30 years of growing crops and supporting adults with additional needs
www.prospectstrust.org.uk

Produce from the farm will be on sale during the event.



Services for June in the Anglesey Group of Churches

Sunday 2 June, Seventh Sunday of Easter

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Swaffham Bulbeck
9.30am	Village Worship	Quy Village Hall
	Morning Service	Swaffham Bulbeck
11am	Holy Communion (CW1)	Bottisham

Sunday 9 June, Pentecost

9.30am	Holy Communion (VC)	Swaffham Bulbeck
11am	Family Communion (CW1)	Lode

Sunday 16 June, Trinity

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bottisham
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)	Quy
11am	Family Service with baptisms	Swaffham Prior

Sunday 23 June, First Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Children's Church	Lode
11am	Holy Communion (CW1T)	Swaffham Prior

Sunday 30 June, Second Sunday after Trinity

9.30am	Holy Communion (CW1)	Swaffham Bulbeck
11am	Armed Forces Service	Bottisham
6pm	Evensong	Swaffham Prior

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

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

you are welcome to attend services anywhere in the benefice.

Our Vicar is Rev'd Sue Giles; Tel: 01223 812726; suethetic@btinternet.com

Detail of services and events can be found on www.angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; www.facebook.com/angleseychurches; www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7378/

For weddings and baptisms please contact: admin@angleseygroupparishes.co.uk; for funerals please contact the vicar directly.

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

Dates for Your Diary June 2019

Tue	11	Heating Swaffham Prior, 8:15am-9:30am, Village School Entrance, drop-in event [6]
Wed	12	G&S, The Grand Duke, 7:30pm, Downing Farn , Bulbeck (to Saturday 15) [27]
Thu	13	
Fri	14	Ely Arts Festival (to 13 July) [25]
Sat	15	Heating Swaffham Prior, 10am-2pm, Village Hall, drop-in event [6] G&S Matinee 2:30pm + Last Evening, 7:30pm [27]
Sun	16	Swaffham Prior Tea Party, 4:15pm-6:30pm, Swaffham Prior House
Sat	22	Crier Copy Deadline
Sun	23	Lode Fete, 12 noon-4pm, on the Passage [24]
Mon	24	
Tue	25	Heating Swaffham Prior, 7:30pm-8:30pm, Village Hall, public meeting [6] Romeo & Juliet, 7:30pm, St Cyriac's [7]
Sun	30	Village Gardeners' Bressingham Visit [21] Summer Sing, 7:30pm, St Cyriac's
July		
Wed	3	Reading Group, 8pm, Kent House, 9 High St [7]
Sat	6,13	Paintings by Local Artists, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's [15]
Sun	7,14	Paintings by Local Artists, 11am-6pm, St Cyriac's [15]

Numbers in square brackets indicate page number of an accompanying article

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